



May newsletter
Mei nuusbrief
2025

PLAASLIKE NUUS | LOCAL NEWS

Geïntegreerde predasieopleiding

Die een dag-predasiebestuursinligtingsdag wat in Sutherland plaasgevind het, was baie positief ontvang. Volgens Noord-Kaapbestuurslid Andre Muller het predasiespesialis, Niel Viljoen, groot byval by die 13 plaaswerkers en 8 produsente van die omgewing gevind. Die praktiese element van die opleiding het tot die sukses van die dag bygedra.

Viljoen se Livestock & Predation Management Training program dek roofdierbiologie en -gedrag, boer-en-roofdierinteraksies, en verskeie beheermetodes.



Predation training by Niel Viljoen

Predation specialist Niel Viljoen, who have been managing predation monitor farms for the past 16 years to find and formulate workable and manageable solutions that involves both predators and livestock, is available for predation training.

Contact PMSA Secretariat at 041 365 5030 or email nwga@nwga.co.za for your predation training needs.

LIVESTOCK & PREDATION MANAGEMENT TRAINING
BY NIEL VILJOEN, PREDATION SPECIALIST

- Predation management info day
- Integrated predation management
- Identification of predators
- Regulatory framework
- Full day training
- Minimum of 15 and maximum of 50 participants

Contact PMSA Secretariat if you are interested
(041) 3655030 ; nwga@nwga.co.za

LIVESTOCK & PREDATION MANAGEMENT TRAINING
BY NIEL VILJOEN, PREDATION SPECIALIST

This one-day predation management information day covers predator biology and behavior, farmer-predator interactions, and various control methods. Special attention is given to cage traps and leg-holding devices, including a demonstration of their use. Course registration is R200 per person, payable on the day of the course.

Die eendaagse predasiebestuursinligtingsdag dek roofdier-biologie en -gedrag, boer-roofdierinteraksies en verskeie beheermetodes. Spesiale aandag word gegee aan vanghokke en vangstysters, insluitend 'n demonstrasie van die gebruikte daarvan. Kursusregistrasie is R200 per persoon, betaalbaar op die dag van die kursus.

Contact PMSA Secretariat if you are interested
(041) 3655030 ; nwga@nwga.co.za

Calling all researchers, wildlife ranchers, and thicket enthusiasts

Join the 2025 Thicket Forum, taking place from 3–5 June 2025 at Nelson Mandela University's Science Centre.

Submit your abstract or on-the-ground stories and experiences and be part of vital conversations around conservation, land use, and thicket ecosystems.

Tickets now available on Quicket – student discounts apply!

Buy your ticket or submit your content contributions at <https://www.thicketforum.org.za/>

REGISTER FOR THICKET FORUM
Join us at the Science Centre at Nelson Mandela University (Oxson Science Campus) 3 - 5 June 2025
Visit our website to register on Quicket and submit your abstracts!

	Normal price
Regular ticket	R2600
Student ticket	R2000

Call for Abstracts THICKET FORUM
Join us at the Science Centre at Nelson Mandela University (Oxson Science Campus) 3 - 5 June 2025
Visit our website to register on Quicket and submit your abstracts!

Whether you're researching, farming, tracking, managing, managing land, or just thinking deeply about thicket – we want to hear from you.

Submit your science, stories, and on-the-ground experiences. Talks, posters, and creative formats welcome.

Visit www.thicketforum.org.za to download the Abstract template and submission instructions.
Submission deadline: 25 May 2025

Flooding impacts predator behaviour and predation management

By Dr Beanie Jancke, Predation Management Center

Large parts of South Africa experienced flooding at the beginning of 2025. Floods not only affect human settlements and agriculture but also profoundly alter predator-prey dynamics and livestock safety. When rivers swell and lowlands flood, habitats are rapidly transformed. Prey species like antelope and small mammals are displaced to higher ground, often clustering in smaller, drier zones. Some predators track this movement, capitalising on easier hunting conditions as wild prey becomes more exposed and concentrated.

Cattle, goats, and sheep are similarly relocated when paddocks and lowlands become waterlogged, often to temporary grazing areas that lack adequate fencing or predator deterrents. Jackals, caracals, leopards, and hyenas take advantage of these conditions. Lions, wild dogs, and cheetahs, which usually prefer open terrain, may struggle when forced into dense, muddy areas as they escape flooding, making wild prey harder to hunt, thus also driving them toward livestock.

Predators themselves are directly impacted. Floodwaters can inundate or destroy dens, shelters, and sleeping sites. Jackals, hyenas, wild dogs and leopards may be forced to relocate young to safer ground or human structures like bridges, culverts, or unoccupied buildings. Burrow dwellers such as aardwolves, bat-eared foxes, and warthogs are displaced and face shelter collapse due to waterlogging. Leopards, which sometimes use dense vegetation or rocky crevices near water, may temporarily shift their resting or caching sites to more elevated or wooded terrain.

Flooding can push multiple predators into overlapping, unfamiliar territories, leading to increased interspecies conflict or movement into human areas. This behaviour can increase sightings of predators near roads or houses after floods. Repeated flooding over multiple seasons may lead some predators to abandon historically used dens or ranges, reshaping predator distributions and increasing predation pressure on livestock in areas not previously considered high-risk.

