



# ANTIDOTE NEWSLETTER

- January 2010 -

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### VISIT THE EWT-WCPG WEB PAGE:

[www.ewt.org.za/wcpg](http://www.ewt.org.za/wcpg)

### QUOTE:

Train up a fig tree in the way it should go, and when you are old sit under the shade of it.

- Charles Dickens

## PICTURE OF THE MONTH



Photo by: Bruce Taylor (Sunway Safaris)

Leopard on a kill

## 1. Editorial

A Happy New Year to all. We trust that you had a very jolly festive season filled with good times and happy moments. We hope that all of you start the New Year off with a bang and that it is a fruitful year ahead. As we continue into the year, let us not lose sight of the important conservation work that lies before us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our valued sponsors and donors for their support in 2009. Some of our projects are taking on new shape and momentum this year.

This edition of the Antidote Newsletter includes an interesting story on the survival of cheetah and her cubs, the Badger Friendly Label Initiative and how the group is tackling the ever present issues of alien plant control and responsible vegetation management.

Articles and comments are welcome at anytime.

Happy reading!

*Claudia Hodkinson*

WCPG Administrative Coordinator

## 2. WCPG News

### OUR VISION

Sustainable co-existence between humanity and the environment.



### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Wildlife Conflict Prevention Group is to address human-wildlife conflict in southern Africa by positive and proactive interventions; with emphasis on stopping irresponsible practices; and by promoting environmental sustainability.



**KwaZulu Natal**  
**Tim Snow**  
Wildlife Conflict Prevention  
Group Manager

## pesticide stewardship

### Different perspectives

Probably the primary source of any conflict, whether human-human conflict, or human-wildlife conflict, is the differing perspectives of people brought about by tradition, culture, belief, education background and level, and many other factors contributing to the formation of our opinions. Consider the recent furore in the media and in court about the ceremony of young Zulu men killing a bull with their bare hands. I will refrain from passing judgement apart from stating that my culture and tradition elects to slaughter animals rapidly and humanely to minimise stress, pain and suffering. A key to successful conflict mitigation and resolution is the ability to apply the legal principle of *audi altem partem*, or “hear the other party”. This means that one has to deliberate and seriously listen to the other point of view and be prepared to give and take to reach a compromise solution. I use the word compromise deliberately, because all too often negotiations become a win-lose power struggle and the conflict is not resolved because one party attempts to force the other to unequivocally accept their point of view.

Resolution means reaching a win-win situation, even if neither party achieves their exact objective, but at least an acceptable compromise. Warfare subdues people forcibly, but seldom resolves the conflict. The aggressor wins and the suppressed party submits, but tensions and aggression between parties remains. Consider the underlying racist divisions in society between black or white, English or Afrikaans, Israeli or Palestinian and the time it takes to heal such divisions of hatred. There are those who still carry the baggage of the Anglo-Boer War in South Africa, which ended over a century ago. But I digress. I am looking at differing perspectives and how to address them.

As a conservationist for more than 30 years I have some strong opinions about sustainable living and

sustainable use of natural resources. I have compassion for the rural grandmother-widow who in her desperate need to support and feed an extended family, often including AIDS orphans and others, and who may revert to illegal subsistence poaching by snaring or trapping a few game-birds. Contrarily, I have no respect for the rhino horn poacher who is motivated by financial greed, who kills to supply a market of vain sexually deprived people with a product which has been scientifically proven to be ineffective for the intended purpose, or those who choose rhino horn to fashion dagger handles when innumerable synthetic materials are freely available. Plant and animal parts have been used medicinally for time immemorial. When there were fewer humans around the resource amply supplied the needs, but as the population grows, so demand exceeds supply and the resource diminishes to a point where it becomes unsustainable. Authorities place restrictions on harvesting and utilisation and in a normally functional civil society the judicial system should uphold the legislation and contraventions by the populace should be prosecuted.

So from this I have to ask how it is that Mr Mlungu Ngubane of Mamfene near Jozini in Kwazulu-Natal remains unpunished. He was charged for the killing of 58 leopards in 2004, and was released into some community service after a plea bargain. He was again arrested in possession of a further 92 leopard skins on 15 August 2009. He is a “tailor” who makes clothing and regalia from animal skins. The leopards are a small part of his trade, when one considers the large number of skins of protected animal species found in his home. The argument is that leopard skins are used traditionally for various ceremonies by various people.

