

February 2011



# SAWMA MATTERS

*Electronic newsletter of the Southern African Wildlife Management Association*

## In this issue:

### General SAWMA announcements:

SA Journal of Wildlife Research – volume 40/2 almost ready.

SAWMA membership  
-fees  
-New members

SAWMA Symposium 18-21 September

IWR symposium 10-14 October

### Upcoming events, announcements, vacancies & more

Field Officer vacancy:  
Carnivore Conservation Group

Grasslands manager:  
Birdlife South Africa

Biodiversity, Stewardship and Extension Course - Saasveld

Wild Giraffe Indaba 4-7 July 2011

IPUF Symposium 4-7 July 2011

Grasslands Society Congress 2011

Rhino Poachers – Beware of new technology!

Rising Ivory demand worries conservationists.

This is hardly time to wish you all a good 2011, but since this is our first Newsletter for 2011, it seems like the appropriate thing to do! For most of us 2011 has started with new enthusiasm and commitment for our joint goals. This is also the start of the international decade of biodiversity. May we all strive together to focus on this common goal.



SAWMA is involved with two conferences this year: The first one is our own **SAWMA conference from 18-21 September** in the Southern Cape. The second one is the **7<sup>th</sup> International Wildlife Ranching Symposium** on “*The business of conservation - science, livelihoods and values*” which will be held in Kimberley from 10 – 14 October 2011. More information on the pages to follow.

## South African Journal of Wildlife Research - vol 40/2

The Second issue of volume 40 will go to the printers this week. Apologies once again for the delay and thanks for your patience! This should however not affect the publication date of the first issue (Volume 41/1) of 2011.

## SAWMA membership

### Thank you!

A warm thanks to all the SAWMA members who paid their outstanding membership fees before the end of our financial year in December. According to our provisional financial statements for last year, membership payments during 2010 have been excellent.

### Membership rates for 2011:

Invoices for 2011 will be emailed to all during this week.

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

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!

**New Members:**

A warm welcome to two of the following new SAWMA members:

**Dr Johan Steenkamp** – Veterinarian in Middelburg.

**Mr Wandile Mzazi** - Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency, East London.

**Dr Kate Evans** - Elephants for Africa, Botswana.

**Ms Susan Wishart** – Environmental Lawyer, Currently studying Nature Conservation – Muizenberg, Cape Town.

**Mr Edson Gandiwa** – Ecologist at Gonarezhou National Park, Zimbabwe.

**Ms Sieglinde Rode** - Ground Hornbill Conservation and Research Projects – Hoedspruit.

**Mr Tiyisela Mathwasa** – Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria.

**Mr Mike Botha** – Wildlife Campus, Mosselbay.

**Congratulations to:** Maartin Strauss who has been promoted to Senior Lecturer: Nature Conservation Programme, Department Environmental Sciences of UNISA. Michelle Thorn, Post Doctoral fellow at the Centre for Wildlife Management at the University of Pretoria and who is now part of the Carnivore Conservation Programme of Endangered Wildlife Trust. She will be involved with the Wild Dogs in the Waterberg area.



SAWMA Symposium 2011 : 18 -21 September 2011 ; Hartenbos Holiday Resort

We are almost ready to announce the theme and first call for papers for the SAWMA symposium 2011!

**Watch this Space...**



## 7<sup>th</sup> International Wildlife Ranching Symposium 10 – 14 October 2011 Kimberley



### Second Last Call for Abstracts

***The business of conservation - science, livelihoods and values***

**14 March 2011**, the deadline for receiving abstracts is drawing nearer, and if you would like to submit an abstract, please do so soonest. Kindly also forward this request to colleagues who may be interested in presenting a paper or attending the Symposium. As an inducement to attend and participate in the proceedings of the Symposium the parallel programme to promote Wildlife ranching includes:

- o An Expo that will have as its purpose to present all the related industries, services and products the opportunity to market their goods, whether it be clothing, vehicles, capture services, taxidermy etc, to the wider public as well.
- o Game Cuisine preparation, competition and CONSUMPTION with the best of South African wines, under the leadership of our own Michelin Chef, Pete Gottgens of Springbok Cafe, London, fame.
- o Wildlife art, photography, First Nations art and crafts (Australian, African, Alaskan, Canadian)
- o Pre and post Symposium tours to the wildlife ranches and parks. Hunting packages will also be available.

