



CAPE  
LEOPARD  
TRUST

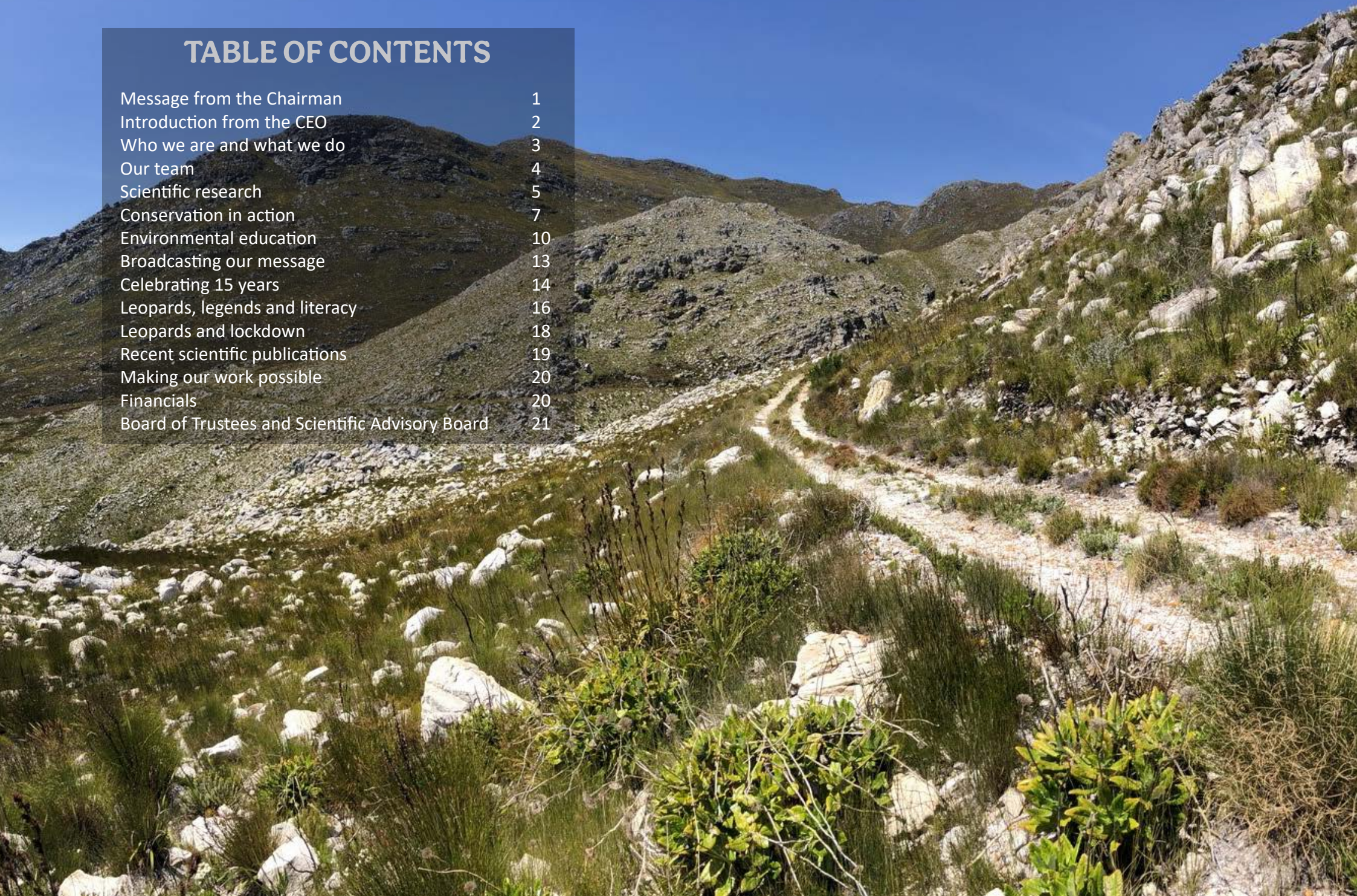


**IMPACT REPORT 2020**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chairman	1
Introduction from the CEO	2
Who we are and what we do	3
Our team	4
Scientific research	5
Conservation in action	7
Environmental education	10
Broadcasting our message	13
Celebrating 15 years	14
Leopards, legends and literacy	16
Leopards and lockdown	18
Recent scientific publications	19
Making our work possible	20
Financials	20
Board of Trustees and Scientific Advisory Board	21





# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

During this tumultuous year we have again been reminded of the dedication of the members of the amazing Cape Leopard Trust (CLT) team, who never missed a beat during the COVID19 lockdown period. Overall, the entire team found a way to continue with their conservation endeavours regardless of the constraints imposed on them by the lockdown regulations. Be sure to read our CEO's detailed report in this issue to learn more about the significant range of activities which our research and education teams managed to deliver and what they accomplished during this difficult past year.

