

December 2010



# SAWMA MATTERS

*Electronic newsletter of the Southern African Wildlife Management Association*

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As another year draws to a close and we reflect on the year and its achievements and challenges. One of the real joys of the festive season is the opportunity to say thank you to all SAWMA members for your loyal support to the association, the newsletter and our Journal.

Thanks also to all who celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> existence of the association by attending our anniversary symposium in September

We wish you a safe and prosperous festive season. May you enter 2011 rested, encouraged and ready for a successful and productive new year!

**With kindest regards,  
The SAWMA Council**



*Photograph: Rudi van Aarde*

## SAWMA membership

### Last call for payment of membership fees for 2010:

Although the SAWMA finances appear to be healthy, it would be great to see most outstanding membership fees paid before the end of our financial year at the end of December. Electronic invoices for all unpaid accounts will be forwarded to you in the next two weeks. Please remember to use your surname or invoice number as reference or email proof of the payment to [elma@mweb.co.za](mailto:elma@mweb.co.za). This helps tracking payments and avoids further costs.

### Membership rates for 2011:

Local individual members:	R360-00
Fulltime Student members (Local):	R180-00
Fulltime Student members (Foreign):	R360-00
Foreign individual members:	USD 98-00
Local Institutional Subscribers:	R680-00
Foreign Institutional Subscribers:	USD 204-00

### New Members:

A warm welcome to two new SAWMA members:

**Dr Greg Simpson** - Lecturer and veterinarian at University of Pretoria.

**Mr Zeppee Havarua** – MSc student the Dept of Biological Sciences, University of Namibia (He already joined while attending the symposium, but his name was not in the previous newsletter.)

## Congratulations!

- Prof J du P (Koos) Bothma was recently bestowed with SAHGCA's 'Order of the Bateleur Award'. This award is bestowed on individuals, branches or organisations that have made a significant contribution to the conservation of biodiversity of the country or to the assurance of the survival of wild life.
- Our new editor-in Chief, Mike Perrin, has been awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society – Well done!
- Harriet and Warwick Davies-Mostert recently became parents to their second son, Charlie. Harriet, currently a SAWMA Council member, was also awarded her DPhil for her work on the Venetia Wild Dogs.
- Frans Radloff has been appointed as lecturer in Nature Conservation at the Cape Town University of Technology.



## South African Journal of Wildlife Research

### Volume 40/2

The Second issue of volume 40 is still in production. At this stage it seems more likely that this issue will reach you only early in the new year. Apologies for the delay and thanks for your patience!

### Electronic access codes

If you have forgotten or do not have login codes for the full text of articles, please contact Elma Marais at [elma@mweb.co.za](mailto:elma@mweb.co.za). Archival issues dating back to 1971 are also freely available in digital form through SABINET African Journal Archive (<http://content.ajarchive.org/>).

### Submission of articles:

Please submit all new articles to Mike Perrin ([Mike@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Mike@ukzn.ac.za)) or Elma Marais ([elma@mweb.co.za](mailto:elma@mweb.co.za)). Authors should familiarize themselves with the Instructions to authors available on [www.sawma.co.za](http://www.sawma.co.za) and make sure the manuscript is formatted according to the instructions and examples of existing published articles.



### SAWMA Symposium 2011

The next SAWMA Symposium is from 18-22 September 2011 at the Hartenbos Holiday Resort, near Mossel Bay.

More details in the New Year!

### Get well soon

Prof John Skinner has been taken up in the ICU of St Luke's recently, but he has now been discharged from hospital and is back in the frail care unit of Nazareth House where he is currently staying. We wish him a speedy and sustained recovery.

## UPCOMING EVENTS, PUBLICATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, VACANCIES, NEWS SNIPPETS & MORE

### IPUF symposium: 4-7 July – St Lucia KwaZulu-Natal

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual IPUF symposium is scheduled for 4-7 July 2011 in St Lucia with the theme: “Biodiversity, innovation and opportunities: past knowledge, present activities and future products.” A call for papers as well as further details will be distributed in February 2011.

Contact Emmy Reinten, IPUF Secretary for more information.

