



Nuusbrief / Newsletter

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LIVESTOCK SECURITY COLLARS

Monitoring behaviour of bush pigs in the Garden Route

In our February newsletter last year, PMSA zoomed in to proposed research on bush pigs in protected buffer zones in the Garden Route. This came about when PMSA alerted SANParks in 2020 about bush pigs damaging neighbouring private landowners' maize crops in the Knysna area. SANParks approached researchers at the George campus of the Nelson Mandela Bay University (NMU) to set up a joint research project to observe bush pig behaviour and find potential solutions to reduce damage. This is a major step to better understand the drivers of bush pig landscape use and behaviour, which will be important for trying alternative approaches to reduce their impact.

According to Lizette Moolman, scientist Wildlife Ecology at the Garden Route National Park, the NMU group started analysing images from the cameras in the Lancewood area. However, they could not pick up any kind of patterns due to too few cameras. SANParks is planning to set up 15 cameras of their own to do a more targeted and intense survey.

She undertook to provide PMSA with a short report and photos as the data is being assessed and analysed. The knowledge gained will help to make informed decisions regarding bushpig management as well as highlight information gaps that need to be addressed.





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Managing predation by leopard – preventive strategies



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NATURAL AND
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PREDATION MANAGEMENT
CENTRE (PMC)

The Predation Management Centre (PMC) provides information leaflets on leopards, which they source from research conducted on the reproduction of the predator species. The next leaflet in this series describes some of the most common methods to prevent predation on livestock.

Traditional livestock management strategies are fairly effective in protecting livestock from leopards. However, a combination of methods or different combinations during different times of the year often yield the best results. The choice of methods will depend on terrain, prevailing environmental conditions, and the cost of the methods, among others.

The social organisation of leopards underlines the importance of careful management of leopards in an area. They are organised in a tight mosaic of home ranges that do not overlap much with neighbouring home ranges, with little tolerance for other leopards of the same sex. Therefore, and because of the fact that leopards also prey on smaller predators, prevention is important in managing livestock predation by leopard in an area.

Click here for the leaflet “Managing leopard – preventive” https://www.ufs.ac.za/docs/librariesprovider22/pmic-documents/04_04-managing-leopard---preventive.pdf?sfvrsn=beea7520_6



For a list of literature consulted to compile our series of leopard leaflets, see:

[https://www.ufs.ac.za/docs/librariesprovider22/pmic-documents/bibliography_leopard-leaflets\(4\).pdf?sfvrsn=11d7420_4](https://www.ufs.ac.za/docs/librariesprovider22/pmic-documents/bibliography_leopard-leaflets(4).pdf?sfvrsn=11d7420_4)

In addition to our information leaflets covering the most common damage-causing animals, our **Predators and predation** webpage contains a list of links to predation management guides and manuals with useful practical advice on managing damage-causing animals.

For more information on the methods described or specialists in the field of predation management, visit the Predation Management Centre website <https://www.ufs.ac.za/pmic> or contact them via email: PredationMC@ufs.ac.za

PMSA represented on Leopard Forum

Newly elected chairman, Niel du Preez is representing PMSA on the Leopard Advisory Forum and will attend a virtual meeting at the end of January.

The overall objective of the Forum is to work towards ecologically sustainable conservation of the leopard across the landscape for the socio-economic and environmental benefits of our people in line with section 24 of the Constitution. This is achieved by creating a platform for constructive engagement where members provide advice in their respective fields of expertise and experiences. The establishment of task teams and the promotion of sharing information on leopard and conservation as well as the facilitation of resource mobilisation are further objectives of the Forum.

The forum comprises of government (national and provincial), academic and research institutions, NGO's, industries and farmer associations, community representatives and traditional healers and leaders.





Deel u bestuurs- praktyk 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- nuusbrieff verskyn en ook op die webtuiste geplaas word. Skakel Bonita Francis by (041) 365 5030 of per e-pos by nwga@nwga.co.za.



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