

July 2010



SAWMA MATTERS

Electronic newsletter of the Southern African Wildlife Management Association

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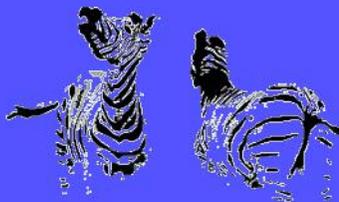
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South African Journal of Wildlife Research – volume 40/1



The first issue of the 40th volume of the SAJWR was posted to all members last week and most local members would have received their copy by now. As the publication was a bit later than usual, the new passwords for access to the electronic full text articles on SABINET will only be activated by 1 August. An announcement will be sent to all once the new password has been activated. More on page 2...

SAWMA Anniversary symposium: Biodiversity Conservation in a Changing World – 19-22 September



We are very excited about the number and variety of papers submitted for presentation. The organizing committee is busy putting together the provisional programme and it will be distributed to all soon!

This year Council has invited Peter Flemming who will represent the Australasian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS) as guest speaker. The idea is to promote a closer cooperation which will be of benefit to both organizations. The topic of his keynote address will be - **Wildlife management in Australasia: biodiversity is changing in our part of the world.**

Don't forget the seminar following the symposium on 23 September: **Challenges in the Management of Medium Size Protected Areas.** A programme with invited speakers will be available soon.

Founder members: Please try and attend this special reunion symposium if possible. We would like to make use of this special occasion to thank you all for your roles in establishing the association and the publication of our journal. Please contact Elma Marais as soon as possible if you are planning to attend the symposium. We are offering a special registration rate of R1200.

Deadlines: The deadline for submission of papers has unfortunately expired. **Abstracts:** A short abstract for both papers and posters (about 300 - 350 words) should be submitted by **15 July 2010** by e-mail to Elma Marais: email address: elma@mweb.co.za

Registration forms are available at the SAWMA website or the secretariat. (early registration rates expire 14 August and the final date for registration 10 September. Please book your accommodation with Nadine Scholtz at Buffelspoort nadines@atkv.org.za (cc to elma@mweb.co.za) before end of July.



SAWMA membership

New Members:

A warm welcome to the 3 new SAWMA members who joined the association during the pastmonth!

Michelle Prinsloo: She is studying towards a BSc (Hons.) Wildlife Management.

Peter Mills: He is currently manager of the Cradle of Humankind and has been working for 28 years in various conservation fields.

Anthony Roberts: Director at the Lapalala Wilderness School.

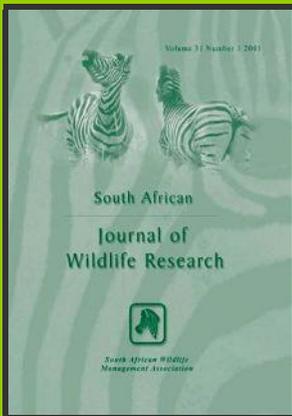


Photo: Rudi van Aarde

Membership rates: Thanks for the payments received to date!

Local individual members:	R330-00
Fulltime Student members (Local):	R165-00
Fulltime Student members (Foreign):	R330-00
Foreign individual members:	USD 90-00
Local Institutional Subscribers:	R630-00
Foreign Institutional Subscribers:	USD187-00

Please remember to use your surname or invoice number as reference or email proof of the payment to elma@mweb.co.za!



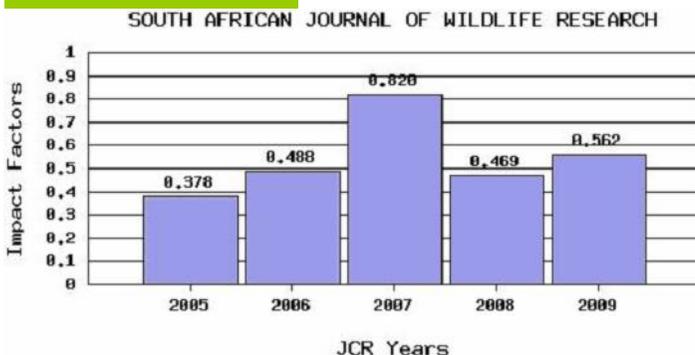
South African Journal of Wildlife Research:

Vol. 40/1 is online!

