



MABULA
GROUND HORNBILL
PROJECT

MABULA GROUND
HORNBILL PROJECT
ANNUAL REPORT
2021/2022

OUR MISSION

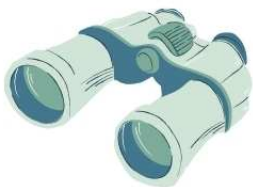
To reverse the decline of the Southern Ground-Hornbill (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*) population in its historical range in South Africa, and support conservation efforts in the rest of its range.

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE



6 peer-reviewed scientific papers published

33 artificial nests built



20 623 sighting records



1 new Conservation Action Plan



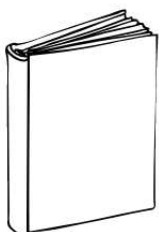
5 students and 1 intern

1 science colloquium hosted



589 Vusa the hornbill guardian distributed

1820 brochures distributed



49 new pentads

69 champion groups

1 Biodiversity Management plan



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to report on another busy and productive year for the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project. Under the leadership of Dr Lucy Kemp the project made great progress towards achieving its goals for this year, though that load grew vastly with their successful application to the IUCN Save Our Species Fund, co-funded by the European Union through their African Wildlife Initiative. Because of the funding provided by this grant, Dr Lucy Kemp has been able to take the Biodiversity Management Plan approval for distribution and for public participation. This is a big step forward in getting wider spread collaboration and protection for the Southern Ground-hornbill and allowed all of the priority conservation actions to be implemented.

In the research arena, MGHP staff and students have conducted hundreds of successful interviews across their study area of a 50-km buffer including Venda, Maleboho and Bushbuckridge, as part of the Populations and Perceptions research program. These surveys will provide valuable information about local perceptions of SGHs in the communities that share (or have historically shared) the landscape with them – a crucial part of understanding how to properly protect them – especially when they occur outside formally protected areas.

As the elephant population in Kruger National Park continues to rise, there have been noticeable impacts on the vegetation there. Current research by MGHP is building on knowledge about this process while trying to determine the risk that elephants pose to SGH nests. Although the large trees generally preferred for nesting by SGHs are less at-risk than smaller trees, some species (e.g., female Marula trees and Baobab trees) might require special protection, as they are especially susceptible to ring-barking. MGHP staff and collaborators from Elephants Alive continue to assess the best methods to deter elephants from damaging these important nest trees.

On the topic of nests, artificial nests are a key conservation tool for ground-hornbills because suitable naturally occurring nest sites are becoming rare. The MGHP is, with the FitzPatrick Institute, conducting research into the thermal properties of various artificial nest boxes being constructed and installed in strategic locations to assist population recovery and have also pioneered using 3D scans from wild nests to improve designing the nesting space. These results, along with the digitisation of historical nesting records will greatly assist in the monitoring and conservation of SGHs and contribute to our understanding of temperature effects on breeding birds.

One of the most important activities of the MGHP is annual nest checks of known groups. These were all completed by April 2022, and planning for the start of nest checks for the 2022 breeding season is underway. Monitoring individual animal health, and conducting veterinary interventions for injured, sick or poisoned birds can be very challenging in SGHs, which led Project staff to collaborate on a new published paper on effective drug combinations for safely sedating birds for treatment (Laubscher et al. 2022).

#UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT

The Project continues to partner with governmental institutions (including SANParks and South African National Biodiversity Institute), other local and international NGOs and Universities and captive institutions to conduct relevant, world-class research to help advance our understanding of the ecology, health, and conservation of SGHs.

Reliable sightings and breeding records are fundamental to monitoring Southern Ground-hornbills, and Mabula has established a multi-faceted approach to collating all possible sources of information from citizen science, online biodiversity platforms and national atlas projects. Regarding the latter: 41 new pentads relative to 2021 were added by July 2022! New data sources incorporated in the database include Latest Sightings KNP and BirdPro, bringing the total number of data sources to ten. This unprecedented national South African monitoring plan is comprised of 69 citizen scientist groups representing nearly 1200 members!

Monitoring activities of the Project extend to other African range-states of SGHs and the number of sightings outside South Africa grew by 682 sightings by June 2022. In the international arena the Project visited Namibia, where a Conservation Planning workshop was run with local authorities, local San communities were interviewed, a Namibian Southern Ground-hornbill Management plan is being drafted, and a population census was conducted to ascertain the population status there.

The Project continues to be exemplary in terms of raising awareness and working with local communities to establish regional population trends and implement successful locally relevant conservation interventions. Project staff have done a fantastic job of distributing newsletters and brochures to thousands of members of the public, school children, military personnel, tourists and conservationists. Additionally, staff conducted radio interviews and in-person educational field experiences and formal presentations for local and international audiences to further spread the word about the plight of Southern Ground-hornbills.

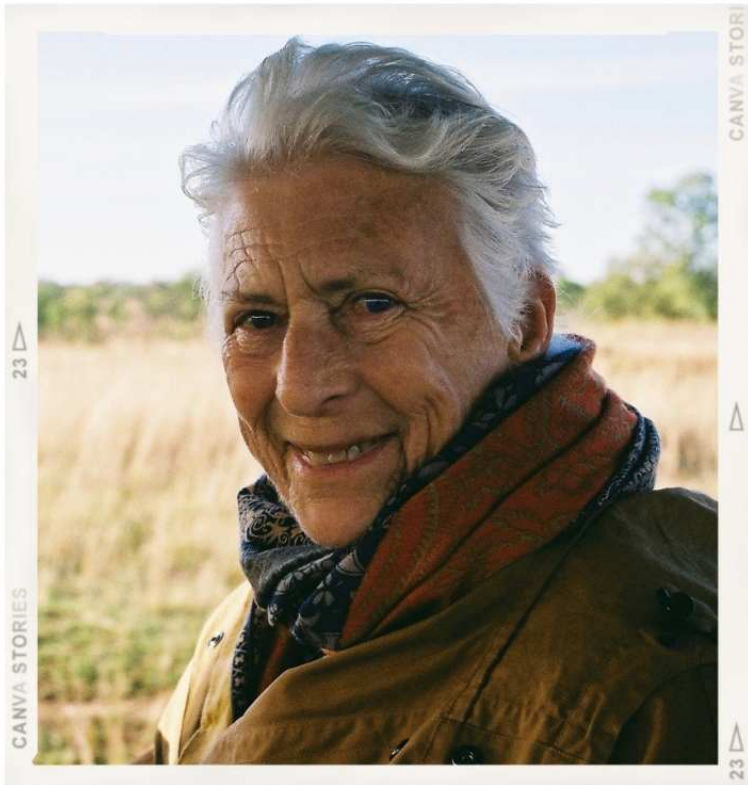
Online communities represent an important demographic for raising international awareness about the species and the Project has had an impressive social media footprint this year so far, with a reach of more than 35k people and the hashtag #THUNDERBIRDTWURSDAY reaching over 2 million people by June 2022!

While the above is an outline of what has been achieved over the last year, on behalf of the entire Mabula Ground Hornbill Board I sincerely applaud each and every one of the Project team, not only for what they have achieved as evidenced by what has been set out in this report, but as much for their everyday unstinting loyalty and hard work on the ground, over many hours undertaking menial tasks that become the lifeblood of Projects such as ours. Well done and long may we see the fruit of all your efforts reported and recognised, locally and internationally.


Malcolm Cumming



MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



Looking at the Project from our years of setting up a new mission to halt the decline of this species to what has been achieved by Lucy and her team is remarkable and allows us to feel that our efforts were definitely not in vain.

A Big Step forward this year has been Lucy's presentation of the Biodiversity Management Plan to get widespread collaboration and protection for the Southern Ground-hornbill, co-funded by the IUCN's Save Our Species and the European Union.

What jerks at my heart are the several successful wild group introductions, with many birds that would have never survived or indeed been born without the Project's initiatives, the Baobab, the groundbreaking Sightings Monitoring Plan, and the many ways the Project has been continually refined and goals achieved.

This last summer Alan Kemp and I met in the UK and reminisced on those original years of activating dreams and plans....what luck and may it always go well with the Project.

