

February 2013



SAWMA MATTERS

Electronic newsletter of the Southern African Wildlife Management Association

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South African Journal of Wildlife Research

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2013! Thanks to all your support to SAWMA, we're looking forward to another great year with even more members joining the SAWMA community. By sending your news to this regular e-publication, submitting articles for publication in South African Journal of Wildlife Research, and supporting our annual conference your important work and research will be shared with others in the same field.

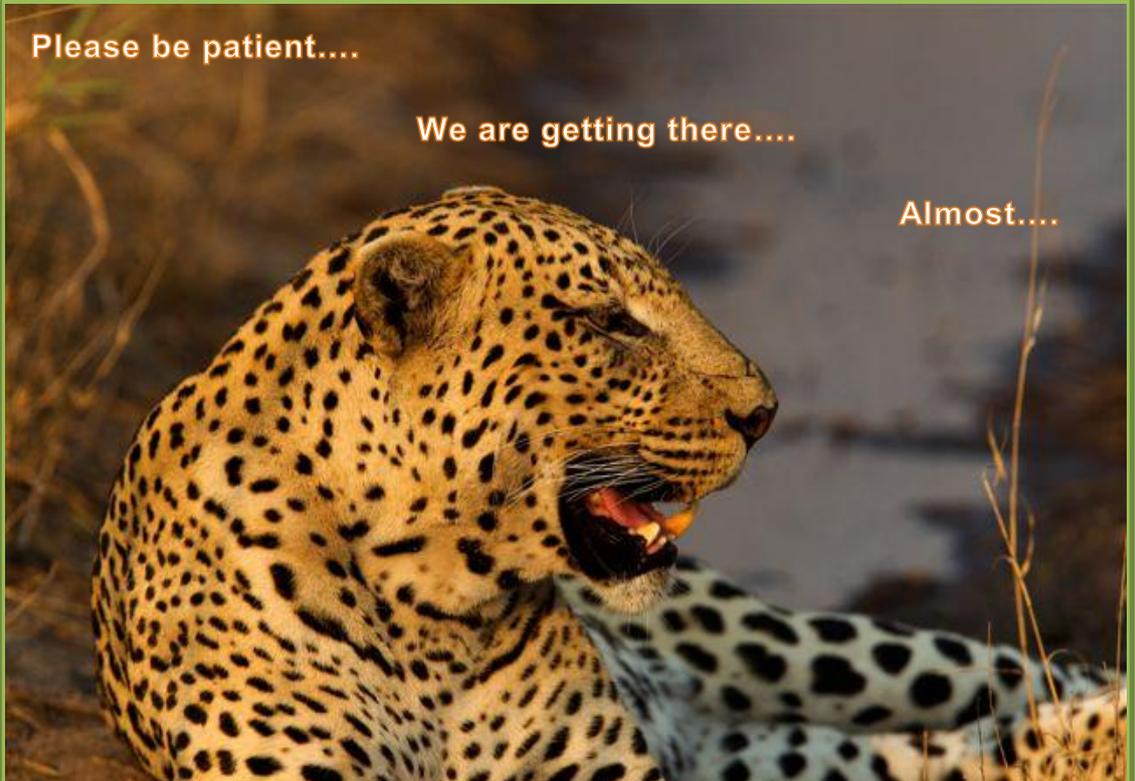
I hope you will find the snippets interesting. - Editor

SAWMA SYMPOSIUM 2013 Announcement

Please be patient....

We are getting there....

Almost....



We are not ready to announce the main theme and registration fees in this newsletter, but a meeting is scheduled for mid-February in order to finalize costs and for further details.

Provisional dates: 15-19 September 2013

Venue: Kruger National Park, Skukuza

New SAWMA members

During 2012 a total of 45 new members registered as new SAWMA members: 31 local ordinary members, 2 institutional members and 12 students!

The following individuals became SAWMA members since our previous newsletter:

Mario Meano, from Roodepoort, Johannesburg.

Peter Sawyer, from Onguma Game Reserve, Namibia.

Tanya Jacobsen, campaign manager for RhinoDotCom and busy with her final year Nature Conservation Diploma at UNISA.

