



CAPE  
LEOPARD  
TRUST

IMPACT REPORT  
2021





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CAPE  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As I was about to begin writing this message for 2021, wondering where to start, I got a call from a conservationist friend telling me he had just visited our website [capeleopard.org.za](http://capeleopard.org.za) and how impressive and inspiring he found the growth and progress of the Cape Leopard Trust (CLT) over the years. It was a pleasant and wonderful compliment to receive. Our website is indeed a detailed and informative report, put together with great care, presenting a comprehensive reflection on CLT activities and performance.

I then decided to revisit all of our annual reports from previous years to call to mind the journey we have travelled since 2004 to where we are now. Going through these old records took me a while, but it was an opportunity to once again recollect the good and occasionally difficult times we encountered along the way. The CLT has certainly shown significant growth over the past 15 years. Suffice to say, the successes of the CLT can be ascribed to the dedicated work and contributions of our past and present teams of personnel. And over the years many people have contributed towards the growth and development of the CLT, some of them from across the world.

Today the CLT continues to be a vibrant research, conservation and environmental education organisation. We strive to deliver a better understanding of the living environment of leopards in the Cape, which we hope will ultimately enable us to bring into being a proper Management Plan for the protection of the habitat of these scarce predators and their prey species. To achieve this, we have to engage closely with landowners, and we depend on their co-operation and assistance. Fortunately, we find that increasing numbers of landowners are eager to conserve the biodiversity on their land and they make every effort to create a safe environment for wildlife, leopards and other predators included. We acknowledge these many landowners who generously allow us to work on their properties. Building positive relationships and creating collaborations is so important for conservation.

I want to thank our sponsors for their generous support and encouragement. They are a vital part of our success and achievements. Also, thanks to CapeNature and the many other conservation organisations who maintain close relationships with the CLT, making it possible for us to share knowledge, resources and skill sets.

Most of all, I want to thank our wonderful teams for their hard work and the superb results they constantly produce. My sincere appreciation and thanks also to our Board of Scientific Advisors and my fellow Trustees for their willing contributions and support.

I trust you will find this annual report informative and a useful insight into the activities and achievements of our research, conservation and educational divisions over the past year.

**Johan van der Westhuizen**  
Chairman

‘Today the CLT continues to be a vibrant research, conservation and environmental education organisation. We strive to deliver a better understanding of the living environment of leopards in the Cape, which we hope will ultimately enable us to bring into being a proper Management Plan for the protection of the habitat of these scarce predators and their prey species.’



I thought it appropriate to open my letter with a quote from Charles Dickens:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times' ...

## INTRODUCTION FROM THE CEO

This year has certainly continued to be a fluid and unpredictable journey as the coronavirus pandemic continues to hold us to ransom, and the world's leaders grapple with a constantly shifting economic landscape. Competing for attention is the growing climate crisis, calling for governments to limit climate change impacts. The situation around us is complex, chaotic and offers a far from positive vision of the future if we don't find new meaning in our connection with nature.

Therefore, we hope this review of our achievements over the year will offer a moment or two of 'escapism' as we share our personal experiences from the last twelve months. It's once again been a huge privilege for us to use our platform to spread an important message and to work with like-minded donors and partners to protect the spectacular landscapes of the Cape for the benefit of our leopards and the communities that call it home.

Like many NGO's we have faced challenges. In April, due to the downturn in tourism revenue to South Africa and not unexpectedly, we sadly lost a valuable partner and two project vehicles. It was a significant blow to the research and education teams, as mobility is key to the successful execution of all our programmes. Fortunately partners stepped in to assist us when we needed help, and this clearly demonstrates how good relationships are key to achieving holistic conservation outcomes.

Collaboration creates power, and much of this report celebrates the successes that have been made possible through such partnerships. An example of this is 'The Tale of Two Leopards', a new project in partnership with EWT's Threatened Amphibian Programme. After an intense period of planning, drawing in local communities and regional NGO's we launched an extensive camera survey in the Overberg. This is a new territory for us, and will be part of a much broader project to evaluate the health and presence of leopards and Western Leopard Toads in the area.

The human wildlife conflict component of our work is gaining traction in farming communities, with novel and innovative ideas being explored, hand in hand with

stakeholders, to improve livestock management. We are collaborating with the Herding Academy in Graaff Reinet to offer a series of farmer training workshops in 2022, as a catalyst to improve attitudes to predators and to promote nature friendly agricultural practices.

The education environment has been extremely hard to navigate, but despite the difficulties our EE team has reached over 5000 youngsters through the programme. Complementing primary activities and online lessons is the children's story book 'Footprints in the Fynbos', which has grown organically into an exciting and accessible teaching resource. The ripple effects resulting from the launch of the Trust's literacy campaign have spread far and wide, and opened up a wealth of opportunities to create collaborations with local government and the education sector.

Our communications network is consistently expanding, and over the year we have participated in a number of online forums and forged new international links enabling the Trust to raise more awareness of its work and engage with a wider audience. We were thrilled to receive a bronze Eco-Logic award for our 'Snare Aware' campaign, which is part of our conservation portfolio, and our web based app for community scientists to report signs of leopards and leopard threats is encouraging local people to play an important role in gathering information.

As I reflect on 2021, which seems to have flown by in the blink of an eye, I am proud of how much we have achieved by staying focused and maintaining a clarity of vision in the face of considerable adversity. I am grateful to our dedicated team who inspire me and each other with their infectious energy. We are in an exciting time of transition where we are scaling our projects to meet demand, and we will continue to maximise the limited resources at our disposal. We value the unwavering support provided by our Board of Trustees, Advisory Board of Scientists and partners who continue to guide us, as well as the donors who believe in us. We may be a small organisation, but size doesn't limit our ability to make a difference. In fact, it enables us to 'pivot' quickly and think creatively when we face unexpected challenges. One thing in life is certain, change is inevitable, but it's the way we manage that change which counts most. I like to think our resilience and fortitude as an organisation is the secret to our success. We look forward to what next year brings with determination and passion, and thank you all for helping us to protect our critical natural resources upon which our collective future depends.





# CAPE LEOPARD TRUST

## WHAT WE DO

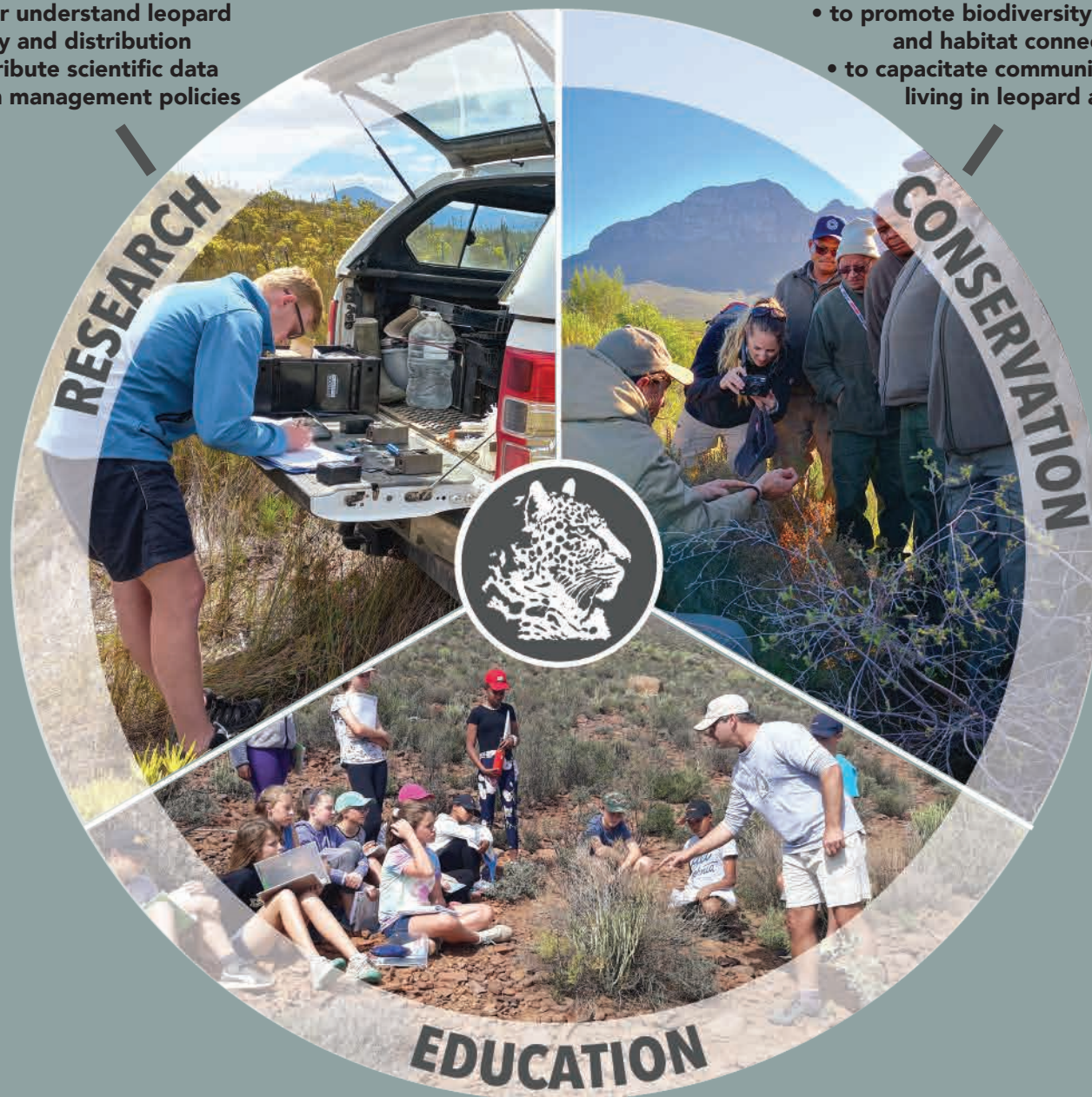
The Cape Leopard Trust is a non-governmental, not-for-profit, public benefit organisation, founded in 2004 and based in the Western Cape, South Africa. We facilitate and promote the conservation of biological diversity, with a focus on the leopard as a flagship species. The leopard is the last large predator and last member of the Big 5 to still roam free in the Western Cape. The species faces multiple threats, including limited and fragmented habitat, reduction in prey numbers and high levels of conflict with people.