Tel: +27 (21) 809 337

Fax: +27 (21) 809 3400

[www.uj.ac.za/ipuf](http://www.uj.ac.za/ipuf)



### Giraffe Conservation Foundation & IUCN International Giraffe Working Group

1<sup>st</sup> 'Wild' Giraffe Indaba: 4 - 7 July 2011  
Etosha Safari Lodge, Namibia



The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) together with the IUCN SSC ASG International Giraffe Working Group (IGWG) invites all scientists, students, wildlife managers, and decision-makers in the field of giraffe research, conservation and management to attend the first ever 'wild' giraffe Indaba (conference) in Africa at the Etosha Safari Lodge, Namibia, from **4 to 7 July 2011**, including a **half-day seminar on 7 July 2011**: *'The Conservation and Management of giraffe in Africa – looking forward*.

The venue, situated adjacent to the world famous Etosha National Park and approximately 400 km north of Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, is an appropriate setting for this valuable conservation event as the Namibian giraffe population continues to increase while others appear to be dwindling.

*The theme of the Indaba is: 'Giraffe: The Forgotten Megafauna'. Despite a general fascination for this species, giraffe have so far received little scientific attention and as such are truly Africa's forgotten megafauna.*

*A range of sub-themes have been proposed for the Indaba, however the event is open to new, innovative and interesting presentations and posters.*

#### SUB THEMES

- Ecology
- Taxonomy and genetic structure
- Veterinary medicine
- Physiology
- Conservation management
- Captive management in support of the wild world

To find out more about the Indaba, please go online and download the conference package at [www.giraffeconservation.org](http://www.giraffeconservation.org)

Or you can contact us directly at: [giraffe.indaba@gmail.com](mailto:giraffe.indaba@gmail.com)

#### Dare to Care Campaign

The EWT has launched a sponsorship campaign where you have the opportunity to care for a species of your choice. [http://www.givengain.com/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=donor\\_project&id=525](http://www.givengain.com/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=donor_project&id=525)

## Further call for papers: 7<sup>th</sup> International Wildlife Ranching Symposium, October 2011



This is a further call for papers for the Seventh Wildlife Ranching Symposium, to be presented in Kimberley during October 2011. The main theme of the event is ***The business of conservation - science, livelihoods and values***. Visit the website at <http://www.iwrs.co.za> for more information. Abstracts can be submitted on the website before 15 February 2011.

## VACANCIES:

### Post-graduate research opportunities in restoration ecology

The Conservation Ecology Research Unit (CERU) at the University of Pretoria has opportunities for talented students to continue their postgraduate studies (MSc and PhD) in restoration ecology. Our research programme has been running continuously for some 20 years and focuses on the rehabilitation of coastal dune forests in northern KwaZulu-Natal. Our research in this outdoor laboratory explores colonisation and tests ecological niche and neutral theories.

At CERU we emphasize research quality and maintain high academic standards. All projects are funded through the Chair in Conservation Ecology, and competitive post-graduate bursaries are available. Our ideal candidates have strong numerical and statistical abilities as well as good writing and communication skills and a degree in either Zoology, Botany, Biology, or Ecology. Candidates are invited to submit their academic records and contact details to Professor Rudi van Aarde, preferably through e-mail [rjvaarde@zoology.up.ac.za](mailto:rjvaarde@zoology.up.ac.za). Please refer to [www.ceru.up.ac.za](http://www.ceru.up.ac.za) for more background information.

Professor Rudi J. van Aarde  
Conservation Ecology Research Unit, Department of Zoology & Entomology, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, 0002, South Africa.  
[rjvaarde@zoology.up.ac.za](mailto:rjvaarde@zoology.up.ac.za),  
Tel +27 (12) 420 2535,  
Fax +27 (12) 420 4523



### Field Officer vacancy: African Crane Conservation Programme:

The African Crane Conservation Programme (EWT-ACCP) in collaboration with the Overberg Crane Group has a vacancy for a field officer.

**Purpose of the position:** To develop an awareness and extension programme with stakeholders in the area, conduct research on the Blue Crane population in the Western Cape as it relates to developments, threats and climate change, and effectively network with forums and organisations so that effective conservation measures can be developed and implemented.

**Qualification:** Minimum BSc in biology or a related, relevant field and at least 3 years of relevant field experience.