Dewald Moolman, from Pretoria who just finished his Honours Degree in Game Management.

Liaan Minnie, busy with his PhD at Centre for African Conservation, NMMU.

Almero Bosch, reserve ecologist for the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve.

A warm welcome to you all!

SAWMA Membership fees 2013:

Thanks to all who responded to the reminder and paid their dues before the end of December. Remember that your membership automatically continues until you officially cancel it by sending us a note.

We are currently preparing the financials of 2012. We hope to have invoices for 2013 issued before the end of February. Members who have fallen behind with payments should please inform the secretariat if you wish to continue your membership, before new invoices are issued. Those who wish to pay their dues before the official invoices are sent are welcome to do so. Note that our fees are still the same as the past two years☺:

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 205-00

Our bank details: Standard Bank, Tyger Manor Branch 050410, Cheque account number: 270805575. Please use your surname as reference and email proof of payment to elma@mweb.co.za. Feel free to contact Elma Marais (elma@mweb.co.za) for any membership enquiries.

Tel: +27-21-5541297; Fax: 0866729882 <http://www.sawma.co.za/>

Member updates:

Annelize Steyn will be leaving Mpumalanga Parks at the end of February to pursue a new job as Director: Head of Academics at the Southern African Wildlife College.

Lindie and Gareth Eloff have left Eastern Cape Parks Board and South Africa for a new career in New Zealand.

Francis Mkanda has moved from Zambia to Tanzania to take on a new job as Technical Advisor Sustainable Land Management, at Project-Kilimanjaro.

Best of luck to you all!

LinkedIn

Some consider social networks as a waste of time, but there are networks worth belonging to, which might help you to make critical connections. If you are not a LinkedIn member yet, you might consider joining this social network for professionals. Go to <http://www.linkedin.com> - You post your professional profile - qualifications, experience, skills, etc. - and the system links you up with people in similar fields of expertise and interests. You can join also join various groups such as the SAWMA group on LinkedIn and share your news and opinions with other professionals in the field. Once you have registered yourself on LinkedIn, search for the group, Southern African Wildlife Management Association and join the group.

One of Africa's most influential conservationists and top ornithologist has died at the age of 57 after a long battle with cancer. SAWMA would like to extend our condolences to his family.

Tribute to Phil Hockey

(8 March 1956 – 24 January 2013)

Rob Little and Peter Ryan
FitzPatrick Institute DST/NRF Centre of Excellence, UCT



Born in England, Phil came to the FitzPatrick Institute in 1976 to assist with a study of White-fronted Plover breeding biology at Langebaan Lagoon. Preferring conditions here to counting sea ducks in winter from freezing Scottish shores, Phil moved to South Africa in 1979 to study African Black Oystercatchers for his PhD. After graduating in 1983, Phil stayed on at the FitzPatrick Institute as a contract researcher, and then as a lecturer. Although most of his early research focused on coastal and estuarine bird ecology, Phil was involved in setting the guidelines for the first southern African bird atlas, and was lead author on the bird atlas of the Southwestern Cape. Phil's focus on coastal waders and interactions with their food supplies took him to tropical Africa and islands in the Indian Ocean, South America, the Canary Islands and the Middle East. He was soon recognised as the authority on African waders and in 1995 he published the monograph *Waders of Southern Africa*. Together with Ian Sinclair and Warwick Tarboton he also wrote the best-selling regional field guide *Sasol Birds of Southern Africa*.

As Phil's career developed, he broadened his fields of interest to include bird movement and migration, avian life history evolution and the ecology of rarity. He also extended his horizons inland, taking charge of the FitzPatrick Institute's Karoo ecosystems project. By the end of the 1990s, Phil was one of the most experienced ornithologists in southern Africa, and a natural choice to lead the revision of Roberts' *Birds of Southern Africa*.