The April 2010 issue of SAJWR is online! Members can access the electronic version through the SAWMA website (<http://www.sawma.co.za>). Electronic copies of papers can be downloaded with login codes available from the SAWMA secretariat. The new password for volume 40 will be activated on 1 August.

Last reminder of the survey to determine the format of the SAJWR: After the 31st July the online investigation for the format in which you prefer the SAJWR to be published. The results will be analyzed and discussed at the AGM in September.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=KSoxCvd0QyAsl1YRv2gonw_3d_3d



Impact factor

Thomson Reuters' ISI Web of Knowledge has just released the 2009 Journal Citation Report (JCR), detailing, among other statistics, individual journals' Impact Factor and subject category rankings.

SAJWR has an IF of **0.562** and is ranked **110 of 127 in Ecology** and **99 of 127 in Zoology** according to the 2009 JCR. Last year's impact factor for the journal was **0.469**. ISI calculates Impact Factor by dividing cites to recent articles by number of recent articles.

In 2009, the journal received **27 eligible cites** to **48 eligible articles** published in 2007 and 2008. The five-year impact factor, which counts cites in 2009 to items published in the five preceding years, not just the last two, is **0.810**.

African Journals Archive for back issues of SAJWR:

Visit our archives dating back to 1971:

http://content.ajarchive.org/cdm4/index_0379-4369.php?CISOROOT=/0379-4369

South African Journal of Wildlife Research: Vol 40, issue 1

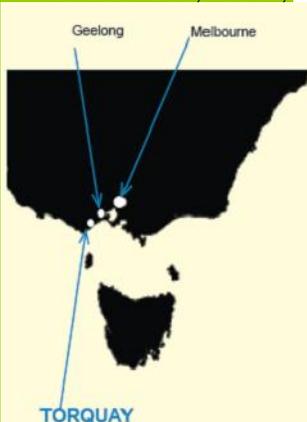
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Call for papers:

Please submit your manuscript for review to be published in the SAJWR to:

Elma Marais
elma@mweb.co.za
 or Michael Somers
Michael.Somers@up.ac.za

1. Age assignment to individual African lions. **Authors:** Ferreira, Sam; J. Funston, Paul; **Pages:** 2-9
2. Factors affecting location failure of GPS collars fitted to African leopards (*panthera pardus*). **Authors:** Swanepoel, Lourens H.; Dalerum, Fredrik; Van Hoven, Wouter; **Pages:** 10-15
3. Public perceptions of feral cats within an urban conservancy on a campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. **Authors:** Tennent, Jaclyn K.; Downs, Colleen T.; Wald, Dara M.; Watson, Helen K.; **Pages:** 16-26
4. Diet composition of western Derby eland (*Taurotragus derbianus derbianus*) in a dry season. **Authors:** Hejzmanova, Pavla; Homolka, Miloslav; Antoninova, Marketa; Hejzman, Michal; Podhajecka, Veronika; **Pages:** 27-34
5. Western Zambian sable : are they a geographic extension of the giant sable antelope? **Authors:** Jansen Van Vuuren, Bettine; Robinson, Terence J.; VazPinto, Pedro; Estes, Richard; Matthee, Conrad A.; **Pages:** 35-42
6. An assessment of illegal hunting on farmland in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa : implications for oribi (*ourebia ourebi*) conservation. **Authors:** Grey-Ross, Rebecca; Downs, Colleen T.; Kirkman, Kevin; **Pages:** 43-52
7. Annual and seasonal rainfall may influence progeny sex ratio in the black rhinoceros. **Authors:** Berkeley, Elizabeth V.; Linklater, Wayne L.; **Pages:** 53-57
8. Black rhinoceros are slow to colonize a harvested neighbour's range. **Authors:** Linklater, Wayne L.; Hutcheson, Ian R.; **Pages:** 58-63
9. Habitat use in the ice rat - *otomy sloggetti robertsi*. **Authors:** Schwaibold, Ute; Pillay, Neville; **Pages:** 64-72
10. Roost use by two sympatric species of *scotophilus* in a natural environment. **Authors:** Monadjem, Ara; Raabe, Tara; Dickerson, Brian; Silvy, Nova; McCleery, Robert; **Pages:** 73-76
11. Comparative efficacy of sign surveys, spotlighting and audio playbacks in a landscape-scale carnivore survey. **Authors:** Thom, Michelle; Green, Matthew; Bateman, Philip W.; Cameron, Elissa Z.; Yamell, Richard W.; Scott, Dawn M.; **Pages:** 77-86
12. Distance sampling for estimating springhare, Cape hare and steenbok densities in South Africa. **Authors:** Stenkewitz, Ute; Herrmann, Eric; Kamler, Jan F.; **Pages:** 87-92
13. Travel motivation of tourists to Kruger and Tsitsikamma National Parks : a comparative study. **Authors:** Kruger, Martinette; Saayman, Melville; **Pages:** 93-102
14. Farmland birds across the world, W. van der Weijden, P. Terwan & A. Guldemond (Eds.) : book review. **Authors:** Little, Rob M.; **Pages:** 103-104