**Key performance areas:** The EWT-ACCP Western Cape Regional Project Field Officer is responsible for fulfilling the conservation strategy for Blue Cranes in the Western Cape. This post is based in Swellendam in the Western Cape. The Endangered Wildlife Trust is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants are requested to submit a CV, and a brief motivation as to why and how they would see themselves as the EWT-ACCP Western Cape Regional Project Field Officer.

**Closing date:** 16h30 on 23 January 2011. To apply please e-mail your CV and application to the Human Resources Manager Alison Jänicke [alisonj@ewt.org.za](mailto:alisonj@ewt.org.za) and [kerrynm@ewt.org.za](mailto:kerrynm@ewt.org.za) or mail: Endangered Wildlife Trust, Private Bag X11, Parkview, 2122 or fax to +27 (11) 486 1506.

## Post-graduate Research Project (MSc/PhD) – Wits University

**Project Title:** Leopard—livestock interactions in the Western Cape

We are seeking a highly motivated and independent individual to become involved in a post-graduate research project to investigate the interactions between leopards and livestock in the coastal region near Hermanus, Western Cape. Candidates should have an interest in wildlife management, wildlife—habitat interactions, conservation of large carnivores, and an ability to interact amicably with local land owners and resource users. Experience with or an interest to learn geographic information systems, quantitative methods in data analysis, and associated software is also an asset.

**Supervisors:** Drs Jason Marshal and Mark Keith, School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand

**Project Aims:** The project was established by Landmark Foundation in response to human—predator conflict on South African farms. Conventional management of livestock losses to predation occurs through lethal means, which can affect conservation of the predators but also have effects on the ecology and biodiversity of landscape. The goal of this post-graduate project is to understand habitat selection and landscape use by leopards in an environment dominated by livestock and agriculture.

**Project duration:** 2 years (MSc) or 4 years (PhD) from the date the successful candidate enrolls in the programme. Requirements: Candidates will be selected on skill and merit. They must meet University of the Witwatersrand post-graduate entry requirements (see <http://web.wits.ac.za/Prospective/Postgraduate/ApplicationInfo/> for details). For an MSc project, candidates must have a BSc Hons in zoology, ecology, or an equivalent field. For a PhD project, candidates must have an MSc in zoology, ecology, or an equivalent field. The candidate must have received the qualifying degree by the time of enrolment in the post-graduate programme. All candidates must have a valid driver's licence (equivalent to a South African Code EB driver's licence).

**Bursary support:** Bursary support is provided by the Landmark Foundation. The successful candidate will be required to commit to the full duration of the project to receive bursary support. Bursary amounts are based on NRF post-graduate bursary equivalents: R45,000 for MSc students and R60,000 for PhD students. Candidates are also strongly encouraged to apply for NRF freestanding scholarships and University of the Witwatersrand bursary awards. All interested candidates are encouraged to apply. The closing date is 21 February 2011, or as soon thereafter as a suitable candidate is found. Interested candidates should send a letter of intent, curriculum vitae (including names and contact details of three references), copies of mark transcripts, and an example of their writing (e.g., honours thesis, publications from MSc thesis) to:

**Jason Marshal and Mark Keith, School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Private Bag 3, Johannesburg 2050, [jason.Marshall@wits.ac.za](mailto:jason.Marshall@wits.ac.za), [mark.keith@wits.ac.za](mailto:mark.keith@wits.ac.za)**

## PhD research opportunity – Wits University

**Project Title:** Carnivore—livestock interactions in the Karoo

We are seeking a highly motivated and independent individual to become involved in a post-graduate research project to investigate the interactions between carnivores and livestock on Karoo farms. Candidates should have an interest in wildlife management and conservation of large carnivores, and an ability to interact amicably with local land owners and resource users. Experience with or an interest to learn geographic information systems, quantitative methods in data analysis, and associated software is also an asset. An ability to speak or interest to learn Afrikaans is essential.

**Supervisors:** Drs Jason Marshal and Mark Keith, School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand.

**Project Aims:** The project was established by Landmark Foundation in response to human—predator conflict on South African farms. Conventional management of livestock losses to predation occurs through lethal means, which can affect conservation of the predators but also have effects on the ecology and biodiversity of landscape. The goal of this post-graduate project is to investigate the efficacy of current lethal control methods and non-lethal alternatives. Further aims include understanding the effects of those management approaches on biodiversity.

