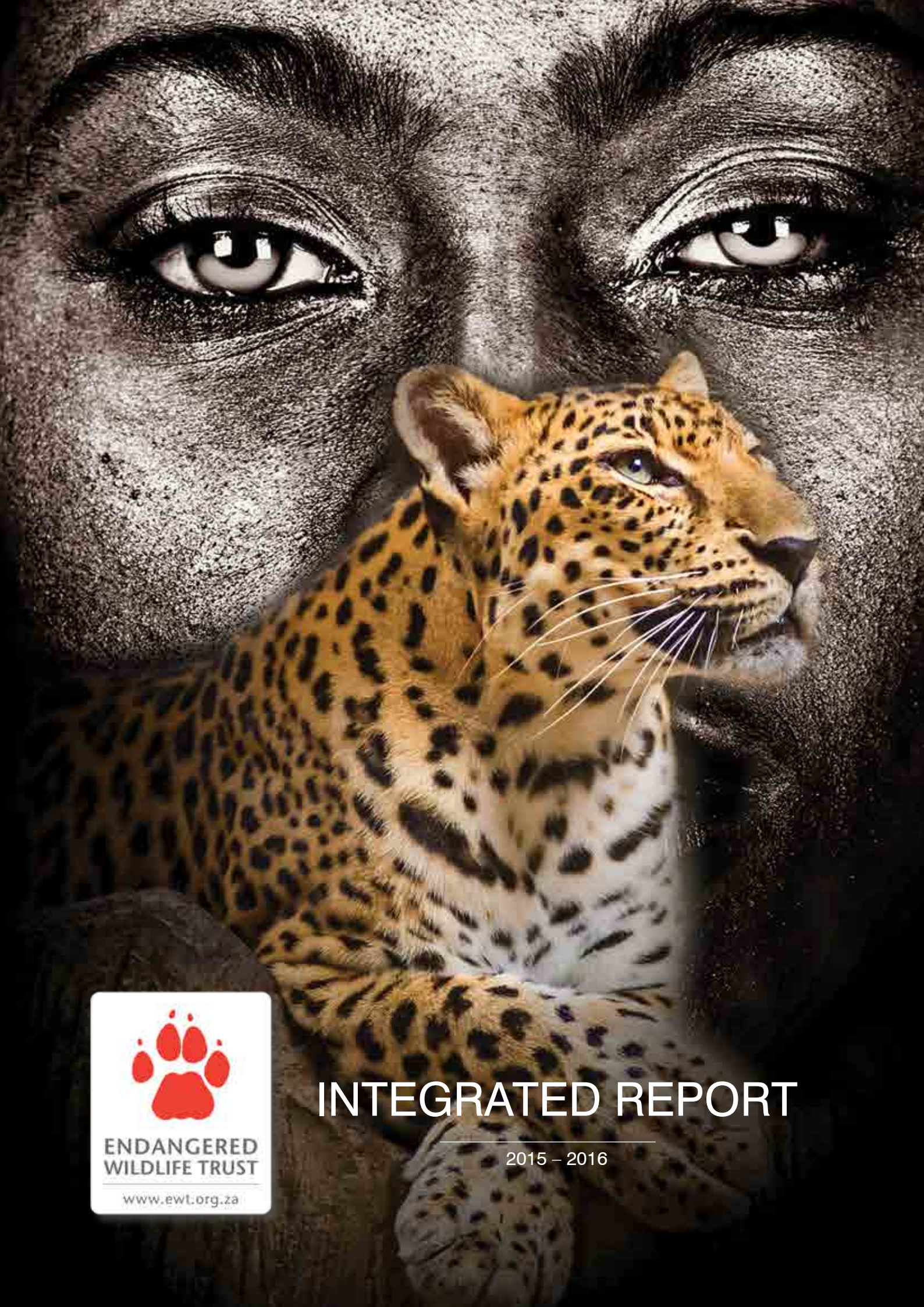

ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST

www.ewt.org.za

INTEGRATED REPORT

2015 – 2016





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WE SUPPORT

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

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



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We are faced with the glaring fact that there are far more consumers than conservers in our world. This state of affairs is a result of the current predominant mode of production which requires increasing consumption for its perpetuation.

I do not accuse the economic modes of production or choose to select one which I believe is best, or criticise the ones I perhaps would like to single out as having caused the most damage to our planet. I stare at the moral fabric of humankind and realise that there have to be some very significant changes made in a very short time-frame if we are to deal effectively with the serious damage that man continues to inflict on our planet.

We are blessed with an ever improving analytical aptitude of all of the physical aspects of our planet, we take giant leaps in our ability to process and analyse data, we perfect scientific processes and we create awe-inspiring technology. However, the vast majority of these efforts are not aimed at protecting the most vital and precious gift – our planet the earth, as a first priority.

I believe that the exponential growth of the human population will continue unabated as I am unable to see how our global community, with its current divisions, could reach some form of world consensus on how we advance towards a solution to deal with this elephant in the room. This, I believe, will be the case in the short and medium term – until we are forced to face the harsh consequences of this reality. The numbers don't lie. Therefore we need to realise that the earth needs to prepare to maximise its productive ability to sustain the ever increasing need for the sustenance of humankind. This can only be done with a healthy planet. Beware those who believe that Mother Nature can be tamed solely to suit the misguided needs of mankind. Nature requires a very structured and symbiotic state to remain in balance, to enable us to nurture all who rely on her sustenance.

Thus I implore all of you to regard conservation as a necessity for human survival, not just for the protection of wildlife and critically endangered ecological areas. We all need to identify with the growing conservation consciousness which should form the basis of our moral evolution.

We have made tremendous strides in our understanding and commitment to sustainability in the past years. There is continuous advocacy for us to improve and evolve our perspective in this regard. Our companies and organisations are now required to report on their sustainability plans and there is an ever-growing environmental awareness.

I would like to ask each and every one of you to dedicate your efforts and support to the continued acceleration in this vital trend in placing sustainability at the forefront of our commercial endeavours. We must remain committed to the preservation of the fauna and flora which are the key ingredients Mother Nature needs to nurture us. We need more conservers than consumers to ensure a sustainable future for all of God's creatures as I cannot help believing that they were all created for a purpose. It is vital that we instil a conservation culture in our youth – which should start in our homes and must prevail through all stages of our youth's education, training and development. Society must play its part to ensure that it's "cool to conserve".

I am extremely privileged to serve as the Chairman of the EWT. I applaud our CEO, Yolan Friedmann, the devoted management and staff of the EWT, as well as the dedicated Trustees and Board members of one of the oldest and truly significant conservation organisations in our country.

This team has, once again, produced a sterling set of outcomes over the past year which has seen the Trust's performance and stature improve in all aspects of our endeavour. For this I thank them. Their efforts have been rewarded with numerous awards and recognition that has been garnered through the evident success of our advocacy efforts and solid results on the ground. Our Trustee ranks have grown in the past year as we appointed numerous new Trustees whose seasoned expertise has contributed greatly in broadening our scientific and governance capabilities.

My sincere appreciation to the growing numbers of the Trust's donors whose support and generosity sustain our work. Thank you all for your contributions – you are justly recognised as the conservation doers of our society.

#cooltoconserve

Sincerely,



Dirk Ackerman

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



In an ideal world, one would not need NGOs. In an even close-to-perfect world, basic services and needs would be met by governments, the private sector and individuals. Civil society organisations would serve as watch dogs and lobby groups only, mobilising for change. And the provision of life saving and social development services would not fall, as they largely currently do, onto the shoulders of thousands of not-for-profit entities who rely on volunteers, donations and sponsorships to deliver on the promise of a society that is equitable, sustainable and prosperous. But we don't live in a perfect world and, in South Africa in particular, the NGO community needs to grow and expand its role, to address the burgeoning and complex needs of our societies, the planet on which we all live and the species with whom we share it.

In line with this trend, the Endangered Wildlife Trust has maintained a steady growth trajectory over the past few years, despite the tough economic climate. The previous financial reporting period revealed a 25% increase in revenue with a commensurate increase of 27% in project spend. The financials on pages 110–112 of this report demonstrate that we surpassed those figures in the 2015/6 financial year with an increase of around 29% in programme spend and an increase of ~24% in revenue across the EWT. This is somewhat extraordinary given that times remain tough and donors are becoming increasingly selective about who gets their money.

The EWT has not just been lucky. A carefully considered and well implemented integrated strategy across the organisation has ensured that the Trust remains credible, relevant and dependable to our donors and that the Paw is the Partner of choice for our Planet. So how are we doing this?

The EWT operates within a dynamic strategic framework that clearly defines what we do, as well as where and how we do it, and critically, how we measure and adapt it accordingly. Our existing strategic framework of six Strategic Imperatives (see pages 12–25) was developed in 2012 and regular iterative processes have ensured that it remains fresh, relevant and, importantly, measurable. The EWT embarked on a process in 2014 to establish a set of measurable conservation outcomes, through an integrated system of distinct targets and indicators for all our work. This ensures that the EWT is applying – and in some cases setting – best practice in the design, management, and impact measurement of our conservation actions. Consequently, we have been able to, year-on-year, report on the progress made towards achieving these targets, and our impact, emanating from the detailed plans that exist for all of our projects. In the past year, the EWT achieved anticipated progress in 74% of the targets set for our programmes, an improvement on the year before of more than 6%. Furthermore, the EWT has grounded our strategy within the context of the global objectives defined in the Aichi Targets (set by the Convention in Biological Diversity) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. You will see on pages 10–11 of this report how we report on our progress and entrench the impacts of our work, within the context of this suite of global goals aimed at creating a better, more sustainable world for all. The diversity of work undertaken by the EWT is only achievable through an expanding network of partners and throughout the 13 African countries in which the EWT supports and drives conservation activities, we work with universities, governments, NGOs, social development organisations, the private sector and more. We are proud to have entered into the first conservation partnerships with human health and reproductive rights organisations in several regions, as a means of supporting the development of sustainable, healthy communities.

The EWT is registered as a Trust, and not a company under the Companies Act of 2008. Despite this, the EWT has always striven to achieve, and go beyond the expectations of corporate governance excellence. The EWT's Board of Management highlighted, in their annual review process at the end of 2015, small gaps in the composition of the Board, and in the Board's execution of their responsibilities in the area of IT Risk Governance. These were addressed in the following months by inserting remedial actions into the annual Board work plan and the introduction of a more rigorous risk framework for the EWT which now sits with the Board for oversight. The EWT is fully compliant with all relevant new legislation in South Africa including the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI) and we appointed an Information and Compliance Officer to ensure that the EWT remains abreast of legislation and manages our risk, through a detailed compliance register. We have furthermore introduced a Health and Safety Committee into the Trust, as well as policies to address bribery and corruption, kidnapping, and conflicts of interest. The rigorous oversight provided by our Board of Management, the Audit and Finance Committee and the Social, Ethics and Remuneration Committee of the EWT, offers our donors a sense of comfort and our staff a supportive backbone to retain our potion as a leader in excellence in corporate governance.

Perhaps the single greatest strength of the EWT has always been, and remains, the passionate, driven people who make it all happen. The EWT is an incubator for extraordinary talent and we supported the higher educational aspirations of 23 post-graduate students in this past year. This is in addition to the 11 interns who are now employed as a result of the work place experiential training provided by the EWT. The EWT staff numbers grew by ~12% with the bulk of these new people being employed in our programmes, and in correlation with the 30% increase in programme expenditure for the year. It would be remiss of me to exclude the equally important canine members of the EWT staff who work equally long hours and with as much passion and vigour in their work, and the EWT has no less than 16 conservation canines working around the clock to reduce wildlife crime and save threatened species.

We love that we are not the only ones passionate about the Paw! Our social media following increased by more than 50% in the last year and more than R250 million in media space equivalency was secured by the EWT, continuing to raise the profile of our work. Recognition of the outstanding contributions of the EWT this past year is detailed on page 121 of this report but notable awards include the SANParks Kudu Award, the Future for Nature Award and the Mail & Guardian Greening the Future Award. Our staff continue to lend their leadership skills and professionalism to associate entities, with EWT Head of Conservation Dr. Harriet Davies-Mostert chairing the South African National Committee of the IUCN as well as the President of the South African Wildlife Management Association and our Birds of Prey Programme Manager Andre Botha co-Chairing the IUCN Vulture Specialist Group. The CEO was a member of the Environmental Minister's Committee of Inquiry into the potential legal sale of Rhino Horn and continues to serve on the Board of Directors for the Institute of Directors of South Africa. EWT staff travelled to more than 15 countries in the last year to work with conservation colleagues, present their work, meet with donors and establish partnerships for better conservation outcomes. More than eight peer reviewed publications were produced by EWT staff and the EWT's leadership role was demonstrated by the regular production of thought leadership pieces and position statements on topical issues such as hydraulic fracturing for shale gas (or 'fracking'), baited shark diving and the intensive and selective breeding of game species.

As we look forward to the year ahead, several exciting plans are afoot to guarantee an even more productive time. The EWT has embarked on a project to ensure formal protection for the Soutpansberg Mountain Range through the generous support of Phil and Sue Roberts in Australia. The Roberts' are passionate about this extraordinary centre of endemism and biological diversity and their support has formed the backbone of a long-term vision to establish the Soutpansberg Protected Area. Our work on addressing wildlife crime is set to ramp up significantly with ground-breaking new projects which could significantly assist in the successful arrest and prosecution of wildlife criminals. The work of the EWT in rural communities is set to expand with the initiation of innovative new projects addressing human health and reproduction and community enterprise development in several SADC countries. Importantly, the EWT staff will be present and actively involved in the IUCN World Conservation Congress and the CITES Conference of the Parties later in 2016, at which global policy on a range of crucial environmental and wildlife conservation issues will be debated and defined.

In closing, this past year has resulted in significant growth in revenue generation and project spend at the EWT; an expansion in the scope and reach of our activities; personal and personnel development for our people; improved conservation impact; and a sense of pride for what we do. It has not however been without its challenges and heartbreaks for the staff who have witnessed whole packs of Wild Dogs dying from distemper; hundreds of dead vultures scattered around a poisoned carcass; the loss of over 1,110 rhinos due to brutal poaching; and the continual erosion of our natural resources for short-term profit and individual gain. But we know that we can make a difference and build a better world for us all. We've doing this for over 43 years and with your continued support and friendship, we will continue until the world doesn't need us anymore.

Thank-you for supporting the EWT.



Yolan Friedmann





SNAPSHOT

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WHO WE ARE

Non-governmental, non-profit, conservation organisation

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21,829 followers

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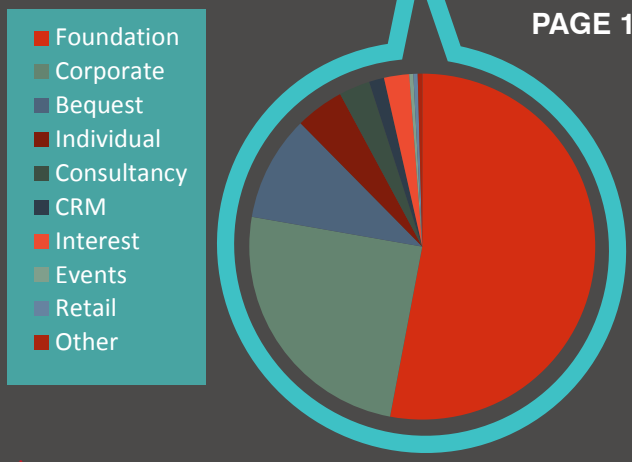
FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY



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SUPPORTERS

The heartbeat of Africa

SAVE our WILDLIFE

WHO WE ARE

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

The EWT communicates the principles of sustainable living through awareness programmes to the broadest possible constituency for the benefit of the region. We have developed a unique operational structure through which our Mission and objectives are achieved – meeting our conservation goals through the work of specialist, thematic programmes, designed to maximise effectiveness in the field and enhance the development of skills and capacity. These programmes form the backbone of the organisation and are essentially self-managed projects harnessing the talent and enthusiasm of a dynamic network of individuals who specialise in an area of conservation importance and have developed unique expertise in response to the challenges they face.

Programmes comprise multiple stakeholders and harness their diverse but relevant expertise to address environmental priorities. Stakeholders include national and provincial government, other NGOs, landowners, local communities, farm workers, conservancies, academic institutions and industry. The EWT also acts as a public watchdog, often taking government and industry to task for decision-making which does not meet sustainability criteria.

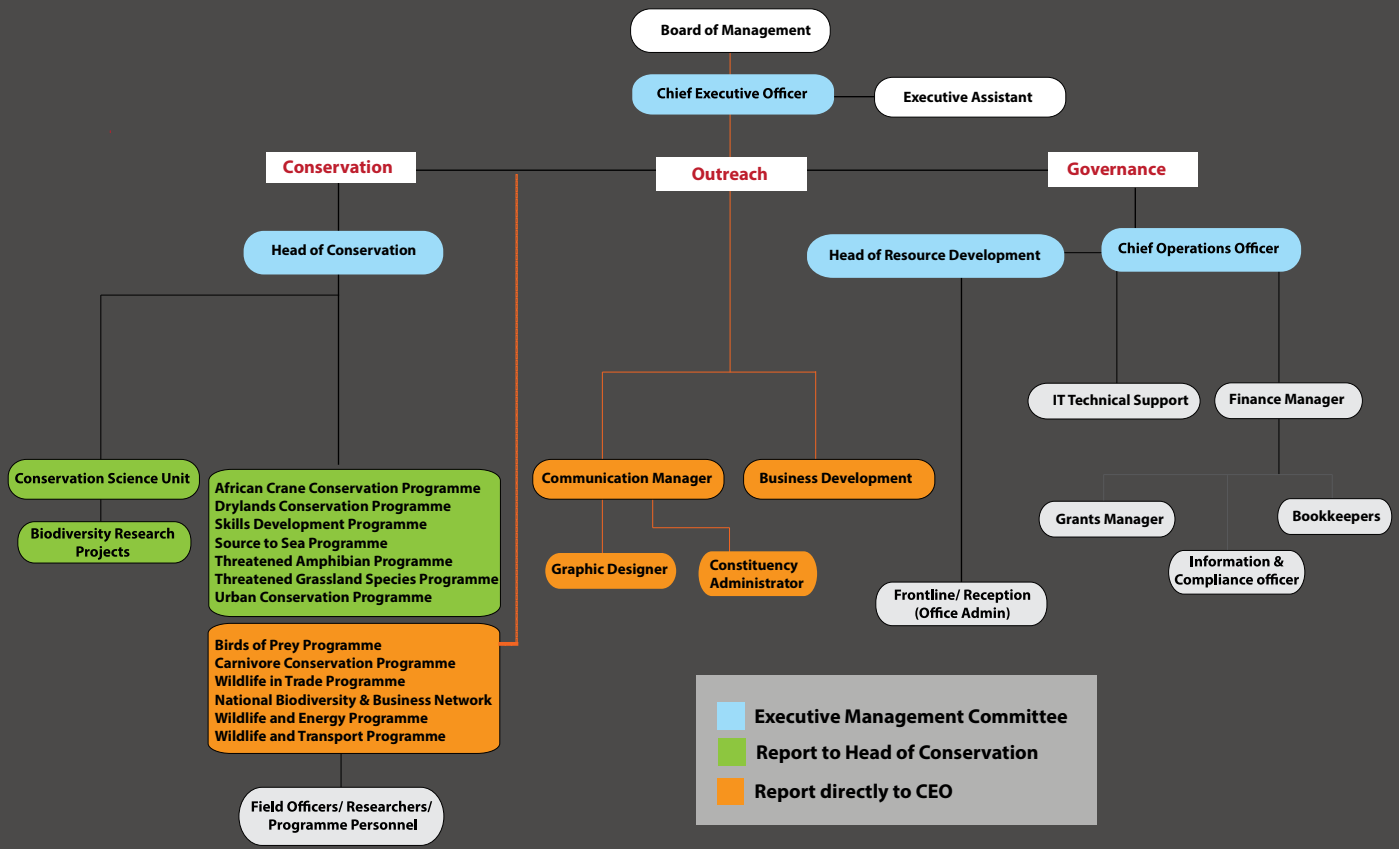
Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

STAFF STRUCTURE



BIG PICTURE

THE EWT'S PROGRAMMES

The EWT achieves its impact through 13 thematic conservation programmes, as well as our Conservation Science Unit. In the following pages, the targets and goals specific to each programme are depicted by a unique programme icon, represented as follows:

- ACCP - African Crane Conservation Programme
- BoPP - Birds of Prey Programme
- CCP - Carnivore Conservation Programme
- CSU - Conservation Science Unit
- DCP - Drylands Conservation Programme
- NBBN - National Biodiversity & Business Network
- SDP - Skills Development Programme
- STSP - Source to Sea Programme
- TAP - Threatened Amphibian Programme
- TGSP - Threatened Grassland Species Programme
- UCP - Urban Conservation Programme
- WEP - Wildlife & Energy Programme
- WiT - Wildlife in Trade Programme
- WRP - Wildlife & Roads Project

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

In October 2010, the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a revised and update *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity*, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2011–2020. As a signatory to the CBD, South Africa is committed to meeting these 20 targets, and the EWT plays a significant role in supporting this. The icons for these targets are presented below, and the specific links to the EWT's Strategic Imperatives are presented in the graphic opposite (page 9).

1. Awareness increased
2. Biodiversity values integrated
3. Incentives reformed
4. Sustainable consumption and production
5. Habitat loss halved or reduced
6. Sustainable management of marine living resources
7. Sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry
8. Pollution reduced
9. Invasive alien species prevented and controlled
10. Pressures on vulnerable ecosystems reduced
11. Protected areas increased and improved
12. Extinction prevented
13. Genetic diversity maintained
14. Ecosystems and essential services safeguarded
15. Ecosystems restored and resilience enhanced
16. Nagoya Protocol in force and operational
17. NBSAPs adopted as policy instrument
18. Traditional knowledge respected
19. Knowledge improved, shared and applied
20. Financial resources from all sources increased

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In September 2015, countries around the globe adopted a set of goals to **end poverty, protect the planet**, and **ensure prosperity for all** as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. For the goals to be reached, we must all do our part, and the EWT is proud to contribute to these goals, as presented in the graphic opposite (page 9).



ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST 6 STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

The EWT's conservation strategy aligns the organisation's core objectives and goals with its Mission and Vision and with the broader framework of external issues and pressures.

1. Identify human-induced threats and the affected species in order to halt or reverse species decline.
2. Ensure that the viability of threatened habitats and ecosystems is maintained.
3. Develop innovative, economically viable alternatives to address harmful impacts to the benefit of people and biodiversity
4. Increase awareness and mainstream environmental considerations into the daily lives of people and decision makers.
5. Explore and develop opportunities for mentorship and capacity building within the conservation sector.
6. Provide a leadership role in ensuring efficient and adequate implementation, compliance and enforcement of conservation legislation.

LOOKING INWARDS

Impact-driven conservation

Our strategic approach

The EWT's *Conservation Strategy 2012–2017* centres around six Strategic Imperatives that encompass our broad programmatic focus (see page 9). These imperatives focus on understanding and improving the status of threatened species; securing and restoring important habitats and ecosystems; preventing and reducing the impacts of human activities on biodiversity; ensuring that the general public and decision makers understand the importance of the environment and the role of biodiversity; building capacity and skills relevant to the conservation sector; and promoting the development and implementation of strong legislation to protect our natural world and ensure its responsible use.

High-level organisational targets support the achievement of each Strategic Imperative. We action these through 87 specific, high-level programmatic targets that provide a blueprint for each of our 13 conservation programmes, as well as our Conservation Science Unit. Associated with each programme target are one or more high-level indicators that allow us to assess whether we have had our desired impact.

Strategic planning for programmes

During the last reporting period the Carnivore Conservation Programme, Birds of Prey Programme, Drylands Conservation Programme, Wildlife in Trade Programme and Conservation Science Unit each undertook planning processes to refine their strategies. By regularly revisiting their strategies, the EWT's programmes and units ensure that they remain relevant, effective and cutting-edge, and that their approaches are in alignment with the overall EWT Strategy.

How did we do over the past year?

The following pages provide an overview of our progress towards achieving our conservation targets in 2015/2016. Dashboard colours indicate whether targets are "on track" (●), there is "slow progress" (●), progress has "not started"(●) or that the target is "planned" for a future reporting period (●). Programme icons are represented on page 8. For the period under review we achieved anticipated progress in 74% of our 87 programme targets that were planned for this reporting period. The greatest success was achieved for legislation-related targets under Strategic Imperative 6 (100% on track), and performance was lowest in the area of our Support Framework (50% on track). The latter is a relatively new area of work and we envisage that progress will pick up next year.



This is the third reporting year where we have collected comparable data on progress towards targets, allowing us to monitor trends in performance at the level of our organisational targets over time. The radar plot in Figure 2 provides a standardised summary of progress towards targets under each of our Strategic Imperatives (excluding the Support Framework, which has been included in 2015/16). We have maintained our impact across the six pillars of our strategy, and have made particularly significant improvements in our efforts to address human-induced threats (Strategic Imperative 3), raise awareness (Strategic Imperative 4) and support legal frameworks (Strategic Imperative 6). For an overview of each programme's progress towards targets, please see the relevant programme pages (pages 12–25).

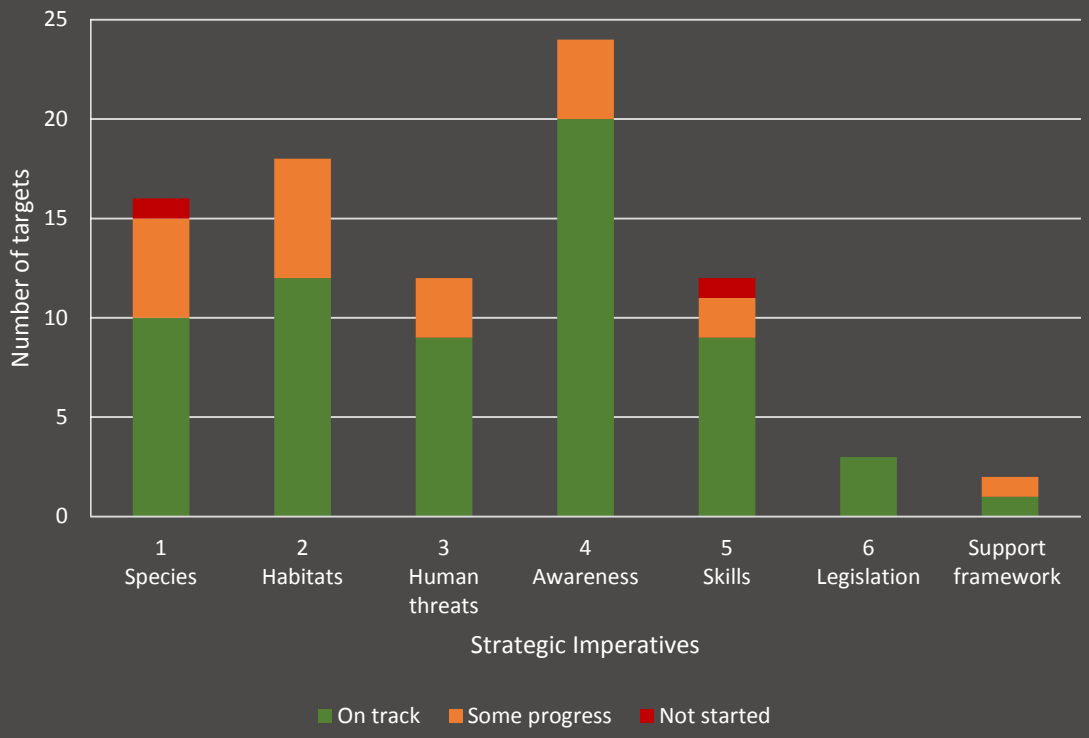


Figure 1. The number of planned programme targets that were on track, had some progress or were not started in 2014/2015, for each of our six Strategic Imperatives.

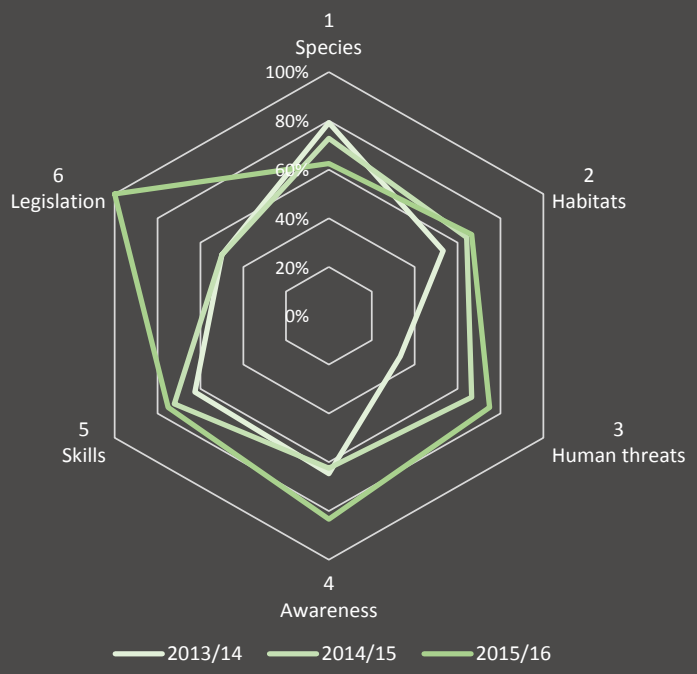


Figure 2 . Trends in progress towards each of the EWT's six Strategic Imperatives. The axis represents the percentage of planned targets that were deemed on track in each year.

STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE 1: CONSERVING SPECIES

Identify human-induced threats and the affected species in order to halt or reverse species decline.

Under this Strategic Imperative, the EWT identifies species under threat of extinction and uses evidence from cutting-edge monitoring and research on species biology, ecology and threats to deploy strategies and solutions to prevent these extinctions. Our focal species often act as indicators of the health of the ecosystems in which they occur, as well as indicators of emerging or increasing threats.

Target 1.1: Monitor and evaluate relevant measures of population status and threats for species of concern.



Baseline data on crane population status and threats are collected at each project site.

We held an ACCP team workshop in June 2016 where we covered the monitoring protocol requirements and outlines for: crane populations, ecosystems and socio-economics. The protocols will now be finalised, and the project site-specific monitoring protocols developed by April 2017. We have completed baseline surveys for all our South African projects and we are developing baseline data for each of our active project sites across the rest of Africa.



The status of and threats to key populations of threatened carnivores are monitored and evaluated, using appropriate scientific protocols.

By June 2016, there were 235 Wild Dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) in 11 reserves and 333 Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) in 52 reserves. We finished our data collection for the Kruger National Park 2014/2015 6th Wild Dog and 3rd Cheetah Photographic Census, having received a total of 1,068 entries: 630 for Wild Dogs and 438 for Cheetahs. We are completing identification of individual animals and population estimates will be obtained using mark-recapture models. We developed a new distribution map of Wild Dogs in South Africa from data submitted at Wild Dog Advisory Group meetings and this forms part of a scientific paper on the status and distribution of Wild Dogs in South Africa that is under review.



Standardised monitoring protocols are developed and baseline population status and threats are quantified for targeted dryland species.

Through partnerships with the University of Cape Town and Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), we finalised a protocol for presence/absence and density estimation for Riverine Rabbits (*Bunolagus monticularis*) in the southern population and have mapped land use and riparian habitat within four priority conservancies. Cape Mountain Zebra (*Equus zebra zebra*) has been identified as a potential new target species for the programme: this species is Vulnerable and requires urgent metapopulation management to avoid genetic inbreeding.



Improved understanding of the extent and impacts of wildlife trade.

We have created a spreadsheet database from publicly available seizure and law enforcement information that we can use to examine trends in wildlife trafficking, including trade routes and hotspots, and smuggling methods. We also completed a report on wildlife ranching in South Africa that detailed the extent of legal trade (live sales, hunting) in wildlife on private land.



Improved understanding of population dynamics and population trends for target amphibian species in southern Africa.

We monitor Pickersgill's Reed Frog (*Hyperolius pickersgilli*) seasonally at four wetland sites in greater Durban using automated acoustic monitoring to gauge habitat rehabilitation effectiveness. We have made population estimates at two sites to date. We monitor the extremely rare Amathole Toad (*Vandijkophrynus amatolicus*) in the Eastern Cape highlands during the breeding season at one known site. However, surveys guided by a habitat prediction model have failed to reveal any new populations. The Endangered Kloof Frog (*Natalobatrachus bonebergi*) is monitored throughout the year at two sites in KwaZulu-Natal and three in the Eastern Cape through the help of citizen scientists. Drought has had a major impact on the breeding activity of this species.



Population status, trends and threats are quantified or at least estimated for target threatened grassland species (as of June 2016; Oribi, Blue Swallow, Yellow-breasted Pipit, Sungazer, Botha's Lark & Critical KZN cycad species).

We have up-to-date population estimates based on robust survey data and, where necessary, extrapolations against remaining suitable habitat, for all species except Botha's Lark (*Spizocorys fringillaris*) where surveys and habitat assessments are still underway (the latter project is not yet a year old). Key threats are known and listed for all of the priority species, and we have compiled historical data for all species in question and interpreted population trends where possible.

Target 1.2. Maintain or, wherever possible, improve population status for species of concern.



Improved current population trends of cranes at project sites.

We continue to observe increasing or stable population trends for all three cranes species in South Africa. However, Grey Crowned Cranes (*Balearica regulorum*) are still declining dramatically in East Africa. Our data indicate that Wattled Cranes (*Bugeranus carunculatus*) may have stabilised across the south central floodplains of Zambia and Botswana.



Improved population trends for threatened birds of prey and other large birds across southern Africa.

A proper assessment of the status of Africa's vultures was published in June 2015. This resulted in the global up-listing of four vulture species to Critically Endangered and two to Endangered. The regional Red Data List, which was published shortly afterwards, listed the Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*) as Critically Endangered, and also up-listed five species of diurnal raptor, the Pel's Fishing Owl (*Scotopelia peli*) and the Saddle-billed Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*) to Endangered in the region.



Viable breeding populations of selected birds of prey and other large birds.

All key breeding locations for colonial/cluster-nesting vultures are known and we surveyed these between July 2015 and June 2016. This included completing an aerial survey of all tree-nesting raptors in the Kruger National Park for the first time in its history. F



Demographic and genetic integrity of Cheetahs and Wild Dogs in managed metapopulations is maintained over five years.

We used data from Wild Dog Advisory Group and Cheetah Cluster meetings to monitor population trends. There are 320 Cheetahs in the national managed metapopulation compared to 293 last year, and 234 dogs in 20 packs compared to 192 dogs in 21 packs last year. We banked 109 Cheetah genetic samples and genotyped 76 of these for 16 microsatellite loci. We found that the Cheetah metapopulation was genetically more diverse than the free roaming population. We are currently auditing all available Wild Dog samples, and plan to conduct analyses next year.



Improved current population trends of targeted dryland species.

Proper surveys of Riverine Rabbits cannot be conducted until the protocol (to determine presence, absence and density) finalised for the Western Cape has been adapted and implemented in the Nama Karoo habitat. We are therefore unable to measure trends at this stage. We envisage that this will commence in 2017.



Improved population trends of selected marine, coastal and freshwater species.

In the Bazaruto Archipelago, we recorded no Dugong (*Dugong dugon*) mortalities in the past year, compared to the previous year in which we had two mortalities. We conducted an average of 30 boat-based marine patrols monthly. We collaborated with the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries in an estuary fish survey at four Northern Cape estuaries and 18 sites were surveyed at the Orange River estuary, showing salinity gradients increasing towards the mouth. The spread of alien trout and shrinking of the Border Barb distribution in the Tyume River, Eastern Cape, is very evident over the past four years.



Improved mitigation of threats facing threatened frog species.

Key threats are understood and mitigation actions have been identified and implemented at seven sites for four species. The *Biodiversity Management Plan for Pickersgill's Reed Frog* identifies the primary threats facing this species and outlines actions to mitigate these threats. We have established good working relationships with stakeholders, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal. The *Amathole Toad Conservation Plan* has been finalised in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including landowners, and is ready for implementation.



Improved population trends for target threatened grassland species.

No known local population extinctions have occurred during the reporting period. According to our data, Blue Swallow (*Hirundo atrocaerulea*) populations are fluctuating but stable. Oribi (*Ourebia ourebi*) populations have shown an overall increase, however this is most likely a result of increased survey effort rather than actual population growth.



Reduced negative impacts of trade on rhinos and other selected species.

We supported anti-poaching and anti-trafficking efforts for rhinos by implementing the ground-breaking community project – Hayi Laa! – which integrated efforts to curb and report social and wildlife crimes in Hluvukani, a village bordering Kruger. We ran our annual school public speaking competition on the social, political and economic impacts of rhino poaching for 20 learners. We also conducted a socio-economic study of the needs and attitudes of communities near important rhino populations. We have increased canine capacity support by placing detection dogs in Addo Elephant National Park, Marakele National Park, Kapama Private Reserve and Sabi Sands Wildtuin. It is disheartening that despite our considerable efforts, rhinos continue to be killed at unsustainable rates.



Targeted transport mitigation solutions and techniques reduce the impacts of transport on flagship species.

Our roadkill incidence database for South African amphibian, reptile, bird and mammal species has over 10,000 entries, with a number of species identified as being more susceptible to becoming roadkill than others; this is particularly the case for mammals, where we have identified the top five most vulnerable species. Further analysis will be conducted to encompass the remaining three vertebrate taxonomic groups.

STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE 2: CONSERVING HABITATS

Ensure that the viability of threatened habitats and ecosystems is maintained.

The EWT integrates the conservation of species, habitats and ecosystem processes in an holistic approach to biodiversity conservation: securing and restoring habitats is crucial to securing species, and human beings in turn reap the benefits of the health and preservation of intact ecosystems.

Target 2.1. Secure priority habitats and ecosystem functions.



Improvement in protected area status (country specific) for important crane sites.

In South Africa, we completed the proclamations of two sites in the Drakensberg region, namely Beaumont Nature Reserve and Cedarville Protected Environment, totalling nearly 20,000 ha. We have a further six sites in South Africa that are in the process of being proclaimed as Protected Environments, and we are exploring opportunities to improve the protected area status of at least one site in Uganda and one in Kenya.



No loss or compromise of identified key breeding sites for birds of prey and other large birds.