The CLT plays an important and positive role in the nature conservation fraternity, in which we maintain mutually beneficial relationships with many other conservation organizations in South Africa and internationally. We constantly strive to enhance communication and collaboration between stakeholder organizations in order to utilize each other's unique skill sets and areas of special influence. We believe this is important for the greater benefit and advancement of nature conservation and we are pleased that this approach to joint planning, involving fellow NGOs, is also actively reciprocated by them. Furthermore, we maintain good relationships with the many land owners who generously allow us to work on their properties, which also makes it possible for us to learn from their knowledge and understanding of nature.

The need to conserve our environment and biodiversity in the Western Cape, where our leopards and the CLT's research teams are based, gets more urgent all the time. A constant worry is that areas which were once safe havens for animals and plants, are not so anymore. The horror of indiscriminate snare hunting is now a widespread and increasing scourge in the Western Cape. There is much work to be done to tackle this dreadful problem and through its awareness programme the CLT intends to make a concerted effort to combat these illegal and cruel snares.

We are indeed blessed to have a group of wonderful, dedicated and supportive funders. Without their commitment our efforts would have been impossible. A huge thank you to each and every one of them for their important contributions that sustain the CLT. Our thanks also to CapeNature, our partners, for their support and collaboration in facilitating a co-operative working environment that enables the CLT to function optimally.

Our thanks also to our Scientific Advisory Board for the invaluable work they do for the CLT. This board comprises of hugely experienced scientists who freely allocate their time to appraise and advise on the various CLT research projects.

We are extremely proud of our personnel. The trustees gratefully acknowledge their commitment and contributions with appreciation.

And thank you to my fellow trustees, a great bunch of stalwarts, who will always go the extra mile for the Cape Leopard Trust.

Johan van der Westhuizen  
Chairman





# INTRODUCTION FROM THE CEO

This has been a year unlike any other. When we celebrated our fifteenth birthday in 2019, who could have imagined the strange turn of events since then. Ironically, 2020 is a term generally used for clarity of sight, and an ability to see what lies ahead. Instead, we are all learning to navigate a shifting landscape and an unpredictable working environment. This is not entirely a bad thing. There's comfort in consistency and many of us struggle with change, but sometimes facing the unfamiliar can be a time of growth and an opportunity to do things differently. This applies whether in business, or in charity, and one thing that has impressed us over the last few months has been the number of initiatives that were quickly activated to support those in need. Time and again we've seen businesses and individuals shine as they temporarily put aside their personal profits to unite with the community, reaching out a hand to help. Making a plan is something South Africans are particularly good at and that's a rare quality in today's world. Innovation is not a foreign concept to us given our history, and over the last few months I've been reminded of a phrase that seems appropriate in the current circumstances: one should never waste a good crisis.

All that said, the reality is that things are tough for many people, global economics are unstable and the future as we might have imagined it is uncertain as never before. In this situation, it's always good to change one's perspective and look at things from a different angle. In my case, I take a moment to think of Mother Nature, and how difficult it must be to tolerate and accommodate the increasing human population and its demands. Nature is constantly on alert and in a state of flux. Overnight the habitat and once safe home of a species can disappear, ploughed up for agriculture, or what was once an important wildlife corridor is replaced by urban development. Yet, under increasing pressure

we expect nature to continue to deliver its essential services such as oxygen, water and food to support life, while making minimal investment into its infrastructure. Society barely understands the relationship we should maintain with nature to support our own well-being. It's simply taken for granted, and to secure a future for us all this has to change. This is where our education and outreach programmes are so vital as it encourages a new way of thinking and contributes to an improved understanding of our interconnectedness.

