



LOCAL NEWS | PLAASLIKE NUUS

Establishment of a predation management task team

Predation Management South Africa (PMSA) was invited by the Wildlife Forum to present the objectives of the association. During the presentation, predation specialist Niël Viljoen emphasised the urgent need for a more coordinated national approach to predation management.

With the development of predation management regulations and the implementation of the GEF-5 project underway, stakeholders directly affected by these processes, including Predation Management South Africa (PMSA), have had limited engagement with the DFFE. This has resulted in a fragmented approach to addressing predation and human-wildlife conflict. PMSA therefore welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the discussion.



A proposal by Lizanne Nel of the South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association to establish a predation task team under the Wildlife Forum was well received by delegates. The task team will provide a platform to coordinate stakeholder engagement, address predation and broader human-wildlife conflict, and explore the hosting of a national *indaba* on the subject.

The establishment of the task team marks an important first step towards developing practical and collaborative solutions to one of agriculture's most pressing challenges.

Holistic predation management training

A need for predation management training for emerging producers was identified in the Murraysburg, Beaufort West and Prince Albert districts, following small stock losses due to predators, stray dogs, and stock theft.

PMSA's contracted trainer, Jaco van Deventer, led the 57 attendees from the three different locations through a holistic approach to predation management. The course was specifically designed to prepare trainees to manage their natural environment, livestock, and associated predation in a sustainable manner.

Presentations were followed by a practical session using photographs and scenarios relating to real predation cases to test the participants' knowledge. The training concluded with a practical session on the correct setting of a trap cage for caracals.

The training was well received, and participants actively took part in discussions and shared information. Many follow-up training on the subject were requested.



Roofdiergewoontes: Jakkals verander nie van snaar

In sommige lande het predasie reeds 'n groot tol op kleinveeboerdery geëis en Suid-Afrika ervaar soortgelyke druk. Toenemende roofdiertigtheid en veranderende ekologiese dinamika plaas produsente voor komplekse bestuursuitdagings. Die vraag is nie of beheer nodig is nie, maar hoe dit volhoubaar en doeltreffend toegepas kan word.

Veeplaas het by Niël Viljoen, predasiespesialis, gaan aanklop vir raad oor hierdie moeilike saak.

[Lees meer.](#)



