



INTEGRATED REPORT
2023-2024

**DON'T LET THEM
DISAPPEAR**

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Kloof Frog (Natalobatrachus bonebergi)
Photo credit: Ruan I. Stander

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Vulture nest monitoring

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is an honour to present this report during a year that has underscored both the immense challenges and remarkable achievements in conserving our planet's most threatened species and habitats. With biodiversity facing unprecedented pressures, the Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) Mission – to protect Endangered species and promote a sustainable coexistence between humans and nature – has become more critical than ever. Through the commitment of our team, the dedication of our partners, and the passion of our supporters, we have continued to make impactful strides in safeguarding wildlife and ecosystems that are essential to us all.

Reflecting on our mission to conserve threatened species and ecosystems in southern Africa, our Vision is a thriving natural world where people and biodiversity coexist in balance. Over the past year, we have addressed complex challenges, including habitat destruction, poaching, climate change, and pollution. Through science, community engagement, advocacy, and education, we continue to tackle these threats holistically and make meaningful progress.

One of our core focuses this year has been strengthening the conservation of Africa's most threatened species, including the African Wild Dog, pangolin, and several vulture species. Through partnerships with local communities and science-driven interventions, we have increased populations and restored habitats for these species. Our African Wild Dog conservation efforts have successfully introduced five packs of Wild Dogs into areas where they had disappeared, reducing human-wildlife conflict and fostering coexistence through tracking, monitoring, and active community engagement. Similarly, through our novel Eye in the Sky vulture project, we have detected poison sources that we acted on and rapidly decontaminated, while also uncovering 36 poachers' camps. This also led to the detection and removal of over 3,000 snares across our project sites. Overall, 80 poisoned vultures were rescued and rehabilitated. Linked to this, our carnivore conservation and Soutpansberg Protected Area teams have removed an additional 1,975 and 130 snares respectively from targeted conservation areas.

Providing safe habitats and migration corridors is crucial for long-term wildlife conservation. This year, the EWT helped establish over 16,000 hectares of new protected areas, creating corridors where biodiversity can flourish, free from urban expansion, mining, and developmental pressures. In collaboration with landowners, communities, and government agencies, these protected areas support ecosystems that are more resilient to climate change, serving as vital refuges for Endangered species while providing us with immeasurable ecosystem services such as water provision. Conservation is most effective when local communities are involved and empowered to co-manage life-giving resources that benefit us all. Our programmes reached over 20,000 individuals this year, providing knowledge, tools, and sustainable livelihood opportunities. Through workshops, eco-tourism development, and sustainable farming practices, we have built climate resilience and created local conservation advocates, particularly in areas around wildlife corridors where sustainable farming has reduced human-wildlife conflicts and improved food security.



“THE EWT REMAINS COMMITTED TO **LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY** FOR CONSERVATION. FROM SATELLITE TRACKING TO NEW ANTI-POACHING TECHNOLOGIES, WE WILL CONTINUE TO **INVEST IN TOOLS** THAT **ENHANCE** OUR **CONSERVATION EFFORTS.**”

The EWT uses science and innovation to guide our conservation strategies. This year, 23 groundbreaking studies were published in 18 peer-reviewed journals, showcasing advances in monitoring animal movements, assessing habitats, and detecting poaching. Our vulture conservation project, using novel GPS tracking to follow movements and feeding patterns, has been particularly impactful, providing critical data and technology that has directed conservation efforts to protect this keystone species from extinction. Conservation requires strong policy advocacy, and this year, the EWT engaged in national and international dialogues, advocating for stronger biodiversity protection policies, stricter anti-poaching measures, and regulations to control unsustainable and illegal wildlife trade. Additionally, our efforts have underscored the urgent need for policies and financing mechanisms addressing climate change’s impact on biodiversity.

Despite these successes, significant obstacles remain. Poaching and illegal wildlife trade continue to threaten Endangered species, with rising demand for exotic pets and traditional medicines. Climate change has also intensified habitat degradation and extreme weather events, putting additional strain on our natural resources. Funding constraints persist due to global economic pressures, but we have adapted by diversifying revenue streams, enhancing fundraising efforts, and forming partnerships with like-minded organisations.

Looking to the future, we are setting ambitious goals that will expand our impact in the coming year. We aim to add at least 20,000 hectares of protected land, prioritising biodiversity hotspots and key migration corridors essential for species resilience in the face of a changing climate. By reaching an additional 15,000 individuals, we intend to foster community-driven stewardship for wildlife and create local conservation champions. To sustain and grow our initiatives, we will reinforce partnerships with governments, corporations, and individual donors, building a resilient funding base to withstand economic shifts. We plan to launch a global awareness campaign to engage audiences on the importance of biodiversity, utilising social media, educational resources, and events to inspire action. The EWT remains committed to leveraging innovative technologies for conservation benefit. From satellite tracking to new anti-poaching technologies, we will continue to invest in tools that enhance our conservation efforts, keeping ourselves at the forefront of change.

My deepest gratitude goes to our CEO, Yolán, and the EWT team, whose tireless work in challenging conditions drives our Mission forward. I also extend my thanks to our Board members, donors, and partners. Your unwavering support makes our work possible and empowers us to reach new heights in conservation. Together, we are making a lasting impact.

In closing, the challenges facing wildlife conservation are immense, yet the EWT remains steadfast in our commitment to protecting Endangered species and the ecosystems we all depend on. Together, we can create a world where nature thrives, and people live in harmony with our environment. As we move forward with renewed determination, we know that every effort counts. Our work today will shape a brighter future for generations to come. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission.



*Vulture Champion in Chad
Photo credit: Andre Botha*



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

2023 was a watershed moment in the life of the Endangered Wildlife Trust. Turning 50 presented an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on our remarkable journey and our proudest moments; the toughest challenges and the greatest achievements; the tears, the sweat and the joy. We rejoiced in the staff of years gone by; the stories of their exploits; and the conservation legends they have become. We commemorated the places that are woven together in our journey to protect and conserve wildlife and wild spaces. in Africa, for 50 years. 2023 was also a time of contemplation, to consider the future and what the actions are that we will require, as the race against extinction accelerates.

Since 1973, the Endangered Wildlife Trust has blazed a trail of pioneering field programmes, guided by innovative strategies, that have turned around the fortunes of multiple species, once facing the brink. Our concerted dedication to implementing best conservation practices in action and applied research – with your support – has allowed South Africa to celebrate many conservation wins. We are the only country in Africa with an increasing Cheetah population; we have rediscovered species like the Amathole Toad and de Winton's Golden Mole which can now be protected; we have restored the life flow to rivers through the removal of invasive plants; and benefited countless communities through livelihood support, skills and training projects and through the provision of climate resilient agriculture and freshwater provision for their livelihoods, their crops and their general well-being. Our actions have touched nations beyond our borders, seeing Wild Dogs flourishing in Malawi and Mozambique, countries where they had gone extinct.

Our conservation efforts, over 50 years, are a triumph for Blue Cranes and Cape Vultures, which are now downlisted thanks partly to our concerted and targeted conservation effort. We have even pioneered the declaration of a nature reserve to save just one – the Brenton Blue Butterfly. Our community partners now run conservation-friendly enterprises, and rangers, ecowarriors and businesswomen have been borne out of rural children and their mothers. Hundreds of thousands of hectares of critical habitat are now protected thanks to the EWT. These span a kaleidoscope of biomes from the Succulent Karoo to the Soutpansberg, securing life-giving rivers, grasslands, wetlands, forests, and the deserts in between. The EWT has led the way in engaging big business to reduce its impact on nature. We have driven the use of high-tech solutions, and co-created community-led conservation projects. These embrace the role and rights of women, the youth, and indigenous peoples in determining a future in which nature and people thrive. Our impact is felt across more than a dozen African countries and our 30-year landmark partnership with the International Crane Foundation (ICF) has catalysed conservation action in almost all the range states for Africa's four crane species. Together, we have built effective projects which benefit rural communities and action strategies for peaceful coexistence between cranes and people. Today, we are the largest and most far-reaching conservation organisation that is entirely homegrown and African in origin.

“WE WILL **BUILD RESILIENT SYSTEMS** AND DEVELOP **NATURE-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES**; WE WILL SAFEGUARD THE HABITATS THAT **PROTECT ALL LIFE**; WE WILL **PREVENT EXTINCTIONS**; AND WE WILL **BRING PEACE** TO HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT. WE WILL **HALT THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY.**”

In 1973, the world's human population stood at 3.9 billion. Fast forward to 2024, and that population has escalated to 8.1 billion, and is still growing. Alarming, we learn that populations of globally monitored mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, and amphibians have declined by an average of 68%. Collectively, an increase of more than 200% in the human population is countered by more than a two-thirds decrease in the number of wild animals left on our planet today. Our freshwater systems show the worst, and most rapid decline in quality and species loss. 2023 is the hottest year on record to date, with extreme weather events causing devastation, globally. So far, 2024 is on track to beat that most unwelcome record.

While the EWT has undoubtedly had a huge positive impact on our planet over the past 50 years, time is not on our side, and we must do more. The next 50 years will be the most pivotal for the Anthropocene Epoch – that period of time during which human activities have impacted the environment significantly – if we are to save immeasurable species of plants and animals and the people who depend on them. For the EWT, this last year was, therefore, a year to celebrate the past whilst planning for the future, reflecting and reimagining, stocktaking, and creating. This blend of looking both backwards and forwards, was embodied in our Creating Serendipity conference. The event brought together future thinkers in diverse areas of expertise from agriculture, technology, education, and health – to conservation and business – to describe and showcase their thoughts of what a future world could unfold for the next generations. The conference also stimulated conversations around how conservation must adapt to – and embrace a fast-changing world – to save our planet.

We then took a step back and hosted a spectacular tribute to the visionary founders, staff past and present, and all our partners in celebration of our milestone birthday. We honoured these achievements under an African star-studded sky at the EWT's Conservation Campus in Johannesburg. Bringing together the EWT's founders and all its CEOs for the first time ever made for a special night to remember. We also paid tribute to the remarkable James Clarke who unfortunately passed away a few weeks after this event. May his memory live on through the legacy that he has left the world.

For the second half of the year, the EWT coalesced lessons learnt from past experiences with our vision for the future. And so we began to develop our Future Fit Strategy, also known as #TheNextFifty. The process brought together teams of the EWT's staff to engage in a series of intense, invigorating and forward-thinking planning sessions. Together, we developed a powerful, impactful conservation strategy underpinned by the ability to achieve financial security,

implemented by high-performing teams of the best talent. The EWT's Future Fit Strategy will channel our efforts into achieving targets that stretch us and achieve high impact; will galvanise cohesive, collective action towards achieving global, regional and national conservation priorities; and will benefit a maximum diversity of species, and humans, across strategically targeted landscapes where all life will thrive, and humans can prosper.

Our Future Fit Strategy will simplify our approaches but stretch our reach; catalyse the creation of new knowledge; engage partners old and new in ways that enhance their own value propositions; and embrace a new way of thinking through landscape-scale conservation that still targets the smallest, and most vulnerable forms of life. It will take the EWT into new regions where we will support our partners and scale our impact. Building on our strengths, our Future Fit strategy will remain firmly rooted in the core principles of the EWT which are to save species, conserve habitats and benefit people. All whilst recognising the rights to equitable access and benefit sharing, the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, building and strengthening African capacity, protecting and integrating Indigenous Knowledge Systems, driving responsible and just development, building climate resilience through ecosystem-based adaptation, supporting wildlife economies to improve rural livelihoods, and driving the development of sustainable financing mechanisms across priority landscapes. We are committed to integrating the critical principles of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion into all our plans, with a core focus on indigenous, traditional and community rights. We will build resilient systems and develop nature-friendly businesses; we will safeguard the habitats that protect all life; we will prevent extinctions; and we will bring peace to human-wildlife conflict. We WILL halt the loss of biodiversity.





Kitchen Garden demonstration and setup in Kenya

more celebration 50 years from now, and the EWT's strategy aims to not only safeguard the future of our next generations but to give them cause for celebration too. The EWT's fiftieth anniversary taught us about legacy and what that means, touching something in everyone who joined in the remarkable journey of the Red Spoor that was born in a garage in Johannesburg and is now a symbol of hope across dozens of African countries where wildlife and communities have faced a perilous future.

Thank you to the EWT's founders, trustee's past, present and future, our donors – the lifeblood of all our work – our partners and friends, and the passionate, determined and inspirational EWT staff, for the past 50 years and over the last financial year for our continued conservation success.

To the Board of Trustees and the outgoing Chair of the Board, Dirk Ackerman, who served the EWT for 12 years at the helm, we are grateful beyond measure for your guidance, fervour and dedication to the cause. As Dirk stepped back into the Vice Chair role, the EWT welcomed Muhammad Seedat as our new Chair, and we are excited to benefit from Muhammad's wealth of expertise in the corporate governance, financial management, and entrepreneurial space. The EWT bade farewell to longtime Trustees Karin Ireton, who had served the EWT with unparalleled vigour and dedication, for 20 years, and chaired the Social and Ethics Committee for two years. We also bade farewell to Anthony Wanell who brought his diverse skillset and his passion for conservation to the Board for more than a decade and was a valued member of our Audit Committee for 16 years.

Congratulations to our longest partner in conservation who also turned 50 in 2023, the International Crane Foundation. Our 30-year partnership has set the tone and benchmark for how collaboration and teamwork can save the planet.

A watershed year it was – characterised by change, remarkable growth, and building, from teams to communities. From a Prosperous Past to becoming Future Fit, our 2023/4 Integrated Report tells this story. And as the story of the Red Spoor moves into a new chapter, may this eternal symbol of hope remain your own, for a #TheNextFifty for us all.

Yolan Friedmann
Endangered Wildlife Trust CEO

WHO WE ARE

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is one of South Africa's largest and most respected national non-governmental conservation organisations. Established in 1973, we proudly celebrated our 50th birthday in 2023, marking five decades of impactful conservation action. As a non-profit organisation with a growing footprint across southern and East Africa, we remain committed to conserving threatened species and ecosystems to the benefit of all.

We achieve our objectives through a combination of science-based research, innovative conservation practices, and strong community partnerships. Our thematic programmes, designed to protect the most vulnerable species and ecosystems, deliver high-impact results while fostering critical skills and capacity development. Our work prioritises the livelihoods, rights and needs of communities, and we promote the role of women, the contributions of people with disabilities and the rights of indigenous communities across all activities. Central to our success is a dedicated team of field specialists, strategically positioned in regions where conservation is most urgent, ensuring targeted and effective interventions.

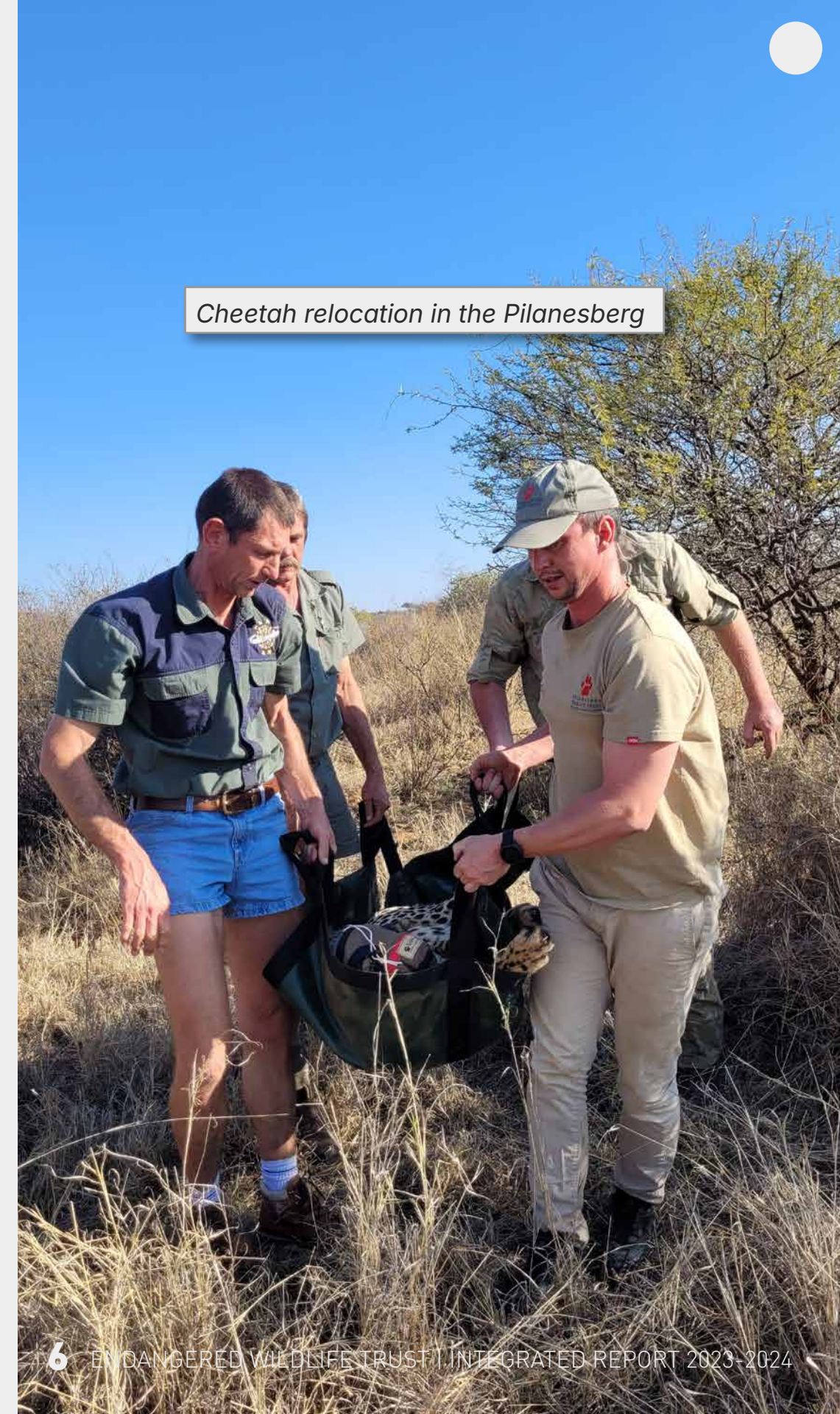
As a public benefit organisation, the EWT promotes sustainable living and environmental stewardship through our activities aimed at mainstreaming these principles into big business and landowners. We collaborate with a wide network of stakeholders, including national and provincial governments, other NGOs, landowners, rural communities, academia, and the private sector. This inclusive approach ensures that we catalyse collective action to address the most pressing environmental challenges.

In the past year, the EWT has focussed on scaling up efforts to protect biodiversity by deepening its work on climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, and innovative conservation technologies. In so doing, we are enhancing the EWT's capacity to respond to emerging environmental challenges while continuing to protect threatened species, critical habitats and empower the people that rely on these areas for their livelihoods for better productivity and resilience. We are committed to making a transformative change across the sector and to working closely with Indigenous People and Local Communities across all of our target conservation landscapes. These efforts align with our long-standing protected area ambitions and our support of global conservation targets.

The EWT continues to act as a public watchdog, holding government and industry accountable for decisions that compromise environmental sustainability. As a beacon of hope for Africa's wildlife, landscapes, and communities, the EWT is protecting forever, together.

ESTABLISHED IN **1973**, EWT CELEBRATED **FIVE DECADES** OF CONSERVATION, WITH A **GROWING FOOTPRINT** ACROSS SOUTHERN AND EAST AFRICA.

Cheetah relocation in the Pilanesberg





THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Allie van Jaarsveld's art on display



Standing from left: Honourable Barbara Creecy - Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment at the time and now Minister of Transport; Yolana Friedmann - CEO, EWT; Dr Nick King - Past CEO, EWT

Sitting from left: Julie Clarke - Daughter of James Clarke; James Clarke - Founder, EWT; Clive Walker - Founder, EWT; Dr John Ledger - Past Director, EWT



Painted Wolf Wine, sponsored gifts for our guests, in the back of a sponsored Ford Wildlife Fund vehicle



Past CEO Dr. Nick King and founders being interviewed by our MC, Kish Chetty (Senior Conservation Manager)



Address by Muhammad Seedat - Chairman, EWT



THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT



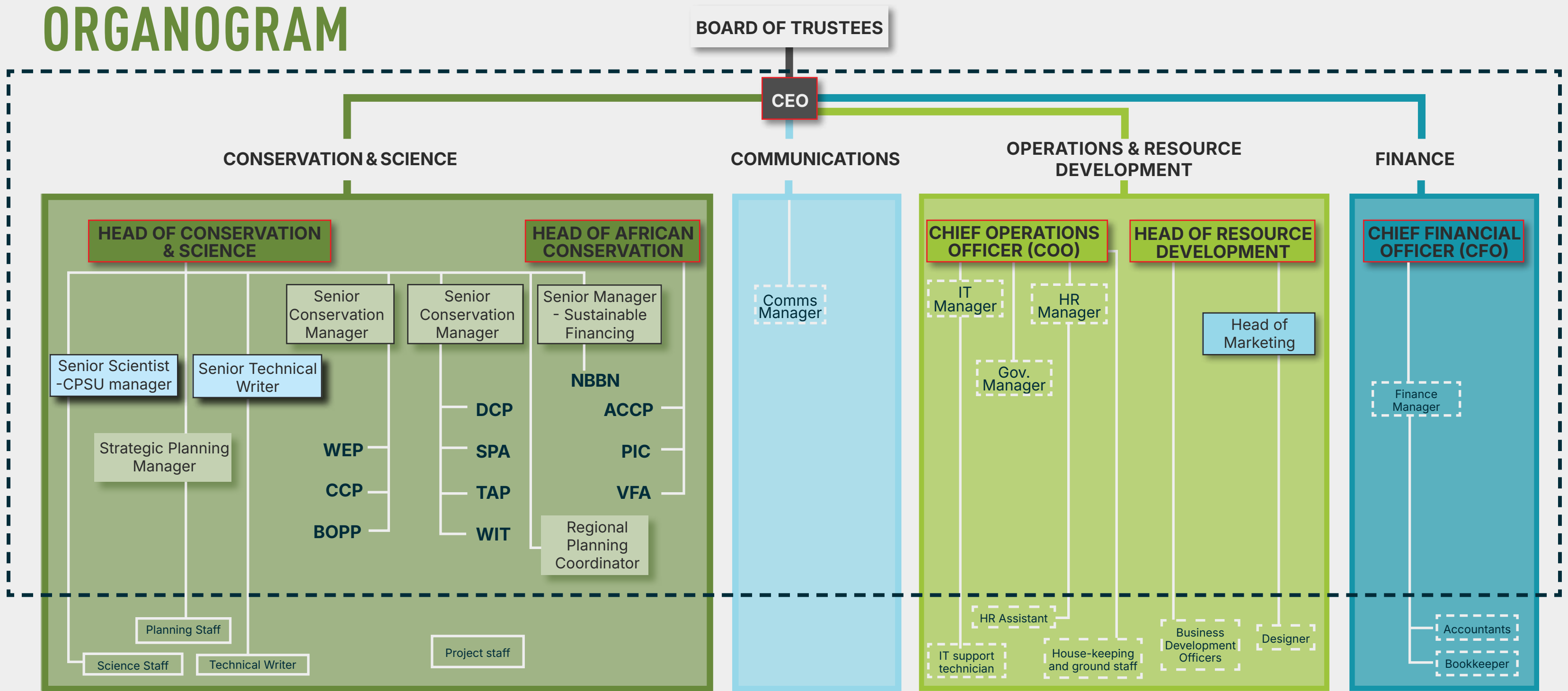
Address by Honourable Barbara Creecy - Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment at the time and now Minister of Transport



Address by Yolan Friedmann - CEO, EWT



ORGANOGRAM



LEGEND

Departments

- Conservation & Science
- Communications & Marketing
- Resource Development
- Operations & Governance

Key to EWT Programmes

- ACCP** African Crane Conservation
- BOPP** Birds of Prey
- CCP** Carnivore Conservation
- CPSU** Conservation Planning and Science Unit
- DCP** Drylands Conservation
- NBBN** National Biodiversity and Business Network

- SPA** Soutpansberg Protected Area
- TAP** Threatened Amphibian
- VFA** Vultures for Africa
- WEP** Wildlife and Energy
- WIT** Wildlife in Trade
- PIC** People in Conservation

Management structures

- Executive Management
- Senior Management
- Management team

Positions

- General work area (no box)
- Programme position
- Support services staff



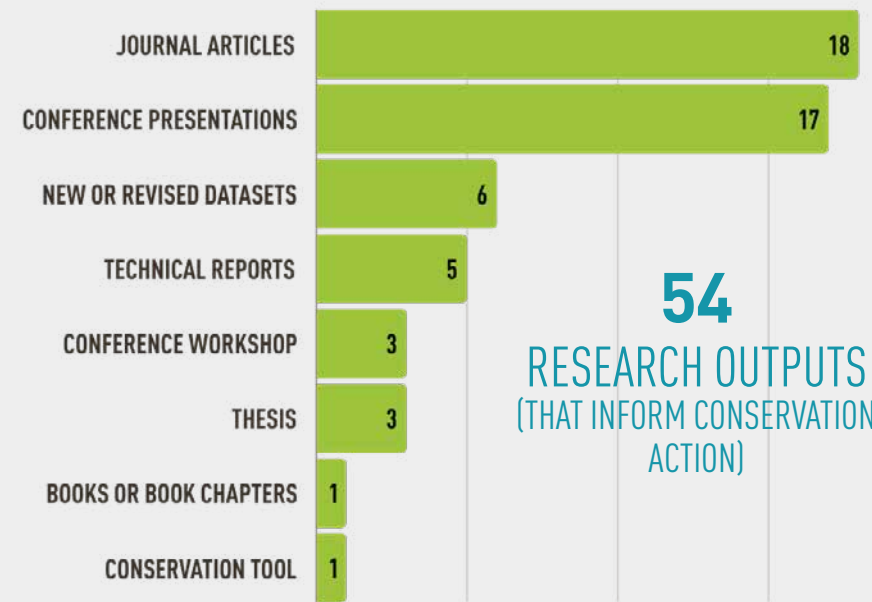
HIGH LEVEL GOAL 1. IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIES AND HABITATS AND THE THREATS THEY FACE.

Knowledge about natural systems and the threats to species and ecosystem is critical for designing and informing impactful conservation actions and formulating effective policies for biodiversity protection. The EWT tracks this goal through two indicators that capture our research outputs and the data we share.

OUR STRATEGIC IMPACT

With over fifty years of high-impact conservation experience, the EWT is entering a new era, with a new strategy, with broader regional scope and aligned to ambitious global targets. The EWT's current Conservation Strategy focuses on the three Strategic Imperatives of Saving Species, Conserving Habitats and Benefitting People, informing our work that aims to conserve threatened wildlife, uphold ecosystem integrity, conserve threatened habitats, enable biodiversity-friendly businesses and enterprises, and support community livelihoods.

Our Strategic Imperatives are supported through five High-level Goals, which define our desired conservation and social impact. We achieve these goals through a range of strategic projects which are measured by our high-level indicators. The EWT's impact begins at the project level, and by monitoring and reporting on the progress made towards achieving these goals, we demonstrate measurable impacts to our donors, partners and all stakeholders. Furthermore, monitoring our impact enables us to apply adaptive management, which ensures that our actions are efficient and remain relevant in a changing world.

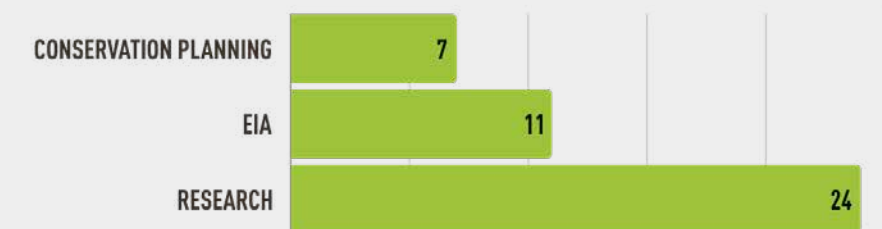
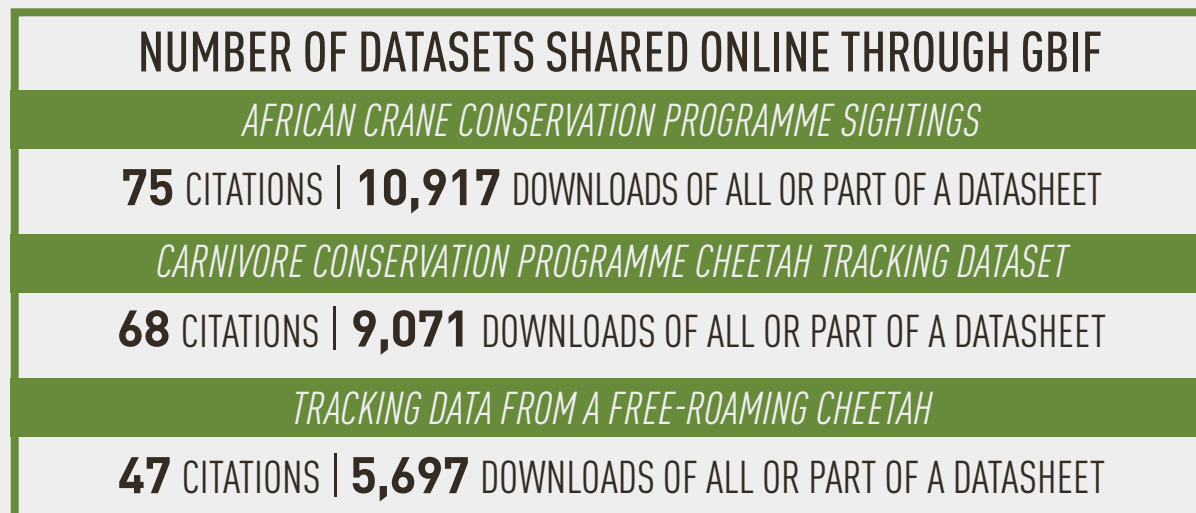


Indicator 1a. Number of research outputs.

The EWT generates and shares knowledge in many different formats, from peer-reviewed papers to technical reports, conservation plans, datasets, and scientific presentations.

Indicator 1b. Number of datasets shared.

Data are critical outputs of many EWT projects. This indicator tracks the number of datasets we produced and/or shared over the reporting cycle.



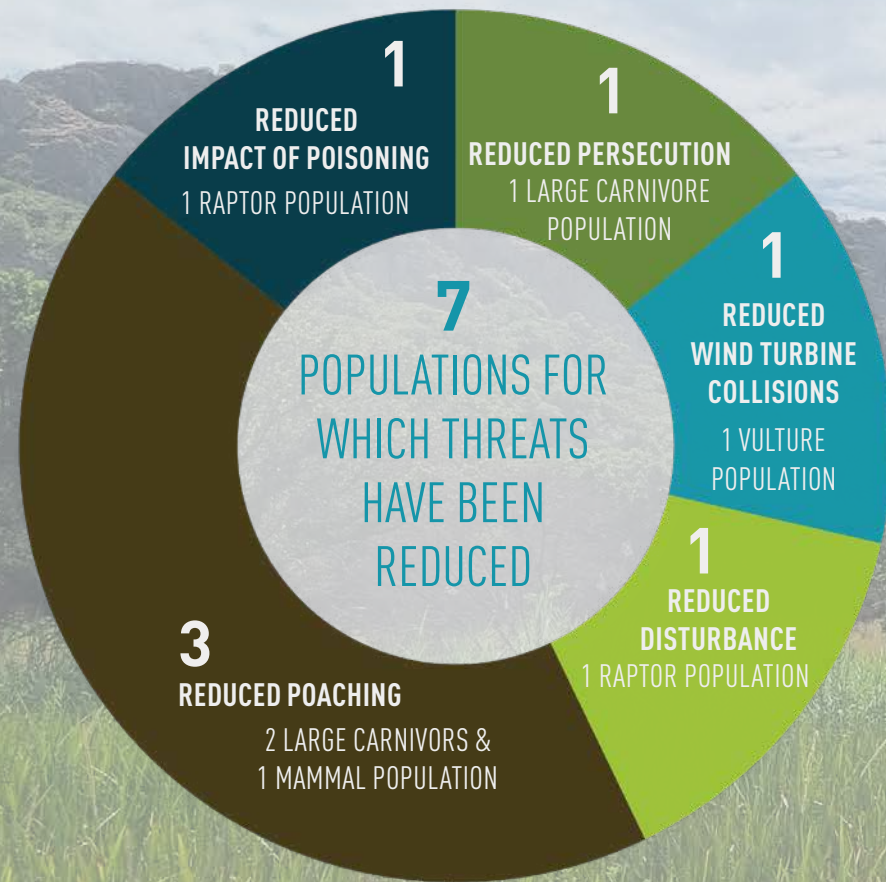
42 DATASETS SHARED DIRECTLY
(SUPPORTING OTHERS TO IMPROVE CONSERVATION ACTION)

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 2. TARGETED INTERVENTIONS REDUCE THE THREATS TO SPECIES AND HABITATS.

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

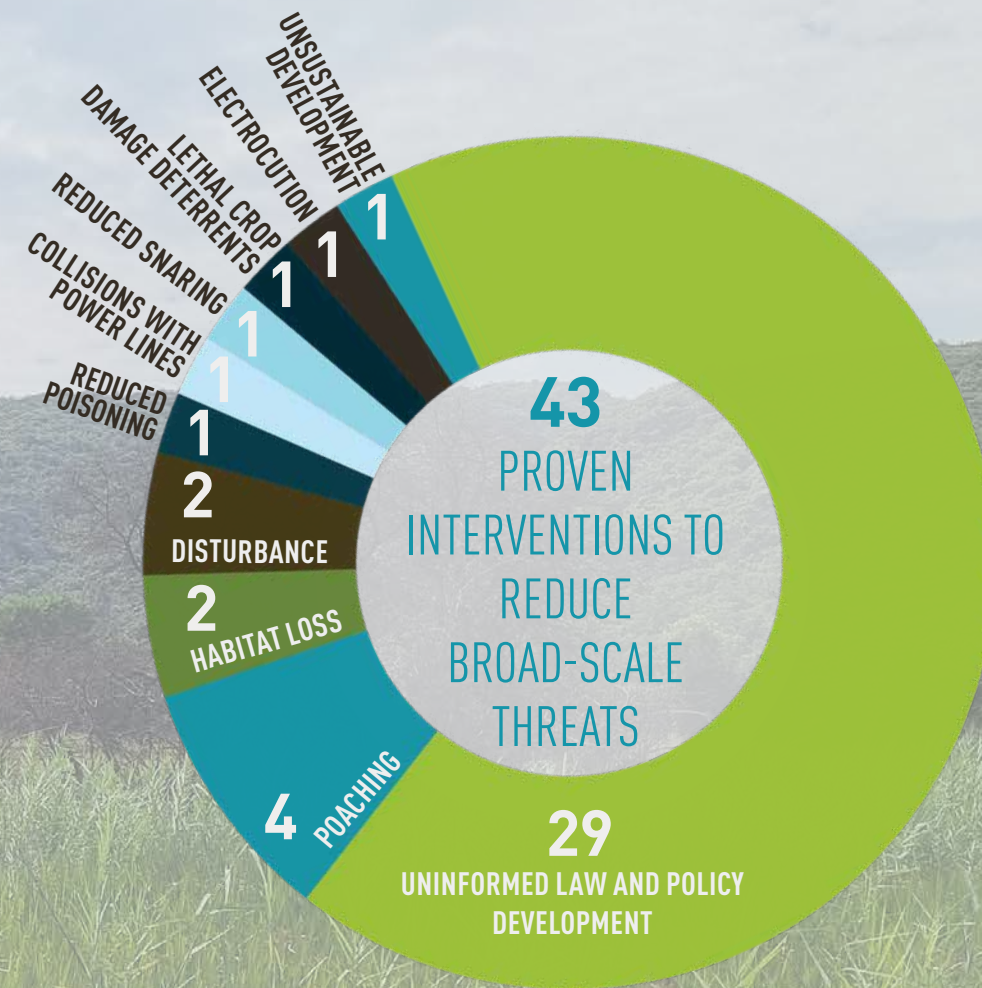
Indicator 2a. Number of target populations and habitats for which threats have been reduced.

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). 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.





HIGH LEVEL 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.

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

This indicator measures the total land area within priority habitat with increased formal protection, such as, the total land area within priority habitat where landowners have provided letters declaring their consent to proceed with the declaration of new protected areas. This recognises the fact that we cannot control when a land parcel is gazetted as a protected area and acknowledges that interim milestones should still be tracked.

9,202

HECTARES OF PROTECTED ENVIRONMENTS

Ferricrete Habitat, a Critically Endangered ecosystem - Photo credit: Bionerds

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

This goal is focussed on improving the status of biodiversity and rehabilitation of threatened or protected habitats.

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

Under this indicator, we record the number of populations of target species whose status we have improved through our conservation actions. These are typically measured by population trends, improvements in breeding success, and 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, health, and resilience. This is directly linked to climate change adaptation in landscapes, as a result of [Ecosystem-based Adaptation](#) approaches.

12 HECTARES OF ALIEN PLANT CLEARING

22 HECTARES OF FIRE MANAGEMENT

3,700 HECTARES OF VEGETATION REHABILITATION

3,734 HECTARES OF LAND WITH IMPROVED MANAGEMENT



First recording of Lobatse Hinged Tortoise at Medike

Cattle Owners at Animal Husbandry Risk Management Training in Kutama

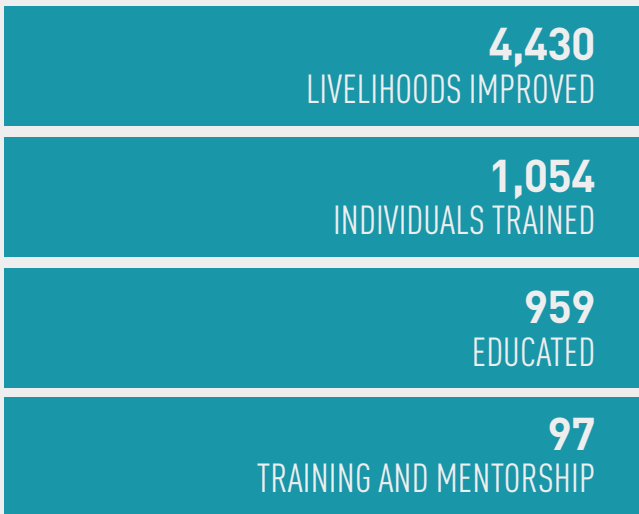


HIGH LEVEL GOAL 5: CONSERVATION ACTIONS AND IMPACTS DRIVE MEANINGFUL CHANGE TO THE BENEFIT OF BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE.

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.

6,540 PEOPLE WITH IMPROVED WELL-BEING



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 to the benefit of biodiversity and the environment, as a result of EWT interventions.



THE EWT'S GLOBAL IMPACT

As the world increasingly feels the impact of climate change, through extreme weather events, the human consciousness linked to our planetary health seems to be gaining some perspective. Africa remains a continent with vast natural resources, growing economies and a rapidly increasing human population. With the fastest growing young population of any continent, the African population is predicted to almost double in the next 25 years.

Our targeted conservation work has national, regional and global impact, and our achievements contribute to multiple conservation-related frameworks. Some of the most significant frameworks 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 \(GBF\) targets](#).

Towards achieving its [Vision](#), the GBF outlines **23 targets** critical to addressing the dangerous loss of biodiversity and restoring natural ecosystems. Our conservation strategy is closely aligned with many of these targets. 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 through the protection of at least 30% of land and seascapes globally by 2030.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT AGAINST THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK:

| Target # | GBF targets | Relevant EWT work contributing towards achieving the GBF target |
|----------|---|--|
| 1 | Plan and manage all areas to reduce biodiversity loss | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened the EWTs alignment with, and contribution to, national biodiversity and spatial planning processes, especially through strategic partnerships with the South African National Biodiversity Institute. |
| 2 | Restore 30% of all degraded ecosystems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked extensively in Table Mountain National Park and other protected areas to improve targeted management for threatened frog species Driven extensive projects to safeguard protected areas from threats to carnivores and birds of prey. |
| 3 | Conserve 30% of land, waters and seas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple protected area declarations underway, adding up to around 50,000 ha of priority habitat We celebrated the formal declaration of the Eeram Protected Environment (7,400 ha) in the Free State. |
| 4 | Halt species extinction, protect genetic diversity, and manage human-wildlife conflicts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted species-level conservation work implements strategic site-level interventions and strategic planning to reduce threats and improve population trends for threatened species across East and southern Africa (including, but not limited to, threatened cranes, carnivores, vultures, eagles, butterflies, Riverine Rabbits, dwarf tortoises and various reptiles). Introducing and managing hundreds of thousands of hectares of safe space for vultures and carnivores in key landscapes across the region. |

| Target # | GBF targets | Relevant EWT work contributing towards achieving the GBF target |
|----------|--|--|
| 5 | Ensure sustainable, safe and legal harvesting and trade of wild species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the capacity of at least four prosecutorial authorities in southern Africa (South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, and Namibia) through learning exchanges. Capacity to detect, interrupt and intercept trafficking of wildlife products has been increased using scent detection dogs at key transport points. |
| 6 | Reduce the introduction of invasive alien species by 50% and minimise their impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to clear priority Soutpansberg habitat of invasive alien tree species, thereby improving habitat integrity and water yield. Initiated an extensive alien tree clearing programme in the northern Drakensberg Strategic Water Source Area. |
| 8 | Minimise the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and build resilience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing models for securing habitat for threatened species (e.g. Dwarf Tortoises) to inform climate change adaptation. Continue to work with renewable energy facilities and prospective developers to minimise biodiversity impacts on existing facilities and avoid impacts on prospective sensitive sites. |
| 9 | Manage wild species sustainably to benefit people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating the mass cultivation and distribution of six priority medicinal plant species to hundreds of healers and traders in markets in Limpopo, Gauteng, and KwaZulu-Natal, thereby reducing pressures on wild populations. Strengthening the governance of wild medicinal plant populations through engagement and training of community leaders, local traditional healers, harvesters, conservation officials, the SAPS, and other partners. Contribute to socio-economic well-being, especially in and around the Soutpansberg, by providing alternative livelihoods, capacity building or nature-derived income, to the benefit of local people. |
| 10 | Enhance biodiversity and sustainability in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked closely with Mondi and other forestry companies to ensure that their biodiversity footprint is within acceptable limits and that their landscapes are sustainably managed. |
| 11 | Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that land managed by the private sector has been calculated for biodiversity footprints using the BD Protocol to maintain optimal ecosystem functioning. Worked extensively across all South Africa's biomes to improve the management of large landscapes, especially in biodiversity rich areas and across landscapes that have been secured as private protected areas. |



Avocado distribution in Rwanda, Rugezi Marsh

| Target # | GBF targets | Relevant EWT work contributing towards achieving the GBF target |
|----------|---|--|
| 14 | Integrate biodiversity in decision-making at every level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Southern and East Africa Conservation Planning Specialist Group Regional Resource Centre (hosted at the EWT) supports priority Species Action Plans (including but not limited to cranes, vultures, penguins, dolphins, and golden moles). • Developed a comprehensive, user-friendly online environmental law platform, leading to an improved understanding of international wildlife trade and related wildlife legislation and policy. |
| 15 | Businesses assess, disclose and reduce biodiversity-related risks and negative impacts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued improvement of biodiversity mainstreaming performance scores for all sectors of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, with significant advances in the Biodiversity Footprinting of private sector landholdings using the BD protocol. |
| 19 | Mobilise \$200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources, including \$30 billion through international finance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant progress towards developing and implementing sustainable funding models to generate sufficient income to resource all our programmatic needs, primarily focussed on Wildlife Bonds and Voluntary Carbon Credits. |
| 20 | Strengthen capacity building, technology transfer, and scientific and technical cooperation for biodiversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our drone line marking method is close to being approved for use by state-owned and municipal power utilities in South Africa, and at least one other African country. • The EWT drone unit was actively deployed across a multitude of different applications (including whale surveys, ecological assessments, vulture and cycad cliff surveys, and other novel species monitoring approaches). |
| 21 | Ensure that knowledge is available and accessible to guide biodiversity action | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to drive biodiversity knowledge acquisition across multiple taxonomic groups, such as significantly improved knowledge of golden mole and dwarf tortoise species distribution and conservation needs using novel detection techniques (including eDNA and scent detection dogs). • Our CPSU collates and curates all of the biodiversity and ecological data generated by the programmes and analyses and makes these data available in easily accessed publications and databases to inform policy and practice. |
| 22 | Ensure participation in decision-making and access to justice and information related to biodiversity for all | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collaborative network (coordinated and supported by the RRC) is developed throughout the southern and East African Region of competent and confident species conservation planning process designers, facilitators and technical experts who can lead threatened species planning processes. |
| 23 | Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EWT employs women and youth of previously disadvantaged backgrounds and prioritises skills transfer to these groups wherever possible. |

Table 1: EWT Contributions towards GBF targets

Frogging weather, post-fire - Rough Moss Frog monitoring on the Klein Swartberg Mountain



THE EWT CONTRIBUTES TO ACHIEVING 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 biodiversity-focussed SDG 15: Life on Land is particularly important to the EWT in achieving progress towards sustainability. Under SDG 15, three targets are of particular importance to the EWT, namely the restoration of degraded land and soil, the conservation of mountain ecosystems including their biodiversity, and to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna.

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

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

Other relevant international agreements and programmes include:

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



Road verge fencing proved to be successful in funneling animals towards underpass, mitigating roadkill incidents

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

ECOSYSTEMS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND PEOPLE

Since the 1970s, scientists, economists, and politicians have known that the climate is changing. On 22 April 1970 millions of Americans took part in demonstrations, cleanups, and other activities to create the first [Earth Day](#), arguably marking the birth of the modern environmental movement. The term global warming was first used in 1975 by geochemist Wallace Broecker of Columbia University, in an article he published in *Science*. Climate change and the related phenomenon of global warming are causing a range of increasingly negative impacts on the environment and biodiversity. Deserts are expanding, heat waves and wildfires are becoming more common, and soils are degrading. From a biodiversity conservation perspective, climate change impacts species interactions and compositions, can impact resource availability, and reduces the resilience of ecosystems. The establishment of the EWT in 1973 coincided closely with these events and the organisation provides growing support for climate change action.

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



MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

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

- Providing data and maps which identify critical areas to avoid, which are integral to the [Threatened Species No-go Mapping Tool](#), the national online environmental screening tool which the EWT helped to develop, and other associated platforms.
- Engaging the renewable energy sector to prevent unsustainable development and to develop innovative conservation solutions to the threats posed by renewable energy infrastructure and other developments. During the past financial year, the EWT submitted comprehensive input into over 200 renewable energy development applications to reduce negative impacts and enhance the positive potential of this sector to sustainably benefit the environment.
- Actively discouraging the unsustainable extraction of additional fossil fuels, such as shale gas, in the form of hydraulic fracturing; or expanded coal mining that contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and exacerbates climate change impacts. The EWT achieves this by commenting on, and objecting to, unsustainable development applications.
- Working with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment to develop mitigation strategies for wind energy developments and their potentially harmful interactions with species of conservation concern.
- Actively contributing to meeting agreed-upon global emission reduction targets and accessing climate adaptation and mitigation funding. The national 2030 target range of 398–440 Mt CO₂eq is consistent with South Africa's fair share and an ambitious improvement on our current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) target. The upper range of the proposed 2030 target range represents a 28% reduction in GHG emissions from the 2015 NDC targets.

