



Nuusbrief / Newsletter

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Rapid response to damage-causing leopard management

The Eastern Cape Department of Environmental Affairs issued an appendix, which is to be read in conjunction with the Damage-Causing Standard Operating Procedure of 2014. It serves to speed up the decision-making process in the issuing of a permit to set a leopard cage to capture, identify and euthanise the damage-causing animal. It must be issued within seven days.

Action plans for both the affected party (landowner) and the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism officials have been set in place.



From the desk of the predation management centre

Dr Beanelri Janecke from the University of the Free State has been conducting research (in association with the Cape Leopard Trust and an MSc student) on leopards in the Cape. Aspects of density, diet, conflicts, and threats of these unprotected and freely roaming predators have been recorded and it provides interesting reading.

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Farming alongside leopards in the Cape

In recent years, the greater Piketberg and Olifantsrivier mountains, about 160 km northeast of Cape Town, has emerged as a region of interest in terms of leopard presence. The Cape Leopard Trust (CLT), together with Mari-Su de Villiers (MSc student) and Beanelri Janecke from the Predator Management Center (University of the Free State), conducted some needed research in the region. The area is mostly unprotected, and the leopards are free-roaming. Farming practices include wheat, tea, citrus, livestock, and mixed farming.



Leopard density

Camera traps were used to investigate leopard presence in the region. Sixty-five paired camera stations were set up over an area of 1500 km² for a period of 13 months. The goal was to obtain the first accurate estimate of leopard density. For the Piketberg leopard population, density was estimated to be below 2 leopards per 100 km² (or 10 000 ha). Similar to other studies conducted by the CLT in the Cederberg Wilderness Area, Boland Mountain Complex, Overberg and Little Karoo, these results confirmed that leopards in the Fynbos Biome occur at a much lower density compared to those in the northern and eastern Savanna regions.

Leopard diet

Leopards are elusive animals that are extremely difficult to observe. Therefore, one of the most effective ways to investigate leopard diet is by analysing their scats (droppings). Leopard scat samples were collected from private properties within the survey area. Results from 118 analysed scats showed that the most important prey item for leopards in the greater Piketberg region is rock hyrax (dassie), making up 45% of the relative biomass consumed. Other important prey species are grysbok (12%), porcupine (6%), klipspringer (6%) and duiker (5%). The rest of the diet consists of several other species, including some livestock. Natural prey by far makes the greatest contribution to leopard diet in this region (87% - 23 species).

Conflict and threats

The presence of leopards in an area keeps the numbers of major livestock predators like caracals and jackals in check. Leopards do, however, sporadically cause substantial losses for both subsistence and commercial livestock farmers. Interviews conducted in the Piketberg study revealed relatively low levels of human-leopard conflict and a willingness by many farmers to consider non-lethal conflict mitigation methods. This commitment towards coexistence with wildlife is an accolade to the farming community.



Leopards' adaptability helps them survive in areas where other large carnivores cannot, despite drastic changes in land use, prey base, and habitat. However, they still face significant conservation concerns. Remarkably, leopards manage to persist in many unprotected areas, but ultimately one of the most important factors that will ensure their continued survival is peaceful coexistence with humans.

For more information contact Beanelri Janecke janeckbb@ufs.ac.za or Jeannie Hayward dt@capeleopard.org.za

PREDASIE BESTUUR KURSUS

Deur deurlopende waarneming en datakartering het Neil uitgebreide praktiese kennis opgedoen in die administrasie van verskeie roofdierspesies. Vanaf 2009 het Neil roofdiergedrag regoor Suid-Afrika op 'n nasionale basis bestudeer, verskeie kursusse in roofdier- en veebestuur aangebied en meer as 10 000 mense regoor Suid-Afrika opgelei. Hy het self aanbevelings gedoen vir persone in die buiteland in lande soos Argentinië, Australië en die VSA.



Aangebied deur
Neil Viljoen

R350 PER PERSOON
(sluit 'n ligte middagetete in)

Aanbieding is vanaf
08:00 – 16:00

DATUMS IN JULIE 2024

24 | LOERIESFONTEIN

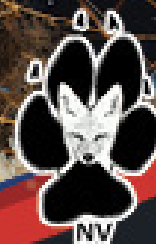
30 | POFADDER

25 | CALVINIA

31 | PRIESKA

DATUM IN AUGUSTUS 2024

01 | KIMBERLEY



Vir navrae kontak:
Landé – 067 597 1866

SLUITINGS DATUM VIR
REGISTRASIES: 12 JULIE 2024





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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.