Phil was appointed the Institute's Director in 2008 and has led the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence using 'Birds as Keys to Biodiversity Conservation' to new heights. During his career, he graduated 18 PhD and 33 MSc students, and supervised eight Post-doctoral Fellows and some 30 honours projects. In addition to more than 120 scientific papers, Phil published over 150 semi-popular articles and 12 books and book chapters. He was passionate about the need to disseminate the science of birds, and their conservation, to a wide audience, and frequently presented public lectures, radio and television interviews. His contribution in this regard was recognized by the South African Network for Coastal and Oceanic Research who named him 'Marine and Coastal Communicator of the Year' in 2000 and he was awarded the Stevenson-Hamilton Medal by the Zoological Society of Southern Africa in 2008 for contributions to the public awareness of science.

Phil's impact and leadership in ornithology has been exemplary and he will be remembered through his vast contribution to the avian literature, both scientific and popular. Phil touched the hearts and lives of many people, from deeply insightful discussions about birds to warm interactions on life itself. He was a deeply caring person with an open heart and will be sorely missed by many.



UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS for 2013

The 10th World Wilderness Congress (WILD10) will convene in Spain from October 4-10, 2013, focusing on the global and European status of wilderness and human society.

The World Wilderness Congress, now the world's longest-running, public conservation project and environmental forum, has humble beginnings. Ian Player and his Zulu mentor Magqubu Ntombela were sitting on the banks of the Imfolozi River in 1974. On this particular day Magqubu turned to Ian and proposed: "We should call an INDABA-KULU, a great gathering, for all people to come together for wilderness.

In a short 3 years' time the first World Wilderness Congress convened in South Africa. The Congress has now convened 9 times on 5 continents.

Read the [outcomes of the most recent WWC](#), WILD9, which convened from 6-13 November 2009 in Merida, Mexico with 1800 delegates from 50 nations.

Visit www.wild10.org and be sure to check back for updates!

The City of Istanbul European Center of Culture



ICWERC 2013: International Conference on Wildlife Ecology, Rehabilitation and Conservation

Istanbul, Turkey, June 20-21, 2013

The XXXIV. International Conference on Wildlife Ecology, Rehabilitation and Conservation aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results about all aspects of Wildlife Ecology, Rehabilitation and Conservation, and discuss the practical challenges encountered and the solutions adopted.

When: June 20, 2013 – June 21, 2013 (all-day)

Where: Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Centre, Turkey

Cost: 250 to 400 Euros

Contact: info@waset.org;

<https://www.waset.org/conferences/2013/istanbul/icwerc/index.php>

International Union of Game Biologists - Congress 2013

When: 27 – 30 August 2013

Where: Brussels, Belgium

Contact: IUGB 2013 Congress Secretariat: iugb2013@momentum-pco.be

<http://www.iugb2013.be/index.php>

9th International Conference on Behaviour, Physiology and Genetics of Wildlife

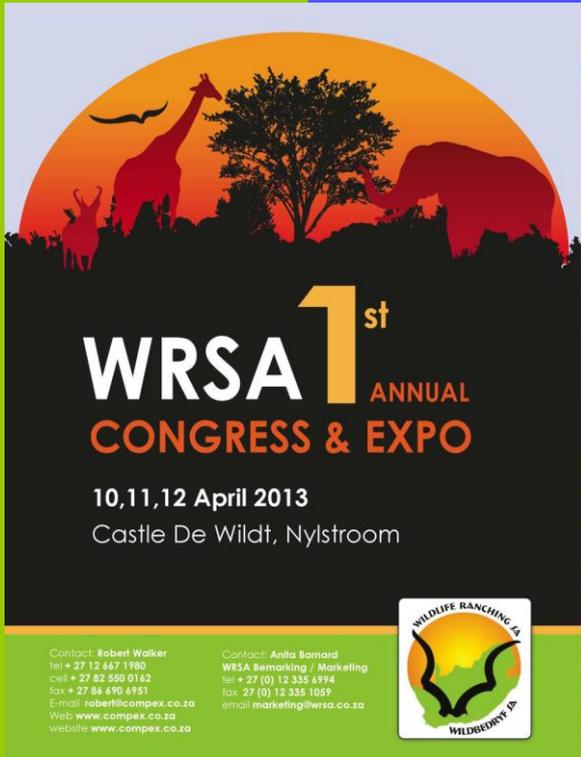
The aim of this conference is to foster an exchange of ideas between wildlife scientists from different disciplines with an interest in both wild and captive mammalian species, and to present the latest advances and stimulate future research in this topic. To this aim, the selected plenary talks and workshops will cover a diverse range of fascinating topics. We are expecting a stimulating programme with many interesting scientific presentations supplemented by an entertaining, yet informative, social programme.