Though our research work was able to continue as planned after a short interruption, most impacted by the pandemic was the education and outreach work. With schools closed and social distancing compulsory, all contact activities were brought to a halt overnight. There were rapid and exciting adaptations to the programme to ensure it could continue to support its beneficiaries, and the highlight of the year has been the design and publication of a children's book. The unexpected lockdown presented an opportunity to fulfil a long-held dream, and the incredible team energy that went into the creation of "Footprints in the Fynbos" gave us all a positive focus over the most difficult months. It was a delightful process to be part of, and it was with immense pride that the book was launched at the end of October as a legacy of 2020.

Despite this being a challenging year, we are pleased to present this review of our achievements over the last twelve months. We have defined our research strategy for the next five years and cemented some new collaborations along the way. A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) to work together on projects that enable us to share resources, and we have secured a 5-year conservation partnership with UK based charity, Jamma International.

We welcome Deon Meyer and Pieter-Steph du Toit as new CLT Ambassadors and look forward to introducing them to our work and making them part of our community.

There were some changes in our team this year, with Lana Müller leaving in April to take up a position in Kenya with Dutch NGO JustDiggIt, and we welcome Dr Katy Williams as our Research and Conservation Director. This is a newly created senior position to raise the bar in terms of the quality and credibility of our research work.

This report celebrates a year of pulling together in the face of adversity. It is full credit to the entire team that these successes have been possible, and I applaud each of them for their commitment to our cause. Our Board of Trustees and Scientific Advisory Board have provided unwavering support to guide us, and for this I thank them. We appreciate the partners and friends who have walked this year's winding road with us to uphold the values we stand for and to ensure we continue to achieve our goals.

In the true African Spirit of Ubuntu – we are because you are.



**Helen Turnbull**





# WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The leopard is the last big predator to still roam free in the Western Cape, South Africa. The species faces multiple threats, including limited and fragmented habitat, reduction in prey numbers and high levels of conflict with people.

The Cape Leopard Trust is a non-governmental, not-for-profit, public benefit organisation that facilitates and promotes the conservation of biological diversity, with a focus on the leopard as a flagship species. We employ a three-pillar approach of research, conservation, and education and our ultimate purpose and vision is to ensure the long-term survival of leopards, their habitat and their prey, for the benefit of nature and society.

## Our three pillars and their projected outcomes:

### Research:

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

### Conservation:

- 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

### Education:

- 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

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 Cape Leopard Trust [\[bit.ly/CLTPromoShortFilm\]](http://bit.ly/CLTPromoShortFilm)





# OUR TEAM



**Helen Turnbull**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Dr Kathryn S Williams**  
Research and Conservation  
Director (Sept 2020 to present)



**Chris Eksteen**  
Education and Outreach  
Manager



**Jeannie Hayward**  
Communications and  
Media Manager



**Lana Müller**  
Operations and Research  
Manager (2016 to Apr 2020)



**Yvonne Kamp**  
Administration and Finance



**Anita Wilkinson**  
Senior Researcher



**Dr Chavoux Luyt**  
Community Outreach Officer



**MJ Grobler**  
Field Officer



**Jaco Fourie**  
Cederberg Environmental  
Educator



**Naas van Jaarsveld**  
Boland Environmental  
Educator



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



**Eugene Greyling**  
Student  
(Stellenbosch University)



**Tamar Kendon**  
Student  
(University of Cape Town)



**Rosco Ockhuis**  
Verification Officer



**Frank Scheepers**  
Verification Officer



**Ben Farmer**  
Verification Officer



**Gerald Swartz**  
Verification Officer  
(Aug 2019 to Oct 2020)



# SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

## Development of a Strategic Framework

Over the past fifteen years, the Cape Leopard Trust has established a robust baseline of leopard research with a focus on specific areas within the Western Cape, but this is just the beginning of what is needed to ensure the health and viability of the leopard population. With guidance from our Scientific Advisory Board, Technical Advisor and the National Leopard Steering Committee, the CLT research and conservation team developed a comprehensive strategic framework to direct our research activities for the next five years. This long-term vision has recently received a major boost with the securing of a five-year partnership with UK-based charity, Jamma International.

## Piketberg Camera Survey

Over the past few years, the Piketberg and surrounding mountainous areas emerged as a hotspot of leopard activity. However, there is a paucity of information about leopard density and diet in the region as no research has been previously conducted. To learn more, the CLT in collaboration with an MSc student from the University of the Free State, launched a large-scale camera trap survey in December 2019.

