



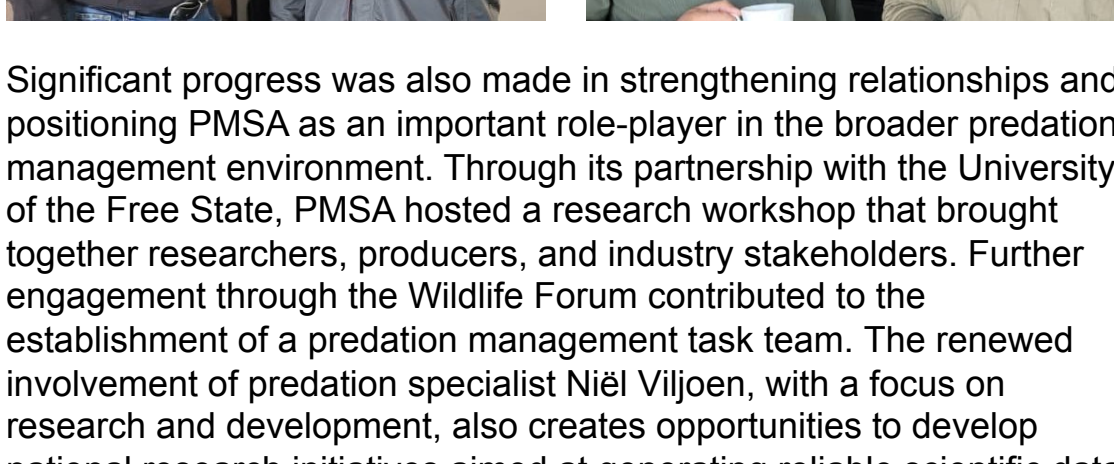
LOCAL NEWS | PLAASLIKE NUUS

PMSA annual general meeting feedback

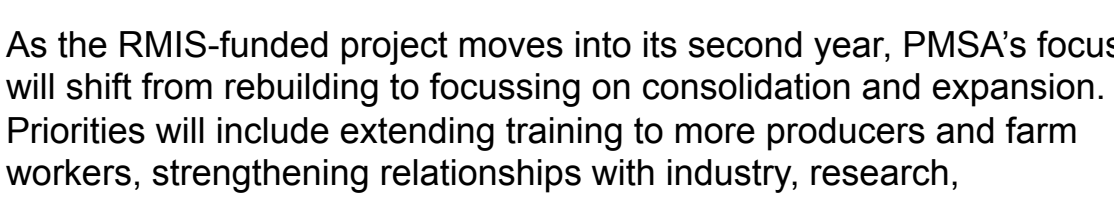
Predation Management South Africa (PMSA)'s sixth annual general meeting took place in Bloemfontein, where acting chairperson Prof Frikkie Maré presented his chairman's report. He extended a special word of appreciation to member organisations: Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA), the National Wool Growers Association (NWGA), the National Red Meat Producers Organisation (RPMO), Mofair SA, and our directly affected group, SA Hunters & Game Conservation Association, whose financial support remains essential to keeping PMSA operational.



The 2025/26 financial year marked an important rebuilding and strengthening phase for PMSA. Following changes within the organisation and challenges in securing sufficient training capacity, PMSA adapted its approach by investing in training NWGA communal production advisors and appointing independent predation management trainers in the Western, Northern, and Eastern Cape. This expanded training network reached 179 participants across communal and commercial farming areas, making practical, accessible training more accessible to producers and farm workers.



Significant progress was also made in strengthening relationships and positioning PMSA as an important role-player in the broader predation management environment. Through its partnership with the University of the Free State, PMSA hosted a research workshop that brought together researchers, producers, and industry stakeholders. Further engagement through the Wildlife Forum contributed to the establishment of a predation management task team. The renewed involvement of predation specialist Niel Viljoen, with a focus on research and development, also creates opportunities to develop national research initiatives aimed at generating reliable scientific data to support evidence-based predation management. Meanwhile, the PMSA monthly newsletter continues to grow as an important communication platform, reaching approximately 17 600 people each month.



As the RMIS-funded project moves into its second year, PMSA's focus will shift from rebuilding to focussing on consolidation and expansion. Priorities will include extending training to more producers and farm workers, strengthening relationships with industry, research, conservation, and government stakeholders, and advancing a meaningful national research programme. The foundations laid during the past year have placed PMSA in a stronger position to increase its impact and contribute towards sustainable, practical, and scientifically informed solutions to predation management challenges in South Africa.



