

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



MABULA
GROUND HORNBILL
PROJECT



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.

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project was founded in 1999 and registered as a South African NPO in 2001 and has grown from a site-specific reintroduction project to leading ground-hornbill conservation in South Africa.

OUR HIGHLIGHTS



1st four-year monitoring cycle completed



New estimate of 2796 – 3864 individuals in South Africa



Range-wide genetic assessment published



>3300 citizen scientists committed to sending valuable records



The Namibian conservation action plan, that we led, has been approved by the capable authorities.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the Chairman's Report for the financial year July 2023 - June 2024, highlighting our organization's continued dedication to the conservation of Southern Ground-hornbills. Our team continues to make significant strides in research, monitoring, threat mitigation, and conservation of the Southern Ground-hornbill, and I am proud of the team's commitment to our mission.

Research and Monitoring

Our research initiatives continue to expand both locally and internationally:

- We've strengthened our international collaborations, notably with WeForest in Zambia, Lion Landscapes in Kenya, and African Parks in Rwanda and Malawi, enhancing our data collection and monitoring capabilities.
- We've received ethics approval for testing new tracking devices on birds, opening new avenues for detailed movement studies.
- Our sightings database has grown impressively, showing strong engagement from our network of champions and citizen scientists.
- This in turn has made our first four-year monitoring plan a success, with 4,088 sightings recorded in 2024. These data are crucial for understanding the species' distribution, status and where to focus our conservation resources.
- We completed our 3-year monitoring programme in Kruger and Mapungubwe National Parks.
- We have seen two MSc students successfully through to graduation.

Conservation

Our conservation programmes have notable developments:

- The artificial nest installation programme continues, with new nests installed in key areas.
- The Lowveld Expansion Programme is progressing well, with multiple new reserves onboard.
- Our reintroduction efforts continue, with multiple groups being monitored across different sites, and three groups showing signs of breeding.
- Despite challenges in captive breeding success this season, the Baobab facility remains crucial to supplement the reintroduction program.

Threat Mitigation

We are making strides in addressing key threats to the species:

- We co-established an International Hornbill Trade Database with Mandai Nature and MONITOR to better track and combat this growing threat to all hornbills, especially ground-hornbills, on the African continent.
- We're actively addressing the issue of lead poisoning, participating in community-wide meetings to discuss its effects on human and wildlife health and share the efficacy of lead-free ammunition. This comes on the face of 7 cases of lead-poisoning this year in ground-hornbills, including on Mabula Game Reserve itself.

Education and Awareness

Our outreach efforts continue to grow:

- The team conduct multiple hornbill experience game drives per week.
- Our social media engagement is increasing, with growth across all platforms.
- A wonderful collaboration with the South African National Biodiversity Institute has led to an exponential increase in the number of South Africans we can reach with our outreach programme.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, we will:

- Host and facilitate a global artificial nest workshop, in South Africa.
- Further develop and grow our reintroduction programme, learning from both successes and challenges.
- Increase our efforts to mitigate threats, particularly lead poisoning, through innovative education and Custodianship campaigns.
- Expand our education and awareness programmes to reach even more people.
- Publish more of our lessons learnt to support conservation of ground-hornbills elsewhere in their range.

In conclusion, while we face ongoing challenges, our dedicated team continues to make significant progress in conserving the Southern Ground-hornbill. Your continued support is crucial to our success, and we thank you for your commitment to this important cause.



Malcolm Cumming
Chairman
October 2024



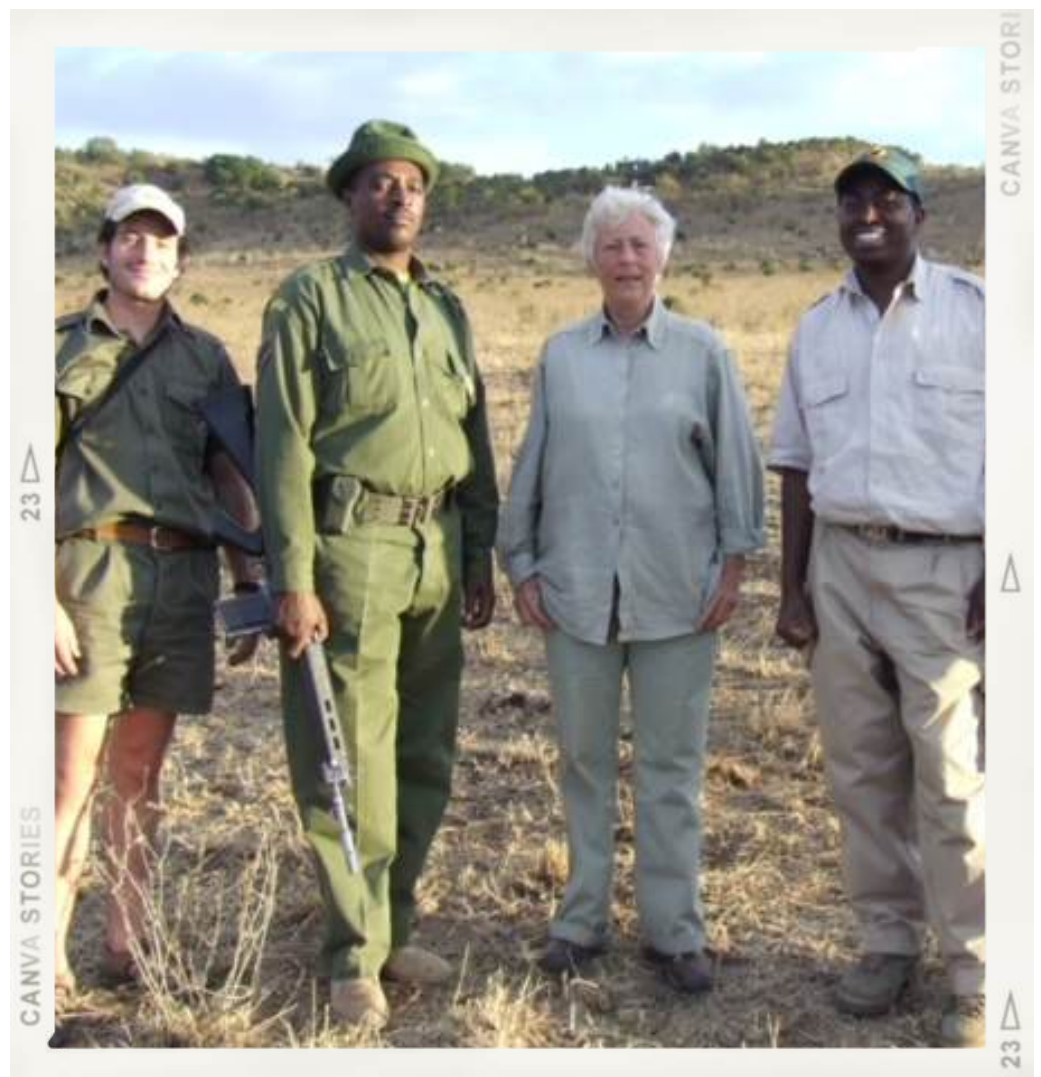
MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

With a heart full of pride for the work so many do to help ground-hornbills to proliferate and maybe thrive, and to urge you onward and upward - as it is worth it.