Founder 1998 - 2010

#UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT

AWARDS



Supported by IUCN Save Our Species,
co-funded by the European Union

We are delighted to announce that we have been granted emergency funding by the IUCN Save Our Species, co-funded by the European Union, through their African Wildlife Initiative. The IUCN Save Our Species aims to improve the long-term survival prospects of threatened species, by focusing on supporting the species' habitats and working with the communities that share this habitat. It achieves success by funding and coordinating conservation projects into multiple global initiatives. The African Wildlife Initiative is a partnership between the European Union and IUCN that responds to conservation challenges facing key threatened species in sub-Saharan Africa. It delivers tangible results for species, habitats and people. This Rapid Action Grant is awarded to projects responding to emergency situations. We've done our best to stay on track with our targets, but the COVID pandemic has caused us some delays and difficulties. This assistance couldn't come at a better time. With this support, we will ensure that none of the conservation priorities in the Biodiversity Management Plan fall behind due to the pandemic crisis. Time is of the essence for endangered species, and we are grateful for this much-needed sponsorship.

Because of the funding provided by this grant, Dr Lucy Kemp has been able to edit and present the Biodiversity Management Plan to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment. On April 21 2022, the BMP was unanimously approved for gazetting, for distribution for public participation. This is great news and a big step forward in getting widespread collaboration and protection for the Southern Ground-hornbill.



OUR PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED

Rodríguez, J.P.; Sucre, B.; Mileham, K.; Sánchez-Mercado, A.; De Andrade, N.; Bezeng, S. B.; Croukamp, C.; 8, Falcato, J.; García-Borboroglu, P.; González, S.; González-Ciccia, P.; González-Maya, J. F.; Kemp, L.; Kusrini, M. D.; López-Gallego, C.; Luz, S.; Menon, V.; Moehlman, P.; Street, W.; and Xie, Y. (2022) **Addressing the Biodiversity Paradox: mismatch between the co-occurrence of biological diversity and the human, financial and institutional resources to address its decline.** Diversity 2022, 14.

Danel, S, Rebout, N & Kemp, L., (2022) **Through the eyes of a hunter: assessing perception and exclusion performance in ground-hornbills.** Animal Cognition.

L. L. Laubscher; K. N. Koepfel, Robert Campbell, L. V. Kemp and Raath, C. P. (2022) **Complication with re-sedation in Southern Ground-Hornbills (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*)** following partial reversal of two orally administered sedation protocols. Vet record: Case Reports.

Danel, S, Kemp, L., Zidat, T., Lucas, A., Bonadonna, F. & D. Biro. **If at First, You Don't Succeed: Stick to One Side! Ground-hornbills and Skuas Fail to Use Human-given Cues in a Two-way Object-choice task.** Journal of Comparative Psychology.

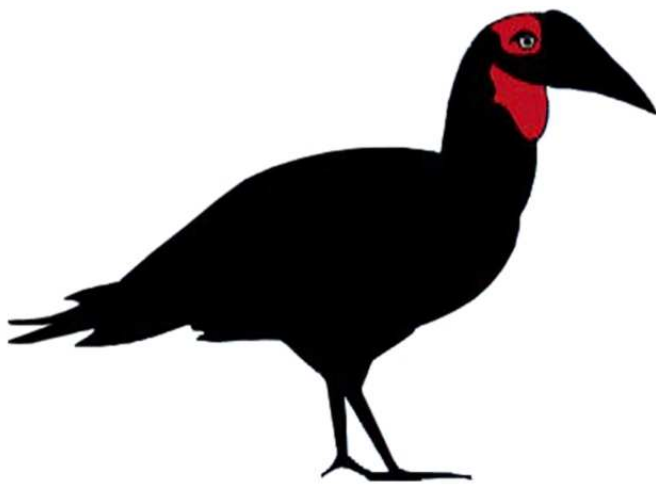
Danel, S, Kemp, L & D. Biro. (2022) **Social diffusion of new foraging techniques in the Southern ground-hornbill (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*).** Learning and Behaviour.

Koepfel, K. N. & Kemp, L.V. (2022). **Ground-hornbill medicine.** Fowler's Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine. Current Therapy, 10th Volume, Chapter 70.



GOVERNANCE

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project has a multi-disciplinary Board of Directors. The Board meets regularly and is responsible for the key elements of governance, annual budget approval and financial management.



OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Malcolm Cumming (Chair)
Dr Rob Little (Vice-Chair)
Mrs Elsa Taylor (Treasurer)
Prof Antoinette Kotze
Dr Hanneline Smit-Robinson
Mr Jaishankar Ramchandran
Mr Wouter Pienaar
Mr Leslie Mudimeli
Mr Ivan Killian

LEGAL STATUS

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project is a non-profit organisation with NPO registration number 016-183 and is sanctioned by the South African Revenue Service as Public Benefit Organisation, number PBO 13/00/00/723.



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



OUR STRATEGY

All our activities are achieved in collaboration with local communities, collaborators and stakeholders with the intention of being a world-class conservation programme. Below are our three long-term goals:



To **secure** current ecologically stable Southern Ground-hornbill populations in South Africa, with no concomitant increase in persecution for window-breaking. This will require reducing all current threats – poison, persecution, electrocution, trade – and increasing community engagement.



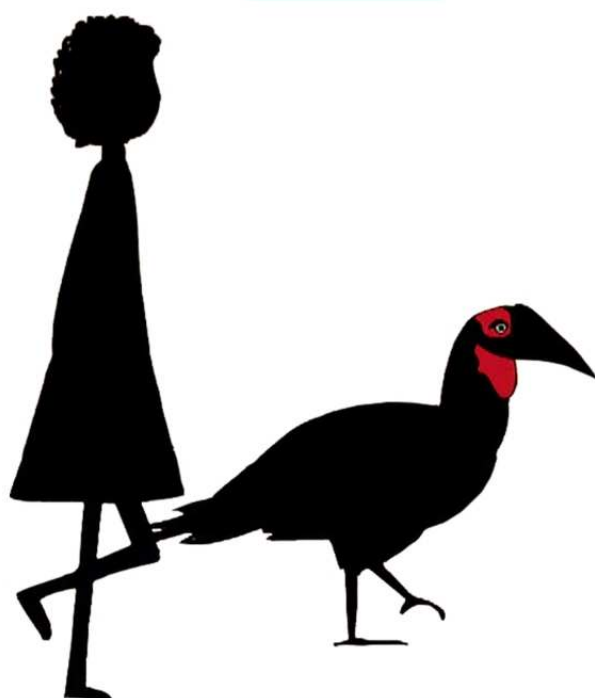
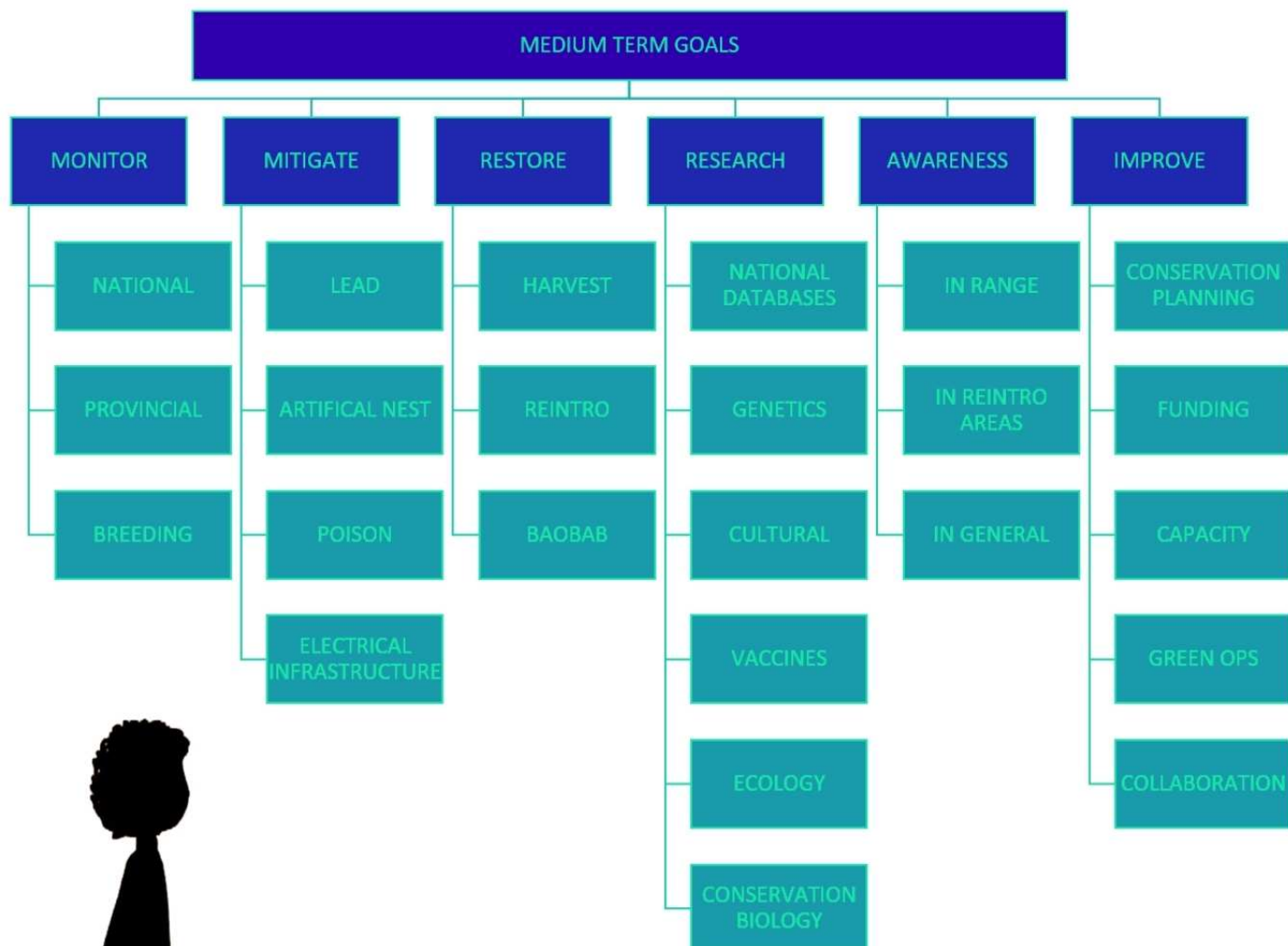
To **rebuild**, through a trans-disciplinary reintroduction programme based on best-practice and sound peer-reviewed research, Southern Ground-hornbill populations in areas where they have become locally extinct. Focus will be on numerical targets that take into account the species complex social requirements in addition to being physiologically and genetically well chosen.