**For more information contact: AWMS Secretariat c/- on
 Q Conference support, PO Box 3711, Weston Creek ACT 2611,
 Tel: (02) 6288 3998 Fax: (02) 6161 4719,
 Email: awms@onqconferences.com.au**

AWMS Annual Conference 2010
Torquay, Victoria 1-3 December 2010

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

Three charismatic southern African Birds heading for extinction

(submitted by Mark Anderson,
Director of BirdLife SA; Johannesburg,
15 June 2010:



Three of South Africa's flagship bird species have moved closer to extinction, according to the 2010 IUCN Red List. The African Penguin's status has changed from Vulnerable in the 2009 category to Endangered, the Ludwig's Bustard from Least Concern to Endangered and the Southern Ground Hornbill from Least Concern to Vulnerable.

According to Dr Hanneline Smit, BirdLife South Africa's Conservation Division Manager, "the decrease in numbers and range of these three birds is great cause for concern". All three species are the focus of research and conservation work, but clearly more is needed in order to rescue them from further population declines.

Mark Anderson, BirdLife South Africa's Executive Director, confirms that "the populations of all three species which almost exclusively occur in southern Africa are rapidly declining due to a variety of human impacts".

African Penguins are being severely affected by commercial fisheries and shifts in prey populations, the Ludwig's Bustard's most significant threat is mortalities caused by collisions with power lines, and Southern Ground Hornbill populations are threatened by habitat destruction.

"It is unfortunate that, during the UN International Year of Biodiversity, some of our most attractive and charismatic bird species move closer to extinction", added Smit. African Penguins are currently the focus of extensive conservation action which is being conducted by a number of organizations in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape, and a concerted effort will be needed to lift this embattled penguin from its precipitous population decline. "BirdLife South Africa's conservation work on the African Penguin is being funded by the Charl van der Merwe Trust and Diemersfontein Wine Estate", said Anderson. "Along the coast of Namibia and South Africa (the only current breeding sites for the species), only seven islands now support 80% of the global population which decreased from 141 000 pairs in 1956-1957 to an estimated 25 262 pairs today, representing a decline of 60.5% over three generations", explained Dr Ross Wanless, the Manager of BirdLife South Africa's Seabird Division.

The bulk of the Ludwig's Bustard population is found in southern Africa. "The major threat to this species' survival is collisions with power lines", explained Anderson. Work done by Anderson during the early-2000s showed that every kilometre of transmission power line in the eastern Karoo kills one bustard per year. "The population cannot maintain these mortalities", he added. For the Ludwig's Bustard, global population estimates are outdated (around 20 years old) and in urgent need of revision.

Conservation measures proposed by BirdLife South Africa's Bustard Working Group include obtaining an updated population estimate, measure bustard collision rates with power lines across the whole range of Karoo habitats, improve knowledge of how the species visually perceives power lines and monitor annual movements of the species.