Our purpose and vision is to ensure the continued survival of leopard populations, help secure their habitat and prey base, and promote their coexistence with humans. To achieve this, we employ a three-pillar approach of research, conservation, and education. These three pillars operate in synergy within the Cape Leopard Trust and in collaboration with communities, private landowners and partner organisations.

Watch our promotional short film, *For The Love Of Leopards*, for a visual overview of the CLT [[bit.ly/CLTPromoShortFilm](https://bit.ly/CLTPromoShortFilm)]

- to better understand leopard ecology and distribution
- to contribute scientific data
- to inform management policies

- to understand and mitigate conflict with and threats to leopards
- to promote biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity
- to capacitate community members living in leopard areas



- to reconnect the youth to our natural heritage
- to instil a consciousness of and appreciation for biodiversity
- to inspire the next generation to become conservation ambassadors



# Our Team



**Helen Turnbull**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Dr Kathryn S Williams**  
Research and Conservation Director



**Chris Eksteen**  
Education and Outreach Manager



**Jeannie Hayward**  
Communications and Media Manager



**Yvonne Kamp**  
Administration and Finance



**Anita Wilkinson**  
Senior Researcher



**Dr Chavoux Luyt**  
Community Outreach Officer



**Silindokuhle Tokota**  
Conservation Field Officer



**Jaco Fourie**  
Environmental Educator



**Naas van Jaarsveld**  
Environmental Educator



**Eugene Greyling**  
Student (Stellenbosch University)



**Mari-Su de Villiers**  
Student (University of the Free State)



**Monti Mthogoane**  
WIL student (University of Mpumalanga)  
(Feb-Nov 2021)



**Thandaza Shilenge**  
WIL student (University of Mpumalanga)  
(Feb-Nov 2021)



**Rosco Ockhuis**  
Verification Officer



**Frank Scheepers**  
Verification Officer



**Ben Farmer**  
Verification Officer



**Stewart van Rooy**  
Verification Officer



**Lionel van Rooy**  
Verification Officer



**Ricardo Salomo**  
Verification Officer





## SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

### Citizen science and Western Cape leopard database

In a bid to centralise and utilise leopard presence data for the Western Cape, the Cape Leopard Trust created a consolidated database of leopard distribution and threats to leopards. This database will contribute towards a leopard habitat suitability assessment and identifying potential ecological corridors for leopards in the region. To promote the project and mobilise members of the public, anyone who submitted data during April and May 2021 was entered in a competition to win an amazing Big Cat Bumper Hamper, made possible thanks to generous donations from a number of partners. The response was positive with many new citizen scientists sharing their data. Our database now contains a total of 2975 records from private contributors, research organisations and conservation institutions. Although we now have a robust dataset for analysis, the addition of data is ongoing to encourage continued citizen science involvement and expand leopard distribution knowledge. Using the online "Leopard Data Portal" data can be submitted to one of three purpose-built platforms, namely "Leopard Spotter", "Threat Tracker" and "Snare Aware" through

[app.capeleopard.org.za](http://app.capeleopard.org.za)



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Want to contribute to leopard research?

**Report leopard signs,  
sightings and threats  
in the Western Cape**

Details needed:

•Date •Location •Type of sign •Photograph

[app.capeleopard.org.za](http://app.capeleopard.org.za)



Snare Aware

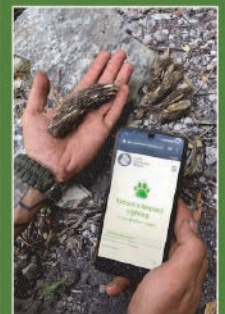


Leopard Spotter



Threat Tracker

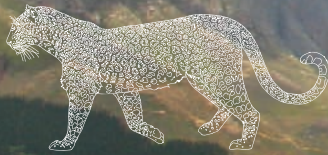
Share data in the field via your phone if you have signal, or later via your computer





### Boland Mountain Complex camera survey

Early in 2021, we completed a large-scale camera trap survey of the Boland Mountain Complex (BMC) - a study area covering more than 2500 km<sup>2</sup> of fynbos habitat from north of Bainskloof southward to the Kogelberg coast. Fittingly, it also overlapped with the UNESCO Cape Winelands and Kogelberg Biosphere Reserves. We deployed 86 camera traps at 43 different field sites clustered across the whole of the BMC, obtaining just over 90,000 images during a 3.5-month period. We observed 26 different mammal species, and individually identified the 273 leopard photo triggers based on their rosette patterns. Twenty-seven different adult leopards were recorded - and we were excited to see several already known to our team from previous surveys. These data build on the body of research conducted in the BMC over the past 10 years. BMC data collected in 2010 - 2011 estimates that there were 1.69 leopards / 100 km<sup>2</sup> (publication currently in review). The 2020 - 2021 survey trialled a clustered sampling approach to facilitate data collection for monitoring population trends, but it yielded some challenges at the analysis stage, suggesting a more comprehensive re-survey of the BMC will be beneficial in the future.



**3.5 MONTHS**  
**86 CAMERA TRAPS**  
**43 LOCATIONS**  
**SPANNING 2500km<sup>2</sup>**  
**90 000 IMAGES**

### Greater Overberg camera survey

The start of August also saw the roll-out of an ambitious camera survey to estimate the current population density of leopards in the greater Overberg region. This work forms part of our collaborative Tale of Two Leopards project (see page 19) and utilises a total of 172 camera traps deployed at 86 independent locations, spanning the region from Botvlei in the west to De Hoop vlei in the east - covering a total area of over 2400 km<sup>2</sup>. The survey has already revealed high species diversity (32 mammal species and 15 bird species) and widespread leopard presence (36 of the 86 sites - 41%). The camera grid will be operational until early 2022, whereafter data analyses will commence in partnership with an MSc student at the University of Cape Town.