All in all a very interesting programme!

More on the next page....

*IWR symposium continues from previous page.....*

Areas in which we would specifically welcome more submissions are Economics, Global Warming, Wildlife and Public Health, Environmental Education and Game Meat. Another aspect which has emerged is that of land claims / land degradation, which is of course a burning issue in this country and many others.

- o **Economics / business venture, livelihood strategies** - Game ranching is a business that makes the conservation of wildlife profitable through sustainable use. Economic principles are of paramount importance because if the profit is not good, the investment focus can shift to economically more rewarding enterprises.
- o **Legislation and policy formulation** - Various levels of ownership of wildlife exists and sustainable use is usually governed by a variety of international conventions, treaties and national and regional legislation. This legislation is often conducive to the use of wildlife and wildlife habitat, but often it is not supportive of the wise use and production in wildlife management systems. A clear understanding of the implications of legislation is necessary to facilitate wildlife ranching, and the result of poorly considered policy delineated.
- o **Human-wildlife interaction** - Human populations are steadily increasing with the associated human activities negatively impacted by human-wildlife conflict. In the absence of adequate natural barriers or fences meaningful coexistence is very difficult. The challenge is to find practical and acceptable approaches to mitigate the negative impact of the human-wildlife conflict. Efforts should be aimed at finding balances between continued livelihoods of rural populations, food security and conservation of biodiversity.
- o **Biodiversity conservation** - In the management of biodiversity the emphasis should be on maintaining and /or restoring biodiversity to its natural and original state. Certain species within this biome should then be managed in such a way as to provide the financial income to maintain the total biodiversity in the long term.
- o **Global warming and carbon off-sets** - Of the many threats facing wildlife conservation, global warming is probably the most serious, yet we understand very little of its potential impact. Similarly, our carbon footprint is little understood. Another threat to biodiversity is the uncontrollable, illegal hunting and selling of meat derived from wild animals (bushmeat). Due to its nature, very little is known about its impact. As knowledge is gathered and exchanged on these issues, the road to policy formulation will become clearer and inspire serious debate.
- o **Wildlife and public health** - Wild animals are known to be carriers of various diseases, some of which influence not only the health of the animals but also play an important role in international trade (eg Foot and Mouth Disease, Rift Valley Fever). Unfortunately, knowledge of these is still limited and warrants further discussion.
- o **Environmental education** - This includes wildlife education, training programmes, skills and expertise development, interpretation, curriculum and learning processes that increase people's knowledge and awareness about the environment.
- o **Wildlife tourism, consumptive and non-consumptive modes** - This includes wildlife tourism, hunting tourism, ecotourism, captive and non-captive forms of wildlife tourism, wildlife tourism management, wildlife tourism impacts and wildlife tourism marketing.
- o **Game meat / venison and co-products** - An important aspect of the sustainable utilisation of wildlife is in the consumptive use of its products: trophies, bushmeat, venison, skin / hides and medicinal use of various organs. Technologies to optimise cropping, carcass treatment and hygiene, transport and the further aspects of quality and preservation, preparation and consumption need to be improved.

**Andrew Conroy**  
Symposium Chair

Visit: <http://www.iwrs.co.za>

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

### VACANCIES:

#### Field officer vacancy: Cheetah Metapopulation Coordinator



**Department:** Carnivore Conservation Programme (EWT-CCP) **Purpose of the position:** To implement the Cheetah metapopulation strategy in South Africa. This aims to ensure that populations of Cheetahs in small fenced reserves are managed as a metapopulation in order to secure long-term sustainability and to contribute to Cheetah conservation as a whole, whilst taking into account the management goals and objectives of the individual reserves. **Qualification:** Minimum MSc in biological sciences or equivalent, relevant field and at least 3 years of field experience.