BY CONSULTING ON OVER **200 RENEWABLE ENERGY APPLICATIONS** ANNUALLY, EWT MITIGATES RISKS TO BIODIVERSITY AND CHAMPIONS **ECO-FRIENDLY INNOVATIONS.**

Our renewable energy infrastructure project, initiated in May 2023, will support decision-making towards achieving South Africa's 30x30 targets by supporting improved planning around competing land needs for conservation, renewable energy, and agriculture. We will create a national spatial plan that will consider these different competing agendas and best inform their placement across the landscape. This will provide a model to achieve the national 30x30 targets, as well as reaching the 2030 Renewable Energy Development Goals – a critical step in supporting South Africa's journey to reducing its national carbon footprint – with minimal impact on biodiversity and the environment. This work is in collaboration with national and provincial government partners as well as the relevant Independent Power Producer (IPP) associations and Eskom Holdings.

Treasure Beach, Key habitat to the Critically Endangered Dwarf Burrowing Skink - Photo credit: Ruan I. Stander

[Click here to read more about our renewable energy infrastructure project](#)



Felling Eucalyptus trees is the result of a conservation agreement in Kenya

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change adaptation refers to changes in processes, practices, and structures to moderate potential climate related impacts, or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change. This includes the process of adjusting to the current or expected effects of climate change by improving social and biodiversity resilience, and through the sequestering of carbon. Most of the EWT’s landscape conservation work contributes to these adaptation outcomes. Working across multiple landscapes, we actively improve management systems to support habitat resilience and, as a result, benefit threatened species through reduced habitat degradation and the creation of corridors to support movement. Enhancing habitat resilience, and human climate change resilience, represent key objectives in our response to climate change. This is specifically important in relation to water and food security and the reduction of impacts associated with extreme climate events, especially droughts and floods. This work links closely to Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action) and critically, to the Global Biodiversity Framework, focusing on Target Eight which speaks to the impacts of climate change on biodiversity. In the reporting period, we:

- Secured, or are in the process of securing, nearly 100,000 ha of land of strategic conservation importance, including associated sustainable land management across these landscapes. Through this improved habitat integrity, we are able to leverage sustainable financing opportunities like voluntary carbon markets.
- Are pro-actively securing Strategic Water Source Areas to increase water security in priority areas. We achieve this through a combination of strategic fine-scale spatial planning, protected area expansion, ecosystem restoration and downstream user collaboration.

- Developing climate smart agricultural systems within Community Property Associations in the Soutpansberg area of Limpopo Province.
- Developing spatial planning models to inform the placement of renewable energy infrastructure with minimal biodiversity impact and with agricultural protection incorporated into the optimisation models.
- Implementing targeted wetland restoration work in the eThekweni Municipality to improve climate resilience in and around those communities and to secure these wetlands for threatened amphibians.

We initiated a six-year journey, in collaboration with a consortium of partners funded by the German Federal Government’s International Climate Initiative (IKI), towards building climate resilience and water security across the grassland, savannah, and thicket biomes. This ambitious project has been dubbed Restoring Landscapes in South Africa (ReLiSA).

SECURED/SECURING NEARLY **100,000 HA OF LAND** OF STRATEGIC CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE TO **IMPROVE HABITAT** INTEGRITY AND LEVERAGE **SUSTAINABLE FINANCING** OPPORTUNITIES



CARBON MARKETS SUPPORT CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION

In South Africa, the Carbon Tax Act 15 of 2019 created a market for those who can sequester (the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide) carbon on their land – such as those with suitable farmlands – to receive payment from polluters in the form of carbon credits. Using carbon credits, we are offering our land users and communities the option to better conserve their land, and generate a supplementary income stream based on the carbon credits they earn from conservation management, for habitat and biodiversity conservation.

Carbon is trapped in the soil by healthy indigenous plant roots. Management actions, such as improved grazing and fire management of grasslands and wetlands, alien invasive vegetation removal, wetland rehabilitation, and improved management of agricultural lands through reduced tillage and careful fertiliser management, all improve the management of critical ecosystems. This results in increased soil carbon sequestration.

This project, so far, has identified the potential to generate around 240,000 Verified Carbon Units (VCU) per year and keep thousands of hectares of land under conservation management. This is the culmination of our work since 2017 to create carbon market access for local farmers, following a detailed process of establishing the feasibility of carbon trading in southern Africa's grasslands and recognising the potential benefits for farmers. It creates long-term funding opportunities it could unlock for improved grassland and wetland management.

WITH THE POTENTIAL TO GENERATE AROUND **240,000 CARBON CREDITS** ANNUALLY THIS PROJECT CAN **CONSERVE THOUSANDS OF HECTARES** OF LAND AND **BENEFIT LOCAL FARMERS** IN THE LONG-TERM.

[Click here to read more on how Carbon Markets can support critical ecosystem conservation](#)



AFRICAN CRANE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

All four of Africa's resident crane species — the [Blue](#), [Grey Crowned](#), [Wattled](#), and [Black Crowned Crane](#) — are threatened. These species serve as flagships for the conservation of the wetland and grassland ecosystems they inhabit, and which 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 partnered with the [International Crane Foundation](#) (ICF) throughout Africa for the last 30 years – a milestone both organisations commemorated while both also celebrated their 50th anniversaries in 2023. Our [partnership](#) closely collaborates with local communities and key national and global stakeholders to implement conservation actions. We support individuals, community groups, and organisations to better manage catchments to the benefit of both people and cranes, by mainstreaming conservation into local decision-making and practices for sustainable crane 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 implement projects in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia and support work in Ethiopia, Senegal, and South Sudan.

DON'T LET THEM DISAPPEAR

FLAT OUT IN ZAMBIA

The Kafue Flats, encompassing Lochinvar and Blue Lagoon National Parks, 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, contributing to the national economy of Zambia through fishing, livestock grazing, domestic water supply (including for the capital, Lusaka), and national electricity production through hydropower. Unfortunately, unsustainable livestock grazing and fishing activity, expanding human settlements, alien invasive plants that compromise vital habitats, mining operations, and wildlife poaching and poisoning are threatening the Kafue Flats. In 2023, we signed a 20-year co-management agreement with the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife and WWF Zambia to protect the Kafue Flats, marking the achievement of an important milestone.

In January 2024, the [Global Environment Facility](#) (GEF) confirmed an investment of US\$8.7m for five years to support activities that will reduce the threats facing this internationally significant wetland, including creating incentives for regulating cattle movements. This announcement will significantly aid the conservation of the Kafue Flats. NGOs, including BirdWatch Zambia, Game Rangers International, SelfHelp Africa, and WWF Zambia, are among those supporting the ICF-EWT Partnership with this project. Government departments include the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment. In addition to reducing the threats facing this wetland system, the project will promote sustainable community practices such as fire prevention, grazing management, fishing regulation and agricultural development.

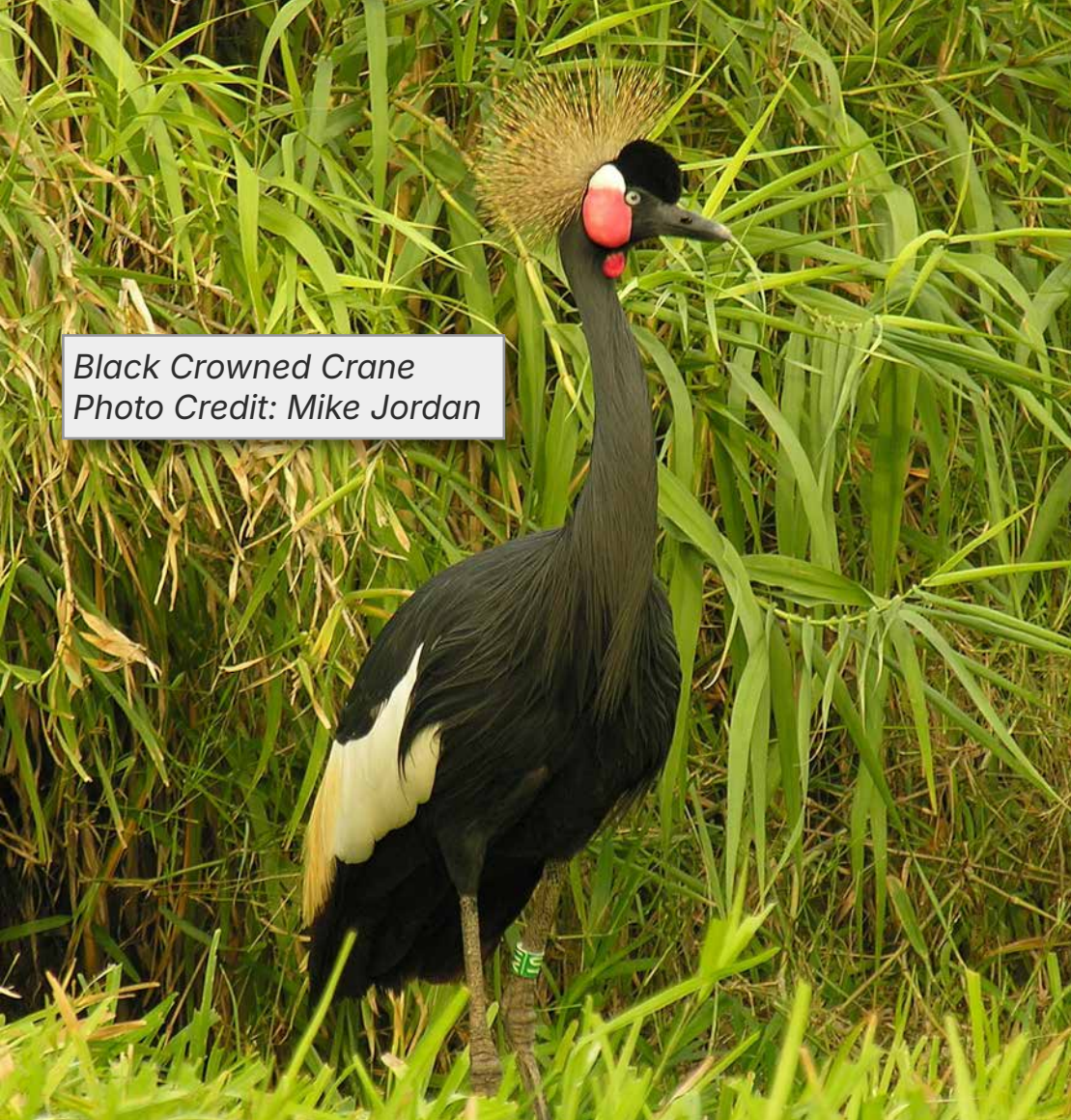
In early 2024, we strengthened the capacity of the Kafue Flats Restoration Partnership (KFRP) for research and monitoring through a new project supported by the JRS Biodiversity Foundation. In collaboration with the University of Zambia, the project will design a biodiversity monitoring system for the Kafue Flats and establish a wetlands information system with the technical support of the South African Freshwater Research Centre. From a biodiversity monitoring perspective, we undertook a systematic ground count in Blue Lagoon National Park, where a flock of over 1,000 Wattled Cranes was recorded. Camera traps deployed in Lochinvar National Park recorded an Aardvark and a Cape Porcupine for the first time in many years.

In November 2023, 140 stakeholders attended two Kafue Flats General Management Planning workshops. Here, a core zone for crane and lechwe protection was identified, comprising the two national parks and the area in between. The core zone has low levels of human activity and a high concentration of lechwe, cranes, and other wildlife. A call to action was made to address poaching, unregulated settlements, fishing, and livestock movement, which is causing habitat degradation.

To improve ecosystem functioning in the region, our team continues to remove and prevent the regrowth of the invasive *Mimosa pigra* plant, a serious alien invasive within the Kafue Flats that chokes local vegetation and turns the landscape into thick, impenetrable bush. This year, 60 community workers were hired and were able to clear approximately 300 ha of regrowth. Training was provided to community members in small enterprises, from which they could generate some income by producing charcoal from *Mimosa* as well as biochar, which is a by-product that can be used for soil improvement.

We continue to work with law enforcement officers in the area, who arrested 72 suspected poachers this year. We confiscated 800 kg of bushmeat, 2,300 meters of illegal fishing nets, 13 wire snares, and 18 firearms from both National Parks. To support the park rangers, a scout shelter or patrol deployment camp was constructed, and funding was confirmed for the construction of a park management office at Blue Lagoon. Our field officer team includes 98 individuals, of whom 14 are women. We were able to replenish critical personal first aid kits and carry out voluntary health screening for field staff and their families.

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, the Greenfield-Hartline Habitat Conservation Fund, Sallyann Garner, Elaine Kelch and Steve Bablitch, the Taronga Conservation Society Australia, the Dietrich American Foundation, Fondation Segré, the International Crane Foundation's Conservation Impact Fund, Jeanne Eloranta Family, Indwe, WWF Zambia, and the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife.



Black Crowned Crane
Photo Credit: Mike Jordan

A NEWLY DISCOVERED HOTSPOT FOR **BLACK CROWNED CRANES** WAS IDENTIFIED IN THE **BOMA-GAMBELLA NATIONAL PARKS** (ETHIOPIA/SOUTH SUDAN) WITH AN ESTIMATED POPULATION OF **10,000–15,000 INDIVIDUALS**.

A FULLY-FLEDGED BLACK CROWNED CRANE PROGRAMME

The EWT/ICF Partnership is undertaking an important high-level status survey of Black Crowned Cranes, the world's least well-known crane species to improve our understanding and management of this species and, in particular, their breeding grounds in western and central Africa.

Our baseline database of Black Crowned Crane records has improved significantly with the acquisition of the [Wetlands International](#) dataset, which clearly indicates present population hotspots and focus areas. Access was also granted to the West African Bird Citizen Science Database (WABdaB), covering West Africa and the Sahel, providing insight into areas where Black Crowned Cranes have largely been extirpated, and invaluable information on very fragmented populations.

Toward the end of 2023, with funding from the International Crane Foundation's Conservation Impact Fund (CIF), we launched a baseline situation analysis in Chad to assess the species' status there. In Ethiopia, we partnered with researchers from the Jimma and Madda Wanabu Universities to study community perceptions and ecological aspects of Black Crowned Cranes. This study showed a dramatic decline in numbers in recent years, especially in areas that had experienced severe drought. In the Lake Tana area in Ethiopia, the population is in decline, probably due to intense grazing pressure. Further west, a survey of the Boma-Gambella National Parks indicated a newly discovered hotspot for Black Crowned Cranes in Ethiopia/South Sudan with an estimated population of 10,000–15,000 individuals.

Due to the importance of South Sudan as a core site for Black Crowned Cranes, the ICF/EWT Partnership has signed a MoU with African Parks to conduct aerial surveys in the Boma and Badingilo National Parks, which include the Sudd Wetland. The data will enable the project to collect baseline population data and assist the programme to identify and, hopefully, securing critical breeding areas for the species. Additionally, the ICF's CIF and the Leiden Conservation Foundation provided funding towards the cost of the aerial surveys. The test flights will be taking place in the last quarter of 2024, with the aim to conduct these annually.

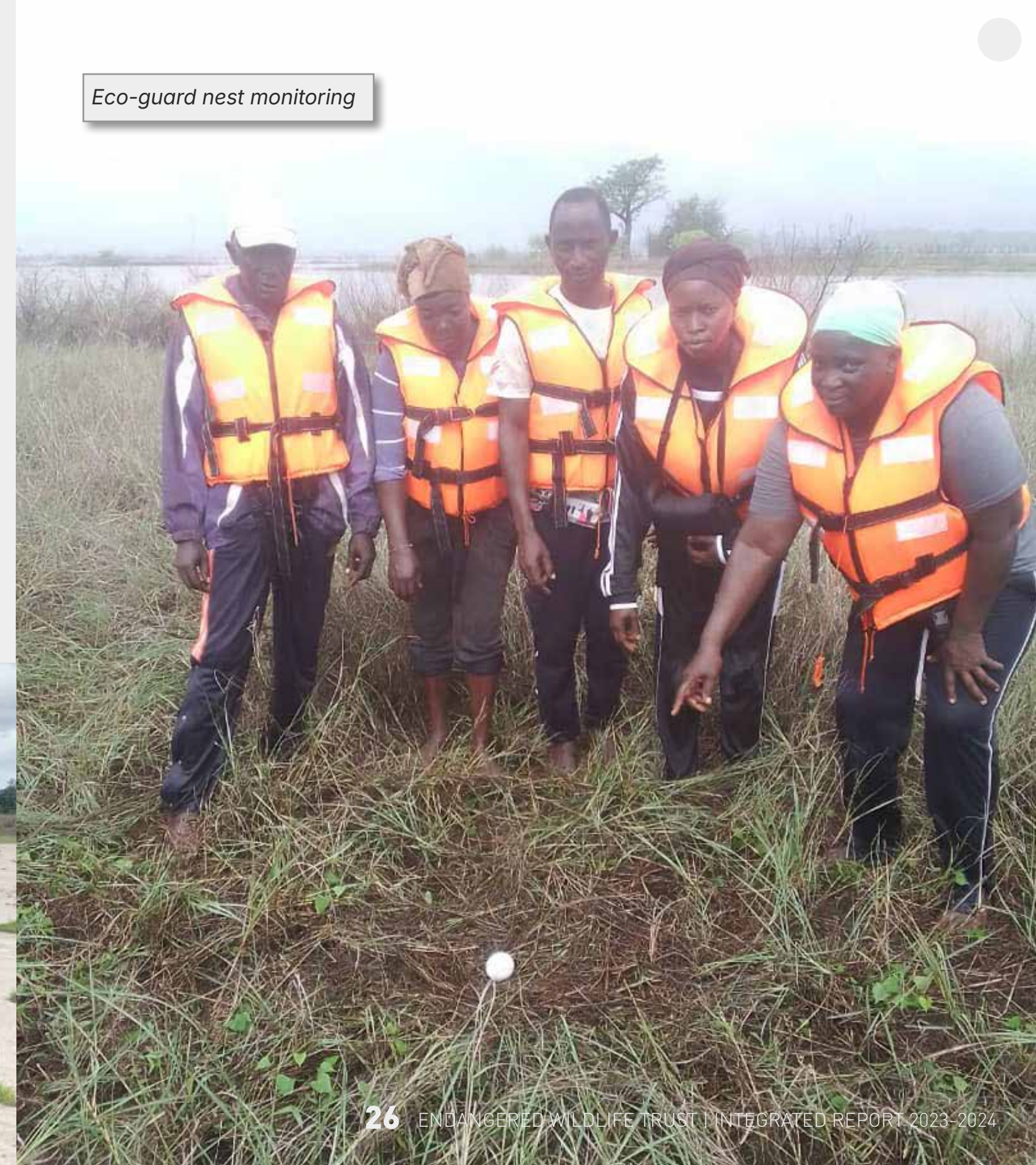
This work is made possible with support from the Aqualia International Foundation, Dr George Archibald, Fiona Guinness, the Leiden Conservation Foundation, African Parks and the Sharpe Foundation.

CASAMANCE DELTA, SENEGAL

In Senegal, our partners, AfriWet Consultants Etudes et Conseils and the fledgling community-based organisation, Association Nature Koussabel (ANAK), are working with farming communities in the Casamance Delta area to improve awareness and understanding of Black Crowned Cranes amongst local communities. They are also gathering critical baseline information about the ecology, threats, and status of Black Crowned Cranes to support our future conservation strategy. In the Casamance, we work with women's agricultural groups on gardening projects to deliver food security and provide additional income after the rainy season, particularly when food security is low, as part of our integrated approach to conservation and socio-economic development. We are also delivering conservation outreach to schools in the area. We are working with AfriWet, ANAK, and others to develop a strategy that considers the progress over the past five years and determines the forward strategy of the project and potential partners.

This work is made possible with support from the Birdsong Project / Shika Shika and the Aquilia International Foundation.

Eco-guard nest monitoring



Training eco-guards





Planting of fodder as part of buffer zone to reduce wetland encroachment

The Grey Crowned Crane is at risk of being lost across East Africa in what was once its historic stronghold. The Grey Crowned Crane is 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's human-dominated landscapes – 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 focussed on the present and projected future breeding, flocking and roosting grounds for Grey Crowned Cranes in five counties, which account for 50% of the Kenyan Grey Crowned Crane population. This is because they contain key wetlands and uplands important for breeding and flocking. Our work increasingly shows that encroachment of agriculture into wetlands is the most serious long-term threat to Grey Crowned Cranes in western Kenya. Working with our in-country partner, Community

SAVING KENYA'S GREY CROWNED CRANES

Action for Nature Conservation (CANCO) and other key stakeholders in Kenya, we rolled out the Climate Smart Agriculture practices project over the last year and achieved an uptake level of approximately 39% of the engaged farmers.

We are implementing the 'Enriched Buffer Zone Strategy', designed to create a buffer zone between farms and wetlands. In Nandi County, we mapped 11.2 ha of King'wal wetland riparian zone, an important crane breeding site. After the mapping, we successfully distributed over 14,000 indigenous tree and avocado seedlings and 8,400 cuttings of Napier Grass to 100 farmers to provide alternative fodder for livestock and reduce disturbance of cranes in wetlands by livestock grazing, especially during breeding. Planting Napier Grass also reduces soil erosion on the farms during heavy rain, thereby reducing siltation in the wetlands. We signed Conservation Agreements with the 52 riparian landowners along the stretch, which sees farmers cutting down exotic eucalyptus trees along the buffer zone and replacing them with the indigenous trees we provide. This Enriched Buffer Zone Strategy also aims to reduce disturbance in the wetland by enriching the buffer zone between the farms and wetlands, improving livelihoods through the provision of fruit trees and beekeeping. It will increase forest cover to mitigate against the effects of climate change, and ultimately save the Endangered Grey Crowned Crane and other wetland-dependent biodiversity.

We successfully completed the construction of two springs in Nandi County, to help reduce disturbance to cranes in wetlands. One of these, named Kapsile Spring, is in Lower King'wal wetland where it will benefit

approximately 150 households, comprising about 300 people, who are mainly riparian landowners who have cranes breeding on wetlands bordering their farms. The second spring, named Kapnganio Spring, is in Mateget. This spring is a flocking site with maize fields that are visited by crane flocks after harvesting of the maize. This second spring will benefit approximately 2,000 people including two schools, three churches, three villages, one cattle dip, and a shopping centre.

We celebrated the 2023 Crane Festival under the theme: "Saving cranes and places they dance," on the 13 and 14 September in Homa Bay and Kisumu counties, respectively. We reached a total of 2,359 people through the roadshow at 12 stopovers, raising community awareness and enhancing ICF/EWT/CANCO visibility in the two newly-upscaled project sites. As a second phase of the Crane Custodian strategy, ten Crane Custodians were equipped with wetland gear including raincoats, gumboots and overalls. All the Crane Custodians were also issued with branded smartphones that had the Survey 123 app installed to collect crane location data. Since being equipped, we have observed an increased collection and submission of crane breeding and flocking data by the Custodians.

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 with support from Bob Hallam, the Dohmen Family Fund, and the Leiden Conservation Foundation.

UGANDAN CRANES AND COMMUNITIES

Just as in Kenya, wetland loss is the leading cause of the decline of Grey Crowned Cranes in Uganda. The wetlands there are essential for the same ecological reasons and face similar 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 2023, we undertook our first comprehensive crane census in Uganda, recording 10,177 Grey Crowned Cranes across the western, central, eastern, and northern regions. The primary objective was to establish foundational data on the population size and dispersal patterns of Grey Crowned Cranes throughout Uganda, which will be crucial for future conservation efforts. This census in over 130 districts was supported by local stakeholders, including project staff, Crane Custodians, Wildlife Clubs of Uganda, universities, district Natural Resources Departments, and community members.

In February 2024, and in partnership with the Margaret Trust and Rugarama, we held a Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) learning event in Kabale. This event served as a valuable platform for sharing experiences and best practices in the PHE domain, aimed at enhancing understanding of PHE in conservation and community development. It facilitated networking among professionals in the field, attracting participants from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

In March 2024, we signed 16 Conservation Agreements with community groups in Rukiga District formalising commitments to preserve wetlands, support livelihoods, and enhance health services. This marked a significant step towards integrating conservation and health initiatives for the local community.

To address the issue of girls dropping out of school due to inadequate sanitation facilities, we completed an improved latrine for girls at Kabirizi Primary School in Rukiga District. It not only allows for greater privacy, but also caters to the needs of physically challenged students. This initiative aims to keep girls, in particular, in school and address issues of early marriage and large family sizes.

Our efforts in promoting climate smart agriculture have been extensive. We distributed vegetable seeds to nearly 1,400 individuals, established three Integrated Land Use Demonstration Sites, set up two nursery beds featuring Calliandra, Grevillea, and other plants, and planted over 25,000 trees in Rukiga District. These initiatives aim to enhance food security, improve nutrition, provide additional income sources, and encourage the adoption of sustainable farming methods.

This work is made possible with support from the Aqualia International Foundation, the Darwin Initiative, the Dohmen Family Fund, the Whitley Fund for Nature (through the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association), the Dietrich American Foundation, James and Marilyn Anderson, and Conservation International.



Signing conservation agreements



Crane Festival Uganda

COMMUNITIES AND CRANES IN RWANDA

Rugezi Marsh, which covers 6,375 ha in northern Rwanda, is the most important site for Endangered Grey Crowned Cranes in the country. It hosts 25% of Rwanda's Grey Crowned Crane population (as determined by the 2023 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, also an 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, and harvesting honey by smoking out bees, and which only ended when we started working in the marsh, and that had led to devastating wildfires, have all negatively impacted the health and function of this wetland.

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 by 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.

Our Rwanda project conducted a climate smart agriculture training needs assessment in the Rugezi Marsh catchment. As a result, our team has now trained 60 community members to make compost manure using locally available organic residues. In addition to improving soil fertility and crop yield, compost helps to reduce soil erosion by binding soil particles together, increasing filtration, slowing the surface flow of water, and reducing soil and wetland pollution through the overuse of chemical fertilisers. These trainees are now working as model farmers, training other community members on how to make compost. The climate-smart agriculture project also included farmer field school training, through which we conducted four-day training with 80 farmers, including 60 members from two cooperatives, focusing on farmer field school demonstration plots. We trained 20 household representatives on installing kitchen gardens. As part of the practical sessions, we provided 4,000 kg of high-quality selected Irish potato seeds,

which were used to plant 1.27 ha. The total harvest will be divided into three categories: 1) consumption by families, 2) sales to generate income, and 3) seeds for the next cropping season. Importantly, training addressed measures to prevent crop damage by cranes – critical to reducing human-wildlife conflict.

As part of scaling up our resilient livelihoods programme around the marsh, we have signed three-year voluntary Conservation Agreements with 13 community groups committing to the preservation of Rugezi Marsh and its biodiversity. These comprise 2,057 households clustered into 13 groups across six sectors in Burera and Gicumbi districts that will undertake sustainable agriculture in the marsh catchment and stop activities that degrade the marsh and disturb cranes. In return, we have given each household five avocado seedlings – 10,285 seedlings in total – and trained them to grow and care for them. By mixing avocado trees with annual crops, we are helping farmers diversify production and increase the productivity of their land. This in turn helps them to overcome crop failure due to climate change. To further reduce the disturbance of cranes from the harvesting of fuel wood from the marsh, we distributed 80 energy-saving stoves to 40 households. Similarly, to reduce disturbances in the marsh through grass harvesting for both fodder and bedding, we handed out Napier Grass to 2,338 households and distributed 80 mattresses to families – bringing the total distribution under this project to 240 mattresses – significantly more than our initial target of 200.

SINCE 2012, WE'VE COLLABORATED WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES, OFFERING **LIVELIHOOD BENEFITS** IN EXCHANGE FOR **CONSERVATION EFFORTS**. THIS APPROACH NOW INVOLVES **2,057 HOUSEHOLDS** ACROSS SIX SECTORS, PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND **MARSH PRESERVATION**.

This work is made possible with support from the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association (RWCA), Dohmen Family Fund, the Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium, and the Rainforest Trust.

PROTECTING CRANES AND THEIR HABITATS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The southern Drakensberg mountains span the KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, and Eastern Cape provinces in South Africa. These mountain foothills and plateaus are home to all three species of cranes in South Africa, including 95% of the country's Wattleed 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.

The following table outlines the recent establishment of four protected environments in South Africa, reflecting EWT's commitment to expanding the country's conservation efforts. These newly declared areas are critical for safeguarding essential habitats and promoting the recovery of threatened species, thus enhancing the ecological integrity of the region. The four protected environments make a meaningful contribution of over 19,000 ha to expanding South Africa's protected area network.

| Protected Environment | Location | Size (ha) | Significance |
|--|----------------------|-----------|---|
| Eeram Protected Environment | Free State | 7,398 | Safeguards crane habitat |
| Greater Lakenvlei Protected Environment | Mpumalanga | 2,850 | High-value grassland and wetland habitat. |
| Kiepersol Protected Environment | KwaZulu-Natal | 4,317 | Strategic Water Source Area |
| Normandien Protected Environment | Bordering Free State | 4,664 | Strategic Water Source Area |

Table 2: Summary of ACCP Protected Environments Expansion in South Africa

In many of the rural areas where we work, people do not have access to a reliable supply of potable water. We, therefore, work with communities to identify and protect natural springs that are used for water provision. Over the last year, we completed a spring protection project at Mqatsheni near Underberg, which provides water of potable quality to 40 households of about 240 people. Spring protection goes hand-in-hand with our initiative to support village leaders to make better and more sustainable decisions about land-use planning for the benefit of people and cranes.

In July and September 2023, we conducted aerial surveys in KwaZulu-Natal (part of a long-term survey) and the Western and Eastern Cape provinces, respectively. The Western Cape survey allowed us to extrapolate population size estimates for Blue Cranes in the Overberg, Swartland, and Karoo areas. We intend to conduct these surveys every three years.

In an incredible feat, the EWT, the ICF, and our carbon project developer partner have registered one of only six carbon offsetting projects in the world that focus on improved grassland management by examining fire and grazing. The project covers 90,000 ha. The first verified carbon units from this project are expected to be issued in October 2024, meaning that the project will start to generate revenue for conservation from that point onwards.

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, Paul L King, and the Bateleurs.

WE COMPLETED A SPRING PROTECTION PROJECT IN MQATSHENI, SUPPLYING **240 PEOPLE** WITH **SAFE WATER**, AND SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE LAND-USE PLANNING TO **PROTECT CRANE HABITATS.**

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BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAMME

Birds of prey are iconic figures in the landscapes they inhabit, serving as vital barometers of healthy habitats across Africa. From vast savannas to rugged mountain ranges, forests, grasslands, and river systems, they provide essential ecosystem services crucial for the functioning of these environments. Beyond their ecological importance, birds of prey hold significant social, cultural, and religious value in many African communities.

Despite this, birds of prey throughout southern Africa face ongoing population declines, with many species, particularly vultures, rapidly approaching extinction in the wild. It is our collective responsibility to ensure these wild populations remain viable and healthy. The EWT's Birds of Prey Programme's (BOPP) mission is to enhance the conservation status of threatened birds of prey and safeguard the habitats they need to thrive, thereby benefiting a diversity of other wildlife and local communities.

DON'T LET THEM DISAPPEAR

THE IMPACT OF WILDLIFE POISONING ON SCAVENGING RAPTORS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Africa's vultures are among the continent's most iconic wildlife. Today, these species are in crisis. In 2017, seven out of 11 African vulture species were uplisted to Endangered or Critically Endangered. Over the reporting period, we recorded over 800 vulture fatalities across southern Africa due to poisoning. While the main culprit is poisoning, the main driver remains the illegal wildlife trade. Together, this has led to the poisoning of thousands of vultures throughout Africa, devastating populations and pushing them rapidly toward extinction.

Vultures are not the only victims of these insidious activities. Poisons impact many species—elephants drinking from poisoned waterholes die for their tusks, lions die for their paws and skulls, and leopards die for their pelts. Other scavenging raptors, including Bateleur and Tawny Eagles, and hyaenas are also hard hit. Critically, vultures are the “clean-up crew of Africa.” The ecosystem services they provide through the removal of decaying carcasses are critical ecosystem services.

VULTURES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ECOSYSTEM HEALTH, PROVIDING CRITICAL SERVICES BY REMOVING DECAYING CARCASSES, WHICH HELPS PREVENT DISEASE SPREAD.

Our Karoo Vulture Safe Zone, spanning the Western and Eastern Cape, is on track to becoming one of the largest VSZs in southern Africa. The aim is to cover nearly 2.3 million ha, a goal we are almost halfway to achieving with over 730,000 ha already committed. This VSZ is unique as it presently hosts no resident colonies of vultures, but is historically significant for the Cape Vulture distribution. The dedicated efforts of landowners have successfully removed threats, resulting in a safer environment for potential vulture populations.

The Kalahari Vulture Safe Zone, encompassing 150,000 ha and managed by over 20 landowners, plays a crucial role in supporting and monitoring populations of African White-backed Vultures, Lappet-faced Vultures, and occasionally Cape Vultures. In this vast stronghold, our initiatives have reduced threats to a level that no longer jeopardises these species. We continue hosting awareness campaigns, with the most recent Vulture Conservation Day in Kimberley attracting over 45 participants, significantly increasing public awareness about vultures and guiding community conservation efforts.

Vulture Safe Zone signs in the Kalahari



SECURING OUR CRITICAL VULTURE SAFE ZONES (VSZS)

ADDRESSING UNINTENTIONAL VULTURE POISONING WITHIN VSZS

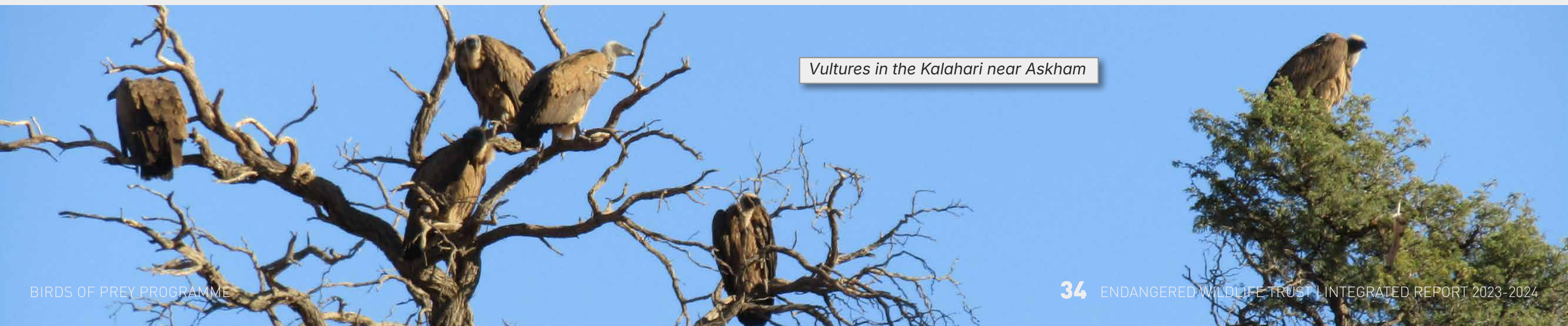
Vultures often become unintended casualties of poison baits intended for livestock predators like jackals and caracals, contributing to the alarming decline of local vulture populations across southern Africa. Recognising the need for a different approach, we sought to provide alternative solutions to individuals for predator management. Partnering with key farmers through several predation management workshops, we proposed implementing an innovative solution: the mobile kraaling system. This pioneering system integrates active kraaling practices, where livestock are safely enclosed overnight in a solar-powered mobile electrified enclosure. Designed to be easy to set up, this enclosure promotes active herding and management of livestock while minimising the risk of predation.

There is a common misconception among many individuals that lead-free ammunition is either unreliable, unaffordable, or unavailable. However, recent research has highlighted the alarming toxicity of lead to vultures. The “Battle of the Bullets” initiative has been developed with the aim of bringing together various stakeholders to have

open discussions regarding the challenges associated with transitioning to lead-free alternatives. Additionally, the manufacturers of lead-free bullets were given the opportunity at the awareness events to demonstrate the real-time performance of their products. As a result, there has been a notable shift in attitudes among landowners, hunting outfitters, and other ammunition buyers towards considering the adoption of lead-alternative ammunition. Since our first “Battle of the Bullets” in 2022, we have reached over 100 people and several of our VSZ properties have committed to being lead-free, with more to follow.

Towards the further protection of vultures and other predators, we are collaborating with the EWT’s Carnivore Conservation Programme to provide training and facilitate the use of Livestock Guardian Dogs, which have shown to be effective in safeguarding livestock from predators. Linked to this, we have organised a poison removal drive in collaboration with a licensed company from Gauteng. This initiative aims to clear the VSZ area of unsafe chemicals that may otherwise be stored or misused for unintended purposes.

THE “BATTLE OF THE BULLETS” INITIATIVE ADDRESSES MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT **LEAD-FREE AMMUNITION** BY DEMONSTRATING ITS **EFFECTIVENESS** TO OVER **100 STAKEHOLDERS**, RESULTING IN **INCREASED ADOPTION**.



Vultures in the Kalahari near Askham

TARGETED CONSERVATION ACTIONS FOR THE BEARDED VULTURE

The Birds of Prey Programme'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 and our team is thrilled to have finally set up our feeding site near Mulumong, where we have been supplementing feeding bones to support the local Bearded Vulture populations. At least four individual Bearded Vultures have been feeding at the site since early September 2023. Outreach has been another important aspect of our work in the region, and to date, we have been able to educate over 100 local scholars on the importance of vultures and conservation. Our vision is that this feeding site becomes a critical conservation and education hub going forward. We also have exciting plans to construct the first bird hide for the area in early 2025 for public use.

It's been a rewarding year for our BOPP team team, which has expanded the network of committed landowners across southern Africa, resulting in approximately an additional 950,000 ha now dedicated to becoming vulture safe. We are determined to surpass the one-million-hectare milestone in the coming financial year, strengthening our impact on the conservation of these magnificent birds. Encouragingly, the VSZ initiative has been adopted and integrated into the recently-gazetted National Vulture Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) 2023, under the auspices of the National Vulture Task Force. We are working with BirdLife South Africa and Birdlife International to develop a Vulture Safe Zone Alliance to coordinate and implement the work across southern Africa.



THE BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAMME HAS **EDUCATED** OVER **100 LOCAL SCHOLARS** ON **VULTURE CONSERVATION**, AIMING TO MAKE THE NEW MOKHOTLONG FEEDING SITE A **LONG-TERM** CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION **HUB**.

This work is made possible with support from Alu-Cab, Cennergi, Charl van der Merwe Trust, the Singita Lowveld Trust, Puy du Fou, the European Outdoor Conservation Association and SANParks Honorary Rangers.

[Click here to learn how Vulture Safe Zones benefit human well-being.](#)

[Click here to learn how using lead-free ammunition and creating lead-free environments can help the conservation of vultures.](#)



Installing a GPS tracking unit on a White-Backed Vulture
Photo credit: Jo Taylor

ALLIES IN THE SKY OUR FEATHERED RANGERS

The EWT has harnessed the natural sentinel behaviour of vultures, combined with novel GPS tracking technology, pioneering a rapid poisoning detection system, which we call Eye in the Sky. This system monitors the behavioural signatures of a vast network of GPS-tracked vultures, allowing us to remotely survey large landscapes and detect poison sources, alerting rangers on the ground to these events and preventing further loss of wildlife to poisoning.

In 2022, we initiated our pioneering Eye in the Sky rapid carcass and wildlife poisoning detection project, with its primary focus area in the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA), which links the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, the Kruger National Park in South Africa, and the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe. With over 28 key partners across six African countries using the system to date, together with a key partnership with the North Carolina Zoological Society, we have enabled and driven the rapid expansion of our Eye in the Sky system across East and southern Africa.

We have detected a total of 37 poison sources across our project sites since May 2023. The rapid identification of these sources, coupled with prompt decontamination measures, has played a vital role in safeguarding the lives of countless scavenging wildlife species. The early detection of several of these events enabled us to successfully rescue, rehabilitate and release over 120 vultures back into the wild. Critically, this also prevented the further poisoning of an unknown but undoubtedly significant number of additional vultures and other wildlife. Notably, the majority of these poisoning cases appear to have been designed with the specific intent of targeting Lion, Leopard and Hyaena, for their body parts in support of traditional medicinal trade.

Remarkably, at eight of our vulture alert sites, we detected poison sources before any wildlife fatalities occurred — a significant milestone for our project and something that we had not been able to achieve in the past.

Over the reporting period, the EWT's BOPP and Vultures for Africa Programme deployed 78 additional tracked vultures into the system in the Kruger National Park, KwaZulu-Natal, and reserves in Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique to expand the area under vulture surveillance. Today, over 350 of these GPS-tracked feathered rangers traverse an area of approximately six million square kilometres.

WITH **OVER 350** GPS-TRACKED
VULTURES COVERING APPROXIMATELY
SIX MILLION SQUARE
KILOMETERS, EYE IN THE SKY IS A POWERFUL
SURVEILLANCE TOOL ACROSS **EAST AND**
SOUTHERN AFRICA.

The Eye in the Sky system has proven invaluable in locating numerous snared animals caught along extensive snare lines, which target both herbivores (for bushmeat) and predators (for the illegal wildlife trade). This innovative technology has significantly enhanced our ability to detect snare lines, marking an exciting new application for our system. Additionally, the system has enabled the detection of 36 poaching (bushmeat) camps over the past year. At these camps, rangers have confiscated bushmeat, equipment and poisons, thereby thwarting the poachers' illegal activities and trade. This effective use of technology has bolstered our efforts to protect wildlife and disrupt illegal practices.

The system has also led to the detection and removal of 3,049 snares across our project sites. Alarming, this included 1,091 snared animals found. Of the total snares removed, a staggering 1,937 were still set and untriggered, marking a significant threat reduction in these important wildlife areas. The focal point of these efforts has been Letaba Ranch, a sprawling 42,000-hectare provincial reserve situated along the western boundary of Kruger. This region has unfortunately become a hotspot for illegal wildlife activities, prompting heightened attention from the EWT and our extensive network of partners actively engaged in the area.

VULTURE POISONING RESPONSE AND RESCUE

A significant capacity challenge related to the effective and efficient response to mass poisoning incidents is the limited number of wildlife veterinarians and rehabilitators correctly trained and capable of treating birds during and after mass poisoning incidents. 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. This year we applied significant focus to expanding the network of so-called “vulture vets”. This saw the inclusion and training of six wildlife veterinarians in South Africa, two veterinarians in Mozambique, and eight veterinarians from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks in Botswana, on the handling and treatment of poisoned raptors.

In addition to our Vulture vet network, the EWT has worked tirelessly with key donors to build a custom-designed Vulture Ambulance. This Vulture Ambulance is a vital mobile rescue station, fully equipped to treat and transport poisoned vultures and give them the best chance of survival. Our mobile Vulture Ambulance is stationed strategically within a high-poisoning-risk area and can transport up to 20 birds in modular, easy-to-remove crates that can be accessed without disturbing other resting birds. We have already used our Vulture Ambulance at three major poisoning events over the reporting period, enabling the swift treatment and rehabilitation of over 20 poisoned vultures, that were successfully released back into the wild.

This work is made possible with support from the Briandez Legacy Trust, Charl van der Merwe Trust, Alu-Cab, the National Geographic Society, the Singita Lowveld Trust, Roy McAlpine Charitable Foundation, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Puy du Fou, the Gauntlett Trust, Branfere, Bushwakka, Geants du Ciel, BEWILD and the BlueSky Society Trust. Our work is made more impactful through key partnerships with Raptors Botswana, Connect Trust, Elephants Without Borders, South African National Parks, African Parks, Peace Parks Foundation, Gonarezhou Conservation Trust, Niassa Carnivore Project, Chuilixi Conservancy, Niassa Special Reserve/WCS, Wildlife ACT, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, and important collaboration with Contemplate Wild and the North Carolina Zoological Society. We are grateful for the involvement of expert wildlife rehabilitators from the Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Briner Veterinary Services, WildScapes Veterinary & Conservation Services, the Dullstroom Bird of Prey Centre and the Kevin Richardson Foundation.

THE EWT HAS ACHIEVED A **90% SURVIVAL RATE** FOR **POISONED BIRDS** OF PREY AFTER TREATMENT. **SIX NEW VULTURE VETS** HAVE BEEN TRAINED ACROSS **THREE COUNTRIES.**

Rescued Vultures being released
Photo credit: Sarah Goodman



Please report any form of wildlife poisoning to:
<https://www.africanwildlifepoisoning.org/>

APPLIED RAPTOR RESEARCH, MONITORING AND PLANNING

UNDERSTANDING TO CONSERVE



Pel's Fishing Owl Nestling

This year, we launched an exciting project with the University of Maryland through the Threat Reduction for the Environment, People, and Animals (TREPA) project in the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA). Here, we have been actively engaged in advancing our research efforts to deepen our understanding of the critical role played by vultures in either propagating or mitigating the spread of Anthrax. The primary objective is to assess whether Anthrax spore loads may be prevalent in these areas and to investigate whether congregating vultures might contribute to an increase in spore loads at these sites. This research is instrumental in informing targeted conservation strategies and management practices to mitigate the risk of Anthrax outbreaks in vulture populations, thereby safeguarding both wildlife and human health.

We have also made great strides towards our collaborative project with the University of Pretoria, examining raptor health in the Lowveld region. Our Raptor Health project is part of a broader research effort aimed at studying the prevalence of various diseases within vulture communities, with a particular focus on Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease.

The Birds of Prey Programme officially launched a Bateleur research and monitoring project to better understand their population status, ranging behaviour and habitat requirements. An icon of the skies, this eagle is regularly the first bird to detect carcasses, which it feeds on. Like vultures, this exposes the species to severe threats amid the escalating poisoning crisis unfolding in the Greater Kruger region. The Birds of Prey Programme initiated work to trap and GPS tag Bateleurs in the Greater Kruger region, with a total of four additional birds successfully tracked over the reporting period (eight in total so far). With over 50 Bateleurs poisoned across southern Africa over the last ten years, this work underscores the urgent need for action to safeguard these birds. The information will provide

additional support for the Eye in the Sky. In fact, as “first responders”, we predict that Bateleurs will give us an even earlier warning of poisoning events than vultures can.