The study utilises:

1500 km<sup>2</sup>



128  
field  
cameras



64  
independent  
locations



55  
different  
landowners

98%

Success rate  
with camera  
traps

31

different medium  
to large native  
mammal species  
recorded



Explaining the camera trap process to CapeNature field rangers

## Boland Camera Survey

Continuous monitoring is of critical importance to assess the impact of anthropogenic activity on leopard population dynamics and long-term trends within target populations. The Boland Mountain Complex (BMC) is one such long-term monitoring site where repeat camera trap surveys will indicate over time whether population density is stable, increasing, or decreasing. To this end, a camera trap array utilising 90 field cameras at 45 independent locations was recently deployed in the Boland study area. The survey will run until early 2021 and will build on the body of research already conducted in the BMC over the past 10 years.

Setting up camera traps



## Development of Leopard Data Portal Web Application

Over the years, members of the public have shared countless observations of leopard activity with the CLT. Most of these are sign observations (scat, spoor, scratch marks or kill sites) as well as private camera trap photos and the occasional lucky physical sighting. In a bid to centralise these shared leopard observations we have created an online data portal for citizen scientists to upload their leopard observations (either direct sightings, camera trap photos or signs) and contribute to our database. In addition to leopard sightings and signs, users can also log potential threats to leopards in the Western Cape, such as the use of poison, traps (gin traps or cages), roadkill and leopard depredation incidents with livestock. We are seeking contributions from 2010 onwards and would like to call on anyone with available data to please upload it to our portal! [app.capeleopard.org.za](http://app.capeleopard.org.za).



Using the online leopard data portal in the field



Scat is one of the most common leopard field signs in the Western Cape

## Cederberg Camera Survey

The large dataset generated from our year-long Cederberg camera survey is currently being analysed to investigate leopard population density and occupancy in the Cederberg; and to study co-existence between leopard and caracal. Furthermore, we are collaborating with an Honours student from the University of Stellenbosch who is using the Cederberg and Piketberg datasets to compare potential prey species richness and availability between the two areas, and to identify which covariates play an important role in determining prey abundance.

## Future goals in a nutshell:

- Oversee the survey completion, data analyses, write-up and publication of the Piketberg and Boland survey data.
- Create and curate a central internal database for past, existing, and future leopard presence and threat records which will serve as a long-term data repository in the Western Cape.
- Monitor leopard population density and occupancy in the Western Cape at a number of selected research sites.



Setting up camera traps



# CONSERVATION IN ACTION

## Boland Snare Patrol Project

Research conducted by the Cape Leopard Trust revealed that hunting with wire snares is a major problem in the greater Boland region and quite possibly across the wider Western Cape. A snare trap is a simple piece of material fashioned into a noose and positioned to capture animals. To further our knowledge on the prevalence of this illegal hunting method, we conducted a year-long Snare Patrol Project on private properties bordering the four major provincial nature reserves (Limietberg, Jonkershoek, Hottentots-Holland and Kogelberg), collectively encompassing the majority of the Boland Mountain Complex.

**215**  
snare patrols

**673**  
illegal animal  
traps removed

**1400 km**  
of mountainside  
covered on foot

**642**  
of these were  
snare traps

Most snares were made from wire but discarded cable and nylon was also utilised. Most snares were anchored to trees and fence posts, primarily along game trails and fence lines in stands of alien and disturbed natural vegetation. These data constitute the first robust systematic survey on snaring in the Western Cape. Landowners and managers received SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) reports informing them on the findings of the snare patrols on their property. The CLT is currently collaborating with an MSc student from the Institute for Communities and Wildlife in Africa (iCWild) at the University of Cape Town to analyse the snare patrol data and to model high risk areas based on site, property and landscape variables.





## Cape Leopard Trust Snare Aware Resources

Wire snares are a concealed and deadly threat carefully hidden in the undergrowth and often almost invisible to animals until it is too late. More feet and eyes on the ground are needed – and anyone who spends time in nature can easily assist by looking out for snares and removing them. The CLT has compiled a Snare Aware resource toolkit including:

- An online snare reporting platform for members of the public to report their snare findings within the Western Cape [[app.capeleopard.org.za](http://app.capeleopard.org.za)]
- A downloadable information sheet about snares, created in collaboration with CapeNature, for private landowners and interested parties [[bit.ly/CLTSnareAwareResources](http://bit.ly/CLTSnareAwareResources)]
- A “Guide to Snare Patrols” booklet to assist landowners with planning and conducting patrols on private property and to guide logging information on snares found and removed to be submitted to the CLT.
- A short video about snares and what to look out for [[bit.ly/CLTBeSnareAware](http://bit.ly/CLTBeSnareAware)]

The CLT also facilitated several Snare Aware training workshops with various partners to increase knowledge about this danger to our environment and build capacity within the local conservation field.