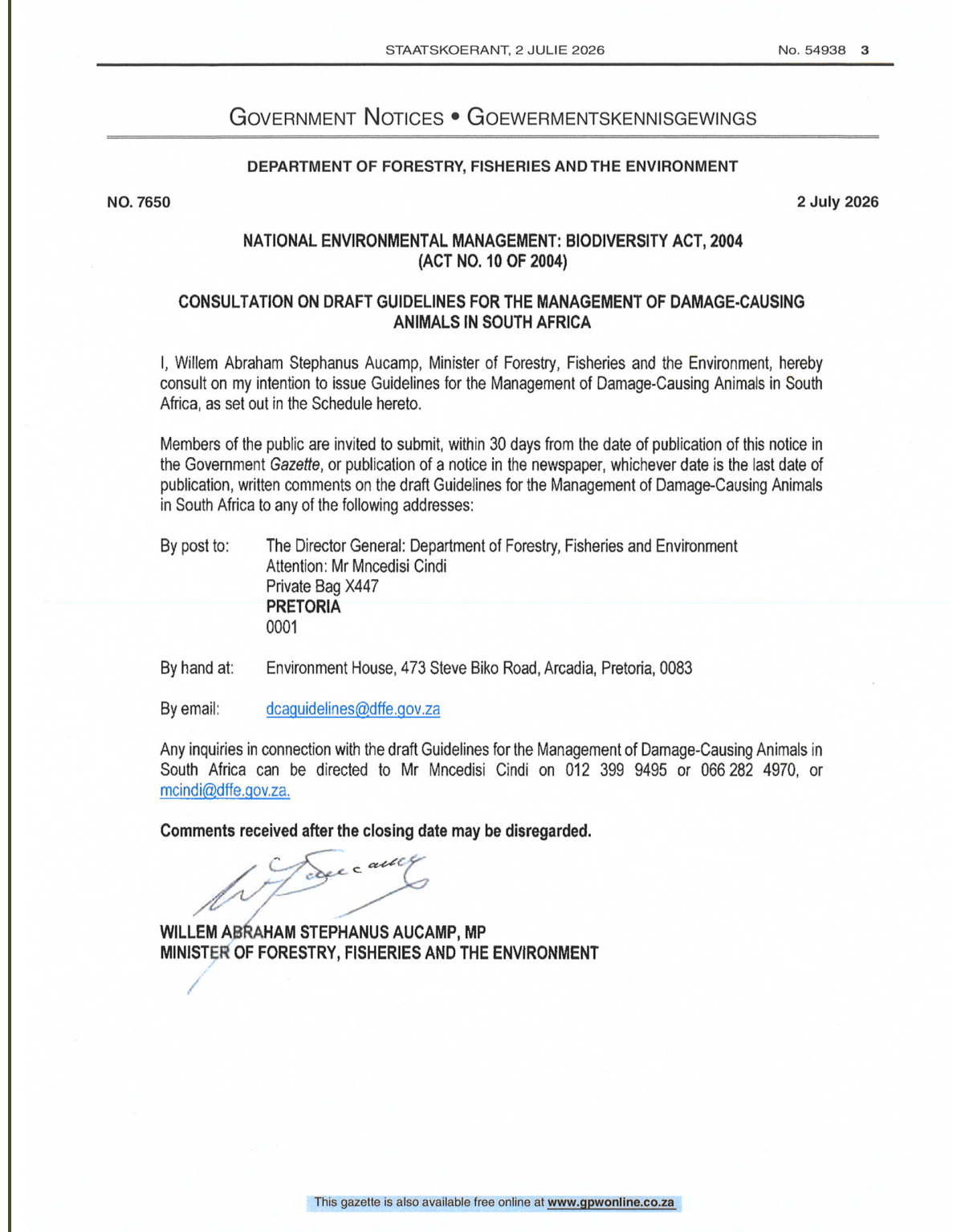
Draft DCA guidelines

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment has published draft guidelines relating to the management of damage-causing animals in South Africa for public comment. The proposed guidelines will influence how damage-causing animals are managed across the country and will have a significant impact on wildlife ranchers, livestock farmers, and landowners in general.

PMSA is currently reviewing the draft and invite members to do the same. Please identify any provisions that you believe are:

- Impractical or unworkable.
- Unclear or open to interpretation.
- Scientifically unsupported.
- Likely to have unintended consequences for wildlife management or property rights.

Please send your inputs to dcaguidelines@dffe.gov.za by no later than close of business on 8 August 2026. Please copy PMSA in on any correspondence with the department by sending a message to nwga@nwga.co.za



Black-backed jackals don't all breed at the same time

Black-backed jackals may be found across South Africa, but they do not all follow the same breeding calendar. While the species has a broadly seasonal breeding cycle, the peak breeding period varies between regions in response to local environmental conditions.



In most parts of South Africa, including the Highveld, northern provinces and much of the interior, mating typically takes place during winter (June to August). After a gestation period of about 60 to 63 days, pups are usually born between August and October. In the Western Cape, breeding follows a similar pattern, but with most pups arriving from July to September.

In the Eastern Cape, however, jackals generally breed several months later, with pups often born between October and December. This regional shift reflects the adaptability of the species.

Influence of food and climate

Rather than following a fixed calendar, jackals time reproduction to coincide with periods when food is most abundant. Rainfall patterns influence vegetation growth, which affects populations of rodents, insects, birds, and other prey. South Africa has both winter-rainfall (Western Cape) and summer-rainfall (most of the rest of the country) regions. Adults benefit from seasonal food sources such as carrion, afterbirth, and vulnerable newborn livestock and wild antelope. Coastal jackals also prey on seal pups that are born at the end of the year. By ensuring that pups are weaned when these resources are at their peak, jackals maximise their chances of survival.