Fifteen years ago, The Project set about collecting enough blood samples for a genetic study, starting in the Limpopo River Valley and the Maasai Mara, in Kenya. I wish I had time to describe the daunting mountain of difficulties and the adventures, memories and new friends worldwide that sprang from the intricacies that ensued.

It is with a happy heart that I see the final publication of this work, with samples added from every range state where these birds occur, a mammoth task to be sure.

The photo below is of our first wild capture in the Mara in Kenya... here Nick Theron and I are with vets, rangers and experts helping us on this adventure.



Ann M. Turner

Ann Turner
Founder 1999 - 2010

OUR PUBLICATIONS





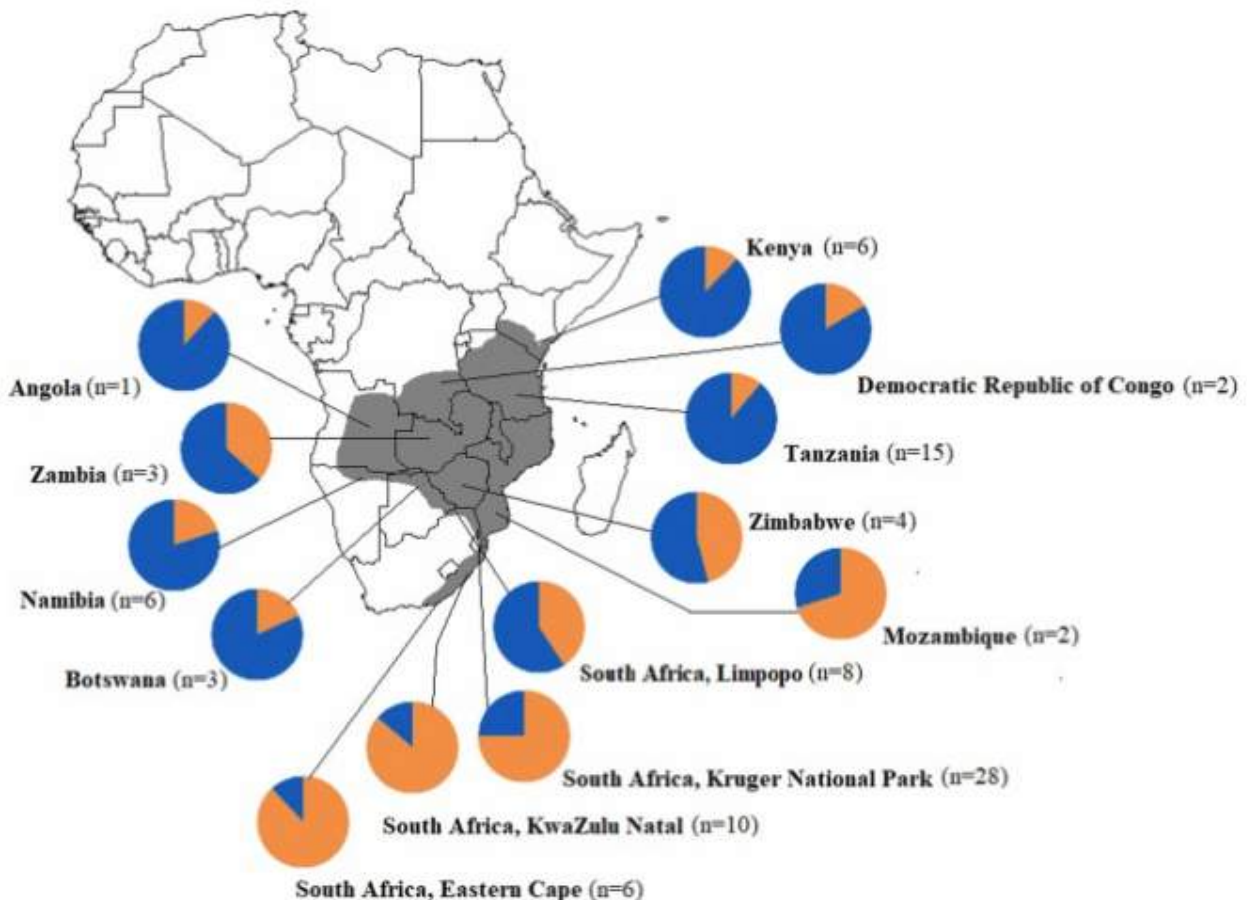
Global Ecology and Conservation

Volume 52, August 2024, e02963



Broad-scale genetic assessment of Southern Ground-Hornbills (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*) to inform population management

Lucy Kemp ^{a b c}  , Desiré L. Dalton ^{c d}, Monica Mwale ^c, J. Paul Grobler ^b,
M. Thabang Madisha ^e, Anna M. van Wyk ^f, Prudent S. Mokgokong ^g, Raymond Jansen ^h,
Antoinette Kotze ^{b c}



WE ARE A RELATIVELY SMALL PROJECT, WITH AMBITIOUS GOALS TO CONTRIBUTE TO BROADSCALE INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS



- Craft Development Initiative
- Employment of local monitors in areas where ground-hornbills are reintroduced



- Protecting a culturally relevant species, safeguarding our heritage
- Advocating for the use of lead-free ammunition, impacting human and wildlife health



- Women-led team
- Predominantly female team
- Supporting female students in science



- Internships for local students to increase career readiness
- Fully South African team
- Focus on local partnerships

