



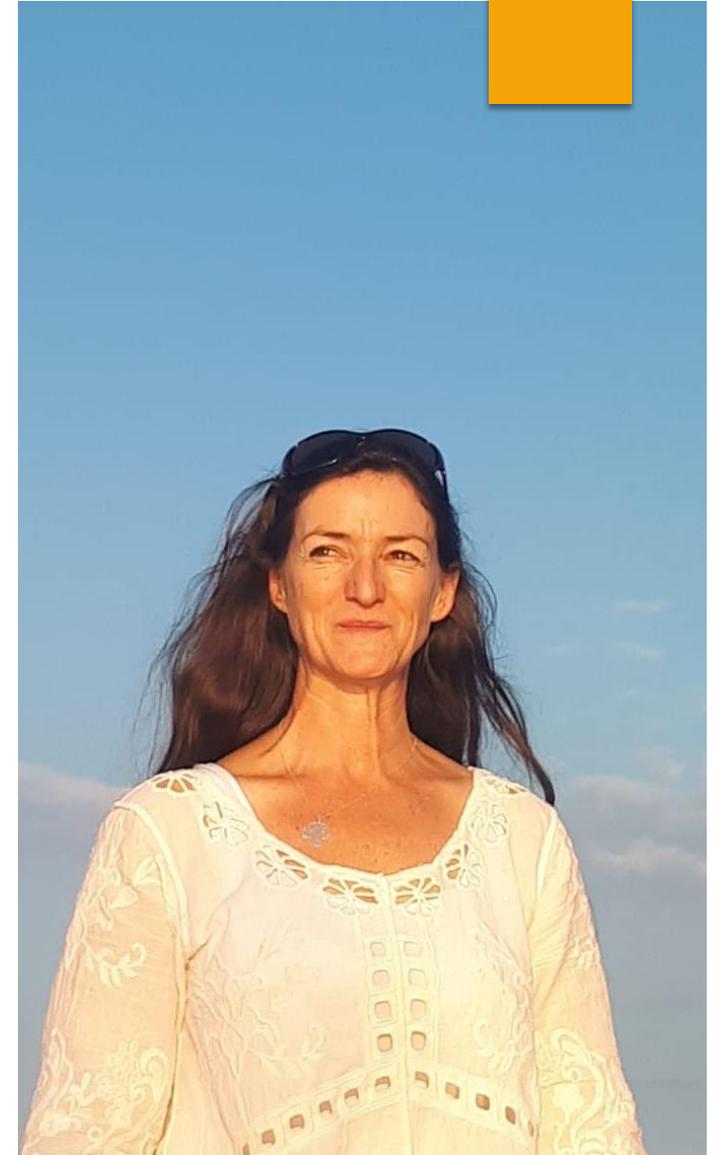
SOUTHERN AFRICAN
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION

INVITED PLENARY SPEAKERS

Louise Swemmer

► In her role as a social scientist for the South African National Parks, Louise coordinates a range of people-and-conservation related research projects falling under the social and economic sciences. She is primarily interested in supporting more effective and fair benefit sharing processes for conservation, in order build social relevance for the long-term sustainability of conservation and society.

► “People, places, perceptions and priorities all matter and each one of us is driven by our own view of the world that is partly shaped by our past. History matters and so do relationships. Relationships take time, energy, passion and people (not necessarily money) and in terms of collaborations and working together, be it between disciplines, departments or stakeholder groups, relationships have the power to trump institutions and paper work – and should be nurtured as one of the important building blocks for social relevance, a key requirement for the sustainability of conservation”. – Louise Swemmer



Tutilo Mudumba

► Tutilo completed his Ph.D. at Michigan State University in 2019. His research program examines how large mammals spatially respond to- and hopefully cope with- sources of anthropogenic disturbance. Of specific interest is the effect of oil and gas development on the movement ecology and behavior of lions and other large mammals in Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda. He is also the Co-Director of the Snares to Wares Initiative which is a capacity-building effort situated in the rural communities surrounding Murchison Falls. The Initiative re-purposes wires used for snaring and in the hands of local people, trained to be artisans, creates sculptures of some of the wildlife that are most vulnerable to snaring.