**Project duration:** 4 years from the date the successful candidate enrolls in the programme.

**Requirements:** Candidates will be selected on skill and merit. They must meet University of the Witwatersrand post-graduate entry requirements (see <http://web.wits.ac.za/Prospective/Postgraduate/ApplicationInfo/> for details). Candidates must have an MSc in zoology, ecology, or an equivalent field. The candidate must have received the qualifying degree by the time of enrolment in the post-graduate programme. All candidates must have a valid driver's licence (equivalent to a South African Code EB driver's licence).

**Bursary support:** Bursary support is provided by the Landmark Foundation. The successful candidate will be required to commit to the full duration of the project to receive bursary support. Bursary amounts are based on NRF post-graduate bursary equivalents (R60,000 for PhD students). Candidates are also strongly encouraged to apply for NRF freestanding scholarships and University of the Witwatersrand bursary awards.

All interested candidates are encouraged to apply. **The closing date is 21 February 2011**, or as soon thereafter as a suitable candidate is found. Interested candidates should send a letter of intent, curriculum vitae (including names and contact details of three references), copies of mark transcripts, and an example of their writing (e.g., honours thesis, publications from MSc thesis) to:

**Jason Marshal and Mark Keith, School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Private Bag 3, Johannesburg 2050, [jason.Marshall@wits.ac.za](mailto:jason.Marshall@wits.ac.za), [mark.keith@wits.ac.za](mailto:mark.keith@wits.ac.za)**

## PLANTS OF THE KLEIN KAROO



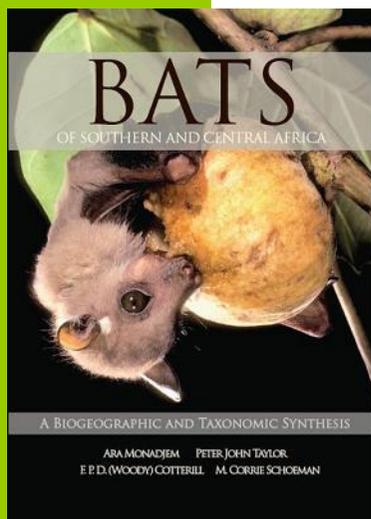
Jan Vlok • Anne Lise Schutte-Vlok

## BOTANICAL FIELD GUIDE: PLANTS OF THE KLEIN KAROO: NOW AVAILABLE!

This field guide of about 560 pages describes the ecology and the main habitat types of the Klein Karoo and illustrates about 1450 of the species occurring in the area. It will be useful to landowners, farmers, conservation managers, students and visitors to this unique area. A CD is included which contains 2021 photographs of some 1500 species (i.e. more than what is illustrated in the book) and the habitat map (which can be enlarged to identify habitat types up to farm boundary level). The book can be ordered and many bookshops do have stock.

**PRICE:** R300

To order, contact: UMDAUS PRESS (PTY) LTD, P O Box 11059, 0028 HATFIELD, SOUTH AFRICA Tel: ++27 12 991 2988  
Fax: 086 549 9760; E-mail: [orders@umdaus.com](mailto:orders@umdaus.com)  
Web site: [www.umdaus.com](http://www.umdaus.com)



## Bats of Southern and Central Africa

Bats of Southern and Central Africa: A Biogeographic and Taxonomic Synthesis by Ara Monadjem, Peter John Taylor, FPD (Woody) Cotterill, M Corrie Schoeman.  
Published by Wits University Press.

Click here to read the introduction:

[http://www.scribd.com/doc/36991524/Bats-of-Southern-and-Central-Africa?in\\_collection=2332043](http://www.scribd.com/doc/36991524/Bats-of-Southern-and-Central-Africa?in_collection=2332043)

## Expedition Coordinator – Western Cape

Wildlife & Ecological Investments



**Role Title** : Expedition Coordinator  
**Region** : South Africa  
**Location** : Cape Town, Western Cape

**Our Organisation:** WEI is a research organisation running conservation expeditions in South Africa and Mozambique. These expeditions are funded by international students and volunteers who, in addition to assisting with data collection, are also trained in ecological research techniques, savannah ecology and issues surrounding African conservation. We are looking for a suitably qualified person to join our young and dynamic team to ensure the successful running of these programmes.