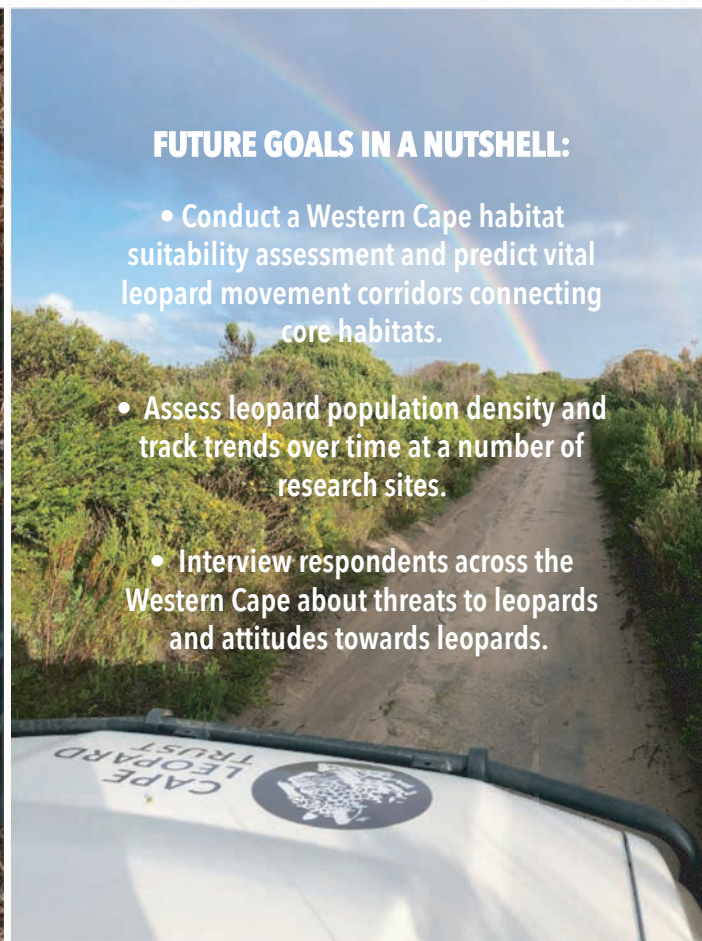


## Leopard occupancy and habitat suitability study

In 2021 the Cape Leopard Trust transitioned to a broader approach in our research and implementing leopard conservation at a landscape scale. In collaboration with an MSc student at Stellenbosch University, we are currently conducting robust leopard habitat suitability analysis which will ultimately be used to identify movement corridors for leopards. We also launched a questionnaire survey across the Western Cape to examine which areas leopards occupy and which factors influence occupancy. These interviews are an opportunity to extend our broader scale understanding of leopard threats and attitudes towards leopards, thus we incorporated a series of in-depth investigative questions. Over 70 interviews have been conducted thus far. In addition to gathering essential data, the communication is generating wider awareness about the CLT, our leopard database and effective livestock management methods.

## Data analysis, write-up and publication

CLT students and staff published three peer-reviewed publications this year. Results from the Cederberg camera trap survey (2017 - 2018) and the BMC camera trap survey (2010 - 2011) were submitted as peer-review publications.



### FUTURE GOALS IN A NUTSHELL:

- Conduct a Western Cape habitat suitability assessment and predict vital leopard movement corridors connecting core habitats.
- Assess leopard population density and track trends over time at a number of research sites.
- Interview respondents across the Western Cape about threats to leopards and attitudes towards leopards.





“If we don't have a place for nature in our heart, how can we expect nature to have a place for us.”  
-Abhijit Naskar





# CONSERVATION IN ACTION

## Snare Aware Enviropaedia Eco-Logic Award

The Cape Leopard Trust was recently honoured with a Bronze Enviropaedia Eco-Logic Nature Conservation Award for our snare patrol project that ran from 2019 – 2020. The aim of this project was to investigate the extent of wire snaring in the Boland region, remove snares from the landscape, and educate and inspire communities to integrate snare patrols into farm management. The successes we achieved and a desire to create greater awareness about snaring motivated us to apply for the awards. We aim to be dynamically proactive about protecting the Cape's valuable biodiversity and we plan to extend and expand on this snare work. The Cape Leopard Trust is currently raising funds for a project that will investigate and address the drivers of snaring by empowering and educating communities.



## Snare patrol data analysis

The data collected during our snare patrols constitute the first robust systematic survey on snaring in the Western Cape. These data were analysed in collaborating with an MSc student from the Institute for Communities and Wildlife in Africa (iCWild) at the University of Cape Town. She considered the influence of social and ecological attributes on property-level snare use and modelled high risk areas. Snare prevalence increased on properties where the farmer lived permanently on site or properties with orchards as the primary agricultural output. Distance to the road, elevation and proximity to a protected areas were also significant factors influencing snaring.



## Continued snare patrols

Private property harbours a large proportion of biodiversity in South Africa. During 2021, we conducted a number of *ad hoc* snare patrols on private properties and removed a further ~30 snares from the landscape. We encourage landowners and managers to conduct regular, visible patrols to find and remove snares and to restrict access to materials that can be used to make snares (i.e., discarded vineyard wire and pieces of cable). Many owners and managers are simply unaware that snaring has been going on unabated, but as soon as they learn about it, remedial measures are often implemented.



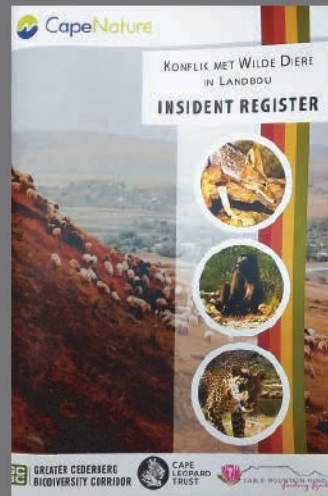
## Community outreach

The Cape Leopard Trust endeavours to build strong relationships with livestock farmers and provide ongoing support and advice on how to protect livestock from depredation. During 2021, our Community Outreach Officer engaged with 65 farmers from the core CLT study areas as well as further afield in the Western Cape providing reactive consultations following depredation events and suggesting proactive conflict mitigation solutions. Last year the CLT designed an informative livestock predation registry booklet to enable farmers to record data and share information with the CLT. We distributed 105 Incident Register booklets to farmers and we are now collecting recorded data on livestock depredation incidents from some of the first booklet recipients.



## Farming for the future

The Cape Leopard Trust continually seeks to expand our knowledge of effective and nature-friendly methods of land management and livestock protection. The 'Executive Land Management Course' at the Herding Academy in Graaff-Reinet presented just such an opportunity, and our CLT Community Outreach Officer was fortunate to attend this insightful course in early September. With support from the Herding Academy, we hosted a 'Conservation Farming & Predation Management Information Day' in late November to present some of these concepts and shape upcoming training opportunities. A collaborative 'Farming with Nature' workshop series is planned for 2022, which will explore holistic predation management as part of the bigger picture of "the farm as an ecosystem".





## Cederberg Verification Officers

The Cape Leopard Trust strongly believes in broad environmental outreach and training to introduce people living in leopard areas to the value of biodiversity. By involving local communities in conservation activities, we not only increase effectiveness and sustainability, but also help to build the knowledge and skills of community members. Part of this vision is our Conservation Activator programme, through which we train community-elected representatives to be Verification Officers (VOs) who assess livestock predation sites, promote humane predator deterrents, and raise awareness of predator behaviour and conflict-mitigation techniques within their communities. In addition to the three original VOs, we identified and selected three more VOs who were trained in 2021, bringing the total to six serving six different communities of the Wupperthal area. The original cohort of VOs attended the training for the new VOs enabling them to share their personal experiences and refresh the skills they had learned previously.

## Bainskloof outreach

Since late 2020, Bainskloof Pass has been closed to traffic due to an extensive road upgrade project. During this time, sightings of leopards by the construction staff have increased. These sightings do not imply that there are now more leopards in Bainskloof – it can simply be explained by a high number of human observers now being almost constantly present in an area where leopards are known to roam. The CLT was approached by the construction company in charge of the Bainskloof upgrade, to host informal information sessions that could rectify misconceptions and allay some of the fears resulting from these sightings. Our team addressed over 180 workers in various small groups, showing them camera trap photos of the individual leopards that we have identified in the area, chatting about leopard habits and behaviour and explaining how to react when you see a leopard in different situations. Following our involvement, road workers have continued to engage with us to share their leopard sighting on our database, suggesting that the outreach instilled an appreciation for the unique opportunity to see these shy cats in their pristine mountain habitat.