The coronation and inauguration of the Rain Queen, Modjadji includes draping a leopard skin over her shoulders. The Zulu King traditionally wears a leopard skin cloak. If the use of animal skins was restricted only to royalty and used merely for regal ceremonial purposes, and if those skins were properly treated by taxidermy, and then appropriately cared for between uses, then that use could probably be sustainable. However, many illegal shortcuts are taken because harvesting of leopards is restricted by National legislation, and this is in compliance and agreement with the Convention on Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) to which South Africa is a signatory.

The animals are poached or poisoned, resulting in a poor quality skin from which the hair will slip out. Exacerbating this is the fact that because the skins are

illegally acquired, they cannot be legally processed by a taxidermist, a catch 22 situation. Most illegal skins are therefore only useful for a short time and discarded when the fur falls out. When I raised this concern in a Wildlife Crime Management meeting, that every other person in a certain church feels an entitlement to wear a leopard skin, a Zulu speaking participant clarified this by saying that this behaviour is not traditional and that the right to wear leopard skins is that of the Zulu King alone. I will not question that tradition, but rather raise some questions for consideration, because it appears that illegal harvesting and use of leopard skins is rampant in certain sectors, and continues with scant disregard for the legislation, the source of the animals and the harvesting methods. It reflects the lawlessness of South African society and the insidious disregard for the rule of law and the judiciary. This is the middle finger attitude so frequently seen in South Africa. In European societies the use of fur coats used to be very fashionable, but the practice led to near extinction of many species there. One response to the shortage of furs was to breed species like Mink, in captivity. The captive farming increased the cost of the fur coats and this fact coupled to the societal disapproval, eventually suppressed the wearing of fur coats. Artificial realistic substitutes are a lot cheaper, are washable, more durable and easy to maintain.

So why can we not follow this model in Africa? If necessary the skins required for traditional royal ceremonial functions could be acquired from legal sources, properly treated (“fit for kings”) and appropriately cared for between ceremonies. The other skins such as those used by that church congregation are evidently not a traditional requirement. But if those people remain adamant that they still wish to dress in skins in the year 2010, then why can their needs not be fulfilled by well made synthetic fur substitutes?



**Photo by:** pro.corbis.com  
Prince Galenga in traditional wear



**WCPG Head Office**  
**Claudia Hodkinson**  
Administration Coordinator

### honey badger friendly project

#### THE BADGER FRIENDLY INITIATIVE

After several years of being managed by the Carnivore Conservation Group, this project has now been passed over to the Wildlife Conflict Prevention Group. With our focus being on wildlife-human conflict, it seemed like a natural fit.



**Photo by:** Gerrie Comacho

A Honey Badger caught in a gin trap.

Beekeepers often put these down next to their hives

An 18-month study was initially conducted by Keith Begg to determine what the extent of conflict between beekeepers and Honey Badgers was. To ensure that the livelihood of beekeepers continued, without Honey Badgers being persecuted in the process, various measures to protect hives were investigated. It was found that cost effective measures could indeed be put into place, protecting the hives without the need for killing badgers. Equipped with this knowledge, it was important that a programme be developed to educate the beekeeping community on environmentally friendly beekeeping practices.

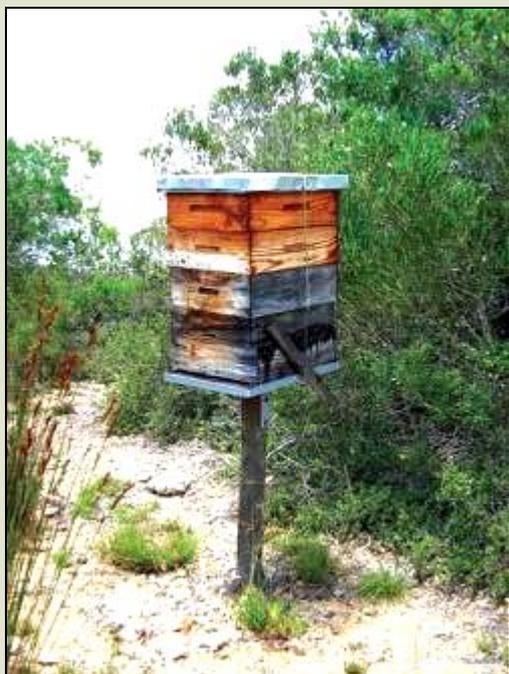
The Badger-Beekeeper Extension Programme (BBEP) was therefore developed and has been running for the past 6 years. The key objectives of this programme were

to educate beekeepers on effective beehive protection measures and Honey Badger conservation, as well as public awareness on the topic (Isham *et al.*, 2005). A number of major role-players were involved in the programme, namely conservation organizations, beekeeping associations and state nature conservation bodies, with additional pressure provided from the general public and retailers.