The Programme has sustained our important research collaboration with the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, focusing on the development of a Martial Eagle Risk Assessment Tool (MERA). Leveraging GPS tracking data from over 35 individually tracked Martial Eagles across their range. This endeavour aims to create a national collision risk map, enabling the rapid identification of areas predicted to be heavily utilised by eagles. By doing so, we can guide wind power development projects to avoid these collision-sensitive sites, thereby minimising potential risks to Martial Eagles and promoting sustainable coexistence between wildlife and renewable energy infrastructure.

Importantly, we have continued with the long-term monitoring of raptor nests across South Africa, tracking over 1,000 breeding pairs to keep a finger on the pulse of population trends and threats. This work has been pivotal in our contribution to the latest Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland, providing critical species assessments for the recent revision. Notable species assessed include the Martial Eagle, Bateleur, Pel's Fishing Owl, and Tawny Eagle.

We have also actively participated in several meetings alongside the Black Harrier Task Force, dedicated to workshopping and kickstarting the development of a crucial species action plan for Black Harriers under the guidance of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This initiative seeks to drive the implementation of essential conservation actions necessary for the preservation of this declining, endemic, and endangered raptor species.

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CARNIVORE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Carnivores are amongst the most charismatic mammals in the world. However, many are highly threatened, requiring innovative strategies and actions to ensure their survival. The EWT's Carnivore Conservation Programme (CCP) has made significant strides in improving the conservation status of Africa's threatened large carnivores, including African Wild Dogs, Cheetahs, Lions, and Leopards. Our efforts through large-scale collaborative projects have successfully re-established, expanded, and managed safe spaces for carnivores, reduced threats to their survival, transformed human attitudes towards these species, and supported legislation to protect them.

DON'T LET THEM DISAPPEAR

EXPANDING THE RANGE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

CARNIVORE RANGE EXPANSION PROJECT

The Carnivore Range Expansion Project assists partner reserves in southern Africa conserve and manage threatened populations and to restore and stabilise carnivore guilds. It aligns with the global push for trophic rewilding, an ecological restoration strategy that promotes the self-regulation of food chains through large carnivore reintroductions. This results in improved ecosystem integrity and can increase the climate resilience of these landscapes.



This work is made possible with support from Abax Investments, African Wild Dog Survival Fund, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Jill Warnick, MetroFibre, Painted Wolf Foundation, Painted Wolf Wines, Paul L King, Tandy Foundation, and Tania Ihlenfeldt.

CHEETAHS RETURN HOME

Since the establishment of the Cheetah Range Expansion Project in 2011, we have effectively worked to recover and restore African Cheetah populations to sustainable levels through southern Africa. Through a scientifically sound management approach, we have facilitated the movement of Cheetahs between reserves, ensuring genetic integrity and healthy populations. Over the past year, we strategically strengthened resilient populations within South Africa and expanded the metapopulation network into Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Mozambique.

In the last year alone, our team successfully completed 15 Cheetah translocations across southern Africa. In South Africa, we relocated an additional 20 Cheetahs across six provinces, including a notable aerial relocation between Tswalu Kalahari Game Reserve in the Northern Cape and Nambiti Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal.

In December, we undertook the first-ever back-to-back international Cheetah relocations, which involved the export of two female Cheetahs from South Africa to Malawi and three male Cheetahs from Malawi back to South Africa. The two female Cheetahs relocated to Malawi were donated by the Manyoni Game Reserve and the Tswalu Kalahari Reserve through the EWT's Cheetah Range Expansion Project. The three male Cheetahs were born in Liwonde National Park and were donated to the Greater Makalali Nature Reserve. Following our successful reintroduction efforts in 2017 (after a 20-year absence in the country), the population in Liwonde National Park has thrived, now boasting 21 adult individuals, thereby significantly contributing to regional conservation goals for Cheetahs.

SINCE REINTRODUCTION IN 2017, THE CHEETAH POPULATION IN LIWONDE HAS **GROWN TO 21 ADULTS**



CHEETAH RANGE EXPANSION ON THE HORIZON

We proudly partner with large conservation organisations that are fulfilling a critical role in restoring protected areas throughout Africa, including African Parks, the Peace Parks Foundation, the Gorongosa Project and others. This provides more and more exciting opportunities across Africa. We continually update our readiness assessments for potential Cheetah reintroductions, allowing us to ethically guide our efforts, resources, and Cheetah placements.

In September 2023, we participated in a workshop focussed on developing an Integrated Predator Management Plan for Matusadona National Park in Zimbabwe, crucial for

Cheetah reintroduction and management. This protected area is 140,000 ha and falls within an open system that is managed by African Parks. We also visited Maputo National Park to do a reassessment for a Cheetah reintroduction – the original reintroductions were unsuccessful, with Cheetahs wandering beyond the park’s boundaries. With the Peace Parks Foundation’s commitment to ecological restoration, we see a bright future for Cheetahs in this landscape. Additionally, we conducted four assessments for reintroducing Cheetahs in South African reserves, which would collectively recover the species across approximately 57,000 ha of safe space.

STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION AND CONSERVATION PLANNING

THE CHEETAH ADVISORY GROUP CONTAINS
OVER 300 STAKEHOLDERS
FROM **95 ORGANIZATIONS**

In response to the success of the Wild Dog Advisory Group (WAG), the Cheetah Advisory Group (CAG) was established in 2022, significantly enhancing coordinated Cheetah management efforts. The inaugural CAG meeting hosted by the EWT marked the beginning of the group’s influential work, and now comprises over 300 stakeholders from 95 organisations, all committed to fostering collaborative conservation approaches.

A primary goal of the CAG is to create a conservation-focussed framework for Cheetah management by uniting expertise from government departments, reserve managers, and stakeholders. This platform supports the development of an annual Population Viability Assessment for Cheetahs, which informs the live export of wild Cheetahs, and the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) aimed at ensuring the species’ long-term survival in the wild.

AS OF 2024, **WILD DOG POPULATIONS**
ARE AT AN **ALL-TIME HIGH** IN SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVES

RETURNING WILD DOGS TO WILD SPACES

Since the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project started in 1998, safe space for African Wild Dogs in southern Africa has increased to over 1.4 million ha. This expansion has led to a corresponding increase in Wild Dog numbers and genetic health. In 2017, the EWT, the Carr Foundation, and Gorongosa scientists conducted the first international reintroduction of Wild Dogs into Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique. Another pack was introduced in 2019. Today, Gorongosa National Park boasts a population of 204 Wild Dogs. Following this successful reintroduction, the EWT has coordinated multiple other reintroductions into Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia.

This year, following a successful Wild Dog reintroduction into Karingani Game Reserve (Mozambique), we flew seven Wild Dogs back to South Africa. Housed temporarily at the EWT's high-tech holding facility in the Waterberg, we subsequently introduced the Karingani male Wild Dogs with an unrelated female into Nambiti Game Reserve (KwaZulu-Natal) and the Karingani female Wild Dogs with unrelated males into Rietspruit Game Reserve (Limpopo) – two new introduction sites in South Africa. We also embarked on a mission to relocate a newly-formed pack of Wild Dogs to Liwonde National Park in Malawi following the loss of the original pack that was tragically lost to a poisoning incident in 2022. The new pack has settled in well and has already started to den. In the past year, we flew a group of female Wild Dogs back to South Africa from Malawi and have since introduced them, with males from Selati Game Reserve, to the Greater Makali Game Reserve. This pack has also recently started to den. This is the first time that Wild Dogs from founder populations – reintroduced regionally by the EWT – have contributed back into their respective populations in South Africa.



In Mozambique, a Wild Dog pack that had moved into the Futi Corridor from the adjacent Tembe Elephant Reserve had dwindled from 16 adults to just six individuals in the past year. We attributed the pack's demise primarily to snaring, a severe threat in the region. To save the pack, we successfully relocated it, including the pups, to Gorongosa National Park, significantly bolstering their chances of survival.

Further south, in KwaZulu-Natal, the Carnivore Range Expansion team introduced a pack of four Wild Dogs into Mpilo Game Reserve in March 2024. This reserve is the newest addition to the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project, bringing the tally up to 15 active reserves. Wild Dog numbers in South Africa and our rewilding reserves are now at their highest numbers ever.

This work is made possible with support from Paul L King, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Tandy Foundation, MetroFibre, Tania Ihlenfeldt Painted Wolf Foundation, Abax Investments, Jill Warnick, African Wild Dog Survival Fund and Painted Wolf Wines.

RECONSTRUCTING THE CARNIVORE GUILD

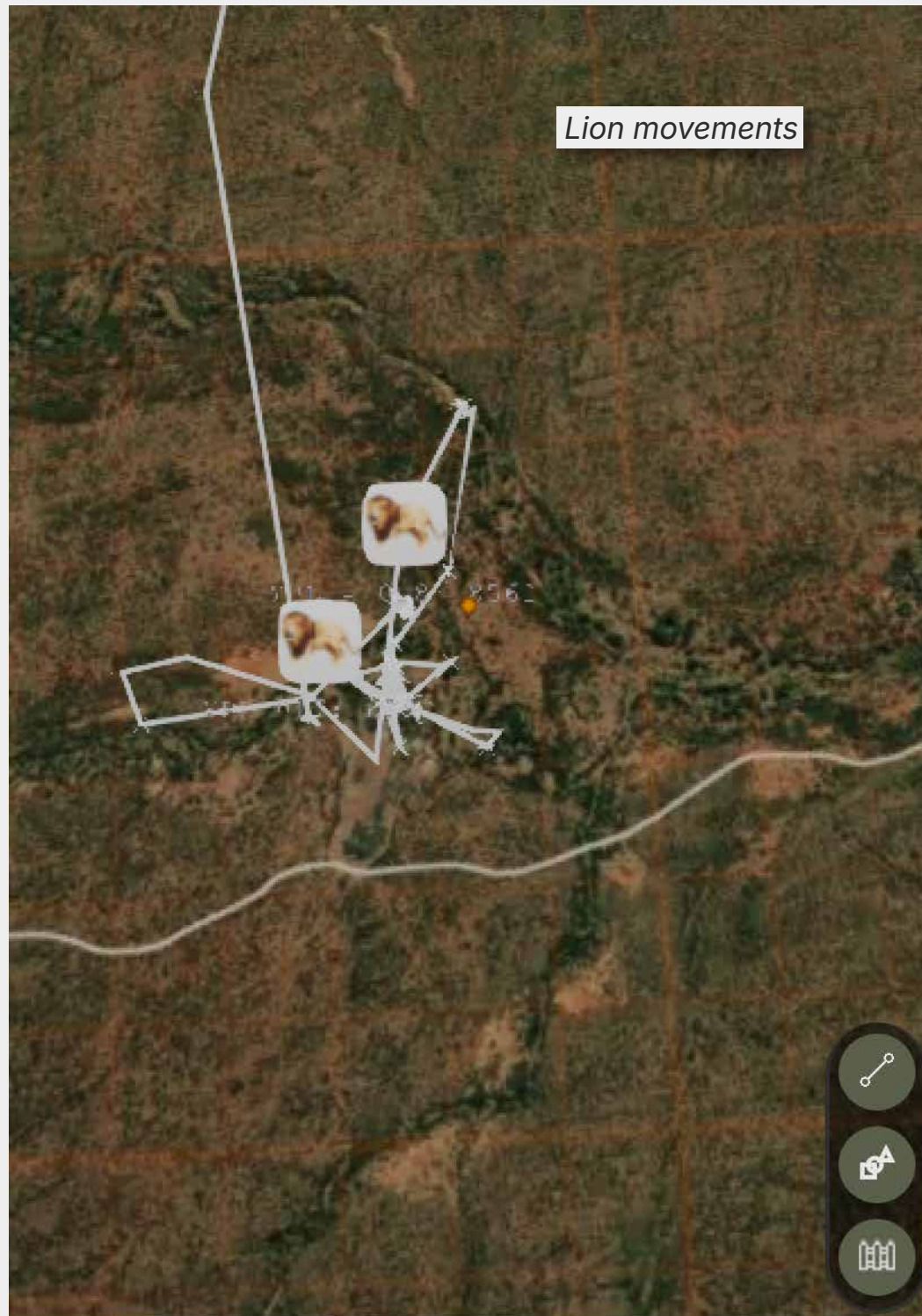
CONFIRMED SIGHTINGS OF BLACK-BACKED JACKALS, BROWN HYAENAS, AND LEOPARDS FIRST TIME SINCE THE CIVIL WAR.

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. Collaborating with the Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação (ANAC), the Peace Parks Foundation (PPF), and the Mozambique Wildlife Alliance (MWA), we are actively working to reconstruct Zinave's carnivore guild.

Our previous introductions of Spotted Hyaena and Leopard seem to have set the stage for further recovery. A male lion has now been spotted in the reserve, followed by a small pride of five male lions moving into Zinave. In May 2024, we successfully collared the first lion in the park—an adult male—and a Spotted Hyaena in June, marking a milestone in our monitoring efforts. The movements of these males will enhance our understanding of their landscape use, enabling proactive conflict avoidance with the local community.

Through a permanent grid of remote camera trap data, we have confirmed sightings of Black-backed Jackals and Brown Hyaenas—the first reports since the Civil War—along with resident Leopards. Future plans include the reintroduction of Cheetahs and Wild Dogs, further enriching the carnivore population in Zinave.

This work was made possible with support from the Oak Foundation, aha Hotels and Lodges, the Kevin Richardson Foundation and Go2Africa.





NORTHERN KRUGER LION SPATIAL CAPTURE RECAPTURE 2023

NEARLY **200 CAMERA TRAPS**
DEPLOYED ACROSS **100 LOCATIONS**,
CAPTURING **91 DETECTIONS** AND
IDENTIFYING **52 UNIQUE LIONS**.

To obtain reliable estimates of lion density, abundance, sex ratio, and spatial distribution in the northern part of the Kruger National Park, we conducted a spatial capture-recapture survey from September through November 2023. The deployment of close to 200 camera traps throughout the study area at approximately 100 locations, resulted in 91 detections, including 41 unique individuals – 18 males and 23 females. Using camera traps, we identified 12 individuals, contributing to a combined dataset of 52 unique individuals (23 males and 29 females). Using statistical modelling we estimate that there are 110 lions present in the study area, providing crucial information for conservation actions.

The same spatial capture-recapture survey is being led by the EWT's Marnus Roodbol and Alison Govaerts during 2024 in the central section of the Kruger, south of Shingwedzi up to the Olifants River. A team from Nelson Mandela University is surveying the southern part of the park. The aim is to have a comprehensive understanding of lion density, abundance, sex ratio, and spatial distribution in the whole of Kruger National Park by the end of 2024. This is the first comprehensive study of the Lion population for ten years and will provide important demographic information for managing the population.

This work was made possible with support from the Lion Recovery Fund and the Kevin Richardson Foundation.

FREE-ROAMING WILD DOGS

Most African Wild Dogs remain only inside protected areas, but a small population manages to persist on agricultural lands outside of these areas and are commonly referred to as free-roaming Wild Dogs. These individuals are extremely important for the genetic diversity of the species. These free-roaming dogs are found in the Lowveld along the Western boundary of the Greater Kruger National Park and face numerous threats, including persecution, vehicle and train collisions, snaring (“bycatch” of bushmeat poachers), and diseases transmitted by domestic dogs. Over the last year, eight snares were removed from free-roaming Wild Dogs. To ensure their long-term survival, we proactively reduce threats by removing snares from the field and vaccinating the dogs against rabies, one of the most devastating diseases among the canines. To maintain peaceful coexistence between farmers and Wild Dogs, we work closely with about 30 key farms. Due to our targeted efforts and strict monitoring, the free-roaming packs have been thriving, with some packs growing to over 14 dogs. During this reporting period, we recorded five packs, three of which have successfully begun denning, indicating a positive trend in their population stability.

This work was made possible with support from the Ford Wildlife Foundation, Painted Dog TV, the Holtzman Foundation, First Advisory Group, and Investec.

SEVEN COLLARS
PLACED ON **TWO PACKS**,
ENHANCING TRACKING
AND **REDUCING**
CONFLICTS WITH LOCAL
FARMERS, WHICH HAS INCREASED
NUMBERS AND **IMPROVED**
DISTRIBUTION.



WILD DOGS IN THE WATERBERG

We work with partners in the Waterberg to minimise the impact of free-roaming Wild Dogs on game farms and the resulting conflict with farmers, thereby increasing their chances of survival. In this reporting period, we successfully placed seven collars on two packs in the Waterberg to enable effective tracking and monitoring of their movements. Over the last five years, the numbers and distribution of these free-roaming Wild Dogs have increased through enhanced collaboration from farmers, awareness-raising campaigns, and improved monitoring. Despite our efforts, we faced challenges, losing three Wild Dogs to car collisions, even with road signs warning of Wild Dogs in the area. We also lost six dogs from the Toog pack in a poisoning incident, reducing the pack to 12 individuals. However, our ongoing work is focussed on enhancing the survival prospects of these free-roaming populations to ensure their future well-being, and we are committed to see their number build over the next year.

This work was made possible with support from Africa’s Wild Dog Survival Fund, Briandez Legacy Trust, 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, Relate, Rob Hibbert, SSU Plant Quarry, Tania Ihlenfeldt, and TNH Fencing.



Photo credit: Linda Smit

LIVESTOCK GUARDIAN DOGS

The Livestock Guardian Dog (LGD) Project offers non-lethal solutions for mitigating livestock losses caused by free-roaming carnivores such as jackals, Caracals, and Leopards. The project's core objective is to reduce and prevent retaliatory killings of these carnivores by integrating LGDs into farmers' practices, ultimately fostering a harmonious coexistence between livestock and wildlife.

The project conducts workshops focussed on the ecological and economic benefits of carnivore conservation, the cascading ecological impact of killing key species, such as Leopards and non-lethal mitigation methods to prevent carnivore-livestock conflicts. Additionally, the project collaborates with a network of veterinarians and animal technicians to advise farmers on best practices for livestock care. Farmers are eligible for an LGD if they provide evidence of unsustainable livestock losses due to free-ranging carnivores whilst at the same time, demonstrating good livestock husbandry.

During the reporting period, the LGD project successfully deployed five dogs on farms experiencing significant predation issues. Looking ahead, the project aims to expand its reach, improve support mechanisms, and further strengthen farmer education to ensure the long-term sustainability of both livestock farming and wildlife conservation efforts.

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

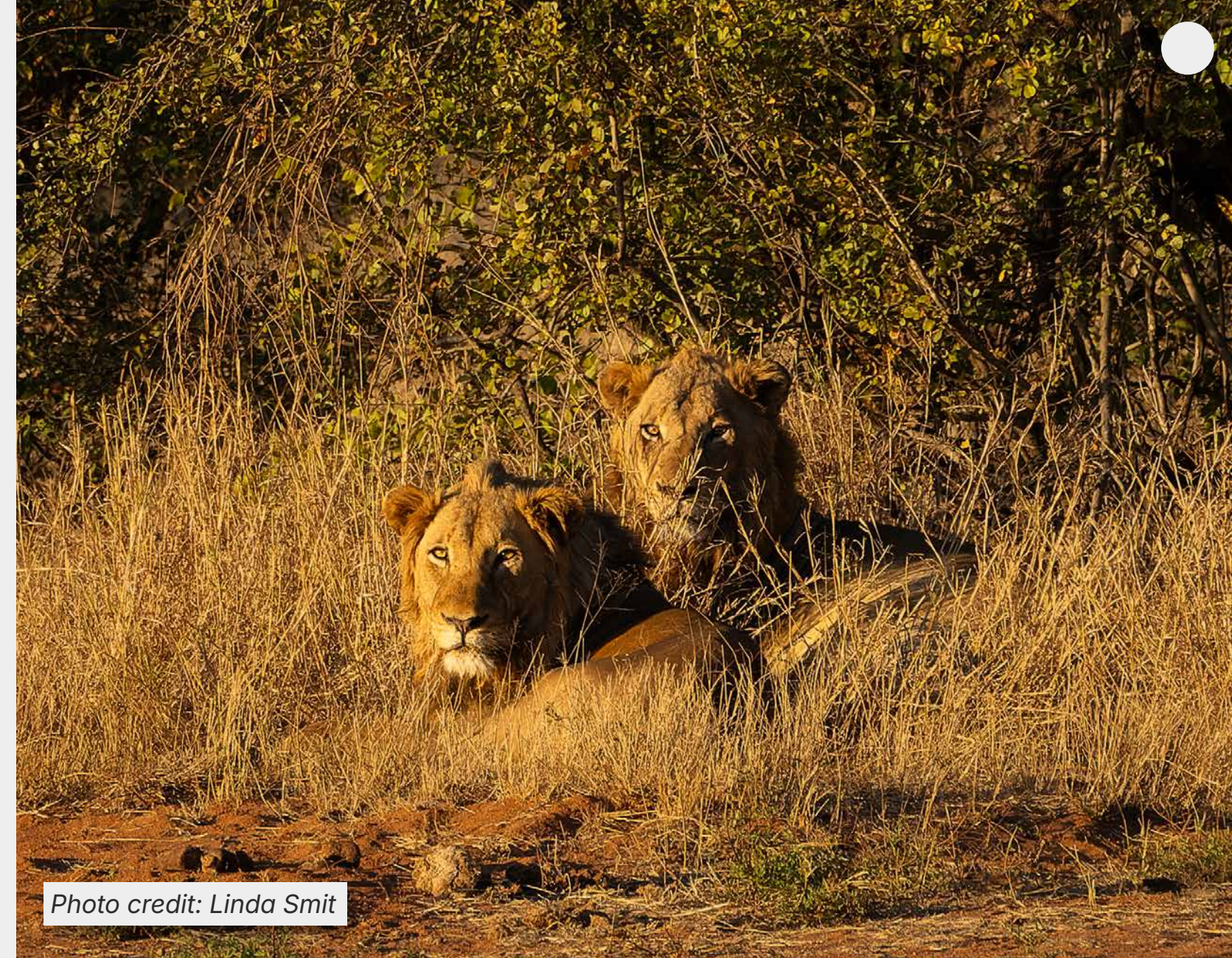
DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, FIVE LGDS WERE SUCCESSFULLY PLACED ON FARMS FACING SIGNIFICANT PREDATION, DIRECTLY REDUCING LOSSES.

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 ALD, created in 2018, is an instrument for lion conservation and management by facilitating the sharing of information and data between stakeholders. This database enhances our understanding of the status and trends of this threatened species, guiding conservation action and directing funding to the populations that need it most.

In the year under review, data from the ALD was instrumental in updating the global African Lion IUCN Red List assessment, published in June 2024. The ALD manager is collaborating with other lion experts to complete the very first Green Status of Species Assessment for the Lion. The Green Status of Species complements the Red List by providing a tool for assessing the recovery of species’ populations and measuring their conservation success.

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 | Lion areas in the ALD | Records of population numbers | Individual areas with population data | Ad hoc distribution records | Lion mortality records | Individuals contacted for data |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2023 | 360 | 855 | 394 | 19,488 | 3,803 | 485 |
| 2024 | 439 | 1,025 | 402 | 33,044 | 4,458 | 521 |
| Change (year on year) | 22% | 20% | 2% | 70% | 17% | 7% |

Table 3: Lion Population Data and Trends: ALD 2023-2024



BADGER-FRIENDLY HONEY

Honey badgers are persecuted by beekeepers because of damage caused to hives. To address this issue, the EWT advises on measures to avoid badger damage and coordinates an accreditation system for badger-friendly honey suppliers. These measures include protecting all hives by raising them above ground level (more than 1.1m), 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. In October 2023, we audited 23 beekeepers, mainly in the Western Cape and some in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, and Limpopo. With one exception, all beekeepers complied with the audit criteria. Most of the beekeepers audited and who had previously suffered damage due to Honey Badgers are now protecting their hives effectively from these raiders. This shows that many beekeepers supplying honey to stores, such as Woolworths, are able to effectively protect their hives against Honey Badgers without the need for persecution.

This work was made possible with support from Woolworths.

STAFF SECTION

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Programme Manager

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(hosted through PPF agreement)

Cole du Plessis
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Lion Photographic Survey Intern

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Conservation

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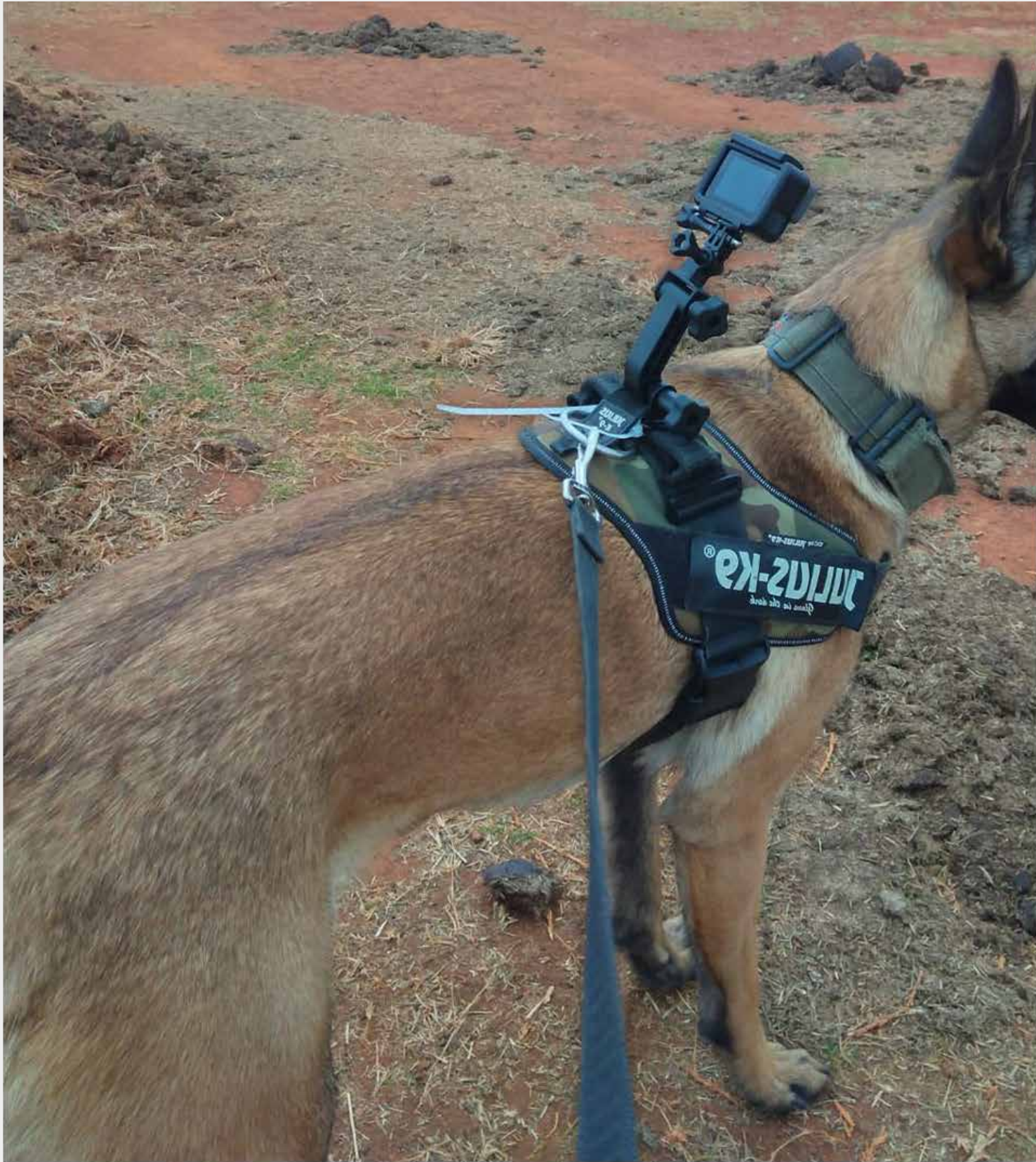
Kulani Nyakane
Field Officer: Lowveld Carnivore
Conservation

Marnus Roodbol
Lowveld project manager

Olivia Sievert
Cheetah Range Expansion Project
Coordinator

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Greater Kruger Field Officer

For more information, please contact Derek van der Merwe at derekv@ewt.org



CONSERVATION CANINE UNIT

The EWT's Canine Conservation Unit (CCU) is a specialised unit established to support the EWT's conservation efforts through scent detection and tracking dog services. The unit also assists as a service provider to our conservation partners, private landowners, and other stakeholders, enabling the dogs to perform a variety of priority conservation-focussed tasks. The EWT supports this through dog and handler training and certification.

Anti-poaching dogs are trained to track people, locate snares, find arms and ammunition, and help with the detection of spent cartridges at crime scenes. Our wildlife detection dogs are proficient in detecting various plant and animal samples as well as locating snares, broadening their potential for conservation applications. We are continuously exploring new applications for our conservation canines to ensure that the EWT is recognised as an industry leader in the field of working dogs.

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

SUCCULENT TRADE

In May 2023, the Conservation Canine team initiated training to respond to the escalating poaching of succulent plants for the illegal trade.

In September 2023, we undertook the first trial with three of our detection dogs who had been trained to detect four different species of endangered succulent plants, which are regularly poached for their alleged medicinal properties. Collaborating with SANBI, the South African Police Service (SAPS) and CapeNature, we carried out the first-ever scent detection dog screening of vehicles at roadblocks and courier companies, with the dogs specifically searching for these plants. During this operation, the Canine Unit identified illegally traded plants in four cases, leading to the arrest of nine suspects. In one notable arrest, our conservation canines found a single small succulent leaf left in a car, as the suspects had thrown over 1,700 plants out the window just before reaching the roadblock to avoid detection. This was an incredible demonstration of our CCU's potential in combatting succulent poaching, and we plan to scale up activities in the future.

DETECTION OF A **SINGLE SUCCULENT LEAF** PREVENTED THE ILLEGAL TRADE OF **OVER 1,700 PLANTS**.

[Click here to read more about how the EWT is working to create safer spaces for succulents](#)



SNARE DETECTION

The use of wire snares is one of the biggest emerging threats to wildlife in and around protected areas. Wire snares are used extensively for the illegal poaching of wildlife, for bush meat and/or traditional medicine. Large carnivores, in particular, are often caught as bycatch, and snares are heavily influencing population numbers for species such as African Wild Dogs and Lions in the Kruger National Park.

To assess the effectiveness of dogs in detecting snares compared to rangers conducting searches, we established a repeatable experiment across various habitat types to rigorously test detectability. We found that rangers on foot located between 10% and 20% of placed snares and articles, while the dog and handler team accompanied by rangers discovered between 50% and 100% of snares and other items placed during the experiment.

This proof of concept will next be rolled out in real-world scenarios, where the training and methodology will be refined, ultimately to improve our detection and removal of snares.

CANINE-LED TEAMS IDENTIFIED 50% - 100% OF SNARES COMPARED TO RANGERS' 10% - 20% SUCCESS RATE.

RHINO ALERT

The Conservation Canine Unit deployed a handler and two dogs, one for detection and one for tracking, to the Pilanesberg National Park, for a period of 36 months. This team will assist Pilanesberg management until the end of September 2025, joining rangers on anti-poaching patrols and screening vehicles for ammunition and rhino horn. Our tracking dog, Ruger, plays a crucial role in patrolling fences and following poachers' tracks when reserve boundaries have been breached. His primary responsibility is to

assist anti-poaching security by locating entry and exit points and the routes taken by poachers, which is essential for guiding the optimal placement of field rangers.

While the EWT is assisting Pilanesberg with a range of other anti-poaching activities, detection and tracking dogs are considered a crucial part of the anti-poaching arsenal to keep rhinos and other wildlife safe.



STAFF SECTION

Shadi Henrico
Conservation Canine Project Coordinator

Cliantha Kay
Conservation Canine Handler

Fudhail Marriday
Conservation Canine Handler

CONSERVATION CANINES

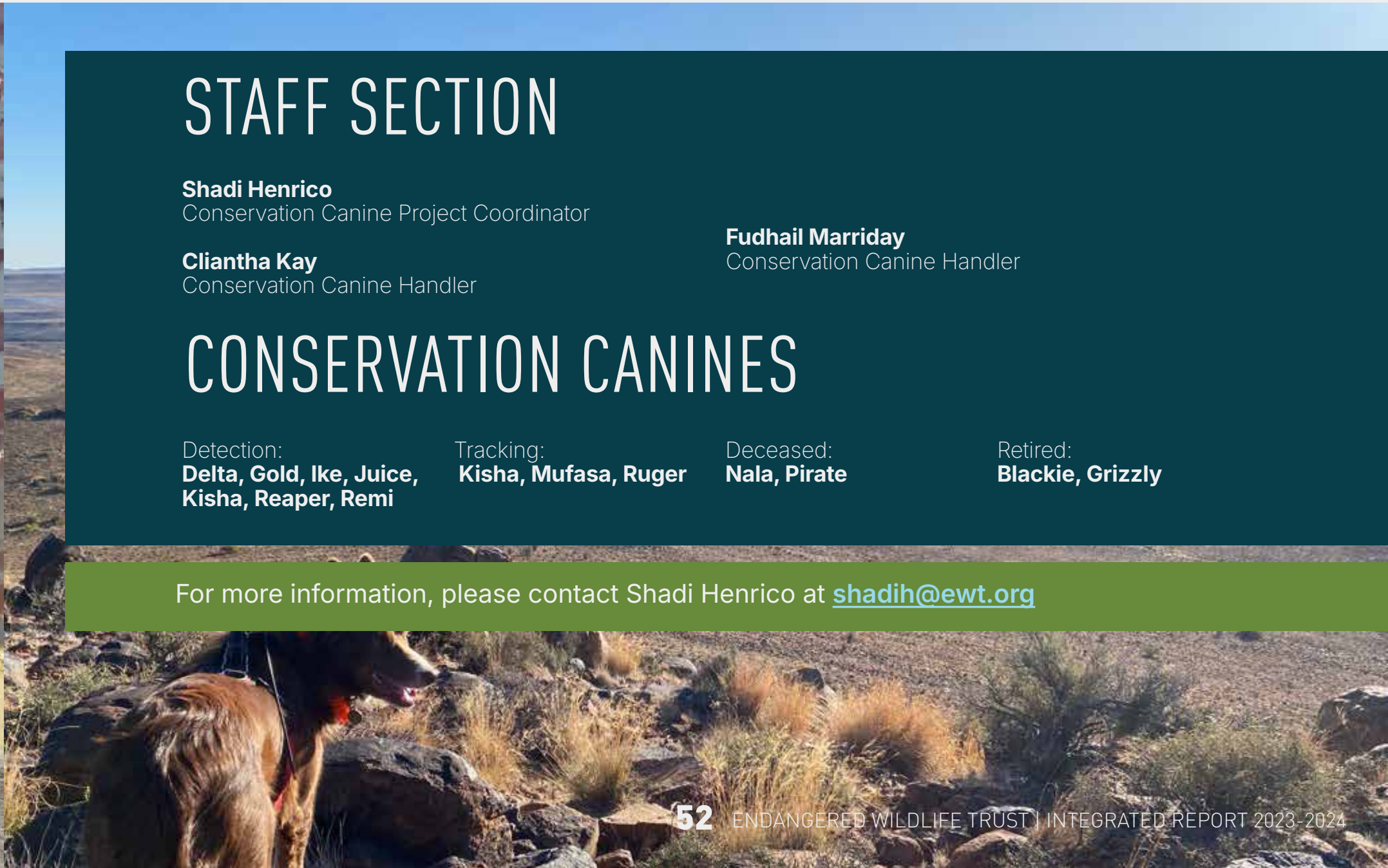
Detection:
Delta, Gold, Ike, Juice, Kisha, Reaper, Remi

Tracking:
Kisha, Mufasa, Ruger

Deceased:
Nala, Pirate

Retired:
Blackie, Grizzly

For more information, please contact Shadi Henrico at shadih@ewt.org





CONSERVATION SCIENCE AND PLANNING UNIT

The EWT's Conservation Planning and Science Unit (CPSU) provides essential planning and scientific support across the organisation's programmes and projects, ensuring that our work is robustly designed, scientifically sound, evidence-based, and impactful. By managing the central biodiversity database, the CPSU enables our staff and partners to plan, analyse, interpret, and publish conservation research, making the results accessible and meaningful to diverse audiences.

We also run targeted projects to fill critical knowledge gaps, including the Species of Conservation Concern, the Renewable Energy proactive planning tool, and the Strategic Water Source Areas fine-scale mapping projects.

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 Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Rand Merchant Bank, Speedspace, Artifact Advertising, Barloworld, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, Deloitte, and Esri South Africa.

DON'T LET THEM DISAPPEAR

SETTING STANDARDS

As a partner in the [Conservation Measures Partnership](#) (CMP), we work collectively with other 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), we continuously seek better ways to design, manage, and measure the impacts of conservation work in line with CMP philosophies. The EWT uses [Miradi](#) software for conservation project planning and management, which allows teams to effectively design, report on, and track conservation outcomes and impact at the project, programme, and organisational levels. Through the application of the Conservation Standards and Miradi, we are better equipped to develop and manage robust, evidence-based strategic plans and implement adaptive management principles, ensuring measurable improvements in our conservation efforts.

The team supported a [Getting Started with the Conservation Standards](#) course hosted by Alcedo Conservation. This organisation focuses on training courses that introduce participants to the principles and tools of the Conservation Standards.

This work was made possible with support from the International Crane Foundation and the Moore Foundation.

THROUGH **MIRADI** AND THE CONSERVATION STANDARDS, THE EWT DEVELOPS **EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES** AND APPLIES **ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT** FOR **MEASURABLE CONSERVATION PROGRESS.**



*Cape Dwarf Chameleon
Photo credit: O Cowan*

SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN PROJECT

Through this 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](#), alongside additional distribution data on Near Threatened species. This will be achieved by developing a Land Use Decision Support (LUDS), Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) tool, a collaboration with the [South African National Biodiversity Institute](#) (SANBI), who will host the tool on their website. Work commenced on developing the training materials that will accompany the LUDS SCC Tool. We are working with SANBI, and the backend developers, to add a functionality to the tool to report the proportion of a species' known distribution found within a user-defined site, an important reporting requirement for Environmental Impact Assessments, but which is not offered by the DFFE Environmental Screening Tool.

We made significant progress with this project during this financial year. Based on our geographic distribution predictions, a recent survey in the Northern Cape successfully rediscovered the Data Deficient Pennington's Blue Butterfly, with one colony boasting over 100 individuals. Furthermore, our amphibian field surveys in the Northern Cape resulted in the potential re-discovery of Branch's Rain Frog, another Data Deficient species that was last recorded in 2008. These findings underscore the importance of targeted field surveys for poorly-known species, ultimately contributing to their improved conservation. In the new financial year we will be planning for a helicopter survey into a remote and inaccessible area of the Blyde River Canyon to search for the Blyde River Flat Gecko, a species known from only two specimens collected in 1991.

The CPSU has been heavily involved in preparing the Animal Layer for the latest update of DFFE's online Environmental Screening Tool. This update will see the addition of freshwater fish and dragonflies of conservation concern, as well as an update of the reptile species following the latest IUCN regional reassessments of the group.

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



African Grass Owl

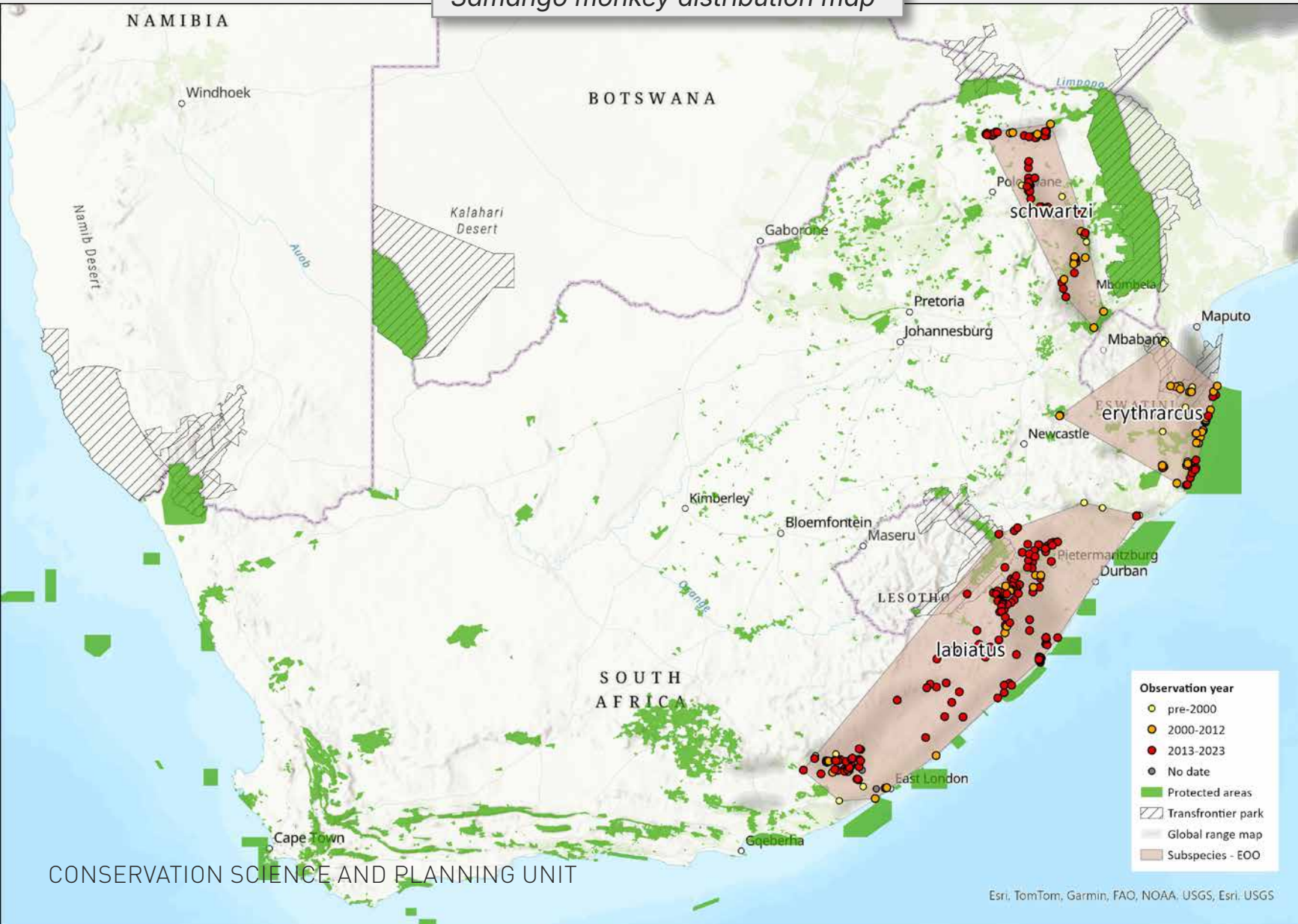
A **HELICOPTER SURVEY** IS PLANNED IN THE BLYDE RIVER CANYON TO SEARCH FOR THE ELUSIVE **BLYDE RIVER FLAT GECKO**, KNOWN ONLY FROM **TWO SPECIMENS** COLLECTED IN **1991**.

MAMMAL RED LIST

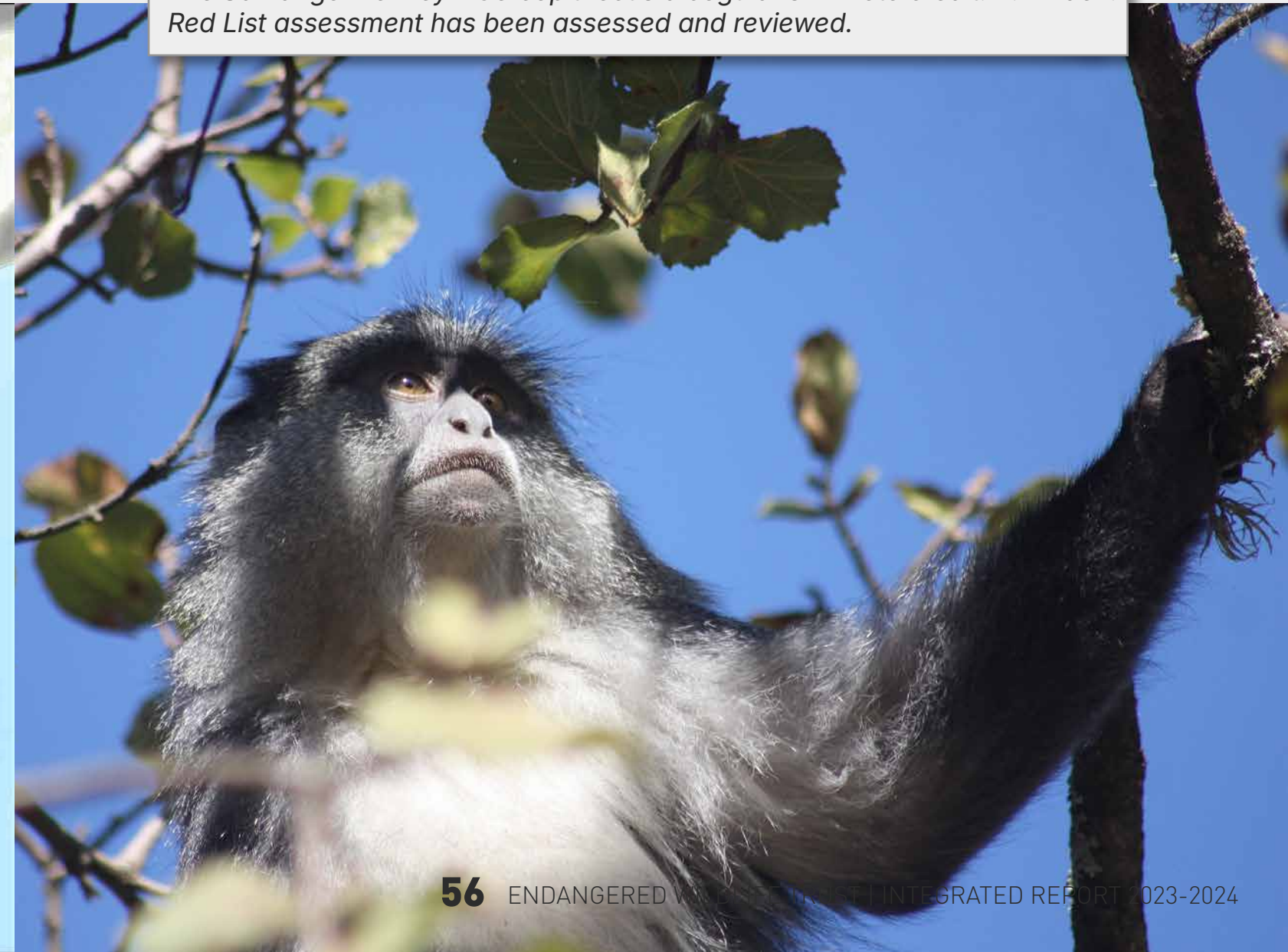
The Mammal Red List update for South Africa, Lesotho, and Eswatini commenced in December 2022, with a two-year timeframe supported by funding from the De Beers Group, SANBI, ESKOM, and the Leiden Conservation Foundation. With Red Lists recommended for updates every ten years, our progress includes completing all five introductory workshops with taxonomic experts and signing relevant Data Sharing Agreements.

