

November 2010



# SAWMA MATTERS

*Electronic newsletter of the Southern African Wildlife Management Association*

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*It took a bit longer to prepare this issue of SAWMA Matters, but hopefully this slightly thicker version will make up for the delay! Another newsletter will be produced before the Festive Season.*

## SAWMA Symposium 2011 in the planning.

With a very successful SAWMA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium in the aftermath, it is time to start planning the next meeting in 2011. The first call for papers will be early in the new year, but for now we can announce that the venue for the next meeting will be the ATKV-Hartenbos Resort, close to Mossel Bay in the Southern Cape. The provisional dates are 18–21 September 2011.

**(See the report on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary symposium by Brian Reilly on page 2)**

## A new SAWMA Council for 2010-2012:

Welcome to the new SAWMA Council for the period 2010-2012!

**President:** Brian Reilly (Dept. of Nature Conservation, Tshwane University of Technology)

**Vice-President:** Louw Hoffman (Dept. of Animal Sciences of University of Stellenbosch)

**Treasurer:** Pieter Nel (North West Parks and Tourism Board)

**Council members:** Harriet Davies Mostert (Endangered Wildlife Trust); Sam Ferreira (Scientific Services, SANParks); Nicholas Funda (Dept. Nature Conservation, Tshwane University of Technology); Paul Grobler (Dept. of Genetics, University of the Free State); Michael Somers (Centre for Wildlife Management, University of Pretoria); Julius Koen, ex-officio-president (Northern Cape Dept. of Environment & Nature Conservation); Kelly Marnewick, student representative (Endangered Wildlife Trust).

A big thank you to the outgoing council members - Daan Buijs, Antoinette Kotze, Jan Venter and Christo Marais – for their efforts and contributions in getting the association to run smoothly during the past 2 and more years.

We are also delighted to announce the recent appointment of Mike Perrin as new scientific Editor for the *South African Journal of Wildlife Research*. Mike is currently Director of the Research Centre for African Parrot Conservation at the School of Biological and Conservation Sciences of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He has been a SAWMA member since 1990 and has regularly reviewed articles for SA Journal of Wildlife Research over the years.

Michael Somers, who has been editor for the past three years will still be responsible for the manuscripts currently in the review process as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of volume 40. Sincerely thanks for your hard work and efforts to maintain the high standard of the journal and pursuing alternative publication outlets and formats for the journal.



## SAWMA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium Report by Brian Reilly



This year was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary symposium of the Association and our anniversary symposium, hosted jointly by the North West Parks and Tourism Board and the North West Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Rural Development was a bumper event with 160 attendees of which 37 were students and included 14 delegates from Namibia. Last mentioned is particularly pleasing considering the rich wildlife management history in that country.

In total 56 scientific papers and 27 posters were presented, all relevant and of high quality. Our proceedings were also graced by the presence of some founder members, Jon Barnes, John Hanks, Banie Penzhorn and Mark Berry.

As far as themes are concerned all the old topics resurfaced, human-animal conflict, species conservation, alien species and habitat utilization but we did see climate change, socio-political issues and sustainability creeping in.

As usual Christo had us all evaluating presentations and posters and besides the general high quality a few stood out above the rest and prizes were awarded to the following:-

### Papers – open category

First prize: Pieter Nel: Habitat selection and range size of elephant in Madikwe Game reserve. (North West Parks & Tourism Board).

Second prize: Ken Fergusson: The impacts of park and veterinary fencing in southern Africa. (Mammal Research Institute, University of Pretoria).

### Papers - student category

First prize: Alexander Brackowski: Dietary composition of leopards in southern Cape forests and surrounds. (Department of Nature Conservation, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Saasveld Campus).

Second prize: Yolandi Bezuidenhout: A model for solid waste management in protected areas, South Africa. (Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, Tshwane University of Technology).

### Posters:

First prize: Greg Stuart-Hill: Event Book – Local Level Monitoring Approach in Communal Conservancies in Namibia. (Natural Resource Working Group, Namibia).