This post is based at Ukulima Farm, Alma in Limpopo. This is a three year contract position. Closing date: 16h30 on 07 March 2011. For more information, contact the Human resources Manager Alison Jänicke [alisonj@ewt.org.za](mailto:alisonj@ewt.org.za) or Endangered Wildlife Trust, Private Bag X11, Parkview, 2122 or fax to 086 6360 5823



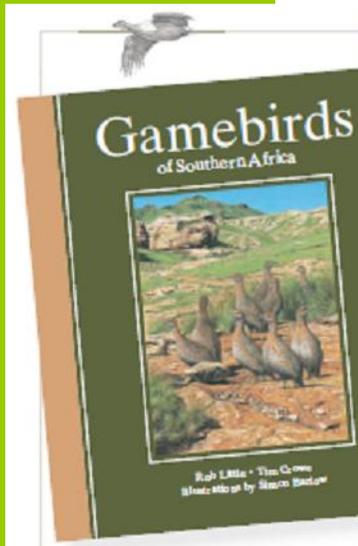
#### Manager: Grasslands Project (Mpumalanga and Free State) BirdLife South Africa Important Bird Areas Division

**BirdLife South Africa** is looking for a dynamic person to manage the organisation's Grasslands Programme in the Mpumalanga and Free State provinces.

The period of employment is one year with the possibility to extend employment for another two years. The preferred candidate will:

The position will be based in Gauteng for the first year and at a place to be determined in either Mpumalanga or the Free State for the second and following years.

Closing date: 15 March 2011. For more information contact [iba@birdlife.org.za](mailto:iba@birdlife.org.za), DANIEL MARNEWICK BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA, P.O.BOX515 RANDBURG



The new edition of *Gamebirds of Southern Africa*, by Rob Little and Tim Crowe, (first published in 2000), has been updated to reflect findings that have emerged over the past 10 years.

Gamebirds are among the most familiar of bird groups, partly because they can be seen along urban fringes and even within the cities and towns themselves, and because they have been utilised by man since prehistoric times for both food and sport.

These birds can be divided broadly by habitat into two main groups: waterfowl, which are dependent on aquatic habitats, and upland gamebirds (pheasant, grouse, quail and francolins, among others), which occupy virtually every area on the globe. It is the latter group that forms the focus of this book.

The 21 upland gamebird species found in southern Africa fall variously into four groups: francolins and spurfowls (twelve species), quails (three species), guinea-fowls (two species) and sandgrouse (four species).

**To order a collectors copy before 28 March, contact:**

Random House Struik Cape Town Sales Office Tel +27 (0) 21 462-4360 Fax +27 (0) 462-4377  
Cornelis Struik House, 80 McKenzie Street, Cape Town, South Africa [www.randomstruik.co.za](http://www.randomstruik.co.za)

## Last call

### Expression of interest in the Conservation Biodiversity Stewardship and Extension Course at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (George Campus) 2011

The conservation biodiversity stewardship and extension short learning programme, is built on the long tradition of extension activities, but reflects a shift to new paradigms for extension and our growing understanding of the realities of conservation beyond fences. It aims to provide practitioners with both the conceptual and the practical tools needed for effective understanding of and engagement with these realities in the field. The course aims to support participants in strengthening individual, institutional and practitioner community extension capacities in the cape floristic region and beyond and is primarily designed to meet the needs of practitioners who are active in the field of conservation extension, people who are directly managing land with a conservation focus, as well as environmental educators and extension staff in all sectors.

Please contact bianca currie ([bianca.currie@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:bianca.currie@nmmu.ac.za)), tel: 044 801 5059.

### Giraffe Conservation Foundation & IUCN International Giraffe Working Group 1st 'Wild' Giraffe Indaba: 4 - 7 July 2011, Etosha Safari Lodge, Namibia



**Giraffe: The Forgotten Megafauna**  
Hosted by the Namibia Nature Foundation



**Deadline for Announcement on this website**

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**

- v Ecology
- v Taxonomy and genetic structure
- v Veterinary medicine
- v Physiology
- v Conservation management
- v 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)

Visit **CAMERA TRAPS cc** <http://www.cameratrap.co.za/> to view the 2010 Photo Contest Entries. The 2011 Photo Contest is also now open



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

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual IUPF 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, IUPF Secretary for more information.