We have prepared draft revised assessments for all species, including two new sections: climate change and population genetics. For climate change, we will be incorporating Species Distribution Models for species that are known to be affected by this. For population genetics, we will be incorporating information to quantify genetic indicators. This includes determining how many populations currently exist, how many populations have gone extinct, the size of each extant/existing population, and whether temporal genetic monitoring studies have been conducted on the species. We are planning four workshops with bat experts to update the bat assessments. These include 71 species, with four newly described species that were not assessed in the previous revision.

Samango monkey distribution map



The Samango Monkey - *Cercopithecus albogularis* - Photo credit: B. Linden. Red List assessment has been assessed and reviewed.



30X30 RENEWABLES PROJECT

In this ambitious project, we aim to develop a spatial plan that will meet the Global Biodiversity Framework's 30x30 goals, while taking into account the development of renewable energy and the protection of agricultural lands.

The relevant spatial data have been collated into a single geodatabase for the project, with only one layer outstanding, and preliminary analyses are underway. Additionally, we are developing a best-practice methodology for mapping threatened species distributions under different climate change scenarios.

THE 30X30 RENEWABLES
PROJECT IS A **CRUCIAL CLIMATE
SOLUTION** THAT AIMS TO
**SAFEGUARD 30% OF THE EARTH'S
LAND AND SEA BY 2030**

This work was made possible with support from the JRS Biodiversity Foundation.

STRATEGIC WATER SOURCE AREAS

Strategic Water Source Areas, or SWSAs, are areas of land that supply a disproportionate amount of surface water in relation to their size. Essentially, they are the water towers of the country. They contain important headwater streams, wetlands and rivers and, if not protected, there are major knock-on effects downstream in terms of reduction in water quality and quantity for people, and loss of habitat for fish and other biodiversity.

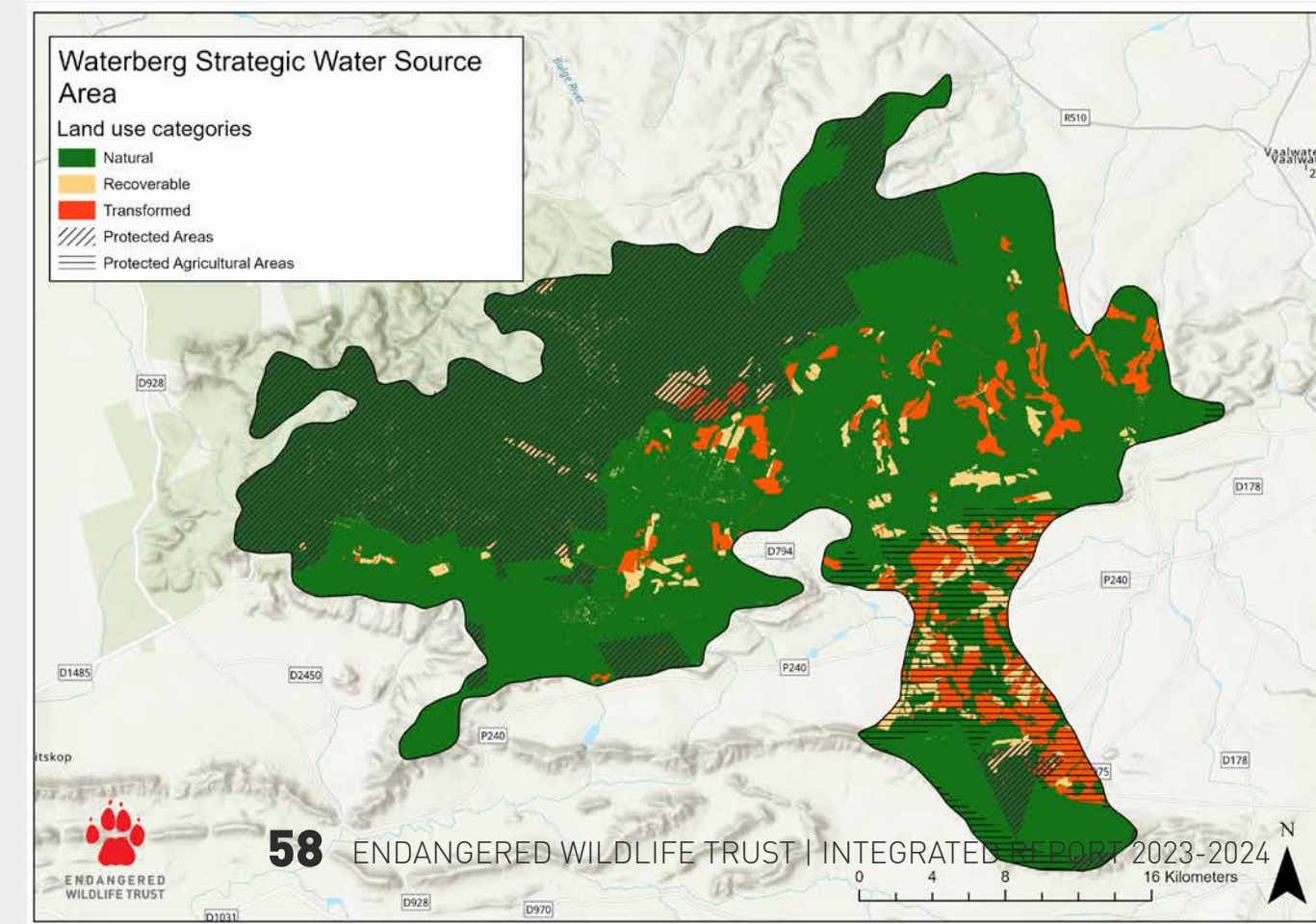
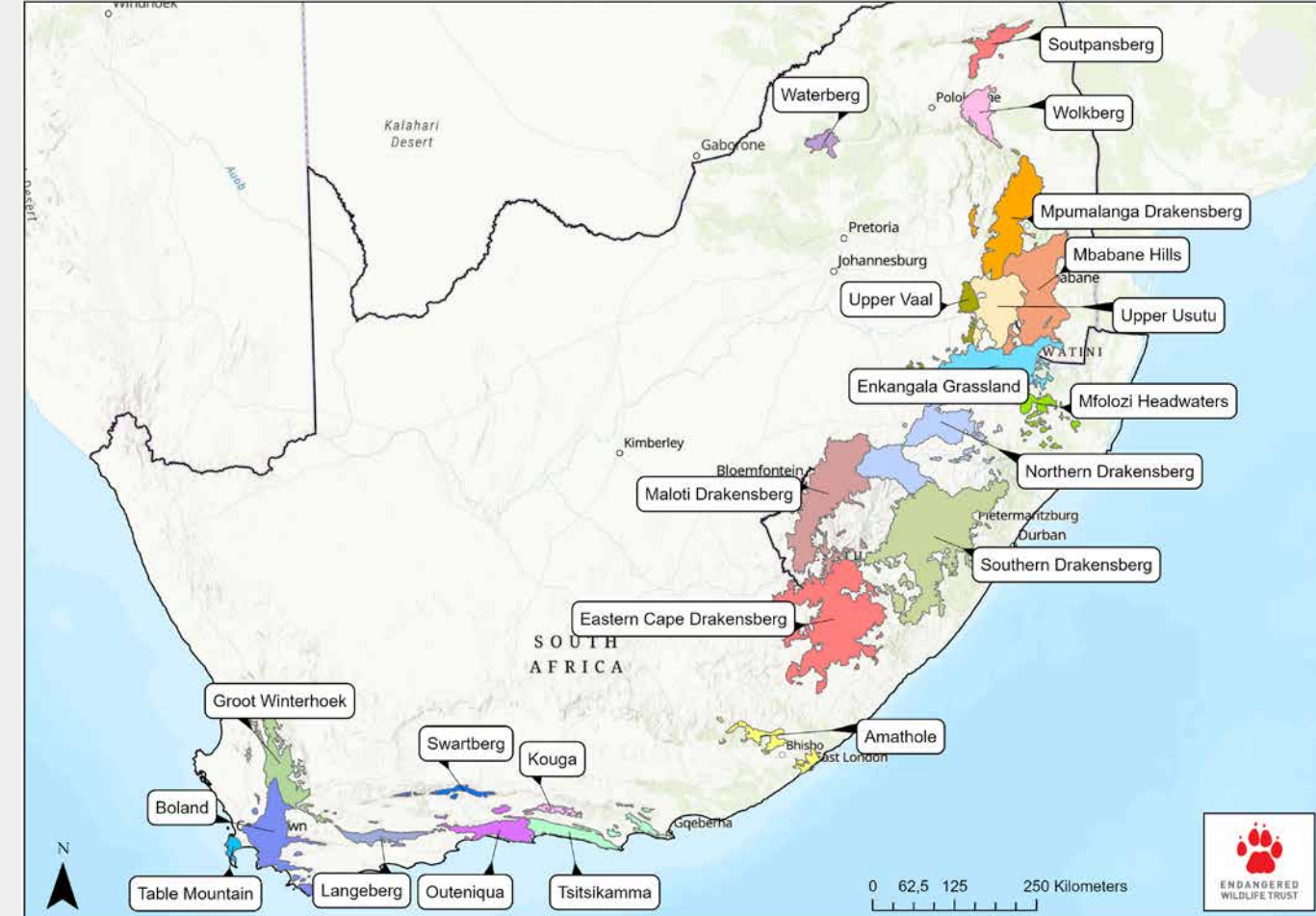
Our science team assessed the opportunity for protected area expansion and ecosystem restoration in South Africa's SWSAs. Our assessment included identifying which threatened species occur in which SWSAs, and also where large tracts of untransformed habitat still exist that have the potential for formal protection and restoration.

The [final results](#) from this project were presented at various strategic stakeholder forums, and the outputs are being used to guide conservation action in SWSAs, both by the EWT and other role-players.

This work was made possible with support from the German Foreign Office's Climate Fund, through the German Embassy in Pretoria.

Above right: All of South Africa's current Strategic Water Source Areas

Below right: The fine scale mapping exercise of the Strategic Water Source Area project. By mapping the landcover, we were able to determine how much of the SWSA was natural, recoverable and transformed. We were also able to determine the current protection status, and where future protected area expansion could take place.



DATA COLLECTION APPS AND DATA BANKING

In total, 14 new Survey123 data collection apps were developed, and 18 were updated (Survey123 is a GIS-related mobile app that allows the field staff to input data easily). These included an update to the wildlife conflict app for the Carnivore Conservation team and a new app for the Umgavusa Protected Area management activity tracking for the amphibian team.

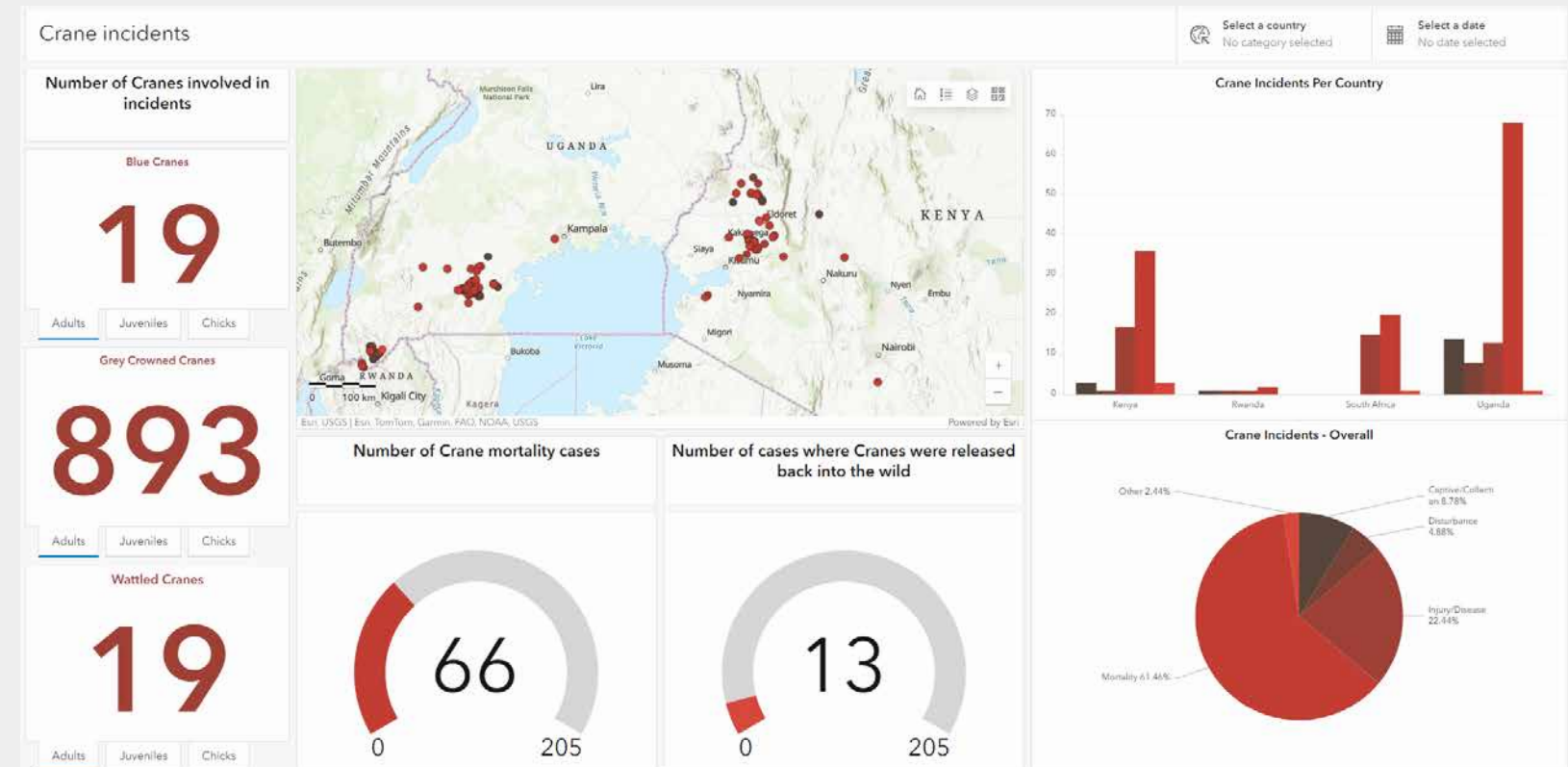
Wattled Cranes on the Kafue Flats (Photo credits: Griffin Shanungu)



THE EWT'S CONSERVATION PLANNING AND SCIENCE UNIT **DEVELOPED 14** NEW DATA COLLECTION **APPS** AND **UPDATED 18**, FACILITATING DATA ENTRY FOR VARIOUS CONSERVATION TEAMS.

The EWT's [Biodiversity DataBank](#) is a centralised, cloud-based repository of all the biodiversity data collected by the EWT, including 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.

This year, we moved the centralised database to a new server, enhancing its capacity and efficiency. We also established a direct connection to the African Wildlife Poisoning Database, in order to save precious time when requesting and sharing data within the organisation.



A data dashboard was created to allow the African Crane Conservation Programme to quickly look at where crane incidents are taking place. The dashboard is updated in real time based on the data that the field staff are collecting and is highly interactive.

CONSERVATION PLANNING SPECIALIST GROUP (CPSG) REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE

The EWT hosts the southern and East Africa Regional Resource Centre (RRC) of the IUCN's Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG). As a leading planning resource in the region, the RRC develops strategic species and landscape-level projects that directly enhance conservation efforts. 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. This year our coordinator, Dr Lauren Waller, attended the CPSG annual meeting in San Diego, USA and, having graduated from the CPSG Facilitator Development Path, is now officially recognised as a CPSG facilitator.

The CPSG RRC facilitated the development of several species plans in the year under review. The Wattled and Blue Crane species plans are in the early stages of development, and the RRC is supporting the IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group as they work toward the development of a Strategic Conservation Action Plan for Pangolins in southern Africa.

Photo credits: Bradley Gibbons



Key material contributions included:

BLUE CRANE:

A baseline population model was developed, marking the initial step towards creating a Population Viability Analysis (PVA) for this species. The PVA is being compiled, and the effectiveness of different management scenarios is being tested.

WATTLED CRANE:

A threat analysis was conducted with stakeholders to determine which threats are considered the highest priority, their severity and scope, and at what lifecycle phase the threat impacts. Subsequently, the recommendations of a PVA for this Highly Threatened species will be used by stakeholders to compile a conservation action plan for this species.

PANGOLINS:

Pangolins are the most trafficked mammals globally, including three species from West Africa and Temminck's Pangolin in southern Africa. Two virtual workshops were held with stakeholders in the southern African region. The workshops contributed to the production of a Southern African Regional Pangolin Conservation Action Plan (SARPCAP).

INDIAN OCEAN HUMPBAC DOLPHIN:

This species is recognised as the most threatened cetacean species in southern African waters. This is attributed to its small and restricted range and high overlap with human threats, such as fishing (as bycatch), pollution, and habitat degradation. To address these issues, a core team has been assembled to develop and implement a management planning process aimed at stabilising and increasing the dolphin population, which currently is fewer than 500 individuals along the entire South African coastline.

PICKERSGILL'S REED FROG:

The EWT and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife approached the RRC to assist with the revision of the Pickersgill's Reed Frog (PRF) Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP). The critical evaluation of the first BMP will guide the development of the next version, ensuring ongoing protection and management of this vulnerable species. The report emanating from this workshop will be circulated to the PRF Forum and will guide the development of the next version of the PRF BMP.

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 supports the African Penguin BMP Working Group and contributed to the revision of this BMP. In addition to mitigating the many threats identified in this revised BMP, decisive actions to deal with the key threat of reduced food availability are urgently needed. The EWT continues its role, as part of the conservation sector, in advocating for biologically meaningful fishing closures around the colonies to secure critical food sources for the remaining penguin colonies.

This work was made possible with support from the Leiden Conservation Foundation with Paul L King supporting the African Penguin work.



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EWT CONSERVATION SCIENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY, A LIST OF THE PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC PAPERS PRODUCED BY EWT STAFF OVER THE REPORTING PERIOD:

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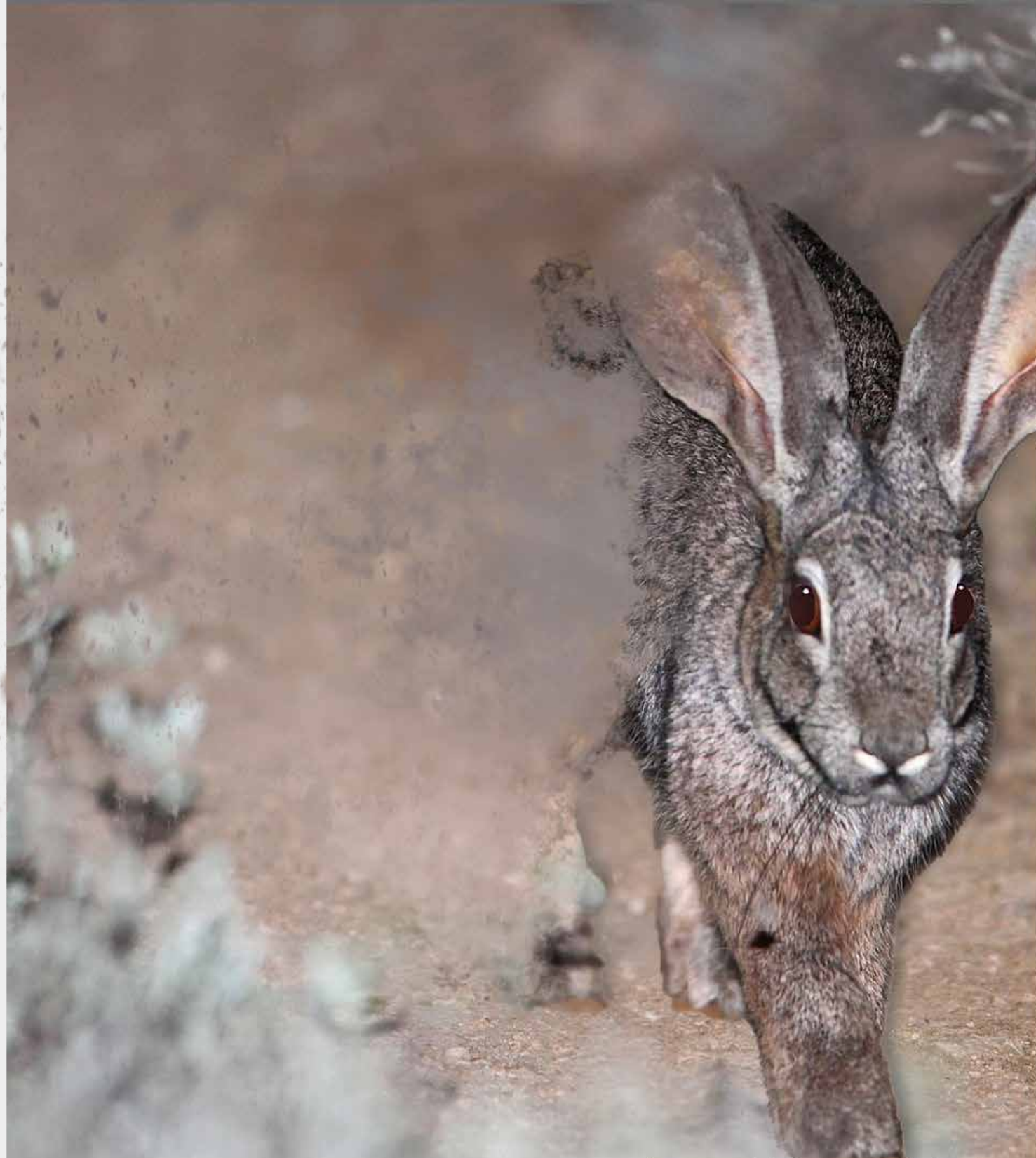
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DRYLAND CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

The Karoo is an iconic, timeless landscape encompassing over 400,000 km² across four provinces in the central and western regions of South Africa. While the Karoo remains largely intact, with natural rangeland supporting its small-stock meat and wool production systems, agricultural practices unsuited to this harsh yet sensitive environment have led to lasting impacts, including reduced species diversity and widespread soil erosion. The EWT's Drylands Conservation Programme (DCP) aims to promote, sustain, secure and restore the ecological integrity of unique drylands biodiversity, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and critical ecosystem services.

DON'T LET THEM DISAPPEAR

IN THE PAST YEAR, **117 SCAT SAMPLES** WERE COLLECTED FROM **16 PROPERTIES** ACROSS THE NORTHERN, SOUTHERN, AND EASTERN SUBPOPULATIONS.



FINDING TRACES OF RIVERINE RABBITS

Riverine Rabbits are a particularly challenging species to study and conserve. We have accelerated our conservation efforts to enhance our understanding of their geographic distribution and any potential links between the three subpopulations. In the past year, we have successfully collected 117 scat samples from 16 properties, four representing the northern sub-population, seven the southern, and five the eastern subpopulations. The insights we gain from the population genetic analyses of these samples have significant implications for their improved protection and will help to inform and guide the conservation management of the species.

For the northern population around Loxton, this distributional information will directly influence decision-making regarding developments, such as renewable energy and mining, that may conflict with Riverine Rabbit habitats. For the southern and eastern populations, these findings will aid in expanding the protected area network, prioritising areas with viable Riverine Rabbit populations to ensure their long-term survival.

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).

ENVIRONMENTAL DNA (EDNA)

As organisms move through and/or interact with the environment, their DNA is deposited into their surroundings in various forms, such as skin cells, secretions (e.g. mucus) and excretions (e.g. faeces). This “environmental DNA (eDNA)” can be collected from a variety of environmental samples such as soil, water, snow or faeces, rather than directly sampling DNA from an individual organism.

This provides a much less invasive means to obtain genetic information about organisms or populations in the wild, which is particularly useful for species that are rare, elusive or dangerous.

REDISCOVERING DE WINTON'S GOLDEN MOLE

Golden moles represent the most threatened family of mammals in Africa, with ten of its 21 species listed as Threatened on the global IUCN Red List. Our work on golden moles focuses on developing innovative methods to detect and monitor these highly elusive subterranean mammals, enhancing our understanding of their distributions and improving habitat protection and conservation management for these Highly Threatened species.

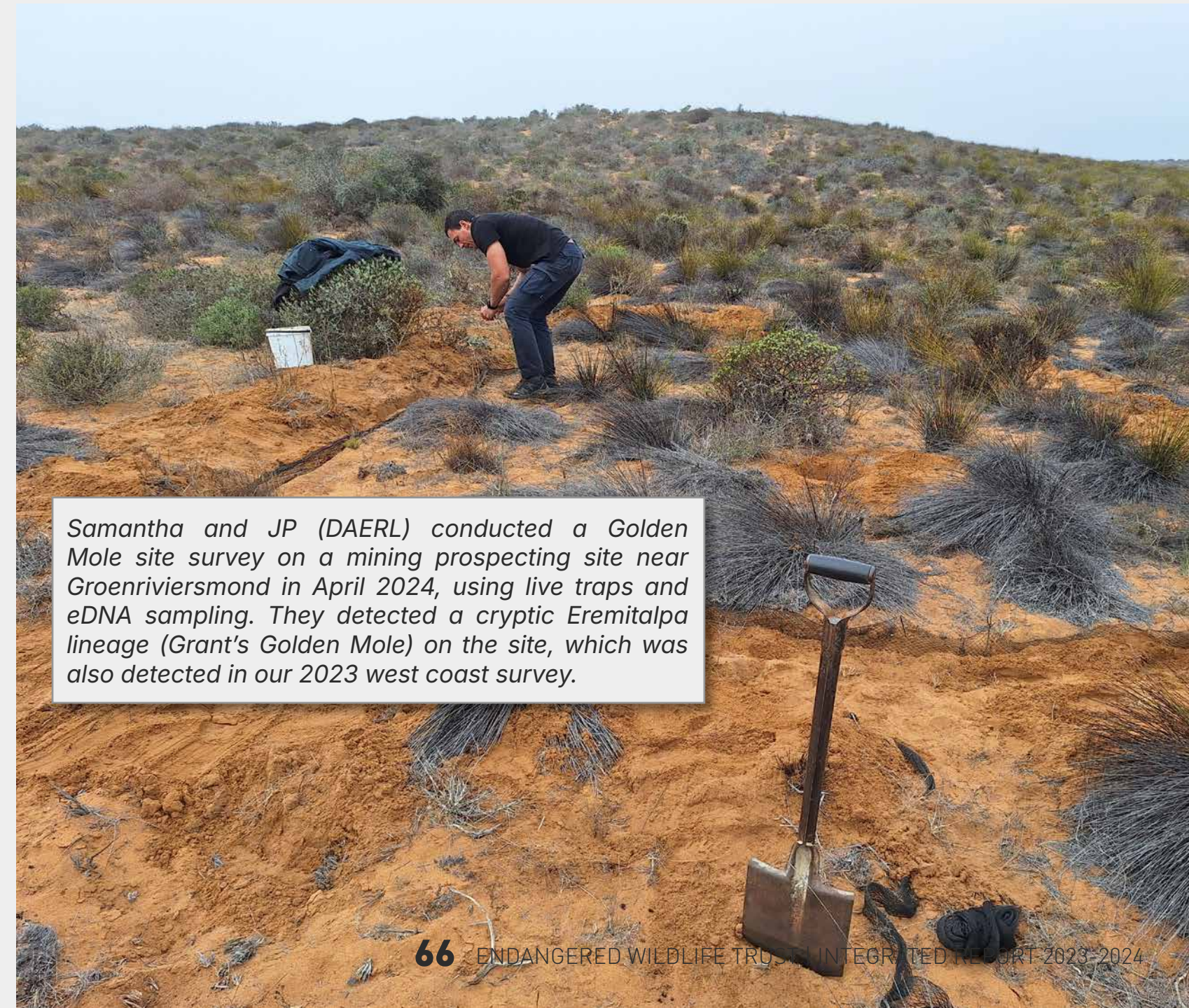
In 2021, we piloted an innovative approach to survey for golden moles using environmental DNA (eDNA) from soil samples. The method proved successful in determining golden mole species identity through genetic barcoding. We employed this novel approach, along with our scent detection dog, Jessie, to search for the "lost" De Winton's Golden Mole, a species last seen in Port Nolloth, Northern Cape, in 1937, and which was listed on Re:wild's List of Top 25 Globally Most Wanted Lost Species. This species has been red-listed since 2015 as "Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct)".

Thanks to an incredible team effort, we succeeded in rediscovering De Winton's Golden Mole and announced the discovery through a press release in December 2023. The story took the world by storm, with people across the globe eagerly sharing the exciting news. The research associated with this finding, entitled "Environmental DNA from soil reveals the presence of a 'lost' Afrotherian species" was published in the journal Biodiversity and Conservation, further amplifying the significance of the discovery.

In 2022, we drafted a Multi-species Action Plan (MSAP) for all golden moles in collaboration with multiple stakeholders across the country. This was sent out to donors and stakeholders in 2023 and is now in the final stages of formalisation. In addition to this, we have drafted a species-specific conservation action plan for De Winton's Golden Mole to address urgent actions necessary for protecting this Critically Endangered species. To raise awareness, we printed a large signboard for McDougalls Bay, the core site for De Winton's, as well as awareness posters linked to the MSAP for all species.

This work is made possible with support from Re:wild, Rainforest Trust, Prince Bernard Nature Fund and Ford Wildlife Foundation.

USING EDNA AND A DETECTION DOG, THE "LOST" **DE WINTON'S GOLDEN MOLE—LAST SEEN IN 1937—WAS REDISCOVERED IN** NORTHERN CAPE, GAINING GLOBAL ATTENTION IN DECEMBER 2023.



Samantha and JP (DAERL) conducted a Golden Mole site survey on a mining prospecting site near Groenriviersmond in April 2024, using live traps and eDNA sampling. They detected a cryptic Eremitalpa lineage (Grant's Golden Mole) on the site, which was also detected in our 2023 west coast survey.

TROUBLESHOOTING FOR TINY TORTOISES

With 13 tortoise species, South Africa is the most tortoise-rich country globally. Of these, nine are found in the Karoo region. However, populations are declining at alarming rates, particularly the dwarf tortoise species. Over the last year, 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 of the world's smallest tortoise, with adults measuring roughly a maximum of 10 cm in length.

To combat these alarming declines, we are actively working to locate the remaining populations of these two species and collaborate with landowners to implement effective conservation actions. The causes for the decline include habitat loss to agriculture, development and mining, habitat degradation, severe droughts, and illegal collection for the pet trade. Additionally, our research indicates that increasing predation levels by Pied Crows in the Karoo are significantly impacting tortoise populations, likely serving as a key driver of their decline.

Tortoise detection is challenging as these small reptiles are experts at hiding amongst rocks and crevices. To aid our searches, we are enlisting the help of our scent detection dog and eDNA sampling to locate the tortoises. These techniques will enhance our capacity to monitor and protect these vulnerable species, ensuring that conservation efforts are grounded in reliable data.

To bolster our efforts, we have joined forces with the [Turtle Conservancy](#), an organisation dedicated to protecting threatened turtles and tortoises and their habitats worldwide, as well as with Dr Victor Loehr from [Dwarf Tortoise Conservation](#). Our collaborative efforts

are further strengthened through a partnership with the IUCN Netherlands Land Acquisition Fund to secure vital habitat for tortoises on the Bokkeveld plateau.

We teamed up with NSDV Law Firm to present a very successful servitude workshop to landowners on the Bokkeveld Plateau in February 2024. Servitudes are a viable alternative for protected area expansion, where conventional biodiversity stewardship options are not practical.

This year, our team conducted surveys for Karoo Dwarf Tortoises on properties near Williston to evaluate population sizes and assess threats to tortoises in the area. We successfully located two live adult male tortoises at the site, along with numerous shells and carcasses. Further surveys revealed Karoo Dwarf Tortoises near Fraserburg and two new locations for Speckled Dwarf Tortoises along the West Coast.

One notable finding included the remains of 45 Speckled Dwarf Tortoises at two crow nests on a single property, marking our largest documented "graveyard." Crows are not native to tortoise habitat, but the extension of linear infrastructure into the Karoo – telephone and power line poles in particular – has allowed these corvids to extend their range and flourish.

Given tortoises' slow recruitment rates and heavy predation, urgent action is needed to save them from possible extinction. We are encouraged by the commitment of half a dozen key landowners, two of whom are already part of a Protected Environment declaration, who are willing to assist with these actions and sign servitude declarations to protect these valuable tortoise habitats.



Dr Samantha Mynhardt and honours student Jeanelize van den Heever carrying out experiments to determine the time-window of detectability of tortoise eDNA in soil. The experiments were conducted on angulate tortoises at Exotic Animal World in Klapmuts, Western Cape, and the laboratory work was completed at our Applied Conservation Genetics Unit (ACGU) at Stellenbosch University.

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

AN EVEN GREATER ANYSBERG CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

We are working with local landowners and CapeNature to realise a common vision for the establishment of the Greater Anysberg Conservation Area near Touwsriver. The Anysberg Nature Reserve—a World Heritage site—will form the core area.

As part of the Greater Anysberg Conservation initiative, we continue to facilitate skills development initiatives aimed at catalysing entrepreneurship opportunities with members of the Touwsrivier community.

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



eDNA training held with CapeNature staff at Anysberg Nature Reserve.



[Click here to read more about how the EWT is working to manage the illegal succulent trade](#)

CREATING SAFER SPACES FOR SUCCULENTS

There are approximately 10,000 succulent species worldwide, with about one-third occurring in the Succulent Karoo, the world's only entirely arid region biodiversity hotspot. However, there has been a dramatic increase in the illegal harvesting of succulents for international ornamental plant collectors, pushing many species to the brink of extinction. This issue has become a national concern, with some species already listed as Extinct in the Wild. An estimated 1.5 million succulents have been poached from the Succulent Karoo in the last three years, and confiscated plants have increased by over 250% per annum.

In response to this alarming trend, we launched the Succulent Safe Spaces Project. Through this initiative, we are testing a novel approach to combat the illegal harvesting of threatened Conophytum succulents from the Succulent Karoo.

To support this project, we conducted numerous outreach exercises across small towns in the Northern and Western Cape. These efforts involved biodiversity specialists, community leaders, government agencies, law enforcement, the National Prosecuting Authority, and the general public, fostering collaboration and raising awareness about the importance of protecting these vulnerable species.

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

MAKING YOUNG ADULTS BUSH WISE

Our drylands team, in collaboration with Bushwise Field Guides, hosted an eight-week nature enthusiast course and a four-week introduction to field guiding online course at the Lettaskraal e-Learning Centre. Thanks to sponsorship from Bushwise Field Guides and Johan Roodt of Lettaskraal Nature Reserve, we covered 60% of the course fees for five students, equipping them with valuable knowledge and skills.

We feel that hands-on experiences of nature is crucial for fostering a sense of stewardship among young adults for their natural environment. To this end, we organised a hike for ten Grade 12 students from Nieuwoudtville, in the Northern Cape, allowing them to experience the exquisite biodiversity found on the farm Papkuilsfontein, located within the Fynbos biome on the Bokkeveld Plateau.

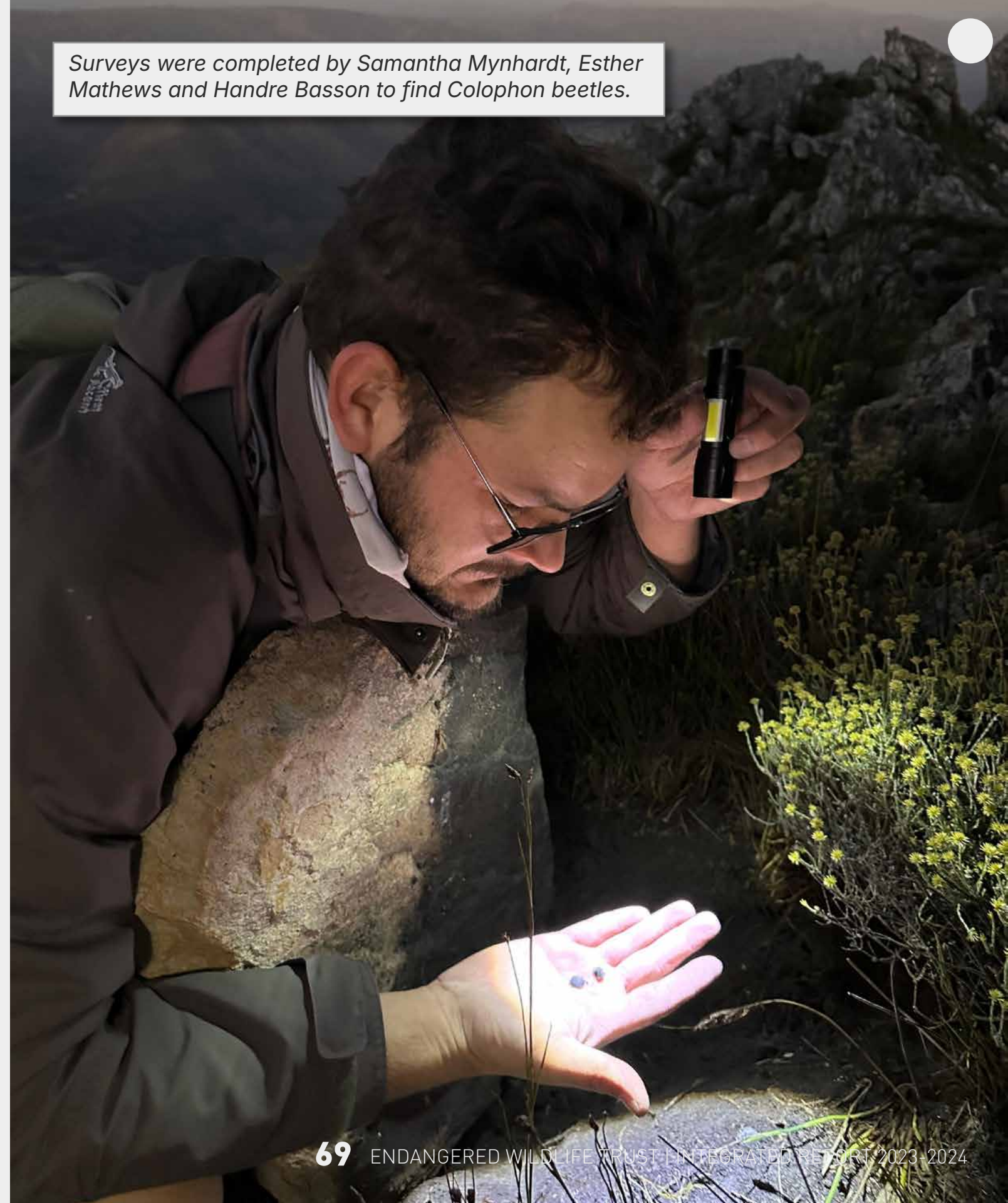
SEARCHING FOR INSECTS ON THE CAPE FOLD MOUNTAINS

Colophon beetles are a group of endemic and threatened species found on the mountain peaks of the Western Cape, with each peak hosting its own unique species. To better understand their distribution, Samantha Mynhardt and Handré Basson, conducted a survey in the Langeberg, targeting two mountain peaks—one with historical records of Colophon beetles and another without.

Although some beetle fragments were found at the new site, they were unsuccessful in locating them at the known site. Recognising the need for further exploration, we are planning a follow-up trip to multiple peaks using a helicopter. We have submitted an application to the Bateleurs, which has already been approved, ensuring that we can continue our efforts to protect and study these unique beetles.

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

Surveys were completed by Samantha Mynhardt, Esther Mathews and Handre Basson to find Colophon beetles.





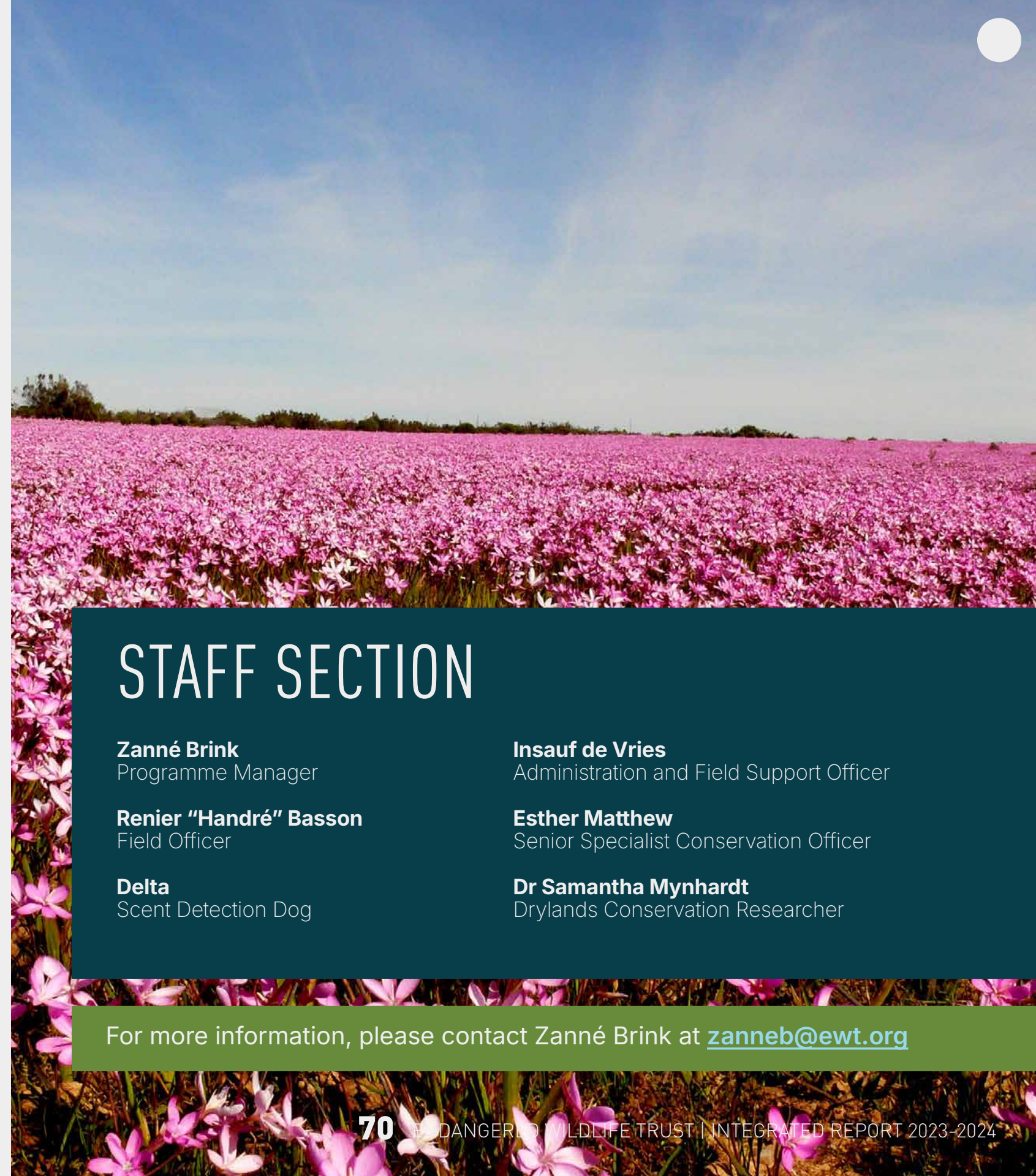
WITH **799 SPECIES**
IN SOUTH AFRICA, **21**
ARE **CRITICALLY**
ENDANGERED,
AND **78** ARE
THREATENED.

BIONERDS AND BUTTERFLIES

Worldwide, butterflies are facing serious challenges, particularly in South Africa. Of the astonishing 799 species in the country, 21 are Critically Endangered, while more than half (418) are endemic and 78 are classified as Threatened. In response to this alarming decline, we are collaborating closely with the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa ([LepSoc Africa](#)) and the Brenton Blue Trust to target six threatened butterfly species in the Western Cape. Our approach involves working with landowners, conservation partners (BioNerds) and local communities to protect butterfly habitats.

We anticipate that critical butterfly areas will be among the first sites where the EWT employs Conservation Servitudes to enhance the formal conservation of privately owned protected areas. This initiative will not only safeguard habitats for threatened butterfly species but also serve as a model for integrating private land into broader conservation frameworks, ensuring a more comprehensive approach to biodiversity protection.

This work is made possible with support from the [Disney Conservation Fund](#) and [Table Mountain Fund](#).



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DRONE UNIT

The EWT has been a fully licenced drone operator since 2021 and currently has three drones registered with the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA); each suited to different flying missions. In 2023, three new pilots were trained, bringing the number of EWT-licensed drone pilots to four.

The EWT Drone Unit provides diverse services for various EWT projects and other conservation stakeholders, including for vegetation surveys, aerial photography, videography, and mapping. Anti-poaching drone operations conducted by drone pilots from Pilanesberg National Park, will also be conducted under our Unmanned Aerial System Operating Certificate (UASOC), once their aircraft have been registered with the SACAA.



Through our Unmanned Aerial System Operating Certificate (UASOC), the EWT Drone Unit provides various services for conservation-related applications.

CYCADS IN A TIGHT SPOT

Cycads are often targeted by collectors, and the habitat preference of the Modjadji Cycad on the steep, rocky slopes of the Soutpansberg, makes surveying them very difficult. The EWT Drone Unit has assisted by conducting experimental drone mapping flights. The first 3D model shows promise, although the sharp edges of the cycad leaves could not be rendered properly. With some alterations to the flight parameters and angles, we are confident that drone photogrammetry will be able to help map, model, count and identify cycad species growing on cliffs otherwise inaccessible to human observers and botanists. We plan to develop a machine learning algorithm that can accurately identify and count cycads from drone videos. Data collection to train and test the model is expected to commence in August 2024. Improved knowledge of the locations and environmental requirements of cycads will help towards their conservation in the Soutpansberg.