Second prize: Lourens Swanepoel: Density of leopards (*Panthera pardus*) in the Waterberg Biosphere as determined by camera trapping. (Centre for Wildlife Management, University of Pretoria).



From the left John Hanks, Nicholus Funda and Anthony Roberts



From the left: Chris Brown, Jo Tagg and Peter Goodman



# SAWMA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium

## Report by Brian Reilly

(continue from p. 2)



The success of the symposium was due in no small part to our sponsors, North West Parks and Tourism Board, Tshwane University of Technology's Department of Nature Conservation, Planet Wise, Wits University Press, Struik, Van Schaik, Jacana Publishers, Bryan Pierce, ACER and last but not least ATKV Buffelspoort. It would also be amiss of me not to mention the sterling effort of Elma in making sure that all went smoothly.

We also took our first steps to increasing contact between ourselves and the Australasian Wildlife Management Society with the visit and key note address of Peter Fleming, their vice president and we hope to further cement these ties with my reciprocal visit to their conference in Torquay in Victoria in December.

Finally I would like to welcome the new council with Louw Hoffman as vice president, Pieter Nel as Treasurer as well as Paul Grobler, Sam Ferreira, Harriet Davies-Mostert, Nicholas Funda, Michael Somers and our student representative, Kelly Marnewick. I'm sure we could not have wished for a more able bodied crew to advance our cause over the next 2 years. Julius Koen stays on *ex officio* and I particularly will be calling his experience often and will also take this opportunity to thank him for his leadership over the last two years.

We also welcome Mike Perrin on board as the new editor and wish him well as we thank Michael Somers for the new heights he has taken the journal to.

We look forward to our next symposium on the southern Cape coast next year.



Brian Reilly and Louw Hoffman discussing strategies for the next 3 years...?



Elma Marais and Pieter Nel probably busy working out a menu for the vegetarians!



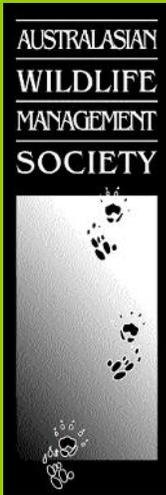
Guess who were the 'voorbokke' of the party?



Left: Emmanuel Do Linh San (in the front) with his students from Fort Hare University



Is Frans Radloff demonstrating the size of the crocodiles used in his research?



## Acer donates a laptop to SAWMA

The SAWMA computer will need an upgrade in 2011. Therefore we looked into the possibility of having Acer sponsor a laptop for the use of the SAWMA Secretariat. Acer kindly promised us a new laptop in 2011. In the meantime they donated a smaller 'e-machine' for the use at our conference. This gesture is much appreciated and we are looking forward to taking it up with them in the new year! Visit the ACER website to view their products: <http://www.acer.co.za/>

## SAWMA display

SAWMA was recently invited to take part in an exhibition at the SAEON Summit in Cape Town on 5-6 October. Marion Burger of Endangered Wildlife Trust offered to design our display panels at no cost and they are really very striking. The same display was used for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary symposium.

## SAWMA and AWMS

As a result of interaction between the AWMS - Australasian Wildlife Management Society (Australia and New Zealand) - and SAWMA, Peter Fleming (vice-president of AWMS) attended the SAWMA symposium as keynote speaker. He has made a proposal at the SAWMA AGM to promote closer cooperation between the two associations.

The Dept of Nature Conservation of Tshwane University of Technology kindly sponsored and hosted a 4 day visit to the Kruger National Park before the symposium and will be sponsoring a reciprocal visit by SAWMA president, Brian Reilly, who will be attending the AWMS conference from 1-3 December at Torquay, Victoria. He will be one of the keynote speakers at the event. For more information visit the conference website: <http://www.onqconferences.com.au/events/awms10/>.

Like SAWMA, the Australasian Wildlife Management Society also promotes the application of scientific wildlife management in the Australasian region. One of our members, Koos Bothma, will also be attending the same conference and will present two papers.