To use the Southern Ground-hornbill as a **flagship species for all savannah species**. Any successful threat mitigations will be gains for species such as vultures and Secretary birds. In addition, a **locally relevant, sustainable environmental education and skills training program** will enhance local landowner participation in conservation and continue **to nurture conservation as a career option** in these communities, ensuring MGHP is able to help grow conservation capacity in Africa.

#UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT

OUR SIX PILLARS



#UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT

MONITOR

Provide long-term monitoring of the status of SGHs and their threats to assess trends in populations, success of interventions and determine thresholds of potential concern.

National monitoring plan:

The national monitoring plan has continued to progress from the skyrocket growth of last year, with regularly reporting champions and high numbers of group resightings.

In the past year, we have gained 19 new Champion groups, for a growth increase of 38% and a total of 69 groups. Last year's Champion growth was focused on recruiting a variety of partners, from corporations to governmental environmentalists to communities and private landowners. This year, the most significant development has been the outreach to South Africa's neighbouring range-states. Previously, we had gathered roughly a dozen sightings total per month. Now we have improved sightings numbers in every range country, but particularly Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, and over 1,100 sightings through the fiscal year.

Sighting database:

Over **8 000** new sighting records have been obtained to a grand total of 20 623.

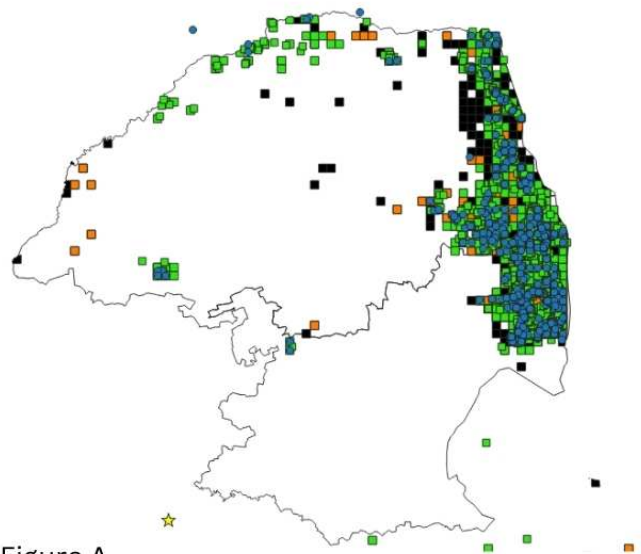


Figure A

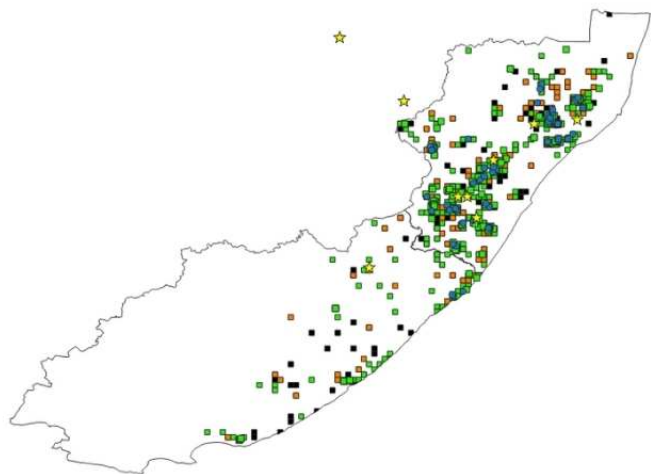
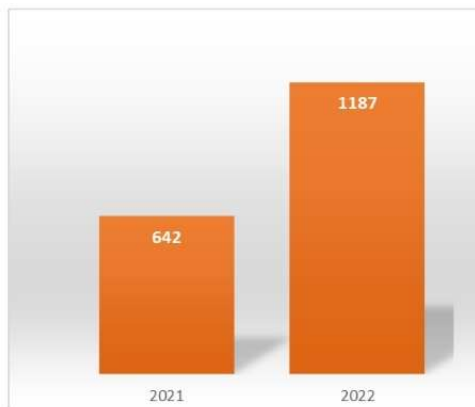


Figure B

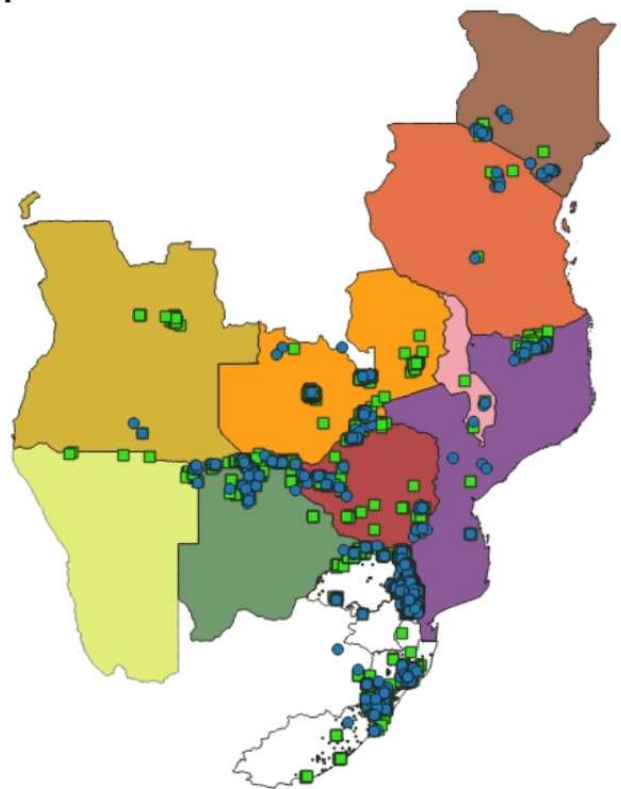
These two maps are a collation of the data from the past financial year for the provinces A) Limpopo, Mpumalanga and B) KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

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We are just over the halfway mark in our 4-year monitoring plan and our citizen science base continues to grow with nearly 1200 people who regularly send records on the WhatsApp groups. This excludes all of those using BirdLasser and other means of reporting.

A selection of some of the varied and beautiful sighting records we have been sent by our growing citizen science base showcasing the variety of habitat these birds are found in.



Southern Ground-hornbill sightings as location records for June 2022 in blue and previous 2022 month locations for all neighbouring range states, comprising the global distribution.



#UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT

MITIGATE

We work to reduce direct human impacts (abusive use of pesticides, lead poisoning, snaring, electrocution, trade) and reduce conflict (window-breaking) by developing and implementing sustainable and effective solutions in collaboration with local communities, NGOs, provincial and national conservation bodies.

LEAD TOXICOSIS IS THE CURRENT DRIVER FOR REINTRODUCTION FAILURE AND LIKELY POPULATION DECLINES TOO IN SOUTH AFRICA

We have been working on outreach on a national level, with cooperation through the Lead Task Team, as well as on the individual level with farmers and reserve managers to encourage alternative ammunition. In line with this, before every new release, the Project discusses the cessation of lead use with the host reserve.

