



PLAASLIKE NUUS | LOCAL NEWS

PMSA annual general meeting

Predation Management South Africa (PMSA)'s fifth annual general meeting took place in Bloemfontein on 20 August, where Niel du Preez presented his chairman's report. The report highlighted the nonprofit organisation's activities of the past financial year. He said that the past year was a milestone for PMSA, as Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS) provided funding to support PMSA's work for the first time. This support highlights the importance of responsible predation management in South Africa.



Despite a lot of progress, the following challenges remain:

1. Limited state capacity to manage damage-causing animals.
2. Slow progress on national policies regarding human-wildlife conflict.
3. Mixed functionality of provincial predation forums.
4. Slow uptake of predation management courses offered by Niel Viljoen.

Rising farming input costs and limited research funding are also ongoing concerns. PMSA continues to work with various partners to find solutions.



Niel du Preez enters third term as chairperson

The National Wool Growers' Association's national vice-chairperson, Niel du Preez, availed himself to serve another two-year term as chairperson of PMSA. Dr Frikkie Maré, CEO of the National RPO, was renominated and elected as vice-chairperson.



Joining hands to tackle predation: PMSA hosts first workshop

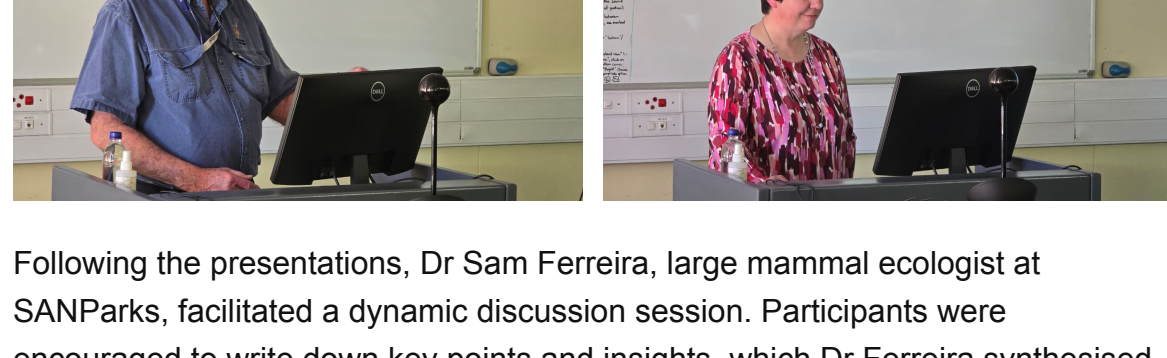
On 21 August 2025 PMSA held its first-ever workshop in Bloemfontein, hosted by the Predation Management Centre at the University of the Free State (UFS). The event brought together 34 participants in a hybrid format and was scheduled to coincide with the annual meetings of PMSA and the Predation Management Forum (PMF).



The aim of the workshop was to create a space where producers, researchers, conservationists, and other stakeholders could share ideas, discuss challenges, and learn from each other regarding the management of predators and protecting livestock. The workshop had four main goals:

1. Sharing the latest research on predation and predator behaviour;
2. Giving farmers a voice to highlight their needs and successful strategies;
3. Allowing organisations to introduce themselves and their work; and
4. Providing useful information on any issues related to predators and how to manage them.

Dr Beanéiri Janecke of UFS chaired the session during which seven speakers covered a diverse range of topics – from an overview of predation management and methods, to managing lions, leopards, and cheetahs, and even the Sustainable Wildlife Economic Project (SWEPP). The Cape Leopard Trust and Cheetah Outreach Trust were two of the organisations that presented their work, along with the University of Mpumalanga.



Following the presentations, Dr Sam Ferreira, large mammal ecologist at SANParks, facilitated a dynamic discussion session. Participants were encouraged to write down key points and insights, which Dr Ferreira synthesised into a summary diagram to guide the feedback session.

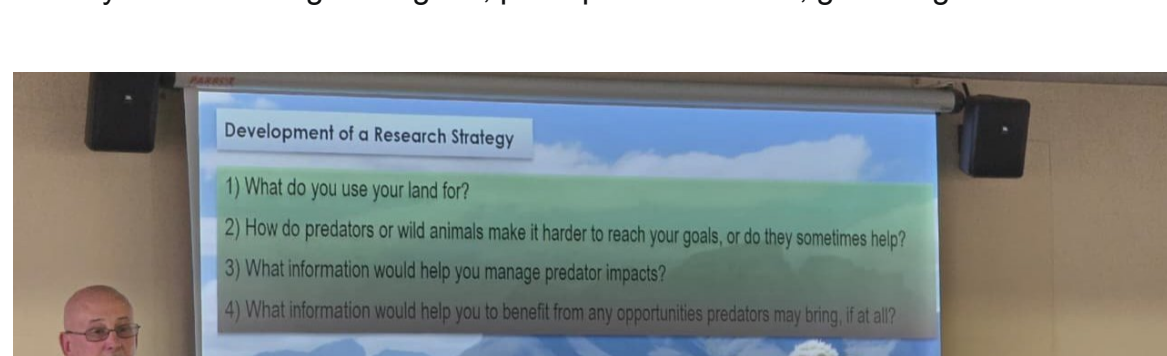
Most of the conversations centred around the tricky balance between protecting livestock and managing predators. Some discussion followed about policies, opportunities, relationships between stakeholders, and what needs to change.

One key takeaway of the workshop was that there already is a lot of good information out there, yet we tend to keep doing things the same old way. It is time to rethink how we manage predators and put that knowledge into action. Connecting these efforts to national policies can assist in making a significant difference.