A 'Badger Friendly' label was also developed as part of the programme. This label can be used by beekeepers that effectively protect their hives and implement environmentally friendly practices. In addition, this label informed the consumer which honey products were produced by badger-friendly practices. It is hoped that the use of these labels will promote consumers to put pressure on the beekeeping industry to change their ways and to remain badger-friendly.

The labels are sold at a small cost to beekeepers that have signed a declaration copy and which after an inspection of their apiary sites are accredited with 'Badger Friendly Status' (Isham *et al.*, 2005). Beekeepers should be audited on a yearly basis with an extension officer visiting the site.

This project is set to continue in 2010.



**Photo by:** Claudia Hodkinson  
A hive raised onto a pole to prevent damage by badgers



**Pretoria**  
**Deon Cilliers**  
Senior Field Officer

#### cheetah conservation

### A cheetah female called "Droopy" - A true story of survival

It's early morning in the Kalahari of South Africa. A female cheetah and her two cubs have just woken and the urge to catch a springbuck to stop the hunger pains have got them moving through the Kalahari bush. She leaves the cubs in the shade of a Camel-thorn tree and slowly approaches the top of a red sand dune to peer over the vast red Kalahari sands.

All of a sudden this peaceful scenario is broken by the sound of a low flying helicopter. The female crouches down to hide in the grass, but it's too late. The helicopter swoops down on her and she runs for her life, in the opposite direction of where her cubs are waiting. The sound of the helicopter is deafening and the fumes of gas from the exhaust system is starting to get to her. The female tires soon, but keeps on running to get this flying monster as far away from her cubs as possible. She stumbles and falls, the wind created by the chopper's downdraft changes the Kalahari sand into a red cloud of dust, sand and dry sticks flying around her. This disorients her and she tries getting up. All of a sudden everything is dark and the sounds of the helicopter become muffled, something is over her head and she feels it tighten around her neck. She is picked up and her legs are tied. There is no escape. She has been captured by a resident game rancher who cannot tolerate the thought of predators such as cheetahs catching his valuable game animals which he purchased on a recent game auction.

The farmer has been informed by his tracker that the female cheetah he had captured also had two sub-adult cubs. 'Well, old lady,' the farmer thinks, 'we will have to use you as bait to lure your youngsters into a capture cage. I can get a lot of money for the three of you on the black-market'. After three days in the hot Kalahari sun, trapped in a crude metal trap cage, the female cheetah has given up any hope of escaping.

Her footpads are raw from her efforts of trying to dig through the metal floor of the trap and the heat of the Kalahari desert has caused serious dehydration, as she has not had any water since she was captured three days ago. Using her last bit of strength she calls to her cubs who have been hiding in a thicket not far away. The cubs react immediately to her calls and approach the trap cage she is in. The only way to get close to her is through two other traps which have been setup next to her. In moments the two cubs are also trapped, but the presence of the mother relaxes them soon. Later that afternoon, the farmer arrives at the cages, and immediately realises that the adult female is busy dying. Her cubs are still very perky and they spit and growl at him. The female cheetah is hardly breathing and she has given up the fight.

The events above sound very dramatic but I am pretty sure that this is exactly the way things happened when this cheetah was captured. I received a call from the conservation authorities informing me about these cheetahs that were captured and that they need to be rescued from the farmer as soon as possible. I made arrangements with the conservation authorities to collect the three cheetahs and I would meet them half way between Pretoria and the Kalahari.

We transferred the three crates with the cheetahs in onto my vehicle and I immediately called our veterinarian, Dr Peter Caldwell to be on standby, as the adult female cheetah was not moving at all and she was hardly breathing. On arrival at Peter's consulting rooms, we immediately tried to get the female cheetah into a holding facility, but she could hardly lift her head. We had to physically lift this wild cheetah from her crate into the holding facility, and she hardly put up any resistance. Her eyes were glazed over and her body was very limp. Peter started working on her, listening to her heartbeat, monitoring her temperature and giving her some intravenous liquids.