**Description** : The incumbent will be responsible for the following functions:

1. Assist the Scientific Coordinator with the planning and implementation of research projects.
2. Manage the logistics and scheduling of research projects and student training.
3. Assist with the development of training courses.
4. Compile end of season reports for project stakeholders.
5. Develop exciting new research directions for the organisation.
6. Assist with temporary staff recruitment.
7. Source and assist with grant applications to increase organizational capacity.
8. Supervise and schedule the daily work objectives and tasks for students working at the research sites.
9. Liaise with our partners over student numbers and WEI's obligations to university students undertaking dissertation projects at our sites.
10. Ensure that WEI maintains the highest levels of data integrity and oversee that data is managed efficiently on site.
11. Organise student transfers to and from both terrestrial and marine research/training sites. Process logistics, student camp numbers, inter camp movements.
12. Daily camp management of volunteers along with personal interaction and appropriate pastoral care of volunteers throughout their stay.
13. Ensure volunteers have a meaningful and rewarding conservation experience, while also making a valuable contribution to research.
14. Undertake such other operational duties on site as may be required for the safe and efficient running of the research expeditions.

**Qualifications:** MSc in Ecology, Conservation Science, or related area and preferably experience working on research projects in developing countries. The applicant must be able to display strong organisational skills and have a flexible approach to work hours and location. Good MS office skills and a basic knowledge of GIS is required. The successful applicant will be able to prove strong interpersonal and motivational skills, as well as a passion for conservation.

South African citizens will be given preference and a FGASA Level 1 qualification would be a distinct advantage.

The incumbent will be based in Somerset West (near Cape Town) but will be expected to spend extended periods of time in the field (up to 6 months per year, although not all at once). All accommodation and food will be provided when in the field.

To apply please send a CV and covering letter to [tom.avent@wei.org.za](mailto:tom.avent@wei.org.za)

**WILDLIFE AND ECOLOGICAL INVESTMENTS** (Registered as an NPO under Act 71 of 1997)

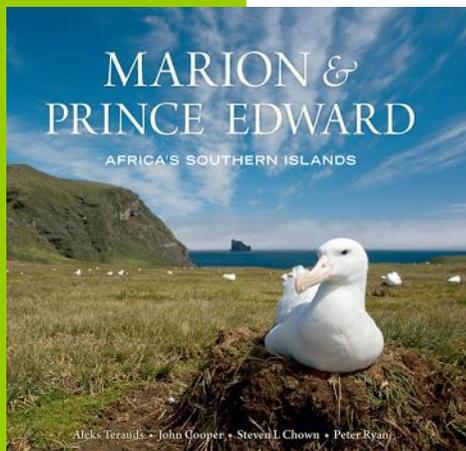
Unit 20, Fountain Square, 136 Main Rd, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 3288, Somerset West, 7129

Tel: +27 (0)83 325 7021 Fax: +27 (0)21 851 9496

[info@wei.org.za](mailto:info@wei.org.za) [www.wei.org.za](http://www.wei.org.za)

## Research on and history of Marion Island and environs encapsulated in new book



Four seasoned Stellenbosch and Cape Town researchers have teamed up to produce the first ever coffee-table book – one that is a pleasure both to read and to look at – on the history, beauty and conservation of South Africa's southernmost territories, Marion Island and Prince Edward Island, in the sub-Antarctic.

The book, *Marion and Prince Edward – Africa's southern islands*, was written and compiled by researchers at the Centre for Invasion Biology (CIB) at Stellenbosch University (SU) and the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town. The authors are Dr Aleks Terauds, an Australian researcher at the CIB; John Cooper, retired ornithologist and amateur historian but currently research associate at the CIB; Prof Steven Chown, Director of the CIB; and Prof Peter Ryan, ornithologist and author of field guides, at the Percy FitzPatrick. Together, the four authors have more than eight decades' experience as researchers on and about sub-Antarctic islands.

South Africans have been conducting research in the southern ocean for more than 60 years, from the time of the annexation of Marion Island and Prince Edward Island. Ever since, these inhospitable sub-Antarctic islands have served as the valuable outdoor classrooms of many of South Africa's most authoritative researchers. Hundreds of leading scientific publications have resulted from this, including illuminating articles on invasive species and climate change in the region. The publication of this book has now made this research more accessible to the layperson through, among other things, striking historical photos and evocative landscape scenes. The text is also illustrated by oil-paintings by Muizenberg artist Elizabeth Poulosom. Ryan and Terauds, together with Ryan Reisinger and Ben Dilley, were the principal photographers, collaborating on the book since 2009.