### FUTURE GOALS IN A NUTSHELL:

- Provide support to farmers following depredation events across a wider area.
- Explore and refine innovative concepts to proactively protect livestock from predation.
- Develop the conservation and outreach work in the Overberg as part of the Tale of Two Leopards project.





# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

UN Sustainable  
Development Goals



## Teacher Development Workshops

The Western Cape is fortunate to have an education department that supports an environmental education (EE) pedagogy both inside and out of the classroom setting. The province also has a rich network of institutions and organisations that offer environmental learning to support schools and teachers in this important endeavour. Many educators are unaware of the resources, tools and services available to aid their teachings, so to alleviate the situation the Cape Leopard Trust education team, in collaboration with key partners, presented four Teacher Development Workshops in 2021 with the aim of sharing these resources, tools and services. More than 100 educators representing schools from across our province attended these interactive workshops. The CLT team was joined by the Western Cape Education Department, SANBI, CapeNature, NatureConnect, Contour Enviro Group and the Cape Winelands Biosphere Reserve, who all shared their resources and services with workshop attendees. One of these workshops was specifically tailored to Early Childhood Development to support our 'cradle to conservation' vision. Feedback indicated that these workshops were successful in increasing the capacity and enthusiasm of local educators to provide accurate, up to date, and engaging environmental education. As intended, it also provided tools and resources for teachers to use in the classroom and provided a link with the respective partner organisations for optimal support.

## Girls in Conservation

One of our main goals is to use environmental learning and knowledge as a catalyst for social change. In 2021 we launched 'Girls in Conservation', a programme aimed at creating opportunities for girls and collaborating with partners to provide the resources, knowledge and experiences that will inspire girls to consider following a career in the Green Economy. This year we partnered with Cape Town-based NGO BRAVE and the Table Mountain Fund. The programme consisted of five local day-excursions during the school holidays, as well as a two-day wilderness immersion in the Cederberg. BRAVE's 'Daring Disas', 25 girls from Manenberg on the Cape Flats, joined the CLT on our first Girls in Conservation outreach. The holiday programme included excursions to a variety of locations and organisations, and by the end of the programme the girls had experience in research and laboratory work, wildlife monitoring, botany, guiding, tourism, education and sustainable farming. The wilderness camp allowed these young future leaders to fall in love with nature and introduced a world beyond the poverty and violence they experience on a daily basis. It was an honour to inspire, build capacity and create opportunities for this wonderful group of learners!



## Overberg education outreach

Part of our education philosophy is to reach out to schools in the leopard areas where we base our research and conservation activities by connecting those children to the biodiversity around them. As a consequence of the recent expansion of our research activities to the Overberg region, we engaged with 6 new schools as part of our collaborative Tale of Two Leopards project (see page 19). Over 500 Grade 3 and 6 learners were introduced to leopards and the important role they play in the ecology of the region. The Grade 3's received a reading from the CLT's conservation-themed children's story and activity book "Voetspoor in die Fynbos" as well as their own copy of the book, while the Grade 6's received a classroom lesson. We look forward to future outreach and education activities in this important area!



## Eco-Clubs

Despite direct school engagements remaining constrained due to Covid-19 restrictions, an adapted school curriculum and rotational teaching schedules, our education team still managed to conduct over 50 Eco-Club sessions with schools in the Boland, Cederberg and Overberg focal areas this year. These eco-club lessons are curriculum-linked and support in-class teachings as well as holistic development. The primary goal of our educators is to bring nature alive in the classrooms and create excitement around conservation. We use up to date examples in a local context, and try to unpack complex concepts to help learners understand how nature is connected and where they fit in.

## Online learning

Since the start of pandemic-related restrictions in March 2020, our education team has been largely unable to engage in regular direct contact work with learners and has had to adapt their teaching model and mode of delivery. E-learning became the order of the day and online content and resources were created to ensure that parents and educators were equipped with a selection of curriculum-aligned tools, activities and lessons to support their teachings. The CLT Environmental Education YouTube channel now hosts 38 educational videos on topics that aid the understanding of nature and the world leopards live in. Additionally, the channel hosts virtual hikes and career showcases [\[EE YouTube Channel\]](#).

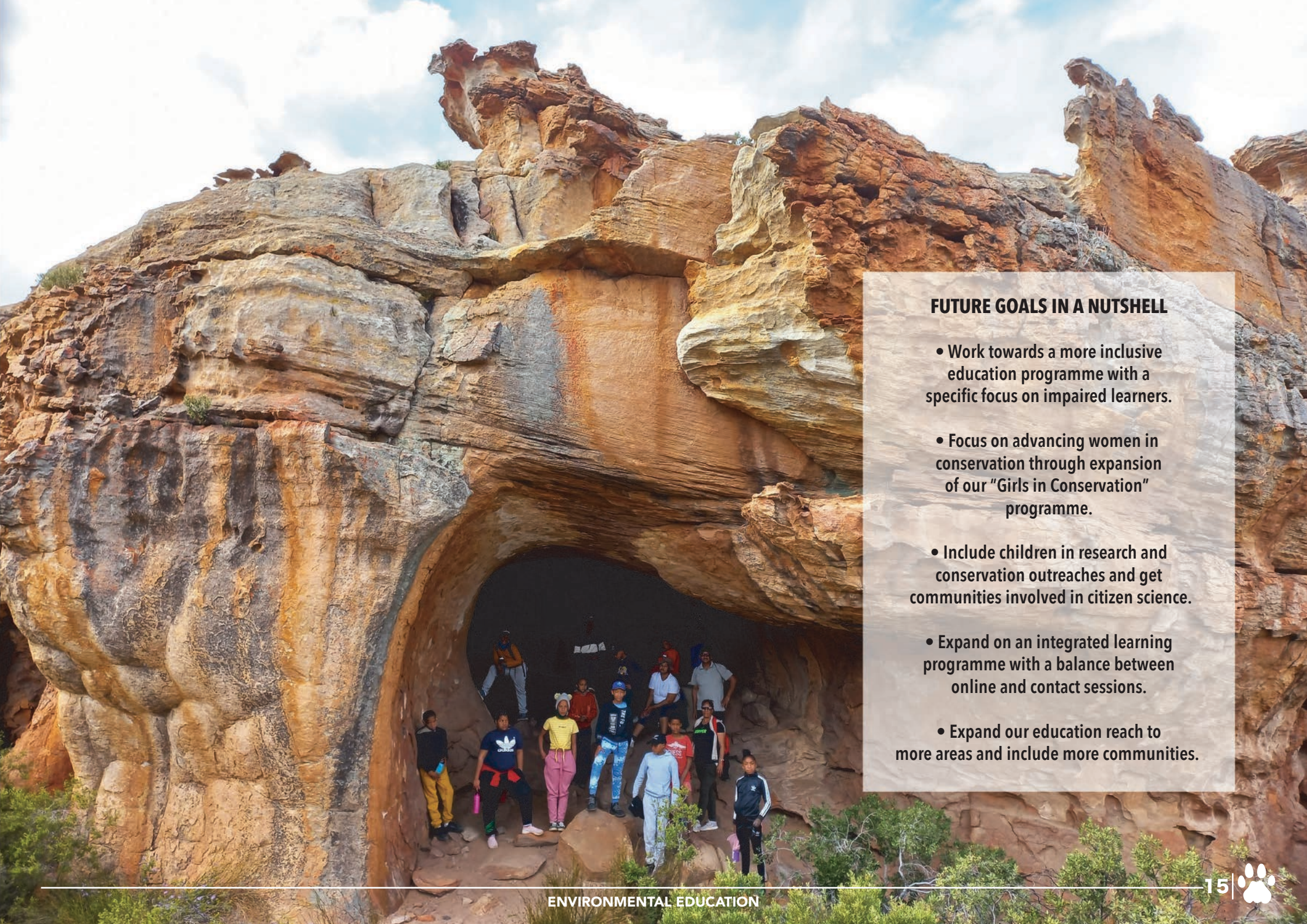
To reinforce teaching, each online lesson is accompanied by a supporting activity and memorandum to enhance and test comprehension – these resources are all freely available to download from our website [\[EE resources\]](#).