Robyn Hetem

► Robyn is a conservation physiologist interested in physiological and behavioural flexibility, which may enable long-lived mammals to adapt to hotter and drier environments predicted to become more prevalent throughout much of Africa with anthropogenic climate change. She obtained her PhD in 2009 and has 17 years of experience employing cutting-edge biologging technology to remotely and continuously assess body temperature rhythms and other physiological and behavioural variables of free-living individuals. Because homeostatic systems are integrally linked, disruption of the thermoregulatory system provides a quantitative measure of a mammal's physiological well-being in terms of disease, nutritional and hydration states, which not only determines an individual's fitness but ultimately influences populations, communities and ecosystems. She believes that such an integrative approach to understanding the physiological responses that underlie ecological processes is essential for a mechanistic component to be added to climate change models, which would improve our predictive ability and ultimately better conserve species in a changing world. Robyn has published 55 peer-reviewed papers in international journals and is currently a senior lecturer within the School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand.



Matt Hayward

► Matt conducted a PhD on the conservation ecology of the vulnerable quokka – a small wallaby that the introduced red fox loves to kill – in the Western Australian jarrah forest. He then conducted two post docs in South Africa; the first on bushmeat hunting in the coastal forests of the Transkei with the Walter Sisulu University, and the second at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University to study the reintroduction of lions, spotted hyaenas and a leopard to Addo Elephant National Park. After this he undertook a Marie Curie Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Polish Academy of Science's Mammal Research Institute in Białowieża Primeval Forest. He then moved back to Australia to work as the Australian Wildlife Conservancy's regional ecologist for six reserves in south-eastern Australia covering over 700,000ha and ranging from the deserts of Lake Eyre through the mallee to Sydney's North Head where reintroduction, ecosystem services, feral eradication/control and fire management were key research issues. Most recently, he has been lecturing at Bangor University in beautiful North Wales where his research teams were working on reintroducing red squirrels; ascertaining the impact of pine marten on squirrels; the context dependence of humans on wolf ecology; spatial ecology of peccaries and elephants; invasive snakes; and the impact of neonicotinoids on fossorial mammals. His research interests include the conservation ecology of threatened species, the factors that threaten them and the methods we can use to effectively conserve them. He has researched these conservation issues in Australia, South Africa and Poland on marsupials, rodents, reptiles, invertebrates, ungulates and large predators. He has published on predator-prey interactions, reintroduction biology, population dynamics, spatial ecology, intra-guild competition, diet, ecosystem services, conservation effectiveness and status assessments. He also has experience in conservation management (reintroduction, pest animal control, conservation fencing, fire management) and has served on several Australian threatened species recovery teams.



Hugh Broders

► Hugh is a Canadian evolutionary ecologist whose primary research focus is on the demography, life history and migratory movements of bats. For more than 20 years he has been working with teams of undergraduate and graduate students to unravel the biology of bats. He teaches courses in the areas of ecology, evolution, conservation biology and zoology. Hugh has served on endangered species recovery teams for bats and moose and served two 4-year terms as an elected member of the terrestrial mammals subcommittee for the Committee on the Status of Wildlife Species in Canada (COSEWIC). He is currently Professor of Biology and Chair of the Department of Biology at the University of Waterloo. Prior to his appointment at Waterloo, he served a 5-year term as Chair of the Department of Biology at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In his various administrative roles Hugh has provided leadership on all academic matters in each of teaching and research-intensive universities in Canada.



Xolani Nicholus Funda

► Xolani Nicholus Funda was born in Transkei homeland that is now part of the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. He grew up as herd boy looking after his father's cattle. The herding introduced him to nature at a very young age. He used to trap striped mice and birds such as longclaws, widows, pipits, quails and many other species. Both parents never been to school. His mother is his mentor. He completed his junior secondary education in 1985 at Nkawukazi Junior Secondary School and completed his senior secondary education in 1989 at Upper Corana Senior Secondary School. In 1996, he completed a Diploma in Nature Conservation and in 1999, he completed a Baccalaureus Technologiae from Port Elizabeth Technikon. In 2002, he completed his Masters in Environmental Management from the University of Free State. In 2019, he received an Honorary Doctorate from Tshwane University of technology.

► Nicholus (as he is commonly known) joined Transkei Nature Conservation on 22 June 1990 as Learner Nature Conservation Officer. He has worked for different protected areas agencies including Transkei Nature Conservation, Eastern Cape Nature Conservation, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and South African National Parks. He worked as lecturer at the Tshwane University of Technology before he re-joined South African National Parks in 2015 as Chief Ranger. He is currently a General Manager responsible for Area Integrity Management. He is responsible all Ranger's functions in SANParks. This entail maintaining the standards of ranging, policy development and strategic directions.