Predasiebestuursopleiding

'n Predasiebestuurskursus is in Griekwastad aangebied en Johannes Jordaan het sy dank teenoor Taffie Mulder, PMSA-opleier en aanbieder van die kursus, uitgespreek. Jordaan het dit beskryf as 'n "belegging in die mens, dier en die natuur".

Volop Landbouvereniging het die kennis wat met sowat 25 produsente en plaaswerkers gedeel is, beskryf as baie leersaam en van onskatbare waarde.



Kursus vir plaaswerkers aangebied

Die *Noordwes-Karoo Nuusblad* het onlangs berig oor predasiebestuursopleiding wat Johannes Pienaar, PMSA-opleier, in samewerking met die Doornfontein Landbouvereniging, in Prieska aangebied het.

Ten spyte van koue weer het ongeveer 45 plaaswerkers en 'n aantal produsente opgedaag om te leer hoe omgewingsbewaring en die beskerming van kuddes teen roofdiere, saam bestuur moet word.

Elke deelnemer het 'n bywoningseertifikaat ontvang. Soortgelyke kursusse word landswyd aangebied. Vir meer inligting, skakel vir Bonita Francis van die PMSA-sekretariaat by 041 365 5030.



Draft guidelines for the management of damage-causing animals

Predation Management South Africa (PMSA) has submitted extensive commentary to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) on the draft guidelines for damage-causing animal management.

DFFE official Magdel Boshoff provided an update at the recent PMSA meeting, and explained what the intention of the guidelines entail.



The secret life of leopards

Leopards are elusive and mostly nocturnal, so they usually live a secretive life. Yet they possess abilities that make them one of nature's most successful hunters. Their diet include antelopes between 10 and 40kg, as well as warthogs, vervet monkeys, rock hyraxes, porcupines, hares, rodents, lizards, frogs, crickets, dung beetles, and fish.



Leopards have incredible strength and can carry prey that weighs more than they do, dragging it several metres up into the branches of a tree. This behaviour keeps their meal safe from scavengers such as hyenas and lions, allowing them to feed undisturbed for several days. Large male leopards have been known to drag impala weighing up to 70kg, as well as young zebras, wildebeest, and tsessebe, into trees.

Researchers estimate that each leopard makes around 20 kills per year and consumes approximately 400kg of meat annually. This amounts to an average of just over 1kg per day. Before feeding, a leopard often licks the fur from its prey, usually starting at the chest or thighs.

Leopards are master leapers that can jump up to 6m far and 3m straight into the air from a standing position, making them agile hunters easily capable of navigating rocky terrain and dense forests.

Unlike lions, which are known for their powerful roars, leopards are generally silent animals. Their most common vocalisation is a distinctive 'sawing' call, a rough, cough-like sound resembling sawing wood, repeated several times. This unique call is used to announce their presence and warn other leopards to stay out of their territory, helping to prevent dangerous fights.

Leopards are solitary animals and usually only come together to mate. Breeding can occur at any time of the year, although females generally mate only once a year. If she successfully raises a litter, she comes into heat again when the cubs are about ten months old. Even in areas with abundant food and ideal habitats, the female does not always conceive after pairing up with a male to mate. The conception rate is therefore relatively low.

After a gestation period of about 100 days, a female gives birth to between one and six cubs, three being the average. Cubs are born blind and remain hidden in dens for the first six to eight weeks. They are weaned at about four months, start catching their own prey at around six months, and become fully independent between 11 and 24 months of age.

Although leopards possess impressive strength, agility and hunting skills, they also come into conflict with people. Understanding their behaviour and secretive habits can help people make informed management decisions that can allow leopards to play an essential role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. – *Dr Beate Janecke, Predation Management Centre, University of the Free State*

