



# Nuusbrief / Newsletter

## MEI / MAY 2022

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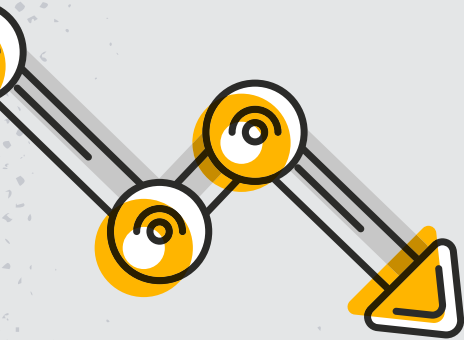
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## Predation monitor farms: a 14-year journey



This project has established itself as the longest predator research and monitored project in Africa's history. It has been running for 14 years, with findings and formulated results on 27 monitor farms, situated across six provinces, covering a total area of 136 214 hectares.

The annual report by Niël Viljoen summarises the extraordinary results that have been accomplished from the integrated livestock predation management programme and the impact of management on both livestock and predators.



Livestock losses because of predators have been reduced drastically from 2008, when 3 320 losses were reported on all the monitored farms. Over the 14-year period from 2008 up to 2021, the number of losses was reduced to 1 150. This indicates a reduction of 2 169 losses, or an improvement of 65,3%. The programme started with a total national average loss of 13,2% and with the implementation of sound predation management practices through this programme, resulted in average livestock losses of below 2,5%.

One of the graphs revealed the black-backed jackal as primary predator responsible for the biggest number of livestock losses in South Africa. An interesting fact is that the number of caracals removed over the past six years has been relatively stable and much lower than for jackal. The severe drought of the past number of years could be the main reason for this.

Predation management is not about *eliminating* all predators (generally referred to as predator *control*), but rather predation *management*. It uses all available methods (lethal and non-lethal), to firstly manage livestock, and then to control and manage predators.

The purpose of the programme is to help farmers to minimise losses due to predation, increase weaning percentages and financial benefits, which all contribute to a financially viable farming enterprise.

The financial support of the National Woolgrowers' Association of SA (NWGA) and Red Meat Producers' Organisation (RPO) are appreciated.

**Click here to read report.**

[https://www.pmfsa.co.za/images/news/South\\_Africa\\_the\\_predation\\_factor\\_2008\\_-\\_2021\\_Final.pdf](https://www.pmfsa.co.za/images/news/South_Africa_the_predation_factor_2008_-_2021_Final.pdf)



# Afskrikmiddels as metode vir voorkomende beheer

Elke maand poog PMSA om produsente van lewende hawe met praktiese advies te bedien. Die doel is om predasiebeheer op verantwoordelike, wetenskaplike en volhoubare wyse te benader. Die vorige drie uitgawes het gefokus op voorkomende beheermaatreëls wat heinings, mikrokampstelsels, krale, klankafwering en moderne skaapwagtery insluit. Hierdie maand kom lig-afwering en grootskaalse reuk-afwering aan die beurt.

## LIG-AFWERING



Gebruik hierdie metode verkieslik saam met klankafwering en verskuif ook ligte elke aand om maksimale effek te verkry en te behou.

## LIGTE

Liggies wat met 'n sonpaneel herlaai word, kan teen drade opgesit word om die omgewing effens te verander.

## GROOTSKAALSE REUK-AFWERING

Toerusting wat reuke oor 'n groot area afskei wat vir roofdiere as gevaarlik voorkom, is ook 'n moontlike teenvoeter teen roofdieraanvalle. Die doeltreffendheid hiervan moet nog bewys word, maar die beginsel is teoreties aanvaarbaar.



Daar bestaan 'n skraal moontlikheid dat klein, skadelose diere deur die tegniek verjaag kan word, wat moontlik 'n wanbalans in die plaaslike ekologie kan laat ontstaan.

## MODERNE SKAAPWAGTER

Die ingeboude rekenaarprogram beheer ook die vrystelling van spesiaal geformuleerde, aromatiese reukbestanddele wat roofdiere se reuk- en smaaksintuie irriteer en hulle wegdryf. Dit stel gedurende die nag gereeld 'n fyn sproei vry. Die reukstof is dus konstant aanwesig in die kamp. Die bottel reukmiddel moet maandeliks vervang word.