We completed monitoring at 21 key sites for the 2015 breeding season and are in the process of completing this for the 2016 season. We have determined that at least two previously inactive Cape Vulture (*Gyps coprotheres*) breeding colonies are again being used by the species. Five sites have shown an increase in the number of active nests.



Over-wintering birds of prey have sufficient roosting sites and staging areas in the region.

We have identified all roosting sites for migratory falcons and we conducted counts in January 2016. Our database is current and kept up to date, but more work is needed on staging areas through focused research and monitoring.



Current carnivore sites are maintained and new safe carnivore habitat is established.

In the national managed metapopulations there are 11 reserves (5,086 km^2) with Wild Dogs and 53 (11,124 km^2) with Cheetahs - one more reserve each for Wild Dogs and Cheetahs this year. We placed livestock guarding dogs with farmers to effectively protect 1,050 km^2 of carnivore friendly habitat, up from the 300 km^2 that we converted last year, and bringing the total land under carnivore-friendly livestock production to 4,000 km^2. We approved >25,000 bee-hives as Honey Badger Friendly under our partnership with Woolworths. Between August 2015 and May 2016, 34 Wild Dogs succumbed to diseases (Rabies and Canine Distemper Virus) in the Greater Kruger National Park (Kruger) area. As a result we are implementing a vaccination and monitoring plan for Wild Dogs in Kruger in collaboration with SANParks. Additionally, 10 Kruger Wild Dogs were recorded carrying snares: four of these were removed, two animals were left with amputated limbs and four died. We initiated surveys to determine snaring hotspots and key interventions.



Increase in dryland areas secured under formal Biodiversity Stewardship agreements.

We have identified and assessed priority sites for Riverine Rabbit in the Northern Cape and now need to approach land owners to join the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme, and support the Department of Environment Northern Cape in rolling out its Protected Areas Expansion Strategy. We have held provisional discussions with CapeNature around priority expansion areas for Cape Mountain Zebra.



Increased area under formal protection for selected threatened aquatic ecosystems and species.

6,000 ha of the Orange River Mouth Estuary is in the process of undergoing Protected Area proclamation, which has been supported by data from our LiDAR survey. LiDAR uses lasers to acquire fine scale data used in Digital Elevation Modelling (DEM) to map areas of soil build up and to identify areas where water flow can be reconnected. This is also crucial to restoring the ecosystem functioning of the estuary. We have had positive engagement with three farmers in the Amatholes who are located in the Amathole Toad modelled distribution area.



Sufficient suitable habitat supports viable populations of priority threatened frog species.

While the species we work on naturally have small or fragmented ranges (or both), we have a good understanding of what these distributions are and we have identified and mapped priority sites for conservation interventions. Where relevant, we are also in the process of identifying the most appropriate way to protect these sites in the long term. Baseline wetland health assessments will help with understanding habitat requirements and the effectiveness of habitat restoration efforts.



Increase in the area of suitable habitat formally secured for target populations of priority threatened grassland species.

We have developed accurate GIS maps for Botha's Lark, Sungazer (*Smaug giganteus*), Blue Swallow, Oribi and Yellow-breasted Pipit (*Anthus chloris*) populations based on robust sightings data, however the Oribi map is currently limited to KwaZulu-Natal and requires national updating. Our priority sites include a site near Wakkerstroom (>15,000 ha), for the protection of key Botha's Lark and Yellow-breasted Pipit populations, and near Volksrust (>27,000 ha) for Sungazers, both of which are pending formal proclamation. Further sites are in early negotiation.



Two new priority urban conservation sites, together encompassing at least 200 hectares, are formally secured within 5 years.

Through our Gauteng Biodiversity Stewardship Project we are considering 34 sites, comprised of over 50,000 ha of land, for proclamation under Biodiversity Stewardship. Biodiversity Stewardship sees the partnering of conservation authorities and private landowners to manage private land in biodiversity priority areas for the benefit of conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. Landowners are recognised as the custodians of biodiversity on their land.

Target 2.2. Improve the ecological integrity of priority habitats and ecosystem functions through rehabilitation, restoration and sustainable management.



Improved ecosystem services at all project sites which are sites important to cranes.

Our '*How to Guide*' for measuring ecosystem goods and services is being implemented at our project sites in South Africa and we will roll it out at all project sites across Africa. We have obtained baseline ecosystem measures at three sites within South Africa, and will be increasing that to a further seven sites in the next year.



Increased quality of habitat and improved ecosystem services in dryland ecosystems, for the benefit and enhanced resilience of focal species and local communities.

We have propagated and planted 4,000 seedlings of indigenous Karoo vegetation, effectively restoring 20 ha in Maanhaarspoort and 10 ha in Silvery Home. We are still undertaking our degradation and sustainable-use mapping (World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies – WOCAT) which will help us to understand the interaction between farmers and the environment and the effects (positive or negative) of farming practices on habitat quality and ecosystem services provision.



Improved ecosystem services in at least three sites important to targeted marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems and species.

We have designed our ecological monitoring protocols for Amathole, Cape Critical Rivers, Orange River Mouth, Marico and Bazaruto and we have identified the important ecosystem services that we need to monitor. We conducted fish and habitat surveys in the Tyume River in September 2015 and a hydrological survey in the Kouebokkeveld in May 2016. MiniSASS results in a section of the Tyume River showed that is Largely Modified or in Poor Condition, probably due to settlements, agriculture, livestock and alien invasive plant species.



Habitat restoration and sustainable management support the conservation of threatened frog populations.

We have cleared approximately 300 ha of alien vegetation and initiated rehabilitation activities at four wetland areas at which Pickersgill's Reed Frog occurs in eThekwini, in the process creating jobs and providing training and skills development for 65 people. Baseline wetland health assessments have been conducted as the basis for ongoing annual monitoring. We have developed habitat management protocols for Amathole Toad to be implemented in consultation with local forestry.



Improved management practices, habitat condition and ecosystem services in grasslands, for the benefit and enhanced resilience of focal species, habitats and local communities.

All formally registered custodianship sites have baseline population estimates in place, this includes 37 Oribi custodians and 20 Sungazer custodians. None of the Biodiversity Stewardship proclamations (hectarage as reported in 2.1.1) have been formally gazetted as yet.



Ecological infrastructure, biodiversity and ecosystem functioning are improved in selected urban sites through rehabilitation and sustainable land and water management.

We finalised the Environmental Management Plan for Modderfontein Reserve, a 275 ha urban open space owned by Zendai, and the first site chosen for this target. Our goal for the reserve is to rehabilitate and restore habitats for our wild flora and fauna, and to achieve this we cleared 45 ha of alien invasive plants and planted 170 indigenous plants in the past year. We have also implemented the Ecosystem Goods and Services Toolkit developed by the EWT's African Crane Conservation Programme. This toolkit uses a combination of simple but effective tools, such as measurements of water quality, soil protection and biodiversity, and will provide the basis for monitoring the positive impacts of our sustainable land management actions going forward.

Target 2.3. Significant reduction in loss of priority habitats.



Wetland extent is maintained at project sites important to cranes.

We have completed baseline wetland extent mapping within our South African project sites, and for three key wetlands in Rwanda. However this still needs to be completed for sites within Uganda, Kenya and Zambia.



A reduction in the loss of high quality habitat (HQH) for RR and targeted dryland species.

In this reporting period we digitised the fine scale mapping that we conducted with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in 2014. These maps include habitat extent and quality and will serve as a baseline to assess further improvement or degradation. We are developing a time-line as part of the riparian habitat characterisation to evaluate loss of habitat over time, but this has been delayed as a result of delayed funding.



A reduction in the loss of high quality habitat for targeted grassland species.

We have not, to the best of our knowledge, lost any priority habitat during the reporting period, however the number of threats has increased significantly.

STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE 3: ADDRESSING THREATS

Develop innovative, economically viable alternatives to address harmful impacts to the benefit of people and biodiversity.

This Strategic Imperative aims to develop innovative, economically viable alternatives to address harmful impacts, to benefit both people and biodiversity. Humans often have negative impacts on other species and their habitats and we need a healthy mix of innovation, determination and pragmatism to lessen these impacts in a way that benefits both nature and people.

Target 3.1. Adoption of adaptive sustainable natural resource management across the focal areas.



Shifts in livelihood practices to those that utilise and increase the value that communities place on species and ecosystem functioning at project sites important to cranes.

We have completed baseline socio-economic assessments for the Chrissiesmeer community in South Africa, and are in the process of completing these for each of our project sites in East Africa, and for Liuwa Plains in Zambia.



A positive shift from unsustainable economic activities/unemployment to livelihoods derived from water-linked green-economy systems in local communities at selected sites.

We completed a livelihoods and fishing practices assessment for the Sitone village in Bazaruto. We are currently undertaking broad scale feasibility studies for alternative livelihoods within all our projects and these will be completed by October 2016. We have supported 90 families through our Green Economy initiatives that support catchment restoration in Amathole, and we have paid out ~R 1.150 million to five Natural Resource Management contractors in the Amatholes over the last year.

Target 3.2. Identification and mitigation of existing and emerging threats to biodiversity in focus areas from industry.



Input is provided and adopted into potentially harmful developments in key areas for birds of prey and other large birds in southern Africa.

We provided substantial input into the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Vulture Conservation Strategy which was reviewed in July 2015. The Bearded Vulture *BMP* guides conservation action to the benefit of the species, and supports conservation action aimed at Cape Vultures within its range. We provided input into five proposed wind-energy installations during 2015/2016 and conducted monitoring at two sites in the Karoo.



A reduction in mortalities of birds of prey and other large birds as a result of anthropogenic impacts.

We update our poisoning database continuously and are working on the construction of an active interface to allow direct uploading of data. We received information on 30 incidents involving the loss of 438 vultures. We conducted 33 wildlife poisoning intervention training interventions to a total of 826 people in South Africa, Zambia, Mozambique and Namibia. Our first direct engagement with traditional healers took place in the Lowveld in June 2016; this is an important stakeholder group for addressing the impact of muthi use on vultures.



No negative trade impacts on wild populations of carnivores in South Africa.

The Cheetah Non-Detriment Finding Assessment was finalised and is awaiting ministerial sign off. The Cheetah and Wild Dog Biodiversity Management Plan is in draft format and needs updating prior to another stakeholder workshop. Neither of these documents have been published and as such are not yet being formally implemented



Key threats to urban biodiversity are identified and management solutions or alternatives are determined and implemented.

All reports of human-wildlife conflict were logged, as were reports of threats to critical biodiversity habitats. We launched the Johannesburg Wildlife Network, in partnership with other environmental organisations and researchers, to more effectively use these reports to identify key threats to prioritise and address. The network is gaining ground and, as it grows, more expertise is harnessed to increase the efficacy of interventions implemented.



Annually revised and improved best practice guidelines are adopted by the energy industry and government.

The Department of Environmental Affairs uses our guidelines in all authorisations for energy infrastructure. Independent Power Producers and Eskom submit reports to both the EWT and BirdLife South Africa as part of their authorisations.



Guidance and recommendations for the mitigation of impacts from existing and new energy infrastructure are adopted and implemented.

All new power lines go through a vetting process: transmission power lines go through an Environmental Impact Assessment, and distribution power lines go through a Distribution Environmental Screening Document process. We received reports of 241 wildlife-powerline related incidents: 173 incidents related to Eskom distribution infrastructure and 48 to transmission infrastructure. These resulted in the mortality of 724 individuals comprising 65 different species. We conducted 114 investigations for Distribution and 17 for Transmission. During Eskom's last financial year (1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016) more than 1,215 poles were changed to bird friendly structures; 63 transformers/strain poles were insulated; and 724 spans were fitted with bird flight diverters, totalling more than 12,108 units.



All new and refurbishment energy infrastructure projects adopt pre and post construction monitoring for relevant wildlife impacts.

The Department of Environmental Affairs requires that all post-construction results be submitted to the EWT, and to date we have received feedback from seven facilities on operational monitoring results. Eskom implements guidelines with respect to pre- and post-construction electrical infrastructure guidelines, as developed in conjunction with EWT.



Reduced risk of wildlife mortalities related to the energy sector.

Ongoing recommendation letters are sent to Eskom for implementation. Twenty randomly-selected audits were completed on Eskom Distribution recommendations sent by the EWT. In April 2016, the partnership launched pro-active mitigation projects in both Eskom Distribution and Transmission. We also developed, improved and tested the effectiveness of existing mitigation methods and products.



The EWT's recommendations for transport mitigation solutions and techniques are adopted and implemented in priority sites.

A handbook outlining a suite of strategies for mitigation has been drafted and will be available by December 2016.



Targeted training and capacity-building interventions enable role-players in the transport sector to reduce the impacts of transport on biodiversity.

We have provided training to 80 staff from the N3TC and Bakwena road patrol teams since October 2015. Training involves an introduction to road ecology, how to collect accurate roadkill data, as well as a snake handling course. In addition, we accompany the staff whilst on road patrol. Data from the two toll companies are submitted monthly; we have observed an increase in reporting accuracy by the trainees and this needs to be incorporated into the quarterly reports produced for the transport sector.

STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE 4:
AWARENESS & MAINSTREAMING

Increase awareness and mainstream environmental considerations into the daily lives of people and decision makers.

The targets under this Strategic Imperative all aim to increase awareness and mainstream environmental considerations into the daily lives of people and decision makers. We do this through a diversity of strategies: firstly ensuring that our guidelines and tools are adopted and implemented; secondly ensuring that our data are integrated into relevant decision-making processes, and; thirdly through a diverse array of programmes and projects that aim to instil positive changes in behaviour and practices among selected stakeholder groups.

Target 4.1. All of the EWT's guidelines and tools are adopted and implemented.

Biodiversity mainstreaming guidelines and tools support the mainstreaming of biodiversity into business.

We developed a methodology for assessing the readiness of businesses to mainstream biodiversity into their activities and strategies, and will commence with the development of an online biodiversity mainstreaming toolkit and a biodiversity reporting framework once funding has been secured. We completed biodiversity mainstreaming readiness assessments for six partner organisations of the National Biodiversity and Business Network.

Awareness is raised amongst decision-makers in business and government in South Africa on the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity into their activities and strategies.

We held two events in 2015/2016, one in Gauteng to launch a document entitled *Overview of the current approaches and practices of South African businesses to the mainstreaming of biodiversity* prepared by the NBBN, in partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs, and the other in KwaZulu-Natal on investment in ecological infrastructure. We presented at an international conference in the Western Cape and convened a workshop in Johannesburg with one of our partners to explore their biodiversity related business risks. We distributed 12 newsletters. We have been delayed in producing an assessment of the current policy and regulatory framework with respect to the mainstreaming of biodiversity into business in South Africa, and no relevant policy briefings were received for review in the past year.

Target 4.2. EWT data are integrated into all relevant decision making.

Conservation planning and development processes in South Africa incorporate relevant data on cranes, their habitats and their threats.

We processed five data requests over the past year. Most notably, our data were included in a review of the Eastern Cape Biodiversity Plan and were also incorporated in a review of the KZN Provincial Conservation Plan, which identifies areas of Irreplaceable Biodiversity. Finally, our data were used by Working for Wetlands to assist in prioritising wetland rehabilitation over the next three years in Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal provinces.

Conservation planning is appropriately informed by relevant carnivore data.

We provided six carnivore datasets for studies through the EWT's Biodiversity DataBank. We shared a further dataset under our collaborative partnership with the National Geographic Big Cats Initiative.

Robust scientific methods and relevant, high quality and up-to-date data improve the conservation practice of the EWT and other relevant decision makers.

We have built the EWT's Biodiversity DataBank, but it requires further development before it becomes fully functional. We established a tracking mechanism for dataset management, and we received 14 new datasets in 2016. We track all external data requests, and received 33 in the past year. We published a large dataset of 26,000 African Crane occurrence records on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). We provided regular GIS and scientific support to programmes, ranging from creating maps of potential project sites for funding proposals, to developing techniques for analysing roadkill data from regular road patrols, extracting contour boundaries of the Orange River Mouth estuary from LIDAR data, and developing Ecological Niche Models for Wild Dogs in the Kruger National Park.



Conservation planning and development processes are appropriately informed by relevant dryland data and guidelines.

We completed conservation mapping for 20 farms across four conservancies. These maps will inform our future planning and are an essential precursor for stewardship and restoration. We have initiated partnerships with various entities to facilitate data sharing and joint planning, including the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Northern Cape Department of Environment Northern Cape, the University of Cape Town, and the Square Kilometre Array.



Targeted businesses effectively and proactively incorporate biodiversity considerations into their strategies and operations.

We actively worked with five of the NBBN's partners to further the mainstreaming of biodiversity into their strategies and activities.



Conservation planning and development processes are appropriately informed by relevant amphibian priority conservation plans.

We contributed amphibian data into spatial planning processes for eThekwini and Kwadukuza Municipalities as well as the KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Plan.
We conducted eight specialist studies for development assessment processes in KwaZulu-Natal and provided comments on various Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments and Biodiversity Assessment reports, and contributed to the National Wetland Monitoring Plan for the Water Research Commission.



Conservation planning and development processes are appropriately informed by relevant grassland species and habitat data.

We keep all of our priority species databases up-to-date. We have made our species distribution data available to relevant provincial conservation agencies. Long-term data have been analysed within post-graduate research projects (Oribi and Sungazer). We have compiled a significant amount of new data for existing and new species (seven focal species) and these data have contributed to updating three Red List assessments, provincial conservation plans and irreplaceability maps which, in turn, inform protected area expansion strategies.



Urban conservation planning and development are appropriately informed by biodiversity data.

We provided comments and recommendations on the Johannesburg Spatial Development Framework Review Draft, the Gauteng Spatial Development Framework and the Gauteng Environmental Management Framework. We actively participated a number of stakeholder workshops including the Stakeholder Workshop for the Alien Invasive Plant Control Plan for the City of Johannesburg, the Johannesburg Spatial Development Framework Environmental Stakeholder Session, the Gauteng Wetland Forum, and a number of workshops on the effective implementation of Biodiversity Stewardship.

Target 4.3. Positive change in behaviour and practice occurs among selected stakeholder groups.



A greater appreciation of birds of prey and other large birds and their associated habitats leads to positive behavioural changes.

The 2015 International Vulture Awareness Day was supported by more than 160 organisations in 43 countries globally. We gave 43 talks and presentations at various forums and at national and international conferences. We disseminated >80 raptor-related media articles, in national and international media. We had more than 300 interactions with the public via a range of media, as well as through telephonic enquiries, social media or face-to-face interactions.



Applied research on identified key species and threats results in positive changes in behaviour and practice regarding raptors and other large birds.

We facilitated one post-doctoral, two PhD and two MSc studies during the year under review, and our intern was awarded a National Diploma in Nature Conservation from UNISA. We produced six peer-reviewed publications, with another five papers currently under peer-review. Two staff were the primary assessors or reviewers for 18 species listed in the 2015 edition of the *Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland*.



An improved appreciation of carnivores by target audiences leads to positive behavioural changes.

We have effected behavioural change among livestock farmers through the placement of nine livestock guarding dogs this year. We experienced challenges placing dogs with non-flocking Dorper sheep in the Northern Cape; three out of five of these dogs are working well. We have now placed a total of 180 dogs and farmers are increasingly convinced that these dogs are effective. We formally responded to 28 human-carnivore conflicts since January 2016, when we started keeping systematic records. We audited twenty-eight beekeepers to evaluate their Badger Friendly status for Woolworths, and all but one passed the audit. Our managed metapopulations of Cheetahs and Wild Dogs were well-supported, with meetings in each cluster being well-attended by stakeholders. We are aware of eight reserves interested in introducing Cheetahs and four in African Wild Dogs over the next 2–4 years. Three reserves have expressed preliminary interest in reintroducing Cheetahs in Malawi, Mozambique and Swaziland.

A greater appreciation for the importance of conserv-



ing dryland ecosystems and biodiversity leads to improved management practices.

We presented to two local farmers associations, and the Wilderness Foundation Peer Learning Workshop. We held workshops with the Loxton Farmers Association and Cape Hunting and Conservation Association to discuss mitigation of threats posed by hydraulic fracturing and uranium mining. Our Groen Sebenza intern conducted Riverine Rabbit awareness outreach work with 41 learners from the Loxton School and field excursions include emerging farmers. We produced six popular articles, two radio interviews, and our activities were featured on *News24* websites. Loxton was nominated town of the year and our team was interviewed as part of the TV program *Kwela*.

Training and capacity building interventions enable positive changes in behaviour and practice for selected stakeholders.

We have been working with other programmes and units to develop and implement training programmes for the conservation sector. The first programme under development is the GIS training programme although this was not ready to be launched during the reporting period.

Increased awareness of marine, coastal and freshwater issues and the importance of aquatic habitats and species leads to positive behavioural changes.

We published three media releases, conducted seven radio and TV interviews and held a National Marine Week event this year. We have workshopped conservation plans with key stakeholders and finalised these for the Border Barb and the Amathole Toad. Programme staff attended five national and international conferences this year, including: the 7th International Sirenian Symposium in December in San Francisco, the Southern African Society of Aquatic Scientists Conference in the Drakensberg, and the African Water Symposium in Bloemfontein.

Informed and engaged communities where the youth and women are involved in integrated natural resource management and monitoring related to marine or freshwater environments.

We established the Amathole Catchment Forum which includes 50 organisations throughout the region. We are involved in the Freshwater Forum in the Western Cape, as well as the Water Users Associations (WUAs) in the Kouebokkeveld and Barrydale areas. Eight Eco-Schools in the Amathole catchment area are engaged and contributing to the MiniSASS portal, while another eight are active in the uMzimvubu catchment, through our Healthy Catchment Alliance Partnership with WESSA. The primary school at Alexander Bay is also engaged through our Orange River Mouth Project and has received citizen science training.



A shift in public attitude towards the importance of frogs and the conservation of their habitats supports amphibian conservation.

Seven regional frog posters have been developed and a children's book and smart device app published in four South African languages. Over 30 events were held across South Africa to celebrate Leap Day for Frogs 2016, including participation from schools. We gave 12 presentations to the general public and represented EWT at five national symposia. Our projects featured in 30+ media articles, five radio interviews, one national television show and five online video clips. We continue to receive requests from public for assistance with frog identification and help in amphibian-human conflict issues.



A greater appreciation of threatened grassland species and the importance of conserving their habitats leads to improved management practices.

Our databases for capturing survey data are in place, and we are still developing our incident database. We increased the number of media outputs over the past year by nearly 15%, especially with respect to television outputs. Our landowner contact databases are in place and are regularly updated. We are compiling monthly updated records for consistent monitoring. Our community awareness work has directly addressed >10,500 people in KZN, the Free State and southern Mpumalanga.



Increased citizen participation in urban conservation activities.

We use both the Johannesburg Wildlife Network and Modderfontein Reserve Facebook pages to interact with our stakeholders on social media with a combined following of 3,700, up from 2,000 last year. We have logged all wildlife related queries reported to us, and to our partners where relevant. These queries are increasing as the awareness of the programme grows.



Improved awareness of the environment and sustainable living at school level through formally recognised programmes.

All ten of our schools participating in the WESSA Eco-Schools Programme implemented action projects and incorporated relevant themes into their lesson plans and classroom activities, increasing environmental awareness among learners and improving the environmental management of their schools. Eight of the ten enrolled schools completed their projects for the year and advanced to the next Eco-Schools level. Over 10,000 previously disadvantaged learners and community members have benefited from the programme through increased health and food security and small-scale income generation. In the last year we have secured funding for two more schools, increasing our reach by 20%.

Greater awareness of the need to conserve key biodiversity leads to reduced biodiversity-related impacts from the energy sector.

We keep monthly records on media outputs. In total, there were 57 media releases in the last year across numerous platforms. The most used platform was the social media account, Facebook, with 51 posts. On social media, there are four pages that are commonly used to post information about WEP, namely the EWT homepage, Wildlife and Powerlines, Birds and Powerlines and Wildlife and Energy. Run exclusively by the WEP team, the following pages have a wide reach: Wildlife and Powerlines has 339 members, Wildlife and Energy has 94 members and Birds and Powerlines has 14 members. Also, we produced articles in magazines such as *Landbou*, *Farmers Weekly* and *Engineering News*. The most popular post on the satellite data tracking of the Lesser Flamingos reached over 27,000 people.

Reduced demand for illegal, unsustainable or unethical wildlife products and specimens.

Our efforts towards demand reduction in the past year have focused on leveraging support from Chinese business and community leaders in South Africa to discourage involvement in wildlife crime and increase reporting rates. We have established partnerships with other NGOs in this space to share resources and ensure a coordinated approach.

Increased societal awareness of the impacts of transport on biodiversity leads to reduced impacts, especially on flagship species and in priority sites.

We enter all roadkill data submissions weekly, and summarise the tally in a monthly report. We also keep a monthly record of the number of media articles as well as the membership count for each of our social media platforms; these have increased since last year, with the Road Ecology Facebook page growing from 830 to 1,107 members, the Roadkill Research LinkedIn group increasing from 1,212 to 1,373 members and the EWTRoads Twitter account increasing from 251 to 277 followers.





STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE 5: CAPACITY AND SKILLS

Explore and develop opportunities for mentorship and capacity building within the conservation sector.

The conservation sector in South Africa suffers from a shortage of skills, capacity and experience. Inadequate conservation awareness in the National Education Curriculum, a widespread absence of economic and career incentives, and the absence of appropriate mentorship have all created large skills gaps. Under this Strategic Imperative, the EWT explores and develops opportunities for mentorship and capacity building within the sector by developing high quality, relevant and accredited training tools. Our approach ensures that these tools are utilised, and we implement a range of focused capacity building and leadership interventions.

Target 5.1. A suite of high quality and accredited relevant training tools is developed and utilised.



Capacity of the EWT and other actors within the conservation sector is built in conservation-relevant scientific methods, to improve conservation practice.

We provided training, both within the EWT, and externally. We held two training workshops, one on Ecological Niche Modelling and data papers for 10 participants from across Africa, and one on Red Listing for five participants from Swaziland and Lesotho. We provided additional training for 20 EWT staff during our annual Development Week. We developed our first online course which we are testing before we launch it publicly.



A suite of high quality relevant training tools supports biodiversity conservation in freshwater, marine and coastal environments.

We developed and organised a GPS refresher training course for the Chizungune Law Enforcement Officers in Bazaruto. In the Amatholes, we facilitated first aid training for 15 participants, health and safety training for 15 participants, fire awareness and snake awareness for 85 participants, chainsaw operator training for 10 participants, introduction to beekeeping for 16 participants, introduction to social enterprises training for 23 people, and IT training for five Natural Resource Management contractors.



A suite of high quality training courses on amphibian identification and ecology support improved amphibian conservation.

As part of extended learning for individuals working on our Natural Resource Management teams, we have supplied handbooks on local wetland biodiversity and are measuring the change in knowledge and attitudes to biodiversity over the project lifespan. We plan to incorporate field guiding courses as part of training for select team members. We are developing frog biology and identification courses to be presented as part of FGASA-accredited courses and have given lectures on the same to course students.



A suite of high quality relevant training tools supports improved grasslands resource management.

We completed our Custodianship Toolkit and have started disseminating it to landowners. We have also drafted a Community Habitat Restoration Toolkit which we are regularly updating and refining based on practical experience.



Relevant training courses lead to improved biodiversity management in the energy sector.

We conducted 69 wildlife interaction training sessions in the past year. These were attended by 1,253 Eskom employees, taking the total to >8,000 employees that we have trained since 2010. We received 241 wildlife-powerline related incident reports in the past year, and we rolled out proactive mitigation projects for both distribution and transmission lines in April 2016.

Target 5.2. A range of focused capacity building and leadership development interventions is implemented.



Improved leadership capacity of ACCP staff and partner organisations, and capacity to implement crane, wetland and community conservation projects supported by the ICF/EWT Partnership.

This year we enrolled our three EcoRangers in accredited learning and we supported seven local youths from Chrissiesmeer to undergo nature guiding training. We convened a workshop in South Africa in June 2016 to build capacity among the team and our Ethiopian partners in: conservation planning, project evaluation and threats to cranes. We completed Project Management Plans for all projects, and teams meet monthly to track progress, highlight challenges and discuss opportunities. We identified skills gaps within the team and new appointments now consider the skills requirements for both the project/position and the programme as a whole.

CCP staff and partner organisations have the capacity to implement effective carnivore conservation.

We provided two training courses on carnivores (including conservation status, relevant legislation, human-carnivore conflict and general biology) to the South Africa Police Service Endangered Species Investigative Learning Programme, attended by ~50 participants each. We envisage these courses becoming part of the approved curriculum of the ongoing SAPS programme. One of our team members completed a PhD on the spatial ecology of Cheetahs and African Wild Dogs, and another is currently undertaking a PhD on Wild Dogs in KwaZulu-Natal. One staff member attended the Footprint ID Technology Course in Namibia hosted by Duke University, thus improving the team's skill-set in carnivore conservation and ecology.

Improved technical and leadership capacity amongst business representatives and related stakeholders to drive biodiversity mainstreaming within their organisations and sectors.

The National Biodiversity and Business Network did not present any business and biodiversity mainstreaming training events in the past year.

Formal internships and mentorship opportunities are available for people to develop careers in nature conservation.

The EWT hosted a total of 27 interns, four of whom have accepted positions within the EWT, seven of whom have accepted positions outside the EWT and 16 of whom remain with the EWT on internship contracts.

Improved technical and research capacity for amphibian conservation.

The TAP team increased from one full-time staff member to three, and our students also increased from one to three (one Honours and two Master's). Our projects are supported by students, citizen scientists and protected area staff. We trained two school groups and 12 rangers to conduct monthly Kloof Frog monitoring at a conservancy in KwaZulu-Natal and three nature reserves in the Eastern Cape, respectively. Volunteers collect monitoring data for Pickersgill's Reed Frog at Simbithi (KwaZulu-Natal) and conduct Western Leopard Toad monitoring on the Cape Peninsula.

Urban conservation capacity is increased in early career professionals through work integrated learning, internships and mentorship.

In the past year, we have employed two interns in the fields of environmental education and urban reserve management. In addition, four students previously linked to the Urban Conservation Programme secured employment in the urban conservation sector.

Effective legal capacity building and skills development interventions to address key priorities in geographic trade hotspots.

We investigated the efficacy of technology, particularly the use of smart phone applications, to improve the monitoring and prevention of poaching at Balule and Manyeleti nature reserves. We hosted the southern African leg of the Conservation Working Dog Workshop in collaboration with Working Dogs for Conservation. This was attended by >50 stakeholders who gained increased knowledge and understanding of dog training and handling, as well as veterinary best practice and welfare for working dogs deployed in anti-poaching activities.



STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE 6: LAW & POLICY

Provide a leadership role in ensuring efficient and adequate implementation, compliance and enforcement of conservation legislation.

To protect our rich biodiversity, air, water, and soil as national assets and resources, South Africa's Constitution and the National Environmental Management Act provide a legal framework for a suite of environmental legislation that regulates South African environmental issues in an open, participatory, inclusive and transparent manner. However, South Africa's sound legal framework for matters relating to the environment does not guarantee its effective utilisation. Under this Strategic Imperative, the EWT strives to provide a leadership role in ensuring efficient and adequate implementation, compliance and enforcement of conservation legislation. We do this by providing inputs to improve the legal regime for biodiversity conservation; supporting effective implementation, use and participation in environmental legislation and other legal processes; and supporting enforcement.

6.1. EWT interventions result in improvements in the legal regime for biodiversity conservation.

Improved carnivore legislation and strategic interventions ensure that legislation is effective and enforced.

We provided comments on the draft regulations on the Norms and Standards for Damage Causing Animals. Additionally, we developed a position statement on the proposed uplisting of all African Lions (*Panthera leo*) onto Appendix I of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES). We formally initiated two legislative queries: one around Cheetah permits that were, in our opinion, illegally issued, and one request for all permit records for a Lion breeding facility. In collaboration with the Centre for Environmental Rights, we legally challenged a provincial nature conservation authority to take action on a captive Cheetah facility that was operating without permits and had put wild animals into captivity. None of the legal outcomes are concluded.

An increasingly strengthened current and future biodiversity conservation legal and policy framework.

We have commented on various pieces of legislation including the draft Biodiversity Management Plans for 11 Critically Endangered and four Endangered *Encephalartos* species; the National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Bill; the draft amendment of the Norms and Standards for the Marking of Rhinoceros and Rhinoceros Horn, and for the Hunting of Rhinoceros for Trophy Hunting Purposes. We also participated at public forums with regards to species-specific regulations and/or Non-Detriment Findings.

6.2. Effective implementation, use and participation in environmental legislation and other legal processes.

No specific activities were planned for this reporting period.

6.3. Supporting enforcement of biodiversity-related legislation.

Effective legal capacity building and skills development interventions support the criminal justice system to better enforce biodiversity-related regulations.

We implemented several training and capacity building interventions during the reporting period targeting at least 180 officials for the year alone with over 70% competency rate attained. The training and capacity building included four types of specialised training programmes: advanced cycad enforcement; monitoring wildlife trade online; flagship species identification and wildlife trade compliance and enforcement. We conducted research on wildlife trade related legislation and prosecution case history for Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland to inform the development of future training programmes.



OVERARCHING SUPPORT FRAMEWORK

In the past year, as part of the development of a formal Conservation Science Unit strategy, we have identified several cross-cutting targets that relate to the EWT's broader relevance and impact. These targets include conducting periodic analysis of risk factors to guide future conservation action – otherwise known as horizon scanning. We also need to identify and address knowledge gaps and emerging issues at an organisational level; keep abreast of scientific developments; help strengthen the scientific elements of projects and programmes; ensure that impacts are appropriately measured and reported on; and better disseminate the scientific work of the EWT to a diversity of audiences include decision-makers and policy makers.

Periodic analysis of risk factors to guide future conservation action.

Emerging conservation issues and threats to biodiversity are regularly evaluated to anticipate and actively develop future programmes of work for the EWT.

A formal horizon scanning process is only planned for the next reporting period.

The EWT's results appropriately inform policy and action.

High-level targets and indicators provide the basis for annual monitoring and evaluation of the EWT's performance against its strategy.

Following a management team strategy meeting in March 2016, all EWT programmes now have measurable targets and indicators by which to measure high-level progress. Some of these have been revised as a result of recent programme strategic planning workshops.

The EWT's performance is regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure effectiveness and relevance.

The scientific research of the EWT and its partners is disseminated to relevant audiences at all levels, and particularly insofar as science translates into actionable strategies and policy.

We have set up a tracking system to monitor the number of scientific publications produced every year from EWT-related work. In 2015-2016, we published eight papers, one less than in the previous financial year, but the average impact factor of the journals increased from 1.9 to 2.2. We completed one policy brief on "*An assessment of the economic, social and conservation value of the wildlife ranching industry and its potential to support the green economy in South Africa*".



AFRICAN CRANE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

In partnership with the International Crane Foundation (ICF), our programme focuses on securing and improving the conservation status of Africa's four resident crane species and the wetland and grassland habitats upon which they depend. We achieve this through actions to reduce threats to the species and their habitats, by working closely with local communities and key stakeholders to manage catchments sustainably for both people and cranes, and empowering individuals and organisations to implement conservation action.

The work done by the ACCP is strategically important on a number of levels - locally, regionally and globally. We operate through a team of staff and partner organisations across East and southern Africa whose leadership capacity and skills are improved for the fulfilment of the ambitious strategy we have developed. Our conservation action focuses on improving our understanding of cranes, their threats and the threatened wetland systems that they depend upon. We implement threat mitigation actions both for cranes and their habitats, and work closely with local communities and key stakeholders in finding solutions that benefit both cranes and people on the same land.

Guided by a strategy that is globally relevant, we are on track in achieving our desired conservation impact (refer to pages 12-25), while notably contributing to at least eight Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and more than half of the Aichi Biodiversity targets, which all the countries we work in are signatories to. Our conservation and community livelihood projects aim to have a conservation impact through the promotion of sustainable consumption and production (SDG Goal 12), as well as the prevention of degradation of ecosystems (SDG Goal 15), improving food security (SDG Goal 2), gender equality (SDG Goal 5), and local employment and economic growth (SDG Goal 8).

The entire ACCP team comes together for the first time

The team is currently spread across several countries in Africa – Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia – with most of our interactions happening virtually. Although a reality for an Africa-wide programme, a foundation was required for the establishment of a real sense of team work and collaboration within the ACCP. We therefore bought together, in May 2016, 16 of our team members for a 2-week workshop of team building, lesson sharing, development of project impact monitoring, and training.

The first week was held at St Bernard's Peak in the Southern Drakensberg where we spent time exploring project development and the theory of change to ensure that our projects had the conservation impact we desired, before delving deeper into our monitoring systems, developing the foundation for a standardised monitoring framework for our crane, ecosystem goods and services and socio-economic monitoring processes, among other things. At the end of this week together, everyone committed to at least one personal goal that arose out of the workshop and to a goal that would help develop the team.

For the second week, the team moved to the EWT head-quarters in Johannesburg for our annual Development Week. Here, the team was exposed to sessions on some of the key threats to cranes, such as power lines, poisoning and mining, and to a host of other topics and training opportunities relevant to our work, such as GIS training and basic photography. The two weeks together were invaluable and have forged friendships and the foundation we required to move forward as a team.



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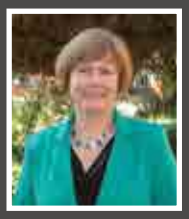
PROGRAMME STAFF



Kerryn Morrison
ICF/EWT Senior Manager: Africa



Tanya Smith
Southern Africa Regional Manager



Cynthia Chigangaidze
Senior Administrator



Matthew Becker
Midlands Senior Field Officer



Ursula Franke
Highveld Senior Field Officer



Osiman Mabhachi
Community Project Specialist



Steven Segang
Highveld Community Projects Officer



Griffin Shanungu
Zambia Cranes and Wetlands Conservation Project



Yonela Sipeka
Eco Ranger



Nduduzo Khoza
Eco Ranger



Thabo Mdlala
Eco Ranger

A future for Grey Crowned Cranes (*Balearica regulorum*)

The *International Single Species Action Plan for Grey Crowned Cranes* was endorsed by the African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) 6th meeting of the parties in Bonn, Germany in November 2015.

The process started when the ICF/EWT Partnership organised and facilitated a workshop in Rwanda in September 2013. This brought together both government representatives and species experts from a number of the Grey Crowned Crane range states to interrogate the threats to cranes and develop a draft outline of a species plan. Various iterations of the report were then circulated and commented on by both government and species experts from across Africa. After being passed by the AEWA Technical Committee in March 2015, the final draft was prepared for comment and endorsement by the Meeting of the Parties in November 2015.