## SAWMA membership

### New Members:

A warm welcome to the new members who joined the association over the past two months:

**Abraham le Roux**, attorney and professional hunter, Port-Elizabeth.

**Shiluvana Nhlamuli Rita**, assistant engineer Learning Academy: Department of Water Affairs, Malamulele.

**John van Zyl**, Veterinarian, Johannesburg.

**Deon Oosthuizen**, Wildlife and environmental manager, Meyersdal.

**Vasti Jacobs**, Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Rural Development, Mafikeng – problem animal specialist for North West Province.

**Lindsay Foot**, East London.

**Sifiso Keswa**, General Manager Zululand for KZN Wildlife.

**Anthony Roberts**, Director Lapalala Wilderness School.

**Sue Taylor**, Centre for Development Support, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein.

**Michael Robert Grover** from Sabi Sands.

**Paul Hlahasoane**, Imperial Reserve, Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Rural Development.

**Bethuel Kandji**, Waterberg Plateau Park, Namibia.

**Justin Phama**, Student at Dept. Nature Conservation, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria.

### Call to pay Membership fees:

We have entered the last two months of 2010 and members with outstanding fees are kindly requested to pay their membership fees before the end of December. Please remember to use your surname or invoice number as reference or email proof of the payment to [elma@mweb.co.za](mailto:elma@mweb.co.za)



Photo: Rudi van Aarde

**Membership rates for 2011:**

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

**Electronic access codes**

Please contact [elma@mweb.co.za](mailto:elma@mweb.co.za) to obtain the 2010 login codes to view the full text articles in the latest journal issue.

Archival issues dating back to 1971 are also freely available in digital form through SABINET African Journal Archive (<http://content.ajarchive.org/>).

**South African Journal of Wildlife Research**

**Vol 40/2:**

The second issue of volume 40 is in production.

**Information to authors**

- o Authors should familiarize themselves with the Instructions to authors available on [www.sawma.co.za](http://www.sawma.co.za) and make sure the manuscript is formatted according to the instructions and examples of existing published articles
- o The manuscript should be original, and not published previously. Do not submit material that is currently being considered by another journal.
- o Only work done on African Species will be considered will be considered for publication, unless by invitation.
- o The manuscript should preferably be in MS Word format, submitted as an email attachment with cover letter to [elma@mweb.co.za](mailto:elma@mweb.co.za) or [Perrin@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Perrin@ukzn.ac.za).
- o Corresponding authors will receive a PDF version of the article and an issue of the journal containing the article.

**Peer review policy**

SAJWR is a peer review journal. All research articles in this journal undergo peer review, based on initial editor screening and refereeing by at least two referees.

**Editorial Procedure**

All papers considered appropriate for this journal are reviewed by at least two reviewers. The review process usually takes 3-4 weeks. When two referee's reports have been received, these go to the associate editor originally assigned to the manuscript, who makes a decision on acceptance/revision/rejection. Once the final version of the paper has been accepted, the final proofs are prepared and send to authors for a final check.

**Format of SAJWR:**

According to the recent survey for the journal format, most participants were still in favour of a hard copy. The table below summarizes their responses. Unfortunately only 183 of the almost 400 members took part in the survey.

In which format would you prefer to receive copies of the Southern African Journal of Wildlife Research?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I prefer to receive the Southern African Journal of Wildlife Research in a printed hard copy format with free access to the electronic content on the web at the current price.	57.4%	105
I prefer to receive the Southern African Journal of Wildlife Research only in electronic format by means of access codes to the full text published on the web at a discounted rate.	42.6%	78
answered question		183



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

### Second announcement: 7<sup>th</sup> International Wildlife Ranching Symposium, October 2011



You are invited to submit papers on for the Seventh Wildlife Ranching Symposium, to be presented in Kimberley during October 2011. The main theme of the event is ***The business of conservation - science, livelihoods and values.*** Visit the website at <http://www.iwrs.co.za> for more information.

