

May 2011



# SAWMA MATTERS

Electronic newsletter of the Southern African Wildlife Management Association

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## SAWMA Symposium 2011

18-21 September 2011

ATKV-Hartenbos Holiday Resort, Southern Cape  
Scientific coordinator and host: University of Stellenbosch  
Co-host: Saasveld, NMMU

### The Human-Natural Resource Interface: Reconciling Conflicting Trade-offs?

Titles for platform papers and posters can now be submitted to the SAWMA secretariat ([elma@mweb.co.za](mailto:elma@mweb.co.za))

Closing date: 31 May 2011

#### SUMMARY OF DEADLINES

Submissions of paper/poster titles: by 31 May 2011  
Submissions of abstracts: By 31 May, but latest 30 June 2011  
Booking of accommodation at Hartenbos by 15 August 2011  
Early Registration: Until 15 August 2011  
Final submission of registration forms: 10 September 2011

#### Subthemes:

- Ethics and exploitation of resources
- Sustainable resource use (commercial and traditional) and economics
- Human-Wildlife conflict – both sides of the coin
- Carnivore management and predator-livestock interactions
- Invasive species management
- Rehabilitation, monitoring and biodiversity
- Ecological challenges and conservation strategies
- Climate Change – adaptation and the challenges of landscape-level management
- Stewardship, policy, planning and socio-economic issues

#### Registration fees: (payable to SAWMA)

Registration is now open: [This year we are keeping registration and accommodation fees as low as possible. Note that registration fees for full-time students are also partly sponsored by the Association.](#)

#### Full registration fee: members: R1900; Students: R1300; Non-members R2400

Registration forms are available from the SAWMA Secretariat: [elma@mweb.co.za](mailto:elma@mweb.co.za) or the SAWMA website: [www.sawma.co.za](http://www.sawma.co.za)

#### Accommodation at Hartenbos, breakfast included: (Payable to Hartenbos)

**Hartenbos has agreed on special low tariffs for accommodation!**

Non-Sharing (one person per rondavel) – R430 pp/night, breakfast included

Sharing (two persons per rondavel) – R330 pp/night, breakfast included

Sharing (Three people per rondavel) - R290 pp/night, breakfast included

Photography: V. A. Arc



**New Members:**

A warm welcome to two the following new SAWMA members:

**Mr Brian Reeves** – Ecologist at Baviaanskloof, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency

**Mr Jeremy Bolton** – Franschoek, Western Cape

**Ms Carla van der Vyver** – Environmental consultant, Vryburg

**Mr Pheny Tshenkeng** – Ecologist at North West Parks and Tourism Board

The following long standing members of SAWMA recently decided to cancel their membership with SAWMA. We thank them for their loyal support over the years and wish them a happy retirement!

**Prof Mac van der Merwe**

**Dr Jacques Flamand**

**Mr Peter Hitchins**

**South African Journal of Wildlife Research:****Volume 40/2:**

The delayed issue 40/2 were sent to all on 14 March 2011. If you have not received your copy yet, please contact the secretariat.

**Volume 41/1:**

The publication date for volume 41/1 is scheduled for June 2011. This will be the last issue under the editorship of Michael Somers. Our new Editor, Mike Perrin, is already handling all new submissions.

**Passwords for access to the electronic full text:**

New passwords will be activated on 1 June. All paid-up members will be receive their access codes by email. Please contact the secretariat to obtain the current password if you do not have it.

**Manuscript submissions:**

Manuscripts can be submitted to The Editor-in-Chief: Prof Mike Perrin, University of KwaZulu-Natal, P/Bag X01, Scottsville, 3209, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. E-mail: [Perrin@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Perrin@ukzn.ac.za)

**SAWMA membership****Thank you!**

Invoices for membership fees 2011 were emailed to all members during March. Thanks for the good response in membership payments. If you have not received your invoice by email, please follow up with the secretariat. Members who do not wish to continue their membership should please inform the secretariat.

**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 205-00

Please remember to inform the secretariat when you have done a payment, either by email, or using your surname/invoice number on the electronic transfer as reference!

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

### VACANCIES:

#### Position offered by Biodiversity International – Deputy Director General (Research)

The successful incumbent will be both an inspiring scientific leader and excellent research manager. Reporting to the Director General, the Deputy Director-General (Research) will provide overall leadership in setting the strategic direction and priorities of Biodiversity's research and for ensuring the seamless and synergistic implementation of the organization's research programme on agricultural biodiversity and the use and conservation of genetic resources, ensuring the delivery of outcomes and impact.

