



Nuusbrief / Newsletter
JULIE / JULY 2018

Sponsored by



Your Window to Service Excellence

www.pmfsa.co.za

This e-newsletter is compiled from sources that are deemed to be reliable.

However, the publisher accepts no responsibility for any errors or the effect of any decisions based on this publication.

Eastern Cape PMF concerned about leopards and stray dogs

The biannual meeting of the Eastern Cape PMF took place during May. Neil du Preez is the new chairperson and special guests included Dr Nkabeng Maruping-Mzileni of the International Wildlife Fellowship Foundation (IWFF) and Leon Els of the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT).

Most of the meeting concentrated around the issue of leopards and the problems associated with these animals between commercial agriculture and SANPARKS/EC Parks and private game reserves. Tracked leopards are leaving the protected areas and neighbouring landowners are not informed of their movements until they are discovered killing livestock. Presently there is only one service provider who is fully equipped to trap and relocate leopards, but his permit stipulations are not fully compliant at the moment. He can address this when he renews his permit application.

The relationship between farmers and the DEDEAT with regard to leopard control is not what it should be. Els proposed that he would assist with setting up a meeting between the chairman, du Preez, identified representatives of the farmers and the head of the Department, Albert Mfenyana, to discuss these problems. He furthermore indicated that there is a draft protocol in place and that he would forward the refined protocol to the Forum in due course. Els also indicated that until protocol is in place, no leopards can be sold or relocated to any other parks. They remain government property. Els made it clear that he was not part of the Forum but that he attended this meeting by invitation.

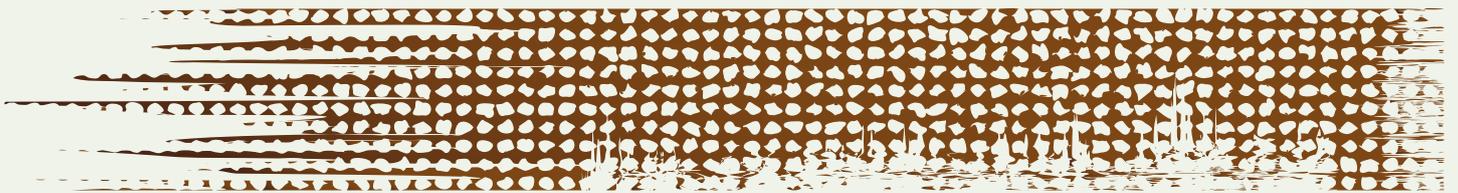




Another matter of concern was problems associated with dogs, which involves stray dogs as well as organised hunting utilising dogs. Rabies is of major concern and a significant percentage of the cattle population in the Eastern Cape is now being tested positive with the disease. The misuse of poison by landowners who are desperate to solve the dog issue is a concern to the Forum. This often results in off-label use of poisoning (with potential fines) as well as non-targeted animals being affected. Presently the municipal by-laws are not being applied to assist in the control of dogs.

Joggie Ackerman from DEDEAT is presently setting up a standard operating procedure (SOP) and members are asked to feed through information to assist with this process (joggie.ackerman@dedia.gov.za/063 402 9055). Members were informed that government is re-establishing the defunct Poison Working Group to deal with all poisons. Lead poisoning is also becoming a matter of concern and people are asked to avoid using bullets containing lead.

The next meeting will be held in October in Queenstown and hopefully progress will be made in particular regarding the leopard issue, which has not been resolved since the original workshop set up in 2011. The Forum eagerly awaits Els's facilitatory role in this regard.



**RANGER WILDTRAK
4X2 AUTO AT AN
ALL-TIME SPECIAL!**



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION AT ACTION FORD KRUGERSDORP (011) 950 3300

Leopard project to assist authorities in decision-making

The Eastern Cape PMF invited a conservation ecologist to make a presentation at its recent meeting.

Dr Nkabeng Maruping-Mzileni, representing the International Wildlife Fellowship Foundation (IWFF), introduced her project proposal, entitled "Sustainability and economics of consumptive use of predators with the exception of the African lion by the foreign hunting market in South Africa". The rationale behind this is that there is increased conflict between leopards (in particular) and the human population, as well as a need for a consolidated and streamlined database. This would help identify priority areas where human and predator conflict is of concern, given the current encroachment and changes in habitat.

Furthermore, it will help with genetic and ecological sustainability of predator utilisation, as well as identifying feasible zones for the hunting of leopards based on ecological findings. Ultimately, this project will contribute to the norms and standards for the management and monitoring of leopard hunting for trophy-hunting purposes. This project is also aligned with the African Union Constitution (Article 14), as well as data requirements by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) for hunting quotas.



DEEL U BESTUURSPRAKTYK MET ONS !

Daar is menige boere wat predatore doeltreffend bestuur en daarom wil ons graag sulke suksesstories aanhoor en deel met medeboere. U geslaagde bestuurspraktyk sal in die maandelikse PMF-nuusbrief verskyn en ook op die webtuiste geplaas word. Skakel Bonita Francis by (041) 365 5030 of per epos by nwga@nwga.co.za.

This works for me... (a farmer's story)

According to the scientific assessment for predator control, to be released and launched soon, one of the outcomes relates to the fact that there is no silver-bullet solution to predator management. We have asked some farmers to share those practices that prove successful under their farming conditions and circumstances.

For Swithan Webster, who farms in the Queenstown district on the farm Rookwood, the only way to perform predator management is by using netted fences. About 60% of his farm is now netted with approximately 20 km of netted fencing.



He lambs 500 ewes during November on natural veldt and has found that by having netted camps, his losses to jackal and lynx have reduced dramatically. However, he does stress that one must patrol the boundaries of the camps to block off holes that the ant bear, followed by the warthog, have created, allowing the jackal access to the camp. In 2017 he lost six lambs to jackal due to an undetected hole under the fence. This represents 1,2% of his lambing crop. In 2018 he had no losses to jackal; however, baboons were his major predator during a very dry early summer season.

All anchors are set in concrete and are made of steel piping to ensure durable and stable fencing. Old wire (8-gauge) that is removed from older fences is twisted into droppers, which are reused in the netted fences.

He plans to have 80% of his farm under netted fences by the end of this year.



Stuur inligting

U word vriendelik versoek om enige inligting oor predasie, 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 predasie, asook foto's, is welkom. Kontak Bonita by nwga@nwga.co.za.