The endorsement of this plan brings into effect our role as Coordinator of the plan, under a signed agreement with AEWA. This gives us the mandate to approach governments around the actions outlined in the plan. Although the plan is not legally binding, it requires countries to report annually on their actions and enables us to push to make these happen. We firmly believe that we need this in place to take a stronger stand for Grey Crowned Crane conservation across their range – hopefully with the effect that we reduce the population decline we are currently seeing.

In the face of drought, water catchments are key

Within South Africa, we have committed to protecting key water catchments for people and cranes alike. We have remained steadfast in our commitment to this and our work with farmers in the Southern Drakensberg resulted in the proclamation of the Cedarville Protected Environment and Beaumont Nature Reserve earlier this year. These protected areas comprise close to 20,000 ha and protect intact grasslands and wetlands that are key in supplying clean water to the Umzimvubu River. This protection of landscape-level natural resources is essential in building resilience in the face of the drought we are currently experiencing.

Our National Bird goes hi-tech

Technology continues to play an important role in conservation and this past year we fitted solar powered satellite trackers to 10 adult Blue Cranes (*Anthropoides paradisea*) in the Western Cape, with another five to be fitted in the coming months. The purpose of this research project is to understand how Blue Cranes use the agricultural landscape of the Overberg on a daily basis and across seasons. This information will ensure more effective inputs into wind energy and associated power line infrastructure developments underway in the Cape, as well as determine how climate change may influence the agriculture sector of the Overberg and in turn how these changes (if any) will affect the Blue Cranes living there.





Conservation in the hands of local youth

Two years ago we embarked on the journey of finding young individuals from rural communities in the Southern Drakensberg to become our very first EcoRangers, and what a fulfilling journey it has been. We currently employ three EcoRangers who have shown incredible growth and understanding of our natural environment and the challenges and opportunities that exist within it. All three have enrolled in accredited courses this year, with Yonela Sipeka passing his first semester towards his certificate in Nature Conservation, and Thabo Madlala and Nduduzo Khoza being accepted and working towards their Level 3 Nature Guide accreditation. In addition to our EcoRangers in the Drakensberg, we have supported two local youths from Chrissiesmeer, Mpumalanga, to register with Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA) and study towards their Level 1 Nature Guide Accreditation. They will play a key role in the support of a growing ecotourism market in the Chrissiesmeer Lakes District.

Rungwe Region: the last frontier for Grey Crowned Cranes in Tanzania

The ICF/EWT Partnership, University of Massachusetts and Tanzania Bird Atlas worked together to better understand the current status of, and threats to, Grey Crowned Cranes and wetlands outside of protected areas in the Kilimanjaro, Singida, Arusha and Rungwe communal areas in Tanzania. Surprisingly, few cranes were encountered, with the only significant population found in the Rungwe region. Here, 142 cranes were counted, but local community members reported many more in the Ruaha National Park and surrounding areas in the wet season when rice was planted. We engaged with 1,720 community members and 2,600 youths from 22 schools during the project to create awareness and gather local knowledge of cranes and wetlands in each area. With only 47% of community members having ever seen a crane, and all reporting a decline in sightings, we were able to confirm a decline in crane numbers outside of protected areas in Tanzania. We attribute this to habitat loss and degradation, illegal removal of chicks from the wild, and human disturbance.

Enhanced technical and organisational capacity of the Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Group in Kenya

Monique Picon, a former intern at the ICF, joined the ICF/EWT Partnership team for a 3-month period in western Kenya to work with our partner, the Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Group (KCWCG). Monique focused on building organisational and technical capacity, and provided training and mentorship for conservation action. Community-based conservation efforts including monitoring initiatives, habitat restoration, community outreach, and environmental education programmes are helping secure a place for cranes. Bringing school teachers together for conservation education discussions and two teacher training sessions produced notable enthusiasm and rewarding outcomes, such as the widespread adoption of wetland sites for monitoring and

restoration. Many schools were motivated to independently revive conservation-friendly livelihood projects such as tree nurseries and fish ponds on school grounds. Strengthening KCWCG's capacity to carry out strategic community-based initiatives will have far reaching effects in the future. Members were equipped with the knowledge, training, and resources to monitor and safeguard Kenya's cranes, and group leaders gained the skills and experience to teach crane conservation to others. Through workshops, meetings, and awareness activities, relationships with other environmental stakeholders were invigorated. Our hope is that a robust local network of conservationists will enhance the stewardship of cranes and ensure conservation efforts persist.

Grey Crowned Cranes poisoned around South Luangwa in Zambia

Following a poisoning of 43 Grey Crowned Cranes in February 2016, we contracted BirdWatch Zambia and the Zambian Department of National Park and Wildlife to investigate the situation with, and poisoning of, these birds in South Luangwa National Park and surrounding areas. They recorded a total of 419 Grey Crowned Cranes in the area – largely in habitat that was undisturbed and highly suitable for cranes – and identified fires and poisoning/trapping as the two key threats to this species. Cranes are poisoned both as a response to human/wildlife conflict due to crop damage and for food. The birds seem to utilise rice and maize lands after harvest, but unfortunately also forage in maize lands soon after planting to eat the newly germinating seedlings. Our future conservation action in this area will focus on extending this study, monitoring cranes to better understand the situation, and implementing a large scale awareness programme on the dangers of eating poisoned animals and the threat that poison poses to wildlife.

What our stakeholders have to say

"Working with the ACCP gives us focus in terms of the direction we'd like to go with our farm." Norman Bastard, South African farmer.

"Our relationship with the ACCP is beneficial because we all struggle to become experts in everything so we value the inputs from scientists and get advice on how to do things better." Piet Bosman, South African farmer.

"I think working with the ACCP helps me to make sure that my kids get a farm that is similar to what we got from our parents, if not better." Jub Dorning, South African farmer.

"Before I started working for the EWT as an EcoRanger I had very little information about the environment, but now you can put me in the field and I can share a lot of information about the environment." Thabo Mdlala, EcoRanger.





PROGRAMME OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- Building partnerships with NGOs and government departments at each of our project sites across Africa has been an opportunity that we have grasped, nurtured and harnessed over the course of the year. This has allowed all involved to leverage off of strengths of each partner, promoting maximum positive impact and creating greater resilience in the face of challenges.
- We have been piloting the use of the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation – a tool that helps teams to be systematic about planning, implementing and monitoring their conservation initiatives to ensure that conservation impacts are achieved. We will be rolling this out across our projects over the next year, which will ultimately improve our credibility, strengthen our basis as a partner of choice and ensure that we achieve conservation success.

Challenges

- Building a team with the relevant technical skills to effectively execute Programme activities remains a challenge, especially for growth and succession planning. We must note, however, that we have made significant strides this year by building the capacity of existing staff and employing new team members with key skill sets.
- To achieve the strategy outlined for the ICF/EWT Partnership, we will need to find and secure longer term funding options that are strategic, innovative and large in scale.

Growth areas

- We have successfully established full time projects in Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya, through in-country partnerships, and we have the support to employ a full-time East African Regional Manager in the near future. Our southern Africa projects are also showing significant growth in focus, geographical reach as well as in innovative approaches to conservation. For example, our methodology to monitor Ecosystem Goods and Services at a farm or community level is currently being rolled out at our project sites in South Africa, and will ultimately be used across all our project sites in Africa.

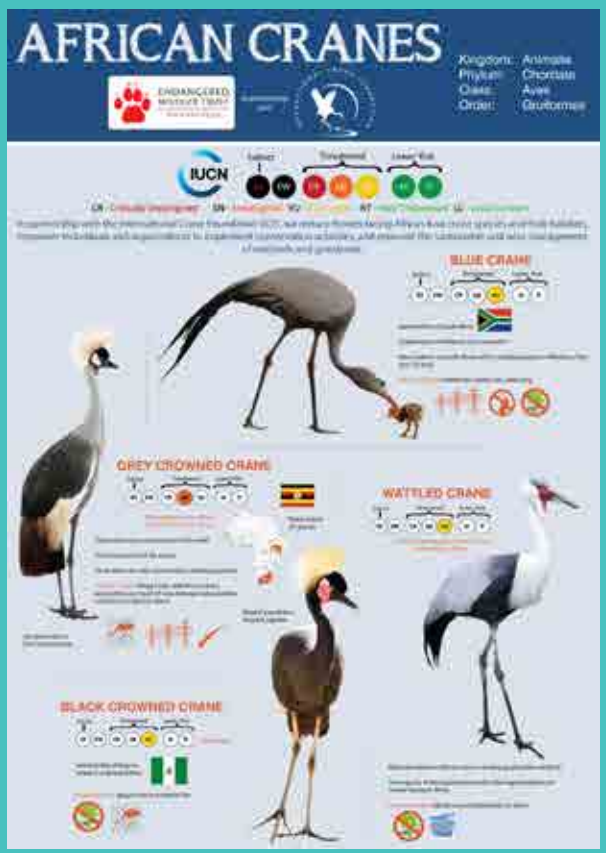
Risks

- In order to meet our ambitious strategy to conserve Africa's cranes, we envision significant growth within the programme over the next five years, however this poses a risk of developing at a rate that is not sustainable. We must ensure the structures developed are solid and based on good governance, and that the team always has the required capacity.
- Extractive industries (coal, gas, peat) remain a key threat to many important crane sites, often resulting in severe habitat degradation and loss. This is a real risk to our being able to meet our aim of securing cranes across each of their key sites and, depending on the extent and expansion of these extraction projects, could threaten large areas for each of our crane species and, ultimately, their conservation.



Progress made by the ACCP towards its eight high-level targets in 2015/16, within the framework of the EWT's 2012–2017 Conservation Strategy. Please see pages 12–25 for a detailed account of each target.





BIRDS OF PREY PROGRAMME



We action conservation projects for a wide range of raptors, including vultures and other large birds, throughout southern Africa. We identify and address conservation threats to these species through a combination of practical effectiveness and robust science – strengthening the efficiency of the regional birds of prey conservation network.

The Birds of Prey Programme (BoPP) focuses on the conservation of diurnal and nocturnal raptors, vultures, other large birds and their habitats. A strong scientific component adds authority to the dedicated efforts of the large network of field coordinators, associates and project partners. Methods are shared, ideas communicated and solutions reached, through a collaborative effort that combines science with practical efficiency and appropriate interventions in order to identify problem areas in the conservation of raptors and vultures, reach informed conclusions and act decisively to rapidly and effectively address conservation threats. This includes working closely with both government and the private sector to address threats through the application of legislation and relevant policies at local, national and international levels.

> *We logged 300 direct interactions with members of the public and other stakeholder groups*

In September 2015, we conducted a thorough assessment of the BoPP strategy and drafted a comprehensive, renewed strategy that will guide and re-energise our conservation activities into the future. This rejuvenated strategy is aligned with the overall EWT strategy, and contributes primarily to Strategic Imperatives 1 and 2 in terms of identifying human-induced threats to affected birds of prey and ensuring the viability of these species' habitats. Through our training work on poisoning interventions we also contribute to Strategic Imperatives 5 and 6. Our programme of work contributes to Aichi Targets 1, 4, 11, 12 and 19, of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and supports several of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), most notably Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), Goal 15 (Life on Land) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The programme also makes strategic contributions on a national level: the Programme Manager is the South African representative on the Technical Advisory Group of the Raptors MoU of the Convention on Migratory Species, helping South Africa to meet its obligations to this Multi-lateral Environmental Agreement. Through our role in the Bearded Vulture Task Force we assist with implementation of the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for Bearded Vultures (*Gypaetus barbatus*). This BMP is only the second of its kind for terrestrial raptors in the country.

Invaluable training provided

We have initiated a training programme on the effective intervention of wildlife poisoning incidents and are currently engaged in the training of a range of stakeholder groups in this regard. During the period under review, we conducted 33 training interventions in South Africa (in eight of the nine provinces), Zambia, Mozambique and Namibia, reaching 826 people. The feedback from trainees has been extremely positive. We have developed and distributed our Poison Response Kits to participating organisations, providing them with the essential equipment to take action when they handle poisoning incidents.

Operation Oxpecker

Red-billed Oxpeckers (*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*) were until recently considered Near Threatened in South Africa. Owing to increased awareness around the need to use appropriate oxpecker-compatible ectoparasiticides and through a dedicated reintroduction programme, these birds are now considered to be of Least Concern. Nonetheless, it is still of great importance to continue with our work, as we need to monitor the population to ensure that the pressures (in particular, the use of ectoparasiticides that are lethal to oxpeckers) which caused them to be threatened in the past, do not reoccur.

During the period under review, we conducted assessments for two potential Red-billed Oxpecker release sites. The first site near Lanseria was found to be unsuitable, firstly, as a result of the large number of landowners involved, many of whom were



PROGRAMME STAFF



André Botha
Programme Manager



Leigh Combrink
Coordinator: Oxpecker Project



Rebecca Mabuza
Administrator



Tselane Rachuene
Field Officer: Anglo African Grass-Owl Project



Ronelle Visagie
Project Coordinator: Platberg Karoo Raptor Project



unaware of the intentions of a few to reintroduce Red-billed Oxpeckers, and secondly, owing to the low tick densities observed in the area. The second site, Fountainhill Estate in Wartburg in KwaZulu-Natal, appeared suitable after a first site visit in November and subsequent visits and landowner negotiations have confirmed this. The planned oxpecker relocation for 2016 will take birds to this site. A previous release site was also assessed during the period, namely Ithala Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal. It is clear that the birds have established a presence there. The reserve manager mentioned that they regularly see birds on the reserve and the EWT team also found a new nest site that the birds were starting to line with animal fur. One of our research students, Maryna Jordaan (University of KwaZulu-Natal), is focusing her research on the best methods to determine whether a relocation to a site can be considered a success. The protocol resulting from her research will be used to conduct any future pre-release site assessments.

In our efforts to develop a standardised green label for all oxpecker-compatible products, we hosted a workshop in July 2015 with representatives from various agrochemical companies to introduce the concept. Based on requests from the sector, we facilitated communication between the agrochemical companies and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), with the outcome that the criteria will be updated and that all ectoparasiticides available on the market will have an oxpecker-compatible rating. All



Maloti-Drakensberg Vulture Project

Bearded Vulture Task Force

celebrated its 10th anniversary in March 2016



agrochemical companies that manufacture ectoparasiticides are members of the South African Animal Health Association (SAAHA), which will now oversee the standardised green label initiative. This is a great achievement: not only did the agrochemical industry embrace the idea of a standardised label, but they have also taken ownership of this initiative, which will make it more sustainable in the long term.

Aerial surveys

During September 2015, we conducted the first ever aerial survey of large, tree-nesting birds to cover the entire Kruger National Park. We now have benchmark data on the breeding populations of a range of Endangered and Critically Endangered large raptors and vultures for this ±20,000 km² park – the largest park in South Africa. We conducted similar aerial surveys for three reserves in Zululand with populations of tree-nesting vultures, namely Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, Mkhuze Nature Reserve and Phongolo Nature Reserve. The aim of the latter survey was to compare the effectiveness of fixed-wing versus helicopter surveys in Zululand, and we are currently analysing these results.

Tracking and tagging

During the period under review, we captured and fitted satellite-tracking units to another six Critically Endangered Hooded Vultures (*Necrosyrtes monachus*) in the Lowveld, as part of the postdoctoral study in partnership with the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the Hawk Conservancy Trust (UK) and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (USA). Very little is known about the general biology of this species in southern Africa and our study aims to address this.Over the past year, we fitted more than 500 vultures with wing-tags at 17 sites across southern Africa and received a total of 1,632 re-sightings reports of tagged birds from the public. Wing-tagging is an important tool in assessing the survival of individual birds in a population and can be an indication of declines in populations due to a range of factors. The most notable of these re-sightings was



an African White-backed Vulture (*Gyps africanus*), tagged in the Kruger National Park in April 2014, which was later seen at a known drinking and bathing site for vultures on the South Luangwa River in eastern Zambia, in April 2016.

Collaboration and publications

The team contributed significantly to the acceptance of a proposal for the drafting and implementation of a multi-species action plan (MSAP) for vultures in Africa and Eurasia, during the 2nd Meeting of Signatories to the Convention on Migratory Species Raptors MoU in Trondheim, Norway, in October 2015. Andre Botha, the BoPP Manager (who is also the Co-Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission's (SSC) Vulture Specialist Group and a member of the Raptors MoU Technical Advisory Group), made three presentations and chaired a workshop during the meeting which garnered support for the MSAP. Topics included "The African Vulture Crisis", "Wildlife poisoning - the main threat to Africa's vulture populations", "Energy and Africa – potential developments and impacts, a continental perspective", and "The need for a Multi-species Action Plan for African-Eurasian vultures."

During the past year, BoPP staff and associates produced six peer-reviewed papers in various scientific journals. These papers addressed specific questions on mitigating threats or provided information to support the use of specific approaches in birds of prey conservation. Significantly, several BoPP associates and the Programme Manager co-authored a peer-reviewed paper (first published in June 2015) that led to the review and up-listing of the conservation status of seven of Africa's vulture species, five of which were listed as Critically Endangered. This illustrates the importance of producing scientific outputs from our conservation projects.

International Vulture Awareness Day

International Vulture Awareness Day, an initiative started by BoPP in 2009, was observed in 43 countries and by more than 160 organisations globally in September 2015. This event has now become firmly established on the international conservation calendar and contributes to our aim of increasing awareness of the plight of vultures globally.

International Vulture Awareness Day

What our stakeholders have to say

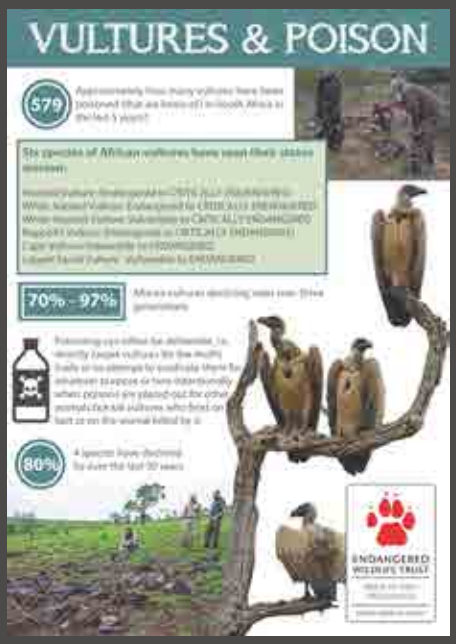
"The poisons training course conducted in South Luangwa last week by Andre Botha from the Endangered Wildlife Trust proved to be extremely valuable to our work and timely with regards to the recent escalation in the use of poisons in and around South Luangwa. The team of students included wildlife police officers stationed in field camps, program managers, ecologists, biologists, a veterinarian and Investigations officers and members from detection dog units. It is safe to say that everyone on the course knew very little about poisoning of wildlife and what to do when it happens and what to do to minimise the disastrous effects." - Rachel McRobb, CEO, Conservation South Luangwa.



"Members of our Luangwa project's veterinary and large mammal research staff attended the multi-day course conducted by Andre Botha from Endangered Wildlife Trust. After multiple poisoning events in the Luangwa in which we were poorly equipped and inexperienced to effectively respond to this alarming new threat, we all found the course extremely useful and timely and enter this season feeling well-prepared, educated and capable to effectively react to poisoning events and to implement any new initiatives aimed at preventing and monitoring poisoning countrywide." – Dr Matt Becker, Zambia Carnivore Programme.

"We, the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources, once again wish to thank you for the enlightening presentations on our "vanishing" Vultures in Africa with special reference to Namibia. Students as well as lecturers present at your presentations summed up the day as thought provoking, informative, and encouraging them to take action." – Dr Ekkehard Klingelhoefer, HOD: Department of Wildlife Management and Ecotourism, Katima Mulilo Campus, University of Namibia.

"Your training interventions last year and this year were of great assistance during the recent event. The first incident we acted on common sense, this incident we reacted with surety and it went much smoother. The kit is essential. We made up our own kit after the last incident with basic equipment, however, a complete kit will be highly appreciated. Thanks for your continuous support and passion. Much appreciated." – Marius Snyders, Section Ranger: Vlakteplaas, Kruger National Park.



PROGRAMME OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- BoPP is at the spearhead of the African Vulture Initiative and will look towards expanding its activities in the rest of southern Africa and beyond substantially in the coming year. This initiative is a partnership between the IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group, the Raptors MoU of the Convention on Migratory Species and BirdLife International and aims to fill knowledge gaps in terms of vulture populations and the threats that affect them in countries in Africa where little is known. In southern Africa, the primary focus will be on work in Mozambique, Zambia and possibly Angola to address this need.
- There is a substantial need for the poisoning intervention training that the programme currently presents and there is excellent scope to expand the training to other countries in southern and East Africa in the next year. Zambia, northern Mozambique and Kenya have been identified as key poisoning hotspots the region and we are working with partners in these countries to train conservation and law enforcement staff in this regard.

Challenges

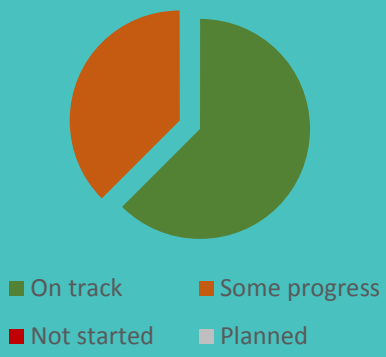
- The frequency and number of mortalities related to wildlife poisoning, particularly with regard to killing for trade, continues to escalate. The African Wildlife Poisoning Database indicates that there were 30 poisoning incidents recorded in the past year, with 538 vultures being killed in southern and East Africa, compared to 23 incidents reported and 441 birds being killed in the region in 2014/2015.
- Programme staff are struggling to keep up with current workload and an expansion of the skills-base within the programme is urgently needed.

Growth areas

- The programme will play a substantial role in the drafting of the MSAP for Old World vultures which will be tabled for ratification at 18th Conference of the Parties that are signatories to the Raptors MoU of the Convention on Migratory Species, in October 2018.
- Little is known about the status of vultures in Zambia and Mozambique and we plan to commence with the assessment and monitoring of vulture populations in these countries.

Risks

- Political instability in some of our target areas makes it difficult to conduct fieldwork, while the sourcing of funding to finance work is a challenge.
- Difficult circumstances under which current funding needs to be maintained and new funding for projects sourced.
- Limited capacity and shortage of staff/skills in certain key areas.



Progress made by the BoPP towards its eight high-level targets in 2015/16, within the framework of the EWT's 2012–2017 Conservation Strategy. Please see pages 12–25 for a detailed account of each target.



CARNIVORE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

The vision of the Carnivore Conservation Programme (CCP) is "self-sustaining, wild populations of carnivores living in harmony with people". This vision is being realised through High Level Programme Targets that contribute to the Strategic Imperatives of the EWT as a whole. The CCP works under six key themes: creating and maintaining safe space for carnivores; identifying and addressing threats to carnivores; increasing appreciation for carnivores; improving understanding of carnivores; improving legislation to protect carnivores; and building capacity to protect carnivores.

Our work speaks directly to the following EWT organisational targets: identifying human induced threats in order to halt or reverse species decline; ensuring that the viability of threatened carnivore habitats is maintained; developing innovative, economically viable alternatives to ensure carnivore-friendly production practices; and, increasing awareness and mainstreaming carnivores and their conservation into the daily lives of people and decision makers. At a continental scale, all our work on Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) and African Wild Dogs (*Lycaon pictus)* contributes to the regional and range wide conservation plans for the species. At a global scale, the work of the CCP contributes to the UNDP Sustainable Development Goal 2 (zero hunger), Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 12 (responsible consumption and production) and Goal 15 (life on land).



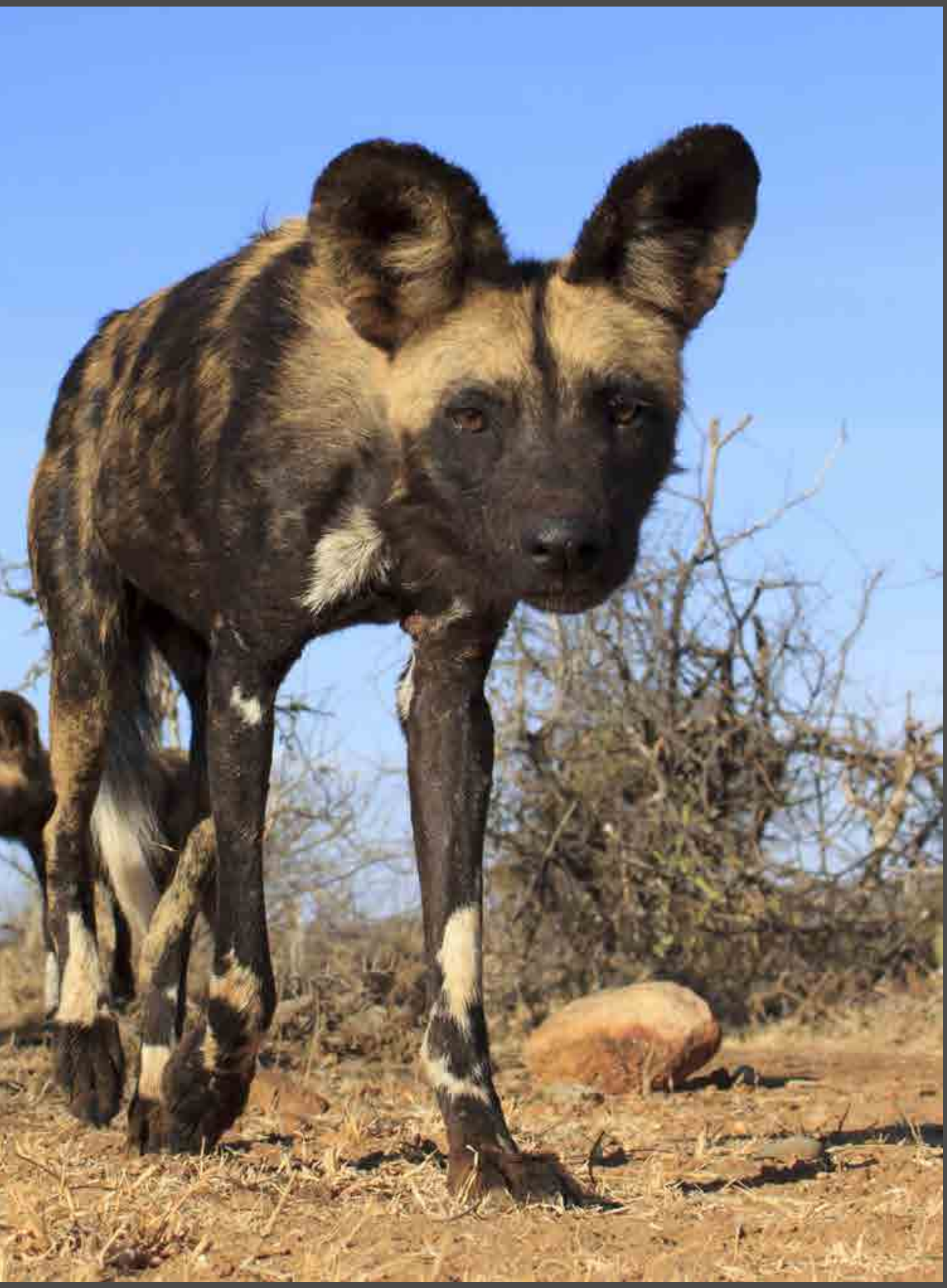
Kruger tourists make great researchers

The CCP, in collaboration with SANParks, has been monitoring African Wild Dogs and Cheetahs in the Greater Kruger National Park using tourist photographic surveys since 1988 and 2004, respectively. We do this every four to five years, which gives us long-term data to measure trends in the Kruger Wild Dog and Cheetah populations. Both species have unique coat patterns, which allow us to identify individual animals. Thus, we use photographs submitted by tourists to obtain population estimates. We launched the Kruger National Park 2014/2015 6th Wild Dog and 3rd Cheetah Photographic Census on 24 September 2014 and we received 1,068 entries – 630 for Wild Dogs and 438 for Cheetahs – over the duration of the project. We are currently completing the identification of individual animals using their coat patterns. We have been attempting to use automated identification software that would make the analyses much easier, but we have had some teething problems with the process and this has caused some delays. We plan to have the individual identification done and population estimates obtained with mark-recapture models by the end of 2016.

Wild Dogs and Cheetahs: more spots and patches

The CCP coordinates the reintroduction and management of Wild Dogs and Cheetahs in fenced reserves across the country. We do this through the National Cheetah Metapopulation Project, the Wild Dog Advisory Group of South Africa (WAG-SA) and the KZN Wild Dog Advisory Group (KZN-WAG). These projects are highly collaborative and their successful implementation relies on the buy-in of many organisations and individuals, to whom we are grateful for their ongoing commitment to carnivore conservation. As a result, by the end of June





PROGRAMME STAFF



Dr Kelly Marnewick
Programme Manager



Grant Beverley
Lowveld Regional Coordinator



David Marneweck
KwaZulu-Natal Regional Coordinator



Derek van der Merwe
Limpopo Regional Coordinator



Vincent van der Merwe
Eastern Cape Regional Coordinator

2016 there were 320 Cheetahs in the national metapopulation compared to 293 last year, encompassing 53 reserves and 11,124 km² of habitat. For Wild Dogs, there were 234 dogs in 20 packs compared to 192 dogs in 21 packs last year, with 11 reserves in the Wild Dog metapopulation covering a total of 5,086km². This year, Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert retired from her position as chair of WAG-SA, which she held for 10 years, and she will still be actively involved as a WAG-SA member. Dr Kelly Marnewick of the CCP has taken over from her.

Going forward, we are excited at the prospect of sharing our expertise in reintroductions and metapopulation management with other Southern African countries. In some cases, we may even facilitate the supply of animals for these restoration projects. We plan to expand our work with in-country partners into Malawi and Botswana in the next year.

Dogs for cats

In many parts of South Africa, livestock famers struggle with livestock losses from predation. These losses can have a negative effect on the livelihood of individual farmers, as well as on food security. When retaliatory killing takes place, this negatively affects carnivore populations and when less targeted methods like poison are used, the impacts throughout the food chain can be significant. Livestock guarding dogs present a long-term sustainable solution to livestock predation. These dogs live with the livestock and protect them from predation, reducing losses, making farming more profitable and removing the need for farmers to kill carnivores. This year we placed nine dogs that cover 1,050 km² of farmland. In total, we have placed 180 livestock guarding dogs with farmers and we provide food, basic husbandry needs, training and management support. These dogs have resulted in 4,000 km² of carnivore friendly livestock production.

Wildlife friendly food – meals that will not leave a bad taste in your mouth

One of the most complex and emotive human-carnivore conflict issues in South Africa exists between sheep farmers and Black-backed Jackals (*Canis mesomelas*) and Caracals (*Caracal caracal*). We have worked hard in the Northern Cape this year, in partnership with Woolworths, to assist farmers to produce Wildlife Friendly Lamb. We have partnered with some very progressive farmers to investigate acceptable non-lethal methods to reduce predation. We have never used livestock guarding





dogs in the arid Northern Cape and with non-flocking sheep of the Dorper breed. We placed five dogs and, while three of them have grown into effective working dogs, it was certainly not as successful as when we work in bushveld areas with flocking breeds. To look for a more effective solution, we will be turning to Alpacas (*Vicugna pacos*). We will place our first guarding Alpacas with sheep next year to measure their effectiveness – we believe they will be more effective than the dogs in this tough environment. We look forward to seeing Wildlife Friendly Lamb available on Woolworths' shelves soon.

We also have a partnership with Woolworths to ensure that all the honey they use is Honey Badger Friendly. Honey Badgers (*Mellivora capensis*) regularly come into conflict with honey farmers when they raid beehives for bee larvae, and this sometimes leads to retaliatory killings by farmers. This year we audited 28 beekeepers and more than 25,000 beehives to evaluate their Badger Friendly status for Woolworths. All but one beekeeper passed the audit. We have started the process of registering the Badger Friendly Honey project as a formal scheme run by professional auditors. This frees us up to work one-on-one with farmers to assist them with their Honey Badger conflict issues and leave the auditing up to the professionals.

Sick and snared dogs

The two key human threats to Wild Dogs in the Greater Kruger National Park are disease and snaring. Between August 2015 and May 2016, 34 individuals died from Canine Distemper Virus (one pregnant with 18 pups) decimating two complete packs of Wild Dogs. As a result, we had many discussions around the appropriate way forward. A key theme to our



discussions was how we strike the balance between allowing natural processes to take place and ensure the safety of our small Wild Dog population. We worked with SANParks veterinarians to develop vaccination protocol that allows for the protection of core pack members, which they will implement in 2016. We will assist SANParks by monitoring the packs to identify vaccination opportunities, following up on post-vaccination events and delivering vaccination boosters.

We recorded 10 Wild Dogs carrying snares in the Greater Kruger National Park. We removed snares from four dogs, two more suffered amputated limbs and another four died from the snares. We have started surveys to determine snaring hotspots and identify key interventions required to address snaring.

Capacity for carnivores

We provided training on carnivores (including conservation status, relevant legislation, human-carnivore conflict and general biology) to 100 officials from the South African Police Service Endangered Species Investigative Learning Programme. Two courses were done on a trial basis and we envisage them becoming part of the approved curriculum of the SAPS Endangered Species Investigative Learning Programme.

We also provided training to approximately 120 students doing their Nature Conservation degrees through the University of South Africa. We did this during their practical contact week at Marakele National Park, Limpopo. The training involved aspects of human-carnivore conflict: drivers of conflict, how to deal with it on the ground, and effective interventions. These students will be working on game ranches, reserves and in conservation agencies across the county and as such will need to address conflict issues.

> *10 Wild Dogs were recorded carrying snares in the Greater Kruger National Park*



Legal teeth

We provided comments on the draft regulations on the Norms and Standards for Damage Causing Animals published by the Department of Environmental Affairs. Additionally, we developed a position statement on the proposed uplisting of all African Lions onto Appendix I of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES).

We formally initiated three legislative queries, in collaboration with the Centre for Environmental Rights. The first involved Cheetah permits that were, in our opinion, illegally issued. In the second case, we requested all trade permits for captive carnivore facilities in Gauteng to investigate trade routes and the extent of trade. Finally, we legally challenged a provincial nature conservation authority to take action on a captive Cheetah facility that had been operating without permits and had put wild animals into captivity. None of these applications has yet been satisfactorily resolved.

Success in packs, prides and coalitions

Members of the CCP team are active participants in several national and international forums, working groups and expert groups. The African Lion Working Group met in Kasane in Botswana, from 21–23 March 2016, to discuss the conservation of the African Lion. Discussion centred around priority landscapes for lion, securing protected areas for lions, income generation from lions, and funding of lion conservation projects. The CCP is also represented on the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, the IUCN Canid Specialist Group and has seats on the council of the Southern African Wildlife Management Association. In the past year, we have also assisted in reviewing scientific publications for journals, evaluating funding proposals and grading theses for degrees.



PROGRAMME OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- Green labelling and the sensitisation of the tourism industry to sustainable and ethical tourism provide opportunities to develop and implement incentives for carnivore conservation (e.g. carnivore-friendly meat production and tourism operation that do not exploit carnivores).

Challenges

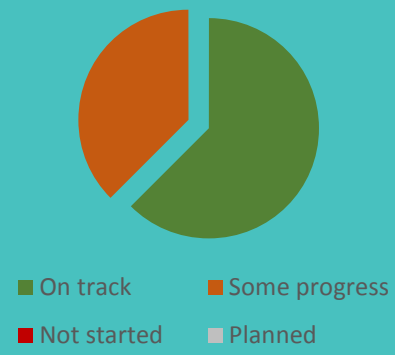
- In some cases, large carnivores are low priority for reserve managers – especially in fenced reserves. This is because carnivores are management intensive, and they are often not desirable in an environment that is budget strapped with a focus on anti-rhino poaching.

Growth areas

- The successes of the managed metapopulation approach to large carnivore conservation are beginning to be recognised. The development and reestablishment of large parks in other southern African countries is providing opportunities for the restoration of Cheetahs and African Wild Dogs into these parks where they no longer occur (e.g. Malawi and Botswana).
- The emerging threat of trade in captive carnivore provides areas of potential growth in the EWT-CCP. This has facilitated the learning of new skills, including understanding trade legislation, the drivers of trade, and supply and demand dynamics.

Risks

- Disease and snaring are proving to be threats to many of our carnivores that are difficult to address. Muthi and medicinal trade are emerging as possible future threats.
- The escalated breeding of carnivores in captivity for live trade, hunting and bone trade is of increasing concern, as regulation of these facilities is often inadequate, the impacts on wild populations are unknown, and the welfare of the animals is not always a priority.



Progress made by the CCP towards its eight high-level targets in 2015/16, within the framework of the EWT's 2012–2017 Conservation Strategy. Please see pages 12–25 for a detailed account of each target.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2 ZERO HUNGER
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
15 LIFE ON LAND



CONSERVATION SCIENCE UNIT

The Conservation Science Unit is the EWT's scientific hub. We provide support across the organisation's programmes and projects, to ensure that our work is scientifically sound and evidence-based. We manage the central biodiversity database and build capacity among staff to analyse, interpret and publish the results of conservation research, making it accessible to diverse audiences, especially decision-makers. We also run special projects, such as the Mammal Red List Revision, which fall outside the scope of other programmes.

Conservation Science Unit

A large component of the CSU's work involves capacity building, both internally with EWT staff, as well as externally with our various partners. This we achieved in the last year by holding two regional training workshops, one covering Red Listing with participants from Lesotho and Swaziland, and another on Ecological Niche Modelling and data papers, with participants from our network of partners within South Africa and across the African continent. The CSU also contributes to the supporting framework for all programmes by working with programmes to ensure that the scientific components of their work are methodologically sound and also that all EWT programmes have measurable targets and indicators by which to measure their progress and impact at both project and programme level.

17% of South Africa's mammals are threatened with extinction

Mammals see red

The Southern African Mammal Red List project was almost completed in the year under review, with all listings having been finalised and 108 (out of 337) assessments having been processed for publication. Overall, 17% of South Africa's mammals are threatened with extinction, compared to 19% in the previous assessment in 2004. Although at first glance, it may appear that the situation for South African mammals has improved, in fact 17 mammals have become more threatened within the last decade while improvements in the status of several other species are purely due to an improvement in our knowledge about those species, rather than that their status has genuinely improved. The revised Mammal Red List will be released before the end of 2016.

