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Scientific assessment now in its final stages

The scientific assessment of livestock predation in South Africa (PredSA), formally launched in mid-2016 under the leadership of Prof. Graham Kerley from the Nelson Mandela University (NMU), is now reaching its final stages. Initiated to formally establish what we know about predation and livestock farming in a manner that is designed to inform future policy development, the output will be a 10-chapter book covering relevant details. It will also include a summary for policymakers.

Over the past 18 months nine authors have led larger teams of authors, totalling over 40 individuals, in drafting chapters covering historical, economic, ethical and legal aspects of predation on livestock. They also discussed ecological and management considerations and the implications of this phenomenon. To ensure the credibility of the final product, each chapter was subjected to three rounds of review. This was initially done by the other authors on the project; followed by a selection of national and international technical specialists and finally by the general public through a stakeholder review process.

As the goal is to produce a body of knowledge that can inform policy development, it was also crucial that the process was seen to be legitimate and salient (relevant), as well as transparent and inclusive (broadly participatory). To ensure that these qualities are embedded in the assessment in an independent process, a custodian group (PCG) was established, with representatives from industry and government, as well as the research community and civil society. Their role was to ensure that each step in the process (e.g. the selection of authors and selection of reviewers) was fundamentally fair. This group has signed off on the process at each stage.

The final draft of the PredSA assessment is scheduled for the end of March 2018 (in PDF format) with a printed book scheduled to be available for the launch towards the middle of the year.



PredSA team Dr Dave Balfour, Research Associate and Prof. Graham Kerley from the Nelson Mandela University.

PMF to join forces with baboon damage interest group

Consensus was reached between the National Wool Growers' Association (NWGA), the Red Meat Producers' Organisation (RPO) and the South African Mohair Growers' Association (Samga) to attend a meeting of the Baboon Damage Interest Group (BDIG) with the specific objective of discussing the impact of baboons on livestock.

The BDIG was established in 1998 and is concerned about the damage caused by baboons and the fact that they are becoming serious threats to the sustainability of plantation forests in eastern Mpumalanga and Limpopo. The group further has concerns about the impact of predation by baboons on the sustainability of livestock production of small-stock farmers.

The BDIG intends to hold a workshop later this year with interested stakeholders, and have agreed to significantly expand participation to include other land users who may be affected by damage caused by baboons.

Although baboons do not fall into the main category of predators that are life-threatening to livestock owners and mostly cause damage to crops and forestry, the Predation Management Forum (PMF) still feels it necessary to get involved with the BDIG to discuss the impact baboons have on livestock.



Moenie die veilings in die komende maande misloop nie.



[Kliek hier](#)

Roofdiere en boere: ken jou vyand



Hierdie is die tweede gedeelte van 'n artikel deur dr. Gerhard Verdoorn van die Griffon-gifinligtingsentrum, wat die belangrikheid van spooridentifikasie by roofdiere beklemtoon. Skakel hom by 082 446 8946 vir 'n vinnige diagnose en raad.

Beste praktyk vir die boer behels om netjiese aantekeninge te maak en met 'n selfoon genoegsame foto's van spore te neem. Dit gebeur dikwels dat boere vir my 'n stel foto's aanstuur en dan kan mens dadelik, met omtrent 90% sekerheid, 'n diagnose maak. By spore moet 'n verwysing soos 'n sakmes of 'n patroondoppie langs die spoor geplaas word want "'n groot spoor" beteken niks nie. Sulke foto's kan met slimfone sommer per Whatsapp gestuur word vir vinnige identifikasie en raad met die probleem.



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Om die identifkasië in hierdie artikel breedvoerig te bespreek is gans onmoontlik, daarom word boere verwys na die Predasiëbestuursforum (PMF) se webtuiste, www.pmf.co.za, waar daar 'n legio inligting gratis beskikbaar is. Die volledige gids oor predasiëbestuur is ook daar beskikbaar om afgelaai te word in beide Afrikaans en Engels. Boere behoort ten minste hulleself te vergewis van die basiese leidrade wat sal lei tot akkurate identifkasië van die roofdier – maar kom ons gee 'n oorsig.