INTERNATIONAL NEWS | INTERNASIONALE NUUS

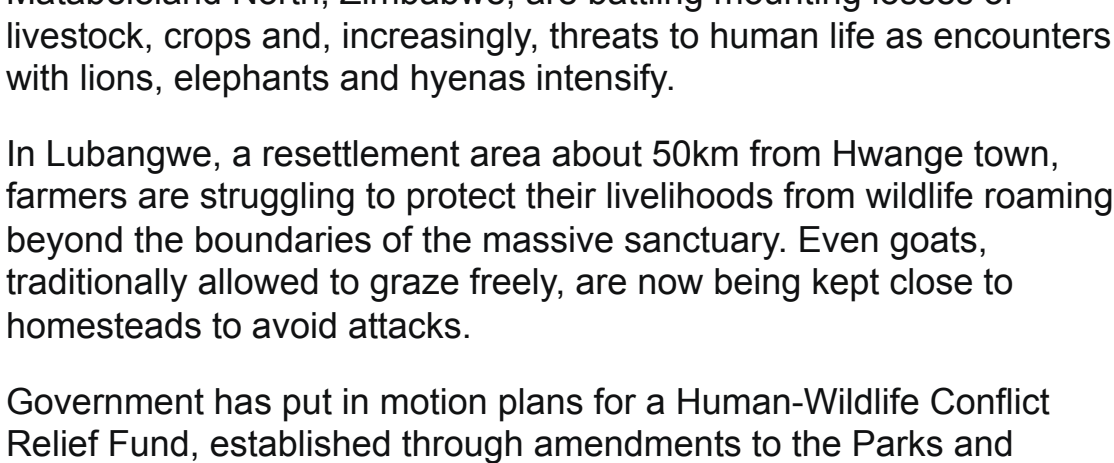
Individual variation in leopard (*Panthera pardus*) prey composition in Namibian farmlands

Human-carnivore conflict, particularly involving livestock depredation, remains a major threat to large carnivore conservation worldwide. To protect their livelihood, farmers often attempt to remove "problem" individuals that specialise in killing livestock, although empirical support for such specialised individuals is limited.

Leopards (*Panthera pardus*) are widespread carnivores that are often involved in human-wildlife conflicts, but most studies have focused on protected areas, even though most of their range is unprotected. We tracked 29 leopards for an average of 422 days over ten years on freehold farmlands of central Namibia to investigate their foraging ecology.

[Read more.](#)

Livestock losses, crop raids deepen human-wildlife conflict in Hwange



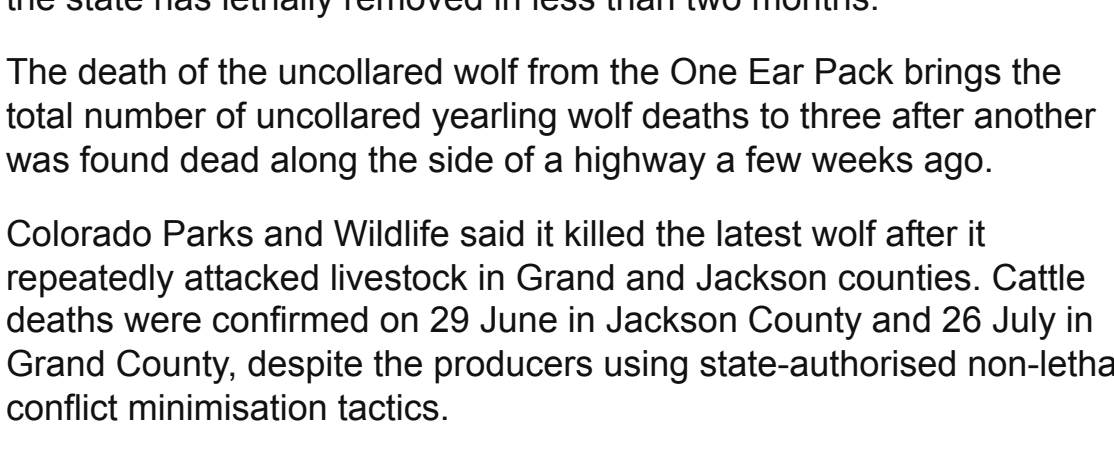
Communities living on the fringes of Hwange National Park in Matabeleland North, Zimbabwe, are battling mounting losses of livestock, crops and, increasingly, threats to human life as encounters with lions, elephants and hyenas intensify.

In Lubangwe, a resettlement area about 50km from Hwange town, farmers are struggling to protect their livelihoods from wildlife roaming beyond the boundaries of the massive sanctuary. Even goats, traditionally allowed to graze freely, are now being kept close to homesteads to avoid attacks.

Government has put in motion plans for a Human-Wildlife Conflict Relief Fund, established through amendments to the Parks and Wildlife Act, to provide monetary relief to people injured, maimed or killed by wild animals across the country.