**Photo by:** Deon Cilliers  
Injury to Droopy's eye

This carried on throughout the night. She had various cuts on her body which were becoming infected, and Peter treated them as well. At no stage did we have to put her under anaesthesia as she was barely alive and had no fight in her. Due to her state of non-responsiveness, we called her "Droopy". I left Peter and his staff late that night and they took shifts to monitor her and treat her. Two days later, Droopy had made an astonishing recovery. She was now growling, spitting and doing everything that a pure thoroughbred wild cheetah is supposed to do. Droopy was having serious problems moving around and spent most of the time in a sheltered corner. Her feet were extremely sensitive and raw due to her efforts trying to dig through the floor of the trap cage in which she was kept.

Droopy and her two cubs spent two months in a holding facility, where she was treated intensively for her infected wounds and footpads. The two sub-adult cubs (one male and one female) were in a camp directly next to Droopy and they could see each other the whole time. After two months, Dr Caldwell recommend that we move Droopy and her two cubs to a bigger enclosure with more natural grass and bush, as the floor of the holding enclosure was not allowing Droopy's footpads to heal up.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Wildlife Conflict Prevention Group often has to keep wild cheetahs in holding for prolonged periods due to injuries and we have agreements with various game ranchers who have put up larger enclosures for us, and where these cheetahs can recover in a more natural environment. One such a farmer is Ian Novak, who owns Nsele Game Reserve in the Waterberg of Limpopo Province. Nsele Game Reserve would be the new home for Droopy and her cubs for the next few months.

Before we could take Droopy and her cubs to their new home, she needed some attention from a dentist. Her one canine was broken by the iron bars of the trap cage she was caught in, and the root of her tooth was exposed. A root-canal procedure was required to stop any infection or abscess from developing. I took Droopy to Dr Gerhard Steenkamp, veterinary dentist at Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute. Dr Steenkamp spent three hours doing a root-canal and fixing the canine up. We left for Nsele straight after the procedure.



**Photo by:** Deon Cilliers  
Droopy's broken canine



**Photo by:** Deon Cilliers  
Dr Steenkamp working on Droopy

After travelling for three hours, we arrived at Nsele Game Reserve. On arrival, Ian was waiting for us at the boma. The boma is one hectare of heaven, with open grassy areas as well as shady thickets. Droopy and her two cubs were released from the transport crates by me and Ian, and it was a very sensitive moment when Droopy licked her two cubs for the first time in two months, without the physical barrier of a fence between them.

The three of them then started investigating their new home and within a few minutes moved to the far corner and flopped down in the shade of a huge tree. The next day Ian fed them an entire warthog which the family of three finished in less than 10 minutes.

Five months later, Dr Caldwell and myself returned back to Nsele. This time to dart both Droopy and her female sub-adult cub. The cheetahs have healed well from their injuries and have been successfully hunting and looking after themselves. The time has come to move them to larger conservation areas in South Africa, where they could actively contribute towards the conservation of cheetahs in South Africa by hopefully producing some offspring in the near future.



**Photo by:** Deon Cilliers  
Lunch time

We found Droopy close to an open field, with blesbuck, wildebeest, impala and zebra grazing close by. Droopy was lying in the shade of a thorn tree, lazily gazing into the distance. We walked right up to her and she calmly turned onto her back, ignoring us completely. Dr Caldwell darted her and after jumping up and running away for a short distance she once again lay down in the shade and the drugs let her slip away into a deep sleep. Droopy was fitted with a new tracking collar, and she woke up in the transport crate ready to be transported to her new home at the Tswalu Kalahari Reserve in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.



**Photo by:** Deon Cilliers  
Droopy getting a new collar before relocation to Tswalu

The same procedure was followed with the sub-adult female called Janel. I found her sleeping on the slope of a mountain and she was also darted, fitted with a new collar and put into her transport crate. Janel will be relocated to the Mkuze Game Reserve in the Kwazulu Natal Province of South Africa.