### 37th annual SAAB conference: Monday 17 – Wednesday 19 January 2011



#### Department of Botany, Rhodes University

#### Main Theme: “Plants in a changing world”

The 37th annual conference of the South African Association of Botanists will be held at Rhodes University in Grahamstown from the 17th to 19th of January 2011. The conference will be held in conjunction with the 9th SASSB conference “Biodiversity Matters” from the 19th to 21 January 2011, with overlapping sessions on the 19th of January.

For further information, please contact the organizing committee:

Webpage: <http://atashost.co.za/SAAB/>

Email: [conference@ru.ac.za](mailto:conference@ru.ac.za) (general queries including abstracts, registration & accommodation)

[saab2011@ru.ac.za](mailto:saab2011@ru.ac.za) (enquiries about the scientific program)

Phone: (+27) 0466038592

Fax: (+27) 0466038592

### AHEAD-GLTFCA working group meeting: 2-4 March 2011, Mopanie Rest Camp, KNP

The planning committee is pleased to announce that the next AHEAD-GLTFCA Working Group meeting will be held on 2,3 and 4 March 2011. The overarching theme of the meeting remains a "One Health" approach to further the aims of the AHEAD-GLTFCA initiative and its six themes (see conceptual framework documents on the AHEAD website at [http://www.wcs-ahead.org/workinggrps\\_limpopo.html](http://www.wcs-ahead.org/workinggrps_limpopo.html))

The two themes selected for emphasis this year will be:

- Human and public health and the affect of animal and ecosystem health"
- Sustainable Development: how do economic activities in TFCAs affect livelihoods, profit and conservation?"

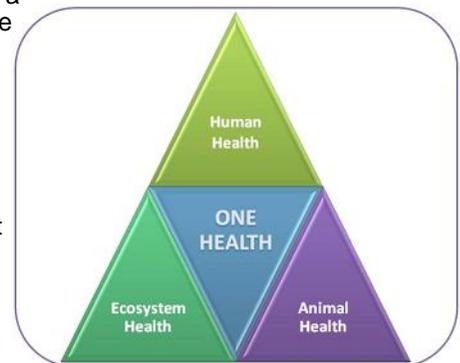
If you would like to offer a talk for consideration for the agenda, please send your abstract as soon as possible but not later than **15 December**.

There will be ample room for poster sessions this year, which we intend to link to speed talks, so please consider that as another option for sharing your work. We will give feedback on the abstracts as soon as possible, but not later than 15 January when we will also send out a preliminary agenda.

Merle Whyte is our conference organizer, as usual. Please send your abstract to her at [<merle@mpu.co.za>](mailto:merle@mpu.co.za) or +82 465 2827 as soon as possible. Also contact her with any other queries.

As always, we look forward to a variety of presentations, lively discussion and debate during (and after!) formal sessions- in short, a relaxed yet very practical learning experience aimed at furthering collaborative efforts in the region!"

Working Group Meeting Organising Committee



## VACANCIES:

### SCHOOL OF ANIMAL, PLANT & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES: Senior Technician Grade TE 09

**CONTACT PERSON: Zandi Mbaleki**

**E-Mail: [Zandi.mbaleki@wits.ac.za](mailto:Zandi.mbaleki@wits.ac.za) Tel no: 011 717 1432**

We seek to appoint a Senior Technician in the School of Animal, Plant & Environmental Sciences. The incumbent will be responsible for the provision of technical & maintenance support in the School.

To see the job functions & requirements, contact Mr Herman du Preez, Principal Technician, and Tel: 011 717 6411 or e-mail [Herman.duPreez@wits.ac.za](mailto:Herman.duPreez@wits.ac.za). Information about the School is available at our website:

<http://web.wits.ac.za/Academic/Science/APES/Home.htm>

**Closing Date: 19 NOVEMBER 2010.**



### EWT-WEP EIA Field Officer Vacancy

**The Wildlife and Energy Programme (WEP) of Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) has a FIELD OFFICER VACANCY in Environmental Impact Assessments.**

**Purpose of the position:** To implement avifaunal (bird) specialist studies as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for new electrical infrastructure in South Africa. This is done to ensure that this new infrastructure is built in as 'bird friendly' a manner as possible.