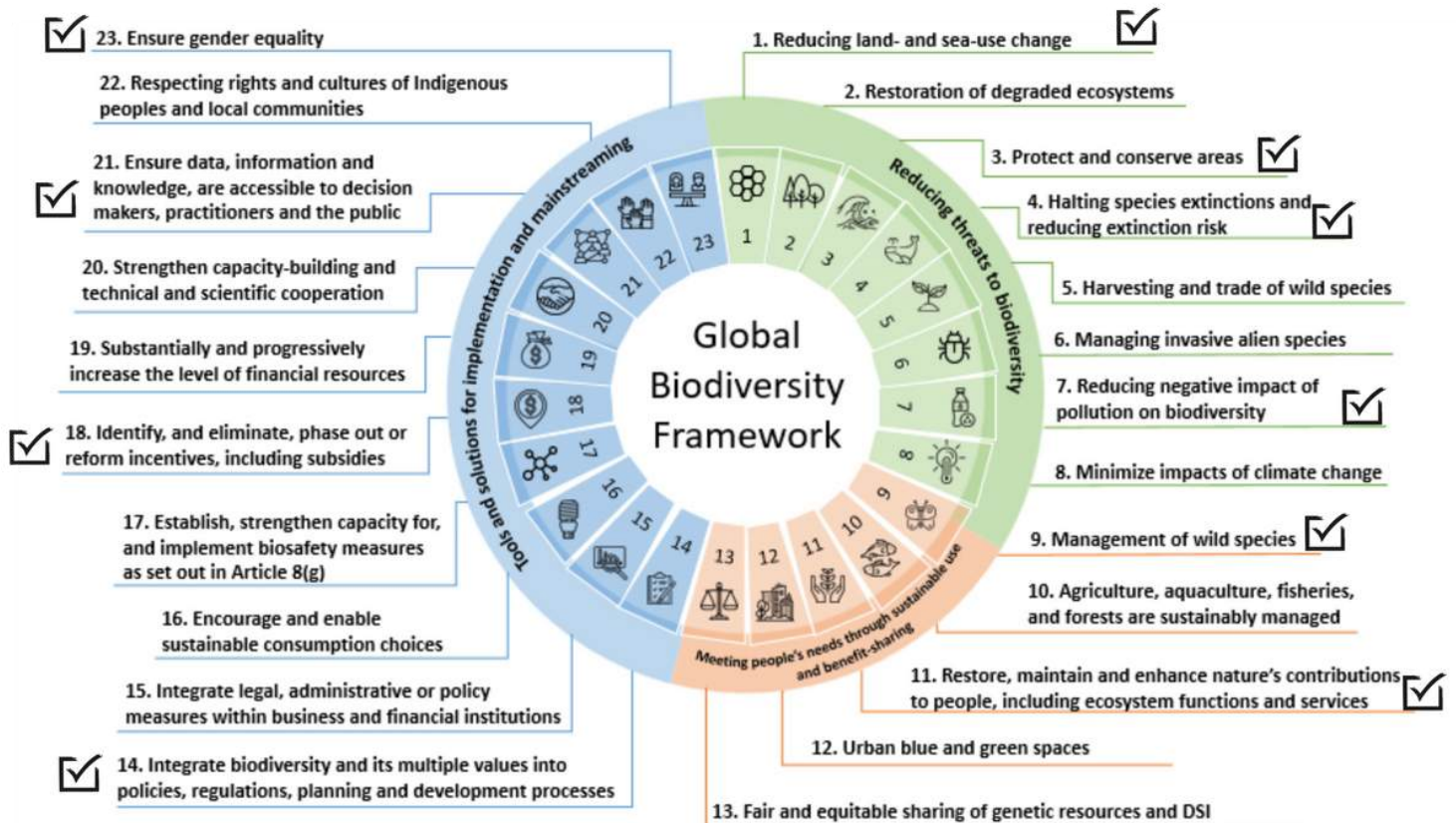


- Preventing the extinction of the Southern Ground-hornbill
- Protecting a flagship and umbrella species, thus protecting a myriad of other species



- IUCN SSC Hornbill Specialist group
- Southern Ground-hornbill Working Group
- Thunderbird Task Team
- Lead Task Team

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING THE 23 TARGETS IN THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK (COP15)



TOOL & SOLUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION & MAINSTREAMING

- Extensive education programme in both urban and rural areas
- Education presented in mother-tongue
- Supporting other range-states to join the fight
- Scientific publications
- Protocols
- Husbandry manual
- Best-practice guidelines
- Publication of failed interventions
- Share data and information with ex-situ community
- National Biodiversity Management Plan
- IUCN CPSG Conservation Plan as part of Population and Habitat Viability Assessment
- Single Species Recovery Plan
- Woman-led team

REDUCING THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY

- Spread awareness of the SGH ecosystem function
- Extra: Minimizing the use of lead ammunition
- Strengthening environmental avian impact assessment
- Developing species-specific guidelines for windfarms assessments

MEETING PEOPLE'S NEEDS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE USE AND BENEFIT-SHARING

- Custodianship programme
- Land-use best practice guidelines
- Recognition of cultural importance
- Documentation and understanding on Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- Empowering rural communities in conservation skills
- Creating local pride and custodianship
- Bespoke conservation programmes developed together with communities

OUR JOURNEY THIS YEAR

PRESENTATIONS AND NETWORKING
ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS COMMITTING
TO CONSERVATION
CONFERENCE (ZACC), UTAH

PRESENTATIONS, TEXAS



WORKING WITH WEFORST
TO IMPROVE REDD+
MONITORING

TRAINING TEAM GHANA

SUPPORTING HORNBILL TRADE RESEARCH

TRAINING TEAM GORONGOSA

NEST CHECKS IN BWATBWATA
NATIONAL PARK

GROWING
COLLABORATION
WITH BIRDLIFE
ZIMBABWE

BALYNDA MATHOLA MSc eSWATINI



OUR JOURNEY THIS YEAR

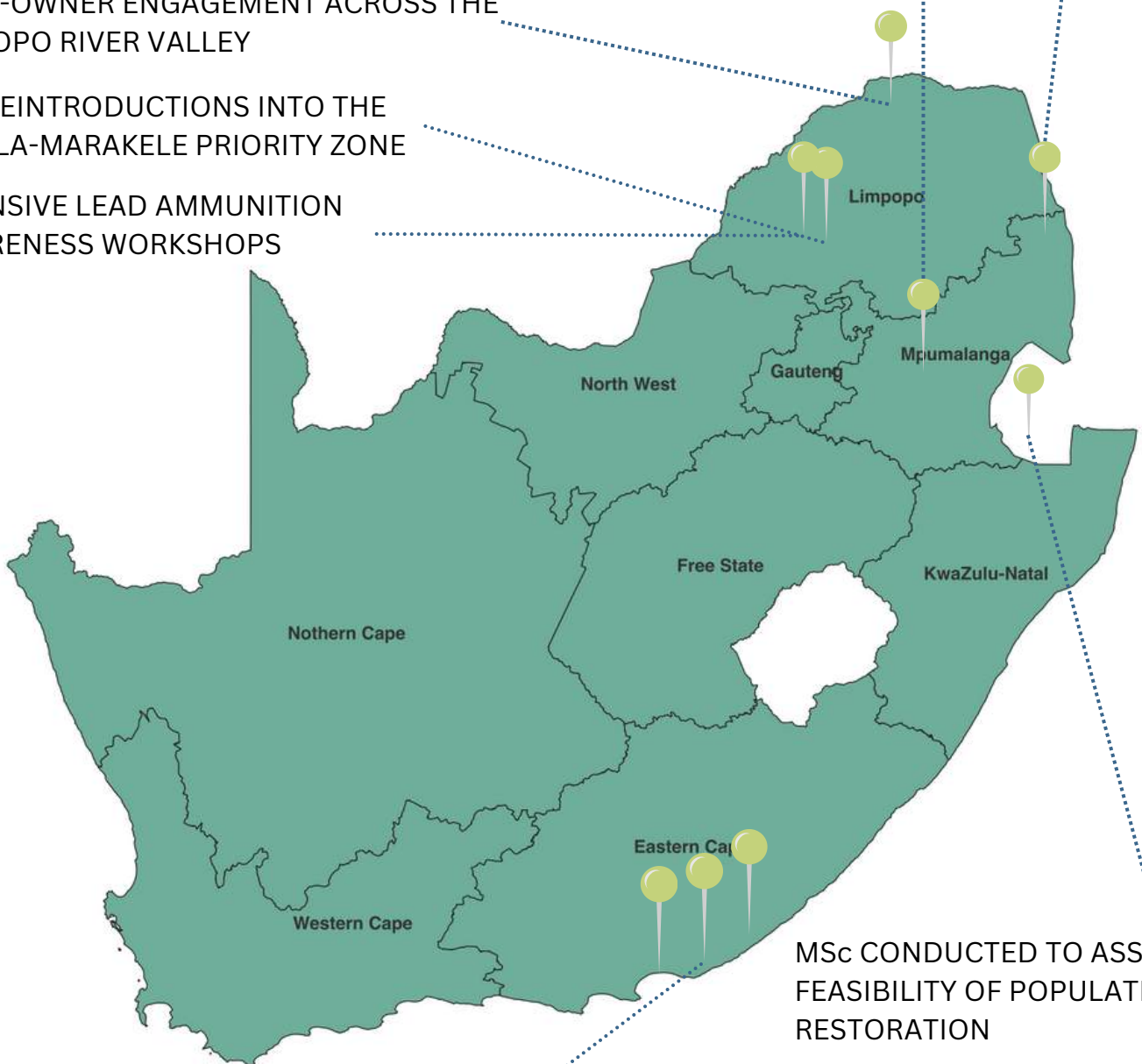
ANNUAL KRUGER NATIONAL PARK MONITORING AND EXTENDING LOWVELD CUSTODIANSHIP BEYOND THE APNR, INCLUDING MANY MORE RESERVES AND PRIVATE LAND-OWNERS.