Ongoing analysis post-release will untangle these patterns and produce peer-reviewed scientific articles on the state and trends of mammal conservation in South Africa. While the assessments will be initially made available electronically, our partner in this project, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), has committed to funding the production of a hardcover book to be released early in 2017. The Mammal Red List project will leave behind two important legacies that will make future revisions more efficient: 1) a compiled and integrated national mammal distribution database, with over 500,000 distribution records and 40,000 game count records; and 2) narrative-driven, scientifically referenced and justified assessment documents that are clearly explained and open for future information to be edited in rather than created anew. The latter will be made available online through a system SANBI is building to enable more rapid and efficient revision by experts. The assessments represent a rigorous peer-review of information by both academics and practitioners and have highlighted both research and action gaps needing to be filled.

Getting it together: the EWT Biodiversity DataBank

We made further progress towards the establishment of a centralised database for all of the EWT's biodiversity data. A major part of this work involves cleaning and standardising data so that diverse datasets can be seamlessly combined, stored, extracted, and analysed across our 13 programmes. In preparation for uploading to the DataBank, we captured metadata, restructured, cleaned, and standardised eight new datasets from five different programmes, while regular updates continued on 13 ongoing datasets from eight programmes.

Sharing (data) is caring

We received 33 requests for data over the past year, and were able to provide data in 15 cases; four for use in conservation planning, two for use in Environmental Impact Assessments, seven for research purposes, and two for use in books. In the cases were data could not be provided, this was typically because the requests were for data that we did not have. While a wide variety of data was requested, data from the Carnivore Conservation Programme, in particular on Wild Dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) and Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*), were most frequently requested.




IUCN
RED LIST©

PROGRAMME STAFF



Dr Lizanne Roxburgh
Senior Scientist



Matt Child
Red Data List
Coordinator



Claire Relton
Conservation officer



Samantha
Page-Nicholson
Conservation Science
Officer



Claire Patterson-
Abrolat
Special Projects
Manager

For the first time we also made our data freely and globally available online, through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (www.gbif.org). We uploaded more than 26,000 occurrence records for African cranes that have been collected over a period of more than 30 years. This was a real milestone for the CSU, as it required lengthy cleaning and vetting of the data and learning new software applications for data uploading. Associated with this dataset, we also submitted our first data paper for publication, which is a detailed summary of the data and the methods used for its collection, and is a new type of scientific publication.

Putting the science into conservation

The Conservation Science Unit provides mapping and data analysis support and training to the EWT's various programmes. This year we developed an online Ecological Niche Modelling course which is in the process of being trialled and will be available soon to our staff and partners. We were involved in a multitude of projects over the course of the year, these included producing habitat suitability models for Wild Dogs, mapping the boundaries of the Orange River Mouth estuary as a legal basis for future protection, and developing methods for analysing ongoing collection of roadkill data. We were also involved in developing a database for recording poisoning events of vultures across Africa, and mapping of the range of Wild Dogs within the southern African region.



GBIF
www.gbif.org



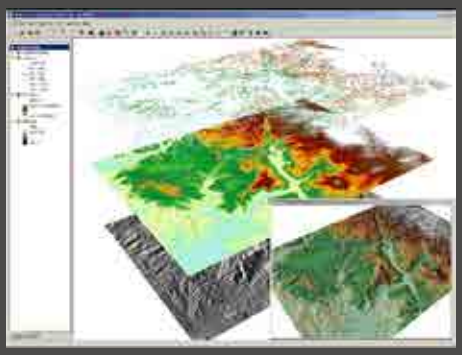
Participants of a regional Red List Training Workshop held at the EWT in July 2015

Partnerships

Dr Lizanne Roxburgh was elected to the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Technical Committee as the representative for southern Africa in 2015. She attended the technical committee meeting in Israel in March 2016, where a work plan for the next three years was developed, based on the resolutions adopted at the last triennial Meeting of Parties in late 2015. The work mostly takes the form of advisory documents and resolutions to assist countries in the management and protection of waterbirds.

The EWT is an associate node of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and we are part of the African group of nodes, which is one of the most active regional groupings within GBIF. Our relationship strengthened this year with the submission of successful funding proposals, several participants from the nodes attending our Ecological Niche Modelling course in Johannesburg, and collaborative work writing data papers.





PROGRAMME OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- Our partnership with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility provides opportunities for training, international collaboration, and participation in the global biodiversity informatics community, and allows us to keep abreast of latest technologies and developments in this field.
- Our ongoing collaboration with the universities of the Free State, Witwatersrand and KwaZulu-Natal provides opportunities for scientific innovation and research.
- The Mammal Red List project has the potential for many spin-off projects, which include several publications, including a PhD, compilation of a conservation evidence database, and further development of a national mammal database for South Africa.
- Engaging with new supporters in the year ahead will open new opportunities for expansion of the CSU and improvements in our skills and data management.

Challenges

- Finding the balance between the time needed for programmatic work versus core tasks and funded projects, as well as improving the skills needed for this multitude of tasks.
- Tracking submission and management of biodiversity data across 13 programmes, especially where data have not been captured in standard formats.
- Tackling the process of capturing large amounts of valuable, but largely uncurated, biodiversity data, of several different types, collected by many people over a period of more than 40 years.

Growth areas

- Expanding the amount of our biodiversity data that is freely available online for unlimited use in scientific studies and conservation planning processes globally.
- Expanding our suite of online courses to meet the demand for data-related training.
- Expanding the use of digital data collection by EWT staff and citizen scientists.
- Increasing development of relational databases within EWT programmes to manage their biodiversity data.

Risks

- Not having the time to keep abreast of scientific developments and building and improving our own skills and capacity within the CSU.



Progress made by the CSU towards its five high-level targets in 2015/16, within the framework of the EWT's 2012–2017 Conservation Strategy. Please see pages 12–25 for a detailed account of each target

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

4 QUALITY EDUCATION
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
15 LIFE ON LAND

> *26,000 occurrence records for African cranes that have been collected over a period of more than 30 years*

DRYLANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

We work to ensure the survival of unique and/or threatened dryland species, such as the Critically Endangered Riverine Rabbit, and associated critical habitats by implementing sound conservation programmes. We use restoration techniques to improve biodiversity, habitat and ecosystem services whilst simultaneously providing socio-economic upliftment opportunities for rural communities.

The Karoo is a vast and diverse place. Its harshness and foreboding landscapes conceal an environment that is fragile, sensitive and unique. The marginal agricultural potential of the land means that it is at great risk of degradation as a result of human activities. Fragmentation through mining and resource extraction, poor agricultural practices, climate change, and lack of sustainable livelihoods pose significant threats to biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.



The Drylands Conservation Programme (DCP) delivers its work around three strategic conservation pillars: research, restoration and stewardship. Currently most of our conservation activities are focused in the Loxton area of the Northern Cape. Here, our work benefits not only the Critically Endangered Riverine Rabbit (*Bunolagus monticularis),* but also has a positive impact on ecological infrastructure and ecosystem goods and services. The combined effect of our actions also leads to greater landscape resilience in the face of climatic change.

The DCP follows an innovative approach to developing solutions to the environmental challenges facing riparian ecosystems in the Karoo, by integrating the needs of both the agricultural and conservation sectors and benefitting local communities as part of the process. Our inclusionary and participative work with communities and landowners allows us to collect valuable data from stakeholders which will inform future conservation action, as well as develop meaningful solutions for all.

As such the programme is holistic in nature and speaks to at least five of the six EWT Strategic Imperatives. Our focus on species, threats, habitat, livelihoods, awareness and the development of opportunities that are good for people and biodiversity ensures that the DCP embodies the vision of the EWT. In addition, our work also contributes to climate action and sustainable development criteria as contained in the United Nations Development Programme's Sustainable Development Goals. With respect to these it addresses, in particular, Goal 15 that speaks to the protection and sustainable use of ecosystems and the reversal of land degradation and biodiversity loss. Our work contributes directly to Aichi Targets 14 and 15, of the Convention on Biological Diversity, where our interventions help to combat desertification and build the resilience of ecosystem goods and services for the benefit of communities, habitat and species.

The DCP has become a leader in the restoration of degraded riparian areas. Piloting different techniques has allowed us to develop an effective and efficient





PROGRAMME STAFF



Cobus Theron
Programme Manager



Bonnie Schumann
Senior Field Officer



Esther Matthew
Intern



Insauf De Vries
Intern



Johnny Arends
Handyman and
Nursery worker



Hester de Wee
Nursery Keeper

approach to restoring these areas. We have added two additional restoration sites in the reporting period, bringing our portfolio to seven sites.

During the past year we have also made progress by mapping land degradation along with land management practices within four conservancies totalling more than 350,000 ha. Together with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), we worked with a select group of farmers to develop a questionnaire to document current land use practices as well as the drivers and barriers to adopting sustainable land management practices. This information will inform a comprehensive baseline that will guide our conservation action over the next five years.

An evolving knowledge base, new approaches and a dynamic team

In May 2016, Cobus Theron joined the Drylands Conservation Programme as Programme Manager. The programme currently employs two field officers, two nursery staff based in Loxton in the Northern Cape and one administration intern based in Cape Town. Students from various academic institutions further complement our team. The involvement of academics and students ensures that the programme is able to access the latest research and direct academic enquiry to fill information gaps and investigate conservation issues critical to the programme.

We have piloted a photographic guide to microscopic seed viability and now have a library that contains some of the first photographs documenting microscopic seed viability of riparian-specific plant species used for restoration. This action will culminate in the first guide of its kind for Nama Karoo riparian species. The technique of identifying viable seed will enable us to increase our propagation success rates at the nursery and in the field.

During the past year, our expertise in restoring compromised riparian areas has greatly increased as a result of new techniques and methods being employed on several sites, these included protective measures and different approaches to create micro catchments (depressions made for planting seedlings). This has in turn resulted in substantial progress on the restoration of these habitats as preliminary results show increased survival rates. Access to research, and traditional knowledge of people living on the land, has also contributed to our understanding. The local knowledge of landowners interested in restoration has proved invaluable in guiding some of our restoration work. Our staff are regionally regarded as experts in the restoration of riparian areas, their increased





and growing expertise will allow the programme to replicate the approaches on a much larger scale in the future and provide the foundation for best practice guidelines for restoring drylands.

Sharing a common vision

In April 2016, we completed planting 2,000 indigenous Karoo shrubs (otherwise known as "bossies") on a degraded section of riparian habitat on Silvery Home, a farm belonging to Dries Wiese. The landowner took the initiative in this area by carrying out soil disturbance in preparation for the addition of plant cover. He is a champion of restoration and has been trying different techniques on his farm for many years. The DCP provided and planted, with the help of Loxton's community members, just over 2,000 bossies on the site. Here we are assessing the survival of bossies using a new soil disturbance technique, as well as the success of sowing grass seed, and Ganna (*Sasola aphylla*) seed. The RenuKaroo nursery in Prince Albert provided seed, which we will sow in Spring.

We observed a similar level of landowner engagement at Maanhaarspoort, where we are conducting restoration work with Herman Hugo. Planting on Maanhaarspoort was completed in August 2015 after a second batch of 1,500 plants was established. In addition we used this site to test protective structures for seedlings. Protective measures included shade cloth structures that have a moderating effect on elements like wind and exposure. Preliminary results for winter survival rates for Draaibos (*Tripteris spinescence*) and Ganna showed 83% survival inside protective structures, while survival rates outside these structures were about 3%. These restoration efforts are not only unique, being scientifically assessed and critical to riparian systems in the Karoo, but also see the EWT offering desperately needed employment to local communities.

Both Maanhaarspoort and Silvery Home have had Riverine Rabbit sightings close to the restoration areas, and our future monitoring at these sites will reveal if Riverine Rabbits actually utilise the restored habitat. Our pre-restoration monitoring using camera traps failed to detect Riverine Rabbits on these degraded areas.

Joint initiatives in which landowners play an active role, become champions, and where a shared vision is created, are absolutely critical to encourage large-scale adoption and involvement by other landowners.

Research drives results

On the research front, we have collaborated in the past year with the University of Cape Town (UCT) and with the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU). Zoe Woodgate, a UCT PhD student, has refined a camera trapping methodology that will, for the first time, enable us to apply an occupancy model to the Riverine Rabbit. This model will in turn provide the most accurate determination of density of the species in any specific sample area to date, and this will ultimately assist us in estimating overall population size with significantly improved accuracy.

NMMU Master's student, Andrew Jackson, in a dissertation entitled *Investigating the effectiveness of microcatchments at enhancing transplant performance in Nama-Karoo riparian ecosystem restoration,* carried out his research on our Sakrivierspoort restoration site. His novel research assessed nursery-propagated transplant success rates for riparian plant species, planted in association with micro catchments on rehabilitation sites. The results will further assist the EWT team to refine and ultimately improve the success rate of restoration and planting techniques.

The EWT Drylands Conservation Programme supported, and continues to support, both of these studies.





The Geoglyph, note the size of the motif relative to the house on the right.

Making our work visible

The first fine-scale maps of riparian vegetation and degradation in Riverine Rabbit Conservancies have been produced through a successful collaboration between the EWT, land users and DAFF. We will use these maps to assess various land management practices and their effect on habitat, as the basis for formulating best practice for veld management in the Karoo.

On 26 May 2016, the second Karoo Geoglyph, the Riverine Rabbit Thinking Path, was completed by Site_Specific, in collaboration with the EWT, on the outskirts of Loxton. A geoglyph is a massive design or motif produced on the ground. The Riverine Rabbit Thinking Path was constructed with lime on a degraded site at the entrance to Loxton town. It is 104.5 metres (tail to toe) x 90 metres (ear to foot), resulting in a walking path of ±1,097 metres, which amounts to a brisk 25-minute walk. We will make use of this unique attraction to promote the plight of the Riverine Rabbit, and serve as a tourism attraction for the town.

The Drylands Conservation Programme also featured in several publications and other media during the course of the year. These included a feature on the television programme Kwela and no fewer than six publications in popular print media.

What our stakeholders are saying

Landowners and communities have come to rely on our inputs and support when it comes to Karoo issues that are pertinent to the environment.

"Loxton as a town is reliant on the EWT's Riverine Rabbit Programme for job creation by means of the Indigenous Karoo Plant Nursery as well as promoting tourism to the area. The recently built Riverine Rabbit thinking path was undertaken by volunteers from Site_Specific, an initiative that connects nature and communities, in conjunction with the EWT. This has in turn given rise to a local sewing project that enables local women to earn a living. The EWT educational programmes regarding the Riverine Rabbit habitat and the rare Karoo vegetation they are reliant on to survive also contributed to awareness campaigns around recent fracking and uranium mining concerns." - Ingrid Schöffmann – Loxton Gallery and Member of Site_Specific, Loxton chairperson for the Ubuntu Socio Economic Development Forum.

"Thank you to the EWT for keeping farmers up to date and providing information on the proposed mining applications, without the EWT farmers would not know the full extent of what was happening." - Jan Wiese, Chairman of the Loxton Farmers Association.



PROGRAMME OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- The DCP is currently reviewing its strategy. The programme needs to diversify in order to become more sustainable. By increasing the scope and scale of the programme, we will be exposed to new stakeholders, appeal to a larger range of stakeholders, and unlock new opportunities and partnerships to ensure that we increase our conservation impact in the Karoo. Recently we have also redefined the operational area of the DCP. Partner organisations and stakeholders are keen to collaborate with the EWT in other parts of the Karoo.

Challenges

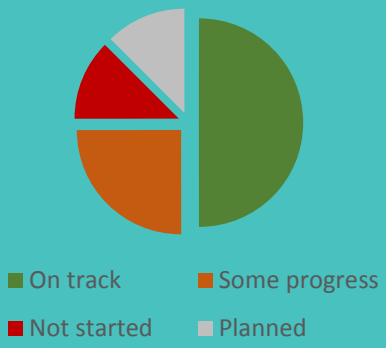
- The DCP works primarily on privately-owned land where Riverine Rabbits occur. While attitudes toward this species are generally good, the challenge is to ensure that unsustainable practices on farms where we work are substituted with best practice for environmental parameters.
- Social and economic conditions in many Karoo towns are far from ideal and, as a result, the environment is of secondary consideration for most people.

Growth areas

- The DCP is exploring a number of new species and project areas for incorporation into the programme. Areas identified for possible stewardship work include the Bokkeveld (Nieuwoutville), Gamkaberg and Kammanassie Berg in the Klein Karoo. We have earmarked the Cape Mountain Zebra (*Equus zebra zebra*) as a species where the EWT can add value by sharing its extensive expertise in metapopulation management and through establishing this charismatic species as a flagship for the formal protection of the habitat in which it occurs.
- We are also exploring the use of new and innovative technologies such as drones that will increase our productivity and allow us to work at greater scale when assessing riparian vegetation. The current major limitation is centred on characterising riparian vegetation at large landscape scale in an affordable and efficient manner. This new tool will hopefully assist towards achieving this goal.
- Increasingly, the DCP receives requests to perform assessments in the Karoo for renewable energy projects and initiatives such as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA). We hope to expand on our relationship with the latter by adding value to conservation action in the SKA site, (currently over 100,000 ha) which does potentially house Riverine Rabbit populations.
- Our GEF 5 project will provide us with an opportunity to assist government conservation agencies and other partners to develop and finalise biodiversity and degradation maps for large parts of the central Karoo in the Northern Cape. This information is not currently available and as such this project will fill a significant void in regional conservation planning.

Risks

- During the past 24 months, undesirable and unsustainable developments such as uranium mining and hydraulic fracturing featured as major risks to the environment and to our work. These developments present uncertain hydrological and environmental impacts and, coupled with their large geographic footprint, they will have serious consequences for habitat and communities living in the Karoo. This will undoubtedly put more pressure on sensitive species such as the Riverine Rabbit.



Progress made by the DCP towards its eight high-level targets in 2015/16, within the framework of the EWT's 2012–2017 Conservation Strategy. Please see pages 12–25 for a detailed account of each target





NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS NETWORK



The National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN) facilitates the mainstreaming of biodiversity into business in South Africa. This will reduce the negative impacts of business on biodiversity and help leverage opportunities which could result in net-positive impacts. In 2013 the EWT facilitated the establishment of the NBBN, in collaboration with its founding partners: De Beers, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Hatch Goba, Nedbank, Pam Golding Properties, Pick n Pay, and Transnet. The NBBN is a South African-based network of businesses, industries and related stakeholders, including government, NGOs and academic institutions and the only network of its kind on the continent.

The aim of the NBBN is to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity into business agendas and operations and to facilitate engagement amongst its members to achieve this holistically. The NBBN strives to create public and corporate awareness around the importance of biodiversity, and help companies identify and manage their own impacts and dependencies on nature. The initiative encourages companies to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into their business systems and practices.



In the past year the NBBN has increased the number of its partners and members, distributed a monthly newsletter, presented four information sharing and capacity building events, produced a report on the status of biodiversity mainstreaming in South African businesses and worked with each of its founding partners to further the mainstreaming of biodiversity into their activities. In doing so, the NBBN has progressed significantly towards achieving its aim of supporting the mainstreaming of biodiversity into South African business. In achieving its aim, the NBBN has contributed towards achieving Strategic Imperative 4 of the EWT Conservation Strategy, which is to increase awareness and mainstream environmental considerations into the daily lives of people and decision makers. The NBBN has also contributed towards achieving Goals 12, 14 and 15 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Aichi Biodiversity Goal A, which strives to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.

New NBBN partners for 2016

Two new partners joined the network in 2016: Eskom and Woolworths. Both these organisations have a strong track record with the EWT and, in joining the NBBN, have demonstrated a public commitment to furthering the mainstreaming of biodiversity into South African business. With strong track records in the management of natural capital, both companies have valuable lessons to share across their own and other sectors. We look forward to working closely with them in sharing these lessons and in facilitating the further mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into their business practices.



PROGRAMME STAFF



Shelley Lizzio
Programme Manager



Michael Adams
NBBN Coordinator

> *600 members from business, government, civil society and academia*

Supporting partners and members

In addition to its expanding partnership base, the NBBN also has 17 supporting partners who provide in-kind support to the activities of the NBBN and over 600 members from business, government, civil society and academia who receive our regular business and biodiversity related communications.

Communications

The NBBN communicates with its more than 600 members on a regular basis through email invitations to its biodiversity mainstreaming events and through a monthly newsletter which includes the latest biodiversity and business related information on international and national news, events and publications. In the past year we distributed 12 newsletters covering topics such as the valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, various biodiversity mainstreaming tools and initiatives, the importance of biodiversity mainstreaming as a climate change adaptation strategy, and invitations to and the outcomes of important international natural capital related events. The newsletters are always well received, with members often responding with positive feedback.

Events

The NBBN has spearheaded over 20 key knowledge-sharing and capacity building events since its inception. Over the past year, we presented three awareness raising and information sharing events at venues across South Africa. In October 2015, we presented our first ever event in KwaZulu-Natal, in partnership with the uMngeni Ecological Infrastructure Programme, on the subject of investment in ecological infrastructure. The audience included environmental and sustainability practitioners and managers, corporate social responsibility managers, environmental consultants, academics, students, professional advisors, financial planners, operations managers, natural capital experts, and government officials. The event was well received by KZN-based NBBN members, attracted a number of new NBBN members and contributed meaningfully towards driving the investment in ecological infrastructure in the province. In November 2015, we presented on the importance of biodiversity to business, the work of the NBBN and the biodiversity mainstreaming work of De Beers, one of our founding partners, at the 8th international conference of the Ecosystem Services Partnership in Stellenbosch.

Report launch

In 2015, the NBBN, on behalf of the Department of Environmental Affairs, conducted a preliminary baseline assessment of the current approaches and practices of South African businesses to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in order to enable the assessment of changes over time. Thirty-three Johannesburg



Stock Exchange listed companies from different sectors were reviewed as part of this preliminary baseline assessment. The results of this assessment, which included a number of key observations and recommendations, were published in a report entitled "Overview of current approaches and practices of South African businesses to the mainstreaming of biodiversity", which was officially launched in Johannesburg in April 2016 at a dedicated NBBN event. In the report the NBBN committed to striving to address these recommendations, in collaboration with business, the NGO sector and the South African government.



What our stakeholders are saying

"*We are proud to be one of the founding partners of the National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN) and believe it is a turning point for integrating biodiversity into South African business agendas and operations. When biodiversity is threatened, the health of our planet and all its ecosystems is threatened too. These ecosystems, whether they are aquatic – the oceans and rivers that give us water and seafood – or land based – supporting our farmers in growing crops and raising animals – are at the very base of all our operations at PnP. Without these ecosystems, we would not be able to bring products to our customers.*" – Bronwen Rohland, Director of Sustainability and Marketing at Pick n Pay.

"*Nedbank believes that it is only through a shared understanding of integrated sustainability issues, including biodiversity, and collective responsibility that we will achieve a mutually desirable future. Our hope is that the National Biodiversity and Business Network will be the catalyst for such.*" – Brigitte Burnett, Head of Sustainability at Nedbank Limited.

PROGRAMME OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- The findings and recommendations in the "Overview of current approaches and practices of South African businesses to the mainstreaming of biodiversity" report present an opportunity for the NBBN to work with business, the NGO sector and the South African government to improve the mainstreaming of biodiversity into business.
- The events presented by the NBBN have highlighted a need in the private sector for further awareness raising and information sharing on biodiversity mainstreaming. This presents an opportunity for the NBBN to further our reach by increasing the number of members on our database, and targeting our newsletters and events specifically to address these needs.
- The successful implementation of the NBBN 3-year strategy, the NBBN's vision, its strong partnerships and vast network are integral to our opportunities to drive the mainstreaming of biodiversity into business in South Africa going forward.

Challenges

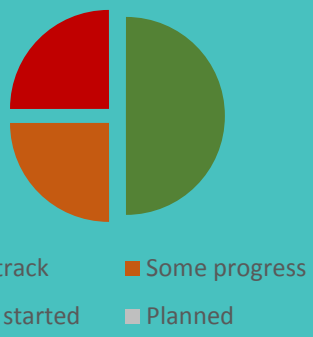
- The current global economic climate and competing business risks may prevent companies from appreciating the business case for biodiversity management. Attaining buy-in from companies in terms of understanding the importance of biodiversity is also a constant challenge.

Growth areas

- As business understanding of biodiversity mainstreaming grows, the NBBN's focus will move away from awareness-raising towards the implementation of biodiversity mainstreaming projects. Ultimately, we aim to reach a point where successful projects can be up-scaled throughout and across business sectors.
- The NBBN realises that corporate biodiversity requires transdisciplinary effort and will endeavour to reach out to students at universities to build future business individuals who will promote corporate biodiversity at their workplaces through presentations.

Risks

- Expertise in the area of biodiversity mainstreaming, and a thorough understanding of how the programme operates, is limited to only a few individuals.
- There is also a smaller risk of other initiatives competing in the "biodiversity and business market" but, at present, this risk is minimal.



Progress made by the NBBN towards its four high-level targets in 2015/16, within the framework of the EWT's 2012–2017 Conservation Strategy. Please see pages 12–25 for a detailed account of each target.





SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



The Skills Development Programme is all about nurturing and upskilling people who are involved in the protection and conservation of our biodiversity – our current focus is on catalysing law enforcement officials and the judiciary to do their work more effectively. We also develop training programmes that meet the skills needs of the biodiversity sector, including nature conservation practitioners and students as well as the public. We ensure that the EWT retains its accreditation status as a registered training service provider and support the training initiatives of other programmes, as well as providing them with legal advice over wildlife-related issues.

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

During the last year the SDP has been meeting the specialised skills and knowledge needs of more than 150 members of the criminal justice system as well as nurturing young conservationists through experiential learning. These higher level activities have contributed to the EWT's Strategic Imperatives 5 and 6 which deal with capacity building and the supporting of compliance and enforcement, respectively. The work of the SDP also contributes to three of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which include: Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 14 (life below water) and Goal 15 (life on land). Lastly the SDP contributes to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 6 and 12 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Focused efforts to combat illegal trade in cycads

Cycads are one of the most threatened plant groups in the world, and whilst South Africa is recognised as a global hotspot for cycad diversity, South African cycads face the biggest threat of extinction from illegal trade. Already seven cycad species number less than 100 individuals in the wild. In response to the extinction crisis cycads face the SDP has taken the lead by developing and implementing the first Advanced Cycad Training Intervention (CT401), targeting 25 law enforcement officials with over 160 hours of specialised training. This specialised training programme has attracted the attention of the enforcement sector and solicited more requests for enrolment than we can currently cater for.

The crown jewel of the SDP

Our Wildlife Trade Law Enforcement and Compliance Training Intervention (WT501) is our oldest and flagship training course. This well-honed training intervention, over a decade in the making, has been developed for members of mixed law enforcement agencies to develop skills to tackle the illegal trade of wildlife. We have appointed various experts to assist with specialist information in this intervention, including species experts and experts from the South African Revenue Service (SARS), as well as seasoned enforcement officials from the Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries (DAFF) and the South African Police Service (SAPS). By doing so, we can provide a holistic approach to combatting wildlife offences. During this reporting period, we delivered the WT501 training intervention to 50 people from various enforcement agencies.

> *25 members of various law enforcement agencies were provided cybercrime training*



PROGRAMME STAFF



Adam Pires
Programme Manager



Ashleigh Dore
Training Coordinator



Ndzalama Chauke
Administrator

Tackling wildlife trafficking online

In partnership with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), we hosted a training intervention on Wildlife Cybercrime Training South Africa (OL301). This training intervention, unique to the EWT and South Africa as a whole, focuses on developing specialised skill sets to track trends and gather information on illegal wildlife trade on various online trade e-commerce platforms. We provided training to 25 members of various law enforcement agencies. The pilot was a success and, as a result, additional funds have been secured to provide another three training interventions in the next reporting report.

A fresh look at flagship species

We convened the first of three training interventions known as the Flagship Species Training Intervention (FS501) in May and June 2016 to provide focused training on terrestrial, marine, reptile and bird species susceptible to and/or commonly found in illegal wildlife trade. This training intervention was attended by 20 members of the SAPS Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit from across South Africa.

Raising awareness on the scope of wildlife trafficking

In addition to providing training courses, we developed new species-specific reference material for state prosecutors and investigators, offering them assistance when testifying for aggravated sentences. The following species were included on the basis of ongoing concern around trends in illegal trade: elephants, rhinos, pangolins and Sungazers, and carnivores.

Telekishi Community Project

We have continued to provide rehabilitation services for the Telekishi wetland system located on the northern foot slopes of the Waterberg mountain range. During the reporting period a team of young aspiring conservationists have conducted alien invasive plant clearing and soil erosion control in the affected area, ensuring that the small wetland continues to produce water for utilisation by the small rural community.

Accreditation matters

The EWT is an accredited registered training service provider and continues to meet these requirements under the auspices of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).



PROGRAMME OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- The drafting of the South African National Integrated Strategy for Combatting Wildlife Trafficking by the South African government, in an effort to address illegal wildlife trade and prevent further decline of selected species, creates a specific workspace and opportunity where EWT can contribute to the national strategy.
- There still remains lots of scope on the amount of awareness raising required for members of the judiciary when it comes to the seriousness of wildlife crime and the importance of considering higher penalties to deter future perpetrators.

Challenges

- It is important to ensure that the right people attend the training courses that we provide and it is vital that those who attend have the mandate to implement any skills developed. We attempt to address this by ensuring that personnel responsible for securing the attendance of participants are well informed on the scope of the training and requirements for attendance.
- There is a lack of awareness on the part of the public on matters relating to wildlife trade in terms or reporting crimes and preventing the play of ignorance. We are however working hard to sensitise members of the public to these issues by exploring awareness raising campaigns and replying timeously to queries.

Growth

- The EWT's eLearning platform is an area where the SDP will be looking to expand in an effort to offer more training programmes that support the conservation of biodiversity. With the rapid advancement of technology, our eLearning platform provides growth opportunities to expand the scope and reach of our training programmes, especially as it overcomes the time and distance constraints faced by many traditional types of learning programmes.

Risks

- One of the biggest risks the programme faces would be a change in policy that prevents NGOs from training governmental departments. However it is not apparent that this will happen soon given the current lack of government capacity to provide their own training. Our good reputation, earned over many years, also puts us in a strong position to continue providing training programmes to government agencies.



Progress made by the SDP towards its three high-level targets in 2015/16, within the framework of the EWT's 2012–2017 Conservation Strategy. Please see pages 12–25 for a detailed account of each target.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

5 GENDER EQUALITY

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND





SOURCE TO SEA PROGRAMME

The Source to Sea Programme is dedicated to the conservation and improvement of healthy, functional freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems that support a myriad of aquatic species, as well as the people who rely on them. We apply evidence-based conservation action, achieved through high-impact field projects based on our holistic and innovative programme strategy.

The Source to Sea Programme (STSP) recognises the important connection between rivers, wetlands, estuaries, coasts and deep sea ecosystems, as well as the complex relationships that human society has with them. We are well-positioned to address broad ecological, social and economic issues that affect our rivers and oceans in southern Africa and we play a key role in bridging the divide between research, policy and conservation action on the ground.



The STSP contributes to the EWT's strategy by protecting and restoring key habitats that are important for freshwater and marine biodiversity, ensuring targeted threatened species are protected in viable populations, engaging local women and youth in conservation and natural resources management, establishing "Green Economies" in key areas, and fostering strategic partnerships that address broader-scale issues beyond conservation. Our programmatic approach addresses 12 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We are currently operational in the Marico River Catchment, North West Province; the Orange River Mouth, Northern Cape; the Amathole mountain catchment area, Eastern Cape; the Olifants-Doring and Breede catchments in the Western Cape; Gauteng; and the Bazaruto Archipelago, Mozambique.

Bazaruto Dugong Protection Project

The Bazaruto Dugong Protection Project has been in operation since 2010 and to-date, we have made huge strides in conserving Mozambique's Bazaruto Archipelago and its elusive marine mammal flagship – the Dugong *(Dugong dugon*). Overfishing, excessive bycatch, habitat destruction and Dugong deaths are some of the main impacts to marine life in this area and, in order for us to achieve true sustainability, we need to institute innovative and high-impact strategies. Our initial approach was to ramp up law enforcement and compliance in the national park and we have seen the fantastic results of strengthened park management, through reduced Dugong deaths, fewer gill nets and less fishing activity in no-take zones. We are now working on our long-term strategy of building key cross-sectoral partnerships, facilitating better stakeholder coordination and engagement, researching and establishing sustainable livelihoods and improving fish stocks through a sustainable seafood programme. Some of the highlights of the year have been the community meetings held at all the villages on Bazaruto Island (Sitone, Zenguelemo and Pangaia), which have been well-represented by community leaders, women and local fishers. These meetings have opened the discussions around community-led sustainable livelihoods as well as the health needs of the people in Bazaruto. Improved family planning support and maternal and child healthcare is integral to solving broader conservation issues in areas where local people rely directly on the integrity of their natural






HEALTHY CATCHMENT ALLIANCE

PROGRAMME STAFF



Bridget Corrigan
Programme Manager



Nic Armstrong
NRM Field Operations Officer – Eastern Cape



Isabelle Giddy
Bazaruto Dugong Protection Project Coordinator



JP Le Roux
Marico Catchment Conservation Project Coordinator



Oscar Mohale
STS Programme Field & Research Assistant



Nkosinathi Nama
Amathole Freshwater Species Project Coordinator



Grant Smith
Orange River Mouth Project - Field Officer

environmental for survival. This year we recorded no Dugong mortalities, compared to the previous year in which we had two mortalities and this is largely due to the 30 boat-based marine patrols that are conducted in the park monthly with the two EWT law enforcement boats.



Cape Critical Rivers Project

The Cape Critical Rivers Project is a successful partnership between the EWT, Freshwater Research Centre, CapeNature and the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation and Aurecon Engineering. The partnership implements innovative solutions to pressing water resource challenges in water-stressed biodiversity hotspots. Much of our focus at the beginning of the year was on the Barrydale site where meetings were held with the Swellendam Municipality and the regional council to motivate to have the Donkergat Weir on the Huis River modified so that Ecological Reserve releases can be made to the river ecosystem downstream to support the Critically Endangered Barrydale Redfin *(Pseudobarbus burchelli)* population. At these meetings, the Cape Critical Rivers team presented two years of data to the municipality and council members to show how water, lost to residents and local farmers by making environmental releases, could be recovered by improving water use efficiency in weirs and through recommendations that will be made in the Barrydale Bulk Water Infrastructure Plan which is currently being developed by Rowe ILISO consulting engineers.

In the Kouebokkeveld, the Freshwater Research Centre's Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (FEPAs) and Flows Project has developed cost-effective tools and protocols for Reserve monitoring in catchments of high conservation importance, with support from the Water Research Commission, and the project is rolling this out in key catchments. In addition to the Department of Water and Sanitation's gauging weirs, the team has installed another two flow monitoring sites in the catchment bringing to four the total number of sites where the Ecological Reserve is being monitored. We will be integrating the tools and protocols developed during the course of the project into Strategic Adaptive Management plans (SAMs) which will eventually feed into existing management systems at local and regional scales. We have also been working with a group of case study farmers in the Kouebokkeveld to investigate the use of the Fruitlook programme developed by the Department of Agriculture as an objective tool for monitoring and improving irrigation efficiency. Initial results indicate that there could be significant benefits for using this system to supplement current irrigation management practices.



Healthy Catchment Alliance – Amathole Freshwater Species Conservation Project

The Healthy Catchment Alliance (HCA) is a formal partnership between local South African NGOs: the EWT, Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) and Conservation South Africa (CSA). Regional partners include Environmental and Rural Solutions (ERS) and the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB). We recognise the need for active collaboration to tackle freshwater conservation challenges holistically. The Source to Sea Programme is working through the HCA in the Amathole Mountain Catchment area and, through this collaboration, we have achieved many of our targets already, such as: identifying high priority biodiversity sites for stewardship, finalising two freshwater species conservation plans, improving management of over 500 ha of land, developing a research strategy to inform best land use practices, establishing and supporting the Amathole Catchment Management Forum, supporting eight Eco-Schools and registering five new eco-businesses. During this past year the project rolled out key trainings to over 85 young adults and community leaders in social entrepreneurship, health and safety and environmental practices (which was facilitated by WESSA). We are also well underway with catchment restoration of the Tyume River where we have cleared (and are in the process of rehabilitating) 307 hectares. This project is currently employing 80 community members from the Amathole area and working with five contractors to build their businesses and sustain them after our grant funding from the European Union and the Department of Environmental Affairs comes to an end.





Marico Catchment Conservation Project

The Marico River catchment is a key water resource and a National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area (NFEPA). It forms the headwaters of the Limpopo River Basin and is the North West Province's flagship river. This water resource is under severe pressure as a result of drought conditions, which is exacerbated by high levels of poverty and unemployment in the region. The project was named: *A Re Itireleng* "Let's do it ourselves" by the local community focus group in the spirit of empowerment and independence. It is very much a community-led approach to enhancing sustainable water management and green economy for the benefit of people and the environment in the Marico River Catchment, South Africa. In this area, we are implementing our first full-scale integrated Population Health Environment (PHE) programme in this strategically important catchment, which is currently being impacted by climate change and where the community has identified the need for improved family planning support and primary healthcare provision. Because we take an integrated approach to catchment conservation, we are contributing towards 10 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in an under-resourced region that is particularly vulnerable to climate change and poverty. We have set up partnerships and collaborations with organisations (for conservation agriculture support), the South African Wildlife College (for training and capacity building); Hariri Silk (for social enterprise development) and Population Sustainability Network and Pathways (for clinical support on the health and family planning components). One of the highlights of the project has been our partnership with the African Pride Nature Conservation Association (APNCA), an inspired and motivated youth group in the Reboile community of Marico. We work with them and the Koffiekraal Community Property Association to mainstream conservation agriculture and water use efficiency into both subsistence and developing commercial farming enterprises as well as collectively developing a green economy in the area.