[Read more.](#)

US: Wolf reintroduction's livestock toll continues in Colorado



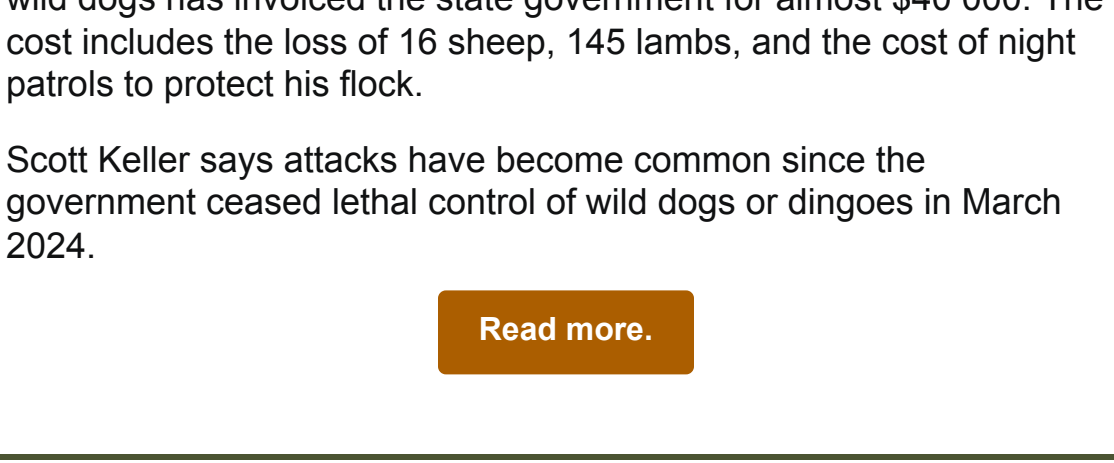
State wildlife managers recently killed a wolf, the second yearling wolf the state has lethally removed in less than two months.

The death of the uncollared wolf from the One Ear Pack brings the total number of uncollared yearling wolf deaths to three after another was found dead along the side of a highway a few weeks ago.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife said it killed the latest wolf after it repeatedly attacked livestock in Grand and Jackson counties. Cattle deaths were confirmed on 29 June in Jackson County and 26 July in Grand County, despite the producers using state-authorised non-lethal conflict minimisation tactics.

[Read more.](#)

Aus: Victoria farmer invoices state over wild dog or dingo attacks

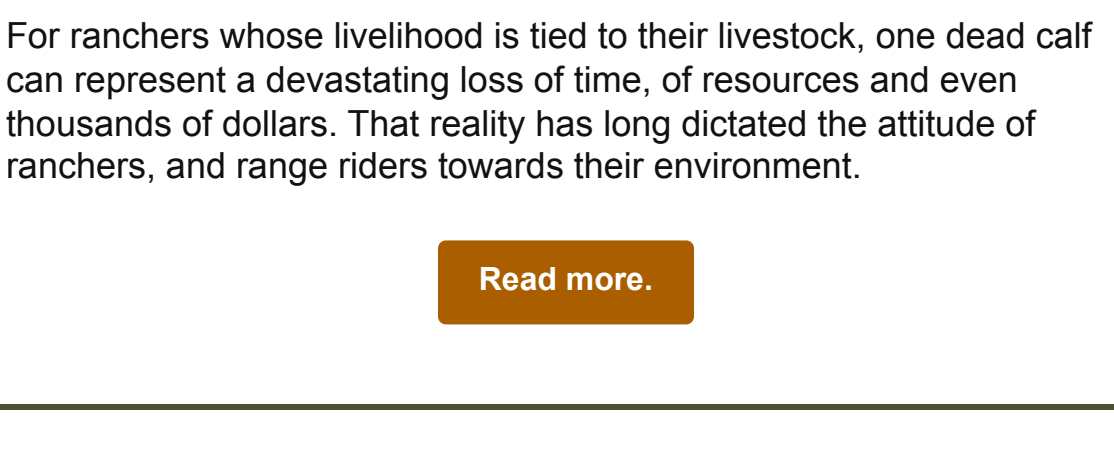


A Victorian farmer who has lost more than 160 head of livestock to wild dogs has invoiced the state government for almost \$40 000. The cost includes the loss of 16 sheep, 145 lambs, and the cost of night patrols to protect his flock.

Scott Keller says attacks have become common since the government ceased lethal control of wild dogs or dingoes in March 2024.

[Read more.](#)

Modern cowboys are saddling up ... and they're on a whole new mission



Across the American West, predators like grey wolves, Mexican wolves and grizzly bears that were once on the brink of extinction have returned through reintroduction efforts and decades of recovery work. It's been cause for celebration among conservationists, tribal nations and wildlife advocacy groups, but it has meant increased fear and uncertainty for some ranching communities.

For ranchers whose livelihood is tied to their livestock, one dead calf can represent a devastating loss of time, of resources and even thousands of dollars. That reality has long dictated the attitude of ranchers, and range riders towards their environment.

[Read more.](#)