#### **Mandatory Competencies and Qualifications**

- PhD in agricultural, biological or social science, or equivalent qualification. Preference will be for competencies in genetic diversity science, with expertise in the broader Research for Development paradigm;
- 10-15 years of experience, including in developing countries, taking on progressively more responsibility in research and research management, at international senior level;
- In-depth knowledge and understanding of the critical roles of agricultural biodiversity, and genetic resources in particular, for food security, improving livelihoods and addressing the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation;
- A distinguished record of achievement and innovation, including in scientific publications on topics relevant to Biodiversity's research agenda;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and ability to build consensus and manage conflict;
- Proven ability to establish, nurture and oversee multi-cultural, gender-sensitive multidisciplinary research teams;
- Demonstrated competency in managing people and projects across different regions;
- Excellent verbal and written English, and presentation skills to effectively represent Biodiversity in international scientific fora;
- Willingness to travel extensively.

**(See full advert distributed by email on 3 May.)**

**Applications:** Expressions of interest together with a full CV and supporting statement, highlighting your experience and skills against the requirements of the role should be directed in confidence to Ursula Gallagher, Director The SRI Group, 40 Grand Canal Street Upper, Dublin 4, Ireland [ugallagher@sri-executive.com](mailto:ugallagher@sri-executive.com); +353 1 6479206

#### **Royal Group Vacancy: General Manager for Limpopo Reserve:**

The Royal Group, a conglomerate of companies based in Abu Dhabi (<http://www.royalgroupuae.com/>) are looking for someone to manage a 11 ha game/wildlife reserve in the Limpopo Province. They are looking appoint someone to lead the business in achieving its short, medium and long term strategic objectives as defined by the Board of Directors and who has experience in running a top level reserve in Africa. The details are as follows:

<b>Position:</b>	General Manager of Wildlife / Game Reserve
<b>Reporting to:</b>	Board of Directors
<b>Location:</b>	Limpopo
<b>Size:</b>	11,000 hectares
<b>Facilities:</b>	2 lodges

#### **What we are looking for:**

Experienced General Manager or Operations Director with **significant experience gained within a Top Level Game / Wildlife Reserve**. FGASA 2 and DEAT registration would be a definite advantage.

#### **How to apply:**

Email CV and covering note to [recruitment@royalgroupuae.com](mailto:recruitment@royalgroupuae.com).

**EVENTS:****Fynbos Forum Meeting: "Fynbos and Human Heritage" – 31 May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011****Venue: Community Hall, Main Road West, STILL BAY:****Some stimulating keynote speakers who have agreed to present at Fynbos Forum 2011!**

Prof Curtin Marean – Archaeologist/anthropologist working at Pinnacle Point, Mossel Bay.

Prof Ben Erik van Wyk – Ethno-botanist from University of Johannesburg

Prof Richard Cowling – Ecologist from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Port Elizabeth

Prof Maarten de Wit – Geologist from University of Cape Town

Mr Jan Vlok – Well known botanist &amp; private consultant from Oudtshoorn

Prof Tom Güldemann – A German linguist interested in san language and links to biodiversity

Ms Janet Naude- Local conservationist will give us an overview of the conservation history of Still Bay

**Fieldtrips of varied conservation interest in the Still Bay/Riversdale/Albertinia region are being planned.**For Late registrations, contact: Wendy Paisley, Botanical Society, Private Bag X10, CLAREMONT 7735, or Fax: 086 520 6943 or Email: [w.paisley@sanbi.org.za](mailto:w.paisley@sanbi.org.za)**Arid Zone Ecology Forum 2011****3-6 October 2011 in Nieuwoudtville, Western Cape, South Africa.**

This years theme "Interactions" was inspired by the unique biological wealth of the Bokkeveld Plateau, the scene of the 2011 AZEF. Through this theme we hope to highlight the underlying complexity and inter-dependence of ecological systems. Topics might include:

Climate change

Pollination

Fire

Herbivory

Landuse

**Further details: available on <http://www.azef.co.za>****7th International Wildlife Ranching Symposium: The business of conservation - science, livelihoods and values - 10 - 14 October 2011, Kimberley, South Africa**

Wildlife ranching as a business not only makes a contribution to the conservation of biodiversity, it also provides an alternative or complementary mode of income-generation through the use of land as a non-traditional agricultural resource. Current and future threats to humanity are daunting. Overpopulation, resource depletion, pollution and greenhouse gases as instigators of climatic change, are clearly recognisable as problems. Agriculture will probably be unable to meet the demands of the future, with an envisaged world population of nine billion by 2050. The consequent destruction of wilderness and the loss of biodiversity through agricultural encroachment are realities we have to face.