Orange River Mouth Project

The Orange River Mouth Estuary is one of few areas of sheltered shallow water along southern Africa's arid Atlantic coastline. It is a transboundary site, forming the international border between South Africa and Namibia. It is South Africa's second most important estuary for biodiversity conservation and the sixth most important coastal wetland in southern Africa for birds and fish. The EWT is the South African implementing partner of the USAID-funded IUCN programme on applying the Ecosystems Approach (EA) in the Orange-Senqu River basin. To this end, we have completed a LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) survey, which will not only be used to finalise the proclamation of the site as a Protected Environment by delineating the boundary of the site (the current boundaries are inaccurate), but will also provide critical data required for strategic and



quantitative rehabilitation planning. LiDAR uses lasers to acquire fine scale data used in Digital Elevation Modelling (DEM). The DEM can be used in hydraulic modelling to determine areas of sediment build up and to identify areas where water flow can be reconnected. This is crucial for restoring the ecosystem functioning of the estuary. The EWT has conducted biannual bird counts and initiated monthly bird counts and water quality testing, in collaboration with the Northern Cape Department of Nature Conservation (DENC) and the National Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). We also took part in an aerial survey in collaboration with the Bateleurs; an estuarine fish survey in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF); and assisted DENC with river patrols. On-going monitoring efforts are critical to the long-term ecological understanding of the site and need to be continued to detect trends and better understand the long-term biotic-abiotic interactions. The baseline data are also critical to understanding the effectiveness of interventions in future, such as further breaching of the beach access road, machinery removal at the mouth and the construction of the proposed Vioolsdrift Dam. This project has engaged actively with DENC, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM), Ramsar – South Africa, Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Alexkor Mine, local municipalities and EcoSchools.

Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI)

Food security, job creation and economic growth are integral to South Africa's commercial fishery sector. It is worth around six to seven billion rand per annum and directly employs around 27,000 people. It is vitally important to manage these fisheries sustainably and ensure responsible consumption of seafood to avoid collapsing stocks and the decimation of marine species. The Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) aims to make the local seafood industry more sustainable by working with seafood suppliers and retailers, and enabling consumers to make sustainable seafood choices We have been a networking partner of SASSI since 2004 and we are now working with WWF-SA to roll out the national SASSI strategy in Gauteng, the largest seafood-consumer province in South Africa and a major trade route for illegal seafood. Our role is to facilitate workshops with Gauteng compliance and enforcement officials on the illegal trade of marine species and support the development of a SASSI volunteer network in Gauteng. We held law enforcement training with a SASSI and marine species component in April 2016, attended by 25 delegates, and this was followed up with species identification training in June.



PROGRAMME OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- We are currently in the process of registering a country office in Mozambique, which will allow us to operate more effectively in the Bazaruto Archipelago, as well as other project sites in Mozambique in the future.

Challenges

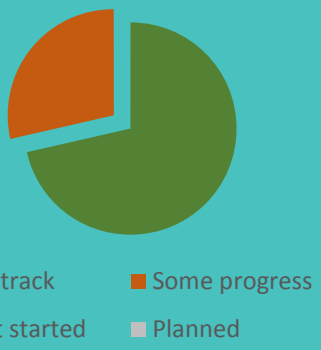
- Stakeholder coordination can be challenging when there are many interest groups involved in a project area, with varying agendas and mandates. We recognise the importance of developing and maintaining regular communication channels, such as Catchment Forums, newsletters, meetings and workshops that are both relevant and valuable for the stakeholders involved. Understanding the stakeholder landscape is critical to the success of any project and this is a challenge we are always looking to improve on.

Growth areas

- An exciting and innovative area of our work involves the integration of "Population Health Environment (PHE)"into our projects. PHE refers to the integration of programmes where conservation objectives are met through cross-sectoral partnerships with organisations working in the economic development, health and education sectors. Community issues can be complex and need to be addressed in a holistic way. By meeting unmet family planning and primary healthcare needs, as well as supporting women and youth to establish sustainable social enterprises that support themselves and their local economies, we can work towards a collective and shared vision for a sustainable future for our catchment and coastal communities.

Risks

- Alternative livelihood development is a complex undertaking and requires considerable planning, research and risk assessment. We also need to ensure that we do not stray away from our conservation mandate. We manage this risk by undertaking extensive research into each livelihood concept, workshopping these ideas collectively with the relevant stakeholders and pressure-testing each idea in a low-cost, time-bound pilot demonstration to ensure positive conservation impact. We also seek out entrepreneurs or community champions who we can support in the development and up-scaling of these livelihoods.



Progress made by the STSP towards its seven high-level targets in 2015/16, within the framework of the EWT's 2012–2017 Conservation Strategy. Please see pages 12–25 for a detailed account of each target.







THREATENED AMPHIBIAN PROGRAMME



The Threatened Amphibian Programme focuses on frogs! Indeed, amphibians are the most threatened group of vertebrates on earth. Coupled with people's generally negative attitudes towards them here in South Africa, conserving our threatened frogs is an ongoing challenge. Our programme fills the gap between applied conservation research and on-the-ground amphibian conservation action by addressing direct threats to some of our most threatened frog species. We have a growing interest in environmental education and raising public awareness, without which conservation initiatives are futile.

Amphibians, globally, are our most threatened vertebrate animals, with the most recent assessments showing that as many as 42% of the species are experiencing declines. Amphibians, of which frogs are the largest group (comprising over 6,500 species), play a pivotal role in our ecosystems, being right in the middle of the food chain. They are also important indicators of environmental health and represent our freshwater resources, which we know are being increasingly compromised. The Threatened Amphibian Programme (TAP) was initiated in 2012, with one of its main goals being to bridge the gap between amphibian research and conservation. Today, the programme continues to do this, through collaboration with various academic research groups, and has helped to build amphibian conservation research capacity through contributing to the studies of three Honours students, two M.Sc. students, one Ph.D. and one post-doctoral fellow. Just as importantly, TAP is helping to expand contributions from "citizen scientists" in the form of scholars, rangers and volunteers who assist on monitoring projects on threatened frog species across South Africa.



In terms of directly addressing threats to some of the most threatened frog species in South Africa, 2015/16 was extremely busy due to the implementation of a Natural Resources Management (NRM) project aimed at rehabilitating four wetlands in the Durban area that are home to the Critically Endangered Pickersgill's Reed Frog *(Hyperolius pickersgilli)*. This project has restored over 300 hectares of coastal wetland through the employment of 65 local community members to remove alien invasive plants and re-plant indigenous plants; fostered working relationships with government, land-owners and communities; developed unique urban conservation solutions and expanded our approach to social change.

TAP currently has projects focused on four of South Africa's threatened frog species across the country, including Pickersgill's Reed Frog (Critically Endangered), Amathole Toad (*Vandijkophrynus amatolicus*; Critically Endangered), Mistbelt Chirping Frog (*Anhydrophryne ngongoniensis*; Endangered) and Kloof Frog (*Natalobatrachus bonebergi*; Endangered). We also provide input into a project on the Endangered Western Leopard Toad (*Amietophrynus pantherinus*) aimed at addressing the threat of road kill to this species through working with local volunteer groups.

TAP makes important strategic contributions pertaining to monitoring, legislation, habitat restoration, conservation planning, social change and awareness. The programme contributes to four of the EWT's Strategic Imperatives and has eight High Level Programme Targets. At a global scale, our work contributes directly to the objectives of the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan, which is a high-level strategy for amphibian conservation needs compiled by the IUCN Species Survival Commission Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG).



PROGRAMME STAFF



Dr Jeanne Tarrant
Programme Manager

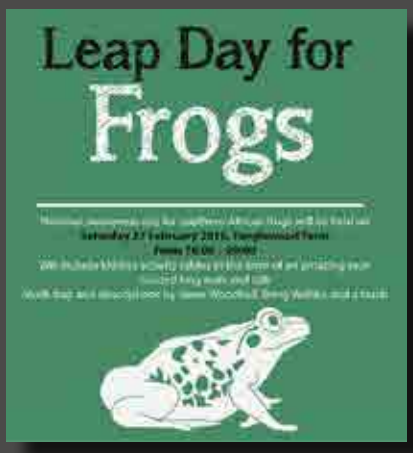


Cherise Acker
NRM Operations - Field Officer



Jiba Magwaza
Field Officer





Pickersgill's Reed Frog Recovery Project

Pickersgill's Reed Frog is Critically Endangered and known only from the KwaZulu-Natal coast. Its habitat of coastal wetland coincides with the area that people also want to live, farm and mine, with the consequence that much of its original habitat has been destroyed or degraded and, at present, the species occurs in only three protected areas. Given the circumstances, and multiple stakeholders involved within the range of Pickersgill's Reed Frog, this species lent itself to the development of a Biodiversity Management Plan. We are a lead-author on this document, which will be the first of its kind for a threatened frog species in South Africa. This is a conservation plan outlining actions that need to be undertaken to address the threats facing this species. TAP is actively involved in the implementation of most of these objectives, from habitat restoration and protection, to facilitating research, to raising awareness about this species. Pickersgill's Reed Frog provides a flagship species to guide wetland restoration work and we monitor both the species and wetland health in response to restoration interventions. As part of this, we have installed permanent automated monitoring equipment at three wetland sites – Widenham, Mount Moreland and Simbithi – to gauge activity over the breeding period for this species.



Habitat restoration for Pickersgill's Reed Frog in Durban through a Natural Resources Management grant

TAP is implementing a Natural Resource Management Project, funded by the Department of Environmental Affairs, at four priority wetlands at which Pickersgill's Reed Frog occurs throughout the Greater Durban area. This project employs approximately 65 local community members to clear alien invasive plants and carry out habitat restoration. Since February 2016, our six teams cleared alien invasive vegetation from a total of 311 hectares across six sites, as well as rehabilitated these areas by planting indigenous vegetation. Up to June 2016, most of this work involved initial clearing (53%), with a third of our time to-date spent on follow-up and rehabilitation activities. We have also made a concerted effort to carry out clean-ups of litter and waste from all of these sites, which poses a risk to both human and environmental health. This is no easy task and we are establishing relationships with the municipality's Durban Solid Waste to ensure that long-term solutions are put in place to provide permanent waste management systems at these sites.

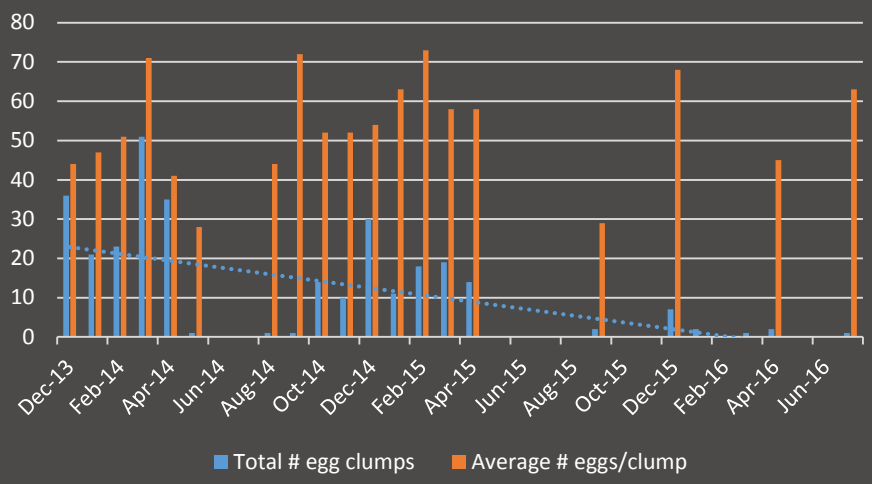
Kloof Frog Monitoring Project

The handsome Kloof Frog is an Endangered species occurring in forested streams in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and the Eastern Cape. The species lays distinct egg clutches above the water that provide a relatively easy way to monitor this species. Using the monitoring protocol that we developed for Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife, based on egg-clump counts, we now have data being collected at two sites in KZN (Vernon Crookes Nature Reserve and Crowned Eagle Conservancy) and three reserves in the Eastern Cape (Dwesa-Cebe, Hluleka and Silaka Nature Reserves). We are very grateful to the volunteer groups that take part in monitoring the Kloof Frog. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Honorary Rangers, Lesley and Mike Bentley, have been using our protocol to monitor the Kloof Frog at Vernon Crookes Nature Reserve since December 2014. From the data collected so far, we can see when the peak breeding season for the species is December to March, but also that the 2014–2015 drought has had a severe impact on breeding behaviour in the last year.

Working within WESSA's Eco-Schools Programme, two local schools, Kloof Senior Primary and Thomas Moore College, carry out the monitoring method in alternate months at Crowned Eagle Conservancy in Gillitts. In October 2015, we conducted training on the monitoring method with 10 Eastern Cape parks rangers from three reserves, and they are submitting results to us on a regular basis.

The needle in the pine needle stack: Mistbelt Chirping Frog Project

The Mistbelt Chirping Frog is a miniscule amphibian known only from a handful of grassland sites in the southern corner of KZN. The species is listed as Endangered by the IUCN and features in the Top 100 ZSL EDGE (Evolutionarily Distinct Globally Endangered) Amphibian List. The main threat facing the species is loss of habitat caused by commercial forestry. Like many rare and cryptic frog species, it is generally easier to hear than to see the Mistbelt Chirping Frog, the call of which is more like a quiet insect chirp than anything one would expect from a frog. This is one of the reasons that, with the help of Auckland Zoo, we have been able to make use of specialised acoustic equipment (aka Song Meters), to better understand this hard-to-see animal. In December 2016, a group of researchers, including MSc student, Mea Trenor, a team of acoustic experts from North-West University, as well as members of TAP, ventured into the Mistbelt region to test out a method known as spatially explicit capture-recapture (SECR). None of us had actually seen the species before, and all we had to go on were some GPS coordinates from audio detections eight years ago. The weather was true to its name and after being caught out in a massive electrical storm, we heard the 'chirp' at one of the known sites, where we quickly set up the SECR array. Over the course of the trip, the array was deployed at four sites in addition to the collection of 12 hours of call data for revealing peak calling times. We not only heard the frogs at various sites, but were extremely fortunate to find an individual male (under a fallen pine tree of all places). He was very difficult to locate, even with multiple observers triangulating for well over twenty minutes. This is exceptionally good going considering that the previous researcher of this species encountered just one frog visually over the course of five years. Through this project, a better understanding of the distribution and behaviour of the species will help guide management recommendations for forestry companies and focus monitoring efforts as well as improve local awareness of this unique species.



Monitoring data for the Endangered Kloof Frog at Vernon Crookes from 2014 to 2016, based on egg clump counts and clutch size.

What our stakeholders are saying

"*It gives me a sense of pride to know that I am doing my bit to help the environment!*" - Tawanda Msomi, one of our Natural Resource Management team members from the Bluff. This team is working to remove alien vegetation and rehabilitate four wetland systems and coastal dune throughout Durban.

The English language often lacks the soul that the Zulu language has and it is difficult to translate at times because of this. But a team member stated -"*ay khona mengibheka unomuthelela omuhle impela, nakhu phela sesi thola nemvula awu sayi gcina nini nje*" (Roughly translated *"Man, it has a very good impact, I mean it even rained after a long time!"*).

What he means is that their work is being blessed by the bringing of rain and is an analogy rather than a statement. This is such a wonderful statement demonstrating how some of the team members are spiritually connected to the work they are doing, also demonstrating a monumental shift in perspective in environmental thoughtfulness.

"*We can't believe that these plants are dangerous, I mean we have them in our gardens! So we go home now and take them out and we have a poster of the poisonous plants which we show our neighbours so that our children are safe.*" – a Bluff community educator.

"I have witnessed how the Pickersgill's Reed Frog is not just a beauty, but its conservation is changing people's lives in one way or another. The NRM project has brought people from different areas together, it puts food on peoples' tables and it is changing people's attitude towards the environment." - Jiba Magwaza (Programme Intern).

Stories from the field

We are encouraging our rehabilitation team members to become citizen scientists and report interesting biodiversity sightings to us. At one of the Pickersgill's Reed Frog rehabilitation sites along the Isipingo River in Durban South, the team noticed every day that a large green mamba would follow them as they worked. Having gone through snake training, this did not put the team off and they carried on with their work. The snake was merely enjoying the small animals being flushed out as a result of the clearing activity.

Whilst undertaking wetland health assessments in April at Adam's Mission wetland system in the south of Durban, we were lucky enough to observe the Critically Endangered Pickersgill's Reed Frog basking out in the Autumn sun, a behaviour previously not recorded for this species. This amazing wetland system comprises patches of coastal wetland and swamp forest and a stroll in the latter revealed the eggs of the Endangered Kloof Frog, which is a new locality for this species and the first occurrence known in such close proximity to Pickersgill's Reed Frog. This discovery will strengthen the need for our conservation activities in this area.



PROGRAMME OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- Through the Natural Resource Management project, TAP has been able to significantly expand its habitat restoration and protection objectives towards securing wetland habitat for a Critically Endangered species.
- Our conservation work is grounded on sound research and we have been able to link restoration efforts to monitoring and evaluation of both the species and systems in which we are working.
- We have been able to expand our work around initiating sustainable livelihoods, food security and social economic development through exploring opportunities with green economies as well as broaden our educational outreach.
- We have strengthened partnerships in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding for Pickersgill's Reed Frog with relevant research institutions, ex situ facilities and conservation authorities, as well as established a collaborative working agreement with eThekwini Municipality's Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department.

Challenges

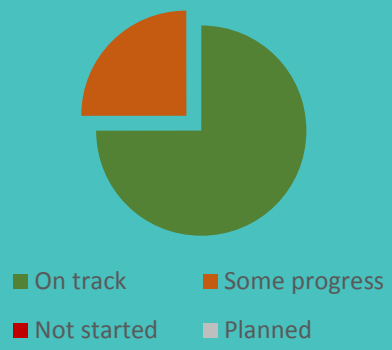
- Our restoration work provides us with a unique opportunity for practising urban conservation, however this is not without its challenges, which includes addressing public concerns and perceptions, issues of environmental degradation brought about through social needs and circumstances and ongoing pressures from development.
- The lack of waste management plans for the informal areas in which we are working in Durban compounds the restoration work we are trying to implement as we have spent much time and effort in clean-up operations, which are undermined in the absence of permanent solutions.

Growth areas

- One of our main objectives to create a shift in public attitude towards the importance of frogs and the conservation of their habitats to support amphibian conservation. As such, we continue to expand our approach to creating and enhancing awareness. We are taking this in exciting new directions through the development of a new social change strategy as well as the development of a potential television series.
- We have been able to expand our skill-set in terms of habitat restoration work, both of coastal wetland and dunes systems, allowing us the opportunity to test various methods to minimise the impact on these sensitive systems.
- We are looking to expand our work into understanding more about the threat of trade and how it may impact amphibians in South Africa, and developing training courses and materials in response to this.
- Improved technical and research capacity for amphibian conservation: the TAP team has grown in the past year with the addition of a field officer and intern. We are also supported through several student and citizen science projects.
- The development of high quality field-guiding training courses on amphibian identification and ecology to support improved amphibian conservation, including an assessment on the ecotourism potential of frogs in South Africa.

Risks

- Project sustainability: given the unique challenges associated with urban conservation, it is imperative that our efforts ensure that long-term solutions are in place to secure the important work we are investing in now.
- Both drought and, conversely, flooding have affected various aspects of our work, both biologically and socially. The drought has had an impact on the breeding activity of amphibians that we monitor, which is likely to mean that other species have also been affected. Heavy rains, on the other hand, have resulted in flash-floods which have devastated some of the areas that we are working to rehabilitate.



Progress made by the TAP towards its eight high-level targets in 2015/16, within the framework of the EWT's 2012–2017 Conservation Strategy. Please see pages 12–25 for a detailed account of each target.





THREATENED GRASSLAND SPECIES PROGRAMME



The programme works towards an ecosystem approach for grassland conservation. To do so we focus on targeted areas within grasslands where we prioritise work on threatened, specialist and endemic species – including Yellow-breasted Pipits, Blue Swallows, Oribi, Sungazers, golden moles and more recently Botha's Lark. Our activities target both species-specific actions as well as broader habitat conservation work that preserves the ecosystem services – especially given that grassland catchments act as the 'water factories' – critical for human well-being.

The Threatened Grasslands Species Programme (TGSP) focuses on implementing conservation action for priority grassland species, and aims to develop an ecosystems approach towards grassland conservation. This is achieved by using threatened, endemic and specialist species to prioritise key areas for conservation, with the aim of securing priority species populations and the associated ecosystem services in these areas.

Currently only 2.4% of South Africa's grasslands are formally conserved, and more than 60% have been irreversibly transformed. The Grassland Biome is estimated to support 6.4 million cattle, 13 million sheep, and a significant portion of South Africa's commercial timber. It also holds great mineral wealth and is, therefore, under tremendous pressure from the expanding mining sector. It is also the country's primary water "factory".

The TGSP has performed remarkably well over the past year, even in light of capacity issues in the provincial conservation sector which has slowed our progress to some degree. The TGSP held an advisory forum meeting early in the year to gain objective input from senior colleagues and external partners. At this meeting we clarified our objectives and strategically planned approaches to addressing challenges, especially with regards to achieving formal proclamation of our priority areas through Biodiversity Stewardship. In line with this we organised and hosted a national stewardship workshop, which has stimulated priority provincial partnerships. These are critical to achieving formal proclamation of priority areas for threatened grassland species. We have made significant progress towards securing over 42,000 hectares in Mpumalanga and we are in the process of presenting our stewardship site plans to the Free State provincial authorities (with





PROGRAMME STAFF



Dr Ian Little
Programme Manager



Catherine Hughes
Current Programme Manager



Bradley Gibbons
Field Officer



Mauritz De Bruin
Field Officer



Samson Phakathi
Senior Field Officer

over 20,000 hectares earmarked in this province). The proclamation of these areas will contribute directly to national protected area expansion targets, several Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including Target 5 (Loss of Habitats), Target 7 (Areas under Sustainable Management) and Target 11 (Protected Areas) and, of course, the EWT's habitat and species conservation targets. While this will only increase formal protection of around 0.01% of the grassland biome, we will secure some ca. 20% of the natural range of the Sungazer (*Smaug giganteus*) and up to *ca*. 60% of the natural range of Botha's Lark *(Spizocorys fringillaris)*.

Our extensive community conservation work has received public accolades from partner organisations, and our direct interactions with thousands of rural people on education and awareness for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services contribute significantly to the long-term preservation of South Africa's natural resources.

Biodiversity stewardship

Biodiversity stewardship is an approach to securing land in priority biodiversity areas by entering into agreements with private and communal landowners, municipalities and other government entities, led by conservation authorities. The objective of biodiversity stewardship is to conserve and manage high priority biodiversity areas through voluntary participation of landowners. The TGSP is involved in several stewardship initiatives, involving stewardship based on Sungazer and Botha's Lark as mentioned above, (mainly in the Free State and Mpumalanga), and assisting the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) to secure key biodiversity habitat in Gauteng.

The TGSP, in partnership with Wildlands, organised and hosted a national Stewardship Learning Exchange. This event was attended by 55 delegates, including provincial authorities from seven of the nine provinces, as well as non-governmental organisations involved in the stewardship process. Going forward, we will convene this as an annual workshop in order to build capacity within NGOs and provincial authorities such that as much private land as possible may be secured for conservation under the law. Our own stewardship work is well on the way to securing over 42,000 hectares of priority habitat in Mpumalanga, which is motivated through the custodianship and/or conservation of Botha's Lark, Yellow-breasted Pipit (*Anthus chloris*), Rudd's Lark (*Heteromirafra ruddi*) and Sungazer. Landowners enter into a legal agreement (signed into their property's title deeds) with the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) that they will manage their land responsibly, and/or to the benefit of the species under custodianship. Further preliminary stewardship work in the Free State has identified priority areas and initiated proclamation discussions with over 50





key landowners, as well as the formal recognition of over 20 new Sungazer custodians in the priority areas as a first step towards formal proclamation.

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

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

Enforcing legislation

As an organisation, the EWT aims to provide practical and responsible guidance on legislation which could affect conservation and environmental issues within South Africa and beyond its borders. The EWT has been instrumental in updating and enforcing legislation, particularly related to the trade in threatened species. The Endangered Oribi antelope (*Ourebia oureb*) is currently threatened by habitat loss and illegal poaching with dogs, as well as through ineffective permitting processes during the sale of antelope to new farms which do not assess the suitability of receiving habitats and can result in the animals not surviving in their new habitats.



Our interventions in the permitting process, as part of the Oribi Working Group and based on results from an in-depth study on relocation success, have ensured that permits for the sale of Oribi will no longer be easily and readily issued. This means that Oribi, which seldom survive relocation, cannot just be randomly captured and sold.Similarly, with an increase in trade in reptile species for pets and for medicinal use, international export permits for Sungazers have been declined for the first time based on a lack of evidence of successful captive breeding. The latter is an outcome of the Non-Detriment Finding analysis for Sungazers (which we led in partnership with SANBI to ascertain whether trade in the species poses a risk to that species, this is a requirement of CITES Appendix II listed species), which has been signed-off by the national Scientific Authority, the Department of Environmental Affairs.

We are also working on a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for Sungazers for which we will be holding one final stakeholder engagement before we submit the final draft. The BMP commits national resources and focus for the protection of priority species.

Building the backbone

In order to bring together and consolidate the programme's long term impact in the region we have established the new proposed Eastern Great Escarpment Project. This project is a collaborative effort towards conserving priority catchments along the length of the eastern escarpment from the Western Cape all the way up to Limpopo and will involve not only various EWT programmes but also other NGO and government partners. Several funding applications are under review to support this new and exciting project which will allow us to substantially expand the programme's conservation work. The region houses most of the threatened and endemic species in the grasslands of South Africa, and is the "water factory" of the country (i.e. the major water catchment area). Conserving this escarpment region is thus not only critical for the threatened and endemic species that live here but also for the people of South Africa who are becoming increasingly aware of the critical importance of our fresh water resources (as highlighted by the recent drought events).

Keeping communities involved

Community awareness and education work is critical in areas where sustainability of wildlife resource utilisation is of concern. Our community conservation work has once again received considered acknowledgement from our colleagues and partners, particularly from the work Samson Phakathi, our Senior Field Officer based in Howick, continues to carry out tirelessly on behalf of the Oribi Working Group. Samson spends a lot of his time with local communities and farmworkers, raising awareness on the illegality of poaching with dogs (amongst other things) and the severely negative impact this has on the environment. He has had invaluable feedback from landowners in particular.

Samson and other team members also provide environmental education on fracking and illegal trade in reptiles, particularly in Free State schools. We are currently looking to expand the project to include more awareness raising and hands-on assistance to improve community livelihoods in previously disadvantaged areas through improved land management (correct stocking rates, burning and grazing) and, ultimately, to improve water and food security.

What our stakeholders are saying

"I am sure I am only confirming what you already know about Bradley (Gibbons). His passion and enthusiasm for his work and the species he currently and has previously worked with was clearly evident. He was an extremely knowledgeable and gracious host throughout my trip and is a credit to himself, his team and your organisation as a whole."- Fraser Gilchrist of the European Sungazer Studbook, Jan 2016.



PROGRAMME OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- The Gauteng Biodiversity Stewardship Project (GBSP) will join the TGSP team in July 2016. We are looking forward to providing guidance and assisting with taking steps towards establishing stewardship sites in key biodiversity areas in Gauteng, and this project is making great strides in terms of capacity building with GDARD.
- We recently initiated a cycad project in KwaZulu-Natal, thanks to funding from the Carter Cycad Foundation Trust, which has committed to five years of financial support for the work. We will convene a workshop at the KZN Wildlife Contemporary Conservation Symposium at the end of October 2016 to begin work on this exciting project. This workshop will help us to strategically plan what priority conservation actions are needed based on the recently developed Biodiversity Management Plan for cycads in South Africa.

Challenges

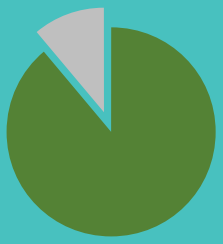
- We continue to be hindered in expected progress by capacity limitations within the provincial conservation authorities, which leads to slow proclamation processes during the establishment of stewardship sites. As an NGO we have however an opportunity to support these authorities with fieldwork and through relationship building to help the processes move more smoothly.
- Funding continues to be a challenge, particularly to support the less charismatic species, but we have some exciting new prospective donors who would like to contribute to our work, so we are optimistic about funding in the coming year. Linked to this, our vehicles are all aging and replacing expensive capital equipment is a recurring challenge.

Growth areas

- The TGSP has a number of applications out in line with the plans to implement an Eastern Great Escarpment Project which will form the programme backbone in years to come.
- We aim to breathe new life into our Blue Swallow (*Hirundo atrocaerulea*) conservation initiatives through new relationships in KwaZulu-Natal and exciting new funding opportunities.

Risks

- There are many mining and shale gas applications underway in the areas in which we work, particularly in important water production areas. These are threats not only to our programme but to the country's food, water and ecosystem security as a whole.
- Lack of resources at government environmental departments leads to poor enforcement of environmental laws, which is a great risk to the grasslands which are often in highly developed areas of forestry, agriculture and mining.
- Authorities and developers that propose developments which do not take into account the services which are provided by ecosystems to human society, such as water purification and supply, pose a great risk to the grasslands as our main water factories and providers of food security.
- Provincial capacity to process stewardship sites is limiting the rate of progress towards formally protecting priority areas. This however is a risk in terms of achieving the objectives within the target timeframe and not to our ultimate ability to achieve these objectives.



Progress made by the TGSP towards its nine high-level targets in 2015/16, within the framework of the EWT's 2012–2017 Conservation Strategy. Please see pages 12–25 for a detailed account of each target.





URBAN CONSERVATION PROGRAMME



The Urban Conservation Programme is one of the EWT's youngest programmes, established in 2013 in response to the growing pressure that expanding urban areas have on our biodiversity. While formally protected areas are crucial for conserving biodiversity, we need to consider cities and other urban areas in our conservation thinking too. Our programme aims to improve the relationship urban residents have with their natural environment and the wildlife on their doorsteps. Our flagship initiative is the management of the Modderfontein Reserve in the heart of Johannesburg.

Unbeknownst to many urban residents, having wildlife in our cities is fundamental to maintaining the integrity of natural ecosystems, and green spaces are vital to our physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, providing us with spaces for recreational, cultural and spiritual activities. The Urban Conservation Programme (UCP) strives to create an environment that is conducive for both human and wildlife habitation in an urban setting and to develop public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and green spaces in and around urban areas. The UCP aims to develop environmental awareness through targeting three main groups: school children and the general public through environmental education and awareness raising, and decision makers through active participation in planning and legislative processes that may impact biodiversity in Gauteng. Furthermore, the UCP has a focus on supporting and encouraging owners of private green spaces in Gauteng to manage their lands in such a way that they can continue to benefit from the land but also contribute positively to conservation. The sound management of such green areas provides opportunities for the public to experience biodiversity first-hand and learn about the natural environment on their doorstep. These sites also serve as examples of how green spaces in and around urban areas can benefit both humans and wildlife, while being socially, ecologically and economically sustainable.



The UCP contributes to the EWT's Conservation Strategy, across Strategic Imperatives 2, 4 and 5. More broadly, the programme contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically through Goal 1 (ending poverty), Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation), Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities), Goal 12 (responsible consumption and production), Goal 13 (climate action), Goal 15 (life on land) and Goal 17 (partnerships for the goals). We are also aligned with the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with a special focus on the targets under Goals A (addressing underlying causes of biodiversity loss) and E (enhancing planning, knowledge management and capacity building).

The 2015/2016 year was a busy one for the programme with the launch of a partnership with the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) to ensure that at least 5,000 ha of privately-owned land in Gauteng is placed under legal protection through Biodiversity Stewardship. Once


ZENDAI

PROGRAMME STAFF



Boaz Tsebe
Programme Manager



Emily Taylor
Gauteng Biodiversity Stewardship Project Coordinator



Shumani Makwarela
Reserve Field Officer



Zingisa Xuba
Gauteng Biodiversity Stewardship Project - Field Officer

achieved, this land will contribute significantly to the Gauteng Protected Area Expansion Strategy's target of 30,000 ha of private land to be placed under legal protection by 2019. We are also contributing to the conservation of private land through assisting with the restoration and management of the Modderfontein Reserve in Johannesburg, and this year saw the finalisation of the reserve's Environmental Management Plan (EMP), the clearing of 45 ha of alien invasive plants and the planting of 170 indigenous plants. This year, the UCP also co-founded the Johannesburg Wildlife Network to encourage and facilitate meaningful dialogue and collaboration between all parties working on urban conservation issues in Johannesburg, combining research and action so that we can identify gaps, and effectively address these gaps through collaboration.

To increase public awareness, the UCP successfully implemented the WESSA Eco-Schools Programme in 12 schools, reaching over 5,000 previously disadvantaged primary school learners. We also logged all reports of human-wildlife conflict in urban Gauteng and, in partnership with other environmental organisations, launched the Johannesburg Wildlife Network to identify from these reports the key threats to urban wildlife so that we can, through collaboration, effectively prioritise and address them. We provided input and comments on the Johannesburg and Gauteng Spatial Development Frameworks and the Gauteng Environmental Management Framework, and attended related stakeholder sessions to ensure that biodiversity considerations are mainstreamed into decision making processes.

On the right trail: the Modderfontein Reserve

The 275 ha Modderfontein Reserve is the second largest private park in Gauteng and includes portions of the Modderfontein Spruit, four dams, grasslands and hills. The vision for the reserve is to create an urban open space that is socially, economically and ecologically sustainable, accessible to all, and a space for people to connect with nature and embrace the importance of biodiversity. We hosted three school groups this year to provide them with hands-on





education about the natural environment, as well as six events for 83 scouts. Scouts are groups of youth that learn about leadership and how to reach one's full potential through attending regular field trips and assisting with important and practical tasks such as alien vegetation removal and erosion control. This year we upgraded an old explosives bunker on the reserve to create an interactive environmental education centre to maximise the learning experience of visitors, both young and old. The reserve also provides beautiful picnic and braai areas and there is an onsite restaurant and wedding venue; Val Bonne Country Estate.

To ensure that these recreational and educational activities do not compromise the ecological integrity of the reserve, we finalised the official Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the reserve in December 2015. This plan provides a framework to guide the implementation of various management tools, processes and interventions, and set out guidelines to monitor their effectiveness. Importantly, we want to demonstrate how sustainable land management can support species and their functioning habitats – even in highly modified urban landscapes. Through our alien control programme and burning regime we aim to create more habitable indigenous space for both flora and fauna, and our results so far are showing great promise.

The Gauteng Biodiversity Stewardship Programme

There are a number of undeveloped areas remaining in Gauteng that are rich in biodiversity, these are known as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs). These are areas that must be conserved in order to meet conservation targets for ecosystems, species and ecological processes, as identified in the formal conservation plan for the province, *C-Plan version 3.3* published in 2011. Biodiversity Stewardship is an approach to securing land in priority biodiversity areas by entering into voluntary agreements with private and communal landowners, municipalities and other government entities, led by conservation authorities. These agreements ensure that the land is placed under formal protection, affording it the same status as that inside state nature reserves, and protecting the biodiversity occurring there. GDARD approached the EWT to partner with them on this project due to our extensive stewardship experience. The project, funded by the WWF Nedbank Green Trust, commenced in August 2015 and the team has since identified 34 potential stewardship sites. Of these 34 sites, which make up 50,841 ha, 33 sites (49,436 ha) contain CBAs. By assisting GDARD with the identification of priority sites, negotiations with landowners, and the declaration of qualifying sites, the EWT will not only be helping to conserve vital ecological processes, habitats and threatened species in Gauteng, but also contributing to the achievements of targets set out in the Gauteng Conservation Plan (C-Plan) version 3.3, GDARD's mandate and the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy.

GAUTENG BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME

Conservation | Cooperation | Communities



The Johannesburg Wildlife Network

The UCP hosted the inaugural meeting of the Johannesburg Wildlife Network (JWN) in October 2015. The goal of the network is to facilitate constructive discussions regarding wildlife issues in urban Johannesburg, streamline urban conservation practice and research, and develop a comprehensive network of stakeholders. There have since been two subsequent meetings of the network and, from a group of 18 present for the first meeting, the network has grown to 50 participants, including representatives from the City of Johannesburg (COJ), the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), leading environmental NGOs, conservancies, academic institutions, wildlife rehabilitation centres and concerned citizens. The success of initiatives such as the JWN relies heavily on active participation and cooperation by members. The positive response and buy-in of so many organisations, less than a year since its inception, demonstrates that there is a need for the network to facilitate more effective conservation research and practice.

The WESSA Eco-Schools Programme

The Eco-Schools Programme (ESP) is an extensive and hands-on, internationally recognised, environmental education programme that focuses on improving environmental management within schools, as well as promoting environmental learning and providing opportunities for students and educators to improve and empower their schools and communities at large. In South Africa, the programme is coordinated by the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), in collaboration with many partners. Since 2013, the EWT, with generous support from Bakwena N1/N4 Toll Concessionaire, has implemented the WESSA Eco-Schools Programme in 10 previously disadvantaged primary schools in Hammanskraal, Gauteng. At the end of each year, portfolios of evidence compiled by the schools are assessed by WESSA to ensure that the programme is having a positive impact on the environmental management of the school and that projects are being implemented effectively. For schools to proceed, these portfolios must contain proof that relevant subject matter was integrated into the school curriculum through multiple lesson plans, that the children were actively involved in all aspects of their project, and that the project yielded some tangible result such as a growing vegetable garden or a working recycling system in place. Of the 10 schools assessed in November 2015, eight passed and were eligible for an award and to progress to the next level. Of these eight, six received their passes with merit (61–71%) and one of these was awarded their "Green Flag" for successfully completing three themes and showing consistent involvement over three years. This flag can be hoisted alongside their school flag, identifying them as an official "Eco-School".

> *12 schools reaching over 5,000 previously disadvantaged primary school learners through WESSA Eco-Schools Programme*

PROGRAMME OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- While the conservation of biodiversity has not historically been considered relevant in an urban context, but rather as something that happens in nature reserves and more rural areas, there exists an exciting opportunity to boost conservation in rural areas by developing a conservation ethic among urban dwellers. Some of these urbanites are responsible for making decisions that affect how conservation is prioritised throughout the country. Cities are where it all happens now, and provide platforms to reach large numbers of people who all have indirect or direct impacts on biodiversity both within cities and outside of them, and educate them in ways of reducing these impacts to the benefit of biodiversity.