When: 18 – 21 September 2013

Where: Berlin, Germany

Contact: symposium@izw-berlin.de





WRSA 1st ANNUAL CONGRESS & EXPO

10,11,12 April 2013
Castle De Wildt, Nylstroom

Contact: Robert Walker
tel + 27 12 467 1980
cell + 27 82 550 0182
fax + 27 84 510 1951
Email: robert@compex.co.za
Web: www.compex.co.za
website: www.compex.co.za

Contact: Anita Barnard
WRSA Bemarking / Marketing
tel + 27 (0) 12 335 6994
fax: 27 (0) 12 335 1059
email: marketing@wrsa.co.za



Upcoming Local Events:

Wildlife Ranching South Africa Conference & Expo:

WRSA is hosting a three-day congress with the spotlight on developments in the wildlife industry and the challenges faced by wildlife ranchers.

Presentations will focus on solutions to the numerous challenges, which the wildlife industry faces, i.e.:

- Support for the game industry from government and other entities
- Sustainability of the industry from a global perspective
- Immobilisation of game during emergencies (M99)
- Land reform
- Permits for the transport and translocation of game
- Role of technology and research towards the next decade
- Rhinoceros protection and the legal trade in rhino horn
- Parasite infestation in wildlife and the management thereof
- Game farm economics
- Sound breeding practices

Dates: 10-12 April 2013

Venue: Castle de Wildt, near Nylstroom/Modimolle, Limpopo

Enquiries - Tel: 012 3356994 | Email: marketing@wrsa.co.za

ZSSA Conference: 'Biodiversity Value & Change': 14-17 July 2013, Thsipise Resort

Key note speakers will include Dr Danie Pienaar (Head of Research at Kruger) and Prof Tom Gilbert from University of Copenhagen (a pioneer in applied zoological applications of next-generation DNA sequencing). Whilst we will welcome papers on all aspects of zoology, under our theme of "Biodiversity Value & Change", we aim to focus on the role and the future of protected areas, their value in terms of sustainable human livelihoods, and projected challenges and changes to biodiversity in southern Africa.

REGISTRATION: All delegates are required to register online at www.savetcon.co.za

Giraffe Indaba II

The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) together with the IUCN SSC 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 second 'wild' giraffe Indaba (conference) in Africa at the Masai Lodge, Kenya, from **25 – 30 August 2013**.

With rapidly dropping giraffe numbers in most African range States and a low level of awareness of this fact, the Indaba's theme '**Safe Our Species! Is there a future for giraffe in Africa?**' appears very timely and appropriate. A range of sub-themes have been proposed for the Indaba, however, the event is open to new, innovative and interesting presentations and posters.

For more information see the attached registration information or visit the GCF website:

Arid Zone Ecology Forum: First week in September 2013, Kimberley

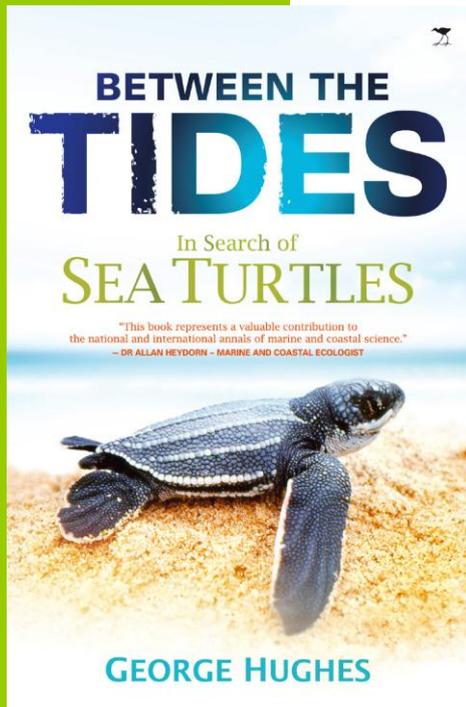
PLEASE NOTE: that this will follow on the KBRS 10th Symposium - in other words it will be BACK-TO-BACK. We look forward to meeting our colleagues from KBRS after their symposium, and maybe some of them will register to AZEF too.