Snare Aware training with CapeNature field rangers

### FACT SHEET

A landowner's guide to

## MONITORING AND PREVENTING ILLEGAL HUNTING WITH SNARES

#### What is a snare?

A snare trap is a simple piece of wire, cable, twine or nylon fashioned into a noose. The noose is then anchored to trees, fence posts and other vegetation, and positioned in such a way to capture animals either by the foot (placed parallel with the surface) or by the head or body (suspended vertically).

Snare traps are placed along game trails or fence lines where there is a lot of animal activity. The nooses are carefully camouflaged or held in place with fine vegetation, and twigs or rocks are often placed to direct animal movement towards the snare. Some hunters even go as far as baiting their traps or placing them directly in front of animal dwellings (such as porcupine burrows). Stands of alien and disturbed natural vegetation tend to be hotspots for snaring activity.

Where are snares placed?

Snare traps are placed along game trails or fence lines where there is a lot of animal activity. The nooses are carefully camouflaged or held in place with fine vegetation, and twigs or rocks are often placed to direct animal movement towards the snare. Some hunters even go as far as baiting their traps or placing them directly in front of animal dwellings (such as porcupine burrows). Stands of alien and disturbed natural vegetation tend to be hotspots for snaring activity.

Why do people use this method of hunting?

Materials used to make snares are cheap and easy to come by. Snares are lightweight, can be carried inconspicuously and are not easily detected in the landscape. If one does not look out for it specifically, it is likely that they will become so-called damage causing animals (repeat offenders involved in livestock depredation events) due to an inability to effectively hunt natural wild prey.

What does the law say?

Hunting with snares is specified as a prohibited hunting method in terms of the Nature Conservation Ordinance No.19 of 1974, specifically section 29 (d).

“...29. Prohibited ways of hunting.—No person shall unless he or she is the holder of a permit authorising him or her to do so, hunt any wild animal—  
(d) by means of any trap...”

“...Herman, W.A., Leslie, A.J., & Whitman, A. (2019). Socioeconomic and biophysical determinants of wire snare poaching incidence and behaviour in the Boland Region of South Africa. *Journal for Nature Conservation*, Volume 52.

“...Herman, W.A., Leslie, A.J., & Whitman, A. (2019). Traditional medicinal animal use by Bush and San communities in the Western Cape Province, South Africa. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine*, 15:34.

#### What are the concerns about hunting with snares?

Animal welfare is a major concern since caught animals die a slow, painful death or can be severely injured or maimed if they manage to escape. The practice is highly wasteful since active snares are often not checked at all, resulting in captured animals simply rotting away. This method of hunting is extremely indiscriminate in that the hunter cannot select for species, age or sex of animals caught.

#### Do snares pose a threat to biodiversity?

Private property harbours a large proportion of biodiversity in South Africa. A recent study\* (2017/18) in the Western Cape indicated that snaring activity is widespread and common on private properties bordering on protected areas.

A subsequent patrol project by the Cape Leopard Trust has confirmed this and hundreds of snares have been removed. Snare hunters who took part in the initial survey indicated that the species mostly caught are porcupine and small antelope such as duiker, kudu and reedbuck. This is particularly concerning since porcupine and small antelope form the staple of leopard diet in the Western Cape. Although predators are not targeted per se, they use the same habitat and paths as their prey and can themselves also be ensnared. There are a couple of reported cases where leopard and caracal have managed to break free from a snare anchor point, but with the snare still cutting into the body. If such individuals manage to survive, it is likely that they will become so-called damage causing animals (repeat offenders involved in livestock depredation events) due to an inability to effectively hunt natural wild prey.

Perceptive and small antelope form the staple of leopard diet in the Western Cape but are the animals most commonly caught in snares.