Challenges

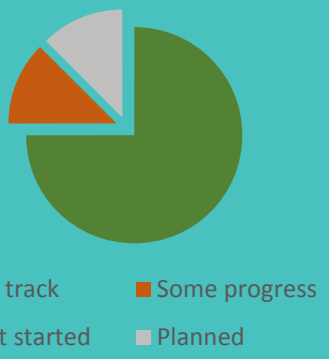
- There is very little known about the wildlife composition of Gauteng, particularly as it is a region to which many species have been introduced from other areas, local and from abroad. Urban areas are also host to species that have, over time, adapted specific coping mechanisms in order to survive in the harsh urban environment. This lack of data makes conservation planning quite challenging, but also presents a wonderful opportunity to be at the forefront of the establishment of a well informed and active urban conservation community. To this end the UCP is working closely with other members of the Johannesburg Wildlife Network to prioritise research topics and collaborate for more effective conservation practice in the cities.
- Some people have negative attitudes towards certain species of wildlife, either because they have had a bad experience with an animal, they are not well informed about wildlife, or they have certain beliefs and superstitions about these animals. All of these, particularly cultural beliefs, are difficult to overcome but providing consistent environmental education over time will hopefully start to change negative attitudes, and therefore behaviour, towards urban wildlife.

Growth areas

- The Modderfontein Reserve is a valuable resource and, through effective management and utilisation of the reserve for educational outreach and research, the EWT can contribute to broader urban conservation initiatives, expanding our conservation footprint beyond the boundaries of the reserve.
- The UCP aims to develop, through the Johannesburg Wildlife Network, a model of integrated and collaborative urban conservation research and practice that can be replicated in other cities.

Risks

- The effective conservation of wildlife in urban areas requires the buy-in of both the general public and government departments and obtaining this often takes time and intense education and awareness interventions.
- Urban areas are sites of constant change due to the rapid development of land for infrastructure, housing and industry. Such development is an essential component of socio-economic growth in South Africa and is a high priority for the government and the public. Ensuring that biodiversity is mainstreamed into the development agenda is not easy and is most often reactive.



Progress made by the UCP towards its eight high-level targets in 2015/16, within the framework of the EWT's 2012–2017 Conservation Strategy. Please see pages 12–25 for a detailed account of each target.





WILDLIFE AND ENERGY PROGRAMME



We strive to minimise the impacts of energy and communications infrastructure on wildlife. Such infrastructure includes power lines, power stations, wind turbines, telephone lines, cell phone towers, and pipelines. Structures like these represent an important interface between man and wildlife, particularly in South Africa's growing economy.

Interactions between wildlife and power lines are complex, wide-ranging and ongoing. The Endangered Wildlife Trust entered into a strategic partnership with Eskom in 1996 to address these issues systematically and at a national scale. The Wildlife and Energy Programme (WEP) oversees this partnership. The programme is also making strides into understanding the impacts of renewable energy technology on wildlife by engaging stakeholders and working on the ground to assess the problems first hand.

WEP continued to work across three of the EWT's six strategic imperatives. Under Strategic Imperative 3 we assist the energy industry with innovative alternatives to address harmful biodiversity impacts. Our training projects build capacity to address the impacts of energy infrastructure under Strategic Imperative 5. We also engage with intercontinental and global stakeholders around the issues of wildlife and energy interactions, thereby addressing Strategic Imperative 4.

WEP grew significantly during 2015/2016 in terms of scope of our work, staff capacity and resources. We now work across 11 of Eskom's business units nationally to assist with a number of different biodiversity related issues. WEP is also proud to collaborate with a number of EWT programmes. We assist the Wildlife and Roads Project with roadkill surveys and training sessions across South Africa; support the Threatened Grasslands Species Programme Sungazer Project at Majuba Power Station; assist the Birds of Prey Programme with the tagging of vultures, vulture surveys, and provision of Ground Hornbill and vulture tracking devices; and work with the African Crane Conservation Programme to fit and supply tracking devices for cranes. The Eskom/EWT partnership is also an active member of the National Biodiversity and Business Network.

On a global scale, WEP is involved in the Birds and Renewable Energy Forum (BAREF); South African Bat Assessment Association (SABAA); chair of the Cape Vulture Task Force; Cranes and Powerline Task Force; Birdlife International Energy Task force; and Energy Task Force of the Convention on Migratory Species. The past financial year was a momentous period for the Eskom/EWT Partnership, as we celebrated the 20-year anniversary of our collaboration. WEP is proud to be a world leader in the field of wildlife and energy interactions. We contribute to five of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, namely: Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy), Goal 9 (industry innovation and infrastructure), Goal 13 (climate action), Goal 15 (life on land) and Goal 17 (partnerships for the goals). WEP also addresses several of the Aichi targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity, most notably Targets 1, 12 and 19.

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PROGRAMME STAFF



Constant Hoogstad
Programme Manager



Marianne Golding
Programme Administrator



Lourens Leeuwner
Renewable Energy Project Manager



Amos Letsoalo
Senior Field Officer / Training Facilitator



Matt Pretorius
Senior Field Officer



Meg Murison
Field Officer



Samantha Page-Nicholson
Conservation Science Officer



Kirsten Retief
Field Officer



Jo-Ann Josephs
Field Officer Intern



Dalena de Wee
Field Officer Intern



Elizabeth Maggot
Field Officer Intern

Addressing threats

Certain species of large birds, including vultures, flamingos, eagles, bustards and cranes, are susceptible to collisions and electrocution on both distribution and transmission power lines. The EWT has been monitoring such incidents throughout South Africa since 1996. Doing so allows us to identify and recommend priority lines for Eskom to implement appropriate action.

Historically, power lines were designed with unsafe pole top configurations, which increased the chances of electrocutions. They were also not marked to improve visibility to large birds and prevent collisions. Currently we help Eskom to asses all new powerlines, which then go through a vetting process before being constructed. Eskom transmission lines go through a full Environmental Impact Assessment, and distribution lines go through a Distribution Environmental Screening Process. This means that we are able to apply the lessons we have learnt about avian collisions to new infrastructure and make power lines much safer from the moment Eskom erects them. Through reactive mitigation on existing lines, we sent recommendations to both Eskom Transmission and Eskom Distribution. WEP also implemented proactive wildlife mitigation projects across Eskom's business units from April 2016. Using the EWT's sensitivity map – which we finalised at the end of 2015, Eskom now has information on where wildlife incidents are most likely to occur, allowing them to address these hotspots well before incidents happen. This means that there is now a real incentive to take proactive steps, as these actions contribute to the overall performance rating of the respective Eskom business units.

To ensure that mitigation measures are applied in accordance with recommendations made by the EWT, we conducted audits at 20 randomly chosen incidents, that were closed out during the last Eskom financial year. This process ensures full closure of incidents, and results showed that in 90% of cases, work was completed in a satisfactory manner.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) refers to the EWT/BirdLife South Africa's *Best practice guidelines for avian monitoring and impact mitigation at proposed wind energy development sites in southern Africa*. Eskom and Independent Power Producers (IPPs) now submit post-construction reports to both BirdLife South Africa and the EWT. To date, seven facilities have sent feedback to EWT on their operational monitoring results and, according to reports, a number of listed bird species have been impacted. These include Verreaux's Eagles (*Aquila verreauxii*) and Black Harriers (*Circus maurus*). The significance of the cumulative impacts posed by the continued rollout of renewable energy across the country remains difficult to grasp. We will shortly make available a database of mortalities on the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) server. As more data becomes available we should be able to make more accurate predictions regarding long term impacts.

Awareness and mainstreaming

Over the last 20 years WEP has compiled a database of wildlife incidents relating to energy infrastructure. The Central Incident Register (CIR) is updated on a daily basis, and we generate monthly reports to inform Eskom of progress made on wildlife and powerline interactions. We have also





established social media platforms to increase awareness of wildlife and energy issues across a range of stakeholders, including conservation authorities, environmental specialists, other NGOs, and members of the public. The IUCN World Conservation Congress, in September 2016, will provide an international platform for engagement of international stakeholders on wildlife and energy interactions.

Capacity and skills

Our training project aims to educate Eskom staff on topics such as proper reporting of wildlife incidents, species identification, and how wildlife interacts with electrical infrastructure. Over the last year, we trained 1,253 Eskom employees on wildlife and energy interactions, bringing the total number of trainees to more than 8,000 since 2010. This has led to an increase in the number of wildlife and powerline incidents reported to the partnership. We have also increased capacity at the Sere Wind Farm by training and upskilling four members of the local community to conduct post-construction monitoring. This work will be rolled out at sites across South Africa to determine the impact of renewable energy on local wildlife. Through this training, these community members have also built up a wealth of knowledge on terrestrial biodiversity, which will enable them to further their careers in the conservation sector.

Meeting expectations

Identifying and correcting problem areas on the national electricity grid infrastructure is one of the main focus areas of the EWT/Eskom Partnership. During Eskom's last financial year (April 2015–March 2016), more than 1,215 poles were changed to bird friendly structures, 63 transformers/strain poles were insulated, 724 spans were fitted with bird flight diverters; amounting to more than 12,108 units. As our database and understanding around these issues develop over time, we will continue to work closely with Eskom, landowners and other members of the public to make energy infrastructure safer for birds.

Fancy in pink

In February 2016, a team from the EWT visited Delareyville in the North West Province in order to capture and fit satellite tracking devices to Lesser Flamingos *(Phoeniconaias minor*). The project aimed to determine the flight patterns, movements and behaviour of Lesser Flamingos to better inform energy infrastructure development, the deployment of mitigation devices and our general understanding of the species. Trap lines with nooses were placed in a pan next to the town, which held approximately 2,000 flamingos. It soon became apparent that we were ambitious in our plans to complete the sample, as many flamingos passed through the trap without disturbing the nooses. We reduced the original diameter of the nooses and also added small polystyrene balls to lift the top of the noose, keeping it open in the water. This trap line was tested with some success in March 2016, and the team visited the pan again towards the end of May, completing the sample within four days. One of these tagged flamingos astounded everyone when she flew from Delareyville all the way to Madagascar, covering a total of 2,351 km in 16 days. This included a single flight of 1,069 km in 16 hours from the Mozambican coast to Madagascar, the first time in history that such a trans-oceanic movement had ever been recorded for this species. This emphasises the importance of looking at energy infrastructure globally and not just nationally or regionally, as some species are susceptible to impacts in other countries where no mitigation measures are applied.

A few firsts and some closure

In the past year, the EWT initiated an extensive impact study at the Eskom Upington Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Plant. This 5-year programme represents the first time that biodiversity impacts at a CSP facility will be studied from the pre-construction phase through to operation.

In November/December 2015 we successfully deployed carcass detection dogs at Sere Wind Energy Facility, which is an exciting first for South Africa. This project measured the efficiency of dogs versus humans in detecting bird and bat mortalities under

wind turbines. We concluded that dogs are more able (67%) than humans (53%) at detecting carcasses and are also more efficient. We hope that these findings will encourage the use of dogs in the industry, specifically on wind farms with challenging terrain, as our study illustrated clear advantages where dogs have been deployed.

Eskom Transmission also implemented their first ever wildlife incident tracking system in April 2016. The system will enable the EWT to track/improve the reporting of incidents, mitigation projects and the identification of critical sites for mitigation across all the Eskom Transmission Grids. We have procured a drone that is capable of lifting bird flight diverters and a mechanism with which to attach these devices to power lines, the first project of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. The use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for marking power lines in South Africa must lead to a significant increase in mitigated power lines given the substantial savings for cost of installation, as well as other benefits, particularly with regard to the safety aspects of linemen who mark live power lines.

Biodiversity impact monitoring at the Sere Wind Energy Farm

The EWT and Eskom Strategic Partnership is currently conducting post-construction biodiversity impact monitoring at Eskom's first operational wind farm situated along the west coast of South Africa. Sere Wind Farm has been operational since March 2015 and monitoring commenced shortly thereafter. Four local EWT staff members have been permanently on site to conduct various surveys, including mortality searches under turbines, powerline surveys, roadkill transects and regular checks around associated infrastructure. The EWT team is recording the biodiversity impact of the wind farm and associated infrastructure so that actions can be taken where necessary, and awareness created throughout this process. Eskom staff and contractors have already made a difference in this study by notifying the Sere EWT team of wildlife interactions and casualties on site.

The main objective of the Sere EWT team is to search for bird and bat carcasses found under the turbines. Birds collide with the blades due to either poor visibility or misjudging the speed at which the turbine moves. A single turbine blade is 55 meters long and the turning speed near the centre of the turbine is only 15 km/hour, while at the tip blades turn at a very fast 300 km/hour. As a result, birds misjudge the speed and collide with the blade. Bats similarly die as a result of collisions, or from internal injuries caused by the difference in air pressure near the spinning blade (barotrauma).

The Sere EWT team does daily carcass searches and completes four turbine search plots a day. The team also completes monthly power line surveys to determine the impact of new power lines connecting the wind farm to the electricity grid and to highlight which sections on the line should be considered for mitigation. The first 12 months of data indicated that the 46 turbines at Sere may result in an unadjusted bird fatality rate of 1.41 birds/turbine/year. We also found 13 carcasses during the power line survey, five of which belonged to the Endangered Ludwig's Bustard (*Neotis ludwigii*). With increasing wind farm developments, more power lines can be expected but the good news is that there are mitigation measures available such as bird friendly pylons to prevent electrocutions and bird diverters/flappers that make lines visible to prevent collisions.

The Sere carcass searchers also completed daily roadkill surveys to determine the impact of new roads on surrounding wildlife. Over a period of 213 sample days, the access road to Sere had an estimated roadkill rate of 2.45 roadkills/km and 0.178 roadkills per day. These figures are relatively high when compared to other studies. A traffic analysis revealed that excessive speeds were common on this public road, which definitely contributes to wildlife deaths. The species most affected were Bat-eared Foxes (*Otocyon megalotis*), Cape Foxes (*Vulpes chama*) and Steenboks (*Raphicerus campestris*).

Unexpected positive results emerged from Sere Wind Farm too, including the protection of species locally persecuted by farmers and poached for bush meat, such as Caracals (*Caracal caracal*) and Steenboks. The lack of additional grazing pressure from sheep and cattle has allowed the Steenbok population to grow substantially. Many flowering plants and bulbs that emerge seasonally and are normally consumed by grazing animals are now being protected



from overgrazing. We are also creating an inventory of species recorded on site such as the endemic Namaqua Rain Frog (*Breviceps namaquensis*) and the Vulnerable Namaqua Dwarf Adder (*Bitis schneideri*), one of the smallest adders in the world.

Renewable energy is a good alternative to fossil fuel energy and this holistic approach to quantifying the impact of wind farms will help reduce our human footprint on the environment even more.

The Karoo and the cranes

Since 2008, our Karoo transmission line marking experiment has sought to determine the effectiveness of different collision mitigation methods. Collisions occur when birds cannot see the overhead cables and collide with lines. This is a complex issue, with many confounding variables, such as weather conditions, time of day, and the species in question. In order to reduce avian-powerline collisions, line-marking devices were proposed to save birds. In a novel experiment, we tested two line marking devices, namely helical bird flight diverters and bird flappers. We deployed each of these devices across four sets of large transmission lines in a series of buffer, control and experimental line sections.

We collected data four times a year by driving along underneath these lines (around 140 km in total and 95 farm gates) searching for collision carcasses. During the autumn survey of 2016, we found an injured Blue Crane (*Grus paradisea*) which had broken its leg during a collision event with the powerline and was still alive near the tower. Unfortunately, we could not save this bird, but this emphasised the need to conduct experiments such as this one, so that effective mitigation measures can be found. Overall, the results of this experiment are promising, showing a general reduction in the number of collisions on marked lines, particularly relating to Blue Cranes.

What our stakeholders are saying

"I just wanted to thank you all for your efforts so far this year! We are certainly making strides and significant progress with regards to all our objectives in the partnership. Also, well done to those who helped make the exhibitions and presentations at the Eskom Environmental Conference even more exciting. I really appreciate the effort and your continued support." - Kishaylin Chetty (Eskom)

"Fantastic research!" - Callan Cohen (Birding Africa)

PROGRAMME OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- Increased opportunities within the renewable energy sector. Our pre- and post-construction monitoring at renewable energy sites will provide a better understanding of the implication of new technology and assist the industry in testing and implementing new ways to minimise impacts on biodiversity.
- As we work across all energy sectors, WEP staff are exposed to a number of biodiversity impact related projects across all energy divisions.
- Opportunities to partner with other NGOs and stakeholders to work on wildlife and energy interaction issues both intercontinental and globally.
- Work with other countries globally on wildlife and energy related issues by using the knowledge base built over the last 20 years to ensure better informed decisions and share experiences.
- Work with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) on wildlife and energy related interactions.
- Working with other relevant stakeholders (e.g. Telkom, Transnet) in areas of wildlife and infrastructure interactions.

Challenges

- The main challenge is to communicate to external parties that our resources are in fact finite, and that all possible solutions cannot always be implemented as they need to be practical and affordable. Our approach is to target the most pressing problems first and allocate remaining resources to other areas thereafter.

Growth areas

- Social upliftment through employment and skills development of local community members near development sites. By involving local communities in our groundwork, and providing training to enhance skills sets, we can support medium to long term job/income creation.

Risks

- As the overwhelming majority of electricity infrastructure in South Africa is controlled by Eskom alone, wildlife and energy interaction issues can be addressed through only one point of entry.
- Reputational damage incurred by uninformed opinions on social media around wildlife and energy interactions.



Progress made by the WEP towards its six high-level targets in 2015/16, within the framework of the EWT's 2012–2017 Conservation Strategy. Please see pages 12–25 for a detailed account of each target.





WILDLIFE IN TRADE PROGRAMME



We work to reduce the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products through various initiatives, including cooperation and strategy development with other conservation NGOs, and support for various rhino conservation initiatives.

The illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products is thought to be the fourth largest illegal trade activity worldwide, with a potential value >USD20 billion annually for fauna and flora, excluding timber and fisheries. Although the value of wildlife crime has not been formally quantified at the national level for most countries, it is likely that South Africa faces a disproportionately high level of such illegal activity due to its rich biodiversity and the fact that its enforcement capacity is lower than many first world countries. Many taxonomic groups are being targeted in South Africa, including plants, reptiles, birds and mammals, but the most visible wildlife crime is currently the poaching of rhinos to obtain horn. The illegal trade is leading to significant losses of biodiversity, which impedes economic development. Illegal wildlife trafficking, therefore, constitutes a major barrier to the achievement of sustainable development in the country.

The Wildlife in Trade Programme (WiT) focuses on stopping the illegal trade in wildlife specimens and promoting compliance with the full suite of wildlife trade legislation. We achieve this through a number of targeted interventions which include: the deployment of sniffer dogs to detect wildlife contraband (as well as arms and ammunition) in locations such as borders and game reserves; working closely with other strategic partners to share information and develop strategies that tackle illegal wildlife crime; and assessing the contribution of wildlife ranching and other commercial wildlife trade activities to the green economy.



WiT delivers impact across EWT's Strategic Imperative 1, through its work to conserve threatened species, and Strategic Imperative 6, by supporting compliance and enforcement. More broadly, the programme contributes to six of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), and contributes to the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities), Goal 14 (life below water), Goal 15 (life on land) and Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

Deciphering communities and protected area relationships

The EWT implemented a ground-breaking, award winning initiative called "*Hayi Laa!*" (meaning "Not Here!" in Shangaan) in Hluvukani, Limpopo, which was funded by the British High Commission Prosperity Fund. This innovative project addressed both social and wildlife crimes in the community, through a series of 5-day workshops attended by more than 600 people. The workshops were based on a model designed to create community-wide attitudes of zero tolerance towards all forms of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and HIV/AIDS stigma, developed by the EWT's project partner The Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme (TVEP). The novelty of this project is that wildlife crime was integrated into the social model, which was done for the following reasons: 1) both social and wildlife crimes are generally not understood to be crimes and are therefore under-reported; 2) wildlife crime (especially rhino poaching) attracts criminal syndicates to communities, who recruit poachers from these communities (and these poachers are then at risk of being arrested or killed); 3) rhino poaching in particular brings an influx of unsustainable revenue which attracts other criminal elements and often creates further social problems, such as alcohol and drug abuse, and prostitution; 4) as rhino poaching is a crime committed away from



PROGRAMME STAFF



Adam Pires
Programme Manager



Dr Andrew Taylor
Wildlife Ranching Project



Kirsty Brebner
Rhino Project Manager



Ndifelani Mulaudzi
Rhino Project Intern

the village, the linking of poaching with social crimes that impact villages directly adds significance to rhino poaching that would not be attained if it were addressed in isolation.

Our end-line data indicated that respondents learned about the value of animals and natural resources, and the need to preserve and protect them, with nearly 100% of respondents recognising that their community would be better off if wildlife crimes were stopped. Similarly, participants reported a reduction in domestic violence and sexual assault, a better understanding of their responsibilities to report child abuse and of their rights regarding the healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy, while 94% of participants underwent testing for HIV during the project period.

Notably, these outcomes contribute to three of the UNDP Sustainable Development Goals, namely good health and wellbeing (through reducing HIV stigma and increasing awareness of healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies), gender equality (by encouraging zero tolerance to social crimes against women), and life on land (through increased awareness of the impacts of poaching on biodiversity conservation).

Our other annual community commitment is the World Rhino Day Speaking competition. During the past year, the competition was held at the Wits Rural Facility in Limpopo on September 23, 2015, in partnership with the Responsible Tourism Foundation and Timbavati Bush School. The theme for 2015 was “Not on our watch”. The winner, Shola Ngoma, from Maphuthaditshaba High School in Limpopo, gave a well-prepared speech on the social, political and economic impacts of rhino poaching.

The WiT also undertook a 6-month study, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), to assess the socioeconomic status of communities surrounding protected areas with large rhino populations, and to investigate the impacts of rhino poaching on these communities. We based this study in selected communities in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality that borders the Kruger National Park, and Hlabisa Local Municipality bordering the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve. These two protected areas contain the largest rhino populations in South Africa. This kind of work is critical to understanding how to reduce the involvement of communities in rhino poaching. The main findings of the report revealed that: 1) the average unemployment rate in the two communities was ~52%; 2) the most important needs identified by the communities were jobs, clean water, tarred roads, high schools, clinics, housing, environmental education and grazing land; 3) a large number of people felt there were few or no benefits living near the park and identified the main problems as insufficient jobs



created by park, damage causing animals killing livestock or eating crops, and inadequate access to natural resources that are abundant inside the park boundaries; 4) ~20% of people thought that the government is not doing enough to stop the rhino poaching; 5) ~95% of people said poaching does not benefit the communities, but rather benefits the poachers only; and 6) 55% of people said they would not report poachers to police because they were afraid of being targeted by poachers.



Exploring a wildlife economy

We completed an 18-month study of the wildlife ranching sector of South Africa at the end of 2015, a project funded by the Green Fund/Development Bank of South Africa. This provided much needed baseline data at a national level to help understand the scale of the sector and the contribution that it makes to the economy, job creation and biodiversity conservation. This information is also important in understanding how the private wildlife sector contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals of South Africa, including how the sector contributes to reducing poverty and hunger, how it creates jobs and economic growth, how it contributes to responsible production and consumption, and how it benefits biodiversity conservation. Without such data it is difficult for the government to make policy decisions about how to drive the wildlife economy forward. The main findings of the study were: 1) approximately 128,000 km^2 of land fell under wildlife ranching properties with exemption permits, while an uncertain additional area fell under non-exempted private wildlife ranches (with a minimum total area of 170,000 km^2); 2) there were a minimum of 6-million animals from wild ungulate species contained on these properties, which is more than a ten-fold increase since the 1960s; 3) the total number of permanent jobs created by wildlife ranches were estimated to be ~65,000, excluding indirect jobs; 4) the total revenue generated from hunting, live sales and meat production (excluding ecotourism, which was not estimated) was estimated to be >R7 billion (this figure does not include multiplier effects); 5) intensive breeding using fenced camps covered ~6% of the area under wildlife ranching properties. As the area under private wildlife ranching covers at least 15% of the surface area of South Africa, this goes a long way in helping the country reach its Aichi Target of 17% terrestrial land area under conservation.

With a focus on developing the wildlife economy, we participated in the Biodiversity Lab during April and May 2016, which was a DEA initiative to boost the wildlife economy using sustainable use principles. This 5-week process included participation from critical stakeholders such as government, hunting bodies, Wildlife Ranching SA, and various NGOs, making our involvement valuable. The Lab identified a number of constraints on the wildlife economy and developed ±20 initiatives to counter these constraints and facilitate the way forward to make the wildlife economy a success. The initiatives broadly fell under three groups, namely 1) facilitating transformation, aimed at integrating local communities into the wildlife economy; 2) driving growth through promoting 'value' and products; and 3) creating an enabling environment for the wildlife sector through more enabling legislation, the development of industry standards, and the development of certification schemes, amongst others. The EWT anticipates future involvement with some of the initiatives when the DEA starts implementing them.

There's an app for that

Moving within protected areas another WiT project has solicited close working relationships with the government and the private sector in an effort to harness technology that optimises the impact of anti-poaching patrols. The technology, which was developed by the CSIR, combines rugged android-based devices with a specially designed software application, and allows anti-poaching personnel to capture relevant information while on patrol and to send this information, in real time, to a security control room. The information collected can then also be used for wildlife crime analysis. It is also envisaged that, besides upping the game of anti-poaching units' reaction and tactical operations, the technology will also support prosecution of perpetrators. The WiT project team is assisting with the development and implementation of the necessary training and provision of equipment to support the uptake of this technology into the sector.





Dogs on patrol

One of the most effective tools in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade is the detection dog, which is trained to detect wildlife contraband; in addition, sniffer dogs deployed at reserves can detect arms and ammunition in vehicles and houses. The EWT's 12 active dogs are all trained to detect rhino horn and ivory. During the reporting period we deployed our sniffer dogs at six strategic locations throughout South Africa. Despite the tragic loss of our dog trainer, Warwick Wragg, the dogs remain successfully deployed at airports and protected areas that are home to rhino populations including the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve, Addo Elephant Park, Marakele National Park and Sabi Sands Game Reserve. These dogs have searched hundreds of vehicles every month, and in fact, our dog Bullet at Addo Elephant National Park proved his deterrent value when a poacher gave himself up just seeing the dog on patrol.

Tracker dogs trained to track and in some instances apprehend poachers, are another useful tool against poaching. The EWT has one tracker dog in training who will be deployed at an important rhino area in the next few months. Three other dogs began their training as tracker dogs in this period and are showing good progress.

In partnership with the USA-based Working Dogs for Conservation (WDC), we hosted the first 'Conservation Working Dogs Workshop' in Africa, in October 2015. The aim of the workshop was to facilitate networking opportunities for different canine practitioners from southern Africa. Over 50 participants attended from across the region representing: conservation funders, canine programme leaders, dog training practitioners and handler practitioners.

Other ongoing projects

The EWT Rhino Project continued in 2015–2016 with many of the ongoing projects from previous years, including providing support for various private and provincial reserves, supporting the rhino orphan response project, engaging with the local Chinese community through contacts in China Town (who provided a WeChat platform to distribute information on illegal wildlife trade to community members) and we continue to provide administrative support for the MyPlanet Rhino Fund and the African Rhino Specialist Group. We have also started a database using open source information which contains information on trade seizures, smuggling methods, concealment methods and species that are traded illegally which will be used to guide the airport dog handlers and training interventions of staff at ports of entry and exit.



PROGRAMME OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- Our involvement in the Biodiversity Lab will result in many opportunities for us, particularly in regards to the development of a certification scheme to incentivise conservation. The envisaged development of the wildlife economy will provide scope for us to offer training, community work, legislative advice, and more.
- Our involvement in the Rhino Conservation Lab will pave more opportunities by creating a prescribed space where the assistance of NGOs is required.
- The 17th Conference of Parties (CoP17) of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species in Flora and Fauna (CITES), which will take place in Johannesburg during September 2016, is an invaluable opportunity for us to have our voices heard on critical matters relating to wildlife trade.
- We have the necessary skills and expertise within the programme to work along the length of the wildlife trade chain, from source to consumer, and partner with international organisations to run awareness campaigns, and this is a fantastic opportunity.

Challenges

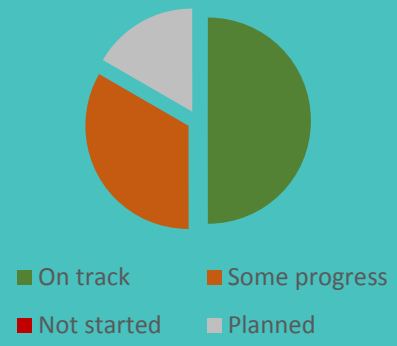
- Demand reduction remains one of the biggest challenges yet and is further compounded by consumer markets that are located in overseas countries. In order to overcome this the WiT needs to develop strategic partnerships with in-country agencies to partner on demand reduction campaigns and research activities.
- Wildlife trafficking has been linked to transnational criminal syndicates which brings another set of challenges to overcome, many of which fall beyond the scope of the EWT. However, where possible, we will work closely with enforcement agencies in an effort to contribute to this transnational threat.
- More and more wildlife trade is conducted over the internet exasperating the enforcement efforts required to regulate wildlife trade policies. The WiT and the Skills Development programme (SDP) of the EWT are developing and implementing online wildlife trade monitoring training programmes, and have been communicating with online e-commerce platforms to create awareness around wildlife advertisements and the legalities thereof.

Growth

- With the increasing threat of illegal trade and the transnational nature of these crimes, we recognise the need to expand our activities into the rest of the region and start creating a footprint in other Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, in attempt to apply a holistic approach to wildlife trafficking.
- Opportunities stemming from the Biodiversity Lab and the Rhino Conservation Lab will also create enabling conditions for future programmatic growth by meeting the identified needs and aligning to these implementation plans – the scope of our trade projects will increase.

Risks

- Our sniffer dogs are potentially at risk from emerging strains of viruses against which they may not be vaccinated. We address this by ensuring that the dogs have regular scheduled appointments with approved veterinary practices and are always up to date with vaccine requirements.
- Lack of political will by government agencies charged with regulating and enforcing wildlife trade policies.
- Development of technology that facilitates online illegal wildlife trade and reduces the probability of detection of illegal traders.
- New, emerging or reinforced fetishes or trends that influence consumer countries and cultures in a negative manner by increasing demand for wildlife specimens.
- Improved smuggling supply chains that circumvent designated ports of entry and exit and lessen detection rates whilst consignment is in transit.



Progress made by the WiTP towards its six high-level targets in 2015/16, within the framework of the EWT's 2012–2017 Conservation Strategy. Please see pages 12–25 for a detailed account of each target.





WILDLIFE AND ROADS PROJECT



Road vehicles and transport infrastructure have a massive impact on wildlife and the EWT's Wildlife and Roads Project addresses these concerns by working with relevant stakeholders from the public and private sectors to curb this form of human-wildlife conflict. Our current focus is on reducing the number of collisions between wildlife and motor vehicles.

Transport infrastructure is found everywhere that humans have settled and it is widely recognised that roads affect many aspects of ecosystem functionality. Collisions are the most evident impact due to their high visibility, but the disruption of ecological processes is equally important. Loss of habitat, habitat fragmentation, degradation of habitat, increased human access and exploitation, road avoidance, reduced access to habitats or food sources, population fragmentation and disruption of processes which maintain regional populations are just some of the ways in which roads can affect biodiversity.

Whilst South Africa has historically been slow to recognise the threats to biodiversity from transport infrastructure, work conducted during the past six years by the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Wildlife and Roads Project (WRP) has accelerated a greater understanding of the impact of road infrastructure on wildlife, and provided potential solutions to minimise wildlife road mortality. Road ecology in South Africa is a rapidly emerging field of research for which the EWT is recognised as being at the forefront, as a result of spearheading pioneering initiatives. The EWT's Wildlife and Roads Project is the only large-scale initiative in the country that tackles the issue of wildlife deaths on our roads head on.

Since the launch of the public awareness campaign in 2013, where members of the public have been encouraged to submit roadkill data from across the country through existing Apps, emails, or webpages, there are now over 10,000 roadkill data points for the country. This has enabled roadkill hotspots to be identified and potential mitigation measures to be applied in the identified hotspots. This will aid in further decision making at a local and national level. Citizen science demonstrates the potential for a long-term cost-effective method of data collection that can assist with the identification of 'hotspot' areas across the country. Roadkill data collected for mammalian species have been utilised in the newly revised Red List, where roads have been formally recognised as a threat to a number of species.



Our work contributes to the EWT's Conservation Strategy, by reducing the harmful impacts of transport infrastructure (Strategic Imperative 3) and increasing awareness of these impacts among people and decision makers to effect positive changes in behaviour and practice (Strategic Imperative 4). The project aligns closely with four of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), namely, targets 1, 11, 17 and 19; and it is also supports articles 6(b), 13(a) and 13(b). We contribute to four of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities), Goal 15 (life on land) and Goal 17 (partnerships for the goals). On a national level, the WRP supports the National Framework for Sustainable Development Strategic Focus Area 5, by "responding appropriately to emerging human development, economic and environmental challenges".

Roadkill in Protected Areas

Collisions between vehicles and wildlife are a common phenomenon within South Africa's protected areas and present a significant threat to biodiversity. With tourism expected to grow significantly by 2020, thereby placing South Africa's biodiversity under increasing pressure, there is an urgent need to better quantify and understand the impacts of roads on wildlife in protected areas and to develop and test methods to manage these. Through our Roadkill in Protected Areas Project, we



PROJECT STAFF



Wendy Collinson
Project Manager

> 970 records in N3TC roadkill database

are addressing this need by obtaining preliminary roadkill rates in Kruger National Park, Pilanesberg National Park, Addo Elephant National Park, Table Mountain National Park and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park. We are also raising public awareness of roadkill as a threat to biodiversity in protected areas, identifying roadkill hotspots areas in each of the aforementioned protected areas, and examining driver behaviour and how this can be influenced to reduce the likelihood of roadkill.

Road ecology training

The EWT has been working in partnership with the N3 Toll Concession (N3TC) since 2014 to gather wildlife-road mortality data on the N3 highway that links Johannesburg to Durban, to ultimately identify species most at threat from roads, and provide solutions to minimise roadkill and improve human-safety. N3TC patrollers collect roadkill data and submit it to a central data collection point for capturing. During the reporting period of April to June 2016, the dataset increased from 891 by a further 79 records (8.9%) bringing the total database to 970 incidents. This is roughly on par with 2015 where a total of 77 records were made for the same period. Over time, these data will enable us to identify potential 'roadkill hotspots' and propose methods for reducing roadkill.

A second partnership was established with Bakwena N1N4 Toll (Bakwena) in 2015: this route is the central link of a 385 km highway connecting South Africa's east and west coasts, and passes through a diverse range of habitats ranging from urban landscapes (i.e. Rustenburg), to communal land and agricultural areas. These areas are home to people, domestic animals, livestock and wildlife, all of which may come into contact with the vehicles using the road, and sometimes fatally. Bakwena commissioned the EWT to present a training course to their patrollers, and other relevant staff, with a view to improving road safety for all road users – both humans and animals. We presented training to approximately 25 Bakwena staff in October 2015 and May 2016. The course included an introduction to road ecology, the nature and importance of reliable data collection, mitigation measures (their purpose and required maintenance), species identification and relevant legislation. Since the training courses, almost 50 roadkill data points have been submitted by patrol staff, enabling the future analysis of roadkill hotspots and wildlife in peril.

Sharing our work

We shared our important work on a variety of platforms throughout the year. We gave an oral presentation at the International Conference on Ecology & Transportation (ICOET), in September 2015 in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, to almost 500 delegates from 22 different countries. The EWT is well-recognised by other conference delegates as being at the forefront of road ecology in Africa – we were very much 'Proudly South African'.

Two road ecology workshops were also presented at the Symposium of Contemporary Conservation Practice in Howick (where our poster also won the Award of Excellence), and at the EWT headquarters. We published a scientific paper in the African Journal of Wildlife Management that gave an inventory of roadkill species detected in the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area from 2011 to 2013. This is the first published record of vertebrate roadkill in southern Africa, highlighting the emerging threat that wildlife, and specific species face from roads.





PROGRAMME OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- We have been invited to give a presentation on our methods to encourage members of the public to gather roadkill data in South Africa at the Life Strade Congress in Italy (October 2016). This will provide opportunities to promote our work and liaise with other road ecology experts, explore potential collaborations for future projects, and seek prospective funding opportunities.
- We have been invited to be a committee member for a further term on the Transportation Research Board (TRB). This enables us to partake in global discussions for the direction of road ecology.
- Roadkill in Protected Areas Project: roadkill surveys are currently underway in Table Mountain National Park and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, providing comparative data between the two parks. We are testing the effectiveness of mitigation in Pilanesberg National Park, providing valuable data to assist with the future design of wildlife-warning signage.
- PhD student, Sipho Mbambala, from the University of Venda has started a collaborative project between the University of Venda and the EWT to understand the impacts of roads in the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve.
- Partnerships have been established with road agencies (Bakwena N1N14 Toll, TRAC N4 and N3 Toll Concession), bringing more credibility to our work.
- We have the opportunity to work within the most pristine national parks (namely Pilanesberg National Park, Addo Elephant National Park, Kruger National Park, Table Mountain National Park and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park) in South Africa, thus expanding our understanding of the impacts of roads on wildlife from regional and national roads (outside protected areas) to roads within protected areas. This will be the first study of its kind within Africa.

Challenges

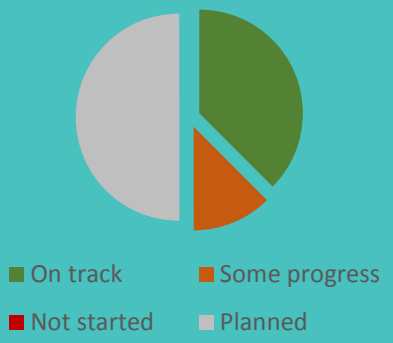
- There are many people willing to assist with roadkill data collection. Retaining the interest of these volunteers so that they continue to collect data is a challenge.

Growth areas

- We held a successful strategic planning session in December 2015 to develop a new strategy and focus for the programme. Existing projects have the opportunity for completion through staff support from the Wildlife and Energy Programme, whilst new projects can be tailored to meet the new targets outlined as a result of the planning session.
- We continue to be very active on social media with over 1,100 members of our Road Ecology Facebook group and the Global Road Ecology LinkedIn group. This has enabled us to expand our reach, continue to raise awareness and promote our projects, and also provide opportunities for international collaborations with other experts in the road ecology field.
- There is huge potential for the WRP to develop new projects that examine the broader discipline of road ecology beyond our research on faunal collisions. Our projects have expanded to include: understanding the causes of roadkill through examining driver behavior, and testing mitigation measures and assessing road impacts on roadside vegetation. These new projects are in collaboration with national and international universities and road ecology experts and is as a result of international recognition at international conferences and the desire by our international counterparts to assist with the progression of road ecology in Africa.