Despite this, the primary cause of loss in the reintroductions is lead toxicosis and sadly we are now building a data set on both blood and bone levels. Although it is heartbreaking to get data this way, at least it will be able to contribute to the national conversation and drive both behaviour and policy change.



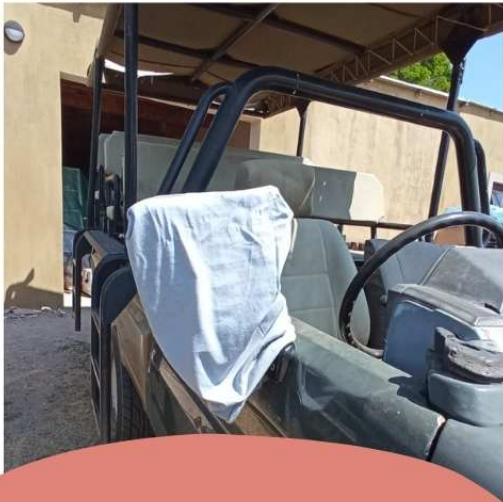
TRADE



We continue our constant surveillance of all hornbill species in Africa and we are finding some alarming trends. In response, in collaboration with MONITOR, the IUCN Hornbill Specialist Group and Mandai Nature, a global hornbill trade database research programme is being initiated, and we will contribute our data in collaboration with Indianapolis Zoo. We are working on understanding the local and international trade implications for Southern Ground-hornbill, focusing on research, training and capacity building.

INDIANAPOLIS ZOO

#UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT

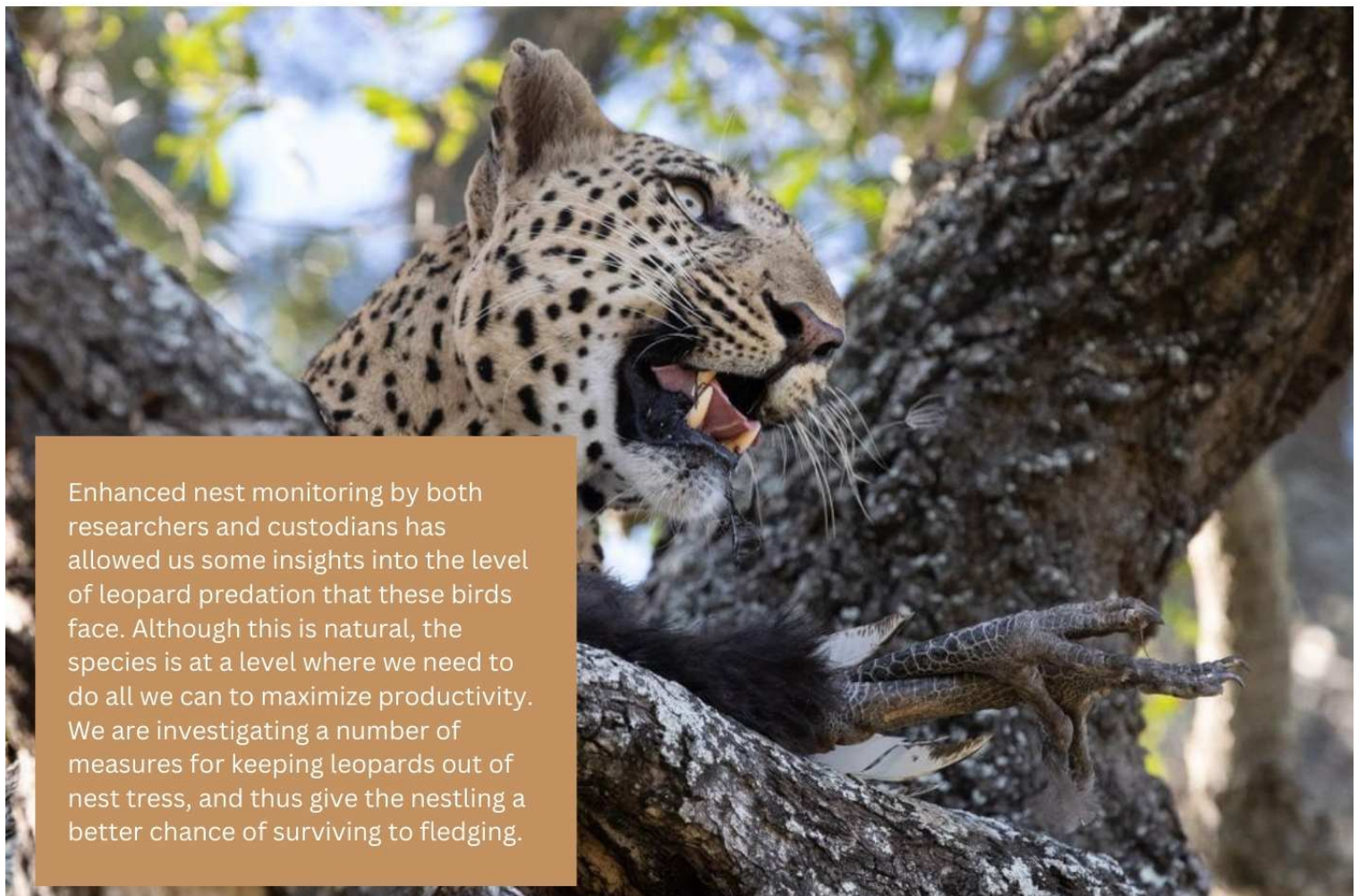


the owners of this lodge have found an excellent use for old t-shirts - turning them into little covers for your side mirrors so the ground-hornbills can't see their reflection and won't break them.

WINDOW-BREAKING:

Industry has really stepped up to help this species with SATIB Insurance Brokers leading the way. They have committed to ensuring that if you are insured by SATIB and a ground-hornbill breaks your window, it won't hit you in the pocket.

"SATIB is working closely with the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project to explore possible insurance solutions to the problem – including waiving the excess on all SATIB policies where windows need to be replaced due to ground-hornbill misdemeanours. We're also chatting to local glass fitters about replacing clients' windows with safety glass or frosted glass where possible – all in an effort to save this beautiful species. If you'd like more information on your policy, or need windows replaced, please get in touch with our team on contact@satib.co.za."



Enhanced nest monitoring by both researchers and custodians has allowed us some insights into the level of leopard predation that these birds face. Although this is natural, the species is at a level where we need to do all we can to maximize productivity. We are investigating a number of measures for keeping leopards out of nest trees, and thus give the nestling a better chance of surviving to fledging.

#UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT

RESTORE

Reintroduction of sufficient numbers of viable founder groups to build sustainable new sub-populations, without having to use meta-population management while still ensuring that existing populations maintain sufficient genetic diversity.

BREEDING SEASON

Five chicks were harvested this breeding season from the APNR region, four of which were successfully reared to fledging. The fifth came from an unusually small egg, struggled to hatch on its own, and ended up surviving only four days despite intensive care from Natasha Nel. This chick has been a learning experience, and opportunity to refine our protocol to only harvest eggs of a size that indicates a likelihood of survival.

REINTRODUCTION SITES

1 New Group Released

4 SGH Added

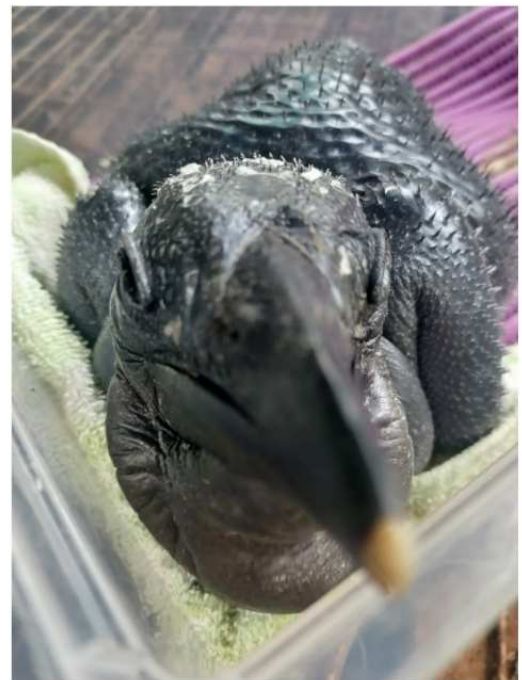
to the Mabula-Marakele region

4 SGH Treated For Lead

and re-released

7 Reintroduction Groups Total

under regular monitoring and care



Kapama, the female of the Mabula group, spent some time going back and forth between her home group and the neighboring Rotavi Farm group. She is currently with the Rotavi group, and the two groups in the Mabula Complex are still working out their boundaries. Surprisingly, the Rotavi group moved into the middle of Mokaikai's territory to try to claim the nest at the Jacaranda office, pushing him and Java out toward Tamarisk. Though the Rotavi three were only there briefly, the Mabula group stayed away for the rest of the month. Mokaikai also received a visit from a bird from a neighbouring farm, who walked with them for only a couple of days before leaving for his home farm again.



#UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT

RESEARCH

Lead, collaborate in, support and encourage research into aspects of the ecology of the species relevant to their conservation management and ensure this information is easily available.



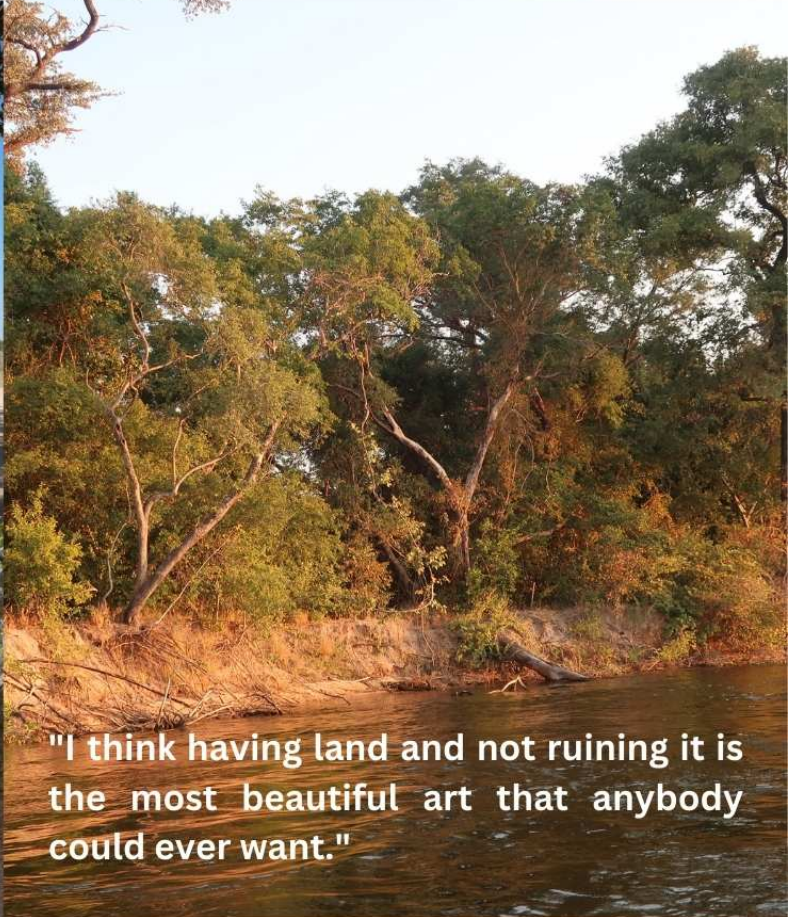
We have been very focused on our understanding of people's perception of these birds as it has such significant implications for their survival. We completed a total of 1300 Population & Perception Surveys which has given us a beautiful understanding of what the people of four language groups think about these birds. These data are now being analysed and we are learning so much from this. Results coming soon.

"At Maatlaba's village, a young man in his early 30s remembered seeing two SGHs usually after the rains in his village which is halfway to Lephalale from Thabazimbi in the '90s. . . Another Tshivenda-speaking man from Thengwe village is used to seeing them walk around the village. He last saw them two years ago. . . A Zimbabwean lady from Masvingo knows the birds from home, only seeing them before or after the rains."

" our ground-hornbills are bringers of peace. Their presence in an area shows that there will be peace in the land"

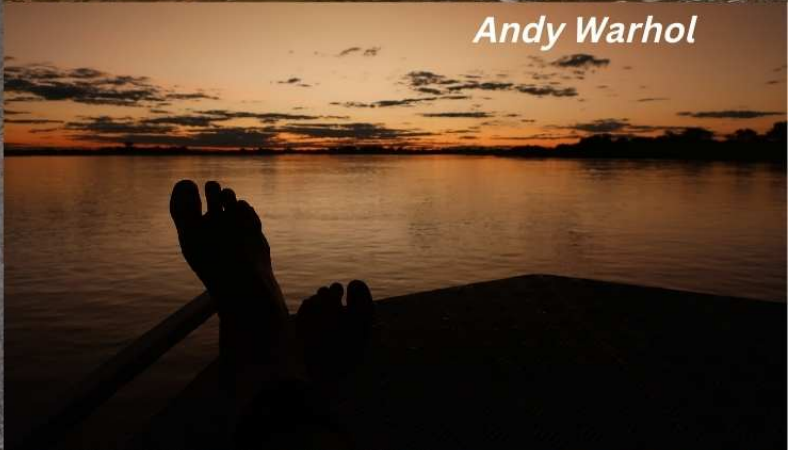
Excerpts from a field work report, June 2022

#UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT



"I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want."

Andy Warhol

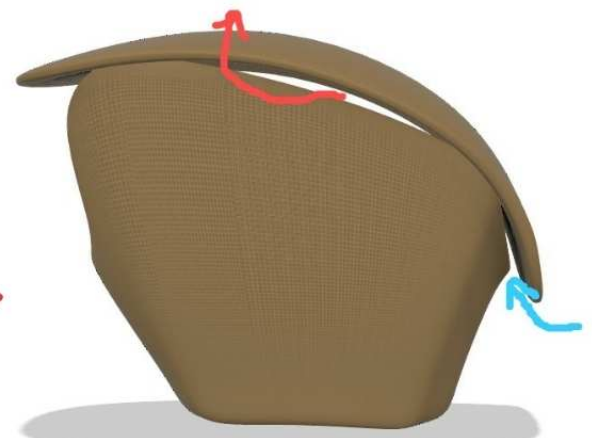
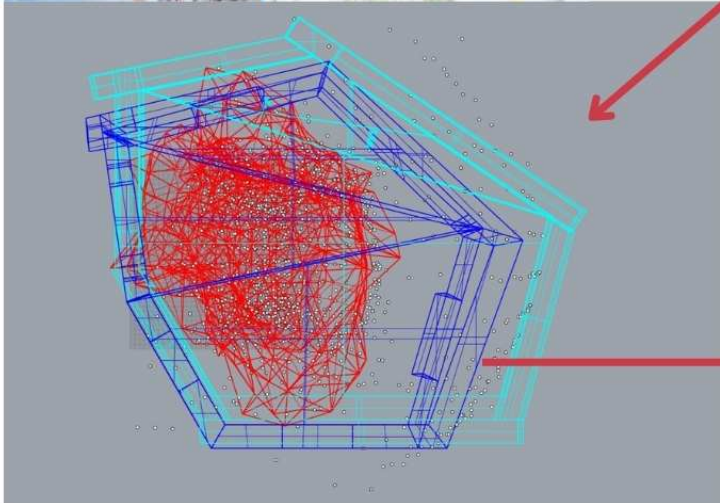
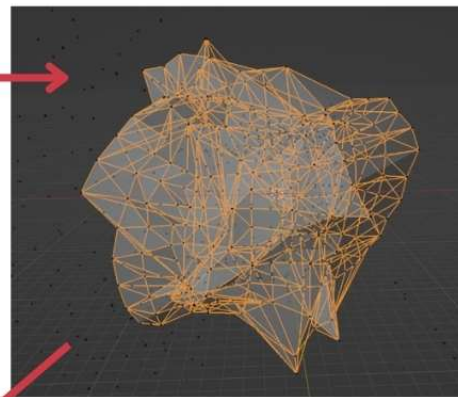


#UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT

ARTIFICIAL NESTS



Although our artificial nests are proving very successful, with great uptake by the wild birds, and successful fledging, we still need to work on ensuring these nests are going to support these groups in the face of climate change. So we are back to the drawing board in some respects. Using some new technology developed by Kyle Brand (Tshwane University of Technology) we were able to conduct 3D scans on a number of the wild nests and understand the space and heat flow, rather than just the tree dimensions.



#UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT

AWARENESS

Ensure an effective education programme that reaches all intended release zones and where the remaining wild populations occur outside protected areas

innovative outreach: our animation is live



The Thunderbird: A Story of Ground-Hornbills

27 views • 7 days ago

A girl called Knowledge hears of ground-hornbills from her grandfather. When she falls asleep, one of these birds appears in her dream and takes her on an adventure to learn about why ground-hornbills have disappeared from the land, and what she can do to help them come back.