Flooding poses serious challenges to predation management. It damages or destroys permanent fencing and kraals, removing barriers that usually keep predators out. Electric fencing often fails due to water damage, and guard animals may become separated from herds. Predator monitoring becomes difficult as signs like tracks and scat are often obscured, while patrols are also delayed by impassable farm access roads. With wild prey scattered or inaccessible, carnivores often turn to livestock more than usual – especially young or isolated animals.

Solutions must be climate adaptive. Portable predator-proof kraals that can be moved to higher ground, or reinforced, water-resistant fencing, and early-warning systems like community-run WhatsApp groups that enable sharing of predator sightings, are key tools. Establishing elevated buffer grazing zones before a flood and training farmers in predator behaviour during floods can help to reduce livestock losses. As climate change brings greater rainfall variability, adaptive and proactive strategies are becoming more essential.

Predator monitoring

Predator monitoring is one of the aligning goals with Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS) to use data-driven insights to inform predation management practices. Accurate predator monitoring enhances the effectiveness of interventions and ensures that they are aligned with RMIS's goals of promoting welfare and sustainability. Predation rates and predator population trends are the two key performance indicators that will be used to track changes in predation rates, and monitor the health and stability of predator populations ensuring that management practices do not negatively impact these species.



Wes-Kaap PMF hou vergadering

Onder leiding van die nuwe voorsitter, Joseph Steyn van Prins Albert, het die jaarlikse Wes-Kaap PMF-vergadering by Worcester plaasgevind. Kwessies soos luiperdhalsbande, toenemende kraaiopulasies, en die relevansie van die PMF is bespreek.

Luiperdhalsbande

Luiperdgetalle is besig om in die Wes Kaap af te neem weens verskeie redes, waarvan die afgelope droogte 'n moontlike rol gespeel het. 'n Beroep word op navorsingsinstansies gedoen om luiperds met halsbande noukeurig te volg en te monitor, en te verseker dat die halsbande nie tot luiperds se dood lei nie.

Kraaiopulasie

'n Toenemende kraaiopulasie blyk steeds 'n probleem te wees. Alhoewel kraaie nie 'n bedreigde spesie is en geen permit nodig is om hulle te jag nie, bly dit 'n uitdaging om hulle getalle op 'n doeltreffende manier te beheer.

Aansmeermiddel vir lammers teen predasie

Die navorsingsprojek vir die ontwikkeling van 'n aansmeermiddel vir lammers is deur die Universiteit van die Vrystaat (VS) aanvaar. Hoewel die ontwikkeling en registrasie van so 'n middel tot drie jaar kan neem, is die Wes-Kaap PMF opgewonde dat die proses aan die gang is om 'n middel te vind.

Bewusmakingsveldtog oor predasieskade

Publieke bewusmaking van predasie en volhoubare hulpbronbestuur is een van die doelwitte wat in Predation Management South Africa (PMSA) se grondwet omskryf word.

Produsente poog om volhoubaar te boer, maar buiten hul stryd teen ongediertes, loop hulle hul ook teen ekstremistiese bewegings en aktiviste vas, wat 'n negatiewe beeld van boere by die publiek skep. As teenvoeter hiervoor is daar besluit om 'n bewusmakingveldtog te loods met plakkaat wat die vreedheid van en skade wat jakkalse, rooikatte, luiperde, kraaie, ratels, seevoëls ens., aan kleinvee aanrig, uit te wys. Daar word beplan om passiewe persone op te lei om stalletjies by skoue en feeste te beman. Goeie gehalte-foto's as voorbeelde van die skade word verwelkom.

Oos-Kaap PMF bymekaar



Van links is Hamza Mbulelo van die Departement van Ekonomiese ontwikkeling, Omgewingsake en Toerisme (DEDEAT); Melt Heyneke van Wildbedryf Suid-Afrika (WRSa); Juan Venter van Nasionale Wolkwekervereniging (NWVK); Kate Webster van Vulpro en Agri EC; Megan Maritz van Agri EC; Emily Lazenby (Conservancy Management Association); Frikkie Wentzel, voorsitter van die Oos-Kaap Predasiebestuursforum (ECPMF).

From RMIS social media

PROTECTING PRODUCERS, PRESERVING LIVELIHOODS

red_meat_industry_services • Follow

red_meat_industry_services Predation is one of the red meat industry's most persistent threats. That's why RMIS is leading the core operations of Predation Management South Africa in 2025 – bringing field-based, science-backed strategies directly to producers to reduce losses, improve herd health, and build long-term resilience.

Read more on our website. Link in bio.

PRACTICAL PREDATOR CONTROL

red_meat_industry_services • Follow

red_meat_industry_services Livestock farmers face daily losses due to predation. RMIS is leading Predation Management South Africa to deliver science-backed predator control that works – training farmers to manage risk, protect flocks, and ensure long-term sustainability without compromising ecosystems.

Learn more by reading the article on our website. Link in bio.

INTERNASIONALE NUUS | INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Sheep predator management series

The University of Wyoming Extension Sheep Task Force is an effort that combines evidence-based research with on-the-ground implementation and is comprised of university specialists, extension educators, and graduate researchers serving Wyoming's sheep producers. To watch their Sheep Predator Management Series, visit their YouTube channel playlist here:

YouTube channel playlist

Meet the Italian dogs guarding livestock from predators

They may look like your usual bundle of fluff or large Labrador pup, but these Maremma sheepdogs are a breed of their own. A large Italian breed used to guard livestock from predators including wolves, they're increasingly being used by New Zealand farmers to help protect their stock from pests like roaming dogs.

Read more