Risks

- There is often a negative perception linked to wildlife and road issues, particularly where dead animals are concerned. Promoting the project, particularly through graphic images may deter support from potential donors and other supporters.
- Team members are at risk of suffering emotionally through working with dead animals rather than live specimens.



Progress made by the WRP towards its eight high-level targets in 2015/16, within the framework of the EWT's 2012–2017 Conservation Strategy. Please see pages 12–25 for a detailed account of each target.





THE VOICE OF THE EWT

DEPARTMENT STAFF



Belinda Glenn
Communications & Brand Manager



Marion Burger
Graphic Designer



Joel Thosago
Membership Administrator

The Communications Department is committed to ensuring that the valuable work being done by the EWT is shared through a variety of channels. This enables us to not only ensure that the positive reputation of the organisation is upheld, but more importantly, to create a platform for education and awareness around relevant conservation issues.

The EWT website

A well-maintained and frequently updated website is a vital communications tool for any organisation and the communications team, with input from the various programmes, continues to ensure that the EWT website meets and exceeds these standards. The website attracted approximately 6,319 visitors during the period under review, up from a previous 4,418, many of whom are looking for programme-specific information, learning more about the EWT team, or checking for employment opportunities.
See www.ewt.org.za

www.facebook.com/EndangeredWildlifeTrust

www.twitter.com/theewt

www.youtube.com/EWTSouthAfrica

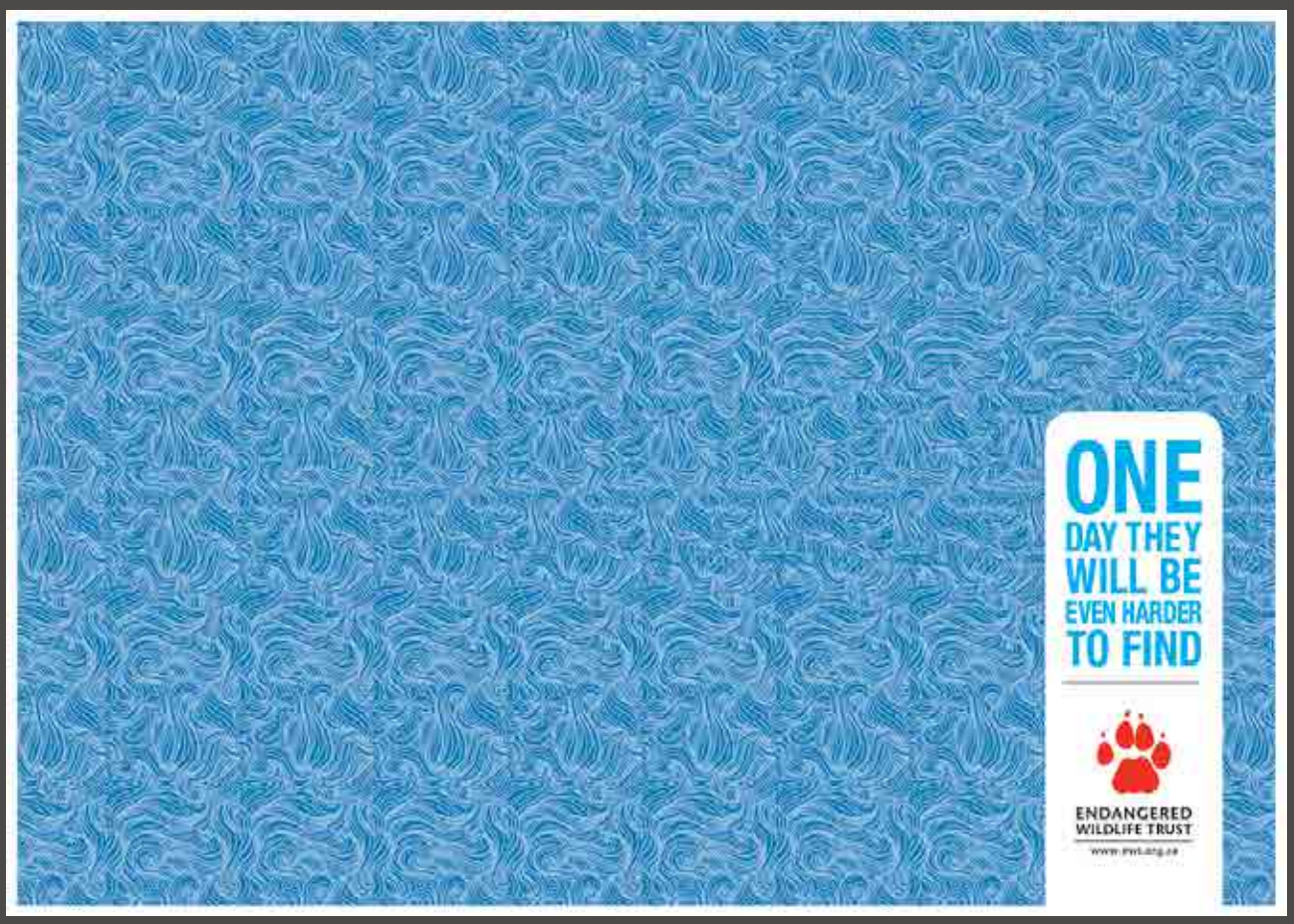
endangeredwildlifetrust.wordpress.com

Social media has proved to be a very effective communications medium for the EWT, with the number of followers growing at a rapid rate. Facebook remains our most popular social media platform, with 21,829 followers as at 30 June 2016 (up from 14,326 followers at the beginning of the reporting period), and we have maximised this opportunity by utilising Facebook advertising effectively. This has already led to a direct increase in membership, with 71 new members joining via Facebook during the period under review, as well as support for various causes, and we will continue to utilise this medium going forward. Other social media platforms remain valuable tools as we look to connect with a younger supporter base.

Our accounts performed as follows, as at 30 June 2016:

- Facebook – 21,829 followers
- Twitter – 7,775 followers
- WordPress (blog) – 8,691 subscribers
- YouTube – 92 subscribers
- LinkedIn (introduced in April 2016) – 779 connections





The *EWTalk*, our electronic newsletter, was distributed to 6,624 people four times during the period under review. This newsletter provides an opportunity to share stories from the field, upcoming events, and other pertinent information with our members and other subscribers, and continues to be well received.

The EWT continued to contribute to *Environment*, which is a joint venture between ourselves, the Wildlands Conservation Trust, the Cape Leopard Trust, the Wilderness Foundation, the South African Association for Marine Biological Research, the Game Rangers Association of Africa, the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds, and the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa. This publication is distributed to more than 11,000 members and subscribers of the various partner NGOs. The final edition is planned for August 2016, after which the EWT will be launching its own print publication.

Going forward, more feedback mechanisms such as competitions and story or photo submissions will be included in all publications to better measure the effectiveness of these channels.

The EWT in the media

The EWT enjoyed extensive media coverage during the period under review, including features and mentions in print, online and the broadcast media. During the 2015/2016 financial year, the EWT was mentioned or featured in approximately 1,000 articles, with an estimated advertising value equivalency (AVE) of more than R250 million. Repeat publishers for the period included *Africa Geographic, IOL, Times Live, News24, Traveller24, The Citizen and Lowveld*, among others. While most coverage came from South African publications, the United Kingdom, Germany, Mozambique and the United States also contributed significantly. These articles were predominantly positive or neutral/factual in their portrayal of the EWT.

Enabling our work

We are, as always, grateful to *Wild & Jag*/*Game & Hunt* for providing valuable pro bono monthly editorial space to the EWT. *Entrepreneur Magazine* also provided pro bono advertising space during the period under review. The value of the space in these publications was in excess of R100,000.

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

Creative agency, Ireland/Davenport, has also provided pro bono assistance in developing a campaign incorporating stereograms (visuals containing a hidden 3D image) of various animals such as sharks, rhinos and tortoises, with the tagline "One day they will be even harder to find." They have also secured placement of these adverts at no charge to the EWT. This campaign is ongoing.

Marketing services company, Graffiti, ran a competition during the period under review, targeting first year students at Vega's Randburg campus. This contest invited young creatives to conceptualise and design an inspired wall paper for the EWT. The winning design will now be printed and the wall paper installed in to EWT head office building in the coming months, at no cost to the organisation.



Ad Outpost continues to be a valuable supporter, providing the EWT with billboard space in key locations in Johannesburg during the period under review, with this footprint expanding into Pretoria and Cape Town in the coming months. The billboards donated included four sets of mini and four sets of maxi posters, a 7.5m x 5m digital board and 3m x 6m rotational site billboards. These are in high traffic locations such as Woodmead, Hyde Park and Sandton, and carry a value of approximately R300,000. Other billboard space has also been donated by Continental and Admadmedia.

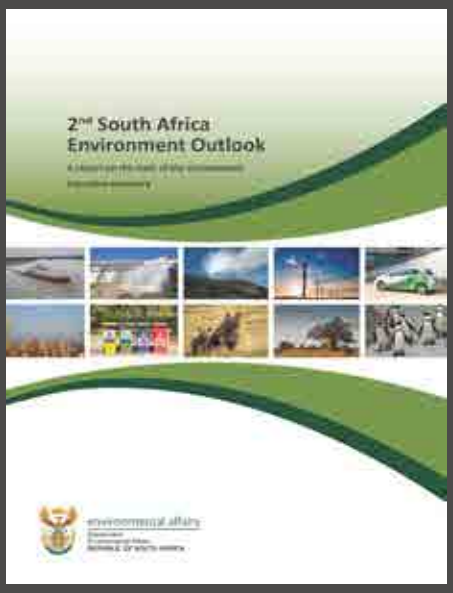
ad outpost
OUTDOOR ADVERTISING



Support to external stakeholders

The EWT assisted the Department of Environmental Affairs with the copy editing, layout and design of the *2nd South African Environment Outlook*.

The report, a 400-page document (available on CD and online at https://www.environment.gov.za/otherdocuments/reports) is accompanied by a hard copy Executive Summary. It is intended as a tool to integrate and communicate information collected for a set of environmental educators and covers the thematic areas of: land, biodiversity and ecosystems health, inland water, oceans and coasts, air quality, climate change, energy and waste management. These reports were compiled by specialists using a collaborative approach. They focused on collecting and interpreting information on the current state of environment using the Drivers-Pressures-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) framework. This approach enables recommendations to be made for improvements to work underway, and also for gaps to be identified for addressing. This work was undertaken in conjunction with Claire Patterson-Abrolat, EWT Special Projects Manager.



DEPARTMENTAL OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- The introduction of a caricature associated with the EWT in the form of a mascot or 'spokesdog' was conceptualised during the period under review and finalised shortly thereafter. This creates the opportunity to inject some levity into an often serious subject matter, as well as strengthening brand awareness once the character is entrenched.
- Positive talks have been underway with marketing teams at various airports, which will afford us the opportunity to run effective campaigns in these high impact spaces.
- The development of a new in-house print magazine will provide the opportunity to communicate more effectively with our members while building brand awareness. This will also provide a valuable opportunity to share knowledge and discover more about our supporters as this publication will be designed with interactivity in mind.
- The EWT assisted Pick n Pay with the development of their Super Animals campaign during the period under review, by providing information and fact checking for the various animal cards. Involvement in this campaign, which runs from 11 July to 4 September 2016, provides not only valuable financial support, as the EWT is one of the beneficiaries, but also offers opportunities for heightened brand awareness within Pick n Pay's consumer base.

Challenges

- The current economic climate means that relying on pro bono advertising can become more challenging, as media houses and corporates seek to maximise profits and securing this space becomes increasingly difficult.

Growth areas

- Growing support on social media will allow us to expand our reach and target a broader demographic than the current membership of the EWT, which is relatively homogenous. In line with this, we have increased budget allocation for Facebook advertising. The EWT website is also being improved on an ongoing basis, with the ultimate aim being that it will become the go-to portal for information and resources relating to conservation. Twitter and LinkedIn are also key platforms which can be developed into thought leadership hubs.
- A proactive approach to relationship building with media contacts, and to diversifying our media list, will enable us to expand our reach as well and feature in new publications in the future.

Risks

- While the increased use of social media is a positive step, it is prudent to be aware of the risk of reputational damage associated with these platforms if not monitored effectively.
- It is important to ensure that all EWT staff keep abreast with and have a clear understanding of our official position on various topical issues such as rhino dehorning, baited shark cage diving, and so on, otherwise we run the risk of sending mixed messages when communicating.



OUR PASSIONATE PEOPLE

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

Operations

The size and structure of the EWT personnel has grown again in the past year, due to a 11.39% increase in personnel numbers year on year; with our programme personnel growing from 57 to 65 and support services numbers increasing from 22 to 23 bringing our total number of staff to 88. This is line with our focus on conservation in action, particularly out in the field.

The introduction of four new Senior Manager positions, two of which were filled by the end of the reporting period, will ensure relief in reporting line pressures felt by our Executive Management Team. The two filled positions are Senior Manager: Africa filled by Kerryn Morrison and Senior Manager: Habitat filled by Ian Little; with Senior Manager: Species and Senior Manager: Industries and Partnerships to be filled in the next reporting period.

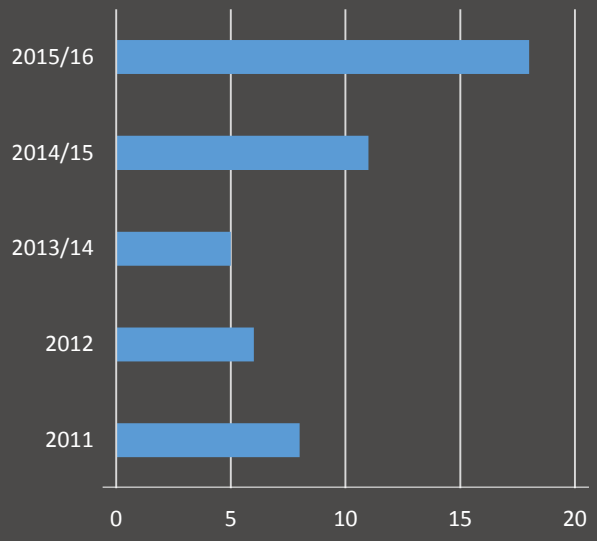


Figure 1: Trends in the total number of staff employed by the EWT.

Workforce demographics

The EWT is committed to recruiting quality people and developing their potential through our focus on creating a learning culture, thus enhancing their careers and maintaining our competitive edge. We also recognise our organisational responsibility to take South Africa's history into account and provide equal opportunities for those who may have been previously disadvantaged. This drives the EWT's current equity plan which runs for the period 2015 to 2020, which is designed to accelerate our culture of diversity. All team members continue to be recognised for their competencies based on merit.

The changes seen in our gender and race demographics directly support our employment equity goal, which is to achieve a 50/50 split between gender, personnel of colour and white personnel by June 2020.

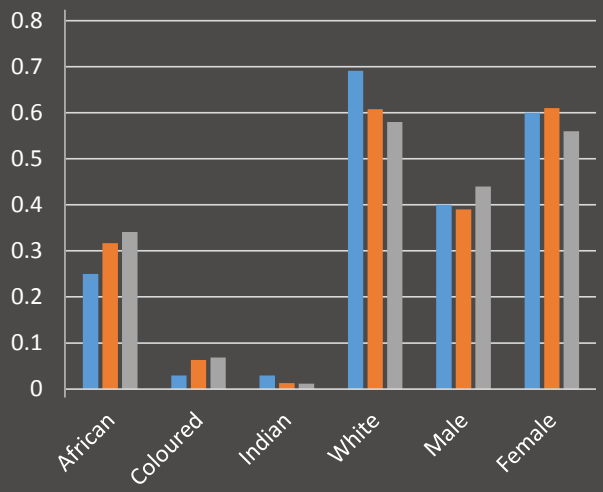


Figure 2: Trends in race and gender demographics of EWT staff.

Employment Equity

The EWT endeavours to have people from historically disadvantaged groups adequately represented at all levels within the next four years. The definition of 'adequate representation' will be based on consultation, operational needs and best practice.

The table below compares our progress towards achieving our targeted demographic breakdown as reflected in our Employment Equity Plan, against our actual demographic figures as at 30 June 2016. Excellent progress in achieving our targets has been made. Of the ten categories, we have exceeded our targets in two, and achieved our targets in four, with the remaining four needing improvement. It is further encouraging to note that in the four areas in which we did not meet our targets, this was by minimal margins.

Period	Male				Female				Total	
	African	Coloured	Indian	White	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Male	Female
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Target figures as per EE Plan	19%	1%	1%	22%	21%	1%	1%	32%	44%	56%
Actual figures as of 30th June 2016	20%	1%	0%	23%	14%	6%	1%	35%	44%	56%
	↑	–	↓	↑	↓	↑	–	↑	–	–
Above target **no** concerns	↑									
		Above target concerning		↑						
						Below target	↓		Target achieved	–

Trustee transformation

A process to transform the demographics of our Trustee body was concluded in September 2015, which resulted in a total of 13 new Trustees being ratified at our October 2015 AGM. The addition of these Trustee has aided in broadening the skills and knowledge base of our trustee body which we are sure will assist the EWT to reach new heights in the future.

Talent management

The past two years have seen a significant increase in internal promotions, due to the learning culture adopted by management of growing potential. Much effort has been placed on identifying and developing the potential, talent and abilities of personnel, and as such internal promotions have been on an increase and have evolved naturally. Where the EWT has recognised the need for introducing new skills and experiences into the Trust, all new appointments are carefully evaluated and balanced.

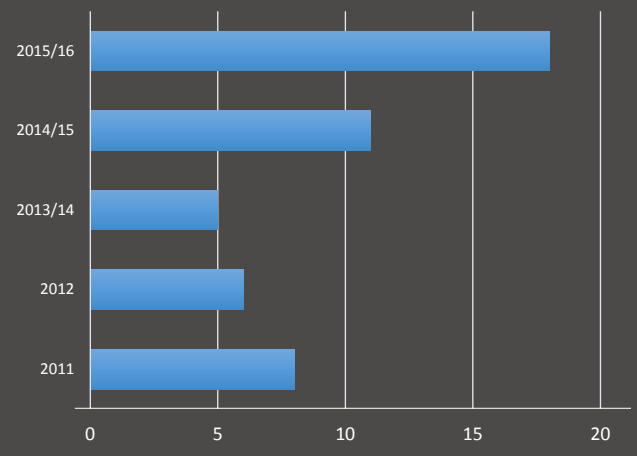


Figure 3: Internal promotions at the EWT.

Learning culture

The EWT prides itself on promoting a learning culture, meaning that as an organisation we strive to improve performance and morale; explore human potential; attract, develop and retain talent; create a culture of questioning and learning; and drive innovation. We believe that completion of compliance training alone does not equate to a learning culture, and that learning is an active, participative process, rather than a passive filling of vessels with information. There should be a combination of emphasis on teaching, supporting and facilitating the growth of people through their own processing of information into knowledge, values and skills. We have found that the adoption of this philosophy has aided us in achieving our high number of internal personnel promotions and reaching our employment equity targets. Our learning culture has been achieved through the following activities:

- **Internships**
  The EWT hosted a total of 27 interns, four of whom have accepted positions within the EWT, seven of whom have accepted positions outside the EWT and 16 of whom remain with the EWT on internship contracts.
- **Student Facilitation**
  The facilitation of student contracts within the EWT programmes has been and remains beneficial for both the students and the EWT alike. twenty three students were hosted during this reporting period. The table below shows a breakdown of the number of students per progamme.

Programme Name	Number of students hosted
African Crane Conservation Programme	3
Birds of Prey Programme	4
Drylands Conservation Programme	2
Threaten Amphibian Programme	4
Threatened Grasslands Species Programme	4
Wildlife and Energy Programme	2
Wildlife and Roads Project	4

- **Personnel further education**
  The EWT continues to encourage personnel to further their studies, and as such we have a total of 19 personnel who have been granted the opportunity and supported to continue their education. Below is breakdown of staff who are currently busy with further studies:

PhD	MSc / MBA / LLM	B-Tech	NQF level 4 and 5
5	6	2	6

- **Fellowships**
  Two of our team members, Oscar Mohale and Nkosinathi Nama, both working with our Source to Sea Programme,

DEPARTMENT STAFF



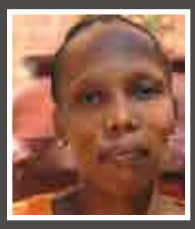
Alison Jånicke
Head of Resource Development



Emma Chisare
Executive Secretary



Precious Morgan
Receptionist



Dorah Mncube
Housekeeper



Thembi Mlimi
Housekeeper



Sizakele Ntsele
Office Administrator & Catering

were offered the opportunity to participate in the GreenMatter Fellowship, which provides the fellows with an opportunity to connect with a community of outstanding biodiversity champions and leaders, enabling them to achieve their potential and serve as true ambassadors of South Africa's natural wealth.

- **Mentorships**
  The EWT believes that quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects in a variety of personal, academic and professional situations. As such the Human Resources department has supported four of our Programme Managers to participate in mentoring programme which have proven to be beneficial to both the personnel and the EWT alike.

- **Training**
  Training budgets continue to be a challenge, however by making use of our internal skills, donated training services and through high level round table discussions hosted by subject specialists, the following learning interventions were held, in which all 88 of our personnel participated to a greater or lesser degree:

Formal Training

- Media and Social Networks
- IT Technology and the use thereof
- The use of Drones in Conservation
- Snake identification
- Snake Bite First Aid
- Project Management
- Power Line Monitoring
- Geographical Information System
- Photography and Processing
- Financial Training
- Aquatic Monitoring and Technique Methods

Round Table Discussions

- Fracking update
- Legal Matters Related to Conservation
- Driven Hunting
- Renewable Energy and the Hidden Impacts
- Green Economy - Alternative livelihoods
- Environmental Impact Assessments related
- The Do's and Don'ts when working with Farmers
- Population Health and Education
- EWT Sniffer Dogs Round Table

- **Development Week**
  Our 7th annual consecutive Development Week, which aims to provide training through workshops, empower EWT staff, students and interns to engage in conservation activities and develop skills around key focus areas including project management, was successfully completed during the week of the 6th to the 10th June. Development Week has grown from strength to strength each year.

- **Conservation Week**
  Conservation Week is held in November of each year and is focused on encouraging interaction and collaboration between our various programmes and departments. This week which was first introduced in 2004 has grown from strength to strength over the past 12 years, and has been the catalyst in developing inter programme / project collaboration.

Corporate social investment

Corporate social investment (CSI) has a pivotal role to play in bringing about meaningful transformation to the benefit of all. The EWT not only reaps the rewards of being on the receiving end of CSI, but is also committed to giving back in this way. The social needs facing our country are substantial, many of which impact on our environment. We see it as our moral duty to make a difference by supporting projects that benefit both historically disadvantaged sectors of our society and conservation. As such, the EWT has made enormous strides in incorporating social investment activities which benefit both the environment and historically disadvantaged sectors into the sphere of our work, with plans to expand in the forthcoming financial year.

The table below reflects the EWT's corporate social investment initiatives carried out by our flagship projects in key focus areas, a few examples being: Beehive keeping, the importance of wetlands, Eco-Schools, health and safety, grasslands management, environmental law, boreholes drilled, plant propagation and rehabilitation, first aid training, living nurseries, recycling and upcycling.

Key Focus Area	Number of interventions	Number of people reached
• Decent work and sustainable livelihoods/Rural development • Education • Health • Food security, land reform and the fight against crime and corruption	148	15,804

Organisational Sustainability

Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment

The EWT scored a level 2 rating for the period 2015/16, this being an improvement of two levels on our 2014/15 scorecard, with a significant improvement being made under the skills development element.

Elements	Scores achieved for the period 2014/2015	Scores achieved for the period 2015/2016
Employment Equity	11.04	12.17
Skills Development	2.78	25.00
Preferential Procurement	25.00	25.00
Socio Economic Development	25.00	25.00
Total Score	63.82	87.17

Socio-Economic Development Certificate (SED)

The EWT received a 100% rating for our Socio-Economic Development Certificate for the sixth consecutive year.

The certificate was awarded for the outstanding work undertaken by the EWT towards conserving species and ecosystems in southern Africa, conducting research and conservation programmes, implementing projects that mitigate threats to species, supporting sustainable natural resource management and its activities around transformation such as human capital development in the rural or underdeveloped urban areas. This means that EWT sponsors can recognise 100% of the value of their sponsorship in the calculation of their own scorecards.

DEPARTMENTAL OUTLOOK

Challenges

- With the increase in the EWT's programmatic work and personnel numbers, growth within the Support Services may be required to ensure high levels of service are maintained.

Growth areas

- The Human Resources department looks forward to seeing the introduction of two new positions, namely Human Resources Administrator and Human Resources Assistant.
- The position of Senior Manager: Species and Senior Manager: Industries and Development will be filled in the short-term.

Risks

- An anticipated increase in our annual turnover for the upcoming financial year will see the EWT reporting within a high B-BBEE category. In preparation for this change, procurement policies and procedures have been tightened and a B-BBEE consultant will be contracted to guide us through the changes.



GOVERNANCE

PROGRAMME STAFF



Mandy Poole
Chief Operations Officer



Xolani Klass
Finance Manager



Melissa Govindsamy
Senior Bookkeeper



Ayanda Sibiya
Accountant



Yves Manana
IT Technical Support Officer



Alex Nyamani
Grant Manager



Rugare Nyamhunga
Governance

The EWT is a Trust governed in accordance with the Trust Property Control Act No. 57 of 1988, under Masters reference number IT 6247. The Amended and Restated Deed of Trust 2014, as registered with the Master of the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria, is the founding document of the EWT and lays out the roles and responsibilities of Trustees, the Board of Management (Board) and the committees of the Board. EWT Trustees are not remunerated for their services and serve the EWT in a voluntary capacity.

Annual General Meeting

At the AGM held on 29th October 2015 the Trustees of the EWT voted to accept the following individuals as new Trustees of the EWT:

- Abdul Kader (AK) Mohamed
- Andrew Johnston
- Angela Cherrington (Oosthuizen)
- Anusha Lucen
- Barry Ackers
- Kiyasha Thambi
- Lavinia Khangala
- Lesego Rammusi
- Muhammed Seedat
- Sharmila Govind
- Sthembiso Dlamini
- Veniela (Ven) Pillay

Dr Nick King, a former CEO of The EWT, and Diana Smullen resigned as Trustees of the EWT.

The EWT Board was re-elected in its entirety with Dirk Ackerman, Paul Smith and Uwe Putlitz continuing as the office bearers i.e. Chair, Treasurer and Deputy Chair, respectively. Anthony Diepenbroek was elected as a new member of the Board, which now consists of nine Trustees and the CEO as an *ex officio* member.

Following these changes in the Trustee body, the EWT applied for new Letters of Authority from the Master of the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria and these were finally issued on 14 June 2016.

Trustee Induction and other Trustee matters

A Trustee Induction session was held at the EWT Head Office on 18th February 2016 which was open to all Trustees but was principally aimed at the new Trustees accepted into Trusteeship at the AGM in October 2015. The purpose of the Induction was to ensure that Trustees fully understand the EWT, its activities and their own role in achieving the objects of the Trust. Ms. Bongiwe Njobe resigned as a Trustee effective from December 2015 and her resignation will be ratified by the Trustees at the 2016 AGM.

Board of Management and Committees

The Trustees appoint the Board of Management at the AGM to administer the affairs of the Trust on their behalf and the Board subsequently met four times over the course of the financial year. The Board undertook activities in accordance with its Charter and to fulfil its Work Plan which is developed and adopted annually on a calendar-year basis. At the end of the calendar year the Board evaluates its own performance in relation to its work plan for the year. The self-evaluation was carried out in November 2015 and discussed at the Board meeting held in that month.

	27 August 2015	19 November 2015	16 March 2016	15 June 2016
Mr. Dirk Ackerman – Chairperson				
Mr. Uwe Putlitz – Vice Chairperson				
Mr. Paul Smith – Treasurer				
Mr. Anthony Diepenbroek				
Mr. Mike Esterhuysen				
Ms. Joanna Goeller				
Ms. Karin Ireton				
Mr. Lot Mlati				
Mr. Antony Wannell				
Ms. Yolan Friedmann – CEO – ex officio				
In attendance - Ms. Mandy Poole – COO				

Board of Management meeting attendance during the period under review.
Key: Green: attended, yellow: not yet elected, red: absent.

Deloitte.

CLIFFE DEKKER HOFMEYR

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

Audit and Finance Committee

The Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) is an official committee of the Board established under Clause 23.1 of the Amended and Restated Deed of Trust 2014. It is chaired by Mr. Paul Smith in his capacity as Treasurer. The AFC updated its Charter during this financial year to reflect agreed changes in the timing of nominations to serve on the AFC – now to be annual. It too adopts an annual Work Plan for the calendar year and self-evaluates at the close of the calendar year. The AFC met four times during the financial year to fulfil its financial oversight responsibilities to the Board and the Trust, in particular the approval of the annual budget for the financial year and continual monitoring of performance against this budget. The AFC expanded its membership by welcoming Trustees Abdul Kader (AK) Mohamed and Muhammed Seedat to the Committee.

	9 September 2015	19 November 2015	23 February 2016	14 June 2016
Mr. Paul Smith – Treasurer and Chairperson – *ex officio*				
Mr. Barry Ackers				
Mr. A K Mohamed				
Mr. Neil Morris				
Mr. Quan Rees				
Mr. Muhammed Seedat				
Mr. Antony Wannell				
In attendance - Ms. Yolan Friedmann – CEO				
In attendance - Ms. Mandy Poole – COO				
In attendance - Mr.Justice Moabelo – Finance Manager				
In attendance - Mr. Xolani Klaas – Finance Manager				

Audit and Finance Committee meeting attendance during the period under review.

Key: Green: attended, yellow: not yet elected, red: absent.

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

Social Ethics and Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration and Nominations Committee (RemCo) met twice over the course of the financial year. At its second meeting of the year the Committee approved the adoption of an expanded set of roles and responsibilities as expressed in both a new name – Social, Ethics and Remuneration Committee (SERC) - and a new SERC Charter. The new Charter lays out SERC's *modus operandi* under the following headings: (1) Purpose of the SERC, (2) Authority of the SERC, (3) Membership of the SERC, (4) Meetings of the SERC, (5) Reporting by the SERC and (6) Roles and Responsibilities of the SERC. The SERC expanded its membership by welcoming Trustee Sharmila Govind to the Committee at the end of the financial year.

	19 November 2015	14 June 2015
Mr. Mike Esterhuysen – Chairperson		
Ms. Karin Ireton		
In attendance - Ms. Yolan Friedmann – CEO		
In attendance - Ms. Mandy Poole – COO		
Ms. Alison Jänicke – Head of Resource Development		

Social Ethics and Remuneration Committee meeting attendance during the period under review.

Key: Green: attended, yellow: not yet elected, red: absent.

Internal Structures

During this financial year the CEO initiated a review of the "fitness for purpose" of the EWT's Internal Management Structures, paying special regard to feedback from a management review workshop held mid-year to discuss the matter.

As a result, the EWT Executive Management Team has been expanded to allow direct inputs from certain strategic Support Services personnel. With the addition of responsibilities outside the pure HR field, the HR Manager position on the Executive Management Team has been re-cast as the Head of Resource Development.

In order to provide more programmatic support, and to reduce an overly burdensome line-report load on the CEO and the Head of Conservation, a set of EWT Senior Programme Management positions were added to the EWT organogram. These are Senior Programme Manager: Habitats, Senior Programme Manager: Industries and Partnerships, Senior Programme Manager: Species and Senior Programme Manager: Africa (with special responsibility for the International Crane Foundation-EWT Partnership). The Habitats and Africa Senior Programme Manager positions were filled at the close of the financial year. It is planned to fill the remaining positions in time.

A new position of Information and Compliance Officer was created during this financial year. This position is responsible for carrying out the administrative duties necessary to ensure EWT's compliance with all external regulatory requirements. It is furthermore responsible for administrative duties related to the management of relations between the Trustees and EWT staff. One of the major tasks carried out in this financial year by the incumbent, Ms. Rugare Nyamhunga, was to research the compliance aspects of the new Protection of Private Information Act and to draft the EWT's POPI policy to ensure that the EWT will be compliant with this new legislation once it is in force. This policy was approved by the Board at its meeting in November 2015. The other major area of focus for this position is assisting the COO in the preparation of internally-generated

and the review of externally-offered legal agreements. During the financial year the EWT entered into 111 agreements.

The **EWT Executive Management Team** met approximately every three weeks - 11 times during the financial year - and discussed strategic matters, focussing on issues such as governance and compliance, financial performance, resource development -human and financial, physical infrastructure – building, equipment and operations including IT and communications and branding, all from an organisational perspective.

The team consisted of Yolan Friedmann, (CEO and Chairperson), Mandy Poole (Chief Operations Officer), Alison Jänicke (Head of Resource Development) and Dr. Harriet Davies-Mostert (Head of Conservation). As noted, during 2015/16, the Executive Management Team was expanded to include the Executive Management Sub-Committee consisting of: Xolani Klaas (Finance Manager), Frank Jackson (Business Development Officer), Boaz Tsebe (Reserve Manager) and Rugare Nyamhunga (Information & Compliance Officer).

The **EWT Conservation Management Team (CMT)** met ten times during the financial year. Support Services and Programme/Project Managers attend these meetings, where the focus is on conservation, research, strategic and programmatic issues. Matters discussed include programme and project management, conservation strategy, ethics, data sharing, science and research, partnerships, new projects and regional field offices. Financial wellbeing and sustainability are also discussed but from a programme/project perspective.

Ethics Committee: The CMT pays a vital role in the EWT's commitment to carrying out its science-based, conservation activities on a sound ethical basis. It functions as the EWT's Ethics Committee and ethical issues are a standing item on the monthly agenda for the CMT meetings. Proposed new projects are introduced in this forum and discussed in detail, with particular attention being paid to ethical considerations, before a final decision as to whether or not to proceed is taken. Three ethical evaluations were conducted during the financial year – concerning the tagging of Blue Crane chicks in the Western Cape, DNA sampling of Pickersgill's Reed frogs and Kloof frogs in KwaZulu-Natal and the use of radio telemetry back-packs for tracking Flamingos.

The **EWT Conservation Forum (CF)** also met ten times in the course of the financial year. These meetings are for all staff, and field-based personnel are encouraged to attend as often as field activities and budget allows. Where field-based personnel are unable to attend CF, or indeed CMT, the EWT uses the Zoom™ software platform to provide staff with the ability to participate remotely in these crucial meetings by audio and/or video conferencing. CF provides a forum for information-sharing between field and HO-based staff and seeks to promote a greater understanding of other's portfolios of work. Guest speakers often attend to raise awareness of issues not necessarily in the EWT's fields of expertise.

Registration in Mozambique

Following the Board's decision in May 2015 to register the EWT as a foreign NGO operating in Mozambique, the EWT engaged the legal firm Sal and Caldeira of Maputo, Mozambique to assist with all the statutory processes necessary for registration. All the necessary submissions have been completed and final approval from the Government of Mozambique is awaited. Once granted the EWT will be authorised to carry out specific activities around its Dugong Emergency Protection Project in Inhambane Province for the next two years. During that time the EWT will also be exploring the opportunities to further expand its work in Mozambique, both in terms of the focus of its conservation activities and its geographical reach with the country.

Policies

The EWT continually reviews its internal policies and procedures to ensure that the Trust is compliant with all external and statutory requirements. Going even further, The EWT strives to achieve excellent corporate governance and best practices in all our endeavours. During the financial year, and in line with the expanded mandate of the SERC, the EWT's Employee Grievance Policy was expanded to formally provide communication channels between staff, the SERC and the Board where an employee may have a grievance concerning a member of the Executive Management Team. In addition the Trust formally incorporated an Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy into the EWT Employee Handbook. At its November 2015 meeting the Board mandated the SERC to oversee a rolling review of all EWT policies, with the aim that the entire Policies manual be reviewed on a regular basis. The EWT is well supported by Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr in all matters of governance, policy development and compliance.

ICT Governance

ICT services account for significant capital and operational expense in the EWT and, in this increasingly digital world, also present a major potential risk to the organization if not managed efficiently and effectively. The formal processes within an IT governance framework aim to ensure that business requirements ultimately drive planning decisions for the development and management of ICT resources. Formalising governance processes also helps to ensure that ICT specialists and the Executive Management Team are in agreement on what is an appropriate and acceptable level of risk in the ICT systems and services that power day-today operations. During this financial year the Executive Management Team led in the creation of a new governance framework for ICT decision-making. This framework represents and outlines an ICT Governance framework for the EWT that meets the unique needs of EWT staff members, while at the same time providing the structure to successfully manage a complex ICT environment and deliver services that add value to the EWT and make it a successful organisation. This framework was presented to and approved by the Board at their meeting in March 2016.