CLIFFHANGER

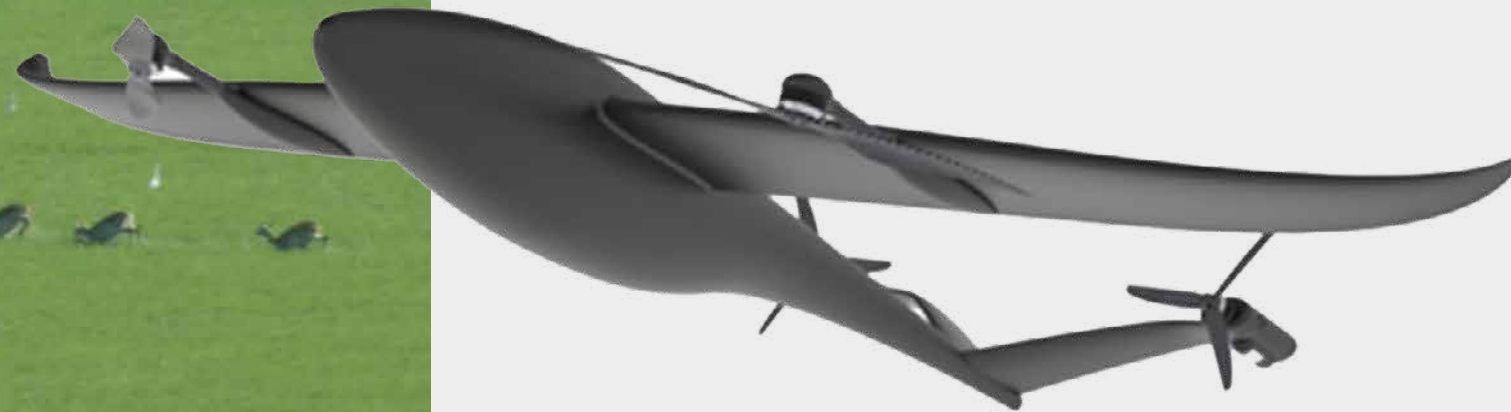
THE **FIRST SURVEY** OF
THE BLOUBERG CAPE VULTURE COLONY
COUNTED 523 INDIVIDUAL ADULT AND
CHICK **VULTURES** ON THE CLIFF FACE.

To assist in counting Cape Vultures, we collected aerial photographs of the Cape Vulture colony at Blouberg Nature Reserve (Limpopo) for a drone-based photogrammetry model of the cliff face and vulture nests. The model provides a three-dimensional (3D) view of the cliff face and is created from a large orthomosaic of thousands of stitched photographs taken from different angles. The 3D model can be manipulated to inspect the cliff face from every angle, viewing potholes and caves that may hide nests not easily visible from the ground. Preliminary results from the first survey counted 523 individual vulture adults and chicks, and their precise position on the cliff face has been marked. When completed, the model will significantly improve the accuracy of the annual monitoring of Cape Vulture breeding colonies as it provides a high-resolution view of each nest and its contents. We anticipate implementing this novel method in other colonies and for other species across the country.



THE EYE ABOVE

The [Eye Above Project](#) was established to equip conservationists and rangers with an effective Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) that is specifically configured for anti-poaching surveillance. This system will use a specialised long-range, vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drone to conduct this work. The EWT has partnered with the Eye Above to identify other conservation and research applications for the UAS and will facilitate in-field tests of the system. The Eye Above, the EWT, and the International Crane Foundation are planning to conduct a full-scale, real-world trial of the system on the Kafue Flats in Zambia.



The Eye Above's vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drone will provide long-range aerial surveillance for a variety of conservation applications. (image source: <https://theeyeabove.co.za/>)



Drones are vital research tools for the University of Pretoria's Whale Unit. Photo taken in Walker Bay near Hermanus, South Africa.

WHALE OF A TIME

In September 2023, under the auspices of our UASOC, we assisted the University of Pretoria Mammal Research Institute (MRI): Whale Unit by providing drone support for targeted aerial photography of Southern Right Whale and Humpback Whale drone surveys during the annual census in Hermanus, near Cape Town. These aerial images play a crucial role in helping the MRI identify individual whales, contributing valuable data to their ongoing body condition study. This forms part of a long-term demographic study into these whale populations.

While the EWT pilots have accompanied the MRI to conduct the flights until now, the MRI will in the future conduct the census using its own pilot and drone as the technical manager for the whale research team obtained his Remote Pilot Certificate (RPC) in May 2024, and is now listed as one of the pilots under our UASOC.

Working closely with Eskom, we have been testing the use of drones to attach bird flight diverters to power lines and to compile a comprehensive task manual for attaching these flight diverters to power lines using a UAS. In November 2023, this testing included using a longer link stick that enabled the marking of more difficult 22kV distribution line configurations at Eskom’s Vuthari Coaching Centre near Orkney in North West Province. Eskom Transmission has also requested a task manual for operations on transmission lines. The use of drones to mark powerlines will enable substantial economic savings and improved workplace safety in the pursuit of saving thousands of birds.

DRONE MAPPING EFFORTS WILL HELP **PROTECT** ESSENTIAL GRASSLAND **HABITATS AND WATER SOURCES.**

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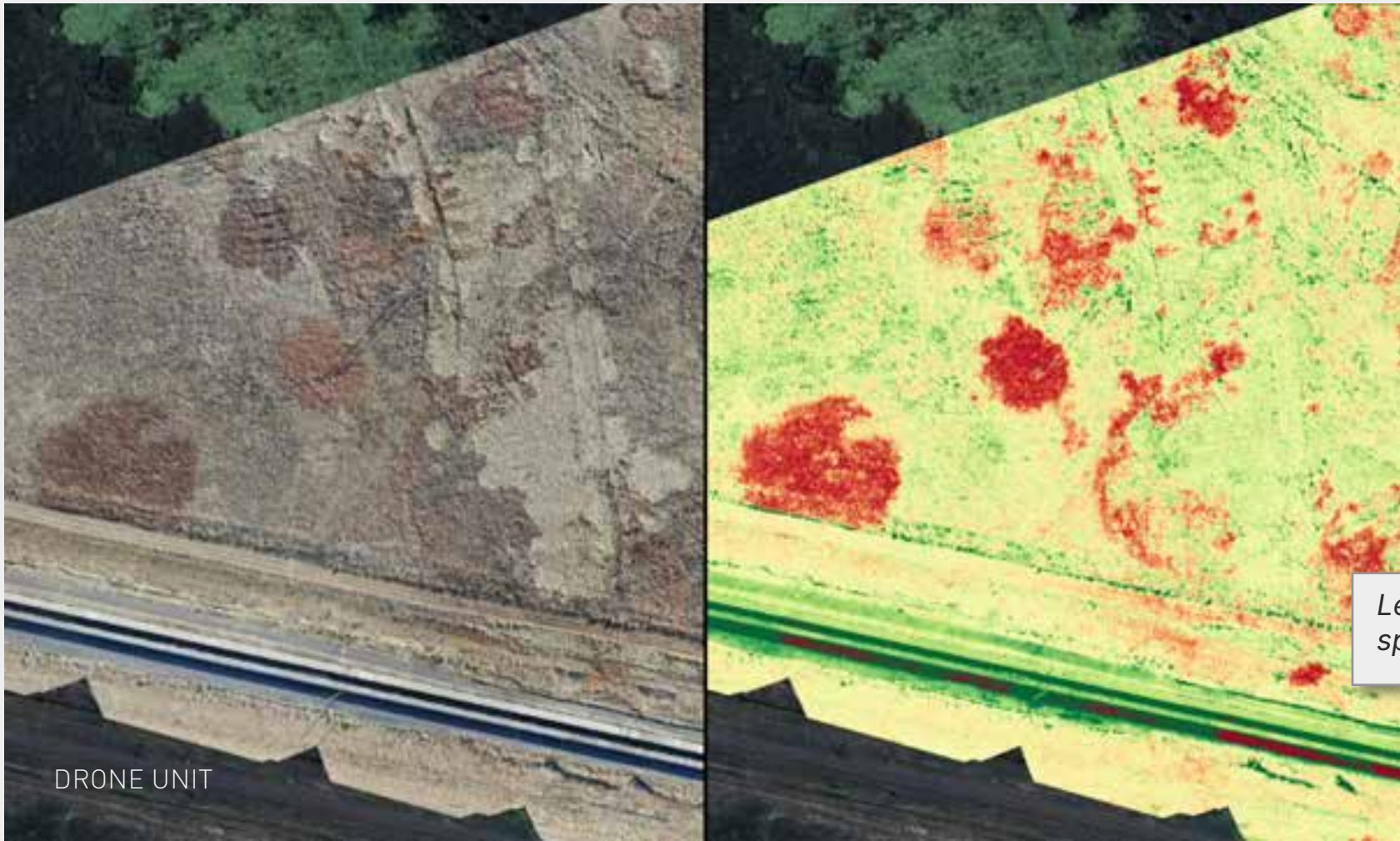
Matt Pretorius
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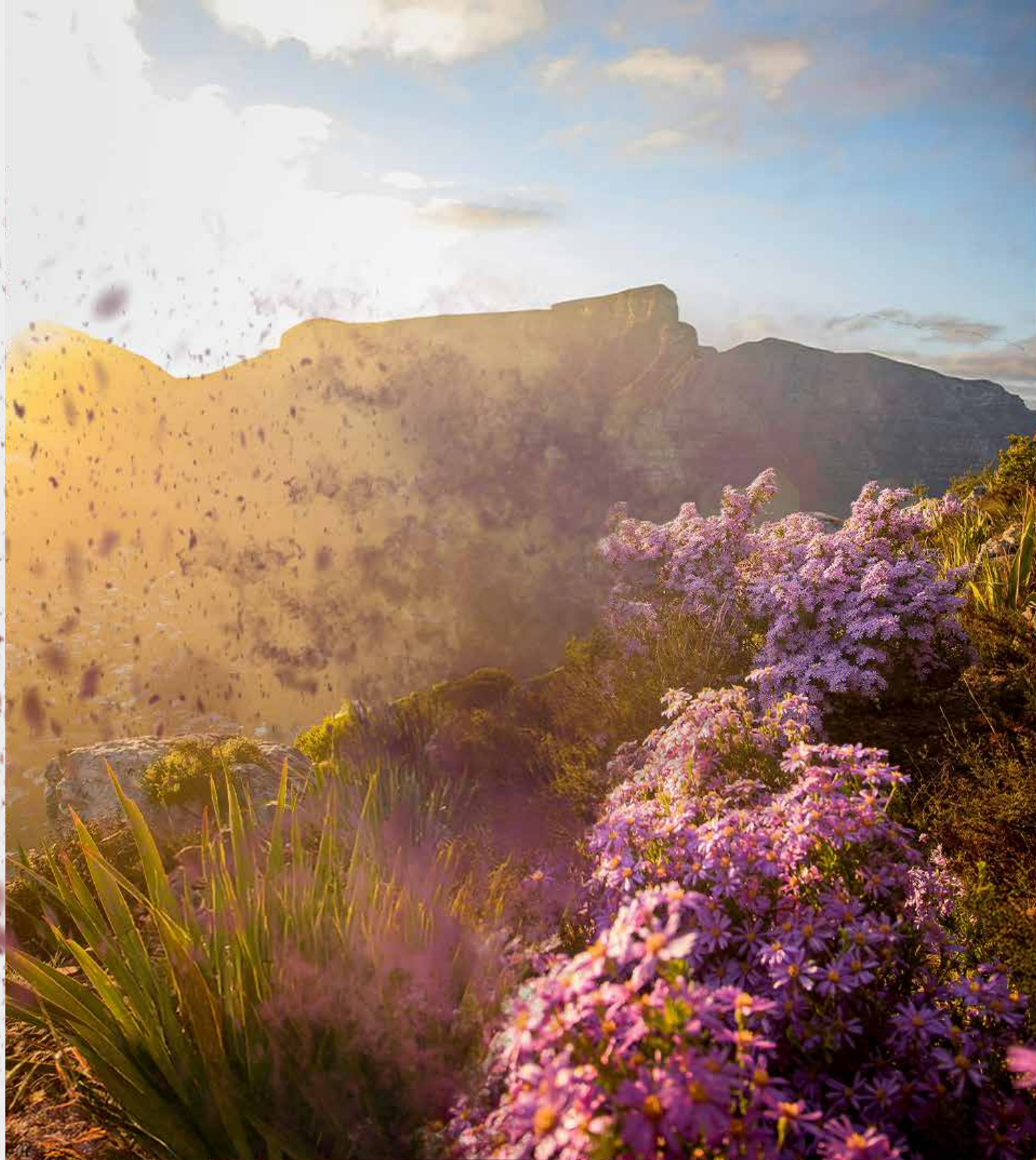
VEGETATION MAPPING

We added a DJI Mavic 3 Enterprise Multispectral unit to the EWT’s drone fleet in May 2024. The unit is equipped with a multispectral sensor that will enable us to produce high-resolution aerial photos and models in normalised-difference-vegetation-index (NDVI) and real colour. NDVI colour bands are typically used to map vegetation, and we will deploy the drone on projects that require this specialised mapping. In the coming year, these will include finding and mapping cycads in the Soutpansberg, monitoring alien invasive plant clearing efforts in the grasslands of South Africa’s Strategic Water Source Areas (SWSAs), and mapping African Grass Owl habitat.

Left: Multispectral drone images accurately map Imperata cylindrica, a species of grass which is favoured by the African Grass Owl for nesting.



DRONE UNIT



NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY & BUSINESS NETWORK

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

Functional biodiversity and ecosystems are essential for business, providing a wide variety of products and services upon which they depend. Examples include raw materials, crop pollination, genetic resources, water filtration, flood attenuation, erosion control, and many others. However, biodiversity is under severe threat globally, including in South Africa, with the private sector being a primary driver of its degradation and loss. The NBBN works with businesses to identify and manage the risks and opportunities resulting from their interactions with nature.

DON'T LET THEM DISAPPEAR

The NBBN is a member of the [Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity](#) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It is also a 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 affiliations place the NBBN at the forefront of best practice and policy ambition, spanning the global economy. This year, the NBBN went from strength to strength, mainstreaming biodiversity into some of the world's biggest companies. We kicked off our biggest projects to date, with the NBBN team growing significantly in numbers and we are successfully building technical capacity in South Africa on business and biodiversity.

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



MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY INTO GLOBAL CORPORATES

We have been working at a global level to mainstream biodiversity into some of the world's largest businesses through capacity building, target setting and disclosure. Working together, we completed an online biodiversity target-setting training course for Glencore, one of the world's largest diversified natural resource companies. The course covers 1.5 hours of core training and seven hours of technical training. Testament to our global approach, the course has been translated into French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish and delivered to over 400 staff members worldwide.

The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) released a widely accepted framework aimed at supporting a shift in global financial flows away from nature-negative outcomes and toward nature-positive outcomes, aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework. Currently, the NBBN is conducting one of the world's largest pilot TNFD assessments using desktop data, allowing corporations to assess, report and act on their nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities. We are in the process of developing interactive maps, biodiversity accounts, and ecosystem service models for over 115 operations across Africa, Australia, North America, Europe,

and South America. This highlights our use of innovative tools and technology we produce to enable businesses to integrate nature into their decision-making processes.

As best practices for corporate disclosure on nature are being developed, we are actively tracking various draft frameworks to ensure good biodiversity accounting principles are embedded to prevent greenwashing. We have published a helpful disclosure frameworks tracker tool to assist companies in understanding the differences between these frameworks, and we will continue to advocate for meaningful biodiversity disclosure.

A TNFD ASSESSMENT IS UNDERWAY, COVERING
115 OPERATIONS ACROSS **MULTIPLE CONTINENTS**
TO HELP IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS **NATURE-RELATED RISKS AND DEPENDENCIES.**

A woman wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt, light blue shorts, and a dark cap is standing in a pine forest. She is holding a plant stem up to her eye, possibly examining it. The forest is filled with tall, thin pine trees and green grass. The sky is clear and blue.

TARGET 15 OF THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that **large and transnational companies** and **financial institutions**:

- a. Regularly **monitor, assess, and transparently disclose** their **risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity** including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their **operations, supply and value chains and portfolios**;
- b. Provide information needed to consumers to **promote sustainable consumption patterns**;
- c. Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable;

in order to **progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, and financial institutions**, and promote actions to ensure **sustainable patterns of production**.



TRACKING NET POSITIVE IMPACT TARGETS

Companies are increasingly being called upon to drive positive impacts and minimise negative effects on nature. We are assisting large companies to understand how to track meaningful progress toward nature-positive futures. The use of our biodiversity footprint accounting tool enables companies to track their biodiversity footprints at ecosystem, operation, country and group levels. This approach has gained recognition by global companies as a best practice methodology, which they can integrate into decision-making.

We have successfully undertaken a desktop biodiversity footprint of Anglo-American's global operations, with feedback from them indicating that the biodiversity accounting system is immensely valuable for long-term planning for rehabilitation. Furthermore, we completed the biodiversity footprint for Mondi's landholdings in South Africa, covering over 250,000 ha. An assessment has been initiated to determine which species to monitor and track, through workshops with experts from all species groups – from insects and flowers to fish and elephants.

Our team launched a biodiversity capacity building project with Sasol. We presented a target-setting workshop to the company on the back of completing Sasol's direct operational footprints. The same has been initiated with our Harmony Gold Footprint project, defining the direct operational boundaries of over 80,000 ha across three continents.

BUSINESS ACTION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE PLANET PROJECT

The EWT serves as the National Implementing Partner for the Business Action and Advocacy for the Planet Project, implemented in Colombia, Malaysia, and South Africa. The project hosts Business Advisory Groups (BAG) supported by Business for Nature and funded by GEF-Conservation International. We are supporting the DFFE in finding effective ways to involve the private sector in implementing the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework in South Africa. Our aim is to meaningfully contribute to the 2030 mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by reducing the impacts of big business.

INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY

In May 2024, we commemorated International Biodiversity Day to stimulate businesses' role in positive biodiversity action, and hosted a business action workshop for our Business Advisory Group Project at the Johannesburg Country Club. 40 delegates participated from 16 different businesses, including First Rand, Glencore, Investec, ZZ2, and Hatch. Nine advisory organisations – including the NBI, BUSA, and DBSA – also attended the workshop.

We facilitated workshops and presented to forums, such as the Banking Association South Africa (BASA), the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), Standard Bank's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) forum, and Trialogue in association with Nedbank.

We were invited to participate as lead authors of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) [Business and Biodiversity Assessment](#), which is currently underway. The IPBES is an influential United Nations-related intergovernmental organisation, established to improve the interface between science and policy on issues of biodiversity and ecosystem services through these assessments. In an effort to improve communication and collaboration in the sector, we are developing business-targeted communications around the science-based biodiversity conservation approach of the EWT – such as this infographic on Strategic Water Source Areas .

BDP BIODIVERSITY DISCLOSURE PROJECT IS YOUR BUSINESS SCIENCE SUMMARIES

Strategic Water Source Areas Report

Get involved

If your business is located or dependent on one of these SWSAs, restoration and protection of them is crucial to you. Read the full report available at ewt.org.za for particulars of each SWSA

adapted from [Assessing Opportunities for Protected Area Expansion and Ecosystem Restoration in South Africa's Strategic Water Source Areas](#)

Developed by: Erin Adams, Lizanne Roxburgh, Kishaylin Chetty and Ian Little.

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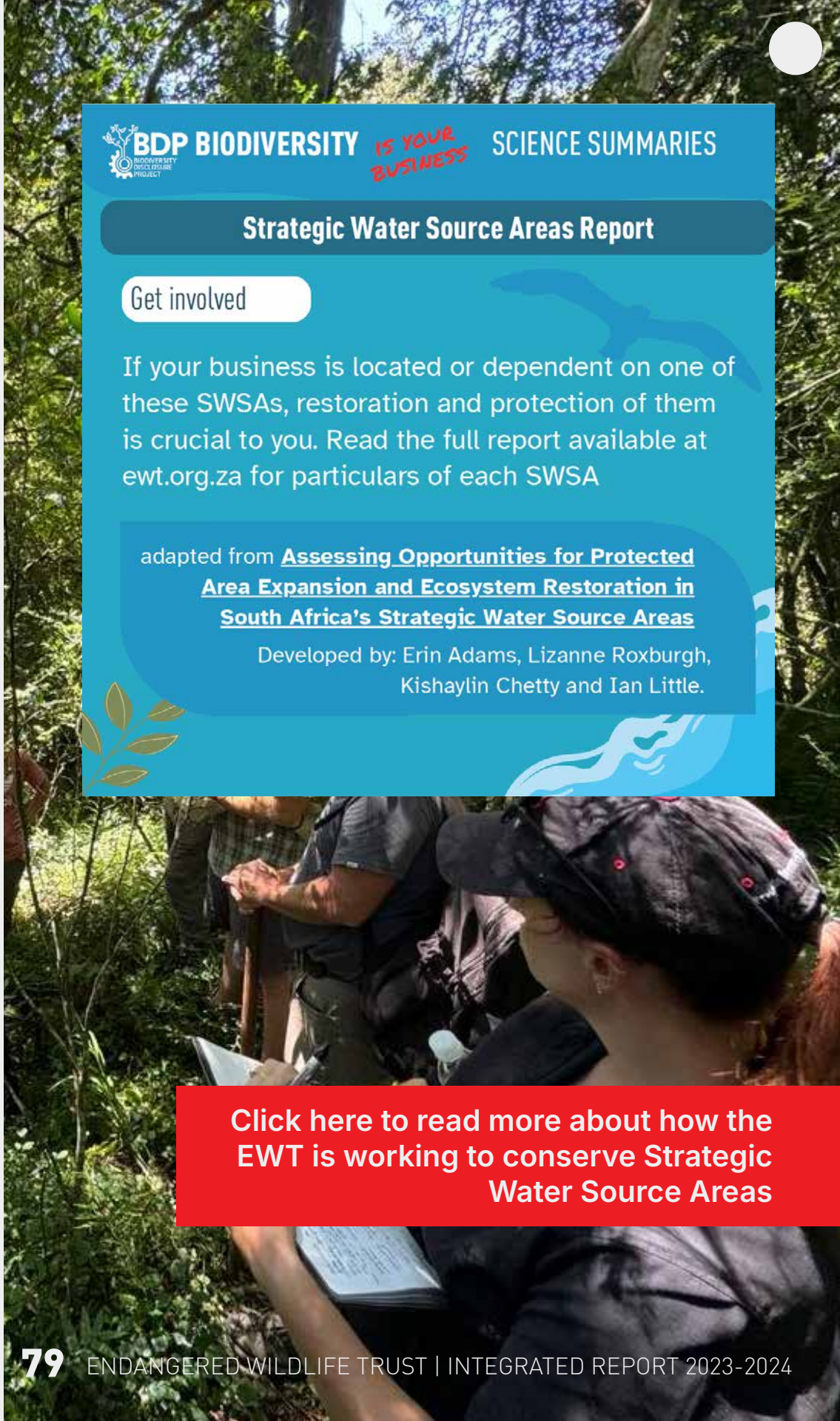
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To date, we have donated over 900 Pepper-bark trees to traditional healers, traders, and community members in Limpopo

PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION

The People in Conservation Programme collaborates with many partners to address critical conservation challenges and foster human resilience. 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.

We have developed a range of community-based conservation initiatives with people from Kutama, situated adjacent to the Medike Nature Reserve, and other areas of the Soutpansberg, including through biodiversity stewardship, sustainable agriculture, women's health and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene).

Transport across community-related projects is made possible with support from the Ford Wildlife Foundation.

DON'T LET THEM DISAPPEAR



Climate resilience and adaptation workshop in Buysdorp

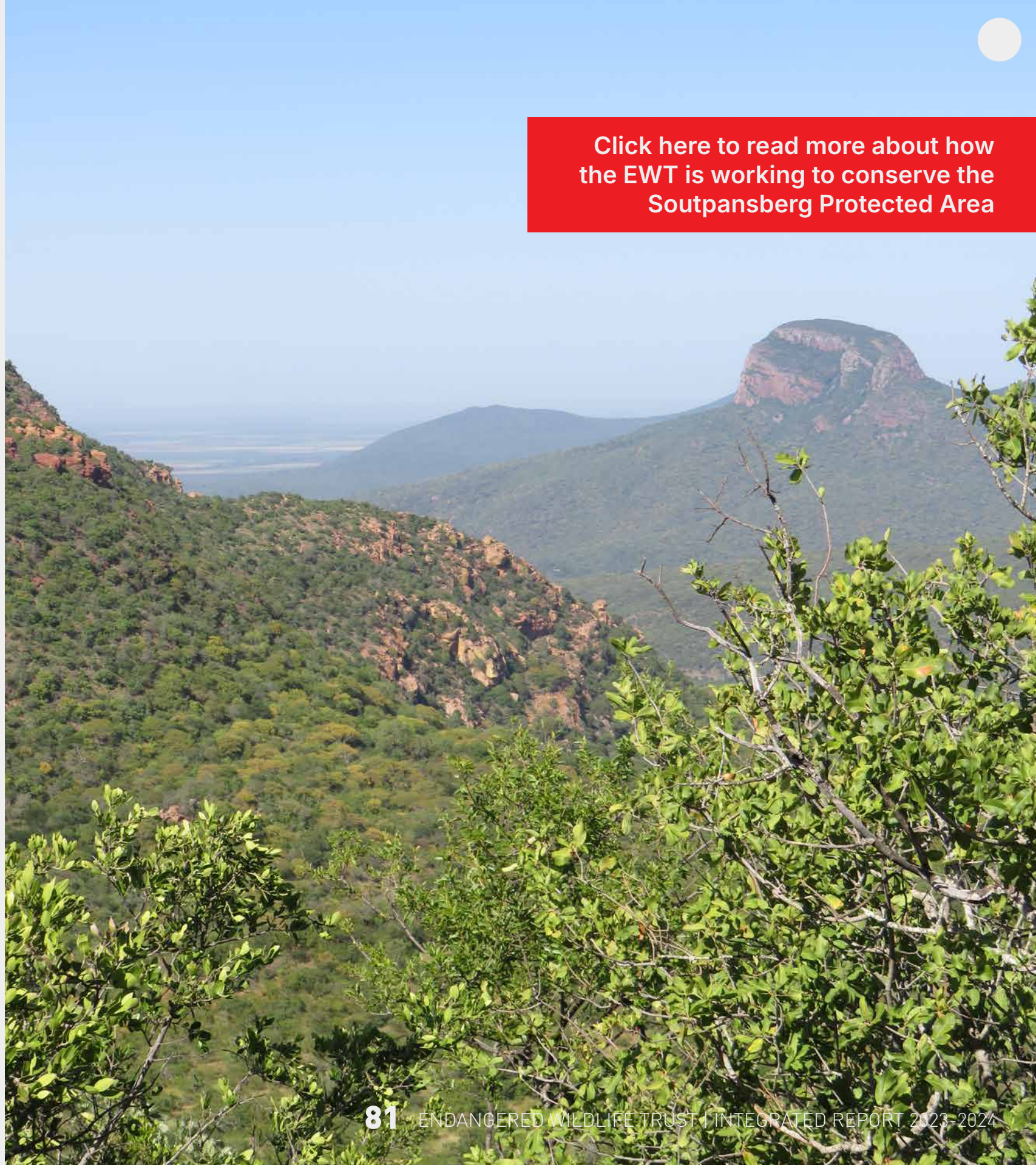
The EWT established the Medike Nature Reserve in the western Soutpansberg in 2018 and is working with partners – including other landowners on the mountain – to develop an integrated conservation management strategy for the region.

Over the past year, we engaged with Communal Property Associations (CPAs) and other landowners in the western Soutpansberg on approaches to promote the long-term sustainability of the region. By integrating support for the CPAs and landowners to identify sustainable development opportunities, we aim to maintain areas of high biodiversity, particularly in sites with rich ecological value.

Through our interactions with private and communal landowners in the past year, we have gained valuable insights into our collective visions for the area. This includes some of the challenges currently being experienced, and potential opportunities to build mutual support to address them.

This work is made possible with support from the UNDP Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Fund.

BIODIVERSITY AND LAND STEWARDSHIP IN THE SOUTPANSBERG



[Click here to read more about how the EWT is working to conserve the Soutpansberg Protected Area](#)

Practical fire management training session at Medike



SUSTAINABLE LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

In response to an increase in incidences of wildlife snaring, we held two one-day workshops in a series entitled Safeguarding our Livestock and Wildlife in the Western Soutpansberg in March and May 2024 with participants from two CPAs and the Buysdorp community. Challenges relating to snaring and other forms of illegal hunting or harvesting were discussed, as well as security concerns. Participants also gained an improved understanding of wildlife legislation and explored practical steps, such as the implementation of regular patrols, to reduce and manage illegal incidents.

Fire plays an important role in the health of savannah ecosystems alongside factors such as herbivore grazing and browsing. Uncontrolled wildfires can, however, pose significant risks to people, livestock, and property. In addition to risks to their own properties, landowners who do not implement fire management regimes can be held liable for damage to neighbouring properties in the event of a runaway fire. To reduce these risks and to improve the local capacity to fight fires, the EWT hosted an accredited fire management training course for communal and private property owners at our Medike Reserve. Community participants obtained basic PPE consisting of fire-retardant overalls and boots as well as fire beaters, hiking backpacks, and fire knapsacks (sprayers) to support their efforts to implement regular patrols and manage fire. Over the next year, we are planning additional mentorship and support to communal landowners to improve landowners' understanding of the ecological role of fire and their capacity to manage fire.

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

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

In collaboration with the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD), the EWT supports smallholder farmers to transition to sustainable agricultural approaches that foster the health of the environment, contribute to maintaining ecosystem services, and help them adapt to the impacts of climate change. The impacts of unsustainable agriculture are high, not only on the environment but also on human health and, potentially, food affordability. Recent studies have already shown a reduction in crop yields due to a decline in wild pollinators in some parts of the world. Managed bees are a poor substitute as pollinators, and frequently undermine the resilience of wild pollinators.

In the Soutpansberg, a group of farmers from Kutama and a neighbouring CPA established the Ndouvhada Organic Farming Cooperative after attending our five-day training course on regenerative agriculture in 2022. Over this period, the group has restored fencing and installed irrigation pipes on their land and, after several early setbacks, are planting their crops for the new season.

In June 2024, we also collaborated with the University of Johannesburg to implement a workshop entitled Adapting to Climate Change and Improving our Health and Environment Through Sustainable Vegetable Cultivation. As part of the workshop, we trained 26 South African and international environmental management students from Rwanda, Chile, Italy, Zimbabwe, Eastern Europe, and the United States on participatory approaches and facilitation skills.

Local farmers and growers were extremely supportive of sustainable agricultural approaches, but frequently experience limited water availability and human-wildlife conflict. Together with the University of Johannesburg, LDARD, and other partners, we are starting to work with the Buysdorp community to assess their groundwater resources and improve agricultural and climate resilience.

THE EWT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG TRAINED **26**
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN SUSTAINABLE VEGETABLE CULTIVATION.

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



Jeffrey Ndouvhada and others look on as Keagan Truter, WelMac's nursery manager, discusses earthworm composting

Ndouvhada Organic Farming Cooperative members visit WelMac Macadamia farm in Levuvhu

THE PEPPER-BARK TREE: A CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY

The Pepper-bark Tree (*Warburgia salutaris*) is one of many plant species under severe pressure in the wild due to the high demand for traditional medicines, as well as habitat loss and other human pressures. In collaboration with traditional healers, traders, and partners from the conservation sector, the EWT is working to reduce harvesting and habitat pressures in wild populations, whilst ensuring that communities relying on these plants for healthcare can still access them sustainably.

In addition to protecting and improving the management of wild Pepper-bark Tree populations, the EWT has distributed over 900 Pepper-bark Trees to 460 traditional healers, traders, and other community members for cultivation, mainly in Vhembe, Limpopo Province. The species is still under pressure in the wild, but it was recently downlisted from Endangered to Vulnerable in South Africa.

We are now in the process of identifying additional species in demand with traditional healers and traders to enable increased access to legal sources of this important biocultural resource.

This work is made possible with support from the Fondation Franklinia and Munich Re.



LIVELIHOOD AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

In collaboration with our partner not-for-profit organisation, [Clothes To Good](#), we implemented an integrated project with Muthu Ndi Nnyi, a facility that provides daycare for people with disabilities, and ten Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in Kutama. This project aims to contribute to reducing textile waste while supporting Muthu Ndi Nnyi to generate an income through sales of high quality pre-used clothes. The impacts of the fast fashion industry have escalated over the past two decades, resulting in increased habitat loss, high water usage, pollution, and other environmental and social impacts.

In addition, Muthu Ndi Nnyi and 30 staff from 10 childcare centres participated in a two-day occupational health/ECD and educational toy-making workshop. Each of the ten pre-schools or NPOs received a training manual and starter kits with over 50 activities to stimulate young children's perceptual, fine, and gross motor skills, as well as numeracy and literacy. Participants also learned to make ten different toys from additional recycled materials.

Projects of this nature contribute to conservation by strengthening relationships and social cohesion both within the community, and between the community and external roleplayers. Rural communities across South Africa are particularly susceptible to high levels of unemployment and poverty, and the creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities can make a valuable contribution to people's lives.

This work is made possible with support from the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation.



WOMEN'S HEALTH

DISTRIBUTED REUSABLE SANITARY KITS FOR **OVER 805 GIRLS AND WOMEN**, WHICH CAN REDUCE WASTE BY AROUND **400,000 SINGLE-USE SANITARY PADS** OVER **FIVE YEARS**.

Despite progress towards addressing sanitation and health disparities across the globe over the past decades, approximately 500 million girls worldwide still lack access to sufficient menstrual health products. At the same time, there is increasing awareness of the long-term environmental impacts of single-use products. Approximately 12 billion disposable menstrual hygiene products are used annually, of which the bulk is disposed of in landfills, water systems, or the environment. Waste management is a significant challenge in most rural areas of South Africa frequently leading to waste being disposed of in the environment in some areas. Most schools in under-served communities lack sufficient sanitation infrastructure and struggle to dispose of the high volume of menstrual waste.

Girls frequently also struggle to source reliable information that enables them to make informed choices relating to their menstrual and reproductive health, or the impacts of their choices on the environment. This year, we held discussions and awareness sessions on menstrual health with grade 8 – 12 girls and provided over 155 learners with kits containing reusable sanitary pads and cleaning materials. To date, over 805 girls and women have received reusable sanitary kits through this project. The reusable sanitary pads last for 3—5 years, which not only saves the girls and their families money but also reduces the high environmental impacts of sanitary waste.

Based on an initial conservative estimate from girls who participated in our 2022 pilot, when 91% of the girls who received samples reported using them, if 80% of the reusable sanitary products that were distributed during this two-year project are used, almost 400,000 fewer single-use sanitary pads will enter the waste stream or be disposed of in the environment.

The project contributes to the girls' quality of life in many ways, enabling them to attend school with confidence and engage with teachers and parents on topics that they were previously shy to broach. In the words of one young participant:

"I would really like to thank the funders for this project. What you do for us make a difference in our lives, especially young girls from disadvantage background and can't afford to buy sanitary pads. You make us love our bodies. Please continue doing the hard work that you do."

Building on the lessons from this initiative, we are now seeking resources to expand the project to include additional schools and programme areas and to extend the conversation to include boys and young men in the future.

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

GUARDIANS OF THE FUTURE

Education for sustainable development is a powerful means of building people's knowledge and understanding of the environment as well as their values and life and leadership skills. Practical examples of behaviours and actions that reduce individual and community environmental impacts can reduce feelings of being overwhelmed and helplessness in the face of daunting environmental challenges, enabling children to make more conscious choices throughout their lives.

The EWT and our partners from Bakwena, developed a curriculum-aligned Education for Sustainable Development module on Animal Types, reaching approximately 320 grade 5 learners from Lefofo, Itereleng and Lebola Primary Schools in Hammanskraal. The module improved learners' knowledge on this section of their Natural Science and Technology syllabus and provided teachers with a tool that they will be able to use to assess gaps in learners' understanding of core concepts through an interactive game.

EMPOWERED APPROXIMATELY **320 GRADE 5 STUDENTS** WITH CURRICULUM-ALIGNED KNOWLEDGE ON ANIMAL TYPES TO FOSTER LIFELONG ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.

This work is made possible with support from Bakwena N1N4 toll.



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SOUTPANSBERG PROTECTED AREA

South Africa's Soutpansberg Mountains are noted for 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 parts of Kruger National Park and the Mapungubwe National Park and Cultural Landscape. Despite their unique biodiversity and conservation value, only two per cent of the Soutpansberg Mountains are formally conserved, and there is a critical need to increase and strengthen the area's protection. This ambitious, long-term project will establish a contiguous 50,000-ha protected landscape corridor between four existing nature reserves to be known as the western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve. Through this, we will improve the mountains' resilience to climate change and contribute towards local job creation through the development of nature-based tourism opportunities. 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.

DON'T LET THEM DISAPPEAR



[Click here to read more about how the EWT is working to benefit people and communities in the Soutpansberg Protected Area](#)



Stewardship Programme Workshop

A MOUNTAIN OF HOPE FOR BIODIVERSITY AND PEOPLE

The Biodiversity Stewardship Programme is a mechanism for creating formal, privately-owned protected areas (Nature Reserves, Protected Environments) supported by legally recognised alternatives such as conservation servitudes.

The first phase of Biodiversity Stewardship in the Soutpansberg included 17 registered landowners, covering just under 22,000 ha, and was submitted to the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) with a Notice of Intent to Declare the western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve (WSNR) which was gazetted in December 2021. Towards the end of 2023, our legal team, working closely with LEDET officials, made significant progress towards overcoming objections received by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy during the public participation process. The chairperson signed the Management Authority Assignment Agreement on behalf of the WSNR Association, of which the EWT is a member. We are preparing final written agreements with the required details for signature.

In 2024, we kicked off the second phase of our Biodiversity Stewardship plans to increase the size of the protected area and bring new landowners on board. Subsequently, five properties submitted stewardship applications, bringing another 16,000 ha into the stewardship process. This brings our stewardship area up to 38,000 ha (in various stages of the Biodiversity Stewardship process), and places us well on our way to achieving our goal of 50,000 ha of protected habitat across the western Soutpansberg by 2030.

THE EWT HAS CURRENTLY ENGAGED **22,000 HA** UNDER THE FIRST PHASE, WITH THE SECOND PHASE **AIMING TO ADD 16,000 HA.** THE LONG-TERM GOAL IS **50,000 HA BY 2030.**

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

ON THE TRAIL

Eco-tourism plays a critical role in sustainable financing for protected areas, as well as developing stakeholder support for a protected area. Exploring protected areas gives tourists and adventurers the opportunity to connect with nature and appreciate a true sense of place. The income earned from these visitors goes towards supporting the management of the protected area and supporting the creation of jobs for local community members in providing services for tourism initiatives.

Developing eco-tourism initiatives and welcoming tour groups to the Soutpansberg is a key part of our strategy, facilitating access to areas of the mountain that not many people get to see. In addition to bringing in sustainable financing, these initiatives also create the opportunity for additional job and skills development (e.g. training guides and hospitality staff) as well as tourism-related enterprise development.

Running between Medike Nature Reserve and Mount Letjume on the western Soutpansberg, the [Old Salt Trail](#) is a five-day, four-night fully catered slackpacking trail. The trail is a spectacular and challenging experience for any hiking enthusiast. Accredited as a Green Flag Trail, the trail scores five stars for landscape diversity and four stars for scenic value. We led our first three paying groups on the Old Salt Trail hikes during July and August 2023, and June 2024. One experienced hiker – comparing it to classic hikes such as the Whale Trail in the Western Cape – commented that this was their best hike yet. The trail is now open for bookings for the 2025 winter hiking season.

Medike also welcomed [In the Company of Horses](#) – an equine experience that enables riders to view the African wilderness from horseback – as part of a two-week journey from Magoebaskloof to Tuli. This is the start of hosting many horse trails led by In the Company of Horses, which has already booked three trails for 2024 and is set to schedule six more for 2025. The international guests were happy and comfortable in our accommodation and enjoyed the scenic traverse across the mountain.

THROUGH TRAINING LOCAL GUIDES, HOSPITALITY STAFF, AND TOURISM-RELATED MICRO-ENTERPRISE OPPORTUNITIES, THE ECO-TOURISM INITIATIVES CREATE SUSTAINABLE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

We have completed refurbishing accommodation units on the reserve, which are now open to the public and tour operators. In total, Medike can accommodate 18 people across three units and 20 people in two campsites across the property. The reserve has welcomed both international and local guests, including an overlanding-fundraising tour operated by [Blue Sky Society](#), and a research group from North West University. Four accommodation options are available to overnight visitors, including Ficus House, Stone Cottage, the Honeymoon Hut (Rondavel) and the beautiful Marula camp site. Overnight visitor numbers are encouraging, and we had sold 209 bed nights by the end of the financial year, over and above welcoming 108 day visitors. The reserve offers travellers a [range of outdoor](#) adventure activities, including guided/unguided hiking and trail running, birding, 4x4 trails and ranger experiences where guests get to work alongside our rangers and experience firsthand what it takes to safeguard our mountain.

While Medike is at the beginning of its eco-tourism journey, we aim to get the property to a 50% occupancy level in the next two years, with the ambition of the property becoming self-sustaining in the next three years. Multiple initiatives are being explored, with the availability of visitor accommodation opening up many opportunities for the property. This will enable us to expand on tourism-related micro-enterprises (catering and hospitality) as well as providing our ranger guides with further experience and diversified skills development in the tourism sector.

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



Clearing Alien Invasive Plants at Bahiti

RESTORING CRITICAL HABITATS FOR THREATENED SPECIES

Invasive alien species are globally recognised as one of the major drivers of change in ecosystems and pose a threat to both biodiversity and ecosystem services such as water provision. The western Soutpansberg, while largely in a natural state, does have areas of invasive alien plants that have required management. Over the past six years, our rangers have cleared invasive trees – in particular, Eucalyptus species – from riverine habitats on various properties across the western Soutpansberg. This year, the alien clearing team continued to work on removing new stands of invasive alien plants from riverine habitats and conducting follow-up work on 24 ha of previously cleared sites. The alien clearing team were also based at Bahiti, where they removed ten ha of low-density invasive Eucalyptus trees from the Hamasha Gorge. This site is of particular importance, as it houses a community of threatened tree species, such as the Pepper-bark Tree.

Follow-up work, either by our own rangers or landowners' staff, is critical for the success of restoration projects to ensure that the invasive species are eliminated from the system over time. We are witnessing promising natural regeneration on some of the sites, with forest tree species returning, indicating the site will one day be restored to an indigenous, riverine forest. We are also seeing indigenous sedges and grasses returning to the wetland systems and alien clearing sites, with good ground cover.

The team has now managed invasive alien plants across 60 ha. A critical part of the project continues to focus on upskilling rangers through training. This year, four of our rangers completed accredited Intermediate Chainsaw Operation training, with one of our experienced rangers acting as a training assistant on the course.

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

RUNAWAY FIRES

From late November to December, the entire ranger team fought a runaway fire, the result of a lightning strike, on properties neighbouring Medike. Firefighting continued for two weeks and involved multiple members of the community. The fire provided a timely reminder of both the importance of instigating robust fire management practices on Medike and the value of working closely with neighbouring properties to manage fires in the western Soutpansberg. We hosted two training courses on Medike as part of a drive to improve the team's health and safety knowledge. The entire team – as well as many landowner staff and local community members – received accredited firefighting training.

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

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THREATENED AMPHIBIAN PROGRAMME

Amphibians are the most threatened vertebrates on Earth, with the latest global assessments showing 41% of species as being at risk of extinction.

This decline is evident across every continent where amphibians are found, underscoring the urgent need for amphibian conservation as a global priority. In South Africa, over 20% of our 134 frog species are Threatened, the majority of these being South African endemics. Reptiles are also declining on a global scale, although the rate of decline appears to be slower than amphibians. This is likely due to the adaptability and versatility of these fascinating predators. Globally, around 22% of reptile species are threatened with extinction while in South Africa, this number drops to 7.6%. However, species that are threatened tend to be unique and endemic species in urgent need of conservation attention. Amphibians provide a barometer to environmental health and their continued declines point to deteriorating freshwater habitats. This has significance for human health and well-being as we rely heavily on the ecosystem services offered by intact, healthy freshwater ecosystems. Working towards greater protection for amphibians provides for greater environmental protection, benefitting both the species and communities living both within and outside these areas.

DON'T LET THEM DISAPPEAR

THE SOUTHERN AFRICA AMPHIBIAN RED LIST PROJECT
CONSOLIDATED OVER **170,000 AMPHIBIAN**
OCCURRENCE RECORDS.



For over a decade, the EWT has been the only NGO in South Africa with a programme dedicated to implementing frog conservation action, established through the vision of Dr Jeanne Tarrant. By focusing on threatened amphibians as flagships for broader conservation issues, we aim to protect critical freshwater and terrestrial habitats essential for both these species and local communities. Our activities are closely tied to human well-being, and our focus extends to enhancing socio-ecological resilience within the landscapes in which we work, for the benefit of biodiversity as well as local communities. In total, the programme employed 27 staff across our projects this year, benefitting many households, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal at Adam's Mission.

Currently, we operate six projects at sites in KwaZulu-Natal (three species), the Eastern Cape (two species), and the Western Cape (seven species). Since 2018, we have concentrated on one of Africa's most threatened snake species, the Albany Adder, to secure key habitat in its only known locality in the Eastern Cape. This financial year we expanded our reptile focus to include the Durban Dwarf Burrowing Skink, one of only two Critically Endangered reptiles in South Africa and a species urgently in need of conservation attention.

SOUTHERN AFRICA AMPHIBIAN RED LIST PROJECT

A key component of our work over the last 12 months has been updating the Southern Africa Amphibian Red List. The IUCN Red List is the most comprehensive information source regarding species extinction risk and serves as a vital tool to guide global biodiversity conservation efforts. For amphibians, these assessments are powerful tools to catalyse and inform conservation actions.

Southern African amphibians have not been comprehensively assessed since 2016, with many new species yet to receive any formal assessments. This is the first project globally linked to the Third Global Amphibian Assessment (GAA3). To date, we have consolidated and error-checked over 170,000 amphibian occurrence records, using these data to update 300 distribution maps. This progress was catalysed by an EWT-led Red List workshop in Cape Town in April 2024, which brought together 23 experts from 18 organisations across southern Africa. During this week-long event, participants assessed the status of 120 amphibian species from the region, including all species of conservation concern. The outputs from this important project will inform revisions to the region's amphibian conservation strategy and will be published on the [IUCN website](#). These outputs will be used to inform a revision of the region's amphibian conservation strategy. Our key partners include the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group, Re:Wild, and SANBI, as well as our many regional specialist contributors, both individuals and institutions, who are critical to this collaborative work.

This work is made possible with generous support from Synchronicity Earth, Re:Wild, Anglo American, and the Rainforest Trust.

RAINING FROGS!

The Cape Rain Frog was the first African frog species to be scientifically described by Linnaeus in 1758. Since then, some 20 species have been described, with several more cryptic species likely to emerge in the coming years. These include Branch's Rain Frog, which was only discovered in 2008, and described from just one specimen.

To learn more about this elusive species, we conducted several trips to the Port Nolloth area, Northern Cape, to search for them. In September, we set out to this remote, arid region of South Africa, accompanied by Dr Les Minter, the country's foremost Rain Frog expert. Amazingly, by tracking their tiny footprints in the sand, we were able to track down two Branch's Rain Frogs at the type locality of this "lost species".

As terrestrial breeders, Rain frogs undergo their entire larval development and metamorphosis underground in burrows, emerging as tiny little froglets after being deposited as eggs underground. Following our initial site visit, we returned in November to record the species' first calls ever. Together with other key organisations, such as SANBI, we are working to analyse these calls, as well as genetic material, to determine the exact taxonomic placement of this rare species. We cannot protect what we do not know, and understanding more about this species' life history, distribution, and taxonomic placement are vital steps towards protecting it, and its unique coastal habitat, into the future. This is particularly important given the growing threat of mining in this region. This work represents a collaborative effort with key partners, notably Bionerds, SANBI, and Dr Les Minter, demonstrating our commitment to advancing knowledge and conservation efforts for this unique amphibian.