One exciting idea that emerged from the two-day gathering (including the annual meetings) was a suggestion to hold a National Predation Indaba. This would bring everyone from communal and commercial farmers to conservationists, researchers, organisations, animal welfare groups, government and all other stakeholders, together in one place to find solutions.

The PMSA task team is working through all the inputs from the workshop and will put together a document to help guide next steps. This will be shared with PMSA representatives to distribute as needed. Given the success of this event, there is already talk of making it a regular, perhaps even annual, gathering.



PMSA 2025 workshop: Presentation titles

This list contains the names of the speakers at the workshop along with the themes of their presentations. More information about the workshop itself is provided in the news snippet above.

Dr Beanéiri Janecke (Predation Management Centre, University of the Free State): Introduction and purpose of the first PMSA workshop.

Prof HO de Waal (ALPRU, University of the Free State): *Quo vadis?* Is predation management informed by institutional memory and an operational management information system (MIS)?

Dr Liaan Minnie and Prof Dan Parker (University of Mpumalanga): Review of black- ackal and caracal research in Southern Africa over the last decade. The influence of an apex predator, *Panthera leo*, on the diet and occupancy of mesopredators.

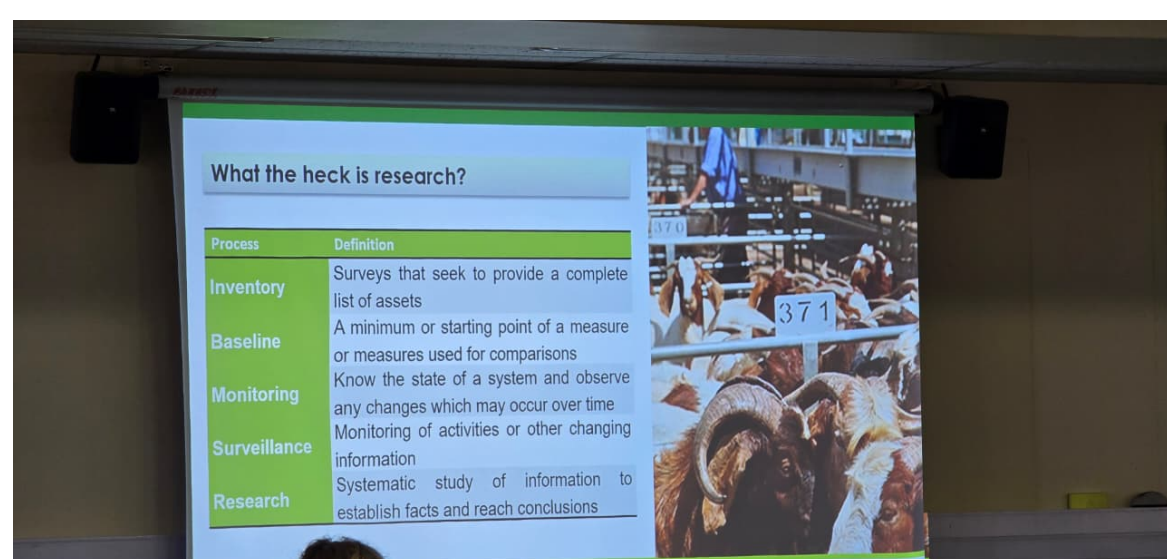
Niel Viljoen (predation specialist, PMSA): 2008 to 2023 – The journey of human-wildlife conflict and coexistence in South Africa. From then to now.

Karin Muller (SANBI): Insights from the Sustainable Wildlife Economies Project (SWEPP) into predator management.

Deon Cilliers (Cheetah Outreach Trust): Conserving cheetah on farmlands: Integrated conservation strategies.

Katy Williams (Cape Leopard Trust): Experiences of livestock predation and attitudes towards leopards (*Panthera pardus*) across the Western Cape, South Africa: Using knowledge to inspire innovative solutions.

Dr Sam Ferreira (SANParks & Cape Peninsula University of Technology): Facilitator of PMSA Workshop on predation management and the way forward.



Questions asked at the workshop:

1. What do you use your land for? Or which organisation do you represent?
2. How do predators or wild animals make it harder to reach your goals, or do they sometimes help?
3. What information would help you manage predator impacts?
4. What information would help you benefit from opportunities predators may bring, if at all?
5. Provide any relevant information and issues on predation.

The discussion and feedback were summarised in a diagram and will be used by PMSA to indicate the way forward on predation management.

Lions are less likely to attack cattle with eyes painted on their backsides

The predation of livestock by carnivores, and the retaliatory killing of carnivores as a result, is a major global conservation challenge. Such human-wildlife conflicts are a key driver of large carnivore declines, and the costs of coexistence are often disproportionately borne by rural communities in the global south.

While current approaches tend to focus on separating livestock from wild carnivores, for instance through fencing or lethal control, this is not always possible or desirable. Alternative and effective non-lethal tools that protect both large carnivores and livelihoods are urgently needed.

In a new study, we describe how painting eyes on the backsides of livestock can protect them from attack.

[Read more](#)



INTERNASIONALE NUUS | INTERNATIONAL NEWS

TikTok linked to illegal sale of endangered pangolins

An investigation by World Animal Protection has revealed that endangered wildlife is being openly sold through TikTok in Togo, West Africa.

Researchers found traders based in the capital, Lomé, using the social media platform to advertise and sell dead wild animals, including the endangered white-bellied pangolin.

The study, conducted between November 2022 and April 2024, examined 80 videos from two public TikTok accounts. These videos featured more than 3 500 carcasses of smoked wild animals, including at least 130 white-bellied pangolins.

[Read more](#)



The PMSA Newsletter is made possible by the Red Meat Statutory Levy administered by RMIS.