For more information contact the Human resources Manager Alison Jänicke [alisonj@ewt.org.za](mailto:alisonj@ewt.org.za) or mail: Endangered Wildlife Trust, Private Bag X11, Parkview, 2122 or fax to +27(11) 486 1506. Tel: +27 (0) 11 486 1102. Web: [www.ewt.org.za](http://www.ewt.org.za), **Closing Date: 19 NOVEMBER 2010.**

### Volunteer Co-ordinator position



A Volunteer Co-ordinator position is available with ALL OUT AFRICA as voluntary position for a 1 YEAR period. This is to start at the beginning of January 2011. Food and accommodation are provided and there will be a small stipend to cover other living expenses. The position involves co-ordinating our Savanna Project based in the Lubombo Conservancy of Swaziland which comprises Hlane Royal National Park, Mlawula Nature Reserve, Mbuluzi Game Reserve and Shewula Community Nature Reserve.

ALL OUT AFRICA operates in Swaziland, South Africa, Botswana, and Mozambique and runs a range of different wildlife and social projects through offering volunteers the opportunity to participate in the projects as a means of sustaining them ([www.alloutafrica.com](http://www.alloutafrica.com)). The main purpose of this position is to plan, organize and manage volunteers to work on the Savanna Conservation Project.

The project work generally involves carrying out field-based research and monitoring of important wildlife in the Lubombo Conservancy. This currently includes a raptor nest monitoring study, a bat community study involving mist netting at different sites, a marabou stork radio tracking study, a reptile community study involving trapping at various sites and a tortoise tag and release study. There is the aim of developing a trip camera study of small predators as well as other monitoring for more general conservation management. You may also be asked to play a role as secretary of the Lubombo Conservancy committee thereby helping to record minutes and ensure attendance at meetings held once every 3 months. In running this project, ALL OUT AFRICA works with a variety of partners including the local university, conservation agencies and park management authorities.

The main focus of the volunteer co-ordination will be helping to organise and motivate volunteers and arrange their daily activities to gather the research data. Many of the volunteers may not have field research experience and you would be their mentor and guide.

For more information contact Christy Fellner ([christy@alloutafrica.com](mailto:christy@alloutafrica.com)) clearly stating "Savanna Co-ordinator" in the subject line. Tel: +268 416 2260; Cel: +268 7690 8792; ([www.alloutafrica.com](http://www.alloutafrica.com)) **Closing date: by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

## The truth about endangered giant sable lies in its genetics

Despite looking almost identical at first glance, a big group of sable antelope found in Western Zambia are not, to the dismay of conservationists, members of the same subspecies as the critically endangered giant sable of Central Angola.

A research study in the field of evolutionary genetics recently appeared in the *South African Journal of Wildlife Research* by Profs Bettine Jansen van Vuuren, Terry Robinson and Conrad Mathee of the Department of Botany and Zoology at Stellenbosch University (SU) in collaboration with Mr Pedro Vaz Pinto of the Universidade Catolica de Angola and the American scientist Dr Richard Estes.

The study compared the genetic composition of the extremely rare giant sable (*Hippotragus niger variani*) of Central Angola with similar antelope, which have the same characteristic facial patterns and occur in the western parts of neighbouring Zambia.

It was hoped that the presence of the Zambian antelope would be a lifeline for the survival of the giant sable, which is described as critically endangered on the Red List of Threatened Species. It had been feared that the giant sable had completely died out in the wild because of the effects of the Angolan civil war, but two small populations of these majestic antelope with their striking horns were photographed by a hidden camera in Angola in 2006. Subsequent game counts in the area have revealed no other populations.

The Stellenbosch research study proves that despite their physical similarities the two populations definitely differ genetically. Prof Jansen van Vuuren says that their latest genetic tests show that although the West Zambian antelope with their dark faces and hide colour bear a strong resemblance to the rare giant sable, they are actually part of the same subspecies as the generally more reddish southern sable antelope (*Hippotragus niger niger*), which also occur in South Africa.