Enquiries: Wendy Paisley, AZEF Secretariat

Landline: 021 424 3995; Cell: 072 625 0274; Fax2email: 086 759 2859; Arid Zone Ecology Forum: www.azef.co.za

Books:

Between the Tides - In Search of Sea Turtles – George Hughes



Much can be learned about the condition of the planet's environment by looking at sea turtles. They have existed for over 100 million years, and they travel throughout the world's oceans. Suddenly, however, they are struggling to survive – largely because of things people are doing to the planet's oceans and beaches. But what does this mean for the human species? It is possible that a world in which sea turtles cannot survive may soon become a world in which humans struggle to survive. If, however, we learn from our mistakes and begin changing our behaviour, there is still time to save sea turtles from extinction. In the process, we will be saving one of the earth's most mysterious and time-honoured creatures. We might just be saving ourselves too. South Africa has played an active role in this, protecting its own seaturtle populations and researching turtle populations in neighbouring countries. An early pioneer in conservation techniques, South Africa has assisted many countries and researchers, and the sea turtles of south-east Africa are now extensively protected, with positive signs of recovery.

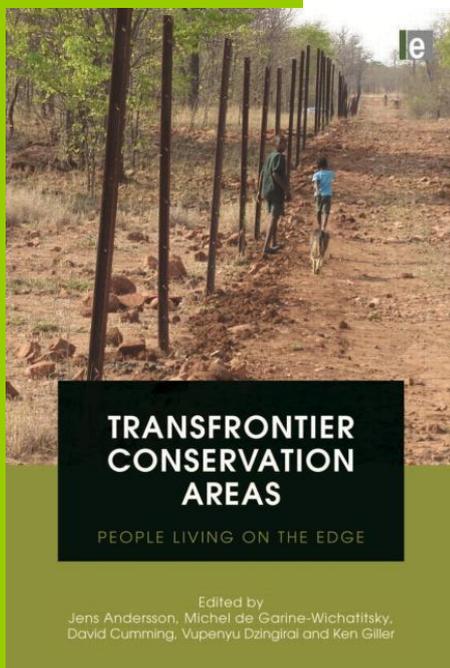
Between the Tides tells this remarkable story, as seen through the eyes of the author, whose interest in sea-turtle research has taken him all over the world and involved him in exciting expeditions, scientific controversy, political unrest, the companionship of wonderful people, both scientific and conservationist, and survival by sheer luck. His lasting reward has been his association with beautiful beaches and the wonderful family of sea turtles.

George Hughes finished a BSc (Hons) in Zoology in 1968 and pursued a higher degree in Zoology by studying sea turtles throughout the south-western Indian Ocean. Between the Tides is essentially the story of his eccentric experiences and the results of his original research, expanded and brought up to date following a life-long association with these fascinating and endearing reptiles.

George was CEO of the Natal Parks Board and then Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, and is the recipient of numerous awards including a lifetime achievement award from the International Sea Turtle Society. He has led many official South African delegations to conservation conferences with objectives as diverse as Sustainable Use, CITES and Conservation Economics issues. Having retired after 42 years in conservation work, he continues to be involved in sea-turtle conservation. He enjoys writing (297 publications) and lecturing and spent four years as Chairman of a national radio programme Talking of Nature.