The preservation of wilderness and biodiversity as a business, directly providing both a sustainable product through game ranching in all its manifestations and the creation of jobs in the rural environment, is its greatest challenge. Wildlife ranching also maintains ecosystem services. Among these ecosystems services, carbon fixation is becoming a priority of global importance. Wildlife ranches act as carbon sinks.

The Symposium, as planned, will create a great deal of interest and calls for your participation.

**Further details: <http://www.iwrs.co.za/home/>**

## NEWS SNIPPETS

### Checklist of Birds in South Africa 2011

The *BirdLife South Africa Checklist of Birds in South Africa 2011* is now available. The checklist is annually revised and endorsed by the BirdLife South Africa List Committee. This checklist provides not only a list of the bird species which occur in our country, but also their recommended common and scientific names. The checklist also includes information on their threat status, migratory status and whether they only occur in our country. For easy reference, the birds in the checklist are listed in alphabetical order. Copies of the checklist will be included with the April/May 2011 issue of *Africa Birds & Birding.*, and also be available for R20.00 from the BirdLife South Africa head office in Johannesburg (info@birdlife.org.za; 011-7891122).

### New body to keep hawk eye on environmental practices

The newly launched Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA) is expected to promote public interest through keeping a close eye on environmental practices in the country. The association, which was launched by Water and Environmental Affairs Deputy Minister Rejoice Mabudafhasi, will also promote and maintain the registration of Environmental Assessment Practitioners in terms of section 24H of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998.

Read more: <http://www.buanews.gov.za/rss/11/11040714551001>

### Elephant poaching increasing in Kenya



Nairobi - Four of seven elephants outfitted with GPS tracking collars have been killed on the forested slopes of Mount Kenya in recent months only a short hike from the rustic cabin where Prince William proposed to Kate Middleton, conservation officials say. Save The Elephants fitted seven animals near Mount Kenya with collars over the last year to track their movements. More than half have been killed, and the group's founder, Iain Douglas-Hamilton, said he's worried about what may be happening to the elephants who aren't collared.

Read more:

<http://www.iol.co.za/scitech/science/environment/elephant-poaching-increasing-in-kenya-1.1064070>

### When Lives Tock Can Transmit Foot-and-Mouth Disease: Findings Suggest Fewer Cattle Could Be Culled in the Future

A new study of foot-and-mouth disease shows that cattle afflicted with the virus are only infectious for a brief window of time -- about half as long as previously thought. This finding suggests that the controversial control measures used to halt the disease's spread, such as killing large numbers of livestock, could be reduced.

Read more: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/05/110505142558.htm>

### Seeing a white reedbuck, what luck!



Already home to an abundance of special and endangered creatures, the iSimangaliso Wetland Park can claim rarities within some of its protected species, as visitors recently discovered with the sighting of a white female reedbuck on the Western Shores and a pale Samango Monkey at Cape Vidal. While most people might think these animals are albinos, the story is somewhat more complicated. An albino animal is white because of genetic mutations that alter the pigment cells of the skin, and the eyes are transparent. The pink/red appearance of the eye is due to the colour from the blood vessels behind them. Read more: <http://www.iol.co.za/scitech/science/environment/seeing-a-white-reebuck-what-luck-1.1063065>

## Penguin numbers in Simon's Town Drop

Birdlife International has warned that the African Penguin, one of the world's 18 penguin species, is edging closer to extinction.

Read more:

[http://www.wildlifesouthafrica.com/news/show\\_news.php?subaction=showfull&id=1302501865&archive=&template=](http://www.wildlifesouthafrica.com/news/show_news.php?subaction=showfull&id=1302501865&archive=&template=)

## Nearly 1500 Big Cat Trophies exported:

Export permits for more than 1400 Lion and Leopard trophies were issued in the past two years.

Read more:

[http://www.wildlifesouthafrica.com/news/show\\_news.php?subaction=showfull&id=1300253447&archive=&template=](http://www.wildlifesouthafrica.com/news/show_news.php?subaction=showfull&id=1300253447&archive=&template=)

## Why More Species Live in Amazon Rainforests: Evolution of Tree frogs Sheds Light on the Mystery



For more than two hundred years, the question of why there are more species in the tropics has been a biological enigma. A particularly perplexing aspect is why so many species live together in a small area in the tropics, especially at some sites in the rainforests of the Amazon Basin in South America. New research on the evolution and ecology of treefrogs, published online in the journal *Ecology Letters*, sheds new light on the puzzle. The patterns found in treefrogs may also help to explain the high species richness of other groups of organisms -- such as trees, birds and insects -- in the Amazon rainforests