## Wilderness camps

Getting children out into nature so that they can fall in love and care for biodiversity is a strong ethos underpinning our education outreach work. We had the privilege of hosting 18 wilderness camps in 2021. Our camps were based in the Cederberg and a variety of locations in the Boland and Overberg regions. Cederberg camp activities included fossil hunting, hiking breath-taking trails and exploring Truitjieskraal and Stadsaal caves, while our Boland and Overberg camps included some adventure activities like kayaking, beachcombing and scorpion hunting. Education about leopards, biodiversity and conservation is the golden thread that underpins all of these activities. Many of the children have never travelled so far from their homes, never experienced wilderness or even seen the sea or an estuary, and it is an absolute privilege for us to introduce these young learners to the wonders of nature and instil in them an appreciation for wild places.





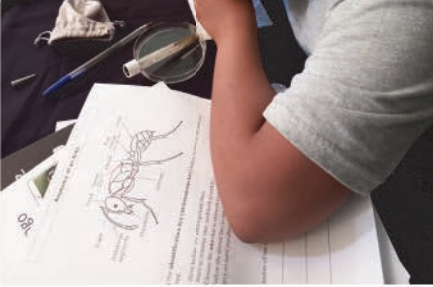


### **FUTURE GOALS IN A NUTSHELL**

- Work towards a more inclusive education programme with a specific focus on impaired learners.
- Focus on advancing women in conservation through expansion of our "Girls in Conservation" programme.
- Include children in research and conservation outreaches and get communities involved in citizen science.
- Expand on an integrated learning programme with a balance between online and contact sessions.
- Expand our education reach to more areas and include more communities.









# BROADCASTING OUR MESSAGE

The purpose of our communications and media portfolio is to ensure that all CLT research, conservation and education activities and stories are reported and disseminated accurately in an accessible format to a wide audience. It includes the CLT website and social platforms; digital storytelling and content creation, print, broadcast and online media; internal and external communication and liaison, and outreach via public presentations and field outings for sponsors and ambassadors. This cohesive storytelling ensures a unified message and has proved invaluable in bolstering awareness and support for the CLT in the public consciousness.

## CLT website & social media

Our website is currently undergoing a refresh process that will result in a simplified, trimmed down information gateway and more effective donation portal. Popular content posted in 2021 included the CLT leopard database and citizen science competition and news stories about our research and outreach work. Social media (SM) represents an important channel for communicating with our supporters, with the follower count climbing steadily. Facebook remains our biggest SM platform, with Instagram showing highest engagement. Our most popular FB post during the reporting period – a report of leopard sightings in Bainskloof – reached >175 000 people. A further three posts had a reach of over 100 000, and eight more posts reached in excess of 25 000 people. The total combined reach of all CLT-generated FB posts for the reporting period amounted to 1 375 000 (this is excluding the reach of CLT posts by external pages).

## CLT in the media

We were thrilled that CLT was featured or received mentions in a range of printed, online and broadcast media this year including Netwerk24, Weg!Go!, African Wildlife & Environment, Good Things Guy, Conservation Careers, Cats of the Wild, Cape Talk, SAFM and RSG.

Follow us online @capeleopardtrust



THE TALE OF TWO LEOPARDS AT THE TIP OF AFRICA

Conservation efforts used to be multi-dimensional, involving disease, poisons, and space land-use issues. This holistic approach to conservation has inspired an exciting new collaboration between the Cape Leopard Trust (CLT) and Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) that will focus on two iconic species in the Overberg region. Both projects are supported by the End Wildlife Foundation.

Indicator of ecosystem health, and the leopard toad is the foundation level or 'bottom up' corner measure of ecosystem health. Both species thus act as flagships for the viability of a large range of other species, and can be used to support the integrity of the area's biodiversity by acting as important indicators of habitat integrity and landscape connectivity. The CLT and EWT are very excited about this partnership and the scope for future collaboration. We view this project as a synergistic platform where the eventual outcome will be more significant than what we can achieve individually. There is an established and respected network of environmental NGOs in the Overberg with whom we are already collaborating. The CLT research team is currently in the Overberg on a reconnaissance mission, scouting locations and preparing sites for a large-scale leopard camera survey. The EWT team has also already started fieldwork with regular field visits to locate Western Leopard Toads.

Leopards Panthera pardus have survived across the landscapes of the Cape where other large carnivores have not. Leopards in the Cape are physically smaller than their savannah cousins, and they have territories up to ten times larger, which necessitates movement across human landscapes. A priority therefore is to keep critical landscapes protected and corridors open to them.

Under the endangered Western Leopard Toad (Scaphiophrynus) peninsula, that has existed for millions of years, must navigate modified landscapes during its annual migration between breeding and overwintering sites. Famed for its striking resemblance to a leopard, the species exists only in a very small area of the Western Cape. Like the Leopard, they too represent a remnant population, that has adapted to surviving in an otherwise rapidly changing urban and agricultural landscape. The significance of frogs is their irreplaceable value as indicator species.

The presence of these two iconic 'leopards' in the Overberg gives us the opportunity to look at landscape resilience through an ecological lens. The Leopard is an umbrella species and 'top down'.

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## IN BRIEF

### Become a leopard citizen scientist

The Cape Leopard Trust (CLT) has launched a new initiative that calls on residents of the Western Cape, and visitors, to pitch in. They want to create a leopard database for the province, which is no small feat considering how elusive these big cats are.

Leopards in the Cape face multiple threats like habitat loss and fragmentation, falling prey numbers and conflict with humans. The aim of the database project is to assess suitable habitat for leopards and identify viable ecological corridors for them to move through.

"The largest proportion of available leopard habitat is on private property," says Anita Wilkinson, a senior researcher at the CLT. "That's why it's important for us to involve private landowners and managers."

**How to contribute:** Visit [apeleopard.org.za](http://apeleopard.org.za) and follow the steps to create an account. You now have access to the CLT's data portal and you're what's known as a 'leopard scientist'.

If you come across any sign of a leopard, photograph the evidence and upload it to the portal. You will need to make a note of the date and location. Signs include everything from an actual leopard sighting to droppings on camera traps, tracks, scat, scratch marks on trees, and anything you might suspect to be a leopard hit. The CLT also wants to know about threats – track like cages and snares, and livestock killed by leopards. Photos of the evidence are essential.

**Mine your archive:** The CLT is looking for information that dates back as far as 2010. If you have large quantities of data or you prefer to submit via e-mail, contact [info@capeleopard.org.za](mailto:info@capeleopard.org.za).

**Bonus:** All records submitted during April and May will be entered into a lucky draw to win an exclusive goshawk t-shirt.

Visit [apeleopard.org.za](http://apeleopard.org.za) for more information.

—Aanya Gopin

CAPE LEOPARD TRUST

General news and project updates

Going the distance for leopard research

Published: 25 November 2021

For many people, wildlife research conjures the image of an intrepid biologist alone in the remote wilderness studying animals. While this can certainly be the case, more often than not studies are carried out in teams.

Overberg camera survey – success & highlights!

Published: 12 November 2021

The Cape Leopard Trust (CLT) research team is pleased to report that our large-scale camera survey of the Overberg yielding successful results in this early day into the 2022 capture period and five that.

Girls in Conservation: from Learners to Leaders

Published: 19 October 2021

One of the Cape Leopard Trust (CLT) Education projects maintains the use of environmental learning and knowledge a central focus for research. The CLT's Girls in Conservation initiative this year partnered with GSE and...

Learning from the land – a holistic management approach

Published: 26 September 2021

The Cape Leopard Trust (CLT) research team is pleased to report that our multi-antenna camera survey of the Overberg is well underway. We already have 3 weeks into the data collection period, with 172 cameras at 86.

Camera trapping for Overberg leopards in full swing!

Published: 14 September 2021

The Cape Leopard Trust (CLT) research team is pleased to report that our multi-antenna camera survey of the Overberg is well underway. We already have 3 weeks into the data collection period, with 172 cameras at 86.

Cape Leopard Trust celebrates leopards, literacy and inclusivity

Published: 18 September 2021

Towards the end of 2020 the Cape Leopard Trust announced the launch of a conservation-themed children's story and activity book called 'Footprints in the Fynbos' (original English version) and 'Footprints in the Fynbos' (Afrikaans version).