(978-1-4314-0562-6 • Trade Paperback • 235x155mm • 276pp • R195.00 • November 2012 • World Rights)

For all media enquiries, review copies, or interview requests please contact: Raven Noble 011 628 3200 raven@jacana.co.za
For sales enquiries contact: Lanore Hulley 011 628 3200 reception@jacana.co.za

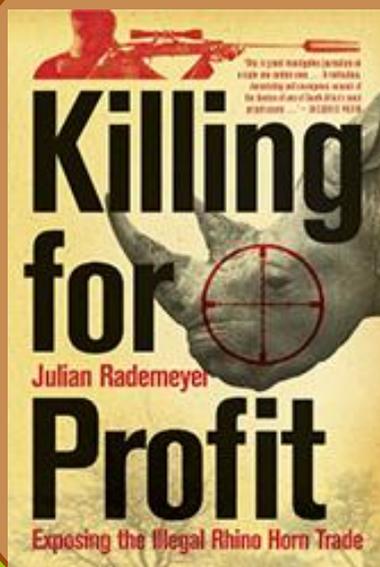


Transfrontier Conservation Areas - People Living on the Edge

Edited by Jens A. Andersson, Michel de Garine-Wichatitsky, David H.M. Cumming, Vupenyu Dzingirai, Ken E. Giller

Hardback – Published August 23rd 2012

This book focuses on the forgotten people displaced by, or living on the edge of, protected wildlife areas. It moves beyond the grand 'enchanted promise' of conservation and development across frontiers, and unfounded notions of TFCAs as integrated social-ecological systems. Peoples' dependency on natural resources – the specific combination of crop cultivation, livestock keeping and natural resource harvesting activities – varies enormously along the conservation frontier, as does their reliance on resources on the other side of the conservation boundary. Hence, the studies in this book move from the dream of eco-tourism-fuelled development supporting nature conservation and people towards the local realities facing marginalized people, living adjacent to protected areas in environments often poorly suited to agriculture.



Killing for Profit: Exposing the Illegal Rhino Horn Trade

Rhino horn is worth more than cocaine, heroin or even gold on the black markets of Southeast Asia and China. Now, *Killing for Profit* brings you the story of one man's journey into a violent underworld where ruthless criminal syndicates will stop at nothing to attain their prize – a tale of greed and corruption and of an increasingly desperate battle to save from extinction an animal that has existed for over 50 million years. This is investigative journalism at its gripping best.

If you read only one book this year, you want it to be this one ...

Journalist Julian Rademeyer follows the bloody trail of the syndicates, poachers, smugglers, hunters and hustlers from the frontlines of the rhino wars in Zimbabwe and South Africa to the medicine markets of Vietnam, and into the lair of a wildlife trafficking kingpin on the banks of the Mekong River in Laos.

This book will appeal to anyone concerned about the survival of our endangered animal species and the environment in general. Julian Rademeyer
 Publisher: Random House Struik (March 15, 2013)
 ISBN-13: 978-1770223349

Have we reached a turning point for Rhino Conservation?

According to the International Anti-Poaching Foundation, the illegal trafficking of wildlife now ranks as the 3rd largest criminal industry in the world. (<http://www.iapf.org/en/>)

Last was a bad year for rhinos. Poaching statistics released by the Department of Environmental Affairs show that 668 of this species were lost due to illegal killings in South Africa in 2012. This is a huge increase on the previous record of 448 in 2011.

Many suggest that the solution to the rhino crisis is sustainable use.

In 2012 an article published in the *South African Journal of Science* suggests how the sustainable use approach could save South Africa's rhinos. The author, Brian Child starts the paper with the paradox that rhinos have become so valuable that the private sector is questioning whether it still wants them. The fact that the cost–benefit calculation for rhinos has been reversed by the escalation of poaching and the costs and risks of tackling armed poachers has raised some questions:

'Would trading rhino horn and expanding sustainable hunting change these cost–benefit calculations? And: 'No domestic species has gone extinct because it was valuable, so why is high value a threat to wild species, rather than an enormous opportunity?'

According to the author the rhino crisis confronts us with a stark choice: 'Do we continue with a conservation strategy based on centralized conservation and trade bans that has been in place for 35 years and is failing? Or is the better risk strategy to boldly reverse a system that is not working?' In his conclusion the author suggests that we can choose to perceive the high price of rhinos as an economic blessing rather than a threat. The sustainable use approach suggests that rhinos (and South Africa's economy and employment figures) would benefit by replacing a failed no-trade regulatory approach with a carefully designed policy experiment to trade rhino horn through carefully configured and simple (not simplistic) institutions.'