This work is made possible with support from the Rainforest Trust and Synchronicity Earth.

EWT RECORDED THE **FIRST-EVER** CALLS OF **BRANCH'S RAIN FROG** IN NOVEMBER, AIDING IN UNDERSTANDING THE SPECIES' BEHAVIOUR AND COMMUNICATION.



*Dr Les Minter with a *Breviceps branchi* (above) and the little frog itself (below) Photo credit: Bionerds*





A TALE OF TWO LEOPARDS

In June 2021, in partnership with the Cape Leopard Trust, we publicly launched the Tale of Two Leopards project, which 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 landscape level conservation efforts for these two species and their threatened fynbos habitat by improving knowledge about their occurrence and by creating a green corridor, through landowner agreements, with resultant improved landscape management. This region of lowland and coastal fynbos is one of the most biologically diverse areas in South Africa, home to over 2,400 plant species, approximately 300 birds, 65 vertebrates and an estimated 20,000 insect species. It has international conservation significance and requires a bold, integrated, landscape level approach. To further this vision, our partnership has expanded to include the Grootbos Foundation and the Bionerds, collectively working towards the protection and management of an extensive network of unique habitats, the Agulhas Green Corridor.

In recognition of this innovative work, this project was nominated for the [Eco-Logic awards](#) and won the Gold Award in the Nature Conservation category in November 2023. We would like to extend our thanks to our collaborative partners, particularly the Cape Leopard Trust, who have played an integral role in driving this project.

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

THE **OVERBERG FYNBOS** IS HOME TO OVER **2,400 PLANT** SPECIES, **300 BIRD** SPECIES, **65 VERTEBRATES**, AND **20,000 INSECT** SPECIES, MAKING IT A CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREA.

FROGS APLENTY – WITH IMPORTANT HABITAT TO PROTECT

Our project in the Western Cape uses threatened, endemic amphibians as catalysts for conservation in the landscape – we survey for these rare species and then work with landowners to formally protect the freshwater habitats in which they occur through the mechanism of Biodiversity Stewardship. Many of these species are endemic to small regions in the Western Cape and are incredibly sensitive to habitat degradation or change. Monitoring their presence, and continued persistence in these landscapes therefore acts as a marker of ecosystem health. Finding, protecting, and managing these ecosystems enables us to safeguard so much more than a single small species of frog, and this work has impact cascading down to water provisioning and climate change tracking.

Surveys targeting threatened species across our project sites in the Western Cape have led to the discovery of several new breeding sites for some of the Cape’s most threatened frog species. These include two new breeding sites for the Endangered Western Leopard Toad, one for the Endangered Cape Platanna and an extensive suitable habitat for the Critically Endangered Micro Frog. These findings add to our understanding of the distribution of these threatened species and, in some instances, represent significant new information to assess their extinction risk linked to our Amphibian Red List Project. Additionally, we have confirmed six new subpopulations of the Critically Endangered Rough Moss Frog across three properties in the Klein Swartberg mountains. We now have several sites in the process of being formally declared as Nature Reserves and are working with landowners and local conservation authorities to manage these ecosystems effectively, for the benefit of all.

This work is made possible with support from the Rainforest Trust, the Anglo American—Positive Biodiversity Outcomes Grant, Ford Wildlife Foundation, and Synchronicity Earth, and it is conducted in partnership with Bionerds and the Grootbos Foundation.

SURVEYS REVEALED TWO **NEW BREEDING SITES** FOR THE ENDANGERED **WESTERN LEOPARD TOAD**, ONE FOR THE **CAPE PLATANNA**, AND SUITABLE HABITAT FOR THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED **MICRO FROG**, DEEPENING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THESE SPECIES’ DISTRIBUTION.



Moonlight Mountain Toadlet - Photo credit: Bionerds



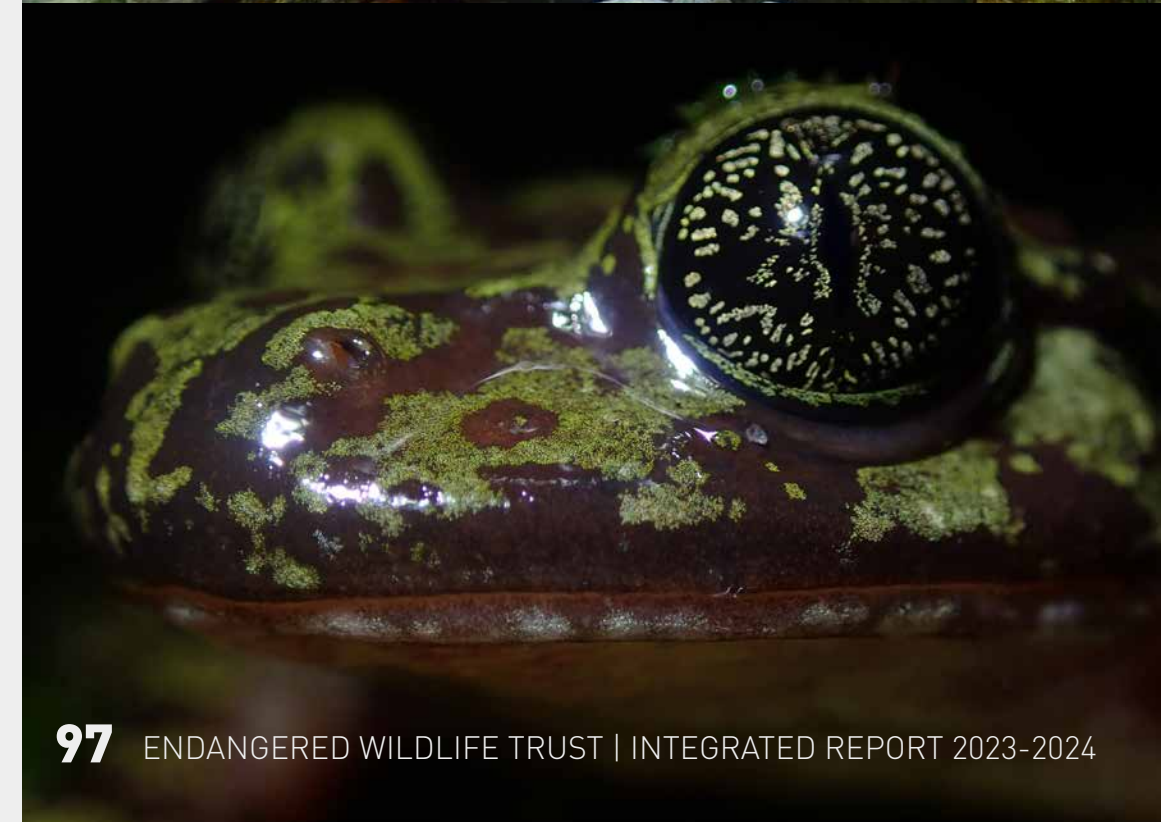
Song Meter arrays at Micro Frog habitat

THE GHOSTS OF TABLE MOUNTAIN

The Table Mountain Ghost Frog is a unique and elusive species found in only eight streams in Table Mountain National Park, and nowhere else in the world. Ghost Frogs are our canary in the coal mine. These species have evolved over millions of years to live in a very specific environment – headwater mountain streams. This environment is located in the upper reaches of streams, and generally remains undisturbed and pristine. Any negative changes to this system, even those too small to seem significant to us, impact Ghost Frogs because these animals are so specialised to a unique, unchanging habitat. Unfortunately, this species has already disappeared from at least one historical site due to altered water flow, path overuse and mismanagement, and alien plant infestation. Our research on this unique species has been instrumental in understanding its precise habitat niche linked to specific threats within the watershed. This [research](#) confirmed that the siltation of streams is a significant threat to these tadpoles. This marks our fifth year of implementing the monitoring protocol, developed in collaboration with SANParks, specifically designed for this species. Our monitoring suggests that Ghost Frog tadpole occurrence within streams is stable at the broad scale, but that localised disturbances, mostly due to riparian erosion and associated sedimentation, are causing localised population extinctions. This work has enabled us to produce an Action Plan for the species that identifies management actions and links these actions to key stakeholders, providing a framework to manage the species and its important habitat into the future. Given the location of this habitat, within an open access National Park that is visited by millions of unregulated people every year, the Ghost Frog Action Plan is an important step towards ensuring this ancient species, which has persisted since dinosaurs roamed the earth, continues to survive to provide wonder for generations to come. Partners involved in the project include SANBI, CapeNature, the City of Cape Town, and the Freshwater Research Centre.

This work is made possible with support from Synchronicity Earth, One&Only Cape Town, the Anglo American - Positive Biodiversity Outcomes Grant, Ford Wildlife Foundation, and the Table Mountain Fund.

GHOST FROGS ARE ADAPTED EXCLUSIVELY TO **UNDISTURBED MOUNTAIN HEADWATER STREAMS**, MAKING THEM **HIGHLY SENSITIVE** TO SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES, WHICH SERVE AS **EARLY WARNINGS** FOR ECOSYSTEM HEALTH.



IN THE MOOD

With significant funding from the Moody's Foundation, we launched an urban ecology project to enhance socio-ecological resilience in KwaZulu-Natal. Building on our work on wetlands and related community health in the Durban area, we identified two of our long-term wetland sites that have significant biodiversity conservation, as well as socio-economic needs. Over 25% of wetland habitat in this region has already been lost, translating into billions of rands of reduced ecological goods and services (e.g. freshwater, food, access to other natural resources) for local communities, communities who are themselves impacted by unemployment and a lack of financial opportunities. Our activities here are aimed at improving ecological resilience for both local communities and wetland biodiversity by partnering with local individuals, households, and businesses to reduce impacts to local ecosystems and play an active role in rehabilitating these crucial freshwater habitats.

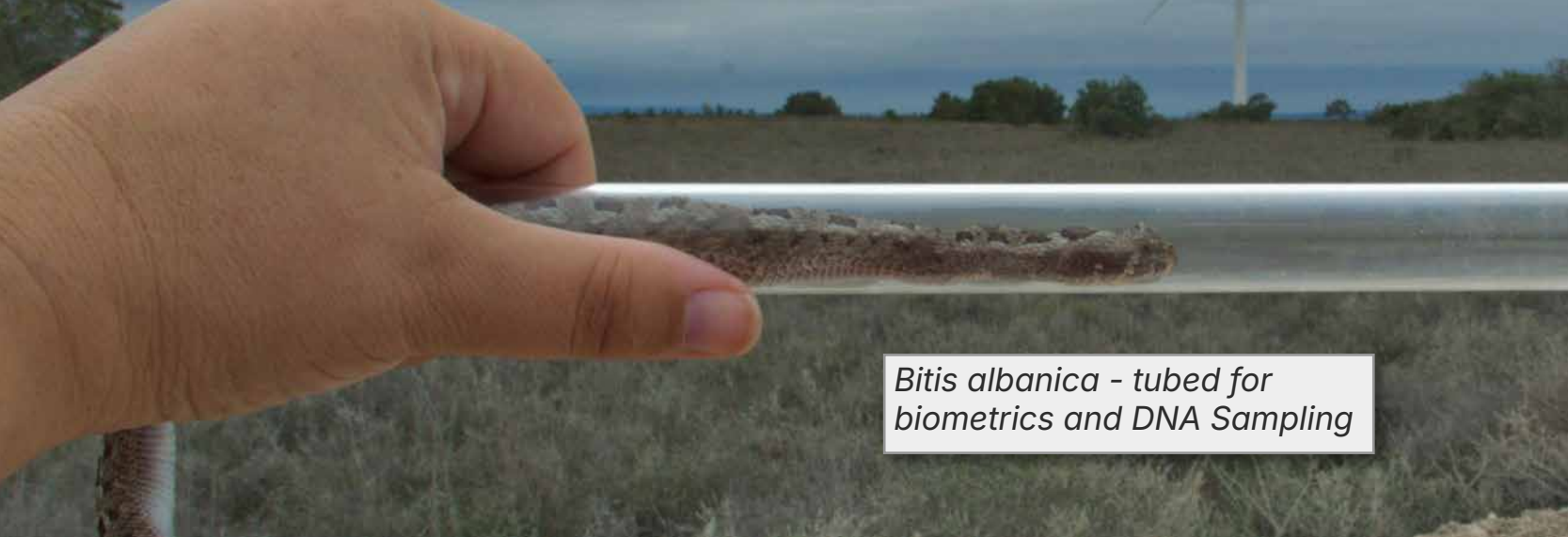
Community education in KZN



To date, 23 local jobs have been created as a result of our work, which has further positively impacted countless households. Our focus on education, both in terms of upskilling staff and through curriculum-aligned education modules taught at local schools, has enabled us to create an awareness and appreciation for conservation across the landscape. Together with community members, we monitor wetland health, report waste and development transgressions, and remove invasive plant species and waste materials from wetlands. Rehabilitating these wetlands is also critically important in the face of a changing climate. Wetlands act as buffers for extreme flood events (which are on the rise) and sequester carbon from the atmosphere, functions that can only be performed by healthy wetland systems. The devastating floods of 2022 act as a stark marker of what the future may hold. Our work is focussed on interventions that mitigate these climate related impacts by restoring and rehabilitating the integrity of these ecosystems.

OUR PROJECT HAS CREATED **23 LOCAL JOBS**, DIRECTLY BENEFITING HOUSEHOLDS AND ENABLING **COMMUNITY MEMBERS** TO ENGAGE IN **WETLAND REHABILITATION** AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.

This work is made possible with support from the Moody's Foundation, Synchronicity Earth, Anglo American, and Rainforest Trust, and conducted in partnership with eThekweni Municipality.



Bitis albanica - tubed for biometrics and DNA Sampling

ADDING UP

The Albany Adder is one of nine South African dwarf adder species. It occurs within a very small area in the Eastern Cape and is one of Africa’s most threatened vipers. This species is highly cryptic and notoriously difficult to locate; as of 2015, it was known from just 12 confirmed records in the wild since its description in 1937.

Since 2015, our team has compiled a database of 45 new records, providing an important baseline to monitor population survival and drive conservation actions. These are significant numbers for this tiny and elusive snake. Most of these are from a single site where habitat transformation, including mining, renewable energy, alien plant infestation, vehicle traffic and agriculture, threaten the snake’s specialised thicket and grassland habitat. Since 2020, we have pursued formal habitat protection at this site, working towards securing approximately 1,000 hectares critical for the survival of this Endangered snake. This area also represents important habitat for other Endangered species such as the Black Harrier Hawk, Secretary Bird, the Coega Copper butterfly, and numerous threatened plant species. Pnce declared, it will be the first known Protected Area dedicated specifically to safeguarding a snake species.

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

SKINK IN THE BALANCE

This novel project is focused on Durban’s Critically Endangered Dwarf Burrowing Skink. This legless skink is a highly localised reptile primarily confined to the Durban area. However, the population North of Durban is believed to be extinct, and the remaining surviving populations to the south are scattered over several extremely small habitat fragments covering less than five square kilometres. We have identified two sites – Treasure Beach (an area located to the south of Durban), and the nearby Bluff Nature Reserve – as key to the species’ survival and in need of conservation actions. Our project aims to ensure the retention of connectivity between these sites while strengthening the management of the Treasure Beach site. Doing so will provide the species with greater protection from habitat degradation or fragmentation.

We seek to galvanise conservation actions for the Dwarf Burrowing Skink across the Durban area, undertake surveys to discover new localities and contribute to a long-term monitoring protocol to track this species into the future.

This work is made possible with support from the Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and in partnership with eThekweni Municipality and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.



Durban Dwarf Burrowing Skink at Treasure Beach Photo credit Ruan I. Stander

A PERSONAL MOUNTAIN JEWEL AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



Wild In Africa launched its [Table Mountain Ghost Frog bracelet](#) in October, with half of the proceeds dedicated to supporting conservation efforts for this unique species. The bracelet features 'dragon blood' jasper beads, celebrated for their vibrant red and green hues, which beautifully reflect the exquisite colours of the Table Mountain Ghost Frog.

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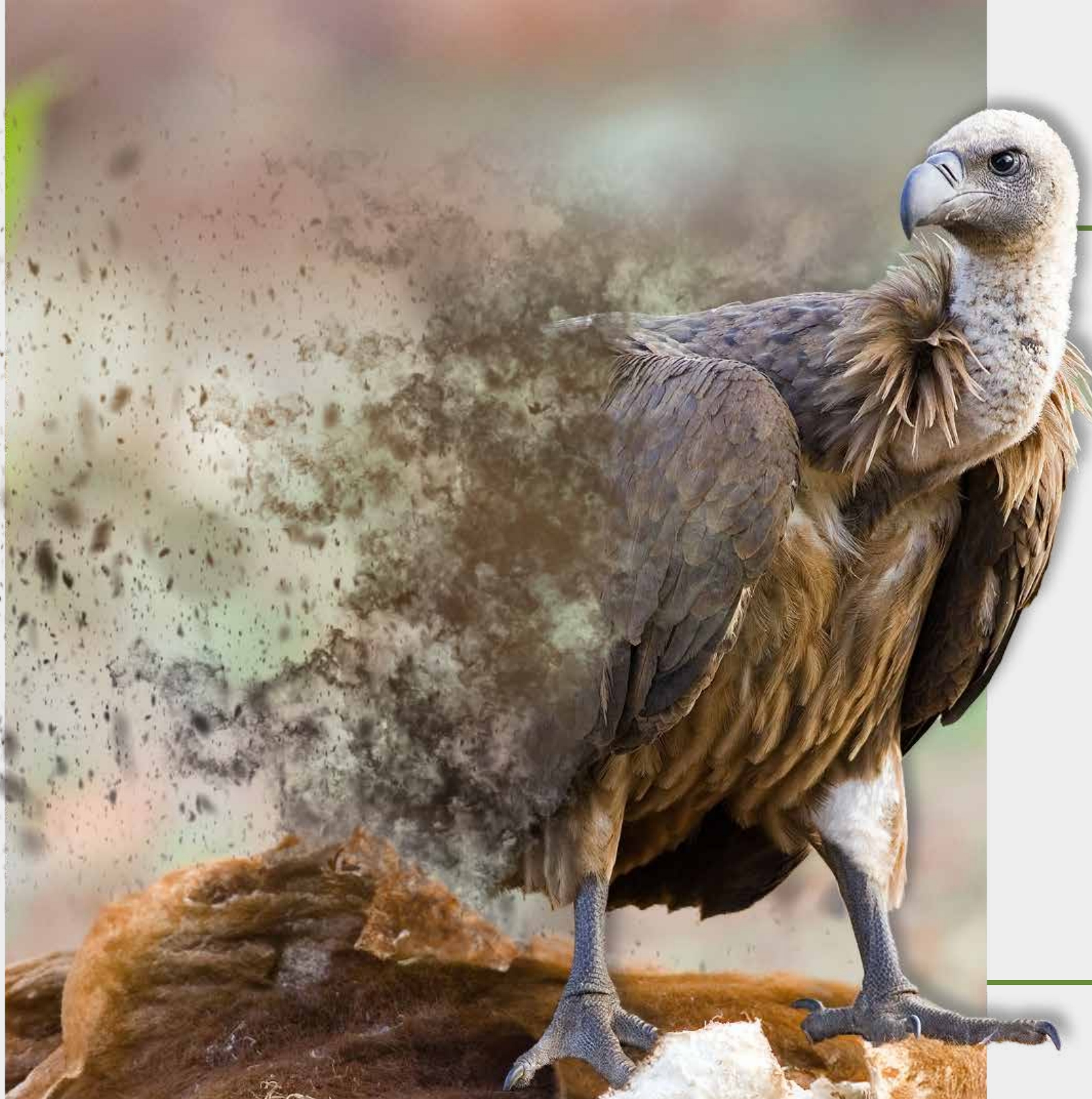
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VULTURES FOR AFRICA

African vulture numbers have declined drastically over the last 40 years, with four of our 11 species now listed as Critically Endangered. This alarming decline catalysed the drafting of an international [Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures](#) (Vulture MsAP) in 2017, identifying several strategies to halt and reverse this trend.

The EWT's Vultures for Africa (VfA) Programme aims to reduce the imminent risk of extinction of African vultures by focusing on the most significant threat these birds currently face—wildlife poisoning in its various forms. We implement targeted actions to reduce the impact of wildlife poisoning while collaborating with partners to collect quantitative data on vulture populations in identified priority areas across Africa. Our efforts align with the objectives of the Pan-African Vulture Conservation Strategy and the IUCN Species Survival Commission's [Vulture Specialist Group](#).

DON'T LET THEM DISAPPEAR

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. While our primary focus is outside South Africa, we also contribute to the EWT's Birds of Prey Programme's work within the country.

[Click here to read more about the EWT's Birds of Prey Programme](#)

A critical component of our work is achieved through collaborations with the [Hawk Conservancy Trust](#) and other in-country partners. These partners include [African Parks](#), [BirdWatch Zambia](#), [Caring for Conservation](#), [Zambia Carnivore Programme](#), [Lilongwe Wildlife Trust](#), [Raptors Botswana](#), [The Peregrine Fund](#), [Gorongosa Restoration Project](#), [Wildlife Conservation Society](#), [Niassa Carnivore Project](#), [Chuilexi Concession](#), [Gonarezhou Conservation Trust](#), [Vulture Conservation Foundation](#), and the [Uganda Conservation Foundation](#). These partnerships provide essential funding for poisoning response training, issuing equipment to trainees for effective deployment in the field during incidents, supporting the initiation of sustained vulture monitoring and research and developing local capacity.

ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The EWT, contracted by the [Conservation of Migratory Species Raptors Memorandum of Understanding \(CMS MoU\)](#), successfully completed the mid-term implementation review (MTIR) of the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Multi-species Action Plan for African-Eurasian Vultures (MsAP), which its signatories adopted in October 2017. This review involved analysing the 97 responses received from respondents across the MsAP range, culminating in the tabling of the resultant report in February 2024 at a side event at the CMS 14th Conference of Parties (COP14), held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Subsequently, André Botha represented the CMS Raptors MoU and presented the need for coordinated action towards the conservation of Africa's vulture species at the African Union/SADC Regional Conservation Symposium, held in Cape Town in April.

WILDLIFE POISONING RESPONSE

This year, the team conducted 15 Wildlife Poisoning Response Training Workshops, presenting the course to 479 learners across Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana and Mozambique. This brings the total number of field personnel trained in Africa by the EWT since 2017 to 4,929, significantly enhancing the capacity to respond to wildlife poisoning incidents.

The programme has expanded its wildlife poisoning response training footprint to Angola, with successful training conducted in Iona National Park in October 2023, where 17 learners completed three days of intensive training. This training is a very important aspect of our work, as field personnel are generally the first respondents at a wildlife poisoning event, the numbers of which have escalated dramatically across Africa in recent years.

By equipping field personnel to treat any incident as a crime scene, they are better prepared to collect evidence that can be used to apprehend poachers. Further, the training provides field personnel with the necessary knowledge to decontaminate the scene and help save the lives of vultures and other wildlife affected by poison.

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



VULTURE MONITORING

We expanded our tracking sample of vultures across Africa by a further 62 vultures of four species, including 51 African White-backed Vultures, seven Lappet-faced Vultures, three Rüppell's Vultures and one White-headed Vulture. This initiative was carried out at nine sites across Botswana, Chad, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Namibia and Mozambique. All birds were fitted with satellite tracking units, expanding the sub-Saharan tracking sample of vultures (excluding South Africa) to 268 birds over the last three years. These birds contribute to our Africa-wide expansion of the Eye in the Sky system, which is used to assist in the early detection and response to poisoning incidents in the landscape.

Further north, we conducted vulture monitoring training and fieldwork with 24 people from [Sahara Conservation](#) teams in both Chad and Niger. In the Ouadi Rime-Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve in central Chad, we established the first tracking sample of Rüppell's- and Lappet-faced Vultures in the country and the Sahara Conservation team have also confirmed 38 active nests within the complex.

This work is made possible with support from our partners, the Hawk Conservancy Trust, Investec, [Caring for Conservation](#), BirdWatch Zambia, the [Lilongwe Wildlife Trust](#), Wildlife Conservation Society, Niassa Carnivore Project and the Chuilixi Concession/Fauna and Flora.

[Click here to read more about the EWT's Eye in The Sky system](#)



VULTURE REPRESENTATIVES

Working with the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) and the EWT's Conservation Canines, we hosted the first skills transfer workshop to establish Wildlife Poisoning Sniffer Dog capacity in Africa. This initiative was supported by the Junta de Andalucía from Spain, which sent a team of four experts to kickstart the process. Future plans include sending a team from the EWT/SAWC to Spain to gain additional knowledge and experience in this field by working with active dog units. This will enable them to subsequently train others to roll out this tool across the African landscape.

This work is made possible with support from Investec and the Vulture Conservation Foundation.

WE INTRODUCED THE **FIRST TRACKING SAMPLES** IN CHAD FOR **RÜPPELL'S AND LAPPET-FACED VULTURES** AND RECORDED **38 ACTIVE VULTURE NESTS**, REINFORCING LOCAL CONSERVATION.

KRUGER BREEDING

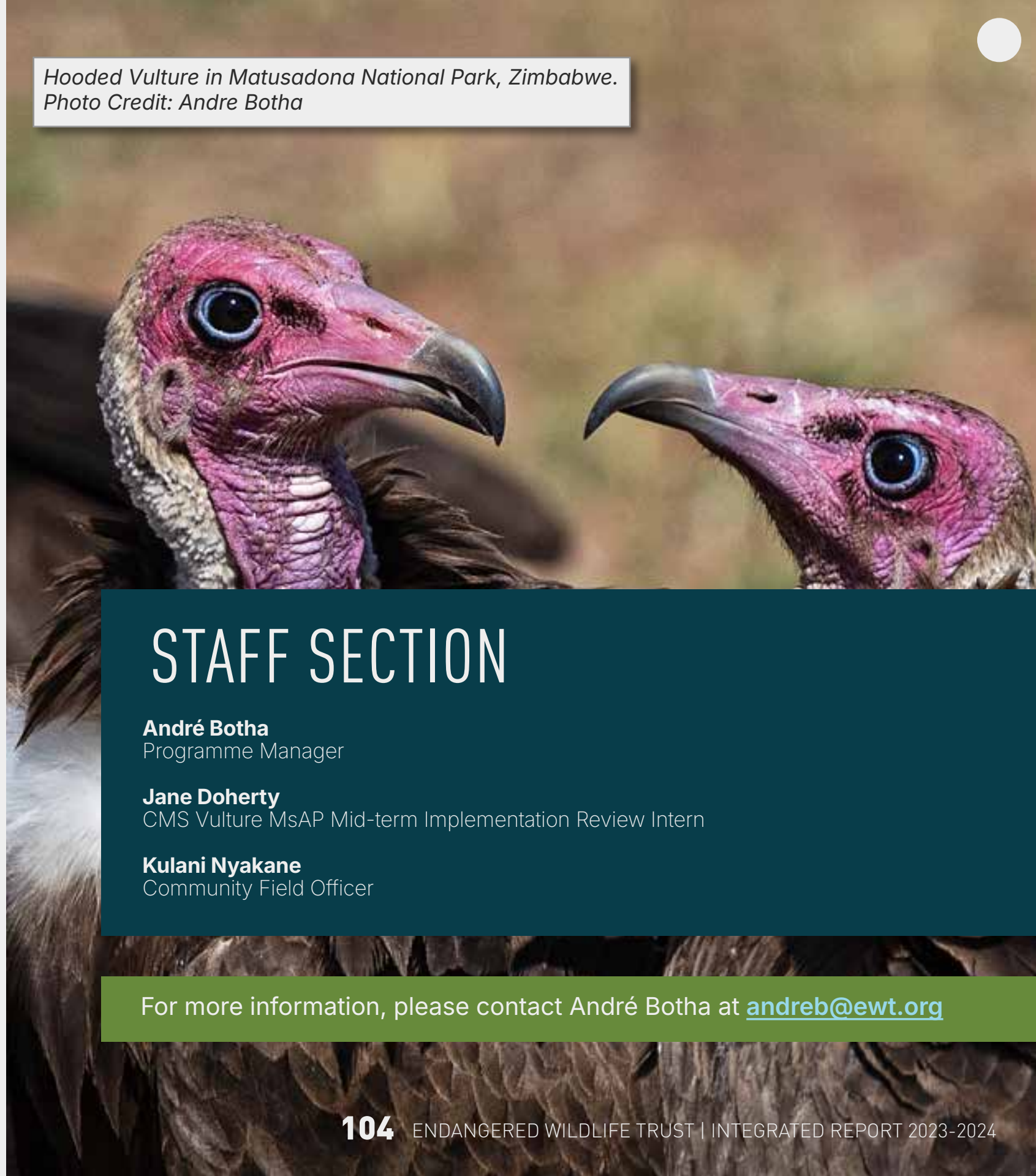
In partnership with the Hawk Conservancy Trust and the Bateleurs, we conducted an aerial survey of vultures and other large bird nests in the Kruger National Park during September 2023. This work is of particular interest given the spate of wildlife poisoning incidents in the Kruger National Park that have killed more than 1,500 vultures since 2015. We identified 584 nest sites, with more than 35% active at the time of the survey. The trend is certainly downwards, particularly for White-backed Vultures, and can be attributed largely to the impact of illegal wildlife poisoning both in the Kruger and beyond its borders.

This work is made possible with aerial support from the Bateleurs and funding from the Hawk Conservancy Trust and Investec.

BEYOND VULTURES

We co-authored a landmark [paper](#), published in January 2024, that illustrates substantial declines in raptor populations across Africa. The continent's diurnal raptors are facing an extinction crisis, with more than two-thirds of the species potentially qualifying as globally threatened. The paper highlighted the major cause of biodiversity loss from the conversion of natural habitats to farmland in Africa, coupled with a declining prey base and persecution through means such as poisoning. Of the 42 African raptor species we examined, 88% have declined over the last 20–40 years, with large raptors experiencing more substantial declines than smaller species. Notably, the species suffering the steepest declines have become more dependent on protected areas, illustrating the importance of expanding conservation areas to cover 30% of land by 2030, in alignment with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's Kunming-Montreal protected area expansion targets within the Global Biodiversity Framework. Furthermore, our findings highlighted the significance of a recent African-led proposal to strengthen protected area management, fundamental to safeguarding the continent's raptors.

*Hooded Vulture in Matusadona National Park, Zimbabwe.
Photo Credit: Andre Botha*



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WILDLIFE & ENERGY PROGRAMME

Established in 1996 through a strategic partnership between the EWT and Eskom, the Wildlife and Energy Programme (WEP) is the longest running of its kind globally. The programme aims to reduce the impacts of energy infrastructure on wildlife, addressing issues such as power line collisions and electrocutions that can have devastating effects on wildlife and significant economic repercussions due to interrupted power supply and infrastructure damage.

DON'T LET THEM DISAPPEAR

The EWT plays a crucial role in supporting power utilities in mitigating these impacts, improving the quality of supply to customers, and phasing out problematic processes and hardware that negatively affect wildlife across Africa. We achieve this by:

- Curating 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.
- Improving the efficiency of power line marking by working with Eskom Distribution and the National Transmission Company South Africa to install bird flight diverters using drones and other means.
- Implementing interventions, such as proactively retrofitting existing electrical infrastructure to prevent negative wildlife interactions.

- Researching and developing innovative solutions to prevent negative wildlife interactions.
- Providing inputs towards the development of wildlife management policies and operational procedures of energy utilities.

Linked to this, we work with the renewable energy industry to mitigate negative biodiversity impacts, 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).

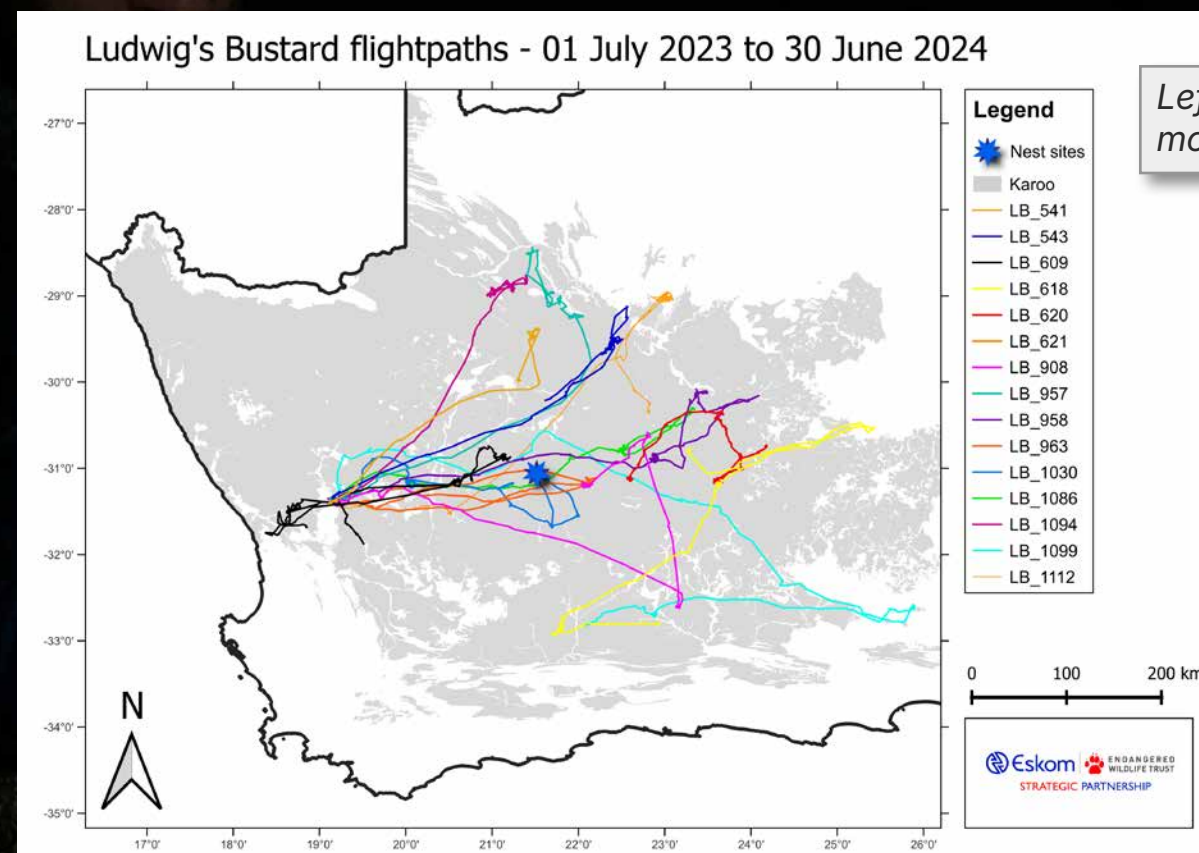
The programme operates across all nine South African provinces, and we engage and advise electrical utilities in Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda, and Australia.

INTO THE NIGHT

The globally Endangered Ludwig's Bustard is among the southern African species most severely affected by power line collisions. In South Africa, this species 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.

Attaching bird flight diverters to shield wires is the most practical mitigation measure to prevent power line collisions, except for bustards. To investigate this phenomenon, our team travelled to Nieuwoudtville in the Northern Cape, where we captured an additional 12 birds in August and September 2023. We fitted the birds with GPS tracking devices, bringing the number of tracked individuals to 16 birds. A significant finding from the project in the past year has been that the bustards often fly at night, sometimes close to midnight, which has a massive bearing on how we consider future bustard collision mitigation measures.

Notably, our research indicated that newer marker types designed for night-flying birds, such as the Overhead Warning Light (OWL) nocturnal bird flight diverters, are more effective in preventing collisions than older devices. In fact, there have been no reports of Ludwig's Bustard collisions on test line sections marked with these innovative devices, underscoring the importance of adapting mitigation measures to the specific behaviours of wildlife.



Left: A map of GPS-tagged Ludwig's Bustard movements between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

In September 2023, the programme co-hosted the African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology (ACLIE) in collaboration with the EWT's Wildlife and Transport Programme. Held in Nairobi, Kenya, over 100 delegates attended, including conservation practitioners, engineers, government officials and financial institutions from across Africa. We presented our work on mainstreaming wildlife incident management into utilities in southern Africa and met with local NGOs and research institutions to understand linear infrastructure-related issues for Kenya and various other nations at a country level. This was an important step towards introducing the Eskom/EWT partnership model to protect endangered wildlife on power lines, wind energy, roads and rail infrastructure in the region. ACLIE, currently convened by EWT, with the help of two volunteers, has developed the ACLIE Information Exchange to continue the engagement and experience sharing on best practices among various utilities and conservation organisations in southern and East African countries in order to protect biodiversity.

THE EWT'S EFFORTS AIM TO **REDUCE WILDLIFE MORTALITY** IN REDZS AND **SUPPORT THE CO-EXISTENCE** OF RENEWABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE WITH BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION.

The programme participated in various other events nationally, including the International Association for Impact Assessment South Africa (IAIASa) conference in the Kruger National Park, the Biodiversity (Birds) And Renewable Energy Forum (BAREF) in Cape Town, and the South African Bat Assessment Association (SABAA) operational discussions. The IAIAsa in particular, provided the EWT an opportunity to introduce our wildlife and energy expertise and experience as avifaunal specialists and drone support services relevant to industry, energy and infrastructure developments.

The EWT has also been involved in key discussions around advancing the existing national biodiversity offset guidelines released in June 2023, to cover biodiversity species offsets. Biodiversity Species offsets are conservation activities designed to compensate for the negative impacts of development on species. This is a complex problem, and to solve it, industry players, government officials, environmental practitioners, financing agencies, and NGOs need to collaborate and share experiences and also learn from examples from other countries.



WILDLIFE SEES REDZS

South Africa's Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) are critical to the country's economic development and play a key role in the Just Energy Transition. In February, the CSIR tasked the EWT with assisting to take stock of existing powerlines within two Eastern Cape REDZs, Stormberg and Cookhouse. We are mapping the power lines within these REDZs and will provide practical mitigation recommendations and costing for making the lines safe for vultures and other species of conservation concern.

BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

With several protected bird species using Eskom infrastructure to nest on, it is important that Eskom uses best practice guidelines to manage the birds' activity, proactively engage with relevant conservation stakeholders, and carry out the necessary follow-ups to monitor success. Recently we saw positive results from one of the best practice guidelines that the EWT contributed towards – the power line bird nesting guideline. Eskom Transmission, with support from the EWT and approvals from the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, successfully relocated a Martial Eagle to a section of the tower to prevent further power supply interruptions. The EWT is actively working with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment to develop best practice guidelines for power lines (≥ 132 kV) in South Africa.

SERE WIND FARM

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 the Eskom Strategic Partnership is in the eighth year of post-construction biodiversity impact monitoring at the wind energy facility. This programme is unique, as all wildlife interactions associated with the wind energy facility infrastructure are monitored continuously to determine the need for additional mitigation measures to reduce wildlife impacts. Some of the impacts include bird and bat mortalities on the site. Monitoring is designed to locate any birds or bats, as well as any impacts with the turbines and associated wind energy infrastructure (roads and power lines). The results from our detailed work inform detection probabilities which helps improve mortality estimates across the wind energy sector in South Africa.



THE EWT HELPED DEVELOP A **POWER LINE BIRD NESTING GUIDELINE**, WHICH LED TO A **SUCCESSFUL RELOCATION OF A MARTIAL EAGLE** TO PREVENT POWER DISRUPTIONS.

EMPOWERING ESKOM STAFF

This year, the EWT conducted training and awareness for over 300 technical officials in various Eskom divisions. Our training modules typically address power line and wildlife interactions, identifying and handling snakes, conflicts between humans and monkeys, and

managing bird nests. These modules help in refreshing technical specifications and embed knowledge necessary for the protection of species that interact with energy infrastructure, including power stations.

THE EWT **TRAINED OVER 300 ESKOM TECHNICAL OFFICIALS** THIS YEAR, FOCUSING ON WILDLIFE AND INFRASTRUCTURE INTERACTIONS.



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Ndzalama Chauke
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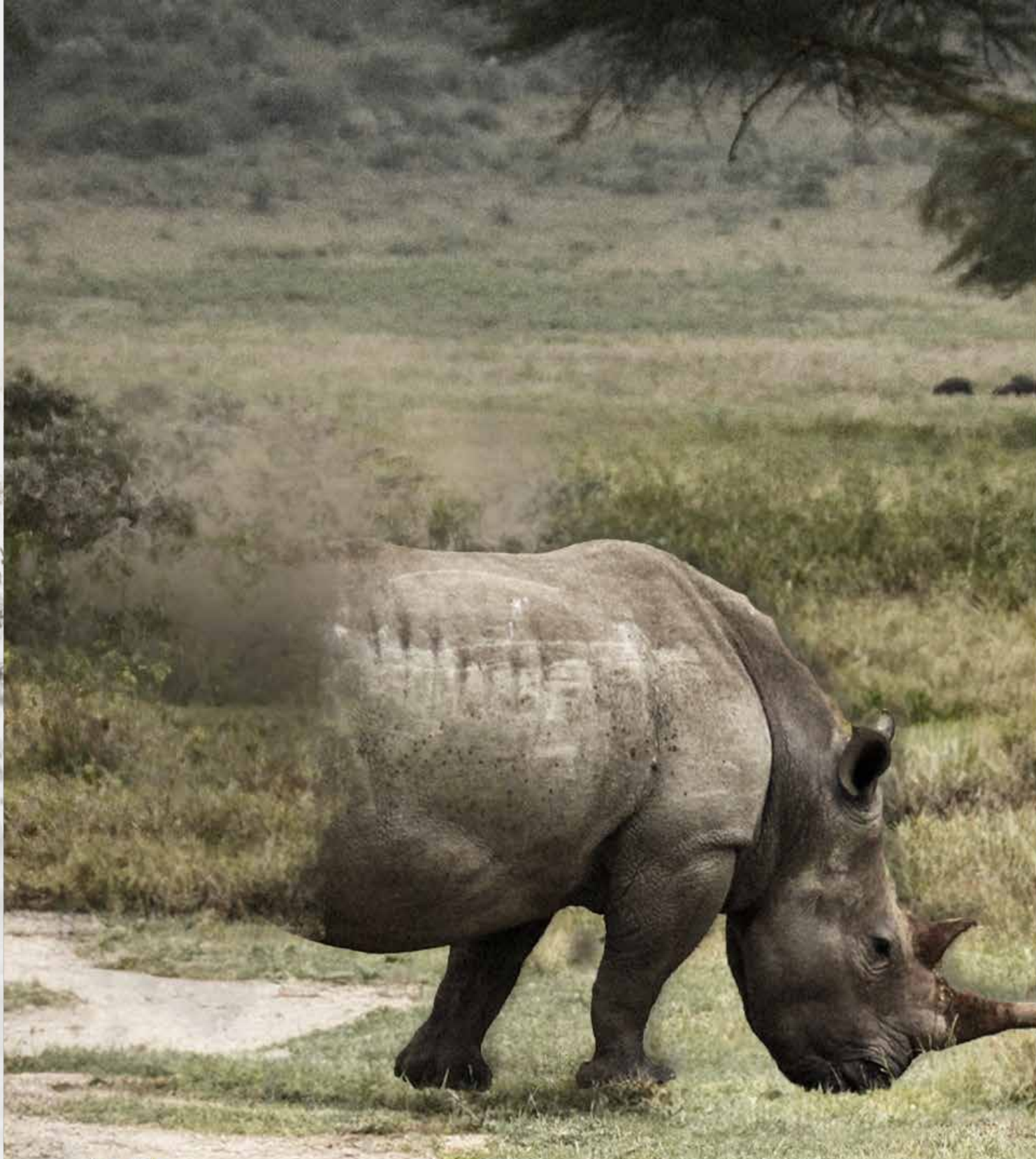
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WILDLIFE IN TRADE

Illegal wildlife trade (IWT) and unregulated legal trade are significant threats to biodiversity at both local and global scales. The EWT's Wildlife in Trade (WIT) Programme aims to mitigate the impacts of these illegal and unsustainable practices, primarily focusing on South Africa, with additional projects in Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, and Tanzania.

DON'T LET THEM DISAPPEAR

BACKING RHINOS IN THE NORTH WEST

With support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we are assisting the provincial authorities to prevent poaching and grow their rhino populations. This initiative involves using cutting-edge technology to remotely track rhinos, providing crucial data to inform the deployment of anti-poaching field rangers and offering valuable ecological insights for rhino management. The use of real-time camera technology strengthens our surveillance of roads, fence lines and reserve areas to aid in the detection of poacher incursions. An EWT [conservation canine and handler team](#) has also been deployed to support these efforts through the detection of rhino horn and ammunitions at key access points and tracking dogs that follow human spoor.

Over the past year, we upgraded the Sigfox network in Pilanesberg, achieving 100% coverage of the property. Sigfox is a leading Internet of Things (IoT) provider that we utilise for anti-poaching activities. The strategic positioning of Sigfox repeaters now enables live tracking of over 85% of the Pilanesberg landscape, allowing anti-poaching teams to streamline operations and optimise patrols through real-time tracking.