...
[READ MORE](#)

Uploads ▶ [PLAY ALL](#)



The Thunderbird: A Story of Ground-Hornbills (Afrikaans...)

2 views • 5 days ago

The Thunderbird: A Story of Ground-Hornbills (isiZulu...)

5 views • 6 days ago

The Thunderbird: A Story of Ground-Hornbills (isiXhosa...)

4 views • 6 days ago

The Thunderbird: A Story of Ground-Hornbills

27 views • 7 days ago

LEND US YOUR VOICES: Dr John Kani (for English and isiXhosa), Dr Gcina Mhlophe (isiZulu) and Glynn Alard have done incredible voice-overs for our conservation animation. The animation is by the fantastic Tincup Animation, with help from Triggerfish Animation, Sonic Studios (Durban) and Sonovision (Gauteng) with translations by Ndzwakazi Ntकिनca-Biyana for the isiXhosa and isiZulu translation, and Francois Kruger for Afrikaans translation. The animation has been selected to be shown by Sunshine Cinema. Their mission is to democratize access to the cinema, raise awareness, and stress the importance of switching to renewable energies. All equipment of the mobile cinemas is powered by 100% solar energy. After sunset open-air film screenings are organised in many of the rural areas where these birds are found but need greater local protection.

UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT



Podcast:

- Exploring by the seat of your pants - Conserving a cultural icon with Jesse Hildebrand
- All creatures - Whitley award winner Dr Lucy Kemp on conserving the Southern Ground-hornbill with Mortensen Chris J

Radio:

- Mokopane FM - Talk with Nthabiseng Monama with Lebogang Ngobeni
- Waterberg stereo - Conservation of Southern Ground-Hornbills in the Waterberg district with James Breedt

Magazine/newsletter:

- EatMyNews - Dr. Lucy Kemp - In this COVID affected world, it is the non-profits that have taken a knock (Chair of South Africa Southern Ground-hornbill Working Group)
- Birdlife SA - Just rewards - Global recognition for Mabula Group Hornbill Project
- Recent updates from a typical month with the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project
- Coastal - In search of the thunderbird
- KZN Birds No 66 - Update on the monitoring of the KZN's Southern Ground-hornbills
- TWK Radius - Agriculture and those involved are helping Southern Ground-hornbills
- SATIB - Southern Ground-hornbill window-breaking





2292



5700

Young presenter Thando Fani recently visited the project for some filming for a children's wildlife programme. She fell in love with the ground-hornbills and produced this artwork for her school project.

"Hello Dr. Lucy
I just wanted
to let you know
that I won gold
for my artwork!"



6738 community members

- Vaalwater community
- Meletse rhino monitors
- Waterberg Living Museum
- Marakele National Park
- Phalaubeni-Mbaula-Welverdiende-Timbavati
- South of Kruger National Park to Eswatini border
- Venda and Maleboho
- Orpen and Letaba area four councils



HORNBILL EXPERIENCE SAFARI: 159



1227 learners

41 teachers

Vusa the hornbill guardian:
589 distributed



- University of Stellenbosch Science communication students (77)
- South Veterinary Association Conservation Conference (62)
- Waterberg Nature Conservancy (50)
- Fundraising at King Price Music Concert (80)
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (30)
- Macadamia military base (16)
- Modjajdi Information Tea (315)

#UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT

IMPROVE

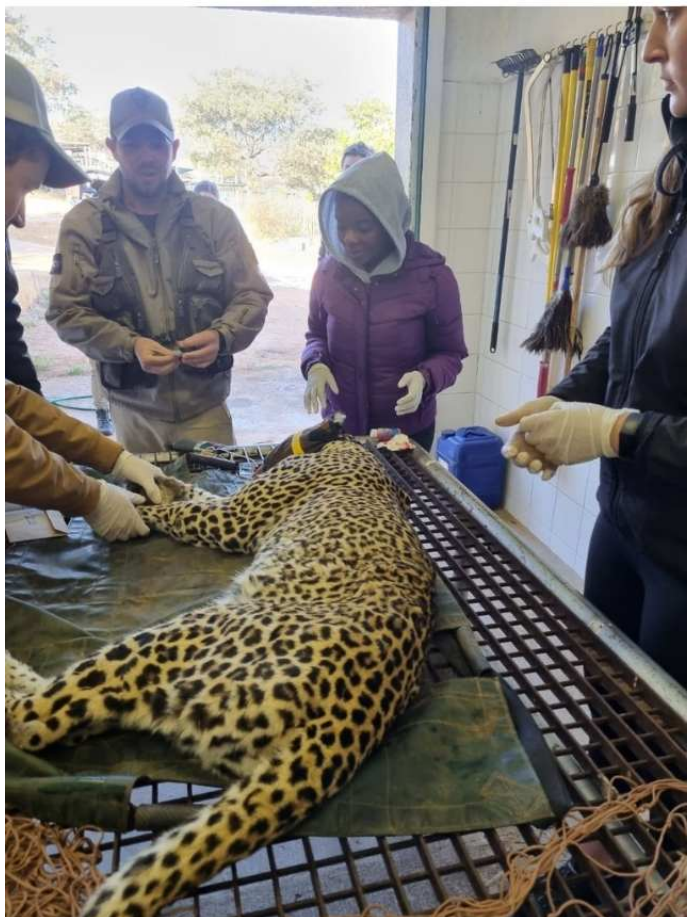
Improve and retain the capacity, efficiency and stability of the MGHP to ensure that it continues to make a long-term contribution to conservation in South Africa and beyond. Build local capacity nationally and regionally through provision of training, mentorship and, where possible, funding.

Capacity building

Nomcebo Mathebula and Celukuthula Mswelihe, students at the University of Mpumalanga, finished their placement time in February. Nomcebo was a vital part of the March Populations and Perceptions field work, and Celukuthula stayed on an extra week to teach Fisokuhle the ropes. We wish them the best with their future in wildlife work!



This year was the first that we've worked with ROOTS Interns program, and **Natalie Molea** joined the Project for three months this winter. She was a valuable asset to the team, and we hope to see her back in the future for more ground-hornbill research.



Fisokuhle Ngwenya joined the MGHP team in February 2022 for her practical year. She has been a big help to the Baobab team this rearing season.

Being based at Loskop Dam Nature Reserve has given her a much wider conservation experience too - working to prevent bush fires, doing bird and crocodile surveys, and even part of a leopard darting.

#UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT

GREEN OPS AT OUR BASECAMP

Recycling: The team have designated recycling bins for all recyclable waste which we drop off to non-profits that convert recyclable waste into reusable items.

Mealworms: We have expanded our mealworm colony and they ensure that the majority of our biodegradable waste is put to good use.

Eco-brick project: unrecyclable waste is made to create eco-bricks which we donate to other non-profits that are involved in community-building projects.

Solar geyser: The office and project manager accommodation have been fitted with solar geysers, which greatly reduces our electricity consumption.

MEET OUR NEW STUDENTS



Balynda Mathola: MSc candidate

Linda is doing her MSc in her home kingdom, eSwatini, at the University of eSwatini, and under the co-supervision of Prof Ara Mondajem. She is investigating the feasibility of restoration of the Southern Ground-hornbill in the kingdom.



Selasi Dzitze: PhD candidate

Selasi is doing his PhD in Ghana (Mole National Park) at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), and under the co-supervision of Prof William Oduro. He is investigating the biology of the Northern or Abyssinian Ground-hornbill.



Shine Deladem: MSc candidate

Shine is doing his MSc in Ghana (Mole National Park) at KNUST, and under the co-supervision of Prof William Oduro. He is investigating the genetics and distribution of the Northern or Abyssinian Ground-hornbill across its range.



A one-month pilot project was initiated in Ghana, in collaboration with KNUST and the Ghana Forest Commission (Wildlife Division) and Mole National Park. Nearly all of the (minimal) research on NGH has been conducted on birds in captivity. However, to practice science-based conservation by the IUCN guidelines, we need to understand the biology, ecology and threats in free-living NGH. Both Selasi and Shine are committed to putting these first building blocks in place, using Mole National Park as their primary research site. This project was mostly funded by Montpellier Zoo and Dr Kathryn Gamble. No sign of breeding in the past three to four years was found, which is alarming, but the next two field seasons will confirm if this indeed cause for concern.



We have formed an IUCN HSG Abyssinian Working Group to help support and coordinate any research into this species. We submitted grant applications to support a sister project in Senegal, with post-docs Paul Robinson and Ngone Diop.