**Bela Bela**  
**Arnaud le Roux**  
Animal Health and Vegetation  
Management Coordinator

## vegetation management

### Greening the future for a Waterberg community

In the northern Limpopo Province, restoration of a degraded wetland will assist a Waterberg community in developing ecotourism in their area, creating a valuable source of local income. The initiative is being funded by the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Foundation, undertaken in collaboration with the Conservation Leadership Group and Wildlife Conflict Prevention Group of the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

The Telekeshi community inhabits the Waterberg Biosphere, an area of approximately 15 000 km<sup>2</sup> and the first region in northern South Africa to be named a biosphere reserve by UNESCO. The extensive rock formation of the massif was shaped by hundreds of millions of years of riverine erosion to yield diverse bluff and butte landform, and the ecosystem can be characterised as a dry deciduous forest or bushveld.

Within the Waterberg are archaeological finds dating to the Stone Age, and nearby are early evolutionary finds relating to the origin of humans.

With their land incorporating a small wetland in addition to rock art and Stone Age sights, the Telekeshi community aims to develop the area as a tourist destination. A few community members have been trained as bird guides but they have not had the facility or the customers to make a living from their training. The wetland area supports a high number of bird species even though it is currently degraded due to overgrazing, erosion and alien plant invasions. Once restored, it will be a bird lover's paradise.

The Conservation Leadership Group (CLG) and Wildlife Conflict Prevention (WCPG) Group are now working with the Telekeshi community to address these issues and to restore the wetland to a more pristine habitat that will contribute to the tourism package of the community.

The wetland is heavily encroached by Lantana (*Lantana camara*) and Sickle bush (*Dichrostachys cinerea*), and we trained CLG Nature Conservation students and members of the community to control these invasive species through the correct mechanical (Stihl power tools) and chemical methods. This is an ongoing programme that will help ensure a pristine conservation area in the near future.



**Photo by:** Conservation student  
Vegetation Management coordinator Arnaud le Roux cuts Lantana while training Conservation Leadership Group students in the rehabilitation of a community wetland in the Waterberg

74 hectares of the wetland have been earmarked for birding trails. The area, which has recently been fenced by the Department of Agriculture, will in future be used only for emergency grazing by the community.

To ensure that the two fountains located within the wetland remain undisturbed, the CLG and WCPG, together with members of the community, fenced off a small section to exclude cattle from this area. Water from these two fountains is being used by the community for drinking and washing.



**Photo by:** Arnaud le Roux  
Conservation Leadership Group students who received training

Training of CLG students is one of many projects undertaken by the Vegetation Management field staff throughout southern Africa to ensure that the viability of threatened habitats and ecosystems are maintained and to develop economically viable alternatives to address harmful impacts to people and biodiversity. Others include an advisory service to Eskom on vegetation management of their servitudes and substations as well as training of Eskom staff; a consulting service to Nampower; an advisory service to the Timber Industry Poison Working Group, a public advisory service via a helpline (cell 082 325 6578 or [oxpecker@ewt.org.za](mailto:oxpecker@ewt.org.za)) and advice, monitoring and policy guidance to KZN Wildlife and the Working for Water project.

“We work throughout the seven different biomes and veld types in southern Africa – Savanna, Nama-Karoo, Grassland, Succulent Karoo, Fynbos, Desert and Forest. In total there are 43+ indigenous indicator species of bush encroaching and a further 242+ different alien weed species, classified into three categories depending on the seriousness of the threat they pose.

Vegetation management will never be a quick fix in righting the wrongs of the past. However, if you remove invasive species using best practice in mechanical clearing and chemical methods, followed by sound ecological management, nature can recover in a relative short time – within five years. We see successful programmes in cooperation with Eskom, Nampower, Forestry; Working for Water, and in conservation and Rangeland areas.



**KwaZulu Natal**  
**Dave Kleyn**  
 Field Officer

### alien vegetation

### Invader Plants

As people have travelled the world and settled into new

places, plants have travelled with them. Plants that come from other areas are known as alien plants. They can travel in the form of seeds, as unknown companions in the folds of clothing, or attached to vehicles and animals. People also intentionally bring these plants into the country.

South African’s indigenous forest trees were not considered suitable for the timber and paper industry, and so the extensive plantations of fast growing Pine and Eucalyptus were introduced. The North American Mesquites (*Prosopis* species) were imported to provide fodder, shade and fire wood in dry areas, lantana (*Lantana camara*), Bugweed (*Solanum mauritanium*), and the attractive Syringa (*Helia azedarach*) were introduced as ornamental plants. The Black Wattle (*Acacia Mernsii*) is used in the tanning industry and for firewood. Rooikrans (*Acacia cyclops*) was initially introduced to stabilize shifting dune fields in the Western & Eastern Cape (a practice that has in fact threatened biodiversity and disrupted ecological systems).