HAND-REARING FIVE HARVESTED CHICKS AND IMPROVEMENTS ON ALL BAOBAB CONSERVATION REARING CENTRE SYSTEMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

LAND-OWNER ENGAGEMENT ACROSS THE LIMPOPO RIVER VALLEY

NEW REINTRODUCTIONS INTO THE MABULA-MARAKELE PRIORITY ZONE

INTENSIVE LEAD AMMUNITION AWARENESS WORKSHOPS



MSc CONDUCTED TO ASSESS FEASIBILITY OF POPULATION RESTORATION

EFFORTS TO INCREASE CITIZEN SCIENCE WITHIN THE EASTERN CAPE THROUGH FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS, SOCIAL MEDIA, NEWSPAPERS AND LOCAL RADIO

GOVERNANCE

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project has a multi-disciplinary Board of Directors. The Board meets regularly and provides support for 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
Dr Melissa Whitecross

LEGAL STATUS

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



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

LONG-TERM GOALS

Downlist Southern Ground-hornbill population from Endangered to Vulnerable in South Africa, by expanding and connecting populations through threat reduction and population bolstering to enable minimal conservation dependence in the future.

Enhanced understanding of Southern Ground-hornbills outside protected areas leads to evidence-based conservation interventions to soften inter-protected area matrix to prevent further population fragmentation.

To use our decades of research and conservation experience to support and capacitate range states (where Southern Ground-hornbill populations require conservation interventions) to develop implementable national conservation action plans and build a collaborative community of practise.

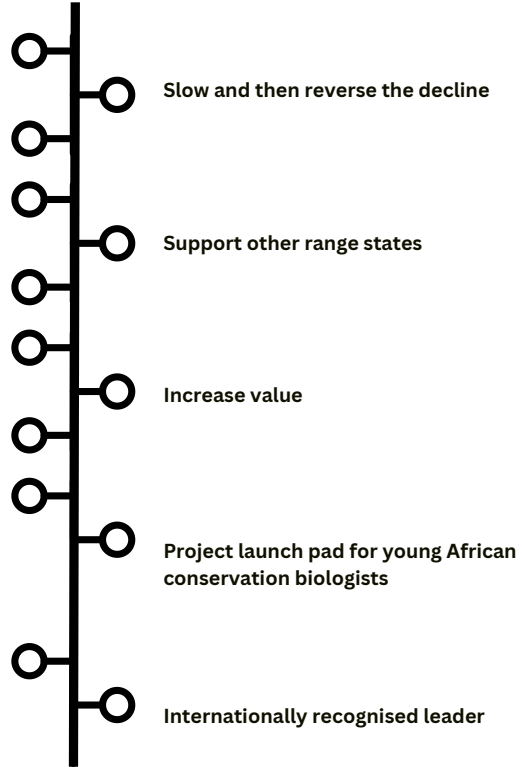
Enhanced knowledge sharing, and stakeholders' engagement supports existing cultural protection, encourages active custodianship across all land-use types and develops conservation capacity within South Africa

Southern Ground-hornbills are valued by South Africans as they have cultural significance and links to human family values and longevity. They are intelligent and are of tourism and natural interest. They are a top-order avian predator, and flagship and umbrella species.

The project has mentored students to become effective and empowered conservation, for hornbills, or retained within the conservation field

The project maintains and develops world-class conservation and management standards

IMPACT



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 Savanna 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 Mabula Ground Hornbill Project is able to help grow conservation capacity in Africa.

IMPACT

Southern Ground-hornbills are no longer Endangered in Southern Africa, and people sharing their landscape see multiple benefits in safeguarding their natural cultural heritage.





PILLARS

	 MONITOR	 MITIGATE	 RESTORE	 RESEARCH	 COMMUNITY	 IMPROVE
INPUTS	CITIZEN SCIENTISTS	CUSTODIANSHIP	REINTRODUCTION	COLLABORATION	ENGAGEMENT	TRAINING
	NESTS PRODUCTIVITY	LEGISLATION	CAPACITY	PUBLICATION	COMMUNITY-LED	BENCH MARKING
	THREATS	AWARENESS	ARTIFICIAL NESTS	CONSERVATION FOCUS	SUPPORT	BEST PRACTISE

INPUTS ENABLER

	MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE			
				
	PLANNING	INFRASTRUCTURE	OUR PEOPLE	SOUND GOVERNANCE

OUTCOME

			
SECURE	REBUILD	FLAGSHIP	PEOPLE
To secure the current ground-hornbill population in South Africa by reducing all known threats.	To rebuild, through a trans-disciplinary reintroduction programme, ground-hornbill populations in areas where they have become locally extinct.	To use the ground-hornbill as flagship species for all savanna species so that successful threat mitigations will thus be beneficial for species such as vultures and Secretary Birds.	To use this project as a springboard for young African conservation biologists and educators to grow their skillsets, and to create a strong community-led conservation programme

MONITOR

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

NEW POPULATIONS ESTIMATE: 2796 - 3864 INDIVIDUALS

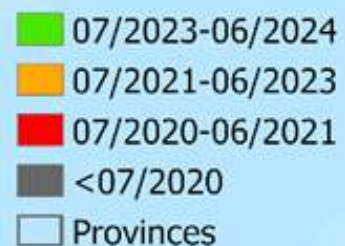
488

new pentads verified across the 4-year cycle

Colour coded pentad system for Southern Ground-hornbill sightings for the entire monitoring period (July 2020 - June 2024) overlaid on the base map pentads. Pentads that had observations within the past year are coloured green. Pentads that had observations between July 2021 and June 2023 are coloured orange. Pentads that had observations within the first year, but no subsequent observations are coloured red. Grey pentads represent the base map pentads.