Cooper tells that the book is dedicated to Allan Crawford and Bob Rand, members of the first expedition to Marion Island, who pioneered the documentation of the islands' natural beauty and animal life. Crawford spearheaded the first South African expedition to Marion Island shortly after it was annexed in 1948. He compiled the first topographic map of the island and was the only expedition member who published a popular book about life on the island. Rand, member of the eighth expedition to the islands in 1951/1952, was the first scientist to explore the area and publish scientific articles about it. "He was also the first person to walk round the islands," says Cooper.

At the time, Rand's warnings about the dangers of keeping cats on Marion Island as pets fell on deaf ears. The consequent dramatic effect of the cats on, among others, the rich seabird life of the island led to a large-scale extermination project of the cats under Prof Marthan Bester of the University of Pretoria in the 1980s. At the book launch, the authors presented a painting of Bester's beloved sea lions to him in recognition of his great contribution to conservation on Marion Island.

The book is published by African Sun Media. It costs R350, and is available in leading bookstores or by visiting [www.sun-e-shop.co.za](http://www.sun-e-shop.co.za) or phoning 27 21 808 2842. Media enquiries: Engela Duvenage, Media: Faculty of Science, Stellenbosch University; (021) 808 2684 [science@sun.ac.za](mailto:science@sun.ac.za) 082 874 129

## Career Trends: Step by Step: Your Career from Undergrad to Postdoc

A lot of what's written about science careers focuses on the career options available to individuals or how to apply for jobs when you're ready to go on the market. The reality, of course, is that we should be thinking about our career long before that point. This booklet looks at the steps you can take throughout your training to better prepare for your career. Whether you're considering which internship opportunity to pursue, what sort of graduate school experience you might be interested in, or what to expect in your postdoc position, there's information in this booklet for you.

To download the booklet, just go to <http://scijobs.sciencemag.org/JobSeekerX/NewAccountForm.asp> on ScienceCareers.org. Your welcome e-mail will include a link to this booklet and all of our other career advice booklets. Register and get your complimentary booklet today!  
<http://scijobs.sciencemag.org/JobSeekerX/NewAccountForm.asp>



## 'Flying in the face of wind turbines'

In December 2011, one year from now, South Africa will be hosting the 2011 United Nations (UN) Climate Summit 2011 and delegates from 200 countries are expected to attend. "Success in facilitating the 2011 Climate Summit will benefit the global economy – and indeed our own economy – far more than hosting the World Cup Soccer tournament," says Dr Morné du Plessis, CEO of World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-SA.

As South Africans, we have a responsibility to reach a low carbon economy and thus decrease our carbon emissions to the targets determined at the COP15 UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen in December 2009. South Africa has much to do, especially as it is one of the top twenty greenhouse gas emitters in the world. To provide for the continuous demands of a growing economy, energy requirements in South Africa continue to increase exponentially. According to Dr Andrew Jenkins, a renewable energy consultant, "we are on the verge of an energy crisis where energy demands, compared to generation capacity, are greater than in most other countries."

Renewable energy in the form of wind, waves and sunlight, as a sustainable supply of energy into the mix of demands in South Africa, has provided an environmentally-friendly alternative to the burning of fossil fuels. Of these, wind energy has received the most attention in South Africa. Proposed wind energy developments in South Africa are focused along the West Coast, East Coast and in the Central Karoo. In South Africa, some 6000 MW of wind energy is currently under review and an approximate 30 000 MW is expected to be developed in the next 15 to 20 years. Wind energy developments in other countries, such as the USA, UK and Europe, have taught us that there are significant mortalities when birds collide with the blades of massive wind turbines. Bird conservation authorities in South Africa are in the fortunate position of being able to learn from the bird and wind energy experiences in other countries. The impacts are well known and in particular the mortalities of Golden Eagles in California, Griffon Vultures in Spain and White-tailed Eagles in Norway have been well documented. "In South Africa, we have the opportunity to influence the nature of the industry from the start," adds Jenkins.