### Useful aliens

Maize is a food plant imported into Africa from South America. The maize plant was highly successful because it came without disease or insect predators. This helped it produce higher yields than the traditional food staples of sorghum and millet. Maize has become so widespread that people cannot believe that it is not indigenous to Africa. The potato is another plant that came from South America and has become an important food source for people around the globe.

### Why do plants become invaders?

Sometimes alien plants are more successful than we would like them to be and spread into areas where they are not wanted. We then call them invading alien plants. Most plants do not thrive well in a new environment, but occasionally conditions are better for a plant in a new country than in its native land. One main reason for this is that alien plants often come without diseases, parasites and predators that control their numbers in their natural environment. They also often like the new climate. Under these conditions populations can explode, overwhelming the indigenous plants.

In South Africa invading aliens affect almost 10 million hectares (8.28%) of the country. About 750 tree species and 8000 shrubs have been introduced to South Africa and of these, 161 are regarded as invaders and 44 are legally declared noxious weeds (their removal is required by law). Even indigenous plants can encroach. When areas change rapidly through, for example overgrazing or incorrect burning practices, they can become prone to invasion by both indigenous and alien plants. Sweet Thorn (*Acacia*

karoo) is a common indigenous tree which rapidly spreads over disturbed grasslands.

### Environmental threats

- Research has shown that planting trees in grassland or savannah catchments reduces the water flow of water in streams. In one of the many case studies, an 82% reduction in stream flow was seen in two small grassland catchments in the KwaZulu Natal Drakensberg 20 years after planting with pines. Particularly during winter months, evergreen and deep rooted alien plants use more water than indigenous grasses and shrubs, many of which are dormant at this time.
- Dense stands of invader plants are highly susceptible to fires which physically damage the soil and increase erosion in affected areas (some alien seeds love fire and so germinate quicker eg. Black Wattle)
- Invading plants are in direct competition with indigenous plants, and add to the crowding out of indigenous vegetation by disrupting ecological systems. Almost 1900 of the 3435 plant species listed in the “red data list” for southern Africa are threatened wholly or in part by alien invading plants.

The Cape Floral Kingdom, which is home to 45% of the continents species, is threatened by alien plant invasion. The Oribi and its grassland habitat is also threatened with the invasion by alien plants.



Photo by: Tswane Council  
Bugweed



Photo by: Tswane Council  
Lantana camara

## 3. Other news

### predator conflict

We have had some great support for this fabulous initiative and would like to thank all those that have become involved and pledged to contribute namely:

*Dimension Data*

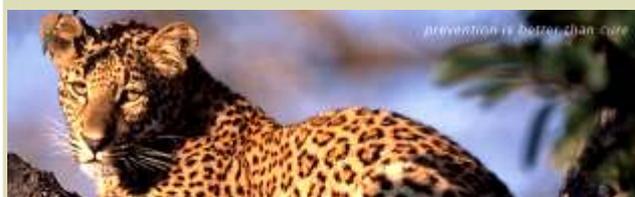
*Francois Spruyt*

*Gill Raine*

*GSFS Foundation*

*Ibhubesi Lodge and Conference Centre*

*Zitom Lodge Equities*



### ADOPT A CANINE AND SAVE A SPOT



The Welgevonden Leopards are important to leopard conservation in the Waterberg. Unfortunately these leopards come into conflict with neighboring landowners who suffer losses due to predation. You can assist Welgevonden and the Endangered Wildlife Trust to prevent these landowners from shooting your leopards by providing a long term solution by

### ADOPTING A LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOG



### ADOPTION AT R5000 PER DOG

Adoption includes: naming rights, monthly reports and pictures, veterinary costs for a year and monthly monitoring by the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

Enquiries: Deon Cilliers  
mobile: 082 853 1068  
email: [deonc@ewt.org.za](mailto:deonc@ewt.org.za) / [claudibh@ewt.org.za](mailto:claudibh@ewt.org.za)



The Endangered Wildlife Trust is a member of the IUCN, the WWF, and the IFAW.  
Handbook number 475-523 1247. P.O. Box 100, 100, 100.