Read more:

[http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/05/110505165623.htm?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Fplants+animals%2Fnature+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Plants+%26+Animals+News+--+Nature%29](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/05/110505165623.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Fplants+animals%2Fnature+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Plants+%26+Animals+News+--+Nature%29)

## Elephant meat for hungry prisoners

PRISONERS in Zimbabwe's overcrowded jails may soon be fed with elephant meat if a proposal by the Justice and Legal Affairs ministry to curb the shortage of protein in prisons is accepted by government. The ministry is proposing the culling of the "over-populated" elephants and supply the meat to prisons where inmates have had meals without meat for years. The country's prison dietary requirements are said to be far below international standards and what is required by the law. Inmates alternate sadza with cabbages or beans as their main meal. Unconfirmed reports were that prisoners had gone for four years without meat.

Read more: <http://www.theindependent.co.zw/local/30766-elephant-meat-for-hungry-prisoners.html>

## Independent mixture models assist in determining herbivore activity states

Victoria Goodall, Data Scientist, SAEON Fynbos Node

Read this article at <http://www.saeon.ac.za/enewsletter/archives/2011/april2011/doc07>

Useful site to visit: <http://bgis.sanbi.org/index.asp?screenwidth=1280>

This SANBI site aims to assist with biodiversity planning and decision making by offering comprehensive and freely accessible spatial biodiversity planning information. They also provide tools, such as interactive mapping tools, in analyzing and applying the available biodiversity information.

## Number of rhino's slaughtered for illegal horn trade in first quarter of 2011 is shocking.



The number of Rhino's killed for their horns in South Africa alone has reached over 138, according to a recent press release by SANParks. This number already represents more than 40% of the 333 rhinos slaughtered in South Africa during 2010.



## INCIDENCE OF THE LARGER LAND MAMMALS IN THE BROADER WESTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE - CJ Skead

The Second Edition, titled *Historical incidence of the larger land mammals in the broader Western and Northern Cape*, is now available:

### NEW FEATURES

- Maps, showing the historical distribution records for 44 species
- Overviews (summaries) of the historical distribution of many species
- Numerous black and white illustrations
- Two entirely new chapters
- Dust cover
- Modern design and layout
- Strong binding

### THE EDITORS

André Boshoff and Graham Kerley are ecologists at the Centre for African Conservation Ecology, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth. Peter Lloyd is a mammalogist with the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (Cape Nature), Cape Town.

### ENQUIRIES

ACE administrator Telephone: +27 41 504 2316 Fax: +27 41 504 2946 Email: [ace@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:ace@nmmu.ac.za). Published by the Centre for African Conservation Ecology, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

## Fracking – a hot topic amongst Environmentalists and others

Many South Africans are questioning fracking to explore the availability of natural gas in the Karoo basin. [Green Renaissance](http://www.greenrenaissance.co.za) (<http://www.greenrenaissance.co.za>) has produced 5 short films titled: "Karoo Fracking Chronicles" to document the reaction within the Karoo to fracking.



Also:

Visit [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nUuPrxi2l&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nUuPrxi2l&feature=player_embedded) to view and listen to **SA musician David Kramer's anti-fracking song**: "Fracking is not an option". Enjoy!!



'Stoffel, the Wild Dog' has taken up the challenge to climb Mount Everest and he is protecting Wild Dog ambassador, Vaughan de la Harpe on a walk to the North Pole with the Adventure Dynamics team. Stoffel is doing this to raise funds to save his wild cousins. Share the adventure with them on their North Pole adventure blog <http://www.adventuredynamics.co.za/adi8.html>

Submitted by Kelly Marnewick.

### Kalahari Football??

Gus and Margie Mills took some entertaining photographs of cheetahs playing in the Kalahari.

I could not resist to share these pictures with the SAWMA community!

Gus is the senior researcher for the Kgalagadi Cheetah Project, funded by the Tony and Lisette Lewis Foundation.



The Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park contains one of the most important cheetah populations in the world, but little is known about this population.

The overall aim of this Kgalagadi Cheetah Project, which started in June 2006, is to identify the ecological role, behavioural adaptations, demographic parameters, conservation status and threats to the cheetah in the southern Kgalagadi ecosystem.

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Thanks to the members who forwarded items for this circular. Please continue to do so by sending anything relevant you would like to share with other SAWMA members to the following email address: [elma@mweb.co.za](mailto:elma@mweb.co.za)

Warm regards until next time,

Elma Marais  
(Newsletter Editor - SAWMA)