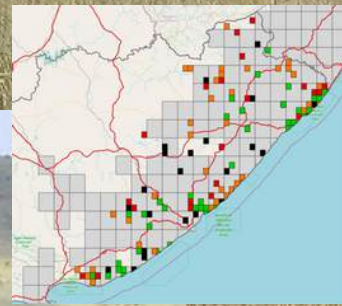
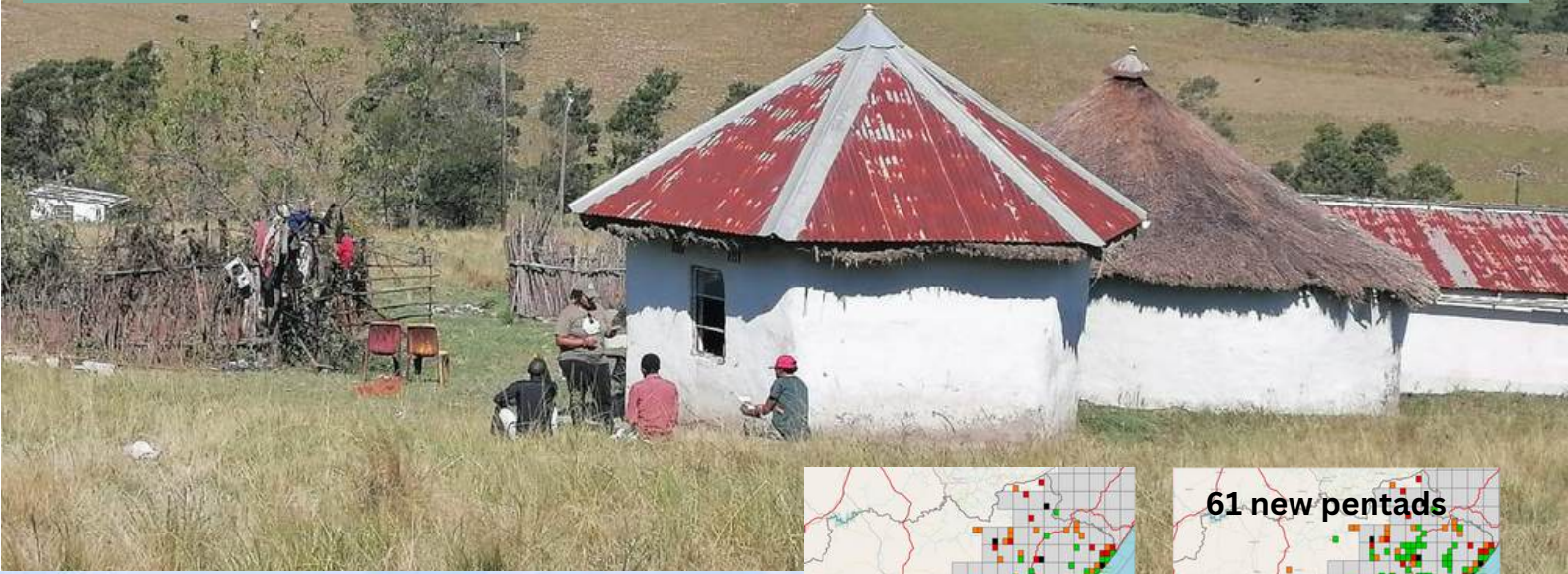
20 565

sighting records verified during a 4-year cycle

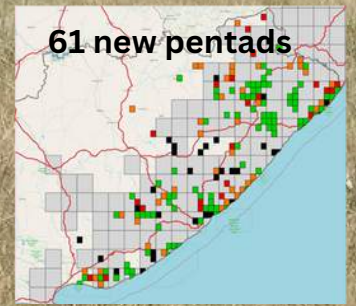


We successfully completed our first four-year nationwide monitoring plan

In response to the lack of sightings' data received from parts of the Eastern Cape, the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project team conducted three field visits to different sections of the Eastern Cape between April and June, to raise awareness and collect data on sightings in these areas. Further, it was noted that ground-hornbills are afforded strong cultural protection in parts of rural Eastern Cape, where they are believed to be the bringers of rain.



February



June



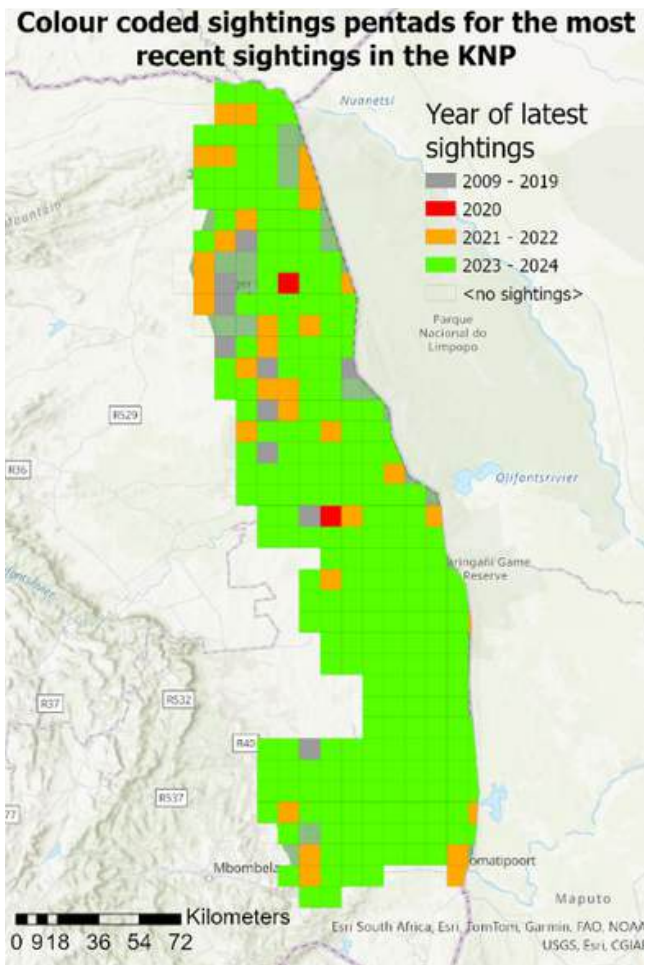
91
champion groups

> 3300
committed
citizen scientists





In Kruger National Park, 165 viable nesting sites were checked, of which 70% were natural and 30% artificial nests.



In June, we submitted Kruger National Park’s research report on Southern Ground-hornbills. The report shows positive results for the population of Southern Ground-hornbills.

- Our data show that **89%** of the park has **resident groups** and that other than the pentad that contains Skukuza, it is likely that the park is at full capacity as the ‘blank’ pentads are all in wilderness areas (where no monitoring can be done).
- Citizen science yielded **25 new nests** and over 15 000 localities.
- Recruitment of fledglings into groups is **naturally low**, at an estimated **17%**, in line with 14% reported for Kemp and Kemp (1980).
- Dispersal opportunities limited as the park is at capacity. **Community custodianship** outside of the KNP is therefore vital for future of ground-hornbills in the lowveld.

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.



WINDOW-BREAKING

Window-breaking continues to be a major issue, with at times fatal side effects of this human-wildlife conflict.

We are working in collaboration with the National Audobon Society to develop new aversion materials to test in the field. These include new types of perforated vinyl to reduce reflection.

We have also produced new awareness materials.

LEAD POISONING

This was a challenging year for lead poisoning, with seven birds treated, but we sadly lost two. This continues to be the biggest threat to the reintroduction programme as the overwhelming cause of failure to birds post-release.

We are working with the National Lead Task Team on education materials, documentaries and outreach, supported by both SA Hunters and Game Conservation and BirdLife South Africa.

Owner: MABULA GROUND HORNBILL PROJECT
Animal: HB2010
Date: 15-Jul-2024, 11:17:33
Onderstepoort Veterinary Hospital
Patient ID: 20233401220





We sadly lost a newly reintroduced ground-hornbill to electrocution on a transformer box, a notorious threat to the species, and one we have very little control over. We are working together with the team at the EWT-ESKOM partnership to get as many transformer boxes as possible insulated to prevent any future losses.