Selasi here with an NGH skull bought at a roadside market. We are seeing an alarming rise on trade in both live and parts for this species too.



#UNDERSTAND-LOVE-PROTECT

SPECIES ACTION PLANS



In conservation planning, it is critical to use scientifically sound, collaborative processes that bring together people with diverse perspectives to catalyze positive conservation change.

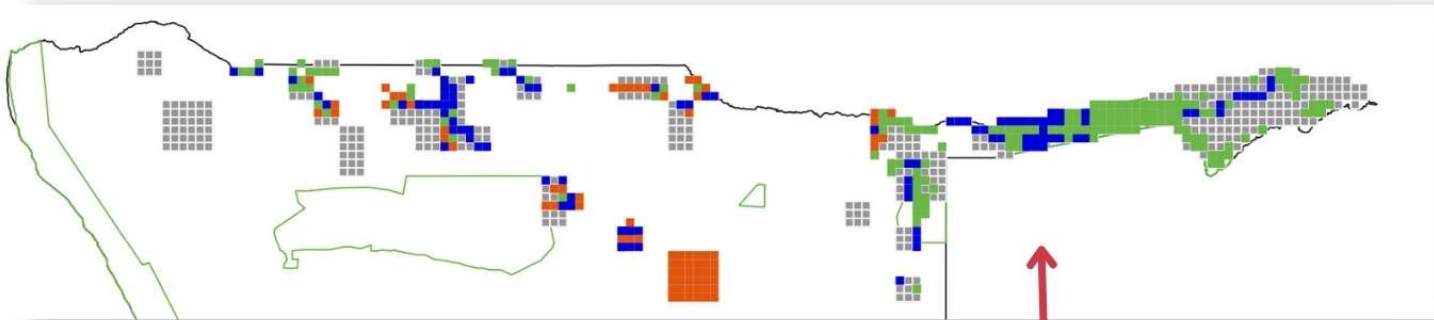


- Successfully ground-truthed the majority of the 1980 SGH pentads
- Confirmed the presence of SGH in 80 of the historic pentads
- Identified 23 new pentads with SGH presence
- Confirmed that the SGH population in Namibia is likely down to 30% based on the historic data
- Interviewed four San villages
- Conducted the first stakeholder CPSG workshop for SGH conservation in Namibia



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND TOURISM





The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) in Namibia is currently working with Mabula Ground Hornbill Project in South Africa to monitor the Southern Ground-hornbill population. We led the development of a National Management Strategy for the species in Namibia via multiple field-based stakeholder engagements, and a conservation planning workshop that ensured that the people who share the land with this bird are instrumental in designing its conservation action plan. The workshop had 64 participants, which included the managers from 22 conservancies, 18 community forests, wardens from most relevant parks, representatives from the hunting and tourism sectors, and the University of Namibia

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ALF REWIN SCHOLARSHIP

Although the world sadly lost Alf Rewin, we are doing everything, together with his folks, Dee and Barrie, to create a legacy scholarship fund. This fund will enable us to support young African researchers in their academic dreams, and add to the knowledge base for this incredible bird that Alf loved so much.

THE ALF REWIN CONSERVATION FUND has been entered onto the Register of Charities with the **Registered Charity Number 1200084.**

SANTANDER BANK
THE ALF REWIN CONSERVATION FUND
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 41594456
SORT CODE: 090129

Our target is R1 million

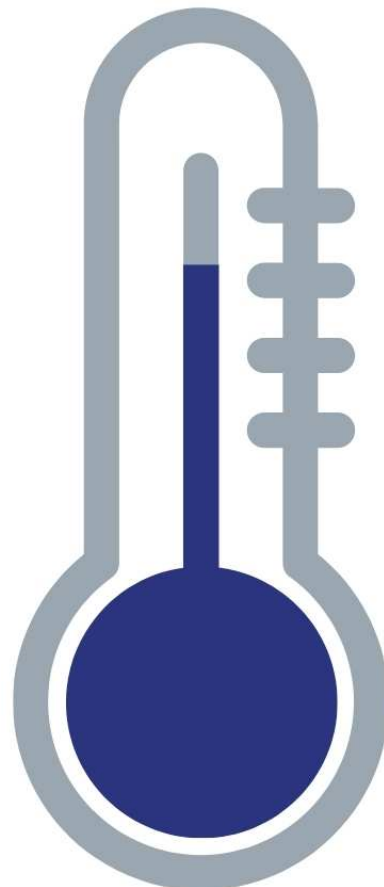
To ensure that the Scholarship is sustainable we are targeting a capital base of R1 million. The interest generated from this will be able to sustain a student every year, into perpetuity.

This is a fitting legacy for Alf who found peace in the African bush and was determined to continue his studies to ensure he could continue to make a difference. He was a staunch vegan and lived true to his principles, whilst still being the most fun.

If you would like to help us grow this fund, to grow conservation capacity in South Africa, please contact us.

Donate today to help us collect the remaining

R 371 708,70



PROJECT TEAM



PROJECT MANAGER
DR LUCY KEMP



RESEARCH COORDINATOR
DR JARRYD ALEXANDER



RESEARCH SUPPORT
PATIENCE SHITO



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR
NTHABISENG MONAMA



ASSISTANT
MAPULA MOKWELE



EX SITU COORDINATOR
NATASHA NEL



RESEARCH ASSISTANT
HEINRICH NEL

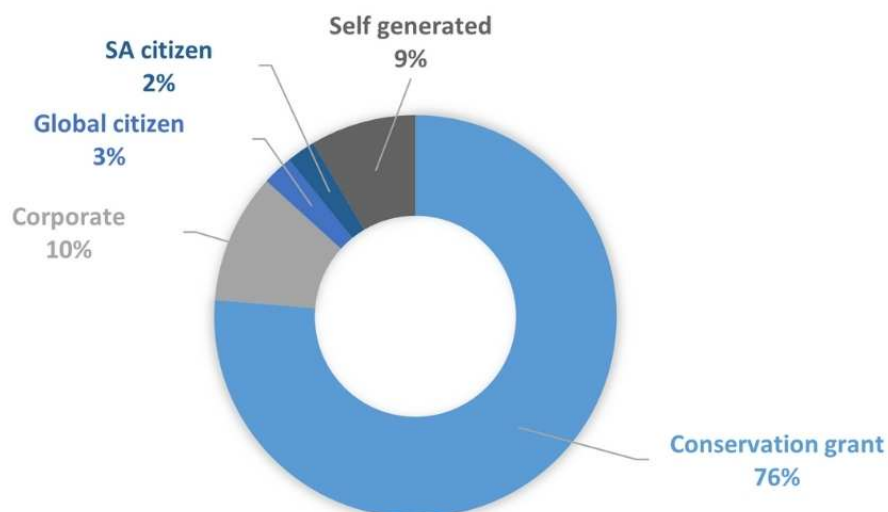
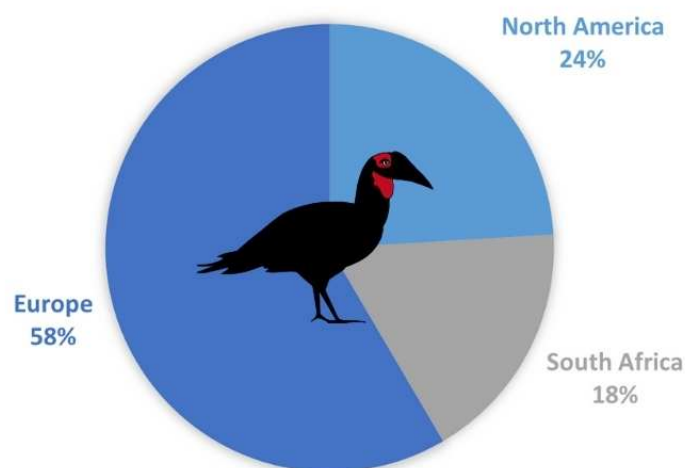


MAINTENANCE
LERATO MAHLAELA
(PART-TIME)