Die Predasiebestuurshandleiding, die boer se gids om predatore te identifiseer en predasie te bestuur, is by die PMSA Sekretariaat beskikbaar of u kan dit aanlyn gaan lees en aflaai:

[https://www.pmsa.co.za/images/news/Manual\\_Afrikaans.pdf](https://www.pmsa.co.za/images/news/Manual_Afrikaans.pdf)



## Ekosisteme dienste en holistiese veldbestuur

In die tweede van dié drie-reeks artikels, verduidelik Cape Nature se biodiversiteitbewaringspesialis, Jaco van Deventer, waarom boere bewarings-boerdery moet toepas, ten spyte van die feit dat landbouproduksie hulle primêre aktiwiteit is.

Hy moedig boere aan om holistiese boerderybestuur toe te pas wat al die fasette van ekologie op landbougrond insluit. Volgens Van Deventer is die landbousektor totaal afhanklik van die natuur en ekosistemedienste wat die natuurlike omgewing bied om ekonomies te kan oorleef. Enige vorm van versteuring van die natuurlike balans het normaalweg een of ander negatiewe reaksie met onvermydelike finansiële gevolge.



### Diere

Ekosisteme bestaan onder andere uit 'n wye verskeidenheid natuurlike fauna wat uniek aangepas is by die spesifieke ekosisteme. Dit wissel van groot herbivore tot klein soogdiere, voëls en knaagdiere. Hierdie diere verbruik dikwels plantegroei baie selektief en elkeen benut 'n sekere nis binne die ekosisteme.

Kleiner natuurlike wildspesies kan dikwels nie kompeteer met groot troppe vee nie. Hulle sal wegbeweeg en kan selfs sekere areas verlaat. Indien daar kampe of veld op die eiendom voorkom waar vee onttrek is sodat die veld kan rus, sal hulle dit benut en kan steeds deur roofdiere geteiken word. In sulke gevalle word predasiedruk op vee verminder.



Daar is 'n hele reeks predatore waarvan die voedselbron insekte, knaagdier en klein soogdiere is, en wat sodoende verhoed dat hulle te veel word. Indien hierdie roofdier-tot-prooi-verhoudings versteur word, kan dit plaë en siektes veroorsaak, wat 'n ekonomiese impak op boerdery het. Sprinkaanplaë is 'n goeie voorbeeld hiervan. Ons het nie meer die groot getalle gompoue, korhane en kleiner insektivore wat in die verlede voorgekom het om sprinkane vanaf die eier- en voetgangerfase te beheer nie.

Roofdiere se getalle word deur die beskikbaarheid van natuurlike prooi bepaal!

Die "gesondheid" van 'n ekosisteem of eiendom kan dikwels bepaal word deur die teenwoordigheid en getalle van sekere roofdiere en prooidiere te bepaal. Die afwesigheid van sekere spesies of selfs die onnatuurlik hoë getalle van sekere spesies kan dui op 'n versteuring of wanbalans binne 'n ekosisteem of gebied.

Die rooijakkals is 'n spesie waarvan die getalle gestimuleer word deur onselektiewe beheer. Navorsing toon dat rooijakkalse wat onder gereelde jagdruk verkeer, kompenseer deur vinniger aan te teel. Groot getalle rooijakkalse wat op een eiendom binne 'n beperkte tydperk gejag word, dui op 'n ernstige wanbalans. 'n Toename in veeverliese is gewoonlik die gevolg hiervan. Onnatuurlike hoë roofdiergetalle veroorsaak ook verliese aan die natuurlike biodiversiteit of prooispesies wat nie aangepas is om die onnatuurlike hoë predasiedruk te kan hanteer nie.

Daar word dikwels 'n "onnatuurlike" toename in kleinwild en groter herbivore se getalle waargeneem in gebiede waar lusern of ander gewasse verbou word, veral in marginale gebiede. Hierdie diere word normaalweg van nabygeleë gebiede na die geredelik beskikbare kosbronne gelok. Roofdiere neem dikwels toe in hierdie areas om die groter beskikbare prooibasis te benut.

## EC predation forum

The Eastern Cape Predation Forum (PMF) is active and consists of important role players addressing predation losses.



Tim de Jongh (EC Environmental Affairs), Niel du Preez (EC Chairman), John Hurther (EC WRSA), Gavin Shaw, (EC Parks and Tourism Agency), and Gunther Pretorius (Agri Eastern Cape) attended the meeting this week. Niel du Preez is also chairman of Predation Management South Africa.