RESTORE

Reintroduction of sufficient numbers of viable founder groups to build sustainable new subpopulations while ensuring existing populations maintain sufficient genetic diversity.

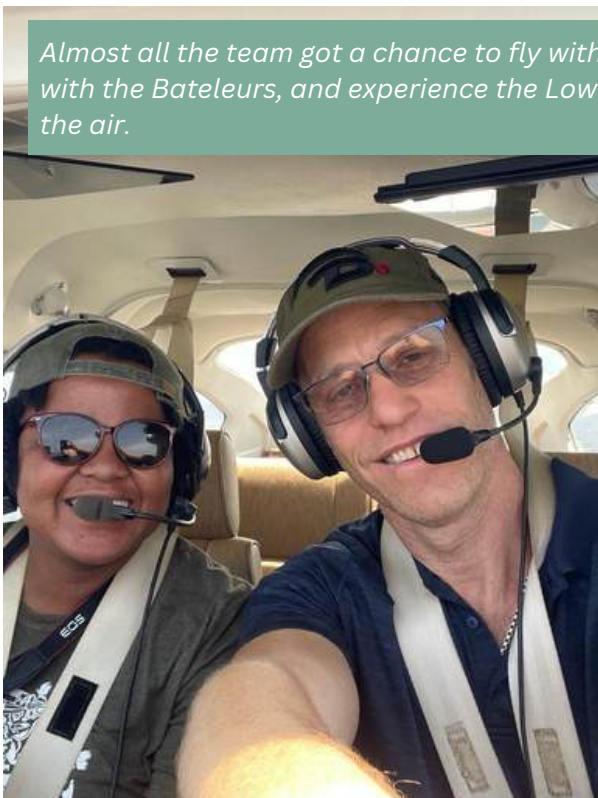


A chick safely in the warmed cooler box until it could be moved to the red brooder for final transport.



A collaboration with the Bateleurs improved the transport of harvested chicks from the lowveld to Loskop Dam Nature Reserve, Mpumalanga.

Six chicks were harvested from the Lowveld, of which three were flown from Hoedspruit to Groblersdal, in collaboration with the Bateleurs. One chick needed to sadly be euthanased because of a skull deformity. The sexing results of the harvested chicks indicated that four of the five birds were female.



Almost all the team got a chance to fly with a chick with the Bateleurs, and experience the Lowveld from the air.





The process, from the first weigh-in and receiving fluids before transport, through to the care by Elaine Reeve, supported by students Vuyisile Mathonsa, Silindokuhle Nkosi and volunteer Katherine Kemp, for the next three months until they fledge into their foster groups. They are then integrated into new introduction groups, so they can learn their bush skill set from older, experienced mentor ground-hornbills.

Advice and new ideas



We were thrilled to have both Hillary Hankey and Katie Pnewski from Avian Behaviour International to advise on improved husbandry and how to impact behaviours seen in both our foster groups and our reintroduced stock. Following closely on their heels we were thrilled to also have Ann Knutson (above right), the Association of Zoos and Aquariums ground-hornbill manager and extremely experienced hand-rearer, to add to that incredible resource of new ideas for us to work on and integrate into our protocols - we are better for it!

The African Conservation Programme (ACP) & Studbook

The annual Southern Ground Hornbill African Conservation Programme meeting was hosted at the Johannesburg Zoo. The meeting is facilitated by us and PAAZA, and focuses on the *ex-situ* aspect of this species' conservation in South Africa.

Among the speakers were the Project's veterinary advisor, Prof. Katja Koeppel who presented on the aggression of ground-hornbills in captivity in South Africa and Hillary Hankey from Avian Behaviour, who presented on basic avian behaviours and training and how ground-hornbills can be handled, trained and better managed in captivity.



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.

TRAINING

INDIANAPOLIS ZOO

We were thrilled to be able to train our Ghanaian colleagues in all things ground-hornbills: observations, monitoring, nest check protocols, capture, biosampling, behaviours and so, so much more. It was great to have them join our team for a month, and we loved the Jollof rice. This was generously supported by the Indianapolis Zoo.





The Namibian project continues to go from strength to strength. Meet Novald Iiyambo, Senior Conservation Scientist at the Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Tourism, who is the lead for implementing the Namibian Conservation Action Plan. Here she and her team are installing more nests in Bwabwata National Park (a collaboration with WWF Namibia).

AWARENESS

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



2966



9100

1749

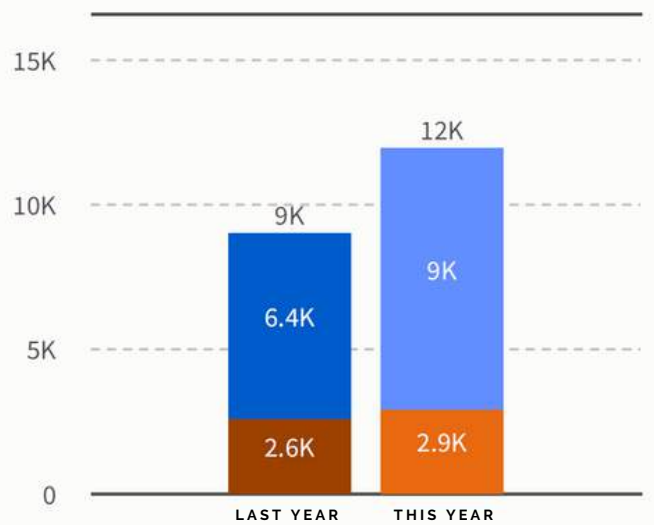
hornbill safaris

3360

members of the public participating

Followers

Facebook Page Instagram Business



Ground-hornbills are a formal part of the Pretoria Zoo Club's Environmental Education curriculum

We hosted two lead awareness workshops in collaboration with SA Hunters and Game Conservation and BirdLife South Africa



Bailey Meyer, one of our winners in the ground-hornbill drawing competition



Our Mabula soccer team in their ground-hornbill kit does us proud in the region



Dr Lucy Kemp introducing the project to both Dallas and Fort Worth Zoos, two of eight presentations given this year



Beautiful ground-hornbill linocuts by Stefanie de Beer, celebrating Heritage Day at the Pretoria Old Boys Club fundraiser event