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FINANCIAL REPORT

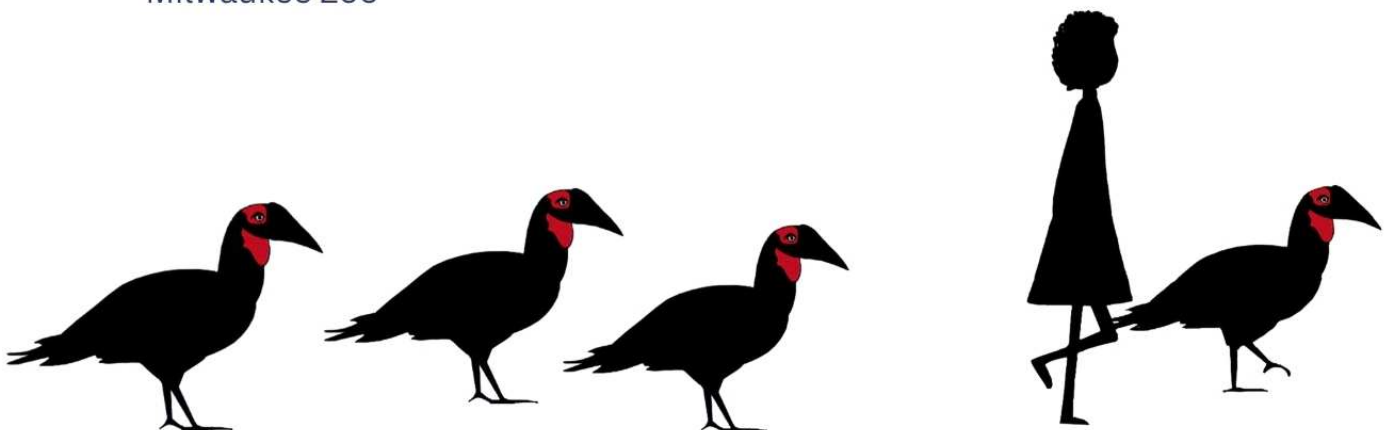
Our aim is to increase our operating reserve to R2 500 000 by 2022 to ensure we have sufficient funds to cover costs for a year and start an Emergency Response Fund of R50 000. This will go a long way to stabilising our programs in these uncertain times. Please contact us if you are able to provide funds for our operational reserve or donate to the ongoing conservation and community activities.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANKS

MGHP is incredibly grateful for support from these individuals, organisations and companies who supported us to the value of R1000 and above, either as financial support or as in-kind support during the financial year July 2021 – June 2022

- American Association of Zoo Keeper
- APNR Nest Donation
- Association Beauval Nature
- Association Boissiere Mervant
- Baobab Ridge (APNR)
- FRDM - African Freedom
- Global Conservation Network
- Hancock Charity Trust
- Honolulu Zoological Society
- Indianapolis Zoological Society
- IUCN SOS
- Kansas City Zoo
- Kolmarden Foundation
- Mabula Private Game Reserve
- Maryland Zoological Society
- Milwaukee Zoo
- Mokaikai Game Reserve
- MySchool My Planet Programme
- Natural Encounters Conservation
- North Carolina Zoo
- Omaha Zoological Society Inc.
- Sacramento Zoological Society
- Saubatech
- The Alf Rewin Conservation Fund
- The Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN)
- Tulsa Zoo
- TradeCorp
- Vox Chamber Choir
- Wild in Africa Bracelets
- Zoological Association of America
- Zoological Society of San Diego



INDIVIDUALS

Our supporters of the MySchools MyPlanet Programme; patrons of the weekly Modjadji Tea and Hornbill experience drives; supporters of our craft and skills development initiative and Shannon Benson, R Vroman, Richard Tudor-Owen, Timothy Hancock, Andrew Haggard, and Thea Erasmus.



THANKS FOR HELPING US PUT BOOTS ON THE GROUND



HOW CAN YOU HELP

If you are a proud South African, then a financial donation to the Mabula Ground-Hornbill Project is tax deductible (reducing the amount of tax you pay) and is the most cost-effective way to support us. But there are many other ways you can get involved and support our work. We welcome any offers of support of building materials, office furniture or anything on our wish list.

ONCE-OFF DONATION

Your donation can be attributed to a specific objective of our work (monitor, mitigate, restore, educate, research or improve), or can be a general donation which allows us to allocate it to where it is needed most, for less sexy items such as vehicle maintenance, salaries, tyres and so forth. You can donate online or by direct deposit.

REGULAR DONATION

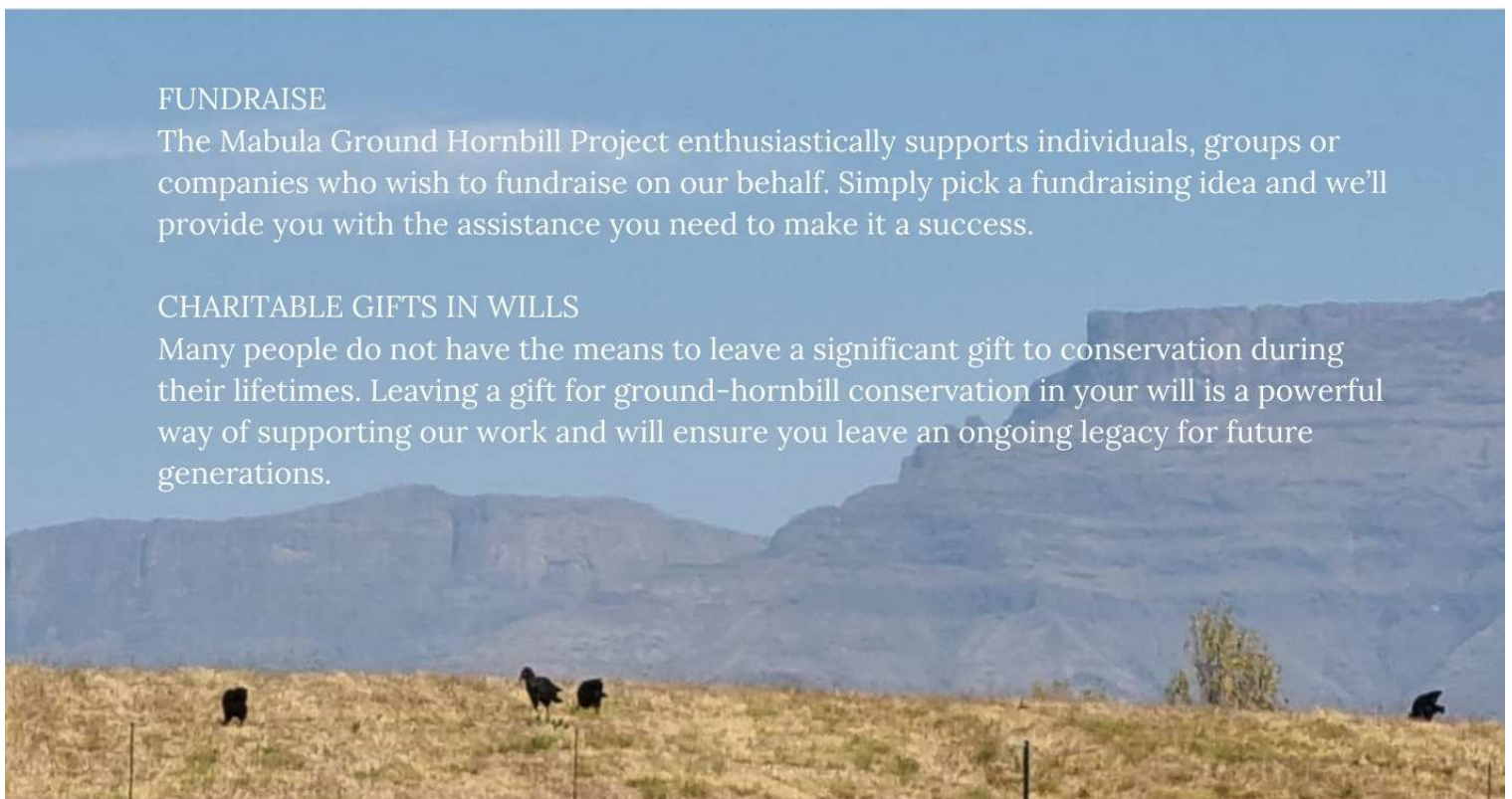
A regular and ongoing donation, such as a monthly gift, is easy for you because you can 'set and forget', and instead of donating a large sum each year, you can donate in smaller increments throughout the year. Regular donations allow us to plan ahead, knowing that we have a steady and predictable source of income.

FUNDRAISE

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project enthusiastically supports individuals, groups or companies who wish to fundraise on our behalf. Simply pick a fundraising idea and we'll provide you with the assistance you need to make it a success.

CHARITABLE GIFTS IN WILLS

Many people do not have the means to leave a significant gift to conservation during their lifetimes. Leaving a gift for ground-hornbill conservation in your will is a powerful way of supporting our work and will ensure you leave an ongoing legacy for future generations.



CONTACT US



**DR LUCY KEMP
PROJECT MANAGER/
CO-CHAIR (AFRICA): IUCN SSC HORNBILL SPECIALIST GROUP**

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Hornbill
Specialist
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