In South Africa major threats to the Southern Ground Hornbill include loss of nesting habitat, mainly ascribed to land use or clearing for agriculture or by fire. It is being debated whether habitat destruction by African elephants contribute to the loss of suitable breeding sites. Concerted research effort has been ongoing at two sites in the Limpopo Province during the past ten years, and a reintroduction programme is underway at Mabula." It is essential to investigate the effectiveness of artificial nesting sites and to prevent further habitat loss of the Southern Ground Hornbill", said Smit.



Leopard project gets CapeNature reserves excited.

Thanks to an initiative by the Cape Leopard Trust (CLT), several leopards have been captured on camera in CapeNature reserves in recent months, leaving some reserves managers very excited. Last month, field rangers at the Gankaberg NR, caught and collared their first leopard.

The leopard weighed in at a mere 35kg, which is a healthy specimen for this region, despite the apparent low weight. The Boland Leopard Project is also in full swing and fourteen camera stations have been set up in Limietberg NR to date, with another eight planned. The current work of the Trust includes several research projects involving leopards in the Cape and elsewhere in South Africa. A key aim of this study is to determine whether the leopards of the Western Cape region should be considered as a unique genetic unit – a group of small leopards weighing up to half that of their northern cousins. Up to now research has taken place primarily in the Cederberg Mountains. The results of these studies will provide the most comprehensive understanding of the conservation status and needs of the leopard in the Cape conducted to date.

More information extracted from the Cape Leopard Trust website:

www.capeleopard.org.za



THE
CAPE LEOPARD
TRUST

“The leopard currently fills the role of apex predator in the Cederberg and the rest of the Western Cape; however, its conservation status remains uncertain. The species is regularly removed or exterminated from farms with little knowledge of population or genetic status, whether these removals are sustainable or whether the factors giving rise to conflict are established. Preliminary studies show that (i) leopards in the Cape differ morphologically as well as genetically from leopards elsewhere in Southern Africa (in publication) and (ii) leopard home ranges in the Cederberg mountains may be as much as 10 times larger than those reported in earlier research, illustrating that population sizes are far smaller than previously estimated.

The results of these studies will provide the most comprehensive understanding of the conservation status and needs of the leopard in the Cape conducted to date. The CLT is also actively involved in the training and empowering of local community residents as well as working with farming communities to find ways to minimize depredation of livestock by the Cape’s threatened and persecuted predator population.

The objective of finding solutions for farmers who encounter “problems” with wildlife in their area includes encouraging the view that the tourism and conservation value of wildlife exceeds the perceived threat to livestock. Publicity created in this regard, together with the CLT’s promotion of Anatolian shepherd dogs to conservation-minded farmers has significantly altered the views and perceptions of other farmers and landowners in the existing study area.”

Also read news article published on 9 July: ‘Excitement As Rare Cape Leopard Gives Birth’ at the following link: [Link: http://allafrica.com/stories/201007120422.html](http://allafrica.com/stories/201007120422.html)

A partnership for the benefit of all conservationists

A new partnership between the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and The Diamond Route has been forged with the aim to enriching the educational experience of aspiring conservationists. Strilli Oppenheimer and EWT Chief Executive Officer, Yolana Friedmann, signed an agreement at Brenthurst Gardens that will enable a section of the Telperion Nature Reserve, a Diamond Route site, to be utilised for the EWT’s Conservation Leadership Programme.

The programme aims to inspire environmental awareness by facilitating experiential learning for tertiary level students studying Nature Conservation. The initiative will also train and mentor a minimum of 20 selected students, who will learn to create awareness of the importance of biodiversity and encourage participation within their communities, thus developing, community-based management and the sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

For more perspectives on the hunting industry: visit the websites of

Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA)
(www.phasa.co.za)

Confederated Hunting Associations of South Africa (CHASA):
(www.chasa.co.za)

Also:

Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA)
(www.wrsa.co.za)

More reading:

The Professional Hunting Industry in South Africa: History & Future - article written by Stewart Dorrington, former president of PHASA:
(www.africanhunting.com)

Also see publications at:

(<http://www.cic-sustainable-hunting-worldwide.org/publications.html>)

Interesting Reading:

Hunting in South Africa

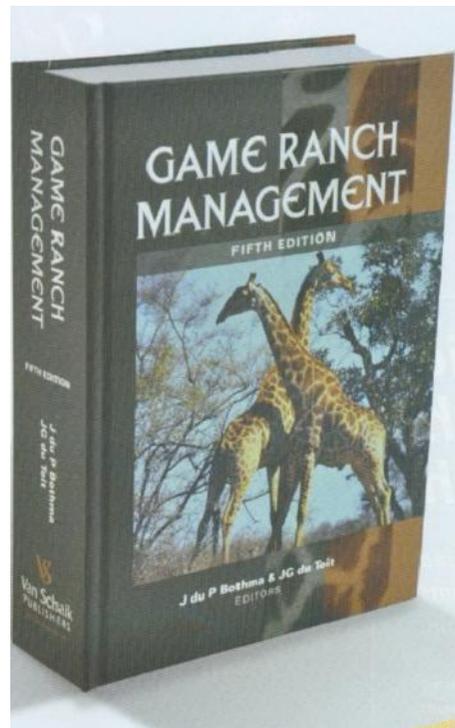
Animal Rights Africa (ARA) has just released a report, *Hunting in South Africa: A Bloody mess*, which takes a critical look at hunting activities in South Africa. ARA feels that, 'hunting, and the ethics of allowing it, in South Africa is in urgent need of widespread public scrutiny, debate and action'. According to the report 'South Africa has the largest hunting industry in sub-Saharan Africa, but it is poorly monitored, partly because many provincial departments are cash strapped and many experience skills shortages. The overall picture of what happens in the hunting industry is further clouded by poor record-keeping at provincial and national government level.'

The report further stated that 'urgently needed are new, ethics-based approaches to wildlife conservation. However, the way conservation is currently practiced in South Africa has become part of the problem, not part of the solution.'

ARA feels there is little evidence that the revenues generated from the hunting industry are reinvested in conservation and biodiversity. It is also unclear *who* benefits.

The report also includes the main outcome of a 2009 report by Aires Protégées d'Afrique du Centre et de l'Ouest – PAPACO, entitled, *A Grande Chasse En Afrique De L'ouest Quelle Contribution A La Conservation?*, which examined the role of trophy hunting in 28 African countries in relation to conservation, socio-economic and good governance criteria.

Learn more about ARA's recommendations by reading the full report available online:
http://www.animalrightsafrica.org/Archive/Hunting_in_South_Africa_A_Bloody_Mess_ARA_4_July_2010_final.pdf



The Fifth Edition of Game Ranch Management, edited by J du P Bothma & JG du Toit, is now available.

Some of the new and expanded topics include marketing a wildlife ranch, habitat rehabilitation and water quality, wildlife capture, buying and selling of wildlife, meat production, genetic management etc.

Contact van Schaik Publishers (012 – 342 2765)

To qualify for a chance to win a free copy, please send your name, address and telephone number to: afgriland@bigdoor.co.za

Africa's National Parks Hit by Mammal Declines

ScienceDaily (July 12, 2010) — African national parks like Masai Mara and the Serengeti have seen populations of large mammals decline by up to 59 per cent, according to a study published in *Biological Conservation*.

Read the story at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/07/100712141851.htm>

Journal Reference: Craigie, I.D et al. **Large mammal population declines in Africa's protected areas.** *Biological Conservation*, 2010; DOI: [10.1016/j.biocon.2010.06.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2010.06.007)



Arid Zone Ecology Forum

4-7 October 2010, Gariep Dam

THEME: Change and stasis in the Arid Zone

Contact: The Secretariat AZEF
c/o Wendy Paisley
SANBI
Private Bag X7
Claremont, 7735
South Africa
Tel 021-799-8742, Fax: 0865 206943, Email: azef.sa@gmail.com



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http://oldwww2.ru.ac.za/academic/departments/environsci/documents/Short%20courses/CBNRM%20Course%20Brochure%202010_Final.pdf

Rhodes University: 6-8 August 2010

Southern African Wildlife Management Association

PO Box 217
Bloubergstrand 7436

PHONE:
+27 -21-5541297

FAX:
9866729882

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

Thanks to the members who forwarded items for this circular. Please continue to do so!
Warm regards until next time,

Elma Marais
(Newsletter Editor - SAWMA)