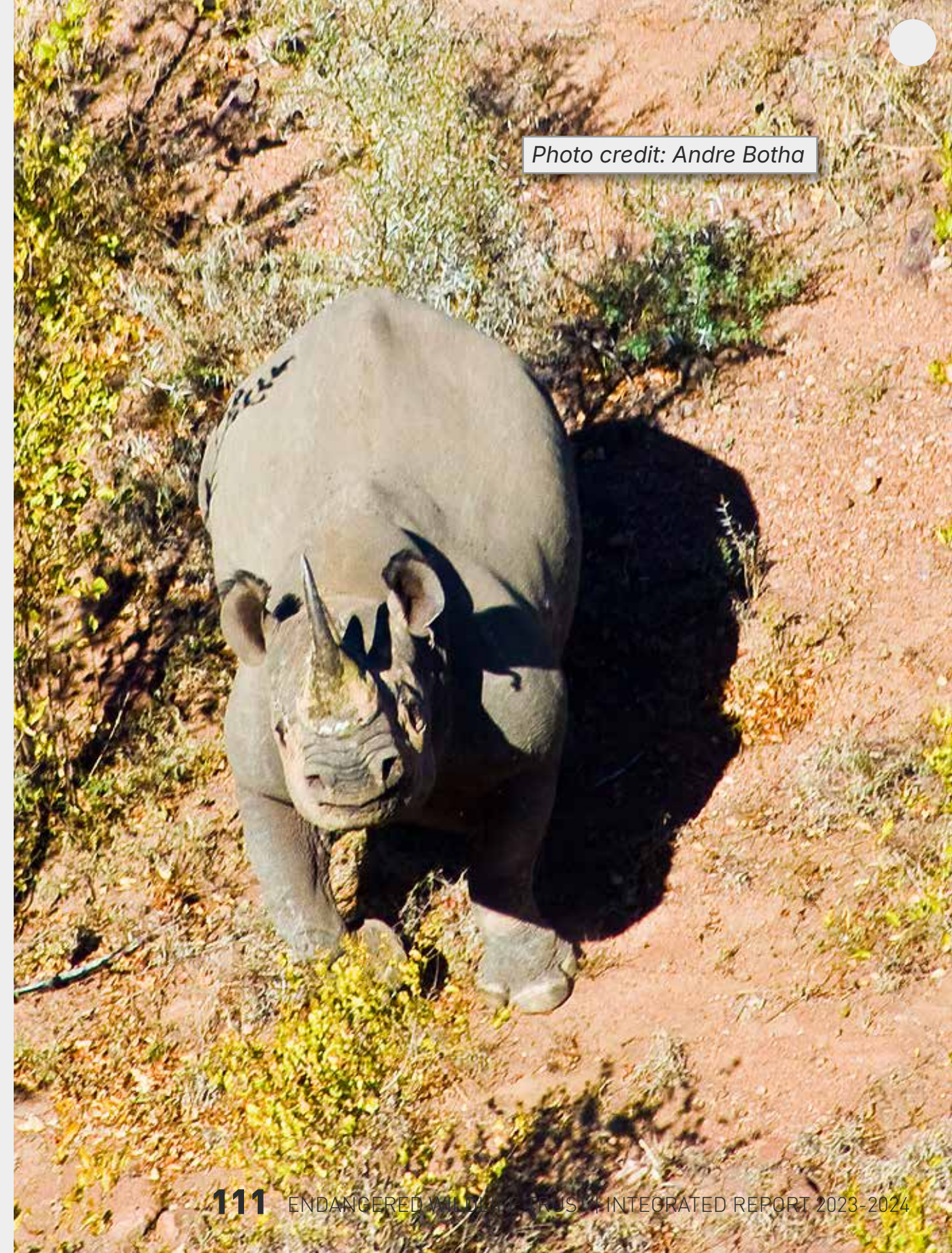
In the nearby Madikwe Nature Reserve, the EWT has provided cutting-edge night vision scopes to the two canine teams, giving them a strategic advantage during anti-poaching patrols. We funded the installation of additional License Plate Recognition cameras at prominent intersections around the reserve. Any vehicles passing through these intersections with previous criminal ties will be flagged, with notifications sent to local law enforcement, as well as the North West Parks Board anti-poaching operations centre housed at Madikwe.

This support to the North West Parks Board is having a tangible conservation impact, reflected in the reduction in reported poaching incidents in the province.

**FULL NETWORK
COVERAGE IN PILANESBERG
ENABLES REAL-TIME RHINO
TRACKING AND ENHANCED
ANTI-POACHING
OPERATIONS ACROSS 85% OF THE
RESERVE.**

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

Photo credit: Andre Botha





Encephalartos paucidentatus

PROTECTING THREATENED CYCADS

We employed a multifaceted approach to improve the conservation of this highly threatened group of heavily traded plants. To strengthen the criminal justice system’s capacity, we developed an online cycad identification and enforcement training course that will empower law enforcement officials to tackle cycad-related crimes. We provided refresher training to 14 law enforcement officials on cycad identification, conducted online and print media campaigns about the need for permits to possess indigenous cycads, and tested technology that provides an early warning system when wild cycads are being poached.

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| | <h3>How to identify cycads</h3> <p>Trunk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cylindrical trunks - usually unbranched. The trunk may be buried, so the leaves appear to be emerging from the ground • Trunks have spirals of relatively smooth diamond-shaped leaf scars.  | <h3>Cycads and the law</h3> <p>According to national environmental legislation, the trade in cycads taken out of the wild is prohibited.</p> <p>Each province also has conservation laws to further protect and regulate cycad trade.</p> | | <h3>Obtaining cycads legally</h3> <p>There are legal methods of obtaining and keeping artificially propagated cycads.</p> <p>To find out what the requirements are for your area, or if you have any other queries, please contact the relevant department.</p>  | <h3>Help conserve cycads</h3> <p>Report cycad theft to the National Environmental Crimes and Incidents Hotline 0800 205 005</p> <p>The Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the environment General enquiries: 086 111 2468 Switch board: 012 399 9000 DFFE-TOPS & CITES Permits 012 399 8818</p> |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|

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

WILDLIFE AND LAW

Click here to read more about the LAWS website

The Wildlife and Law Project plays both a collaborative and a watchdog role, advocating for robust legal and governance frameworks that enable responsible and ethical decision-making on wildlife-related issues.

PERMITTING TRAINING COURSE

A key focus area of the project team during this reporting period has been to strengthen decision-making processes. In the past year, we successfully conducted our second Permitting Training Course, which included the development and integration of a session on provincial conservation law. This first-of-its-kind online permit training course covers topics such as environmental governance, the environmental legal framework, the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (PAJA), and more.

Upon completion of the course, permitting officials received a certificate and are now equipped with the skills to make decisions that better meet the objectives and spirit of administrative action, and which are lawful, reasonable, procedurally fair, and environmentally conscious. The overall completion rate of the Permitting Training Course was significant, with 67% of active participants successfully completing the training.

THE EWT'S PERMITTING TRAINING COURSE, WITH A **67% COMPLETION RATE**, EQUIPS OFFICIALS WITH SKILLS IN **ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE** AND LAWFUL, FAIR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.

This work is made possible with support from the Finnish Embassy and the Lewis Foundation and previously through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



LAWS website in use

LAWS WEBSITE

In October 2023, we launched our [LAWS](#) website, dedicated to environmental law. The website includes content on law and policy relating to land, air, water, and species (LAWS). A unique feature of the website is its availability in five of the country's most widely spoken languages – English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa, isiZulu and Sesotho – with plans for translation into all official South African languages. The website provides easy-to-understand information and content on South Africa's extensive and complex environmental legal framework. We are developing a series of 15 webinars that complement the website's content.

This work is made possible with support from the British High Commission, the Finnish Embassy, and the Lewis Foundation.



LITIGATION TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION

We are involved in two litigious matters aimed at preventing unsustainable development in critical environmental areas in South Africa. The first is protecting the Mabola Protected Environment from coal mining. In this matter, eight civil society organisations, including the EWT, are challenging the various licences and approvals granted to Atha-Africa Ventures (Pty) Ltd's Yzermyn Colliery. The Mabola Protected Environment is a protected area (declared as such in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003) and includes a Strategic Water Source Area. Coal mining in the Mabola Protected Environment poses significant threats to people, water security and the environment as a whole. By successfully challenging the various licences and approvals granted to Atha Africa, the EWT and the other civil society organisation will have prevented coal mining in this protected and strategic water source area.

This work is made possible with support from Christo Reeders Attorneys, the Centre for Environmental Rights and the Lewis Foundation.

The second matter is to challenge the proposed Musina Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ) in Limpopo Province. The MMSEZ severely threatens water security, agriculture and the environment. In fact the 2021 Environmental Impact Assessment for the MMSEZ concluded:

the potential negative impacts of the proposed development on the natural, cultural, palaeontological, and agricultural environment of the site may likely, outweigh the identified positive impacts associated with the Very-High social and economic development benefits after applying mitigation measures.

Despite this, the Chief Director of Environmental Trade and Protection of the provincial Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Limpopo Province (LEDET), granted an environmental authorisation for the MMSEZ, one of several authorisations needed for this special economic zone (which will include a coking plant, a coal-fired thermal power plant, a ferrochrome plant, a ferromanganese plant, ferro-silicon plant, a steel and stainless steel plant and a lime plant). We have taken the decision to grant the environmental authorisation on review under case number 41 / 2023.



This work is made possible with support from USAID through the WWF South Africa Khetha Programme.

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. We have developed a comprehensive understanding of the extensive harm caused by wildlife offences, confirming that it affects three broad contexts: 1) harm to people, 2) harm to the environment, and 3) harm to South Africa as a whole.

The conventional approach to justice often overlooks the needs of victims and fails to address the underlying reasons for committing offences. 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 offers an approach to criminal justice that addresses these weaknesses in that it is harm focused, placing the victim at the centre of the process, identifying the needs of the victims and what recourse is needed in relation thereto. It also creates meaningful opportunities for community involvement, even where the community is not directly harmed by the offence. Finally, a restorative justice approach also takes cognisance of the offender, by identifying what assistance the offender may need and what steps must be taken to ensure the offence is not repeated, thereby decreasing the chances of re-offending.

Our Environmental Restorative Justice Pilot Project officially launched the implementation phase of the project in October 2023, seeking to test restorative justice processes on wildlife offences in Sabi Sand Nature Reserve, Manyeleti Game Reserve, the Kruger National Park and surrounds. Restorative justice processes under this project take place in four phases: preparation, meeting, agreement and post agreement monitoring and evaluation, for more information [click here](#). This project addresses a wide range of wildlife crimes, including both syndicated and non-syndicated offences within the criminal justice system.

The launch event brought together stakeholders from the Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Agency, Sabi Sand Nature Reserve, the South African Police Service as well as Traditional and Community Leaders and our project partners WWF South Africa, the South African National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders ([NICRO](#)), and the [Restorative Justice Centre](#). The overall impact we aim to achieve through this project is a justice system for wildlife and associated offences that is more responsive and effective. We will achieve this impact through the following results:

1. Restorative justice processes are legal, transparent and efficient.
2. Justice processes acknowledge and respond to harm caused by the offence resulting in appropriate outcomes that contain appropriate sanctions with rehabilitative, restorative and transformative elements.
3. Restorative Justice processes are accessible, inclusive and satisfactory .

Following the launch, we received our first two cases to test restorative justice approaches, indicating a positive response to this innovative method of addressing wildlife crimes. Our project and research have also attracted the interest of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) [World Wildlife Crime Report 2024](#), further recognition of the significance of this approach to justice.

PROSECUTOR TRAINING

In September 2023, we hosted a workshop with seven prosecutors from the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) of South Africa and nine prosecutors from the Attorney-General's Office (AGO), Mozambique. The workshop fostered a common understanding of the laws relevant to wildlife and criminal prosecution, including the protection of certain plants and animals being smuggled between South Africa and Mozambique. The workshop also identified constraints faced by both offices with corresponding legal approaches to address them. This project formed part of the foundation of a funding application to the US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs that has since been approved and will commence in the next reporting period.

This work is made possible with support from the Bio-Bridge Initiative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Lewis Foundation.

NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS FOR AFRICAN LIONS

The Convention on International Trade of in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) confirms that an NDF is “a science-based assessment that verifies whether a proposed export is detrimental to the survival of that species or not” and is a requirement before an export permit can be granted for any species listed on CITES Appendix I or II.

Over the reporting period, we assisted with the drafting of the Guidance for Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) for African Lions under CITES. This was done in collaboration with the IUCN and the CITES Secretariat with the goal of supporting the Scientific Authorities of African Lion range state countries in the production of reliable, science-based NDFs for African Lions that may be used to inform decisions to import and export lion and lion products, ensuring that international trade is not detrimental to the survival of lions in the wild in these countries.

This work is made possible with support from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

STAFF SECTION

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Wildlife and Law Project Manager

Sibongakonke Ngogodo

Project Officer

Dr Kerushka Robyn Pillay

Training Coordinator

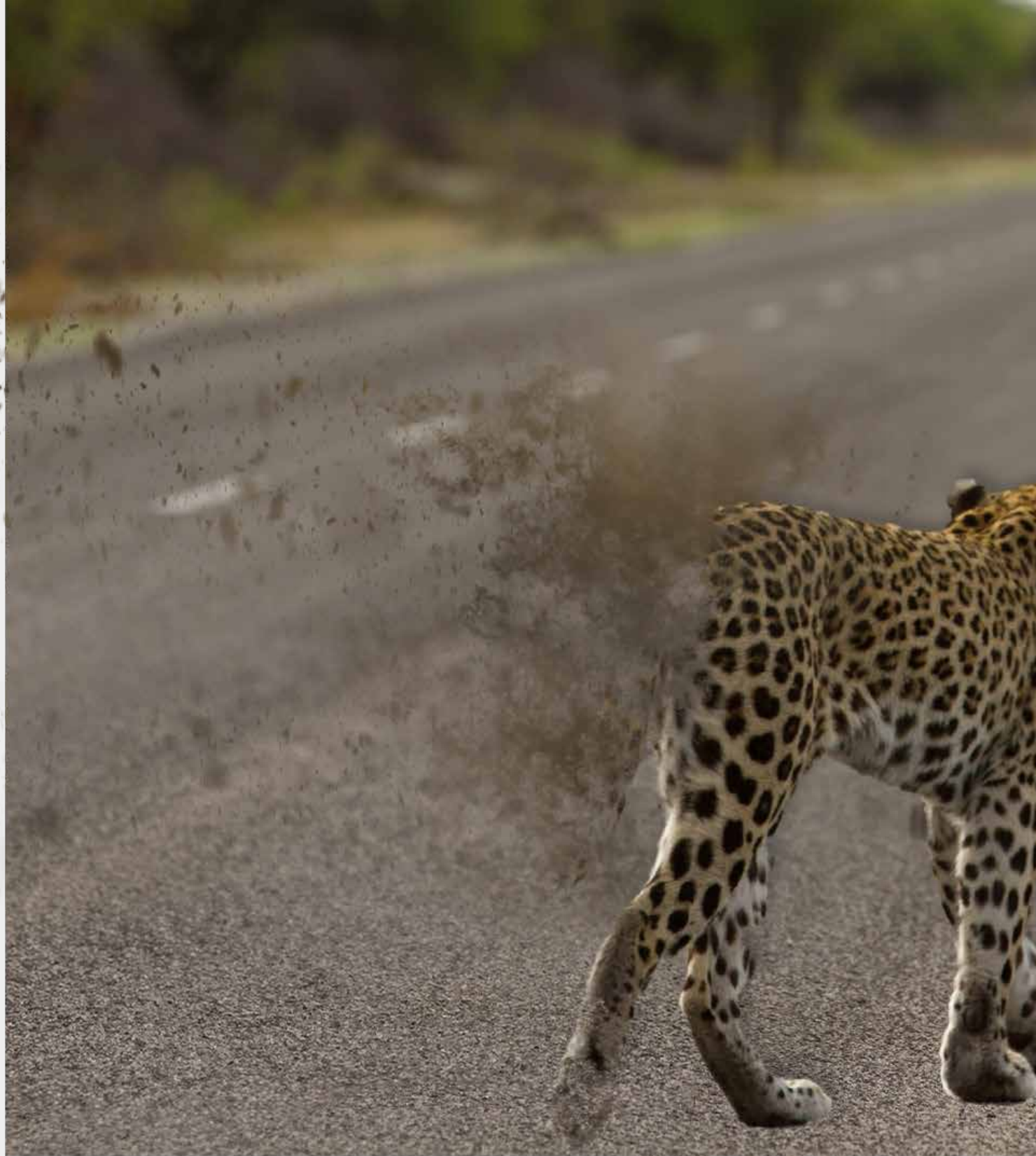
Abigail Ashfield

Volunteer Intern

Tayla Cox

Volunteer Intern

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WILDLIFE & TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

Transport networks, particularly roads, are important for economic development and societal advancement. As global rates of infrastructure development continue to rise, and particularly in Africa, the numerous negative consequences of roads and railway lines on wildlife must be addressed. These include collisions between wildlife and vehicles, habitat fragmentation, disturbances in migratory routes and disruptions in animal behaviour.

The EWT's Wildlife and Transport Programme addresses the impacts of transport networks, particularly road and rail on biodiversity, by working with public and private stakeholders to provide planners with science-based guidance and solutions to minimise the adverse environmental impacts of transportation infrastructure. Currently, we are the only African organisation to do this, placing the EWT at the forefront of this work.

DON'T LET THEM DISAPPEAR



African grass owl (Tyto capensis) on the owl perch along the N3 highway

HIGHWAY PATROL

The EWT is working with three prominent highway agencies in South Africa to train route patrollers, collect roadkill data, and measure the effectiveness of mitigation interventions, such as culvert fencing and raptor perches.

Our camera trap records show that a total of 30,294 birds actively used the perches we installed on the N3 Highway, between September 2021 and June 2024. The Raptor Perch project was designed to assist owls and other raptors by providing safe perching sites away from roads to avoid collisions with vehicles. The EWT roadkill database indicates that four owl species (Spotted Eagle-Owl, Barn Owl, Grass Owl, Marsh Owl) and seven other raptor species have used the structures. While the data are not yet analysed, the trend suggests a decline in incidents of owl roadkill and other birds of prey species along the mitigated sections.

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).

ROADS IN PARKS

In April 2022, we installed wildlife warning signs in the Kruger National Park as part of a ten-year project aimed at examining driver behaviour in protected areas and identifying the most effective sign types for modifying driver behaviour. Understanding and modifying driver behaviour is critical in reducing vehicle-related roadkill in the park. Over the course of the project, the SANParks Honorary Rangers assisted with data collection, driving a total of 10,100 km across 42 weeks. During this period, roadkill was detected on 93 days, highlighting the ongoing risk to wildlife from vehicle collisions. In total, 505 patrols were conducted by the SANParks Honorary Rangers, accumulating 2,145 hours of monitoring effort. Analysis of the roadkill data revealed that 40.9% of the detected animals were birds, followed by mammals (29.2%), reptiles (21.9%), unknown species (6.6%), and amphibians (1.5%).

To further enhance wildlife safety, we have proposed installing average speed enforcement cameras to encourage motorists to maintain a reduced average speed while travelling on the main access roads to Skukuza.

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

STAFF SECTION

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Programme Intern

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VOICE OF THE EWT

The Marketing and Communications department are the custodians of the EWT brand. We play an important role in connecting the work being done by our dedicated field officers with the public. We communicate internally to keep our pack members up to date with developments that may influence their work, today and in the future. Our external communication is directed not only at the media, but, most importantly, our Trustees, Donors and stakeholders. Brand awareness enhances our reputation through the development of original, engaging and authentic content, which is key to our marketing and social media commitments. By creating a consistent storytelling culture, we aim to increase support for programmes through improved communication and expanded reach. Our approaches are constantly being adapted to meet the challenges and opportunities arising in our ever changing world.

Although 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the EWT, our excitement and exuberance persisted throughout the financial year as we celebrated key historical milestones and looked to the future of our conservation organisation. Among the most important developments, in the year under review, was the revamp of the Marketing and Communications department, including the way in which we communicated with the public through Social and Traditional Media.

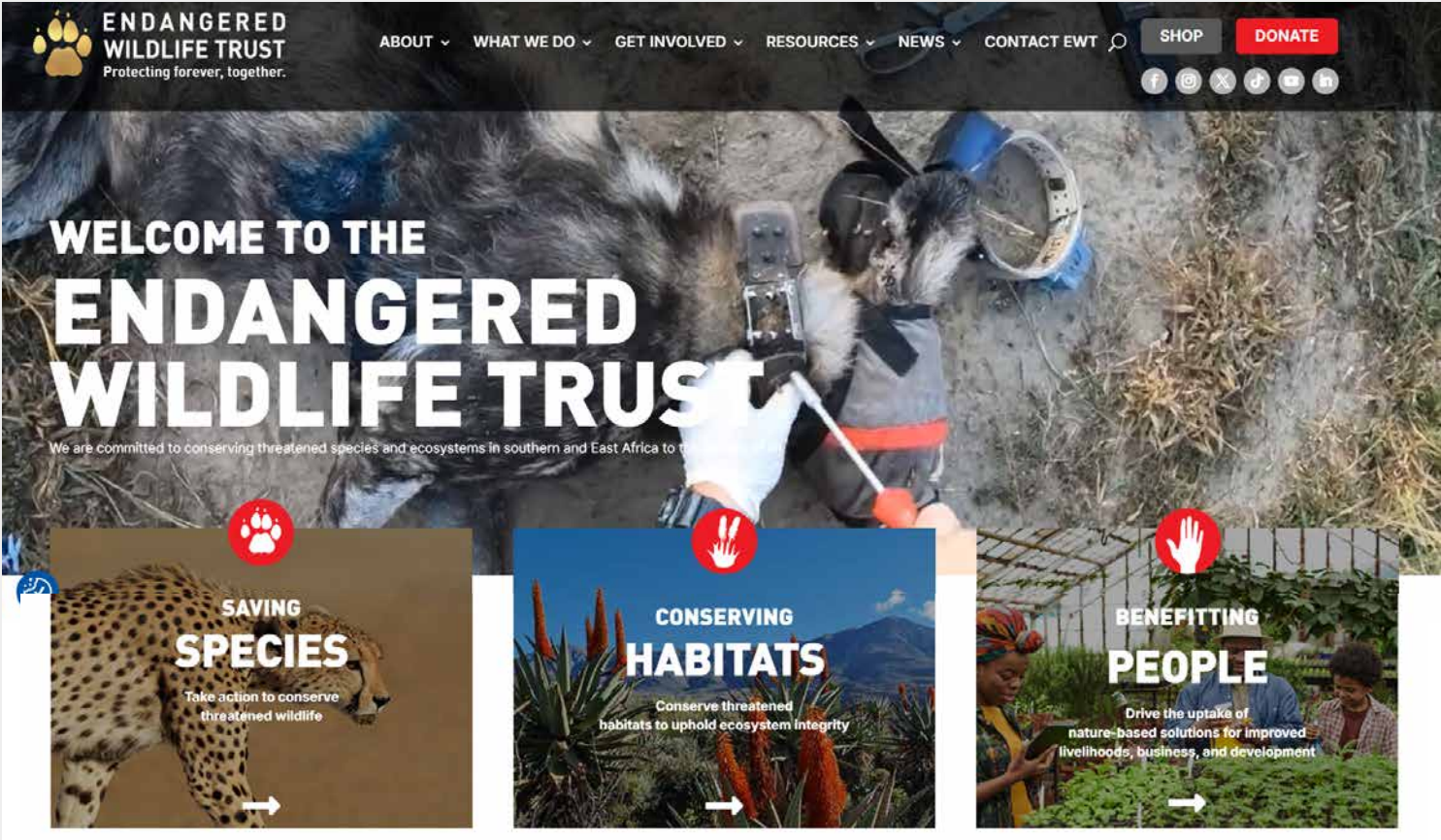
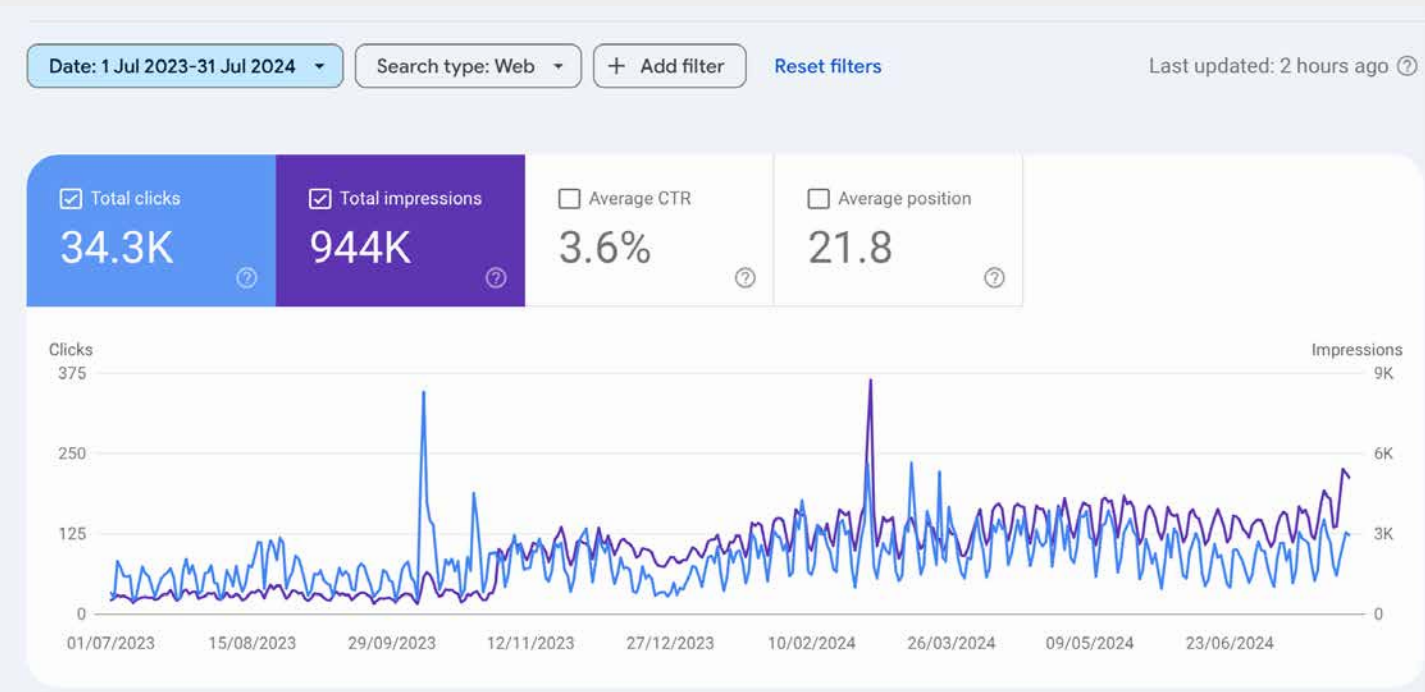
The EWT's 50th anniversary was marked by a number of events to highlight the growth of this conservation body, that was initially started by Clive Walker, Neville Anderson and James Clarke to save and protect threatened species. Looking ahead, we hosted a day of inspirational and forward-thinking discussions to spark creative ideas about

the future of conservation in Africa. The symposium, Creating Serendipity – Exploring the future of conservation in a rapidly changing world, saw speakers from across the globe gather at the EWT's Conservation Campus to share thought-provoking ideas that leveraged creative thinking about the future of conservation and associated sectors. The year of celebration ended with a fantastic night under the stars, in April 2024, with a gathering that included the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Minister Barbara Creecy, Clive Walker and James Clarke, former CEOs, EWT Board chairs, sponsors, funders and friends in conservation. This auspicious occasion celebrated 50 years of conservation impact and, more importantly, set the scene for another 50 years to come.

WEBSITE

The new [EWT website](#) has a fresh and professional look and significantly improved user experience, content quality, search engine optimisation and performance.

The figure below shows total clicks and impressions on the EWT website over the reporting period.



The majority of traffic to the website came through organic searches; an indication that the EWT ranked high on search engines.

WELCOME TO THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST'S LAWS WEBSITE

"The duty resting on us to protect and conserve our biodiversity is owed to present and future generations"

Navsa ADP, Lemthongthai v S (849/2013) 2014 ZASCA 131



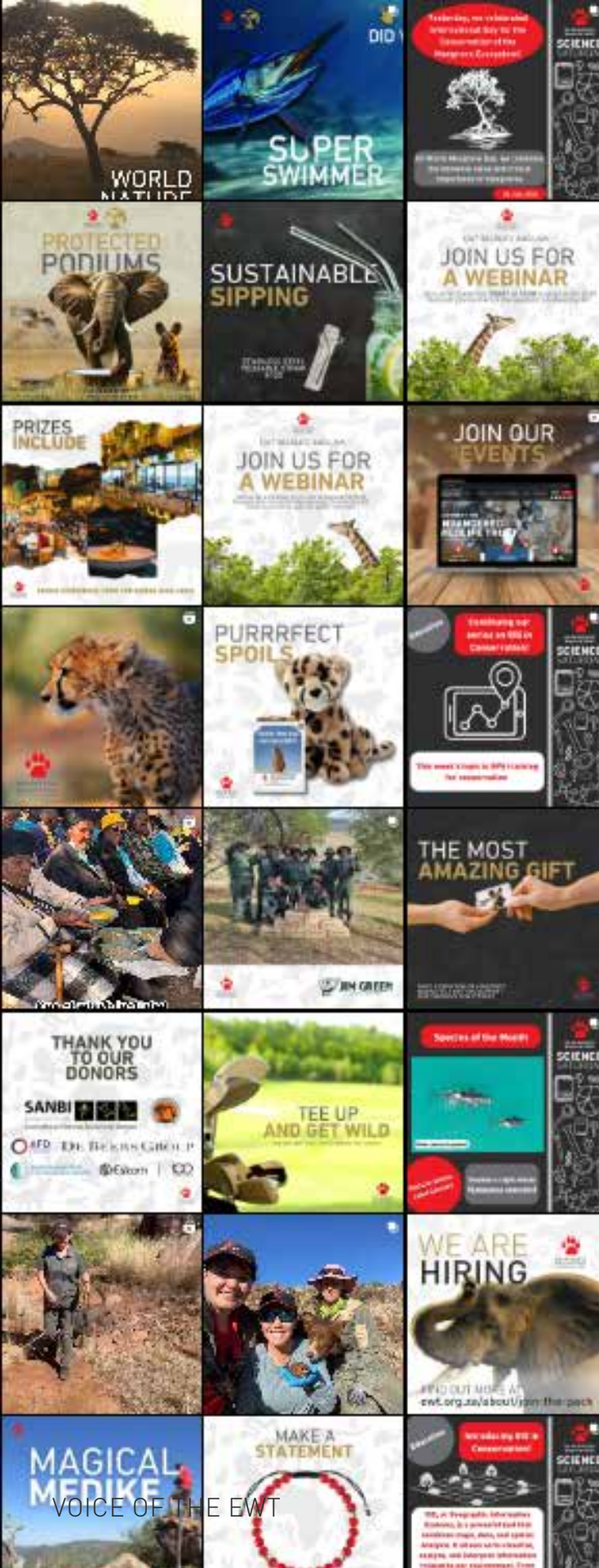
Click here to read more about the LAWS website

LAWS WEBSITE

The Marketing and Communication department built and designed the [LAWS website](#) for the Wildlife in Trade Programme, hosting its launch at the Conservation Campus in 2023. It was developed to help non-legal minds decode the complex legal and governance framework relating to the environment in South Africa. The website provides access to current legislation, regulations, policy, judgments, and international environmental law. All information on the website is available in five languages: English, Afrikaans, isiZulu, isiXhosa, and Sesotho. Audio clips are available in Afrikaans, isiZulu, isiXhosa and Sesotho, to make the website accessible to everyone.

VOICE OF THE EWT

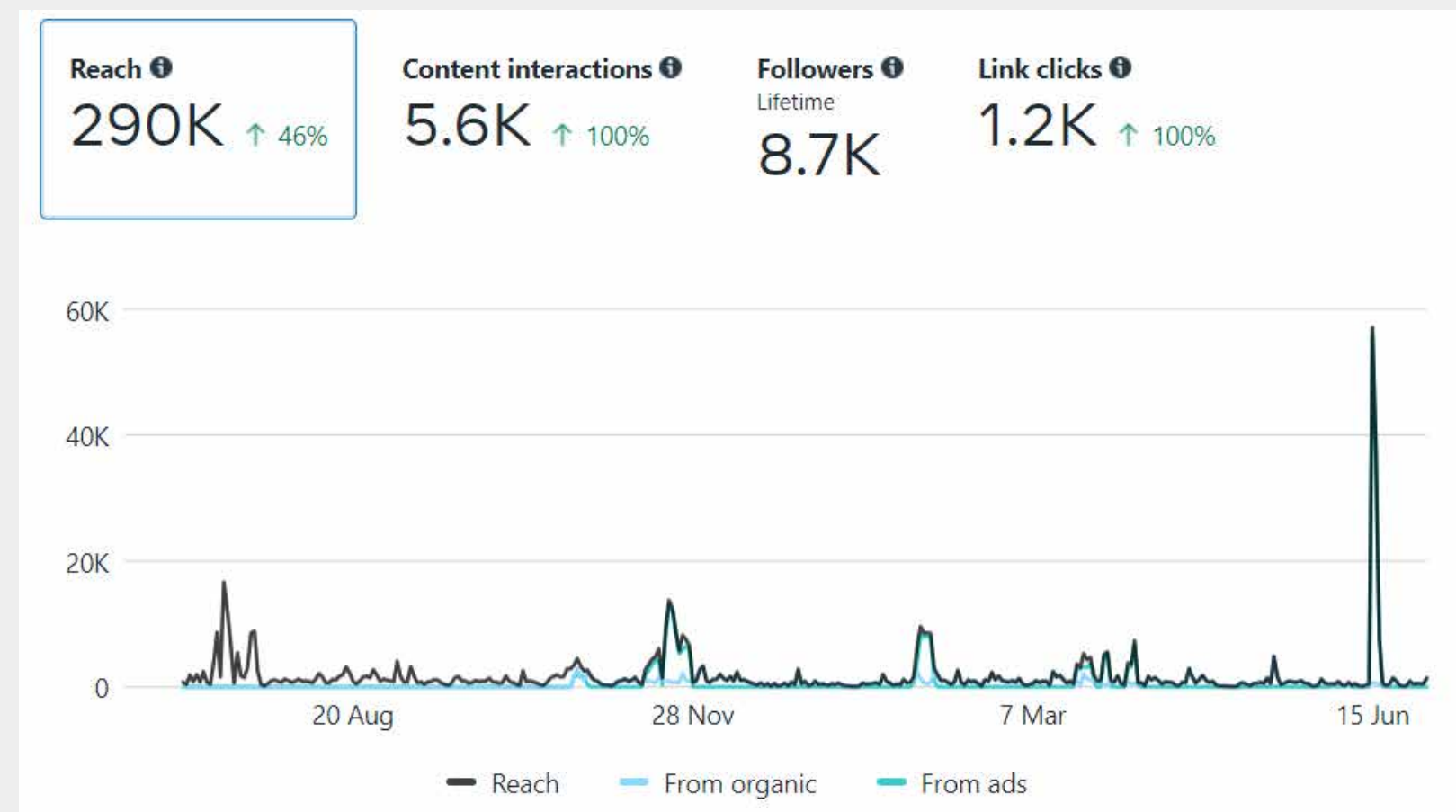




SOCIAL MEDIA

Although traditional media has remained a focus of our communications work, we have, in the recent past, made greater use of Social Media platforms to convey the EWT message, showcase our work, and highlight our relationship with our donors and sponsors. This has included providing Metrofibre with content for their Social Media pages, creating content for the EWT’s Social Media accounts to highlight relationships with donors and sponsors.

We refreshed the look and feel of our social media platforms, developing targeted and relevant content for specific programmes while maintaining brand identity across these. Analytics have been used to inform and adapt our strategic goals to keep up with trends, and to continue our weekly Science Saturday posts. Expressing our gratitude to the EWT’s donors and supporters in the form of dedicated posts remains key in our Social Media plan.



SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWING

Facebook remains the EWT’s most popular Social Media platform with 52,000 followers. This is followed by LinkedIn with 30,627 followers, X (formerly Twitter) with 11,700 followers and The EWT Instagram account with 7,937 followers. The EWT-Carnivores Instagram page has 1,931 followers. X became our most viewed online platform in the year under review, having been read by more than 267,000 people. Our ‘Share of Voice’ on Social Media, compared to three other conservation NGOs, stood at 67.76% in the year under review.

MEDIA

The 2023/24 financial year was remarkable for the EWT. It was a year in which we made the headlines for all the right reasons.

In July, the [EWT's Vulture Ambulance](#) was launched. The ambulance was the result of a marketing and media campaign launched by the Birds of Prey Programme, on International Vulture Awareness Day in 2022, to raise money to build the much-needed Vulture Ambulance. The campaign has been bolstered by a series of infographics and social media posts that reached more than 36,000 people.

The EWT's Canine Conservation Unit made the headlines in October and November, receiving accolades from the SA Police Services and numerous other sources, for their role in the arrest of two alleged plant poachers. Three of our scent detection dogs, which had been specifically trained to sniff out succulent plants, made their first official bust near Springbok in the Northern Cape during an operation that saw the unit working with law enforcement officials to screen vehicles at roadblocks in the Western and Northern Cape. Two suspects were arrested for the illegal possession of more than 1,760 poached succulents.

In November 2023, we announced the rediscovery of the De Winton's golden mole, which had been lost to science since 1936, thanks to a team of conservationists and geneticists from the EWT and the University of Pretoria. Using a sniffer dog and Environmental DNA, the team, which included Dr Samantha Mynhardt and Esther Matthew of the EWT, located this elusive species in the Port Nolloth area on the West Coast of South Africa. It is a story that has been covered extensively by local, national and international media, well into 2024.

To mark World Wildlife Day, on the 3 of March 2024, an EWT opinion article was published by News24 highlighting the use of technology by the EWT to conserve species. World Migratory Bird Day, on the 11 of May, was marked through the release of a media statement focusing attention on the importance of insects and their impact on migratory birds which rely on a variety of insects for their energy as they migrate north in winter.

The World Rhino Day Public Speaking Competition at the Lapalala Wilderness School, on the 24 of September 2023, saw 125 Grade 10 learners from 60 schools participate in the initiative to raise awareness amongst the youth about rhino poaching. Also marking World Rhino Day, was the 2023 EWT World Rhino Day Art Competition, hosted on the 22 of September in collaboration with the Little Artists School Project. This initiative, aimed to raise awareness and instil a sense of responsibility among youth towards rhino protection. The competition yielded impressive artwork from Little Artists aged from 4 to 17-years-old, and the top four artworks were auctioned at the "Creating Serendipity" event, generating R3,475.00 for conservation.

ADVERTISING

The EWT secured billboard space through Jinja Advertising on two highways in Gauteng. They featured some of our focal species inspired by the disappearing series. A series of Billboards was also sponsored by BrandIQ.



CAMPAIGNS IN PUBLICATIONS:

Farmer's Weekly featured the EWT's "Don't let them disappear" campaign, while Embassy Direct carried an advert by the EWT in the Ambassadors handbook 10th anniversary edition. The 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.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

A total of 16 media statements were distributed to the media in this reporting period.

- [Poisoning Devastates the African Wild Dog Population in the Waterberg – 14 December 2023](#)
- [Fynbos on the Edge – Taking nature-based tourism in the Northern Cape to new height – 4 December 2023](#)
- [FOUND: Iridescent blind mole with superhearing powers rediscovered 'swimming' through sand dunes of South Africa – 28 November 2023](#)
- [A novel approach to make criminal justice more inclusive and responsive – 27 October 2023](#)
- [Empowering communities through the law – 4 October 2023](#)
- [Sniffing out Succulents – EWT Conservation K9 Success – 22 September 2023](#)
- [New Research Reveals Critical Insights for African Lion Conservation – 11 September 2023](#)
- [Innovative Partnership Serves Communities, Supports Wetlands, Saves Cranes – 25 August 2023](#)
- [Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus: Second outbreak confirmed – 10 July 2023](#)
- [Innovative mobile emergency response unit saves poisoned vultures – 4 July 2023](#)

STAFF SECTION

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Communications Manager

Jo Bert
Graphic Designer

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- [Endangered Wildlife Trust Rangers protect the environment on World Ranger Day – 31 July 2024](#)
- [Endangered Wildlife Trust welcomes the appointment of new Forestry, Fisheries and Environment Minister – 1 July 2024](#)
- [WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2024 A TIME TO REFLECT ON THE COST OF LAND AND HABITAT RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION – 6 June 2024](#)
- [Insect declines threaten Migratory Bird Species – 11 May 2024](#)
- [The Endangered Wildlife Trust Welcomes the publication of the Multi-species Biodiversity Management Plan for Vultures in South Africa – 22 March 2024](#)
- [Endangered Wildlife Trust and International Crane Foundation host National Crane Festival in Uganda – 27 February 2024](#)
- [Muhammad Seedat has been elected the Endangered Wildlife Trust's new Chair of the Board – 6 February 2024](#)



FUNDING OUR WORK

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

INCOME STREAMS

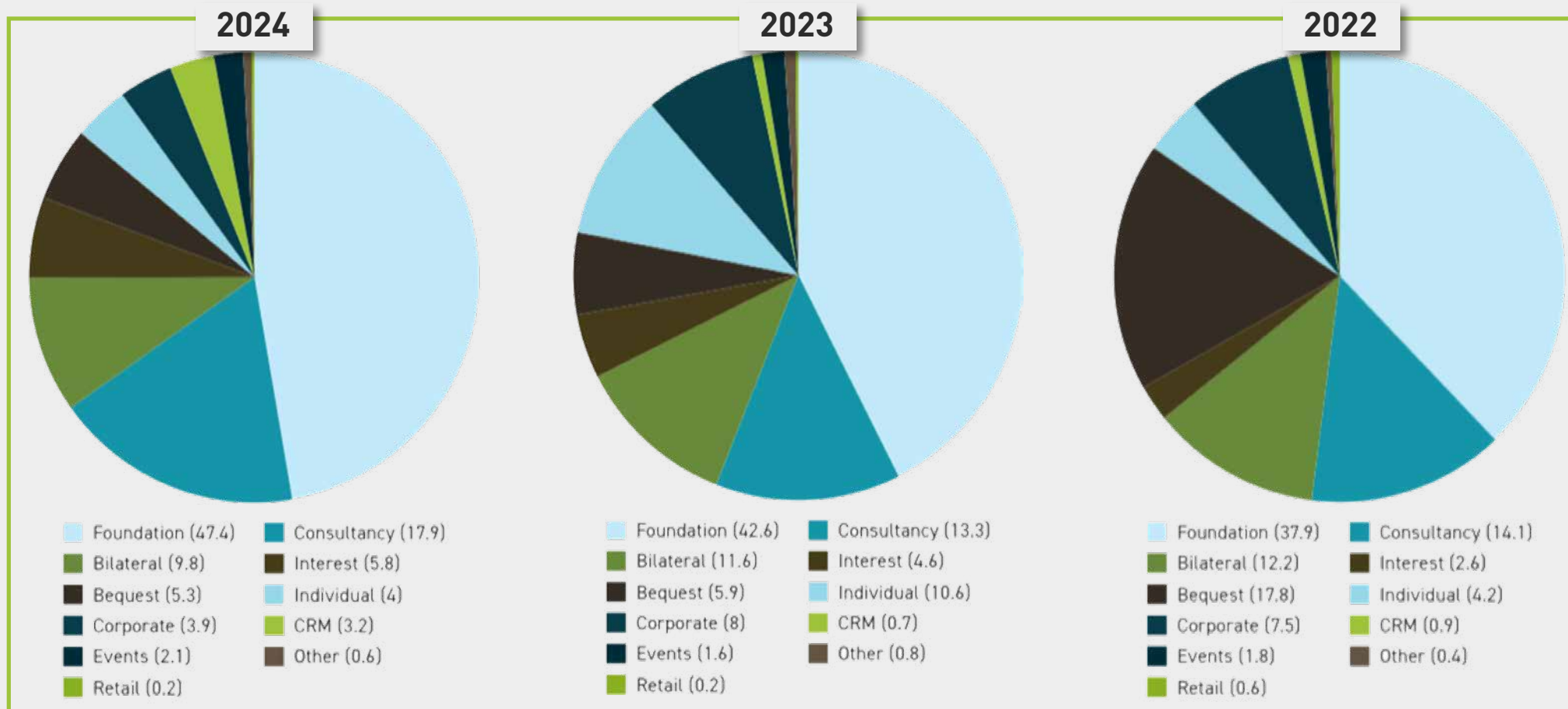
The Endangered Wildlife Trust has seen a healthy 12.2% year-on-year increase in income, compared to 12% the previous year.

This year's income streams were well-balanced, with several funding sources contributing significantly to our revenue. Corporate CSI income, bequest, interest income, and individual donations each contributed 4–6% to our income streams, with bilaterals adding a further 10%. Foundational income continues to be EWT's most important stream for projects, representing 47% of our 2023/24 revenue. We recorded an R11.1 million increase in trust and foundational income over the reporting period, marking the largest percentage increase since 2019 when we saw a R15.9 million rise in revenue. Consultancy income has grown in importance this year, accounting for 18% of all income, raising an additional R6.5 million through this income stream, year-on-year. Expansion of the EWT's National Biodiversity and Business Network contributed significantly to this increase.

Bequest income showed a slight increase compared to 2022/23, and we remain deeply grateful for every bequest due to the lasting conservation legacy it provides. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following for their generous gifts received by the EWT: T.K. Hohamnn, Celliers, F.M. Potter, B. Klopper, and S. Doubell.

Our unrestricted income, generated through philanthropic individuals, events, cause-related marketing, and bequests, has shown a remarkable 60% year-on-year increase. This growth was significantly contributed to by the incredible support from Free Lives, who donated proceeds from the sale of their strategy video game, Terra Nil, which lets players experience the joy of restoring Mother Nature to her glorious self.

This unrestricted income remains vital to the EWT, as it covers critical expenses often not secured by project-specific donors.

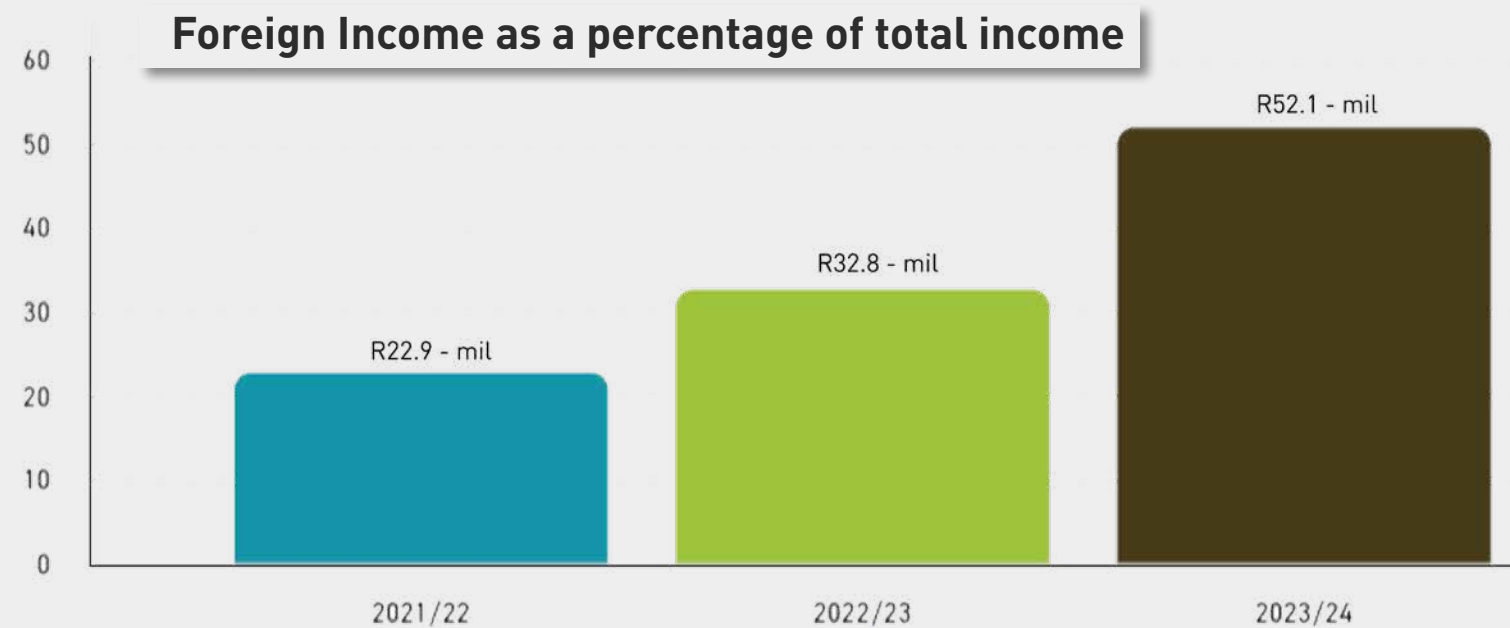


OUR LOYAL SUPPORTERS

Different ways to give include debit orders, stop orders, PayFast, GivenGain, and monthly donations through MySchool and MyPlanet cards. Our partnership with the Myriad 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, KLB, Levego, Relate, Livingstone, FWF, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, and Trappers for their enduring and invaluable support. Their long-term commitment to the EWT is greatly appreciated.