Tel: +27 (21) 809 337  
Fax: +27 (21) 809 3400  
www.uj.ac.za/ipuf

### 46th Annual GSSA Congress: Advancing Rangeland Ecology and Pasture Management in Africa - 10 to 15 July 2011 - Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute, Middelburg, Eastern Cape, South Africa



**DEADLINE FOR TITLE SUBMISSION: 31 MARCH 2011**  
**DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: 29 APRIL 2011**  
**DEADLINE FOR EARLY BIRD PAYMENTS: 31 MARCH 2011**

The Annual Congress will be hosted in the Eastern Cape province by the Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute in Middelburg. Situated in the foothills of the Renosterberg and surrounded by the characteristic bossies and koppies of the Karoo, Middelburg and Grootfontein have a long history in the field of agriculture. The Agricultural College was established in 1911 and so is celebrating its centenary during 2011.

#### Registration

Early bird registration for members of the Society will be R2800 and R3100 for non-members (and members who have outstanding fees). Payment of these registration fees must be RECEIVED by 31 March 2011. Thereafter, registration will be R3000 and R3300 respectively.

Registration should be done via the online registration form at <http://www.grassland.org.za/events/annual-congress/gssa-congress-2011/registration> or by sending an email to [congress@grassland.org.za](mailto:congress@grassland.org.za).

### Six new additions to the Kgalagadi Cheetah Project



Gus Mills sent this picture of 6 newly born cheetah cubs. The mother, Elena must be very proud, as this is the largest litter recorded in the Kalahari so far.

## Rhino poachers – beware of new technology!

A rhino DNA sample kit is expected to help prosecutors be even tougher on those caught with rhino horns.

If DNA tests positively link a horn to a specific rhino carcass, suspects will no longer get away with only a charge of possession, they will also be charged with the illegal hunting of rhino and theft. According to Advocate Johan Kruger of the Organised Crime component of the National Public Prosecutions, the DNA evidence will link suspects found in possession of horns with the actual carcass, irrespective of how much time has passed.

This kit will also help rhino owners and managers to document individual rhinos. The information gathered from DNA samples will be stored on a central database. The cost of the DNA sample kit will be about R1 680 per rhino. The department of genetics at Onderstepoort developed the DNA kit in collaboration with SANParks, the NPA and the Hawks. SANParks and private funders were funding the DNA project.

Read more: <http://www.simplygreen.co.za/local-stories/science-and-technology/>

## Rising ivory demand worries conservationists

Tsavo National Park - A slowdown in the increase of Kenya's elephant numbers is raising fears among conservationists that hard-fought gains in saving the animals may be reversed amid growing demand for ivory. An aerial census conducted in the east African country's largest elephant sanctuary last week showed a drop in the population's growth rate from a previously recorded four percent to two percent. A total of 12 572 elephants were counted in the expansive Tsavo ecosystem, which may mark a slight increase from the previous count in 2008 of 11 696 but also represents a decline in the growth rate.

Kenya has lost dozens of elephants in recent years and authorities say the one-off sale of ivory stockpiles granted to four southern African states in 2008 by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) has increased demand in Asian countries.

Read more at <http://www.iol.co.za/scitech/science/environment/ising-ivory-demand-worries-conservationists/>

### New Free Conservation Biology Book by Sodhi & Ehrlich

Oxford University Press has made this book freely available for download: **Conservation Biology for All**; Sodhi, N. S. and P. R. Ehrlich (Eds.) It can be downloaded at <http://www.mongabay.com/conservation-biology-for-all.html>

The idea is to make conservation biology info available to as many people as possible. According to some the Chapter on SA Conservation is not very accurate, but many may find the book useful and interesting.

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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)