Bewonder & Bewaar met Bonné de Bod

Sondae vanaf 24 Maart

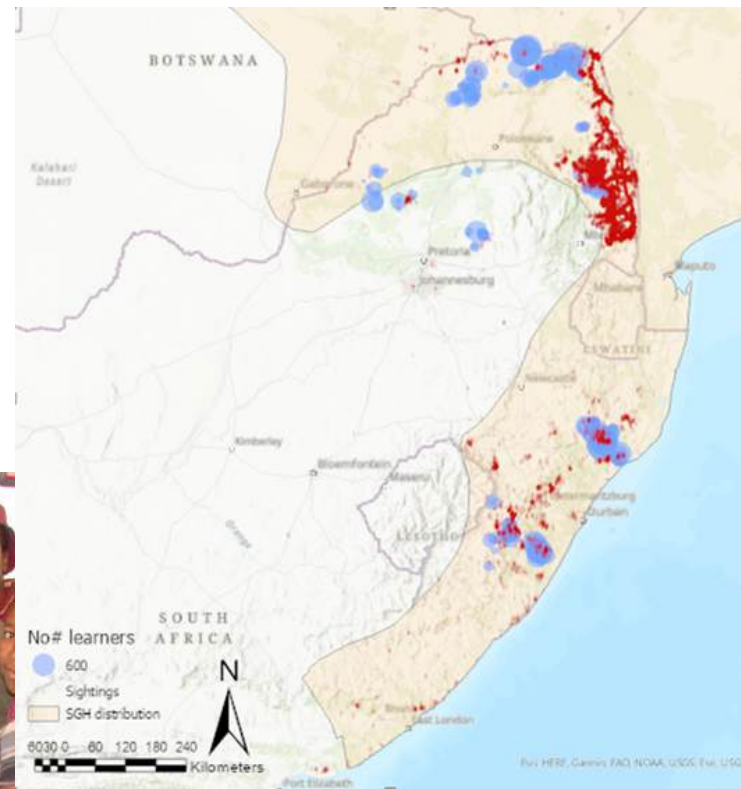
20:00

@kykNETTV



We were featured on the "Bewonder en Bewaar" series on DSTV and Showmax, which reached a huge audience, many of whom are either frequent protected areas visitors or own farms or game farms within the range of the species in South Africa. This led to multiple requests for reintroductions and many new sighting records.

See our map of the areas we have managed to reach at a school-by-school scale, with the education team engaged with 600 learners this past year.



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

We have had the privilege of supporting Vuyisile Mathonsa, Sibusiso Mahlalela and Silindokuhle Nkosi with on-the-job experience for a year, growing their understanding of field conservation and hopefully providing them with the mentorship that will allow them to thrive in their careers. We hired Sibusiso because of his passion for environmental education and his ability to make people love ground-hornbills.

World Species Congress



REVERSE
THE RED

World Species Congress National Satellite Event

Date: 14 May 2024
Time: 9:00 - 15:30
Virtual Event

Dr Lucy Kemp presented at the IUCN World Species Congress National Satellite Event which was attended by > 10 000 participants



MEET OUR PHD STUDENTS



Selasi Dzitze

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



Natalie Molea

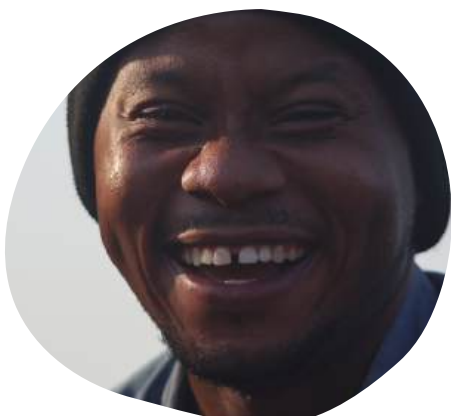
Natalie is doing her PhD, through the Montana Conservation Genomics Laboratory (MCGL) at the University of Montana (UM), in partnership with the South African National Biodiversity Institute. Her lead supervisor is Prof Gordon Luikhart. She is working to resolve African hornbill taxonomy and looking for genetic markers that can be used to tackle the trade in hornbills, both for aviculture and as body parts.

MEET OUR MASTERS STUDENTS



Patience Shito

Patience is growing our understanding of where range-expansion is possible with the Lowveld, from both an ecological and cultural perspective. She is registered with the University of the Witwatersrand and her supervisors are Prof Neville Pillay and Dr Louise Swemmer.



Shine Deladem:

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. He is also an esteemed poet.

MEET OUR RECENT MSC GRADUATES



Linda Balindile Mathola
University of Eswatini, Eswatini

MSc Thesis title: Feasibility assessment for strengthening the population of Southern Ground-hornbills (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*) in Eswatini



Roos de Vries
Utrecht University, the Netherlands

MSc Thesis title: Egg Sex Ratio in the Southern Ground-hornbill (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*)

MEET OUR RECENT NAT CON GRADUATES



Vuyisile Mathonsi
University of Mpumalanga

Diploma in Nature Conservation



Sibusiso Mahlalela
University of Mpumalanga

Diploma in Nature Conservation

Northern or Abyssinian Ground-hornbills

Bucorvus abyssinicus



INDIANAPOLIS ZOO



ABOUT THE PROJECT

This collaboration between the Kwame Ninsinmah University of Science & Technology, Mole National Park, the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana and the IUCN SSC Hornbill Specialist Group aims to understand the biology and conservation requirements of the Northern Ground-hornbill to enable an evidence-based, range-wide conservation action plan to be developed.

WANT TO BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST?

If you see an Abyssinian Ground-hornbill, please share the following with us:

- Accurate location using WhatsApp location, GPS or an accurate description.
- When did you see them? Date?
- How many birds did you see?

Photos are welcome.

SUBMIT YOUR SIGHTINGS TO:

+233 54 646 0896

+233 24 943 0169

NGH.Research@gmail.com

www.northerngroundhornbillconservation.com

Male **Female**

Juvenile

- The Northern or Abyssinian Ground-hornbill plays a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance.
- They consume a variety of food, including insects, small mammals, and some fruits.
- These birds primarily inhabit savannas, woodlands, and grasslands.
- They only lay large, mature trees for nesting.

Make a difference by making a donation at <https://www.givingspin.com/campaign/gh>



Novel ways of reaching new citizen scientists and ways of growing a network of Ghanians who understand their ground-hornbills and want to keep them safe..

THE ENIGMA OF THE NORTH

ABYSSINIAN GROUND-HORNBILL

NGH.Research@gmail.com

Mole National Park, GHANA.

Selasi: +233 24 943 0169

Shiner: +233 54 646 0896

We are gathering sightings from across the range of Northern Ground-hornbills to identify where the species may have already become locally extinct and where to focus conservation efforts. This involves desktop analysis, a citizen-science project, and demographic modeling. Your contribution of any information will be deeply appreciated.



The citizen scientist brochure was developed with the Ghanaian team to help elicit support for the project and grow a base of Ghanaian citizen-scientists.

Selasi working with the Bawauna community leaders about ground-hornbills and what is possible for their conservation outside of protected areas such as Mole National Park.



Alf Rewin
CONSERVATION

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 United Kingdom Register of Charities with the **Registered Charity Number 1200084**. We are also registered with **Gift Aid**. Donating through Gift Aid means we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate through ARC in the UK. It will not cost you anything extra.

WE REACHED OUR TARGET OF R1 MILLION

The interest generated from this fund 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.

MEET THATO PLUTO MASHIGO

THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE ALF REWIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND



She is from a small village called Shangaanhill in the Lowveld part of Mpumalanga, South Africa and we are thrilled to have her join the team as she pursues her PhD.

"Whilst I always knew I wanted to conserve animals, I did not yet have the words to describe this passion, nor did I understand how to turn it into a career. I was fortunate however to pursue tertiary education in the field of Biological Sciences through my pursuit and completion of a Bachelor's degree in Molecular and Life Sciences, an Honours degree in Zoology, and a Master's degree in Wildlife Management Engineering."