GOOD THINGS GUY

## Cape Leopard Trust Share Two Sightings of a Leopard in Bainskloof

IN TALKER LEOPARD 2020 • @TALKERLEOPARD • NOV 26, 2021 • 1.1K • 0

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Trending Today

- Largest South African COVID-19 Update (15 November 2021)
- Midland (DFA) Inspector: Rescue Dog from Road Lane on Highway
- Have a small R12 000 loan to the South African coast in South Africa and get you

The Cape Leopard Trust shared wonderful sightings of a Leopard along the Bainskloof pass; the Leopard is a wonder to behold.

Footprints in the Fynbos

by Liza M Roux, illustrated by Judy Maré, Chameleon Not Just For Kids Books

R160 at [capeleopard.org.za](http://capeleopard.org.za)

This interactive children's book was created for the Cape Leopard Trust's environmental education programme, but you can also buy a copy to teach your kids about conservation and leopards at home.

It's made up of three parts. In the first section of the book, you meet Leeto the leopard as he goes on an adventure in the Cape mountains to find a friend. Along the way, he meets lots of interesting animals that share his habitat and has a few narrow escapes – nothing too scary.

The second section is filled with leopard facts: where they occur, how they mark their territory, and why they are a vulnerable species. This section should help you complete a few homework assignments with ease!

The fun activities in the last section will keep your kids entertained for hours. They can make a leopard mask or learn how to draw a leopard, and there are word searches, crossword puzzles and other games.

Footprints in the Fynbos is aimed at children 6–14 years old and is also available in Afrikaans; there's even an isiXhosa version in the pipeline.

Worth a mention: The book uses a weighted font to make it easier to read for kids with dyslexia.

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## THE ULTIMATE FEEL-GOOD TRAVEL STORY: A PRICKLY FAMILY PORTRAIT

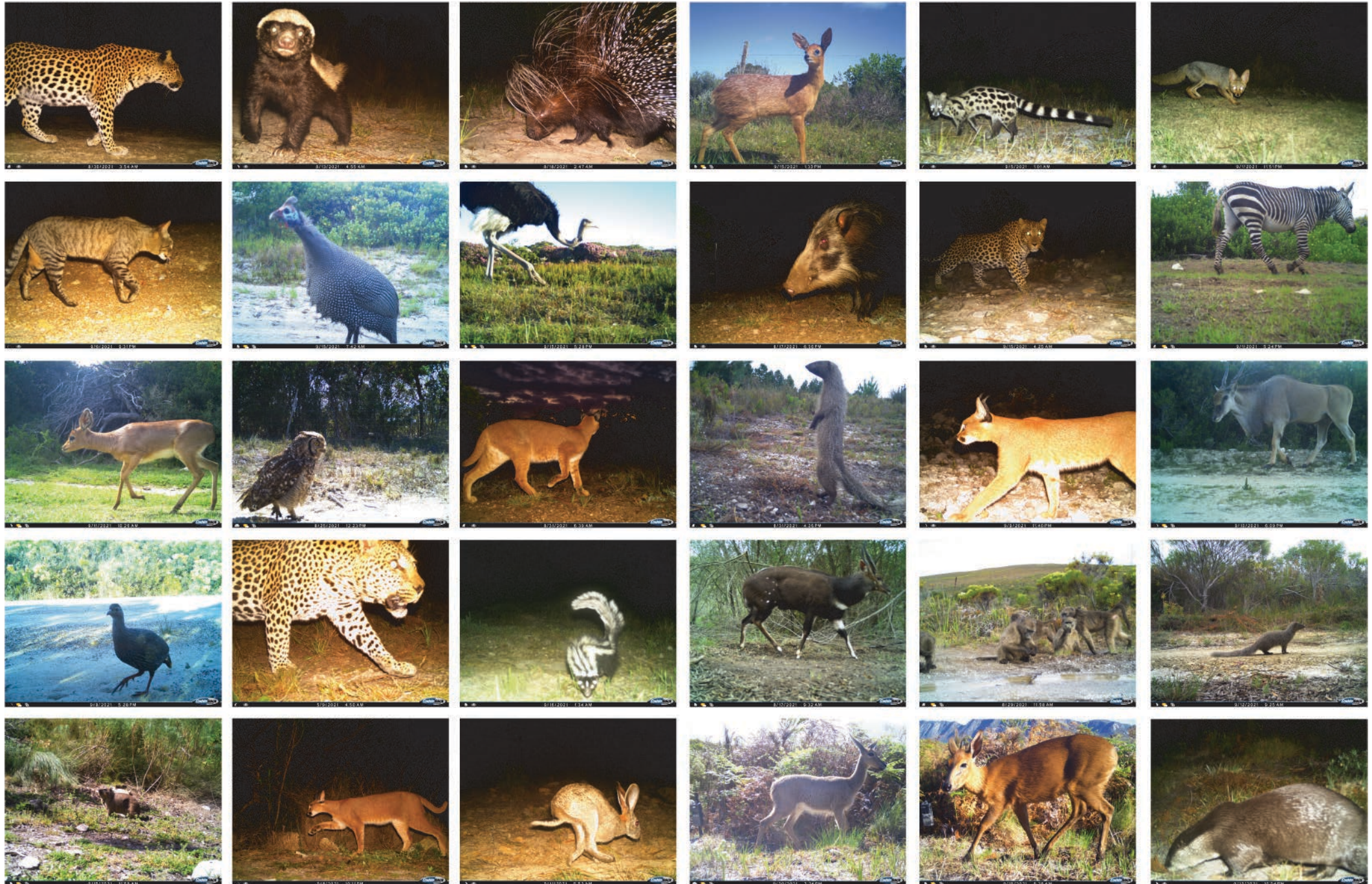
If you're wild about South Africa's game, you'll love this footage from the Cape Leopard Trust. The team recently captured an incredible image of a family of prickly porcupines taking an evening stroll. It was caught on their hidden wildlife camera in the Cedarberg.

Founded in 2004, the Cape Leopard Trust is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation engaged in research, conservation and education projects. Follow them on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/capeleopardtrust) to keep up to speed on more unique wildlife sightings.

capeleopardtrust

View profile









## THE TALE OF TWO LEOPARDS

In the Western Cape, and across South Africa, the challenges to conservation are complex. To effectively address these challenges, conservation efforts need to be multi-dimensional, involve diverse role players, and span land-use types. It is this holistic approach that inspired an exciting collaboration called "The Tale of Two Leopards" –

a multifaceted partnership project that focusses on two iconic species in the Overberg region, the leopard and the Western Leopard Toad (WLT). It is driven by the Cape Leopard Trust and the Endangered Wildlife Trust, in collaboration with an established and respected network of local environmental organisations in the Overberg. We view this project as a synergistic platform where holistic conservation outcomes will be more significant than what we can achieve individually, and these powerful partnerships will have greater potential in terms of declaring a biodiversity corridor of national importance and improving climate change resilience within this landscape.

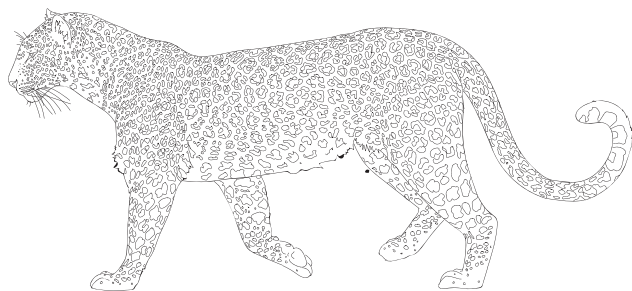


### Why cats and toads?

Leopards (*Panthera pardus*) have survived across the landscapes of the Cape where other large carnivores have not, and today roam primarily outside of formally protected areas. Leopards are listed as Vulnerable and have lost 75% of their distribution worldwide. The species faces multiple threats, including limited and fragmented habitat, reduction in prey numbers and high levels of conflict with people. Similarly, the Western Leopard Toad (*Sclerophrys pantherina*) is an Endangered amphibian that has lost much of its habitat through increased urban development, especially fragmentation by roads. This coastal toad used to occur from Melkbosstrand to Stanford, but now only two disjunct subpopulations remain, one on the Cape Peninsula, and one along the Overstrand. The WLT is a large, striking species, named for its bold red-brown markings edged in black and yellow. Named for its striking resemblance to a leopard, the WLT must navigate modified landscapes during its annual migrations between breeding and over-wintering sites. Like the leopard, they too represent a remnant population, that has adapted to surviving in an otherwise rapidly changing urban and agricultural landscape.