Genetic testing is therefore a much more accurate indication of origin than external phenotypical characteristics. Members of the Evolutionary Genomics Group at Stellenbosch University have been involved with the genetic testing of sables since the 1990s.

The original classification of the sable antelope subspecies in 1971 was done on the basis of their external variations and geographic distribution. Genetic tests by German and Danish researchers in 2002, before new examples of the giant sable were discovered, identified three characteristic subspecies: the *Hippotragus niger kirkii* of West Tanzania, *Hippotragus niger roosevelti* of Southeast Kenya, East Tanzania and Northern Mozambique, and *Hippotragus niger niger* of Southern Africa (including South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Zambia and the southern part of Tanzania). It was assumed at the time of this 2002 experiment that the giant sable had become extinct, but thanks to new evidence it has also been added as a fourth subspecies, *Hippotragus niger variani*.

Prof Bettine Jansen van Vuuren can be contacted at Department of Botany and Zoology, Stellenbosch University (021) 808 4862 or [bjvv@sun.ac.za](mailto:bjvv@sun.ac.za)

Further **background info:** [http://academic.sun.ac.za/cib/news/20100726\\_w\\_zambian\\_sable.htm](http://academic.sun.ac.za/cib/news/20100726_w_zambian_sable.htm)



*Hippotragus niger niger* (Photo: Kobus du Toit)



Giant Sable Bull (photo: Richard Estes)

## Interesting Cheetah behaviour

Gus Mills of Kgalagadi Cheetah Project recently observed some interesting cheetah behaviour: "The incident involved two three year old and a group of four gemsbok; two bulls, a cow and a very small calf. Although male coalitions often and sibling groups sometimes kill gemsbok calves, cheetah females usually ignore them.

The cheetahs had earlier sighted the gemsbok and showed some interest in them. We didn't see exactly what happened, but they were quickly repulsed by the adult gemsbok and the herd moved away. After a while the cheetahs moved in the direction the gemsbok had taken. They soon caught up with them again, and after watching them intently for a few minutes suddenly rushed at the gemsbok. The gemsbok scattered and the calf got separated from the adults by about 50 m. Then one of the cheetahs retired and sat down close by. The second cheetah then stood facing the calf while the adult gemsbok looked on. It looked bad for the calf and we expected the cheetahs to attack. Instead the cheetah approached the calf, then adopted a strange stiff-legged posture arching its back and bounced passed the calf towards the adults (Fig 2-879 and 3-902). It appeared reluctant to attack the calf and was more concerned about the adults. The adults chased off the cheetah and the calf moved back to the rest of the small herd. The second cheetah just looked on and did not as would be expected attack the calf while the other kept the adults distracted as we have seen with male groups."

The posture adopted by the cheetah when approaching the gemsbok was remarkable. We have seen male cheetahs also adopt this posture towards gemsbok in a similar situation and we wonder if this has ever been recorded in similar encounters with dangerous prey or in any other situation."

*Apparently according to other scientists this is the normal posture cheetahs use when they charge a lion or a hyena and also most commonly seen when mothers are defending cubs .*



Photo's taken by Gus Mills

Read the annual progress report of The Behavioural Ecology and Conservation Biology of the Cheetah in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP) on [www.tlff.org.za/cheetahs](http://www.tlff.org.za/cheetahs). Gus can be contacted at [gusm@sanparks.org](mailto:gusm@sanparks.org)  
Tel: +27 (0)54 561-2033; Fax:+27 (0)54 561-2005

## Camera Traps cc – Now you can follow some of the latest photographic and video clip entries on Facebook!

Camera Traps CC has created a "Facebook Group" for all interested enthusiasts. 'All members of the Group will be automatically notified via their e-mail when new postings are made. We hope that you will use this group to both partake and instigate discussions and share your knowledge and insights into the magical world of Camera Traps with fellow avid users.'

'We will update on a regular basis with both video clips and photos received so that we can start sharing the magical world of what happens when we are not about!!!'