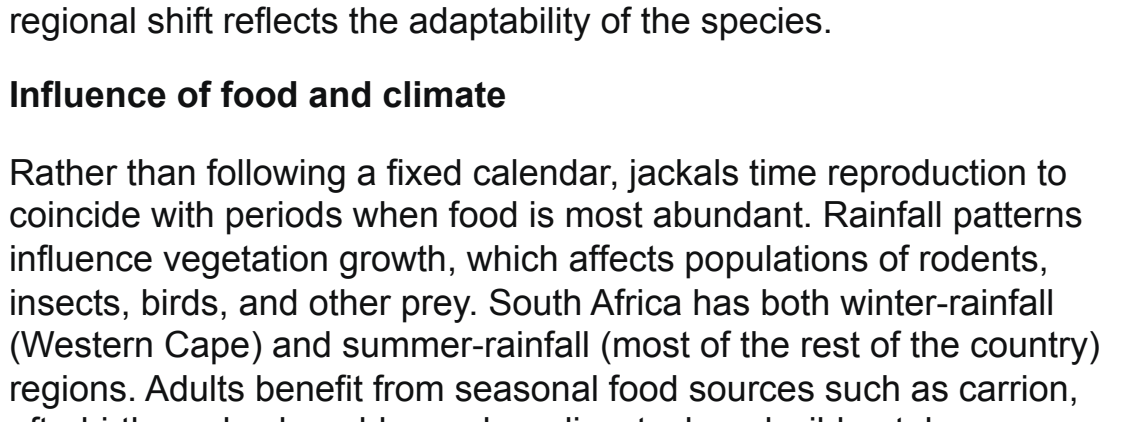
Climate also plays an important role. Avoiding periods of extreme cold, heavy rainfall, or drought helps improve pup survival, while generations of local adaptation have fine-tuned breeding schedules to suit regional conditions.

Females give birth to litters of one to six pups in sheltered dens. The pups begin eating regurgitated solid food at around three months of age and are capable of hunting independently by about six months.

Environmental cues

In essence, black-backed jackals are responding to environmental cues rather than following a fixed calendar. Their breeding season is flexible across their range, allowing them to synchronize reproduction with local ecological conditions and maximize reproductive success. This flexibility is common among many wild carnivores and is a key reason why breeding seasons differ between regions with different climates and food availability. – *Dr Beanelri Janecke, Predation Management Centre, University of the Free State*

US: California confirmed 21 gray wolf livestock attacks in the first three months of 2026

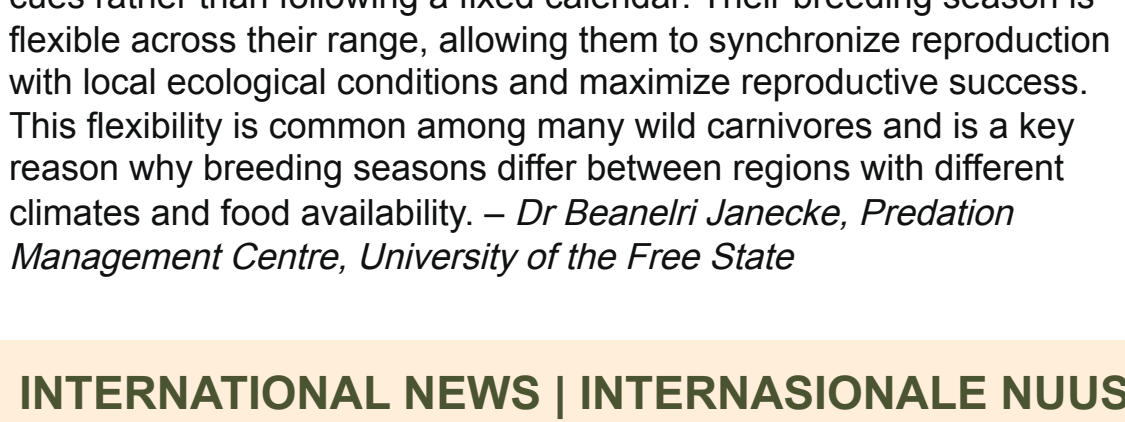


The California Department of Fish and Wildlife confirmed that 21 livestock attacks were verified in the first three months of 2026, out of 47 total investigations conducted between January and March. Three new wolf packs have also been confirmed in Northern California counties, accelerating a population expansion that has been building for several years.

The numbers are putting pressure on state wildlife managers and rural lawmakers in a way that is difficult to paper over. Counties in the Northern California region have been among the most vocal about the impact on ranching operations, with some declaring local emergencies over the pace of encounters.

[Read more.](#)

Greece's bears are back and farmers are paying the price



Anastasios Kasparidis stepped out one morning to find three of his sheep torn apart. Massive paw prints in the mud left no doubt: A brown bear had struck. "It was a big one," he said. "They come often now." He wasn't the only victim that week; nearby farms lost chickens and pigs to the same predator.

Greece's brown bear population, the country's largest predator, has quadrupled since the 1990s. The latest counts by the environmental group Arcturos put the number at around 870 animals, almost all in the forests of the north.

Wolves have followed a similar trajectory. Once confined to central Greece, packs now prow the outskirts of Athens and have even reached the Peloponnese peninsula in the far south.

[Read more.](#)