### Ecological importance

Amphibians and large carnivores are indicators of ecosystem health. The presence of these two 'leopards' in the Overberg gives us the opportunity to look at landscape resilience through an ecological lens; the leopard as the umbrella species and 'top down' indicator, and the leopard toad as the foundation level or 'bottom up' counter measure of ecosystem health. As such, these are key species to support the integrity of the area's biodiversity by acting as important indicators of climate change, habitat integrity and landscape connectivity – like 'canaries in the coal mine'. Finally, both leopards and WLTs have the ability to generate public interest to a greater extent than many other species and can act as iconic flagship species for conservation.

### What and where?

The Tale of Two Leopards project consists of research, conservation, and community outreach components. Our main goals are:

- a) to improve knowledge on the ecology, presence, and threats for leopards and Western Leopard toads in the Overberg region (see also Overberg camera survey on p.7)
- b) to identify actionable interventions to protect threatened and endangered species in the Overberg and improve landscape resilience.
- c) to educate and support local communities to become conservation stewards (see also Overberg school outreach on p.13)

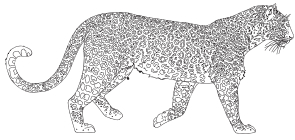
The project area incorporates a section of shared habitat for both species and extends along the Agulhas plain coastal belt, from the Botvlei in the west to the De Hoop vlei in the east.

### Tale of Two Leopards Wine

To help us raise awareness in the public eye, the Tale of Two Leopards project has been proudly supported by LOST BOY Wines for the Wild. Trevor DeRuisé, winemaker of the LOST BOY brand, shares the passion and vision of landscape conservation in the Overberg and has crafted two unique, limited-edition blends to support the cause. These were complemented by local botanical artist, Chris Lochner, who sketched a leopard and a Western leopard toad for the bottle labels. The wines were released at an intimate event in Hermanus in November, and a donation is made to the Tale of Two Leopards project for every bottle of wine sold.







# LEOPARDS, LITERACY AND INCLUSIVITY

In 2020, we announced the launch of our collaborative conservation-themed children's story and activity book called "Footprints in the Fynbos" (original\English version) and "Voetspore in die Fynbos" (Afrikaans translation). One year on we are proud to report that these books have become very popular and that the broader literacy project has grown organically in leaps and bounds. From the outset, our vision was to make the project as inclusive as possible in order to reach a broader community of children, and to help bridge gaps in the education sector with more accessible resources.

This vision culminated in the launch of several unique and complementary resources related to the book series to coincide with International Literacy Day on 8 September 2021. These education tools included the Xhosa translation "Imizila yeenyawo kwiFynbos", South African Sign Language (SASL) interpretation videos, audiobooks in English, Afrikaans and Xhosa, a Braille series and the release of a children's song, "Leeto the Leopard". An intimate launch event, hosted at Mothership Studios in Philadelphia and attended by partners, media and collaborators of the project, included an inspirational talk by Bonita Blankenberg, sneak peeks at the SASL videos, audiobooks and the "Leeto the Leopard" song. All speeches and audio were accompanied by live SASL interpretation.

## The Xhosa translation

Xhosa is the second most spoken language in the Western Cape. About half of the province's population speaks Afrikaans as their first language, followed by 25% Xhosa and 20% English. For this reason, it was vital that we produce a Xhosa translation. Similar to the English and Afrikaans versions, the Xhosa book consists of 3 sections – a leopard focussed story, a facts section and activity pages. Set in the Cape Mountains, the story follows Leeto the leopard on his journey to find a friend, meeting many characters along the way and learning valuable life lessons. The second part of the book is a selection of easily digestible leopard facts, while the final section is fun activities for young and old.

## The South African Sign Language video

Together with the University of Stellenbosch's Hand Lab team, we produced a SASL interpretation of Leeto's story. These videos feature an interpreter signing the story in SASL, overlaid on the book pages in English or Afrikaans.

## The Audiobooks

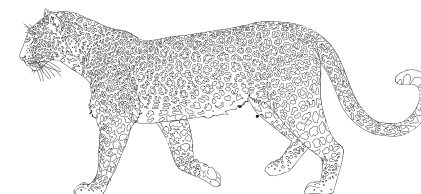
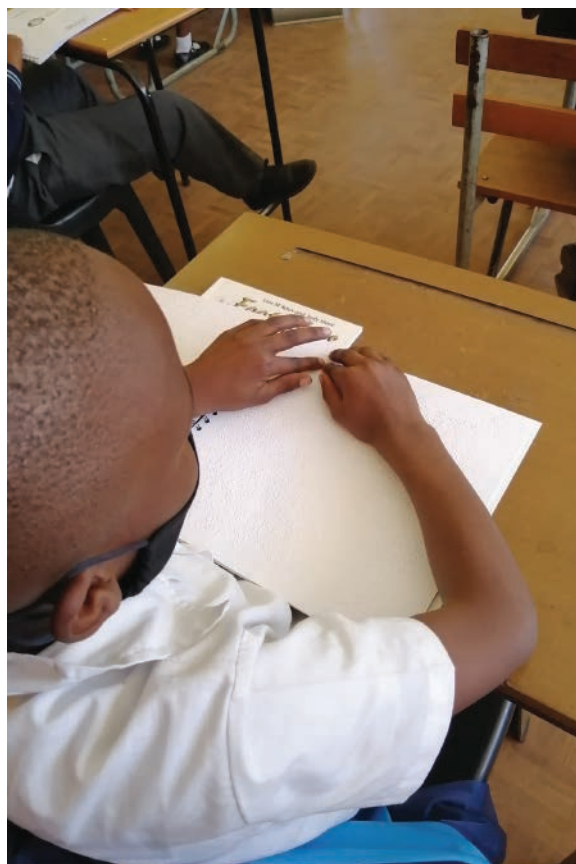
With the help of three South African celebrities, Darren Simpson, Armand Aucamp, and Zolani Mahola, audiobooks were recorded in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa. Each audiobook consists of the story, a memory game, an animal sound game, and the 'Leeto the Leopard' song.





### The Braille series

In an exciting development, we were given the opportunity to bring our children's story to life in braille. Our braille resources consist of hard copy braille embossed books in English, Afrikaans and Xhosa, as well as downloadable braille files for use on personal braille readers and displays. The braille books also contain a QR code which, when scanned, opens an audio version of the story that can then be followed along with the printed braille.



### "Leeto the Leopard" song

This catchy song is used to introduce children to leopards and nature as part of our education programme. The lyrics and melody were written by CLT Environmental Educator, Naas van Jaarsveld. Pianist Pedro Kruger composed and performed the song accompanied by the lovely voices of Mia, Nina and Inge Dippenaar. It was recorded and mixed by Henry Steel Jnr at Mothership Studios in Philadelphia. The brilliant animation was done by Fleetfox Creative. The animated video premiered on Children's Music Day 2021 and is being enjoyed all over the world.



### Availability of resources:

- All the books are for sale from the Cape Leopard Trust's [online shop](#) and other retailers. For every book sold the CLT gifts a book to an underserved child as part of our education programme.
- This South African Sign Language videos are available on the [CLT EE YouTube channel](#).
- The audiobooks are downloadable from the [CLT website](#) with the option to donate towards the project. The full set of audiobooks preloaded onto a branded USB drive can also be purchased from our [online shop](#).
- The braille files are available for download from the [CLT website](#) and are compatible with most braille readers and displays.
- The "Leeto the Leopard" song forms part of the audiobook and is also available on YouTube as an [animated music video](#).

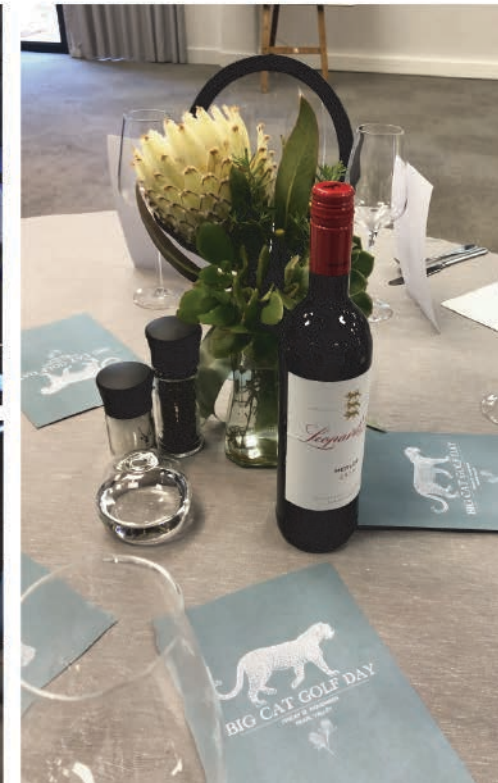
The respective inclusivity resources were made possible by donations from the Otto Foundation, Mapula Trust, RMB, Oak Foundation and the National Lotteries Commission of South Africa.