RISK ASSESSMENT 30 June 2016

Number	Risk area - alphabetical order	Risk Description	Key 2015-2016 actions
1	Compliance - Statutory & Non-statutory	Non-compliance with laws, best practices and/or internal policies	Appointment of Information and Compliance Officer
2	External Relationships and Environment	Poor stakeholder relations and/or adverse economic, political and social factors	Overarching Memorandum of Understanding signed with National Department of Environmental Affairs
3	Financial Management	Inadequate management of budgets, assets and key financial recording systems	Formalising roles and responsibility exchanges to reduce reliance on individuals in key positions
4	Fundraising Effectiveness	Inadequate funding pipeline for projects and support services	Growth in institutional, multi-year funding especially from overseas donors
5	Human Resources Management	EWT organizational structure and/or work environment is not conducive to achieving strategic objectives	Structure review workshop held in March 2016 and new organogram approved by Board
6	ICT Management	ICT services and hardware are not managed optimally to meet for EWT business requirements	During this financial year the Exec led in the creation of a new governance framework for ICT decision-making
7	Programme Effectiveness	Non-achievement of the EWT's Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives	Revision of project plans to ensure alignment with Strategic Objectives

Inherent Likelihood		**Inherent Impact**				
		Insignificant (negligible)	Minor (small)	Moderate (medium)	Major (serious)	Catastrophic (disastrous)
		1	2	3	4	5
Almost certain (>90%)	5					
Likely (50-90%)	4					
Possible (30-50%)	3			5	3, 4, 6	
Unlikely (10-30%)	2				1, 2	
Rare (<10%)	1			7		

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2016

	30 June '16 R	30 June '15 R
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property and equipment	2 479 386	3 046 567
Total non-current assets	2 479 386	3 046 567
Current assets		
Accounts receivable	617 786	771 375
Cash and cash equivalents	26 566 659	21 182 845
Total current assets	27 184 445	21 954 220
TOTAL ASSETS	29 663 831	25 000 787
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Trust funds		
Accumulated funds	10 038 386	9 888 550
Non-distributable reserves	1 863 735	2 978 052
Total Trust funds	11 902 121	12 866 602
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	922 073	696 919
Funds held on behalf of other organisations	2 646 037	2 390 857
Deferred revenue	13 866 195	8 822 884
Leave Provision	327 405	223 525
Total current liabilities	17 761 710	12 134 185
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	29 663 831	25 000 787

SUMMARY statement OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the year ended 30 June 2016

	30 June '16 R	30 June '15 R
Revenue	46 120 722	37 220 964
Expenses	(45 970 886)	(37 204 836)
Total Comprehensive Operational Surplus for the period	149 836	16 127
After charging:		
Depreciation		
Owned and leased assets - charged to income	49 135	52 208
- charged to non-distributable reserves	1 425 659	877 062
	1 474 794	929 270
and after crediting:		
Total Interest received – bank deposits	1 198 296	1 076 992
Accumulated funds at beginning of period	9 888 550	9 872 427
Prior year adjustment	-	(4)
Accumulated funds at end of period	10 038 386	9 888 550

Notes to the financial statements

Accounting policies

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

1.1 Revenue

Gross revenue excludes value-added tax and represents subscriptions, donations, project income and other voluntary contributions. Subscriptions income is recognised on receipt. Income for specific projects or functions is matched with expenditure as incurred.

Interest received is accrued on a time basis, by reference to the principal outstanding and at the effective interest rate applicable.

1.2 Deferred revenue

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

1.3 Property and equipment

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

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

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

Leasehold improvements	10% straight-line
Other assets	33.33% straight-line

Donated artwork is not depreciated.

Assets purchased for projects are charged against deferred revenue upon acquisition. The related depreciation of these assets is also written down against the depreciation reserve.

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.

1.4 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.5 Provisions

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

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the statement of financial position date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. Where a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows.

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

1.6 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 held-to-maturity investments, bank balances and cash and accounts receivable.

Held-to-maturity investments are carried at cost.

The accounting policy for bank balances and cash is dealt with under cash and cash equivalents set out in note 1.4.

Accounts receivable are stated at cost.

Financial liabilities

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

Accounts payable are stated at cost.

1.7 Trust funds

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



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Deloitte & Touche
Registered Auditors
Audit - Gauteng

www.deloitte.com

Buildings 1 and 2
Deloitte Place
The Woodlands
Woodlands Drive
Woodmead Sandton
Private Bag X6
Gallo Manor 2052
South Africa
Docex 10 Johannesburg

Tel: +27 (0)11 806 5000
Fax: +27 (0)11 806 5111

Riverwalk Office Park
Block B
41 Matroosberg Road
Ashlea Gardens X6
Pretoria, 0081
PO Box 11007
Hatfield 0028
South Africa
Docex 6 Pretoria

Tel: +27 (0)12 482 0000
Fax: +27 (0)12 460 3633

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

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, and the summary statement if comprehensive income, are derived from audited financial statements of the Endangered Wildlife Trust for the period ended 30 June 2016. We expressed an unmodified opinion on those financial statements in our report dated 11 October 2016. Those financial statements, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect effects of the events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the basis of accounting described in note 1 to the audited financial statements and the requirements of the Fundraising Act applied in the preparation of the audited financial statements of the Endangered Wildlife Trust. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for the reading of the audited financial statements of the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

Management's responsibility to the summary financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary audited financial statements in accordance with basis of accounting described in the note 1 to the audited annual financial statements and the requirements of the Fundraising Act and for such internal control as management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the summary financial statements that are free form material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures which were conducted in accordance with the international Standards on Auditing (ISA) 810, "Engagements to report on summary financial statements".

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of the Endangered Wildlife Trust for the period 30 June 2016 are consistent, in all material respects, with those financial statements, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 1 to the audited financial statements and the requirements of the Fundraising Act.

Deloitte & Touche

Deloitte & Touche
Registered Auditors
Per C. Naidoo
Partner
12 October 2016

National Executive: *LL Bam Chief Executive Officer *TMM Jordan Deputy Chief Executive Officer *MJ Jarvis Chief Operating Officer
*GM Pinnock Audit *N Sing Risk Advisory *NB Kader Tax *F Filtay Consulting *S Gwala BPaaS *K Black Clients & Industries
*JK Mazzocco Talent & Transformation *MJ Comber Reputation & Risk *TJ Brown Chairman of the Board

A full list of partners and directors is available on request * Partner and Registered Auditor

B-BBEE rating: Level 2 contributor in terms of the Chartered Accountancy Profession Sector Code

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

FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

PROGRAMME STAFF



Tammy Baker
Business
Development Officer

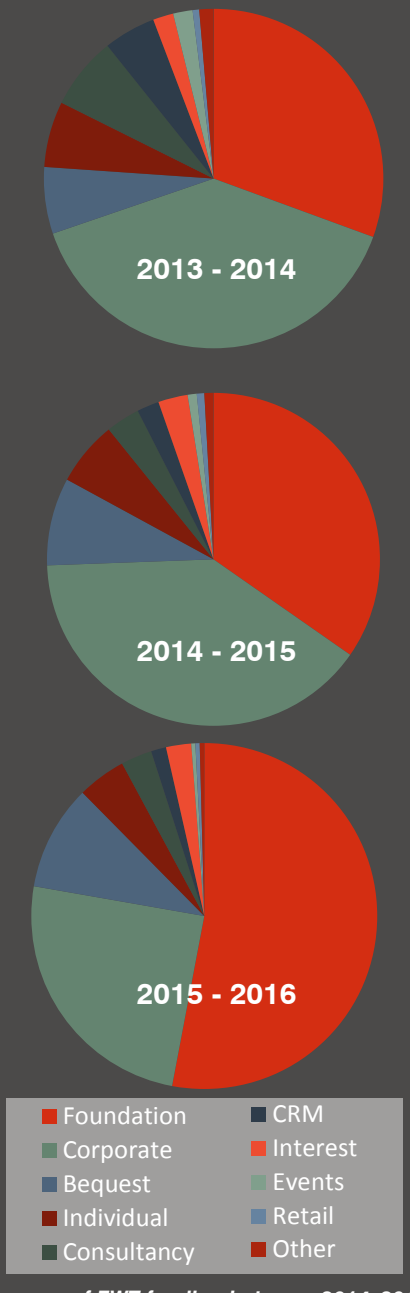


Frank Jackson
Business
Development Officer



Dr Tim Jackson
Senior Technical
Writer

To ensure that the EWT is able to meet its objectives, attracting and retaining funding remains a priority. We continue to rely on funding from our donors and supporters (individual and corporates) to sustain and expand on the critical conservation work that we do. The driving force behind our ability to deliver on our mission is the backing we receive from our supporters. A comprehensive list of supporters is incorporated at the end of this report.



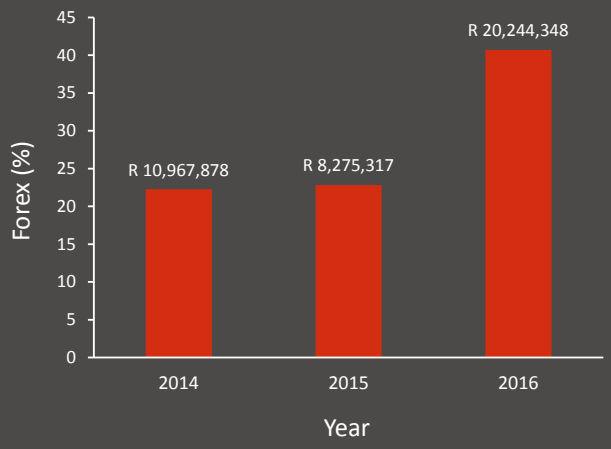
Sources of EWT funding between 2014–2016

Evolving funding streams

The EWT's funding streams have evolved considerably over the last year, with a greater emphasis on funding through trusts, foundations and bilaterals. For the first time ever, funding from these sources contributed to over half of the EWT's new income, increasing from 34.7% new funding received in 2015 to 53.0% in 2016. The increase in this funding was balanced, in part, by a 14.8% reduction in new funding from South African corporates. We attribute this partly to a slowing local economy and a move by several corporate donors away from the conservation and environmental sector.

Foreign income

Foreign income across the EWT increased substantially as a percentage of total income over the last year. In fact, we were able to raise more foreign income in the last year – some R20,244,348 – than in the previous two-and-a-half years combined, over which foreign income totalled R19,243,195 (2014 figures relate to an 18-month year end cycle as we moved our financial year end from December to June). Programmes to benefit substantially from foreign income through 2016 included our Wildlife in Trade Programme, which received R8,282,380 in forex. We attribute this largely to their work with the US State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) too address wildlife crime through a series of training and capacity building interventions, resource mobilisation and applied research. In addition, our Source to Sea Programme attracted some R5,845,625 in foreign income, largely with revenue generated from the European Union and USAID for work on catchment management, job creation and livelihood support and alien invasive clearing. A 5.3% increase in local (South African) income supported the EWT's increase in foreign income through 2016. New income raised locally through 2016 increased to R29,486,915 from R27,999,347 in 2015.



Trends in forex earnings, 2014–2016

Corporate giving

The team continues to invest a great deal in securing and maintaining corporate donations and memberships through relationship building and mutual benefit. This bore fruit in the 2015/2016 financial year, with close to R13-million being brought in, despite the economic challenges facing most corporates.

Individual support

Individual donations, outside of membership, also play a valuable part in enabling the EWT to conduct its business. This includes support through important funding channels such as GivenGain (R254,845 for the financial year) and MyPlanet (R222,280 for the financial year) which offer supporters an easy and accessible way to make a donation. In addition, the EWT continues to manage and host the MyPlanet Rhino fund income. Through the financial year R2,167,496 was raised for rhino conservation through the MyPlanet Rhino fund.

Membership

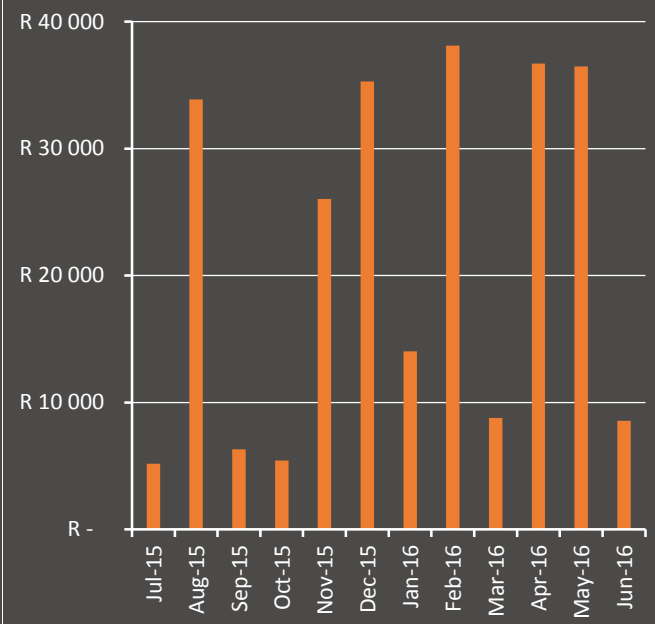
We receive annual support from our loyal members, with a variety of membership options on offer, ranging in price from R350 to R1,650 for South African members, and R399 to R1,999 for international members. Our target audience is passionate about the environment and our wild animals, and contributes funds towards the conservation of our natural heritage for all. At the end of this reporting period, the EWT had 4,376 members, a slight increase from the previous financial year.

Funding Appeals

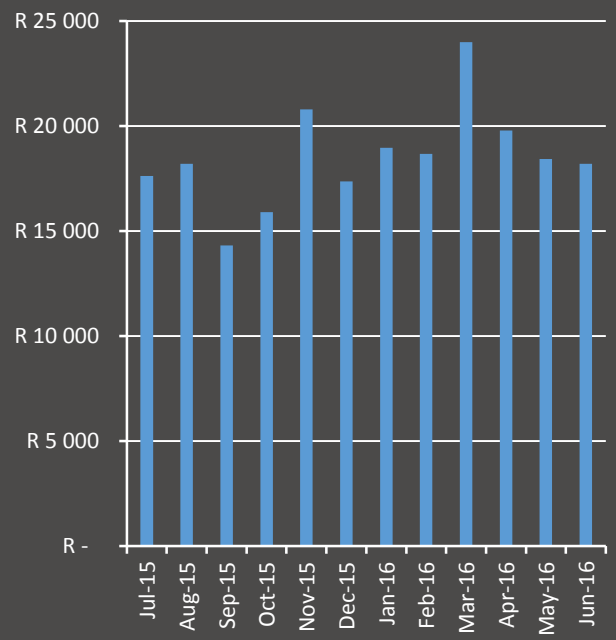
The EWT sent out two funding appeals through this financial year. Both proved to be successful, with the sniffer dogs mailer – which was sent out in November 2015 – raising R125,533 from 118 donors, and the livestock guarding dogs mailer – which was sent out in March 2016 – raising R63,560 from 73 donors. The income from these mailers helped to inject much needed funding into projects in the EWT at a critical time of need.

Special events

During the course of the year, the EWT participated in a number of special events. The highlights were the 94.7 Cycle Challenge, which saw us raise a profit of R56,500 and the annual EWT Golf Day, which brought in R70,500.



GivenGain income for the 2015/16 financial year



MySchool/MyPlanet income during the 2015/16 financial year

Conservation talks

We continue to host monthly talks at the Country Club Johannesburg to bring our supporters closer to the work we do and showcase the important and exciting work of the EWT and our colleagues. The full proceeds of these talks comes to the EWT, with the exception of charges for the optional dinners that follow the talks and give supporters an opportunity to meet the team. During the period under review, ten talks were hosted (two at the Woodmead club and eight at the Auckland Park branch), with an average attendance of 75 people at each. The most successful talk during the period was given by Alex van den Heever and Renias Mhlongo, on "Awakening One's Innate Senses through the Art of Tracking: An introduction to the fascinating world of tracking." These talks also provide a good opportunity to engage a younger audience base.

Relate bracelets

In partnership with Relate, we continue to raise funds through the sale of locally beaded endangered species themed bracelets. The bracelets are available at selected retail outlets and we are working to expand this footprint into game parks, nature reserves and other facilities where conservation enthusiasts may be tempted to make a purchase. During the period under review, R324,812 was raised through the sale of these bracelets.

Retail

We launched some new items in our EWT Shop during the course of the financial year, including new fluffy toys and Miniature Bonsai 'Grow Your Own' Baobab, Wild Olive and Knob-thorn trees. This allows our supporters to contribute towards the fight against climate change in a small way. Our calendars proved, as always, to be very popular and sold out quickly. The e-Shop (online shop) raised R56,649 and retail which includes walk-ins, Country Club Johannesburg talks and selling directly out of the shop, raised R148,627.

Bequests

Bequest funding remains an invaluable source of income for the EWT and we are fortunate to continue to receive this kind of support. In the period under review, we received bequests to the value of R5,025,752 from the following benefactors:

- Late DM Nicholson
- Late LF Jones
- Late MM James
- Late LG Allinson
- Late PE Clay
- Late SD Lief
- Late Heather Mahon

We remain incredibly grateful for their choice to include the EWT as part of their legacy.

DEPARTMENTAL OUTLOOK

Opportunities

- The EWT needs to establish a more robust presence internationally, given foreign funding opportunities. Doing so should provide further opportunities for the growth of our overseas funding streams.
- More direct contact with members can and will be undertaken, through various communication channels such as newsletters, emails, special events and birthday phone calls, to ensure membership engagement with our staff.
- Opportunity exists to broaden the membership base by appealing to a younger audience, and social media is definitely one channel that can assist with this.
- We encourage our corporates to come and witness the work that we are doing in the field to reinforce the feeling that they are making a difference with their continued support.

Challenges

- The value of the rand – that fluctuated for instance by over 38% against the US$ through the previous year – is both a challenge and, potentially, an opportunity. The fluctuating exchange rate makes it difficult to budget accurately for projects, though the unfavourable value of the rand undoubtedly contributed to increased income raised as forex over the last year.
- Corporates are inundated with unlimited causes in need of funding which they have to fund within their
- limited resources. Coupled with the economic downturn, which has seen many corporates diverting their corporate social responsibility budgets to core business functions, this poses a challenge when appealing for funding.
- When faced with a variety of causes requiring funding, environmental concerns may not seem to be a priority to many corporate and individual donors. The challenge can also provide an opportunity, as we ensure that these donors are made aware of the community work and capacity building that the EWT does, and that supporting work on conserving wildlife and habitats also supports the livelihood of those who depend on these to survive.

Growth areas

- Individual donors is an area where we believe we can grow as we find more and more like-minded individuals that are passionate about the environment and the conservation thereof.

Risks

- Large grants provide substantial income for conservation impact. However, at the same time, there is no guarantee that we will receive similar grants moving forwards. The unpredictable nature of receiving large grants, and the limited time periods over which they operate, represent an ongoing risk to the Trust.

Snap here to pay
SnapScan

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Internal Awards

We believe that every one of our personnel is a winner; as such we allow the personnel themselves to nominate their peers for formal acknowledgement, with the list below being their choice of top achievers for the calendar year ending Dec 2015:

- EWT Conservation Achiever of the Year Award: Vincent van der Merwe of the Carnivore Conservation Programme and Wendy Collinson of the Wildlife and Roads Project
- EWT Programme Manager of the Year: Kerryn Morrison of the African Crane Programme
- EWT Conservation Supporter of the Year: Frank Jackson of the Business Development Unit
- EWT Consistently Strong Performer: David Marneweck of the Carnivore Conservation Programme
- Programme Media Exposure Award: Carnivore Conservation Programme
- EWT Programme of the Year Award: Skills Development Programme

Externally Achieved Awards

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

- SANParks Kudu Award

  The Skills Development Programme was awarded a SANParks Kudu Award in recognition of the EWT's sterling efforts to build capacity among law enforcement officials to tackle illegal wildlife trade. "This award is a great achievement for the EWT and shows our ongoing commitment to fight illegal wildlife trade."

  The Wild Dog Advisory Group of South Africa (WDAG-SA), which was established by the EWT, also received a SANParks Kudu Award for the management and conservation of the endangered African Wild Dogs for over 17 years.



- Future for Nature Awards

  The Future For Nature Award is a prestigious international award that celebrates tangible achievements in protecting wild animal and plant species. The EWT's Karen Allen, Project Executant of the Source to Sea Programme's Dugong Emergency Protection Project, was the proud winner of a Future for Nature Award. The Bazaruto Archipelago National Park (BANP) in Mozambique is home to east Africa's last remaining viable dugong population (approximately only 250 individuals). The most significant threats to Bazaruto's dugongs are illegal gill netting industry, as dugongs get entangled as by-catch and drown, and habitat loss from artisanal seine-netting, which damages and uproots the fragile sea grass beds the dugongs feed on. Karen was recognised for her sterling work in making a difference to these incredible marine animals.

- WESSA Awards

  The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) awarded two EWT staff members with awards through the year. WESSA presented the first, a Northern Areas Regional Award, to Andre Botha – Manager of our Birds of Prey Programme – for his outstanding contribution to conservation and work with raptors in particular. Samson Phakathi – Threatened Grasslands Species Programme Field Officer - received the second award in recognition of his enthusiastic contribution towards conservation.

- Mail & Guardian Greening the Future Award

  The EWT's Cape Critical Rivers Project works on integrated and holistic solutions in the beautiful but threatened rivers of the Cape Floristic Region to address the problems facing freshwater conservation. These rivers have a high biodiversity value - they support 17 threatened fish species, have myriads endemic species, and support National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas. This project won the prestigious Mail & Guardian, Greening the Future Award in the Biodiversity Stewardship category. These awards aim to showcase the country's most noteworthy and newsworthy environmental projects. They recognise forward-thinking green projects that help combat climate change, encourage renewable energy and foster the strategic management of natural resources.

Recognition Awarded by the EWT

- Cheetah Awards

  Awarded to individuals who have gone beyond the call of duty and extended themselves over a prolonged period of time in support of achieving the Mission of the EWT. The EWT awarded the Cheetah Award in 2015 to:

  - Angus Burns of WWF SA
  - Jeremy Borg of Painted Wolf Wines
  - Eugene Couzyn of The Bateleurs

  Angus, Jeremy and Eugene have contributed significantly towards supporting and advancing the EWT's conservation efforts in South Africa.

WHO WE WORK WITH

Strategic partnerships

The EWT achieves its significant conservation impacts by collaborating with a host of organisations, including government agencies and parastatals, communities, other NGOs, companies, academic institutions and private individuals. Over the past year, we have entered into 111 agreements as follows:

Agreements entered into 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016	
National government department agreements	3
Provincial government department agreements	2
South African-sourced grant agreements	5
International-sourced grant agreements	24
Contractor's agreements - EWT acting as contractor	11
Contractor's agreements - EWT hiring contractor	25
Collaborative agreements - funding to EWT	6
Collaborative agreements - funding from EWT	1
Collaborative agreements - no funding involved	9
Cause-related marketing agreements	2
Logo use undertakings	4
Temporary custodianship agreements (sniffer dogs)	8
Other	11
Total number of agreements	111

While our current partnerships are too numerous to mention individually, we would like to draw attention to the following overarching strategic alliances and partnerships that were in force over the past year:

- Alliance for Zero Extinction (International)
- BirdLife South Africa
- Department of Environmental Affairs
- Fauna and Flora International
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (International)
- Healthy Catchment Alliance
- International Crane Foundation (USA)
- National Red List Alliance (International)
- Parque Nacional Do Arquipelago Do Bazaruto (Mozambique)
- Population Sustainability Network (International)
- South African National Biodiversity Institute
- South African National Parks
- Wilderness Foundation
- Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa

In addition, through our action on the ground across most of the country, we work closely with all provincial conservation bodies.

Our efforts to ensure that our work is based on sound scientific methods, and contributes to knowledge in the conservation sector, mean that we have forged strong relationships with a diversity of academic institutions, including:

- North-West University
- University of KwaZulu-Natal
- University of Pretoria
- University of the Free State
- University of the Witwatersrand
- Rhodes University
- University of Cape Town

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

The EWT is a long-standing member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's oldest and largest global environmental organisation comprising ~1,300 government and NGO members. During the year under review, the EWT's Head of Conservation, Dr Harriet Davies-Mostert, continued in her role as Chair of the IUCN South Africa National Committee, and also served on the Interim Regional Committee for the East and Southern African Region.

In addition, our expert staff play key roles among several of the IUCN's Commissions. We are represented on the Temperate Grasslands Specialist Group of the World Commission on Protected Areas, and we are particularly active in the Species Survival Commission, with staff currently contributing to the following specialist groups and bodies under this commission:

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

SUPPORTERS

Strategic Partnerships
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
International Crane Foundation

Institutional Supporters
Deloitte Southern Africa
Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr

Patron Supporters (R250 000 +)
Bakwena Platinum Corridor Concession
Barloworld Trust
Bridgestone South Africa
British High Commission Prosperity Fund
Charl Van Der Merwe Trust
Conservation International
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Development Bank of South Africa Green Fund
Department Environmental Affairs
Department Environmental Affairs: Directorate of Natural Resource Management
Disney Conservation Fund
DohmEn Family Foundation
Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Trust
Eskom
European Union
Global Biodiversity Information Facility
Global Environment Facility
Grounded Media
Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust
John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation
Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund
My Planet Rhino Fund
N3 Toll Concession (RF) Proprietary Limited
National Geographic Big Cats Initiative
Rand Merchant Bank/Tshikululu
Relate Trust
Stella & Paul Loewenstein
The Headley Trust
United States Agency For International Development
United States Department of State (Bureau of International Narcotic and Law Enforcement Affairs)
United States Fish & Wildlife Services
Van Tienhoven Foundation
Whitley Fund for Nature
Woolworths
WWF Nedbank Green Trust

Groundbreaker Supporters (R100 000 to R249 999)
Anglo Inyosi Coal
Cheetah SSP
Columbus Zoological Park
Conservation Action Trust
De Beers Group Services
Frankfurt Zoological Society
HCI Foundation
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
James and Yuko Brumm
Knowsley Safari Park
Land Rover Centurion
MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet fundraising programme
People's Trust for Endangered Species
GCCL2
SBV Services Pty Ltd
Seacology
South 32
South African Foundation for Human Rights
The Table Mountain Fund

Custodian Supporters (R50 000 to R99 999)
Afrisam
Altron
Assore Limited (Assore)
Badger Holdings
Brenton Blue Trust
DM Van der Merwe
Farmers Agricare
Gavin Tait
Hatch Africa
Indwe Risk Services
IQ Business Group
Marincowitz Welfare Trust
Millstream
Nedbank
North Carolina Zoo
Pam Golding
Pick n Pay
Price Waterhouse Cooper
The DL Tandy Foundation
The Zoological Society for Conservation of Species and Populations
Transnet

Explorer Supporters (R2 500 to R49 999)
Agape Trust
ABSA Bank Limited
African Bird Club
AJ van Ryneveld
Alan Sender
Alexander Babich
Altron
Association of Zoos & Aquariums
Anne Gilbert
Arizona Center for Nature Conservation
Auckland Communities Foundation
B Brown
H Beth
Biffy Kuhne
Bill and Pat Mutch
Birdfair/RSBP
Bob Hallum
Bush Whisper
CG Campbell
Canopy Tours
Carter Cycad Foundation Trust
CJ Cilliers

Claudia Hahn
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Cleveland Zoological Society
CSIR Running Club
Dave Harris
David Graaf Foundation
Davies Foundation
Dennis Geiler
Denver Zoo
Dick Kerslake Family Trust
Druse Elisabet
Du Toit Mandelstam
Econorisk
EWT Bosman Wild Dog Emergency Response Fund
Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
Fauna & Flora International
Flavourome (Pty) Ltd
Frank P Gross
Future for Nature
Gaie Fergusson
Gill Raine
GJ Scorer
Hawk Conservancy Trust
Head on Designs
Hlatikulu Collaborative Management Area (HCMA)
Hollard
Jane Landey
Jenny Crisp
John Ball Zoo Wildlife Conservation Fund
JS Amm
Kevin G Hodgson
KLB Engineering
KM Ireton
KWE
Lakato (Pty) Ltd
Lakeside Service Station
Latest Sightings
Lesoba
Life-Form Taxidermy
Livingstones Supply Co
Liz Chamberlain
Multiply Packaging
Munichre
NCT Forestry Co-Operative Limited
Neil Ginsberg
Netflorist (Pty) Ltd
NewRak Mining
NTE Company
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo
Onesto Trading
Orion
Painted Wolf Wines
Penryn College
PG Bison
PH Netscher
Philagro SA (Pty) Ltd
Phil and Joanna Perry
Philip Moore Family Trust
Pittsburgh Zoo and PGG Aquarium
Platinum Life
Pongola Gardening Club
Rac Group
Remhoogte Wines
Ria Claassen
Riplog
Robert L Naylor
Rob Clinton
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Running Man Adventures
SANParks
SATIB Conservation Trust
Sean Williams Living Creatures Trust
Sere Med
SM Schneier
SPF Palatability / The Diana Group
Saint Louis Zoo
Sustento
Synovate (Pty) Ltd
Tekkie Tax
Tenova Minerals
Trail Magazine
The Pridwin Foundation Association
Tony van Ryneveld
Trans Africa Safaris
Trappers
United Nations Development Programme
Uwe Putlitz
Victoria Reuvers
Walter Hirzebruch
Wedgewood
Wildlands Conservation Trust

In Kind Patron Supporters (R250 000 +)

Ad Outpost
Ford Wildlife Foundation
Jaguar Land Rover South Africa
The Bateleurs
Zendai Property Development

In Kind Groundbreaker Supporters (R100 000 to R249 999)

ABI
Aurecon Engineering
CIB Insurance
Country Club Johanneburg (Aukland Park)
Land Rover Centurion
Lesoba Difference
Microsoft Corporation
Wild & Jag/Game & Hunt Magazine

In Kind Custodian Supporters (R50 000 to R99 999)

Afri Guard
Alu-cab
Dale Hayes
East Griqualand Encounter
Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité
French Embassy
Go Fish Client Catchers
Infra Eco Network Europe (IENE)
Integrated Sustainability Services
Ireland/Davenport
K9 Dispatch
KaapJAG
Packleader
Reshebile Aviation and Protection Services
Royal Canin
Servest South Africa
Terraeco Environmental
Zwartkop Country Club

In Kind Explorer Supporters (R2 500 to R49 999)

Action Training Acadamy
Askari Game Lodge
Bidvest Protea Coin
Bridgestone South Africa
Cathedral Peak Hotel
Copenhagen Zoo
Country Club Johannesburg (Woomead)
Elanco Animal Health
Eukanuba
Hollard Pet Insurance (Petsure)
Information Security Architects (Pty) Ltd
IQ Business Group
KWE
Land Rover Centurion
Liquor Boys
MSC Cruises
My Personal Assistant
Nikon SA
North West Parks Tourism Board
Paarman foods
Painted Wolf Wines
PG Bison
Pilanesberg Wildlife Trust
Protea Hotel Kruger Gate
Sabi River Sun Resort
SANGOTeCH South Africa
SANParks
SANParks Honorary Rangers
South African Sugar Association
Transfrontier Africa

Bequests

Late DM Nicholson
Late LF Jones
Late MM James
Late LG Allinson
Late PE Clay
Late SD Lief
Late Heather Mahon



THE EWT'S BOARD & TRUSTEES

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Dirk Ackerman (Chairman of EWT Board)	1999 - current
Paul Smith (Treasurer)	2011 - current
Uwe Putlitz (Vice Chair)	1987 - current
Antony Wannell	2005 - current
Anthony Diepenbroek	2015 - current
Joanna Goeller	2006 - current
Karin Ireton	2004 - current
Lot Mlati	2007 - current
Mike Esterhuysen	2001 - current
Yolan Friedmann (Ex-Officio member)	2005 - current

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Paul Smith (Treasurer)	2011 - current
Antony Wannell	2008 - current
Barry Ackers	2010 - current
Neil Morris	2014 - current
Quan Rees	2014 - current
Muhammad Seedat	2016 - current
Abdul Kader Mohamed	2016 - current
Yolan Friedmann (Ex-Officio member)	2005 - current

SOCIAL ETHICS AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Karin Ireton	2010 - current
Mike Esterhuysen	2010 - current
Paul Smith	2012 - current
Alison Janicke	2010 - current
Yolan Friedmann (Ex-Officio member)	2010 - current

TRUSTEES

Abdul Kader Mohamed	2015 - current
Andrew Johnston	2015 - current
Angela Oosthuisen	2015 - current
Antony Wannell	2005 - current
Anthony Diepenbroek	2014 - current
Anusha Lucen	2015 - current
Barry Ackers	2015 - current
Brian Courtenay	1996 - current
Charlotte Lesego Rammusi	2015 - current
Christo Reeders	2014 - current
Crispian Olver	2014 - current
Daniel van der Merwe	2010 - current
Dirk Ackerman	1998 - current
Joanna Goeller	2006 - current
Karin Ireton	2004 - current
Kiyasha Thambi	2015 - current
Lavinia Khangala	2015 - current
Lot Mlati	2006 - current
Marilyn Dougall-Thomas	1993 - current
Mike Esterhuysen	2001 - current
Muhammad Seedat	2015 - current
Paul Smith	2010 - current
Robyn Stein	2001 - current
Rest Kanju	2008 - current
Sthembiso Dlamini	2015 - current
Sharmila Govind	2015 - current
Uwe Putlitz	1980 - current
Veniela Pillay	2015 - current
Nick King, Dr	2007 - Oct 2015
Diana Judith Smullen	1999 - Oct 2015
Bongiwe Njobe	2014 - Dec 2015

LIFE MEMBERS

Clive Walker	1986
Angus Morrison	1993
Derek Ritchie	1993
Kenneth Whyte	1993
Dave Donald	2012
David Mitchell	2013
John Ledger, Dr.	2013
Michael Barnett	2013



CONTACT US

General enquiries:
Telephone: +27 (11) 372 3600/1/2/3 Fax: +27 (11) 6084682
Email: ewt@ewt.org.za
www.ewt.org.za

Postal Address:
The Endangered Wildlife Trust, Private Bag X11, Modderfontein, 1609, Johannesburg, South Africa

Physical Address:
Building K2, Pinelands Office Park, Ardeer Road, Modderfontein, 1645, Gauteng, South Africa

The EWT is registered as a Non-Profit Organisation, registration number 015-502 NPO and PBO Registration No 930 001 777. The EWT is 501 (c) (3) compliant, US IRS Reg. EMP98-0586801. The EWT is a signator of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the United Nations Global Compact

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Yolan Friedmann
Chief Executive Officer



Mandy Poole
Chief Operations Officer

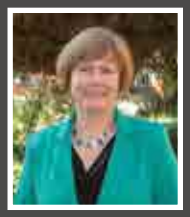


Dr. Harriet Davies-Mostert
Head of Conservation



Alison Jånicke
Head of Resource Development

SENIOR MANAGERS



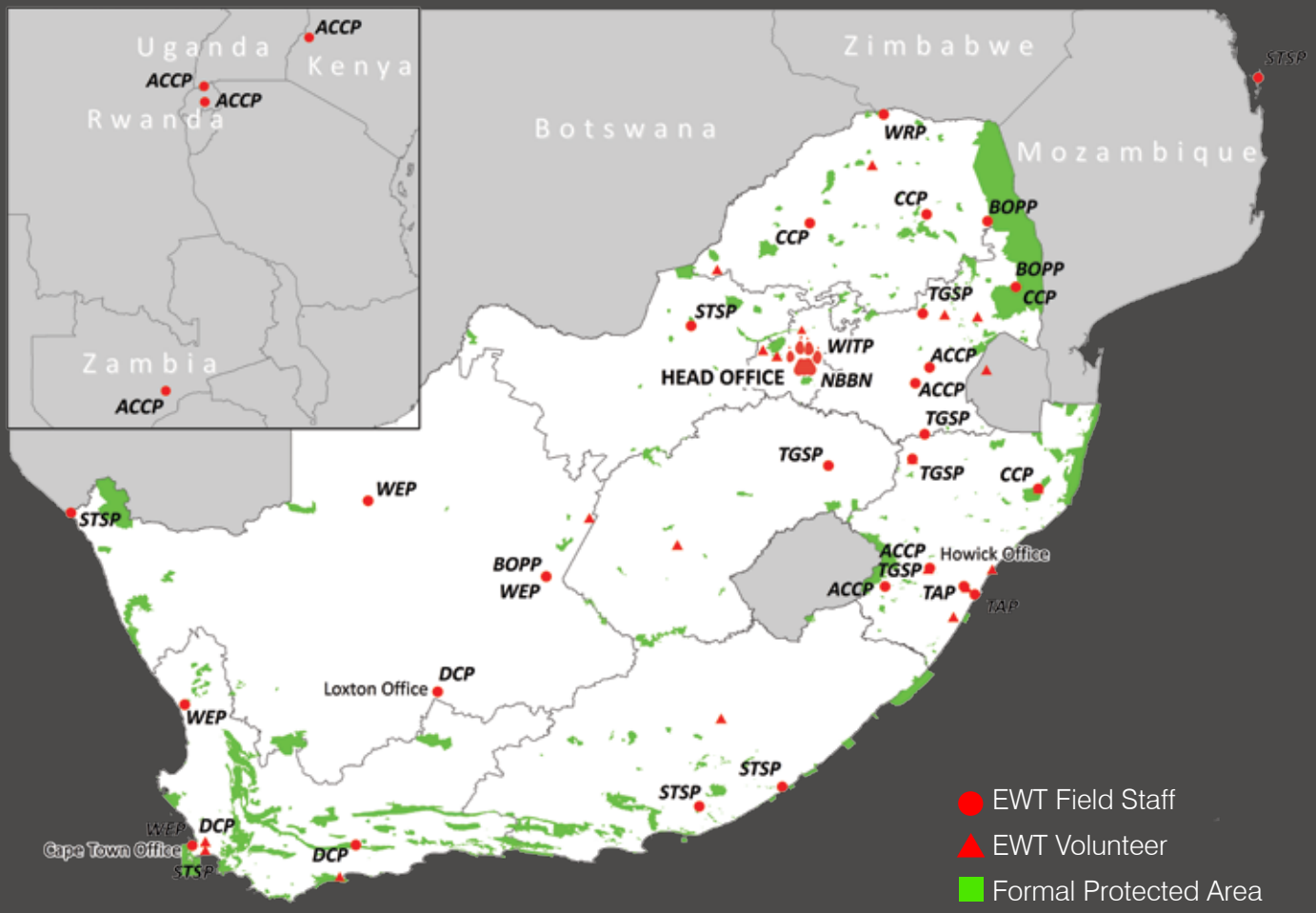
Kerryn Morrison
ICF/EWT Senior Manager: Africa



Dr Ian Little
Senior Manager: Habitats



MAP OF WHERE WE WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA



ACCP - African Crane Conservation Programme
BoPP - Birds of Prey Programme
CCP - Carnivore Conservation Programme
CSU - Conservation Science Unit
DCP - Drylands Conservation Programme
NBBN - National Biodiversity & Business Network
SDP - Skills Development Programme
STSP - Source to Sea Programme
TAP - Threatened Amphibian Programme
TGSP - Threatened Grassland Species Programme
UCP - Urban Conservation Programme
WEP - Wildlife & Energy Programme
WTP - Wildlife in Trade Programme
WRP - Wildlife & Roads Project

MAP OF WHERE WE WORK IN AFRICA





General enquiries
Telephone: +27 (11) 372 3600/1/2/3
Fax: +27 (11) 6084682
Email: ewt@ewt.org.za
www.ewt.org.za