Read the article at <http://www.sajs.co.za/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/1338-9879-8-PB.pdf>

How a text message could save an elephant or a rhino from a poacher:

Soon a text message may save an elephant's or rhino's life. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) is implementing a new alarm system in some protected areas that will alert rangers of intruders via a text message, reports the Guardian. The new alarm system will send a text to rangers whenever someone—or some animal—is attempting to break through a fence. The text will include coordinates of the break-in. KWS believes that new system could cut poaching by 90 percent. Read more at <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0115-hance-elephant-text.html#CGm0ZS84YdyxjZL.99>

Snippets:**Saving the endangered Grevy's zebra**

'The Grevy's zebra's populations numbered at about 15,000 in the 1970s but are currently down to 3,000—an 80 percent decline. Kenya Wildlife Service recently completed a management strategy for the Grevy's zebra, which helps ensure that Grevy's zebra populations increase by mitigating threats to their survival. AWF has already engaged scouts to monitor and protect wildlife such as the Grevy's in the Samburu Heartland, but will be evaluating how best to align our future efforts with the management strategy.'

Read more at: <http://awf.org/content/solution/detail/3377/>

New park protects 15,000 gorillas

The Republic of Congo has declared a new national park that protects a core population of the 125,000 western lowland gorillas discovered by Wildlife Conservation Society in 2008.

Called Ntokou-Pikounda National Park, the new protected area spans some 4,572 square kilometers (1,765 square miles) and contains an estimated 15,000 gorillas, 800 elephants, and 950 chimpanzees. The new park adds to Congo's impressive list of protected areas that safeguard large populations of gorillas and wide expanses of pristine habitat.

Read more at:

http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/01/130131120640.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Fplants_animals%2Fnature+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Plants+%26+Animals+News+--+Nature%29

Botswana's first giraffe research - Kylie McQualter, University of New South Wales and Giraffe Conservation Foundation

'Whilst some ecological information is available for giraffe populations elsewhere in Africa, the giraffe of northern Botswana have, until now, been neglected as a focus of ecological studies. An exciting new collaborative research initiative has brought together the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, Elephants without Borders (EWB) and the University of New South Wales to undertake Botswana's first giraffe ecology research under the umbrella of EWB's Large Herbivore Ecology Programme.'

Full article in Giraffa Volume 6, Issue 2, 2012 can now be downloaded from the GCF website. <http://www.giraffeconservation.org/newsletters.php>

The Incredible Elephants of the Sahara

African elephants are known for hanging around rivers and marshes in the savanna and the edge of jungles. However, their range actually extends well into the north, all the way up to the Sahara desert. In Mali's Gourma region, around the city of Timbuktu, there exists a species of desert-adapted African elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*). Every year, they undertake an amazing migration across an area of 32,000 square kilometers (over 12,000 square miles) in search of food and water. This annual journey was recently recorded by researchers from the group Save the Elephants, University of British Columbia, and Oxford University, who attached GPS collars to nine of the elephants and tracking them by satellite. Their report documents the elephants' record-breaking trek to survive in the largest and harshest elephant range in the world.

They found that the greatest threat to the Gourma elephants is not the difficult environment, but the threat from humans. Nonetheless, the Gourma elephants continue their annual migrations because it is what they do. They overcome the extreme heat and drought of the Sahara in order to make it to their water and food destinations.

This study has been published in the journal, Biological Conservation <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00063207>

African savannah -- and its lions -- declining at alarming rates.

About 75 percent of Africa's savannahs and more than two-thirds of the lion population once estimated to live there have disappeared in the last 50 years, according to a study published in the journal Biodiversity and Conservation.

"The word savannah conjures up visions of vast open plains teeming with wildlife. But the reality is that massive land-use change and deforestation, driven by rapid human population growth, has fragmented or degraded much of the original savannah. Only 25 percent remains of an ecosystem that once was a third larger than the continental United States," said Stuart Pimm, Doris Duke Professor of Conservation Ecology at Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment.