If anyone would like to get involved please use the contact details below:

**Deon Cilliers**

**Email:** [deonc@ewt.org.za](mailto:deonc@ewt.org.za)

**Cell:** 082 853 1068



### WCPG HELPLINES

*The Wildlife Conflict Prevention Group Office Line*  
(011) 486 1102  
Claudia Hodkinson

*Kirchhoffs Garden Wildlife Protection Information Line*  
072 952 2552  
Claudia Hodkinson

*Nashua Pesticides Helpline*  
082 802 6223  
Tim Snow

*Vegetation Management Helpline*  
082 325 6578  
Arnaud le Roux

*Animal Health Helpline*  
082 325 6578  
Arnaud le Roux

### REPORT WILDLIFE POISONING!

Poisoning of wildlife takes place each year in South Africa and affects the lives of wild creatures each day through the irresponsible use of agricultural chemicals and other poisons. Most of the cases reported are accidental poisonings, with a few isolated cases of deliberate poisonings still taking place. It is important that these poison incidents are reported. If you come across a potential poisoning case, please contact the Wildlife Conflict Prevention Group and an incident form will be sent to you. We can conduct toxicological analysis on samples to determine if a sample has been poisoned by pesticides. The WCPG will also provide you with steps on what to do in order to take a sample.

Contact details:

[wcpg@ewt.org.za](mailto:wcpg@ewt.org.za)

011 486 1102 Ext 208

### WCPG Volunteers

For those that did not know, the old PWG had 12 volunteers that aided with wildlife poisoning cases in the provinces they reside in. These volunteers have now also been incorporated into the WCPG and their functions remain more or less unchanged. In the regions where no volunteers are present, the WCPG staff will be available. The group however is looking to expand the volunteer network so as to cover most of South Africa and its neighbouring countries. To find out where your nearest volunteer or staff member is located or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you can contact Dave Kleyn on 082 449 2568.

### 5. Media

#### The Predators and Farmers Booklet

Orders can be placed through Claudia on 011 486 1102 or [wcpg@ewt.org.za](mailto:wcpg@ewt.org.za)



#### Publications

### 4. Wildlife Poisoning News



*Photo by: Martin Odino*  
Poisoned Open-billed Stork

- Predators on farmlands. Jag en Wild. October 2009. Deon Cilliers/Gert Fourie.  
**Topic: Predators on farmlands**
- Poisons and wildlife. Radio Pulpit. 2 September on AM radio 657 KHz or Internet RadioPulpit.co.za. Arlene Pretorius Talking with Tim Snow.  
**Topic: Illegal and unsustainable use of wildlife – addressing the use of leopard skins by the Shembe Church and the Rain Queen Modjaji**
- Cheetah Reintroduction to India. Radio 702. Tim Neary Show. Deon Cilliers.  
**Topic: Predators on farmlands**
- Wild- en beesboere se goedkoopste dipstof. SA Hunter Magazine. October 2009. Gerhard Verdoorn.  
**Topic: Oxpecker conservation in SA**

- Red-billed Oxpeckers Return After 100 Years. Farmer's Weekly. 23 Oct 2009. Mike Burgess.  
**Topic: Reintroduce Oxpeckers at Mpongo Private Nature reserve near East London in the Eastern Cape**

## 6. Sponsors and Donors

*The work of the EWT-WCPG is supported by:*

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## 7. Diary

If you would like to add anything to the diary, please contact Claudia on [wcpg@ewt.org.za](mailto:wcpg@ewt.org.za) or (011) 486 1102.

<b>2010</b>
24 February 2010 – <b>Chemical Crime Management Forum</b>
17-21 May 2010 – <b>NAMPO Harvest Week 2010</b>

## 8. Newsletter Information

The Antidote is an initiative of the Wildlife Conflict Prevention Group (WCPG) of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) in South Africa. It is a quarterly newsletter and aims to encourage national, regional and global participative networking and exchange of wildlife poisoning prevention news, ideas and information.

The Antidote is put together and edited by Claudia Hodkinson. To send a news item or a question, please email it to [wcpg@ewt.org.za](mailto:wcpg@ewt.org.za). If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to [wcpg@ewt.org.za](mailto:wcpg@ewt.org.za) with the message 'Unsubscribe Antidote'.

## 9. Contact Information

The EWT's Wildlife Conflict Prevention Group pro-actively implements conservation programmes to prevent the misuse of pesticides that impact on wildlife and the environment.

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