



PLAASLIKE NUUS | LOCAL NEWS

Training of communal farmers in predation management

Through the support and funding of the Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS), PMSA aims to train over 400 emerging farmers and farm workers in predation management.

The National Wool Growers Association of SA (NWGA) communal production advisors underwent an intensive four-day NWGA-accredited AgriSETA course, presented by Niel Viljoen, to train emerging farmers. They were accompanied by RMIS employee, Khaya Xhantibe.

The production advisors were issued with sets of four cage traps and predation equipment bags to use within the five regions.



Feedback from predation management course attendees

According to Khanyiso Mzayifani, NWGA production advisor, the training has changed his perspective of predators. He now understands that they have a role to play in the ecosystem and that predation management is not just about killing predators. Although most control methods are not practical in communal areas, he is confident, with the knowledge and experience gained from the training, that a practical solution will be found.

NWGA production advisor Luvuyo Nyamela found the course extremely valuable – particularly the practical component, which involved identifying predators by tracking their spoor. Effective predator management, he noted, can significantly improve farmers' weaning percentages. This was not Luvuyo's first training in predation management – he has had training by Niel Viljoen before, during a predator management session for farmers in Flagstaff.

Wednesday

20 August 2025

Start At

12:00 - 17:00

Adress

University of Free State -
Agricultural building

Learn More

PMSA Secretariat (041) 3655030



Predation Management South Africa

Pied crow population changes in South Africa

Pied crow numbers are increasing in many parts of South Africa. Recent work at FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town, suggests factors such as global warming, increased food availability, and other sources. The research aimed to improve understanding of increasing pied crow abundances, determine associate implications for conservation and what management actions might be cost effective to deal with the concerns.

[Click here to read the full article.](#)



Who is SAPA?

The South African Predator Association (SAPA) intends to coordinate and promote the interests of its members with the view of establishing and maintaining a healthy and profitable predator breeding and hunting industry in congruence with national and international conservation principles and current national and provincial legislation.

[Click here to read more on the Association.](#)

Lighting the way: How a young inventor is saving lions and livestock

Compiled by Beanelri Janecke, Predation Management Centre

As reports of lions escaping from parks increase in our country, it may be time to consider innovative solutions like Lion Lights to protect livestock from being predated upon. In the heart of Kenya, a simple yet powerful invention is making a world of difference. Lion Lights, created by Richard Turer, are solar-powered, flashing LED systems designed to keep lions away from livestock enclosures at night. What began as a home-made solution to protect his family's cattle has grown into a globally recognised conservation tool.

Turer, a young Maasai boy of 9 years old at the time, discovered that lions avoided livestock pens when he walked around with a flashlight. Lions are usually nocturnal hunters and typically attack livestock at night. From this observation, he developed a device that mimics human presence through irregularly blinking lights, fooling lions into thinking people are nearby. His initial invention was a basic indicator box, but he refined it by programming unique light sequences to prevent lions from recognising patterns. The system relies on solar energy, with wind energy as a backup, and by placing lights about 15 metres apart, Turer effectively mimicked human movement to scare lions away instead of killing them in retaliation.



Image source: www.theelephantsociety.org

These affordable, low-maintenance lights are now used in over 2 000 homes across Kenya and in several countries around the world, including Tanzania, Namibia, Argentina, and India. The system effectively deters various wild animals, including leopards, hyenas, and even elephants. In 2023, he was awarded first place in the Young Inventors Prize, a testament to the global impact of his innovation.

His message remains clear and inspiring, "If I could do it coming from a community with no education and no resources, then anyone can change this world." While not foolproof – some lions may adapt over time – the system represents a major step forward in lowering human-wildlife conflict.



Image source: www.theelephantsociety.org

