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Wes-Kaapse forum spog met goeie samewerking tussen rolspelers

Die Western Cape Wildlife Forum (WCWF) is 'n forum wat twee keer per jaar vergader en wat 'n paar jaar gelede deur Helen Zille in die lewe geroep is. Die oogmerk van die WCWF is om ondersoek in te stel na die effek van predasie en die invloed daarvan op landbou in die Wes-Kaap. 'n Verdere doelwit was om verskeie belangegroepe om dieselfde tafel te kry ten einde met voorstelle vorendag te kom en oplossings te vind.

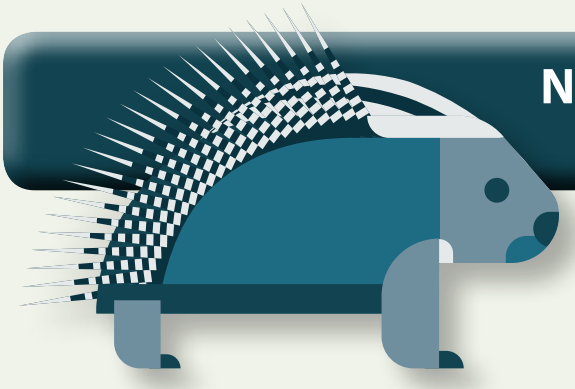
'n Vergadering is vroeg November 2016 belê deur rolspelers wat die Cape Leopard Trust, CapeNature, die NWKV en Woolworths ingesluit het. CapeNature het hul gelukwense met die bekendstelling van die predasiebestuur-handleiding uitgespreek en alle betrokkenes bedank vir die publikasie, wat beskou word as die grootste suksesverhaal in die bestaan van die WCWF sedert 2013.

Baboons a real threat to Karoo livestock farmers

In response to a question by a *Farmer's Weekly* journalist about the status of sheep predation by baboons in the Karoo, Prof. Justin O'Riain, Professor of Biological Science at the University of Cape Town (UCT), had the following to say:

"Baboons are regarded as the number one pest species in Africa and cause significant damage to pine trees in plantations, raid crops and urban areas and more recently have become an additional threat to small stock in the Karoo. This has not been quantified by research but farmers are reporting increasing losses due to baboons, especially during the dry months of summer. Dr Marion Tafani at UCT is currently working on this problem using GPS collars, isotopes and questionnaires to understand the extent of the problem, and discover which individuals eat more meat and how baboons move on farmland. Her results will be presented to farmers in Sutherland, Laingsburg and Beaufort West in November."

The *Farmer's Weekly* article will be placed on the PMF website as soon as it is published.



Nee, ystervarke eet nie waterpype omdat hulle dors is nie....

Baie boere ly skade weens ystervarke wat waterpype vreet. Jaco van Deventer van CapeNature het 'n interessante teorie hieroor.

Hy sê hy is nie 'n wafferse wetenskaplike nie en kan daarom nie verklaar waarom hulle so lief is vir PVC-pype nie. Hy het wel 'n paar ystervarkbabas grootgemaak en kon nooit vir hulle kos in PVC-bakkies neersit nie, want hulle het die kos uitgegooi en eers die bakke opgeknibbel. Hy dink nie hulle vreet dit nie, maar knibbel dit net stukkend.

Boere in die Porterville-omgewing, waar ystervarke baie skade aan bogrondse PVC-pype berokken het, het al eksperimente gedoen deur ou PVC-pype in kort stukkies te sny en dit in die omgewing van die pyp rond te strooi. Dit het nogal gewerk! Die beste opsie is egter om die pyp so 40 cm van die grond af te lig en waar dit langs 'n heining loop, op dieselfde afstand van die grond af aan die heining vas te maak. Dit werk uitstekend.

Hierdie verskynsel word ook by rotte, eekhorings en muise aangetref wat die omhulsel van elektriese bedrading afknaag. Jaco vermoed dat dit 'n lekker tekstuur het vir hulle om aan te knaag, want knaagdiere se voortande hou nooit op met groei nie en hulle moet gedurig aan iets knaag sodat die tande kan afslyt. Baie huishoudelike toerusting en motors het al uitgebrand weens kortsluitings nadat knaagdiere die omhulsel van elektriese bedrading afgeknaag het.

First AgriSeta accredited courses on predation

In October, the first of the newly accredited AgriSeta courses on predation and predation management was presented by Niel Viljoen at the Mkuze Game Reserve in Northern KwaZulu-Natal. This was the ideal location because Mkuze is the habitat of the big five, making it most suitable for tracking. Footprints from the smallest to the larger apex predators such as lion and leopard made the practical sessions a very interesting part of the course. The soft red soil captured each footprint perfectly; this was a big bonus for the students. They were able to compare the prints shown in the textbook in the classroom with the visual print in nature and found them to be a perfect match.

All three courses were well attended and a total of 50 people received training. The course consisted of theoretical, as well as practical, work. Identification and tracking, as well as the correct use of soft traps and cages were explained and demonstrated. Trail camera handling and placements were also part of the practical training.

At the end of the three-and-half day course, each individual underwent theoretical and practical tests. The successful candidates will receive a certificate indicating their proficiency in assisting landowners to identify problematic predators, manage predation challenges and achieve profitable livestock farming. The knowledge and skills gained during the course will also help to protect and nurture ecosystems and serve to guide decision-making and management strategies aimed at cultivating and supporting healthy biodiversity.

Stuur inligting

U word vriendelik versoek om enige inligting oor predasie, suksesvolle beheermetodes en interessante navorsing aan te stuur. Ons wil die jongste nuus hoor, asook enige aktiwiteite in u bedryf, en die datums waarop dit plaasvind. Wenke oor die voorkoming of bekamping van predasie, asook foto's, is welkom. Kontak Bonita by **nwga@nwga.co.za**.