# BIG CAT GOLF DAY



It was a glorious morning in November at Pearl Valley as golfers gathered for our first ever Big Cat Golf Day. Sixteen teams and four course sponsor partners (Taylor Blinds, Hi-Tec, Trellidor and Novel Ford Paarl) enjoyed the spectacular Winelands setting as players vied for the competition top spot. PURA Soda and Mountain Falls Mineral Water provided hydration on the course. Outdoor sundowners' courtesy of GINSMITH, Perfect Solutions and Cederberg Brewery set the scene for a relaxed dinner with complementary wines kindly provided and paired by Leopard's Leap. A fundraising auction and prize giving followed, hosted by well-known auctioneer Philip Powell. Team Ford Falcons from Novel Ford in Paarl were declared outright competition winners, with PSG Panthera following closely in second position and teams Shankapotamus and Young Bafana tied jointly for third place. All in all great fun was had and a spirited partnership of sport and conservation prevailed throughout the fantastic event. We are extremely grateful for the all the people and partners, as well as all the amazing donors of auction items and prizes, that made this wonderful day out of the office possible.





## RECENT SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS

A key priority of the Cape Leopard Trust is to invest in and empower scientific research. Over the course of the current reporting period, the CLT contributed to the following peer-reviewed academic articles and post-graduate dissertations.

### Articles:

Cristescu, B., Teichman, K.J., Puls, S., Jansen, C., and O'Riain M.J. (2020) Spatial Distribution of Leopards on Farmland and Namaqua National Park, South Africa. *African Journal of Wildlife Research* 50(1).

<https://doi.org/10.3957/056.050.0190>

Nieman, W.A., Schultz, B.C., Wilkinson, A. & Leslie, A.J. (2021) Stakeholders' perceptions of mammal occurrence and abundance on agricultural properties bordering the Boland Mountain Complex, South Africa. *African Zoology* 56(2).

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15627020.2021.1885990>

Puls, S., Teichman, K.J., Jansen, C., O'Riain, M.J., and Cristescu, B. (2021) Activity patterns of leopards (*Panthera pardus*) and temporal overlap with their prey in an arid depredation hotspot of southern Africa. *African Journal of Arid Environments* 187.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaridenv.2020.104430>

### Dissertations:

Chilcott, G. (2021) Spatial ecology of the Cape's apex predator: A study of leopard (*Panthera pardus*) home ranges in the Boland Mountain Complex, Western Cape, South Africa. MSc thesis, University of London.

Greyling, E. (2020) Catering for leopards of the Cape: Investigating prey species diversity in an agricultural and a protected landscape. Hons thesis, Stellenbosch University.

Kendon, T.A. (2021) Spatial distribution and intensity of snare poaching in the Boland Region of South Africa: implications for optimising anti-poaching efforts. MSc thesis, University of Cape Town.

Seaton, A. (2021) Expanding the use of spatial models in statistical ecology. Chapter: Flexible density models for spatial capture-recapture. PhD thesis, University of St Andrews.

Wooldridge, R. (2021) A novel integrated modelling framework to investigate leopard (*Panthera pardus*) density, spatial variation in density and landscape connectivity in a structured landscape. MSc thesis, University of St Andrews.



# ENABLING OUR WORK

We wish to acknowledge all our partners, friends, donors and fellow conservation organisations that have enabled us to make a difference this year. It is heart-warming to have the support of like-minded individuals and organisations that encourage us to constantly strive to achieve our conservation vision. Thank you for investing in our work!

## Main funders, donors and sponsors 2021

### R1m and above

ABAX Foundation  
Jamma International  
National Lotteries Commission (NLC)

### R500 000 – R999 999

FirstRand Foundation  
Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust

### R250 000 – R499 000

Ford Wildlife Foundation  
Oak Foundation  
Mapula Trust  
Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy -  
advised by François van der Merwe

### R100 000 – R249 000

Wilderness Foundation Africa  
The Table Mountain Fund  
Leopard's Leap Family Vineyards  
Nitida Wines  
Conservation Allies  
Pick n Pay  
Gavin Durell

### R50 000 – R99 000

Mothership Studios  
Dents n All  
Hi-Tec  
JAG Foundation

### R20 000 – R49 000

Anthony Mederer  
Cederberg Private Cellar  
The Royal Portfolio Foundation  
Momentum Metropolitan Holdings  
Ginsmith Gin  
Rentech Solutions  
Novel Ford Paarl  
Otto Foundation  
Team Offroad  
Wild Medix  
MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet  
Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve  
Wines2Whales  
Mouton Citrus  
Raramuri Design  
Pedro Kruger & Wordsmith's Theatre Factory  
Kenichi Ohashi/Redbridge

Aside from the many smaller monetary donations we gratefully received this year, we would like to acknowledge those who willingly support us in kind, offering their time, expertise or vehicles to assist us wherever they can. Thank you for making our work possible!

## The Cape Leopard Trust

(Registration number IT 2720/2004)

Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2020

### Statement of Comprehensive Income

|  | 2020              | 2019              |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Revenue  | R5 898 489        | R6 251 798        |
| Cost of Sales                                  | -R5 198           | -R64 696          |
| <b>Gross Surplus</b>                           | <b>R5 893 291</b> | <b>R6 187 102</b> |
| Other income                                   | R37 940           |                   |
| Operating Expenses                             | R5 360 372        | R5 276 664        |
| <b>Operating Surplus</b>                       | <b>R570 859</b>   | <b>R910 438</b>   |
| Investment revenue                             | R139 500          | R205 749          |
| <b>Suplus for the year</b>                     | <b>R710 359</b>   | <b>R1 116 187</b> |
| Other comprehensive income                     |                   |                   |
| <b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b> | <b>R710 359</b>   | <b>R1 116 187</b> |

### Statement of Financial Position

#### Assets

##### Non-Current Assets

|                               |                   |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Property, plant and equipment | R1 212 572        | R1 139 381        |
| Other financial assets        | R3 012 441        |                   |
|                               | <b>R4 225 013</b> | <b>R1 139 381</b> |

##### Current Assets

|                             |                    |                   |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Inventories                 | R93 736            | R53 548           |
| Trade and other receivables | R69 449            | R51 361           |
| Other financial assets      | R1 957 593         |                   |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | R3 888 321         | R8 247 231        |
|                             | <b>R6 009 099</b>  | <b>R8 352 140</b> |
| <b>Total Assets</b>         | <b>R10 234 112</b> | <b>R9 491 521</b> |

#### Equity and Liabilities

##### Equity

|                     |                   |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Trust capital       | R200              | R200              |
| Accumulated surplus | R8 108 733        | R7 398 374        |
|                     | <b>R8 108 933</b> | <b>R7 398 574</b> |

##### Liabilities

##### Non-Current Liabilities

|                  |            |            |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| Restricted Funds | R2 000 000 | R2 000 000 |
|------------------|------------|------------|

##### Current Liabilities

|                                     |                    |                   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Trade and other payables            | R25 616            | R46 995           |
| Provisions                          | R99 563            | R45 952           |
|                                     | <b>R125 179</b>    | <b>R92 947</b>    |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>            | <b>R2 125 179</b>  | <b>R2 092 947</b> |
| <b>Total Equity and Liabilities</b> | <b>R10 234 112</b> | <b>R9 491 521</b> |



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Dr Wendy Annecke – private consultant

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Dr Raj Amin – Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

## The Cape Leopard Trust

Registered Trust Number: IT 2720/2004

PBO Number: 930 016 841

NPO Number: 192-416

Address: P.O. Box 31139, Tokai, Cape Town, 7966

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Designed by Erinn Straughan