#### What can you do to prevent illegal snare hunting on your property?

- Forewarn all permanent and seasonal workers that snaring is illegal and will not be tolerated (include clause in contracts).
- All other contractors entering the property (i.e. wood cutters, fuel burners, alien clearing teams, etc.) should be made aware of zero tolerance towards snaring.
- Engage in conversation with the workforce to understand the underlying factors driving backyard hunting and snaring activity, and try to resolve those matters.
- Educate the workforce about the negative aspects and impacts of snaring.
- Conduct regular, visible patrols to find and remove snares.
- Limit/restrict access to materials that can be used to make snares (i.e. discarded vineyard wire and cabling used in shade and wind netting).
- Share knowledge and create awareness about snaring activity among neighbours (51% of owners/managers of properties where regular snare activity was recorded in a recent study, were unaware of this happening and did not know what to look out for).

#### How can you contribute to monitoring and research?

You can report snares in the Western Cape via the Cape Leopard Trust website. The CLT's online “Snare Aware” tool is free and easy to use on your phone or computer. The data you collect will aid the CLT and CapeNature in monitoring snaring activity and employing adaptive management strategies.

Find the Snare Aware database here:  
[app.capeleopard.org.za/](http://app.capeleopard.org.za/)

TEXT AND PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY THE CAPE LEOPARD TRUST

Snare Aware guide for landowners and the public

## Piketberg HWC Questionnaires

Following a gradual but concerning increase in the number of reported conflict incidents between farmers and leopards in the Piketberg region, the community invited the CLT to investigate and offer support. In addition to the camera survey, a dedicated Community Outreach Officer supports farmers and provides advice on how to protect livestock from depredation. A robustly designed questionnaire survey has gathered information on stock losses and current management practices. The data are being analysed with the aim to determine which mitigation measures can potentially reduce economic losses and risk for livestock owners, which in turn will hopefully lead to improved attitudes towards leopard conservation.

## HWC incident report booklets

A new reporting booklet for registering livestock depredation incidents with guidelines to reduce conflict with predators was designed in partnership with CapeNature. Copies of the booklet are being distributed as part of a campaign to engage 100 farmers with this tool in the upcoming months.



### Cederberg Verification Officers

In the Cederberg, human-predator conflict is the biggest threat to leopard survival and a people-centric approach is required to educate and empower the communities that share their living space with leopards. Through our Conservation Activator programme, we trained 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. Empowering VOs as intra-community leaders has been effective at promoting holistic husbandry practices to reduce livestock depredation by predators, which will ultimately reduce the risk of retaliatory killings of leopards. Four VOs have been trained and are operating in the small communities of the Cederberg, with plans to expand the programme with three more VOs in additional areas.

### Future goals in a nutshell:

- Continue with the Snare Aware extension work in the Boland region to encourage private landowners, land managers, farm labourers and the general public to actively look out for and remove snares and contribute the data to the CLT via our online platform.
- Continue with the community outreach work in the Piketberg and Cederberg regions to support livestock farmers and gather data on conflict incidents via the incident report booklets.
- Conduct follow-up questionnaires in the Piketberg study area to ascertain whether farmers have changed their management practices and to assess effectiveness.



# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

## Pre-lockdown activities

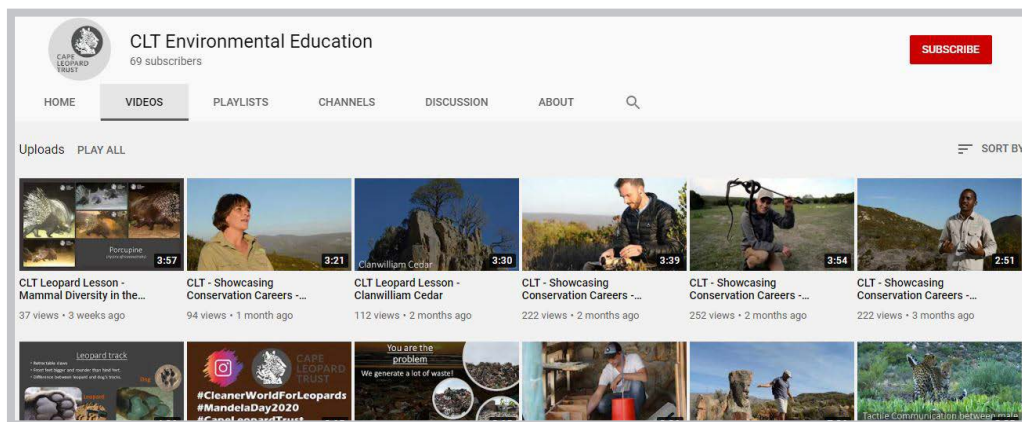
The Cape Leopard Trust Environmental Education (EE) Project recently celebrated ten years of its innovative experiential education programme of activities, including wilderness camps, eco-clubs, day outings, holiday programmes and presentations. At the end of 2019, the EE team had the opportunity to engage groups of learners at two Boland campsites. Wortelgat campsite near Stanford hosted our 2019 Art Competition winners camp, while we also had the honour of hosting a group of differently-abled learners from Camphill School Hermanus at the Disakloof campsite in Betty's Bay. Cederberg camps were hosted at the ever-popular Rietgat campsite at Sanddrif Private Holiday Resort where learners are free to explore nature and absorb true wilderness.