SPORE

Soos reeds genoem, kan spore gebruik word maar dit is belangrik om die spore vir deskundige identifkasië af te neem.

Roijakkalse se spore is soos 'n hond s'n, met die voorpoot en agterpoot wat nie beduidend in grootte van mekaar verskil nie. Daar is duidelike klou- of naelmerke by die jakkals se spoor net soos by dié van die hond, silwer-vossie en bakoorsvossie.

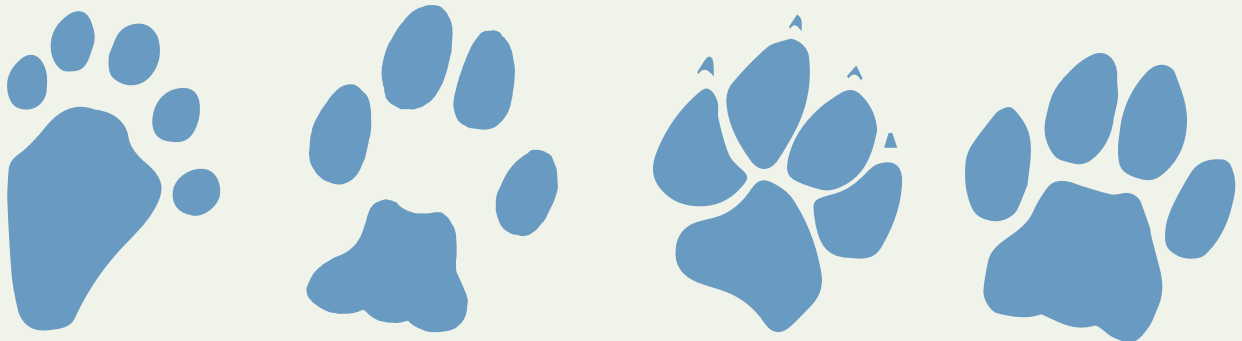
Roikatspore is effens groter as roijakkalsspore maar die naelmerke is afwesig. Let egter op dat wanneer die roikat 'n groot prooi soos 'n volwasse skaap vang, daar wel enkele spoormerke gaan wees waar die naels wys omdat die kat besig is om dood te maak en vas te trap. Sulke spore sal egter baie sleepmerke ook wys soos wat die kat met die skaap baklei het.

Luiperds se spore is palmgrootte en sonder kloumerke. Voor- en agterpote se merke is maar ewe groot.

Die **hiënas** soos bruinhiënas (strandwolf of bruinwolf soos die Karoomense hom noem) se spore is groot soos dié van 'n luiperd, maar wys duidelik die kloumerke. Die voorpoot se spoor is ook beduidend groter as die agterste poot s'n vir beide die bruinwolf en die gevlekte hiëna. As die spore van bruinwolwe raakgeloop word, is daar 'n baie goeie kans om die reukmerke wat hulle met die anale kliere teen grassies maak, ook op te spoor. Honde vind hierdie reukmerke redelik intimiderend en as Flaffie se hare begin rys, moet jy weet die bruinwolf het die merk gemaak. Die merk is so 30 cm bo die grond en is wit met donkerbruin strepe, amper soos sjokolade, maar die reuk is baie sterk en amper kruidagtig.

Leeus se spore is baie groot en sonder kloumerke maar gaan selde of ooit op 'n gewone veeplaas aangetref word.

Otters se spore sal naby water wees en is langwerpig. Daar is ook 'n duidelike sleepmerk van die stert tussen die spore.



Stuur inligting

U word vriendelik versoek om enige inligting oor predasië, suksesvolle beheermetodes en interessante navorsing aan te stuur. Ons wil die jongste nuus hoor, asook enige aktiwiteite in u bedryf, en die datums waarop dit plaasvind. Wenke oor die voorkoming of bekamping van predasië, asook foto's, is welkom. Kontak Bonita by nwga@nwga.co.za.

