



Nuusbrief / Newsletter

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EC PMF assists communal farmers with predation management

Communal farmers in the Maclear district recently approached the Eastern Cape Predation Forum to help identify and manage the predators destroying their livestock.

Niel du Preez, chairperson of the Eastern Cape National Wool Growers' Association (NWGA) accompanied by his vice chairman, Frikkie Wentzel, visited the area to provide training on identifying the various predators. According to Dominic Tsoananyana, vice chairman of the NWGA communal woolgrowers, the farmers were grateful for the predation management training. He feels that it makes no sense to try and fight predation if the situation has not been identified correctly and the resulting control measure then focuses on the wrong animal.



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Witkruisarend verkeerdlik geblameer vir predasieverliese

Noord-Kaapse Rooivleis Produsente Organisasie (RPO) het by die PMSA Sekretariaat aangeklop vir inligting en beskikbare navorsing ná talle berigte van witkruisarendaanvalle op lammers, veral naby die oostelike grense van die Noord-Kaap.

Dit is uiters belangrik om die regte roofdier te identifiseer vir die dood van lammers, want 'n verkeerde identifikasie kan tot verdere en selfs groter skade lei. Deur die verkeerde predasiebeheermetodes toe te pas word die ware sondebok nie gevang nie.

Die Noord-Kaapse Predasieforum (PMF NK) het 'n inligtingstuk saamgestel waar tekens van 'n arend wat 'n lam gevreet het, maar nie noodwendig gedood het nie, uitgebeeld word. Om die regte beheermaatreëls toe te pas, moet daar seker gemaak word of 'n lam vóór of ná geboorte dood is.

**LEES DIE VOLLEDIGE
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The impact of wind energy on flying predators and the environment

As South Africa works to reduce its carbon emissions through renewable energy, wind power has become a central part of the strategy. The number of operational wind turbines has increased from 253 in 2014 to 825 in 2017, and 1 722 in 2024.

Nevertheless, as South Africa embraces this green energy source, concerns are growing about the impact of wind farms on the environment. The main concern is birds and bats getting killed because of their colliding with turbines and their powerlines. While monitoring 20 wind farms from 2014 to 2018, 848 bird carcasses of 130 species were recovered. Raptors were killed most often (36% of carcasses, 23 species), but birds of all sizes were recorded. A list (including species significant to conservation) is included in the full article. Wind farm developers should make sure the landowner understands the implications of monitoring throughout the life-span of the wind farm.



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The impact on Verreaux's eagles (black eagle/*witkruisarend*) is particularly worrying because they are already listed as regionally vulnerable in the Red Data Book of endangered species. Their population is estimated to be fewer than 10 000 mature individuals and has declined by more than 10% over three generations. Whereas one monitored wind farm saw no eagle fatalities, despite a nest located about 4 km from the facility, 26 Verreaux's Eagle deaths had been reported across five wind farms by 2021. Additionally, poorly designed power lines near wind farms have led to fatalities by electrocution, with ten eagles killed in this way.

Wind farms must be placed away from important eagle habitats, such as nesting sites and areas with high flight activity. Cliffs, ridge tops, steep slopes, and even on flat topography – features that are attractive to raptors due to updrafts – should be avoided. BirdLife SA has recommended a 3 km buffer around eagle nest sites to reduce collision risk with turbines.

Relocating eagles to alternative habitats has been suggested, but this approach is not effective and could be harmful. Eagles often return to their original territories and introducing them to new areas may result in territorial disputes or failure to find adequate food sources. Additionally, disturbing or destroying eagle nests in the name of wind farm development is both illegal and counterproductive. Such actions can ultimately hinder the development of wind farms and bring legal and reputational risks to developers and landowners.

There are several ways to mitigate the impact of wind turbines on raptors, such as:

- thoughtful site selection;
- turbine operation adjustments; and
- improved turbine visibility, like painting one of the blades.

A description is provided in the full article. By mitigation and monitoring we can work towards a future where both clean energy and biodiversity thrive together.

TO SEE REFERENCES AND A MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION, CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE



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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.