The Department of Environmental Affairs has approached two leading South African conservation NGOs, BirdLife South Africa, and Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), to provide guidelines on how to mitigate the effects of wind energy developments on birds and bats. A Birds and Wind Energy Workshop was co-hosted by BirdLife South Africa and the EWT in Cape Town in August, and the meeting was facilitated by Dr Rowena Langston, a UK expert on the wildlife impact of wind farms. "At the workshop, a Birds and Wind Energy Specialist Group (BAWESG) was formed comprising of expert ornithologists, NGO representatives and environmental consultants," says Jon Smallie, Chair of BAWESG, and representative of the EWT's Wildlife & Energy Programme.

According to Dr Hanneline Smit, BirdLife South Africa's Conservation Manager, "the wind energy industry has the potential to impact negatively on many of our country's 125 threatened bird species which represent 15% of the total bird species in South Africa. The birds which are most at risk are raptors, nocturnal flying birds and birds with limited manoeuvrability such as bustards and cranes." BAWESG is currently busy with the compilation of an Avian Wind Sensitivity Map, "a map which provides information on the geographic areas in South Africa where wind farm development could impact negatively on avifauna", adds Smit. According to Smallie, "other outcomes to be delivered by BAWESG in the next three months include pre-and post monitoring guidelines for environmental consultants. The public and industry can provide comments at the Birds and Wind Energy Forum (BAWEF), and meetings are held quarterly."

Mark Anderson, CEO of BirdLife South Africa said, "Although BirdLife South Africa supports wind energy as an alternative, sustainable source of power that can significantly cut greenhouse emissions, we are very conscious that, if located in the wrong places, these wind turbines could be the death knell for many birds. With a proactive approach, BirdLife South Africa would like to ensure that wind turbines are not added to the plethora of anthropogenic factors that threaten our country's birds."

For more information on BAWEF or BAWESG, or if you'd like to make a donation to contribute to wind energy mitigation efforts for birds and bats, please contact Hanneline Smit at 011-7891122 or [conservation@birdlife.org.za](mailto:conservation@birdlife.org.za).

**Contact:** Dr Hanneline Smit, Manager Conservation Division, cell: 082 4534714; Lewis House, 239 Barkston Drive, Blairgowrie, P.O. Box 515, Randburg, Johannesburg, South Africa, Tel. +27-11-7891122, Fax. +27-11-7895188, e-mail address: [conservation@birdlife.org.za](mailto:conservation@birdlife.org.za), website <http://www.birdlife.org.za>.

## 'Draft Norms and Standards for the Management of Damage-Causing Animals in South Africa' - your opportunity to respond before Christmas!

The 'Draft Norms and Standards for the Management of Damage-Causing Animals in South Africa' was gazetted by the Government on the 26th November. We have, as individual citizens, until 26 December to submit written representations and/or objections to this document. In essence, the document fails to impose a ban on the continued manufacture, production and marketing of thousands of primitive metal traps, nor does it ban their use and ownership.

You can view it at [www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za). Send your responses to: The Director-General of Environmental Affairs; Attention: Mr. Thomas Mbedzi by email to: [nmbedzi@environment.gov.za](mailto:nmbedzi@environment.gov.za); by fax to: 012 320 7026; delivered to: The Department of Environmental Affairs, Attention Mr. Thomas Mbedzi, North Tower (Room 1320), 315 Pretorius Street, PRETORIA.

Examples of letters of objection have been drafted by individuals and organizations. Those looking for a draft objection letter may contact [bool@landmarkfoundation.org.za](mailto:bool@landmarkfoundation.org.za) to obtain examples.

### On a lighter note.... Guess who ate Santa???



It has been a while since a progress report on "Spud, the Office Assistant" was published in this Newsletter. Since his first appointment in 2009, Spud had been given various tasks according to his competence level (e.g. filing of documents, 'mail fetcher', paper shredding, feet warmer, computer screen cleaner etc). After a thorough assessment of his performance, it was decided to move him to another department as Head of Security. The above photographs speak for themselves!

#### Southern African Wildlife Management Association

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This brings us to the last issue of SAWMA Matters for 2010. Thanks once again to those who regularly send me news items.

**Please note that the secretariat will be closed from 1 to 15 January 2011.**

Warm regards until next time,

Elma Marais  
(Newsletter Editor - SAWMA)