PROJECT TEAM



PROJECT MANAGER
DR LUCY KEMP



SENIOR COORDINATOR
DR KYLE-MARK MIDDLETON



OPERATIONS
SANDISWA KULA



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
NTHABISENG MONAMA



EX SITU COORDINATOR
ELAINE REEVE



CONSERVATION COORDINATOR
DANIELLA SKINNER



REINTRODUCTION MONITOR
WINDERS CHAUKE



TECHNICIAN
LERATO MAHLALELA



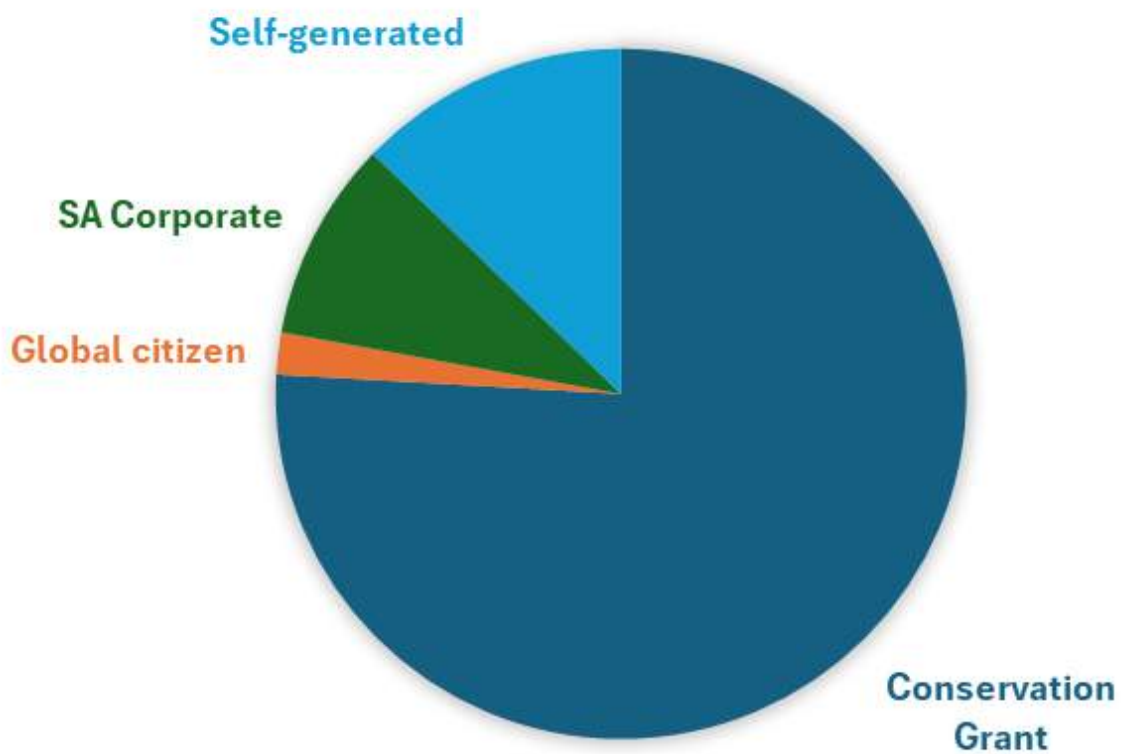
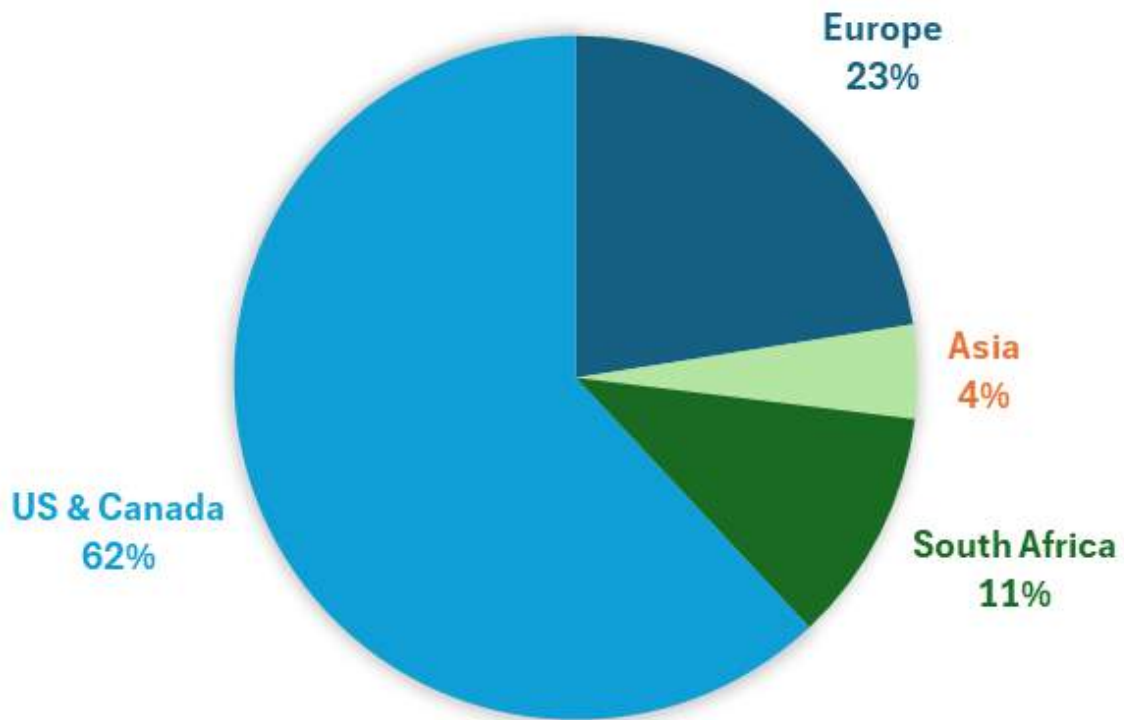
EDUCATION OFFICER
SIBUSISO MAHLALELA



WORK INTEGRATED
LEARNING INTERN
MXOLISI MCHUNU

FINANCIAL REPORT

Please contact us if you would like to contribute funds for our operational reserve or donate to the ongoing conservation and community activities. Dr Lucy Kemp | project@ground-hornbill.org.za



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project is incredibly grateful to several 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 2023 – June 2024.



INDIANAPOLIS ZOO



MABULA
GAME LODGE



INDIVIDUALS



Our supporters of the MySchools MyPlanet Programme; patrons of our weekly Modjadji Tea and Hornbill experience drives and supporters of our craft and skills development initiative.

We would also like to thank the following individuals: Thea Erasmus, A. Honkoop, Matt Williams, Matthew Price, Ida Hansen, Susan Stubbs, Sabra Zautke, Patrick & Janie Wagner, Ann Knutson and Jenny Francis.

IN-KIND



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.



[scan to donate](#)



CONNECT WITH US

DR LUCY KEMP

PROJECT MANAGER/ CO-CHAIR (AFRICA): IUCN SSC HORNBILL SPECIALIST GROUP

P. O. Box 876, Bela Bela, Limpopo, 0480, South Africa

Jacaranda Camp, Mabula Private Game Reserve, Limpopo, 0480, South Africa

project@ground-hornbill.org.za |

www.ground-hornbill.org.za | +27 (0) 83 289 8610