Pimm and his colleagues used high-resolution satellite imagery from Google Earth, coupled with human population density data and estimates of local lion populations, to map areas still favourable to the big cats' survival.

Read more at: <http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/news/africas-savannahs-and-their-lions-declining-at-alarming-rates>

Digital Surveillance: A Novel Approach to Monitoring the Illegal Wildlife Trade

Hansen, ALS; Li, A; Joly, D; Mekaru, S; Brownstein, JS

PLOS ONE Volume: 7 Issue: 12 Article Number: e511156 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0051156 Published: DEC 7 2012

'A dearth of information obscures the true scale of the global illegal trade in wildlife. Herein, we introduce an automated web crawling surveillance system developed to monitor reports on illegally traded wildlife. A resource for enforcement officials as well as the general public, the freely available website, <http://www.healthmap.org/wildlifetrade>, provides a customizable visualization of worldwide reports on interceptions of illegally traded wildlife and wildlife products. From August 1, 2010 to July 31, 2011, publicly available English language illegal wildlife trade reports from official and unofficial sources were collected and categorized by location and species involved. During this interval, 858 illegal wildlife trade reports were collected from 89 countries. Countries with the highest number of reports included India (n = 146, 15.6%), the United States (n = 143, 15.3%), South Africa (n = 75, 8.0%), China (n = 41, 4.4%), and Vietnam (n = 37, 4.0%). Species reported as traded or poached included elephants (n = 107, 12.5%), rhinoceros (n = 103, 12.0%), tigers (n = 68, 7.9%), leopards (n = 54, 6.3%), and pangolins (n = 45, 5.2%). The use of unofficial data sources, such as online news sites and social networks, to collect information on international wildlife trade augments traditional approaches drawing on official reporting and presents a novel source of intelligence with which to monitor and collect news in support of enforcement against this threat to wildlife conservation worldwide.'

South African Journal of Wildlife Research:

Call for papers:

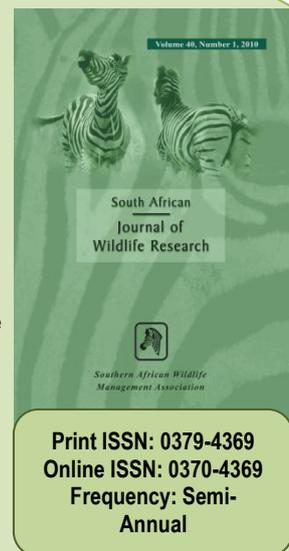
The editor invites submissions on wildlife management and research in Africa, Arabia and Malagasy. Papers in the following fields are welcome:

- Monitoring •Management •Wildlife Genetics •Population ecology
- Animal behavior •Wildlife and Conservation Biology •Biodiversity

All submissions are reviewed by at least 2 reviewers. To facilitate the publication of high quality articles the SAJWR has a team of eminent scientists as Associate Editors who are assigned to manuscripts in their areas of specialization.

Papers can be submitted to: The Editor-in-Chief, Prof. M.R. Perrin,
perrin@ukzn.ac.za

For more on information visit the following links:
[Authors Guide: SAJWR](#); [Table of Contents: SAJWR](#)



Dual option for receiving the South African Journal of Wildlife Research:

To accommodate changing needs, from this year SAWMA members will be offered a choice between receiving the hard copy of SAJWR (including electronic access to the online content), or alternative online access to the full journal content.

During this transition period, fees will stay the same for both options. As soon as we have established which percentage of members still prefer the hard copy, a dual price membership option will be determined, based on the printing costs of the journal.

You will be asked to indicate your preference when the membership invoices are issued for 2013.

Southern African Wildlife Management Association

PO Box 217
Bloubergstrand 7436

PHONE:
+27 -21-5541297

FAX:
0866729882

E-MAIL:
elma@mweb.co.za
www.sawma.co.za

Please note that any view or opinion expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily be that of SAWMA or the SAWMA management.

If you would like to share your news with other SAWMA members, please forward it to the following email address: elma@mweb.co.za

Warm regards until next time,

Elma Marais
(Newsletter Editor - SAWMA)

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