<http://www.facebook.com/?sk=2361831622#!/group.php?gid=144749842215924>

'All the latest **PHOTO** submissions are also on our website – [www.cameratrap.co.za](http://www.cameratrap.co.za) and so too are the **VIDEO CLIP** submissions in the Contest, under **VIDEO WALL** – and we have also uploaded all the video clip submissions onto

## More News Snippets:

### WWF's Living Planet Report:

On 13 October WWF launched the 2010 edition of the Living Planet Report.

The report is published every 2 years and is considered to be the world's leading, science-based analysis about the impact of human activity on the health of our planet.

**Download:** <http://assets.panda.org/downloads/lpr2010.pdf>

### Concerted intervention needed to escalate South Africa's PhD numbers



Applying scientific  
thinking in the  
service of society

Bold intervention is crucial to escalate and grow the number of PhD graduates in the country, says a groundbreaking study released by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf).

**The full report is available on [www.assaf.org.za](http://www.assaf.org.za)**

### South African Birds declining

As alarm bells continue to ring over big declines in world biodiversity, conservationists are warning a number of South African bird species are now moving toward extinction.

According to a media release of BirdlifeSA among those flagged on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List earlier this year is the charismatic African penguin, which has declined in numbers by 60.5% over the past 28 years. "The **Wattled Crane** *Bucconas carunculatus* is the most severely threatened crane on the African continent. Recent surveys in Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia, countries long thought to be strongholds for the Wattled Crane, show that the global population is only half of what has been reported in recent years. Some of the greatest losses have occurred in South Africa." Read more on <http://www.birdlife.org.za>  
<http://www.birdingroutes.co.za>

### Cape Town to pay for baboon monitors

The City of Cape Town has decided to pay for a renewed baboon management contract, even though it has gone to court over the issue.

<http://www.news24.com/SciTech/News/Cape-Town-to-pay-for-baboon-monitors-20101109>

### African Indaba

Read hunting and conservation news from Africa online clicking at "Latest Edition" (<http://www.africanindaba.co.za/news.htm>).

### "Bigger not always better for Wildlife Reserves"

*LiveScience.com (10 November)*

"While setting aside massive swaths of land would seem to provide powerful strongholds for biodiversity, a new study finds that such reserves often don't reach their full conservation potential because of poor placement - they are put in areas that are convenient for people to avoid, but not for threatened species to thrive."

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/livescience/20101110/sc\\_livescience/biggerisntalwaysbetterforwildlifereserves](http://news.yahoo.com/s/livescience/20101110/sc_livescience/biggerisntalwaysbetterforwildlifereserves)

### Lions in Karoo National Park

Lions were released in Karoo National Park near Beaufort West on 10 November for the first time after an absence of almost 170 years from the area.

**Read the full article at <http://www.sanparks.org/about/news/>**

### Another Rhino slaughter revealed:

'A contractor doing a survey of game from a helicopter has made a gruesome discovery on the border of the Kruger Park - a reserve littered with Rhino carcasses.' 17 rhino carcasses were found at the Letaba Ranch, on the western border of the Kruger National Park.'

Read this article at <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Rhino-dump-found-on-govt-park-20101118>

### Save our Rhinos!

South Africa has more than 80% of the 24 000 rhinos left in Africa. But so far 268 rhinos have been poached this year alone! It will not help to feel disgusted about these monstrous killings, if we do not also do something to help prevent it. WWFSA has organized a worldwide Rhino campaign in support of the rhino warriors on the frontline in the fight against poaching. Please support this cause on [www.wwf.org.za](http://www.wwf.org.za)!



### Kevin the Quagga's First Birthday Party

In the SAWMA Matters of September 2009 there was an article about a quagga foal born to one of the mares from the Quagga Project. Rejected by his mother he was 'adopted' and now lives happily at the horse stables on Elsenburg. He recently celebrated his first birthday party in style and I suspect that Louw Hoffman has in the meantime dropped all ideas of the 'possible research' projects he had in mind for Kevin!



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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)