



Nuusbrief / Newsletter

JULIE / JULY 2024

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Karoboere en werkers word opgelei om roofdiere korrek te beheer

Predatore, veral rookatte en rooijakkalse, is een van die vernaamste redes vir lammerverliese in die Oos-Kaap. Daarom het boere die noodsaaklikheid vir predasieopleiding raakgesien en predasiespesialis Niël Viljoen genader vir opleiding in die gebruik van vangysters en -hokke om probleemongediertes vas te trek.

Boere en plaaswerkers het in groot getalle opgedaag om 'n predasiebestuurskursus, wat op die plaas Alicedale in die Hofmeyr-distrik aangebied is, by te woon. Die hele spektrum van roofdierbestuur is behandel en heelwat tyd is aan die praktiese stel van vangysters spandeer. Kursusgangers moes hulself toets en is met raad bedien in areas waar verbetering nodig was.

Juan Venter, produksieadviseur van die Nasionale Wolkwekersvereniging (NWKV), het Niël bygestaan met die kursus. Hy het David en Oscar Lord bedank vir die beskikbaarstelling van hulle skeerskuur en die lekker verversings vir die kursusgangers.



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Predasiekursus om boere te help met korrekte beheermetodes

Daar was groot belangstelling in die predasiebestuurskursus wat op Wagenaarskraal, tussen Victoria-Wes en Drie Susters, aangebied is. Predasiespesialis Niël Viljoen het vier bestaande beroepsjagters uit die area gebruik om die ongeveer 30 plaaswerkers met die stel van vangysters touwys te maak. Die doel van die kursus was om die plaaswerkers – ook bekend as voetjagters – te bemagtig om sekere patrone beter te identifiseer, sodat die korrekte predasiebeheermetode toegepas kan word.



E-Permit System

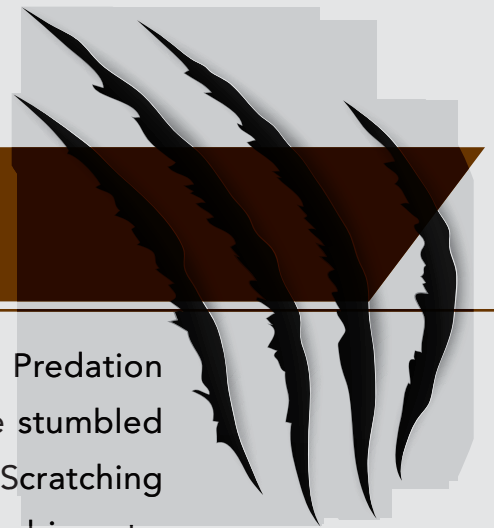
At the previous meeting of the Eastern Cape (EC) Predation Management Forum (PMF), Ricky Hannon of EC Biodiversity Conservation stated that the e-permit system is up and running. Bimonthly meetings with the Construction Education & Training Authority (CETA) are being held to resolve issues. Currently, there seem to be challenges related to connectivity.

Leopard problem in the EC

Although a Rapid Response was initiated to assess leopard issues in the EC, allowing seven days to capture or shoot the animal, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) still needs to be approved. According to Ricky Hannon the document has been circulated for comments, whereafter the chief director will approve the process. The meeting decided that Niel du Preez, EC PMF chairman, should meet with the chief director to resolve the issue.



Cat claws



During the July holiday, Dr Beanelri Janecke of the Predation Management Centre at the University of the Free State stumbled upon an intriguing snippet of information about cat claws. Scratching the claws on trees is typical of most cats, including the big cats.

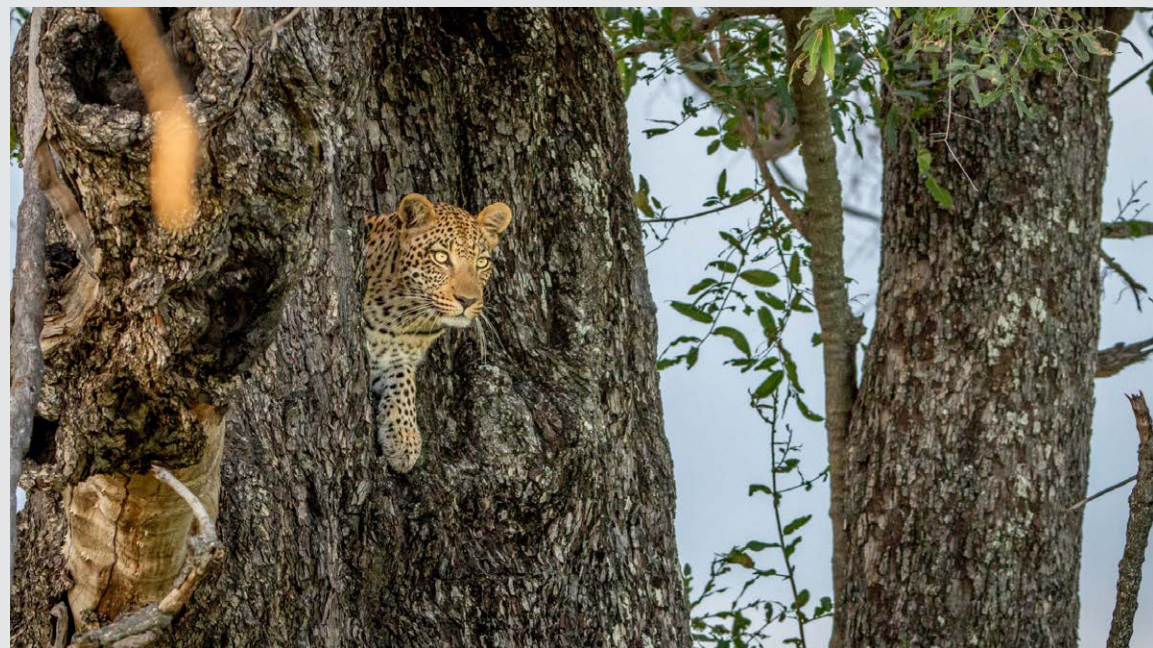
Some reasons for this behaviour:

- It keeps the claws honed and sharp.
- It enables the removal of debris and dirt build-up.
- It can be a means of stretching the ligaments that flex the claws in order to remove the dirt in epidermal (old skin) build-up from the sheath area.
- It may be a sign to other cats in the area.

It is interesting to note that leopards do not engage in this activity as often as other big cats. This might mean that they get enough exercise and cleaning of claws from climbing trees.

These massive claws are strong enough to penetrate the bark of trees to support the weight of the leopard and its prey when climbing. They prefer prey of between 10 and 40 kg, but they are known to be capable of hauling prey of up to 100 kg up a tree! So those claws must be able to have enough grip on the tree to hold all this weight.

Source: Carnaby, T. 2010. Beat about the bush – mammals. Johannesburg, Jacana Media.



Request for annual permits for call and shoot underway

The Department Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is directing letters to all the provincial heads of departments to request principle support for an annual permit for the call and shoot method for the management of damage causing animals.

The Eastern Cape Dept. of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) has implemented a procedure whereby they issue an annual permit to a person to apply the method of call and shoot. Considering the successful implementation, PMSA requested the possibility for other provincial conservation authorities to do the same in the respective provinces.

HOD's will be requested to consider the agreement to issue permits on an annual basis for the call and shoot of black backed jackal and caracal to landowners, or to persons providing this service to landowners, under specified conditions.





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