FOREIGN VERSUS LOCAL INCOME

The proportion of foreign income the EWT received increased by 14% year-on-year, and more than half (53%) of the EWT's income in this past financial year came from international sources, representing a R19.3 million growth in foreign income. Donors contributing to our foreign income are from the United States, United Kingdom, and European Union countries. Our most significant foreign donors and partners include the International Crane Foundation (through our Strategic Partnership), Glencore, the Moody's Foundation, and Paul L King. The Anglo American Foundation and Han Hoheisen Charitable Trust were our most generous local donors.



The percentage of foreign versus local (ZAR) revenue we received increased to over half of the EWT's income, with an additional R19.3 million from international donors.

EVENTS

This year, our event income surged by an impressive 57%, thanks to the addition of the Jocks Dinner arranged by Byron and Lawren Lotter, who are avid conservation supporters; and our newly developed online auction platform. We hosted two successful golf days in Stellenbosch and Johannesburg and extend heartfelt thanks to our dedicated golfers for their unwavering support.

Our achievements were bolstered by the generous support of the Ford Wildlife Foundation (FWF) and Alexforbes. Additionally, we were privileged to once again benefit from the annual Rhino Peak Challenge. We express our gratitude to the organisers, runners, their sponsors, and the support from Running Man Adventures (RMA) and FWF for making this event a triumph.

The 2023 Rhino Peak Challenge (RPC) raised over R1.33 million for Wildlife ACT and the EWT's conservation activities, with 45 ambassadors taking on the mammoth challenge of climbing 1,310 metres over 21kms to the top of the iconic Rhino Peak.

STAFF SECTION

Alison Jänicke
Head of Business Development

Tammy Baker
Business Development Officer

Dr Tim Jackson
Senior Technical Writer

Rebecca Mabuza
Business Development Administrator

Namita Vanmali
Technical Writer



For more information, please contact Alison Jänicke at alisonj@ewt.org

Photo credit: Tiaan Sevenster

Relate bracelets are handmade and sold to make a difference and change lives. As a 100% not-for-profit social enterprise, the majority of their revenue is donated to incredible causes and invested in social upliftment initiatives, with a focus on creating opportunities for all involved, at every stage of a project.

Relate Bracelets supports the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) in its mission to conserve threatened species, specifically the conservation of Rhino, Cheetah, Wild Dogs, African Crane, Pickersgill Reed Frog, and the elusive Ravine Rabbit, to protect their habitats while benefiting people.

DONATING TO THE EWT

We have once again achieved a Level 4 Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) rating. We take great pride in contributing to addressing the economic inequalities stemming from South Africa's past.

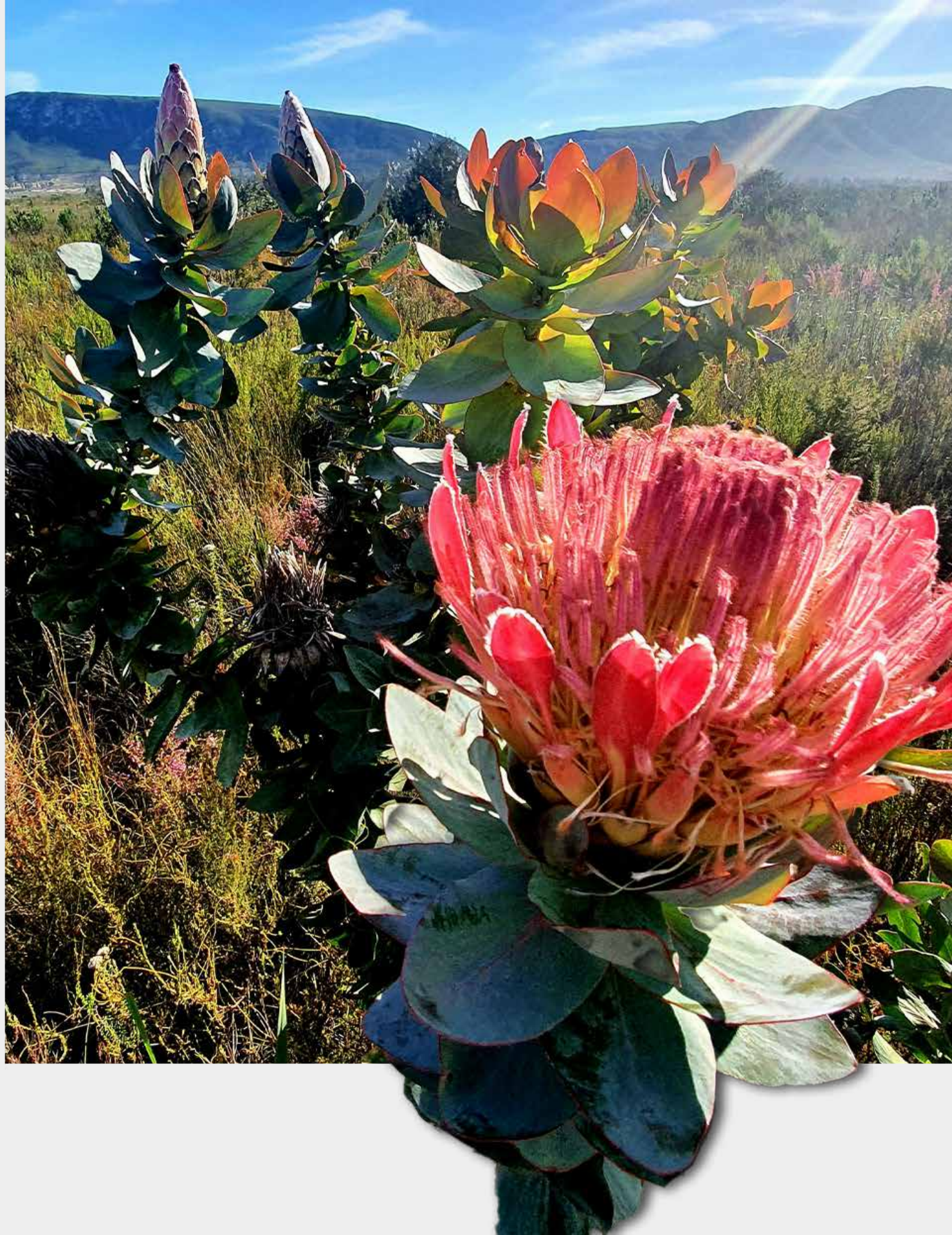
GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Beyond our commitment to good citizenship and collaboration towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the EWT boasts a 95% Socio-Economic Development (SED) rating, allowing corporates to earn their full five SED points on their B-BBEE scorecard. Additionally, the EWT can provide an 18A tax-exemption certificate to corporations and individuals making bona fide donations.

| B-BBEE elements | 2021/22 points | 2022/23 points |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Management control | 11.62 | 9.7 |
| Skills development | 21.79 | 21.79 |
| Enterprise and supplier development | 45.16 | 44.62 |
| Socio-economic development | 5 | 5 |

Table 4: B-BBEE Elements: Points Comparison 2021/22 vs. 2022/23

This work was made possible with support from our Framework donor Hans Hoheisen, Rand Merchant Bank and Speedspace. As well as support from Alexforbes, Artifact, Applus Steel Test, Assore, Barloworld, Free Lives, the Ford Wildlife Foundation, Hermans Truck Repair, Jocks of the Bushveld, KLB Engineering, Livingstones, Malben Engineering, Muniche RE, MySchool, N3TC, Relate, RMA, Shaun Schneier, Sunset Charitable Trust, The Giving Organisation and Trappers.



ENSURING GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is a registered Trust, established in accordance with the Trust Property Control Act No. 57 of 1988, with registration number IT 6247 under the Master of the High Court. The Amended and Restated Deed of Trust 2014, filed with the Master of the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria, serves as the Trust's foundational document, outlining the roles, responsibilities, and governance structure of the Trustees, Board, and committees. The EWT Trustees serve in a voluntary capacity, receiving no remuneration for their dedication and expertise. The EWT Management extends its sincere gratitude to the Trustees for their selfless contributions, which are instrumental in shaping the Trust's strategic direction and ensuring good governance.

ETHICS REVIEW

The EWT has its own formally constituted, independent Ethics Committee (EWTEC) registered with the National Research Foundation. The committee evaluates and must approve, before commencement, all EWT projects. The EWTEC assesses each project for best practices to avoid any transgressions of ethics or relevant national legislation and regulatory standards, including for the animal and social welfare procedures of our projects. Between October 2018 and June 2024, the committee has met 27 times and approved 93 projects (66 animal projects and 27 social projects). Over the past year, the EWTEC met three times to review our conservation projects, with 14 projects receiving ethical clearance, while none were rejected. The December 2023 meeting was replaced with a process of round-robin review.



TABLE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND EXPERTS PRESENT / INVOLVED IN THE THREE MEETINGS OVER THE 2023/24 REPORTING PERIOD, AS WELL AS THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS APPROVED

| Committee Member and expertise (affiliation) | 12 September 2023 | December 2023* | 09 April 2024 |
|--|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Dr Ian Little (EWT) - Chair</i> | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Dr Richard Burroughs – Wildlife veterinarian (University of Pretoria) | X | | X |
| Lesley Helliwell – EWTEC Coordinator (EWT) | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Dr Kelly Marnewick – Scientist (Tshwane University of Technology) | X | | ✓ |
| Dr Leith Meyer – Wildlife veterinarian (University of Pretoria) | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Louise Matschke – Social Scientist (Nature Connect) | | | ✓ |
| Cynthia Schoeman – Public representative (Ethics Monitoring & Management Services (Pty) Ltd) | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Lebo Sentle – Animal welfare (NSPCA) | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Prof Michael Somers – Scientist (University of Pretoria) | X | | ✓ |
| Tamaria Motsepe – Public representative (Independent) | ✓ | | X |
| Dr Jim Taylor – Social scientist (University of KwaZulu-Natal) | X | | X |
| NUMBER OF PROJECTS APPROVED | | | |
| Animal projects | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| Social projects | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Standard Operating Procedures | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 5 | 0 | 7 |

Table 5: Committee Members, Experts, and Projects Approved (2023/24)



BOARD AND COMMITTEES

In accordance with the Trust Deed, the Board oversees the administration of the Trust and provides strategic guidance to Executive Management. Initially comprising 18 Trustees (excluding the CEO as an ex-officio member), the Board met four times during the reporting period to execute its annually adopted work plan. Embracing best practices in corporate governance, the Board conducted a year-end self-evaluation to assess its performance against the work plan. By the reporting period's end, the Board had transitioned to an 11-member composition, including the CEO as an ex-officio member, ensuring continued effective governance and oversight.

TRUSTEE MEETINGS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 49th EWT AGM took place on 7 December 2023 with 17 trustees, including the CEO, as an ex-officio Board member, in attendance. We received one apology.

The 2023-2024 year under review, spanning 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, saw eight Trustee resignations, with no new Trustee elections proposed during this period.

At the December 2023 AGM Muhammad Seedat was elected as Chair, Dirk Ackerman as Vice Chair, and Paul Smith as Treasurer, for a three-year term.

The AGM voted to ratify the Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2023, as audited by Deloitte. The Trustees voted to retain Deloitte as the auditors of the Trust.

BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE DURING THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR

| Board of Trustees | 28 September 2023 | 7 December 2023 | 20 March 2024 | 19 June 2024 |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Muhammad Seedat – Chair | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Dirk Ackerman – (Chair to Dec 2023 and Vice Chair from 2024) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Antony Wannell – (Vice Chair end Dec 2023) | ✓ | ✓ | - | - |
| Paul Smith – Treasurer and Audit Committee Chair | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Anthony Diepenbroek – (Resigned 5 Jan 2024) | ✓ | ✓ | - | - |
| Abdul Mohamed | X | ✓ | X | X |
| Prof Barry Ackers | ✓ | ✓ | X | ✓ |
| Christo Reeders | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Joanna Goeller | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Karin Ireton (Social and Ethics Committee Chair, Resigned 26 Feb 2024) | X | ✓ | - | - |
| Lesego Rammusi (Resigned 10 Aug 2023) | - | - | - | - |
| Lloyd Madurai | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Dr Luthando Dziba | ✓ | X | ✓ | X |
| Mike Esterhuysen | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Mpho Sono (Resigned 14 March 2024) | ✓ | ✓ | - | - |
| Praxedis Hwindingwi (Resigned 1 Feb 2024) | ✓ | ✓ | - | - |
| Roshael Hoosen (Remuneration Committee Chair, Resigned 3 March 2024) | ✓ | ✓ | - | - |
| Valli Moosa (Resigned 23 Feb 2024) | ✓ | ✓ | - | - |
| Yolan Friedmann – CEO – <i>ex officio</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

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

Table 6: Board Meeting Attendance During The 2023/24 Financial Year

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Paul Smith, re-elected as Treasurer for a further three-year term, continued to chair the Audit Committee (AC) with distinction. Under his leadership, the AC adhered to its annual work plan, convening three times during the financial year to discharge its financial oversight duties to the Board and the Trust. Key responsibilities included approving the annual budget and monitoring performance against it.

| AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE DURING THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Audit Committee | 27 September 2023 | 23 November 2023 | 18 June 2024 |
| Paul Smith – Treasurer and Chair – <i>ex officio</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Abdul Mohamed | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Antony Wannell (Vice Chair end Dec 2023) | ✓ | ✗ | - |
| Prof Barry Ackers | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Mpho Sono (Resigned on 14 March 2024) | ✗ | ✗ | - |
| Muhammad Seedat | ✓ | ✓ | N/A |
| Neil Morris | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Praxedis Hwindingwi (Resigned 1 Feb 2024) | ✓ | ✗ | - |
| Yolan Friedmann – CEO – <i>ex officio</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Comment:
Muhammed Seedat ceased to be a member of the AC effective June 2024.

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.

Table 7: Audit Committee meeting attendance during the 2023/24 Financial Year

SOCIAL AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Social and Ethics Committee (SEC), a vital component of EWT's governance structure, held three meetings during the financial year, in line with its annual work plan. The SEC plays a crucial role in ensuring the organisation's social and ethical integrity, and its work is essential to maintaining stakeholder trust.

| SOCIAL AND ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE DURING THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Social and Ethics Committee | 27 September 2023 | 24 November 2023 | 22 June 2024 |
| Karin Ireton – Chair (Resigned 26 Feb 2024) | ✓ | ✓ | - |
| Joanna Goeller – Chair 2024 | N/A | N/A | ✓ |
| Mpho Sono - (Resigned on 14 March 2024) | ✗ | ✗ | - |
| Lesego Rammusi (Resigned 10 Aug 2023) | - | - | - |
| Mike Esterhuysen | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Paul Smith | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Roshael Hoosen (Resigned 3 March 2024) | ✓ | ✓ | - |
| Yolan Friedmann – CEO – <i>ex officio</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Table 8: Social and Ethics Committee meeting attendance during the 2023/24 Financial Year

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

The Remuneration Committee (RemCo) met three times throughout the financial year as noted below. The RemCo plays an important role in ensuring fair and transparent remuneration practices, aligning the EWT's strategic objectives and performance. Effective RemCo oversight is essential to maintaining stakeholder trust, promoting a culture of accountability, and attracting and retaining top talent.

| REMUNERATION COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE DURING THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR | | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Remuneration Committee | 27 September 2023 | 23 November 2023 | 18 June 2024 |
| Roshael Hoosen – Chair 2023 | ✓ | ✓ | - |
| Dirk Ackerman | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Prof Barry Ackers - Chair 2024 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Muhammad Seedat | ✓ | ✓ | N/A |
| Yolan Friedmann – CEO – <i>ex officio</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| In attendance – Hayley Elwen – COO | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Table 9: Remuneration Committee meeting attendance during the 2023/24 Financial Year

INTERNAL STRUCTURES

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM:

The EWT Executive Management Team, responsible for driving strategic decision-making and overseeing operations, comprised Yolán Friedmann (CEO), Dave McCullough (Chief Finance Officer, succeeding Mandy Poole who retired in December 2023), 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 meets weekly, subject to schedules and holidays.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT TEAM:

The EWT Conservation Management Team (CMT) convened ten times during the financial year, bringing together senior managers in Support Services and the Programmes to discuss and address key aspects of conservation, research, ethics, operations, and programmatic implementation, ensuring a comprehensive and collaborative approach to driving conservation impact.

CONSERVATION FORUM:

The EWT Conservation Forum (CF) was held ten meetings during the financial year, fostering a culture of collaboration and knowledge-sharing among all staff members. Field-based staff participated virtually where possible, ensuring inclusive engagement on a diversity of conservation matters. The CF facilitated cross-functional understanding between field and head office-based teams, while guest speakers enriched discussions by sharing insights on topics beyond the EWT's core expertise. To accommodate diverse schedules, meetings were recorded and made available to staff to access at their convenience. This promoted broader engagement and information dissemination.

GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE

The Governance and Compliance portfolio, led by Lesego Moloko, ensured that Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr facilitated the registration of all intellectual property (IP) and trademarks, confirming legal compliance and protection of EWT's assets. The policy framework was reviewed and updated to align with regulatory requirements and industry standards. It encompasses data protection, conflicts of interest, whistleblower reporting, and risk management. These enhancements have strengthened the EWT's governance and compliance posture, supporting sustainable long-term success.

The Board resolved at its March meeting to update the charters of its committees to reflect the changed composition and ensure continuity of essential work, thereby maintaining robust governance.

STAFF SECTION

Hayley Elwen
COO

Lesego Moloko
Senior Governance and Compliance Manager

Emma Chisare
Administrative Manager

For more information, please contact Lesego Moloko at lesegom@ewt.org.za

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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



Deloitte.

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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR 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 2024, the summary statement of comprehensive income, summary statement of changes in equity and summary statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of Endangered Wildlife Trust for the year ended 30 June 2024. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated 6 December 2024.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1. However, the summary financial statements are misstated to the equivalent extent as the audited financial statements of Endangered Wildlife Trust for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the trust accounting policies. 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

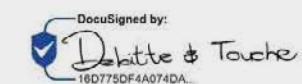
We expressed a qualified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 6 December 2024. The basis for our qualified audit opinion was cash donations are a significant source of fundraising revenue for The Endangered Wildlife Trust. The trustees have determined that it is impracticable to establish internal controls over the collection of cash donations prior to the initial entry into its financial records. We were therefore unable to confirm whether all cash donations were recorded.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited 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*.

DocuSigned by:

18D775DF4A074DA

Deloitte & Touche
Registered Auditor
Per: Marlise Hedder
Partner
6 December 2024



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

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

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Summary statement of the EWT's financial position as at 30 June 2024

| | 30 June 2024 | 30 June 2023 |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| | R | R |
| ASSETS | | |
| <i>Non-current assets</i> | | |
| Land and Buildings | 24,377,448 | 24,377,448 |
| Vehicles and equipment | 10,305,553 | 6,359,771 |
| Total non-current assets | <u>34,683,001</u> | <u>30,737,219</u> |
| <i>Current assets</i> | | |
| Accounts receivable | 1,382,880 | 1,061,497 |
| E-shop stock in hand | - | 53,591 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 77,459,816 | 68,009,696 |
| Total current assets | <u>78,843,696</u> | <u>69,124,784</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>113,526,697</u> | <u>99,862,003</u> |
| FUNDS AND LIABILITIES | | |
| <i>Trust funds</i> | | |
| Accumulated funds | 13,218,229 | 13,126,877 |
| Non-distributable reserves | 33,778,803 | 29,480,231 |
| Total Trust funds | <u>42,607,108</u> | <u>40,743,557</u> |
| <i>Current liabilities</i> | | |
| Accounts payable | 2,270,271 | 3,435,232 |
| Funds held on behalf of other organisations | 6,368,425 | 5,101,070 |
| Deferred revenue | 57,132,128 | 47,625,614 |
| Leave Provision | 758,841 | 1,092,979 |
| Total current liabilities | <u>66,529,665</u> | <u>57,254,895</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES | <u>113,526,697</u> | <u>99,862,003</u> |



Summary statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2024

| | 30 June 2024 | 30 June 2023 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | R | R |
| Revenue | 89,488,880 | 79,736,685 |
| Expenses | (89,397,528) | (78,632,613) |
| Total Comprehensive Operational Surplus for the year | <u>91,352</u> | <u>1,104,072</u> |
| <i>After charging:</i> | | |
| Depreciation - owned and leased assets | | |
| - charged to income | 593,865 | 522,849 |
| - charged to non-distributable reserves | 2,803,715 | 2,113,694 |
| | <u>3,397,580</u> | <u>2,636,543</u> |
| <i>and after crediting:</i> | | |
| Interest received – bank deposits | 5,711,928 | 3,887,085 |
| Accumulated funds at beginning of period | <u>13,126,877</u> | <u>12,022,805</u> |
| Accumulated funds at end of period | <u>13,218,229</u> | <u>13,126,877</u> |

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 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.

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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.

Rangers patrolling on Medike

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.

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.

STAFF SECTION

Dave McCullough
Chief Financial Officer

Lauren Bailey
Finance Manager

Melissa Govindsamy
Bookkeeper

Jessel Naidoo
Financial Accountant

For more information, please contact
Dave McCullough at davemc@ewt.org



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 EWT staff 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% |
| 2023/24 | 109 | 81% | 19% |

Table 10: Total number of staff employed by the EWT from 2020–2024 and the percentage of staff in support services and programmes.



WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

Our long-term success depends on our capacity to attract, retain, and develop a multi-skilled, multicultural, and multigenerational team of high-performing 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% |
| 2023/24 | 39.65 | 46% | 54% | 50% | 50% |

Table 11: The demographics of staff employed by the EWT each year between 2020 and 2024

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

As conservation leaders, the EWT recognises the importance of achieving real transformation within the organisation and the broader conservation sector. A diverse employee base is a social imperative and allows us to harness the rich diversity of ideas, culture and perspectives of our country's people. The EWT continues to realise employment equity goals throughout the organisation, and we remain committed to the process.

We have achieved several ongoing EE objectives and remain focused on further improvement. A new five-year EE plan has been developed for the period 2023-2028. Through the implementation of the EE Committee, equal opportunities are promoted internally alongside fair treatment to our employees.

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

Through the 2023/24 rating period, our B-BBEE Score has been a Level 4.

TALENT MANAGEMENT

During this financial year, the EWT registered two disabled 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 with specific focus on sustainability and business development in developing countries, through Hult International Business School.
- **Hannah de Villiers:** MSc in Conservation Biology
- **Dr Tamanna Patel:** PhD, Ecological Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand.
- **Rebecca Mabuza and Innocent Buthelezi:** Generic Management NQF level 5, through Training Force and CATHSSETA.
- **Lesego Moloko,** Generic Management NQF level 5 through Training Force and CATHSSETA
- **Erin Adams and Kerushka Pillay,** both received NQF level 4 Business and Administration training through Training Force and CATHSSETA
- **SERE-based team: Chriszelda Adams, Mietjie van Wyk and Dalena de Wee** underwent a course on Snake Awareness, First Aid for Snakebite & Venomous Snake Handling through the African Snakebite Institute.com
- Workplace Coaching Skills for Supervisors by Lesley Ann Pedlar Coaching Consultants was conducted for some managers and field staff.
- Finance for non-finance managers was attended by the African Crane Conservation Programme regional managers as well as the Wildlife Energy Programme Manager.
- Under the auspice of the African Crane Conservation Programme led by Dr Damian Walters and Samson Phakathi, a Financial Literacy Training was also undertaken with the KwaMkhize community in KZN.

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.

The annual **EWT Conservation Week** took place during 22 – 26 January 2024. Staff met for team building activities, took part in wilderness first aid training, and shared achievements and challenges experienced throughout the year. Sixty-five (65) members of staff took part in the employee wellness interventions whereby findings or abnormalities of occupational health medical tests and examinations were noted by concerned staff members. The screening which included checking on Medical History & Social Occupational History, Vision Screening, Height, Weight, Body Mass Index, Blood Pressure, Blood Glucose, Cholesterol, and Voluntary HIV testing & Counselling were conducted by the Innovo Mobile Healthcare medical staff. Screening reports conducted on the day and medical fitness certificates were issued to concerned staff.



Annual staff awards were handed out and the 2023 winners were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Programme of the Year Award | Carnivore Conservation Programme (CCP) |
| Programme Manager of the Year | Gareth Tate - Birds of Prey Programme (BoPP) |
| Conservation Achiever Award | Esther Matthew - Drylands Conservation Programme (DCP) |
| Conservation Supporter Award | Yves Manana - Information Technology Support Services(IT) Koketso Ndhrazi - Information Technology Support Services(IT) |
| Thabo Madlala Award | Lesego Moloko (Governance Support Services) |
| Long Service Awards - 10 years | Rebecca Mabuza Lizanne Roxburgh |
| Media Award | Birds of Prey Programme (BoPP) |
| Honey Badger Award (The fiercest field officer award) | Marnus Roodbol (Carnivore Conservation Programme) |
| Pawprint Brand Ambassador Award | Bradley Gibbons (African Crane Conservation Programme) Samson Phakathi (African Crane Conservation Programme) Tammy Baker (Fundraising and Business Development Support Services) |
| Newcomer of the Year | Kish Chetty (Snr Manager: Support Services) |
| Trailblazer Award | Samantha Mynhardt (Drylands Conservation Programme) |
| Honey Bee Award | SERE Team: Wildlife Energy Programme (WEP): Lizel Tolken Dalena de Wee Meitjie van Wyk Amala Adams |
| Certificates for those who received their PhD or Masters during 2023 | Hannah De Villiers - MSc in Conservation Biology through the University of the Witwatersrand |

Table 12: Annual staff awards 2023

OUR ENTHUSIASTIC EMPLOYEES



STAFF SECTION

Human Resources Team:

Emma Chisare
Administrative Manager

Masabata Ngcobo
Human Resources Manager

Admin and Maintenance Team:

Rudolf Ndwalane
Head Groundskeeper

Dorah Mncube
Housekeeper

Takalani Ndwalani
Groundskeeper

Sizakele Ntsele
Housekeeper

Thembi Mlimi
Housekeeper

Information Technology Team:

Yves Manana
Information Technology Manager

Koketso Ndhrazi
Information Technology Intern

For more information, please contact Emma Chisare at emmac@ewt.org



AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

EXTERNAL RECOGNITION

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

- **Threatened Amphibians Programme:**

Ecologic Gold Award

The [Nature Conservation Award](#) is given to an organisation for successfully protecting, rehabilitating or mitigating damage to the Earth's biodiversity, ecosystems and/or Earth's natural resources. Our Tale of Two Leopards project is a visionary partnership launched in June 2021 with the Cape Leopard Trust (CLT), focussing on the conservation of two iconic, threatened 'leopard' species – the Leopard and the Western Leopard Toad – in the Overberg. The project facilitates critical research and innovative conservation actions to address key threats, highlighting the interconnectedness of species, landscapes, and people.

- **Wildlife and Energy Programme:**

Ecologic Bronze Award

The EWT's Drone Line Marking project won bronze in the [Eco-Innovation category](#). The award celebrates an innovative design, construction, technology, methodology, product or service that serves the needs of humans whilst being supportive of and beneficial to the Earth's biodiversity and ecosystems. To counter wildlife mortalities caused by power lines, the EWT has developed and implemented a number of effective countermeasures, including fitting markers, known as 'bird flight diverters', to improve the visibility of power line cables to birds in flight. The EWT's Wildlife and Energy Programme developed an innovative way of using drones to attach bird flight diverters to power lines and thus save significant costs and reduce the risk to engineers who traditionally fit these diverters from helicopters in the pursuit of saving the lives of countless birds.



Drone Line Marking

- **Birds of Prey Programme:**

Gariep Raptor Conservationist Award

This award is given annually to the individual or organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to raptor conservation in the Northern Cape. In presenting the award, the Northern Cape Raptor Conservation Forum commented that the EWT received the award in acknowledgement of its contribution to the conservation of the region's raptor populations as an active member of the Forum since its inception. The support on the EWT's dedicated field officer – Ronelle Visagie – was lauded, with particular reference to the EWT's liaison with the farming community, raptor rehabilitation and raising awareness about raptors.

- **Oswaldo Abrao:**

Wildlife Conservation Network Career Programme Award

The Wildlife Conservation Network's Career Programme is aimed at reducing barriers to long-term employment in conservation and retaining talented, passionate, and committed individuals in the field, particularly those native to the region where they work. Oswaldo Abrao, our Senior Field Officer in Zinave National Park, Mozambique, was honoured to receive this award, which will contribute to his efforts in restoring the large carnivore guilds within the park and establishing a healthy, functional ecosystem.

WHO WE WORK WITH

STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

Working on strong, mutually beneficial partnerships and collaborations is a core value of the EWT and we achieve significant conservation impacts through our engagement with a diversity of organisations, ranging from government agencies and parastatals, to communities, other NGOs, business, academic institutions and private individuals. While our existing partnerships and collaborations are too numerous to mention individually, the following strategic alliances and partnerships that have delivered high-impact results over the past year are highlighted, and we would like to thank all our partners and collaborators in conservation for their contribution:

High-level strategic Partnership:

International Crane Foundation (ICF)
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
Mondi Group

NGO partners:

- Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling (APOPO)
- Ashia Cheetah Conservation
- Association Nature Koussabel, Senegal
- Biodiversity Law Centre
- Bionerds
- BirdLife International
- BirdLife Botswana
- BirdLife South Africa
- BirdLife Zimbabwe
- Birdwatch Zambia
- Bedari Foundation
- Blue Sky Society
- Cape Leopard Trust
- Centre for Environmental Rights
- Clothes To Good
- Community Action for Nature Conservation

- (CANCO), Kenya
- Community Resource Boards, (Zambia)
- Conservation Coaches Network (CC Net)
- Conservation Measures Partnership
- Conservation Outcomes
- Conservation South Africa
- Conservation South Luangwa
- Connect Trust
- Elephant Charge, Zambia
- Ewaso Lions and Grevy's Zebra Trust
- Fauna and Flora International
- Freshwater Research Centre
- Fynbos Trust
- Gonarezhou Conservation Trust (Zimbabwe)
- Gorongosa Restoration Project (Mozambique)
- Grootbos Foundation
- Hawk Conservancy Trust
- Ivan Carter Foundation
- Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Group (KCWCG)
- Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve
- Lessons in Conservation
- Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (Malawi)
- Mozambique Wildlife Alliance
- Namibia Animal Rehabilitation and Research

- Centre
- Capitals Coalition
- Niassa Carnivore Project
- Northern Cape Raptor Conservation Forum
- Overberg Crane Group
- Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust
- Pathfinder International
- Peace Parks Foundation
- Rainforest Trust
- Raptors Botswana
- Restorative Justice Centre
- Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association
- Sahara Conservation
- Self Help Africa (Zambia)
- Solidaridad Network (Zambia)
- South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association
- Thrive for Good Institute, Kenya
- Uganda Conservation Foundation
- Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre
- Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative
- Wetlands International
- Wilderness Foundation
- Wildlife Act
- Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)
- Wildlife Clubs of Uganda
- Wildlife Clubs of Kenya
- Wildlife Conservation Network
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- WWF South Africa
- WWF Zambia
- Zambian Carnivore Programme

Government collaborators:

- Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação (ANAC, Mozambique)
- Amathole District Municipality

- Burera District, Rwanda
- CapeNature
- Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment's (DFFE)
- Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA)
- eThekweni Municipality (Biodiversity Management Department)
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW)
- Fisheries Department (Zambia)
- Forestry Department (Zambia)
- Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (FS-DESTEA)
- Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD)
- Government of Zambia
- Kenya Wildlife Service
- Limpopo Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
- Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism (LEDET)
- Lwengo District Local Government (Uganda)
- Mbarara District Local Government (Uganda)
- Ministry of Environment (Rwanda)
- Ministry of Tourism (Zambia)
- Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (Zambia)
- Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (Zambia)
- Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (Uganda)
- Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
- Nandi County Government (Kenya)
- National Environmental Management Authority (Kenya)
- National Environmental Management Authority (Uganda)
- National Zoological Gardens of South Africa

- National Museums of Kenya
- North West Parks and Tourism Board
- Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL)
- Rukiga and Lwengo district local governments, Uganda
- Rwanda Development Board
- Rwandan Environment Management Authority
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

South African National Parks (SANParks)

- Trans Nzoia County Government, Kenya
- Uasin Gishu County Government, Kenya
- Uganda Ministry of Wildlife, Tourism, and Antiquities
- Uganda Wildlife Authority
- Western Cape Department of Agriculture
- Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife

Landholder collaborators:

- Associated Private Nature Reserves (APNR)
- Balule Game Reserve
- BlyOlifant Private Nature Reserve
- Chuilexi Concession (Mozambique)
- Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park
- ISimangaliso Wetland Park
- Karkloof Conservancy
- Kaingo Game Reserve
- Karingani Game Reserve
- Kleinswartberg Conservancy
- Kololo Game Reserve
- Lapalala Wilderness
- Sabi Sand Nature Reserve
- Somkhanda Community Game Reserve
- Timbavati Private Nature Reserve
- Welgevonden Game Reserve
- Wild Rivers Private Nature Reserve

Other operational collaborators:

- African Carnivore WildBook
- AfriWet Consultants Etudes et Conseils, Senegal
- Amphibian Survival Alliance
- ANAK (Association Nature Koussabel)
- Bateleurs
- Briner Veterinary Services
- Business for Nature
- Carr Foundation
- Cennergi
- Colette Carty
- Copenhagen Zoo
- Dullstroom Bird of Prey Centre
- East African Energy Programme
- Echo Africa
- ENS Africa
- Ezemvelo KZN Honorary Rangers
- FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology
- Genesis K9
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)
- Global Conservation Force
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- GreenMatter
- I3A
- Integrated Polytechnic Regional College – Kitabi, Rwanda
- Kafue Flats Man and Biosphere Reserve Committee
- Kimberley Veterinary Clinic
- Lesoba Difference
- Manor House, Kenya
- Marataba
- Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre
- Mokgadi Guardian Dogs
- MSD Health
- National Institute for Crime Prevention and Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO)
- North Carolina Zoological Society

- Nupen Staude de Vries (NSDV) attorneys
- Office Francais de la biodiversite (Ofb)
- Rugarama Hospital, Uganda
- SANParks Honorary Rangers
- SSU Plant Quarry
- Tech for Conservation
- Tour du Valat
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- We Act
- Wildbook
- WildScapes Veterinary & Conservation Services
- Wildlife Research Training Institute, Kenya



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 collaborator include:

- Alterra Wageningen University (Netherlands)
- Boise State University (USA)
- Copperbelt University (Zambia)
- Durham University (UK)
- Jimma University (Ethiopia)
- Liverpool John Moores University (UK)
- Mbarara University of Science and Technology (Uganda)
- Madda Wanabu University (Ethiopia)
- North-West University
- Tshwane University of Technology
- University of California, Davis (USA)
- University of Cape Town
- University of Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar (Senegal)
- University of Eastern Africa, Baraton (Kenya)
- University of Edinburgh (UK)
- University of Friburg (Germany)
- University of Johannesburg
- University of KwaZulu-Natal
- University of Maryland (TREPA) (USA)
- University of Pretoria
- University of Stellenbosch
- University of Saint Etienne, Jean Monnet (France)
- University of Venda
- University of the Witwatersrand
- University of Eldoret (Kenya)
- University of Zambia (Zambia)

THE EWT AND THE IUCN – THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Since joining the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 1979, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) has been a proud and active member of the world's oldest and largest global environmental organisation, which comprises approximately 1,400 government and NGO members. During the year under review, EWT staff contributed to IUCN's mission through representation in the following roles:

- Adalbert Aine-omucunguzi: IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Committee Chair, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication, and the IUCN Biodiversity and Family Planning Task Force; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Crane Specialist Group.
- André Botha: Working Group for the Conservation of Ruppell's Vulture in the Mediterranean region; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Animal Health Specialist Group; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Cat Specialist Group, and its subsidiary, the African Lion Working Group; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Conservation Planning Specialist Group; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Hornbill Specialist Group; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Vulture Specialist Group (Co-Chair).
- Andrew Taylor: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Afrotheria Specialist Group (Chair); IUCN Species Survival Commission: Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group.
- Ashleigh Dore: IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy.
- Catherine Kuhn: IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA); IUCN Species Survival Commission: Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Specialist Group.
- Christie Craig: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Crane Specialist Group.
- Claire Relton: The Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP).
- Cobus Theron: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Lagomorph Specialist Group.
- Darren Pietersen: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Pangolin Specialist Group; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Skink Specialist Group; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Snake Specialist Group.
- 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 and Ecosystem Restoration Thematic Group; and the Privately Protected Areas and Nature Stewardship Group of the WCPA; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Afrotheria Specialist Group.
- Esther Matthew: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Lagomorph Specialist Group.
- Eugene Greyling: IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group.
- Gareth Tate: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Hornbill Specialist Group.
- Jeanne Tarrant: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Amphibian Specialist Group (Co-Chair: Habitat Protection Working Group; Regional Chair of the Afrotropical Realm).
- Jenny Botha: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Southern African Plant Specialist Group.



- Kerryn Morrison: IUCN Biodiversity and Family Planning Task Force; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Conservation Planning Specialist Group; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Crane Specialist Group (Chair).
- Kishaylin Chetty: IUCN WCPA Protected Area Sustainable Finance Network; Biodiversity and Protected Areas Network; Climate Change Network, Sustainable Finance Specialist Group of the East and southern Africa; IUCN CEM Nature-Based Solutions Thematic Group; Climate Change and Biodiversity Policy and Practice Thematic Groups.
- Dr Lara Jordan: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Conservation Planning Specialist Group; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Pangolin Specialist Group.
- Lauren Waller: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Conservation Planning Specialist Group; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Penguin Specialist Group.
- Lindy Thompson: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Vulture Specialist Group.
- Lizanne Roxburgh: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Species Monitoring Specialist Group; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Vulture Specialist Group.
- Lourens Leeuwner: IUCN Power line Working Group; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Crane Specialist Group.
- Matt Pretorius: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Bustard Specialist Group.
- Oliver Cowan: IUCN Species Survival Commission: South African Species Specialist Group; IUCN Species Survival Commission: Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrate Red List Authority.
- Samantha Mynhardt: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Afrotheria Specialist Group (Golden Mole Section Head).
- Samantha Nicholson: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Cat Specialist Group, and its subsidiary, the African Lion Working Group.
- Wendy Collinson is an active member of several specialist groups of the WCPA and the IUCN Transport Working Group.
- Yolán Friedmann: IUCN Species Survival Commission: Cat Specialist Group, and its subsidiary, the African Lion Working Group.

EWT STAFF AFFILIATION DATABASE

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Adalbert Aine-omucunguzi | Regional Coordinator, East Africa African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA); Grey Crowned Crane International Working Group. |
| Alekzandra Szewczuk | Co-supervisor at University of Witwatersrand. |
| André Botha | 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; Overarching Coordinator, CMS Vulture MsAP; DFFE National Vulture Task Force; National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group; National Lead Task Team; CITES NDF Working Group – Birds; Game Rangers Association of Africa. |
| Andrew Taylor | Extraordinary lecturer, Department of Production Animal Studies, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria; DFFE National Wildlife Forum; GDARD Biodiversity Forum. |
| Ashleigh Dore | Fellow of the GreenMatter Fellowship; Member of the European Forum of Restorative Justice: Environmental Restorative Justice Working Group; PhD Candidate at University of Cape Town; Lecturer at the University of Pretoria; Member of the Wild Dog Advisory Group, Sungazer Working Group; Cape Parrot Action Plan Coordinating Committee. |
| Bradley Gibbons | Sungazer Working Group; Botha's Lark Working Group. |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Caitlin Smith | Arid Zone Ecology Forum (AZEF). |
| Catherine Kuhn | Board member for NPO Youth for the Environment. |
| Catherine Vise | Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve Association; Baobab Foundation. |
| Cherise Acker | Vice-chair, KZN Wetland Forum; Conservation Symposium Steering Committee; KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Working Group; Isipingo and Amanzimtoti Catchment Management Forum. |
| Cole du Plessis | KZN Wild Dog Management Group; 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. |
| Emile Honiball | Coetzer De Beer Attorneys; University of KZN; Board member for Project Hope Africa. |
| 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. |

Restorative Justice Facilitators



| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Eugene Greyling | South African Wildlife Management Association (SAWMA); Leopard Consultative Forum; Wild Dog Advisory Group; Cheetah Advisory Group; Association of Wildland Fire Fighting; Field Guide Association of Africa. |
| Gabi Teren | Wits University, School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences; Elephant Specialist Advisory Group (ESAG); 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 | South African Regional Reptile Specialist Group; WITS Animal Research Ethics Committee. |
| 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. |
| Khathutshelo Mukhumeni | Game Rangers Association of Africa; Field Guide Association of 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). |



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|-----------------------|---|
| Lauren Waller | Research Associate, Department of Biodiversity & Conservation Biology, University of the Western Cape; DFFE Seabird Technical Team; 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; Game Rangers Association of Africa; Field Guide Association of Africa. |
| Michael Modimana | Game Rangers Association of Africa. |
| Michael Sithagathagha | Game Rangers Association of Africa. |

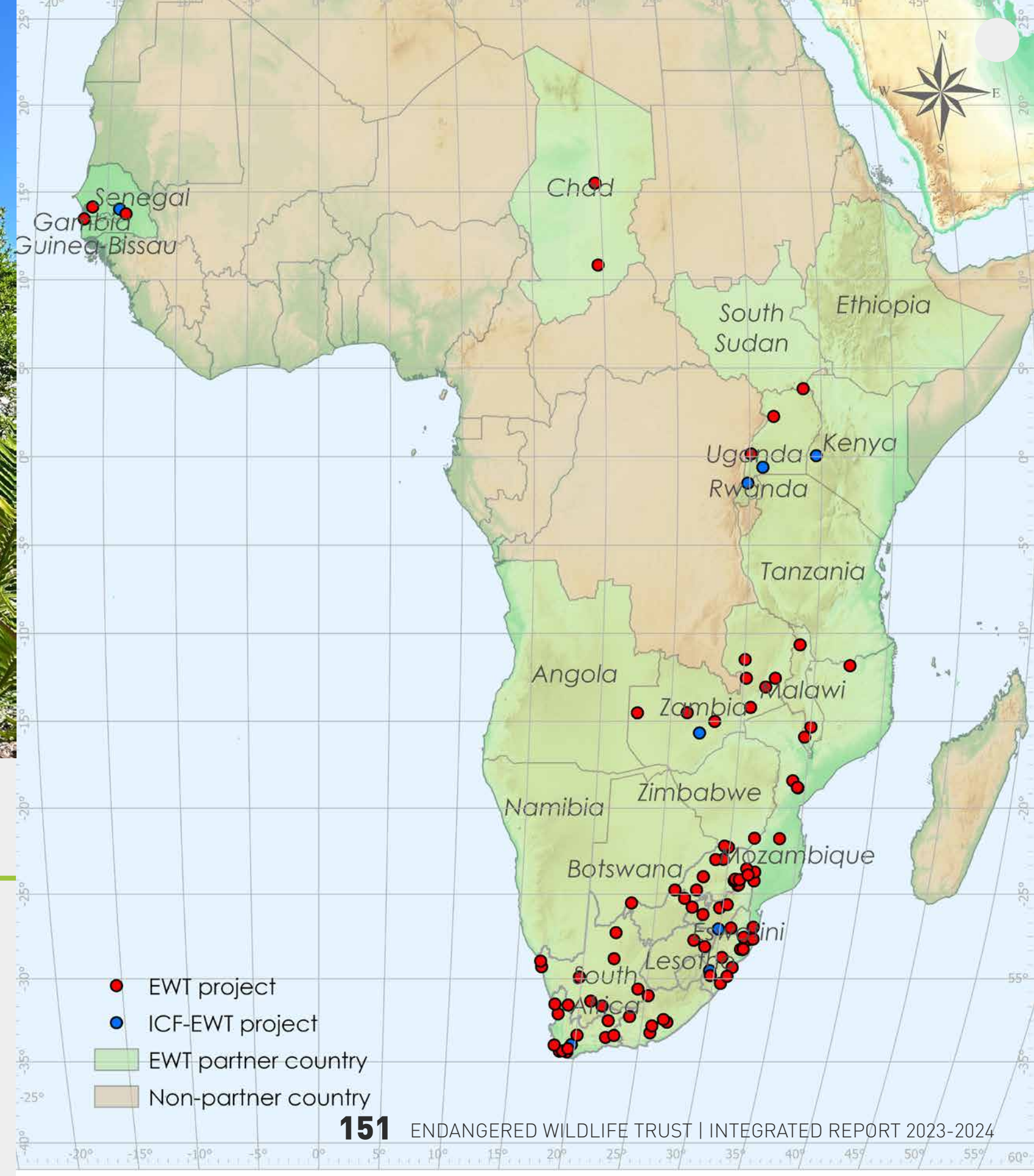
| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Mwape Sichilongo | Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA); BirdWatch Zambia. |
| Obeid Katumba | Mthembu CC Attorneys; Ministerial Task Team for Voluntary Exit Options for the Captive Lion Industry. |
| Oscar Mohale | Convention on the Conservation of 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). |
| Pfuluwani Oscar Musevhula | Game Rangers Association of Africa; Field Guide Association of Africa. |
| Richard Ndou | Game Rangers Association of Africa. |
| 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. |
| Sengani Ramalamula | Game Rangers Association of Africa; Field Guide Association of Africa. |
| Shumani Makwarela | Game Rangers Association of Africa; Field Guide Association of Africa. |
| Sibongakonke Ngogodo | BRICS Research Institute; South African BRICS Youth Association; Golden Key International Honour Society. |
| Tharollo Mthisi | Game Rangers Association of Africa; Field Guide Association of Africa. |
| 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 Steering and Programme Committees; 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 | SANParks Board; SANParks Board Conservation and Socio-economic Transformation Committee; 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. |

Table 13: EWT Staff affiliation database



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.





EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Yolan Friedmann
Chief Executive Officer

Dave McCullough
Chief Financial Officer

Dr Ian Little
Head of Conservation

Alison Jânicke
Head of Resource Development

Hayley Elwen
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