## National museum publication focus on predation



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CENTRE (PMC)

*Indago*, the journal of the National Museum, produced a special predation issue that is available from the National Museum's library. The electronic version can be accessed through <https://nationalmuseumpublications.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/INDAGO-37-Web-size.pdf>

This predation volume of the journal comprises seven papers investigating conflicts between farmers and two of the most common predators in South Africa, the black-backed jackal and the caracal.

In this newsletter, the second paper "The contribution of historical hunt club records to inform the management of damage-causing animals in South Africa" is interpreted. It scrutinises historic management efforts to see what can be learnt and how farmers, managers, and conservation officials can include these lessons in future management programmes. Hunt reports from two government-subsidised hunt clubs operating in the Mossel Bay district from the 1970s to 1990s were analysed.



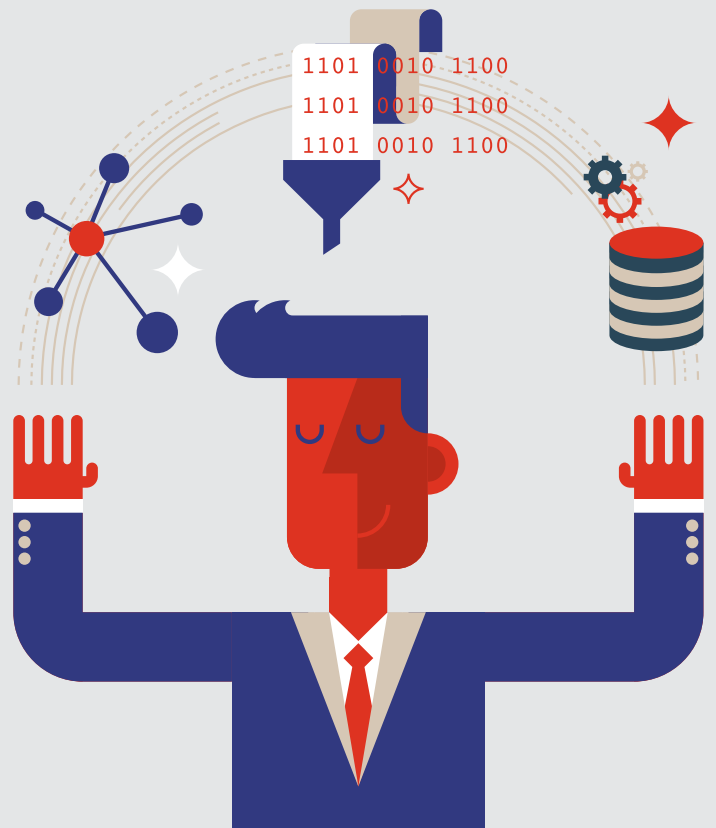
Government-subsidised hunt clubs were required to supply monthly hunt reports to qualify for subsidy. The information from the reports illustrated the potential value of accurate record-keeping for research to keep predation management updated on a local, regional, and national level. It also illustrated the role of government in coordinating predation management efforts and ensuring consistent data collection.

On district level, the data in the reports were valuable. It showed how much damage predators caused, where they caused the most damage, and how many predators were removed in subsequent control operations. On farm level, the data illustrated how the predation and predator control situation can differ from one farm to another.

The data were, however, not suitable for determining the relationships and patterns in predation and predator control, because the format of the hunt reports did not give enough detail for scientific analysis. Hunters sometimes recorded data inaccurately or did not record all the necessary data, and some hunt reports were missing. The reports also contained only records of the damage reported to hunt clubs and the control of predators by the hunters from those clubs. Livestock losses and predator control in the area may have been much greater, but went unreported because some farmers conducted their own predator control.

The paper suggests that accurate, detailed, long-term spatiotemporal data can help determine and benchmark the current predation situation in South Africa. The data should show the number of livestock killed, also when and where on the farm, and how many predators of which species were removed, also when and where on the farm. This will help identify and monitor trends, and ultimately help to formulate more effective predation management strategies. But such research efforts will need a national framework driven by an authoritative body such as the government. It will require a strong focus on the social aspects of human–wildlife conflict to promote cooperation among stakeholders.

For further detail, contact the Predation Management Centre (PMC), situated at the University of the Free State, at (+27) 51 401 2210 or [PredationMC@ufs.ac.za](mailto:PredationMC@ufs.ac.za), or visit the website <https://www.ufs.ac.za/pmc>.





## 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](mailto:nwga@nwga.co.za).



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