## Environmental education in a pandemic

While the COVID19 pandemic and associated levels of lockdown affected our CLT Research and Conservation activities, the negative impact on the Education project was most profound. In March 2020 the EE team was forced to deviate from direct contact work as a result of lockdown restrictions, and had to adapt and rethink teaching models 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. We created a dedicated environmental education YouTube channel which now hosts a number of online resources – notably a suite of “Leopard Lessons” on topics that aid the understanding of nature and the world leopards live in. The channel also features a series “Showcasing Conservation Careers”, aimed at inspiring youngsters to consider occupations in the conservation field; a “Let’s Talk Education” series intended to stimulate dialogue on the importance of EE; and a very popular “Virtual Hike” in the Cederberg [[EE YouTube Channel](#)]. To reinforce teaching, every online lesson is accompanied by a supporting activity and memorandum to enhance and test comprehension – these are all free to download and available from our website [[EE resources](#)].





## Annual youth art competition and exhibition

The 2020 annual CLT youth art competition was created to encourage the reuse and recycling of everyday materials and to inspire innovation. The aim was to create a leopard sculpture out of recycled, reused, or repurposed materials, and to adorn the sculpture with the creative application of everyday items we would normally throw away. We were once again astounded by the talent of our young artists and the sophistication of the winning art piece.

The launch of our children's book (more on page [16-17](#)) also presented an opportunity to showcase some of the best junior art pieces submitted to the CLT annual youth art competition over the past decade. A children's art exhibition entitled "Leopards of the Cape – Surviving against all Odds", was hosted at the Dylan Lewis Sculpture Garden for a limited period, with the artworks available for sale to raise funds for the EE project.

Supporting the  
UN Sustainable  
Development  
Goals:



## Post-lockdown activities

The relaxation of lockdown measures in the latter half of 2020 allowed our environmental educators limited opportunity to once again engage with learners face to face, and a number of suitably physically-distanced presentations have been delivered to schools in our research areas.

## Future goals in a nutshell:

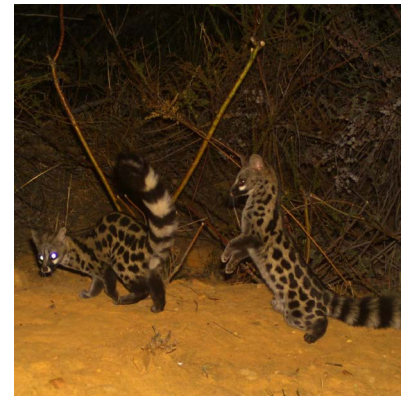
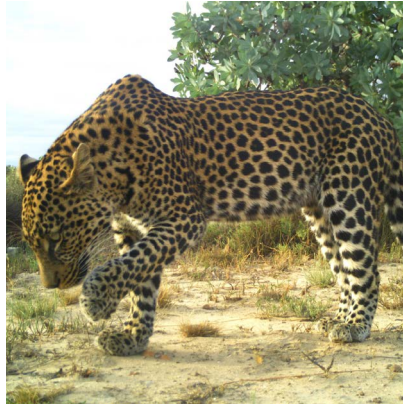
- Work towards a more inclusive education programme with a specific focus on impaired learners.
- Focus on advancing women in conservation through our "Girls in Conservation" holiday programme.
- Conduct "Train the Trainer" sessions focused on empowering teachers and education guides as conduits for spreading the CLT research and conservation message.
- Expand on an integrated learning programme with a balance between online and contact sessions.
- Work with the Western Cape Provincial Government's Education Department to support environmental education in the curriculum.





*“We need to learn how to work with nature rather than against it”*

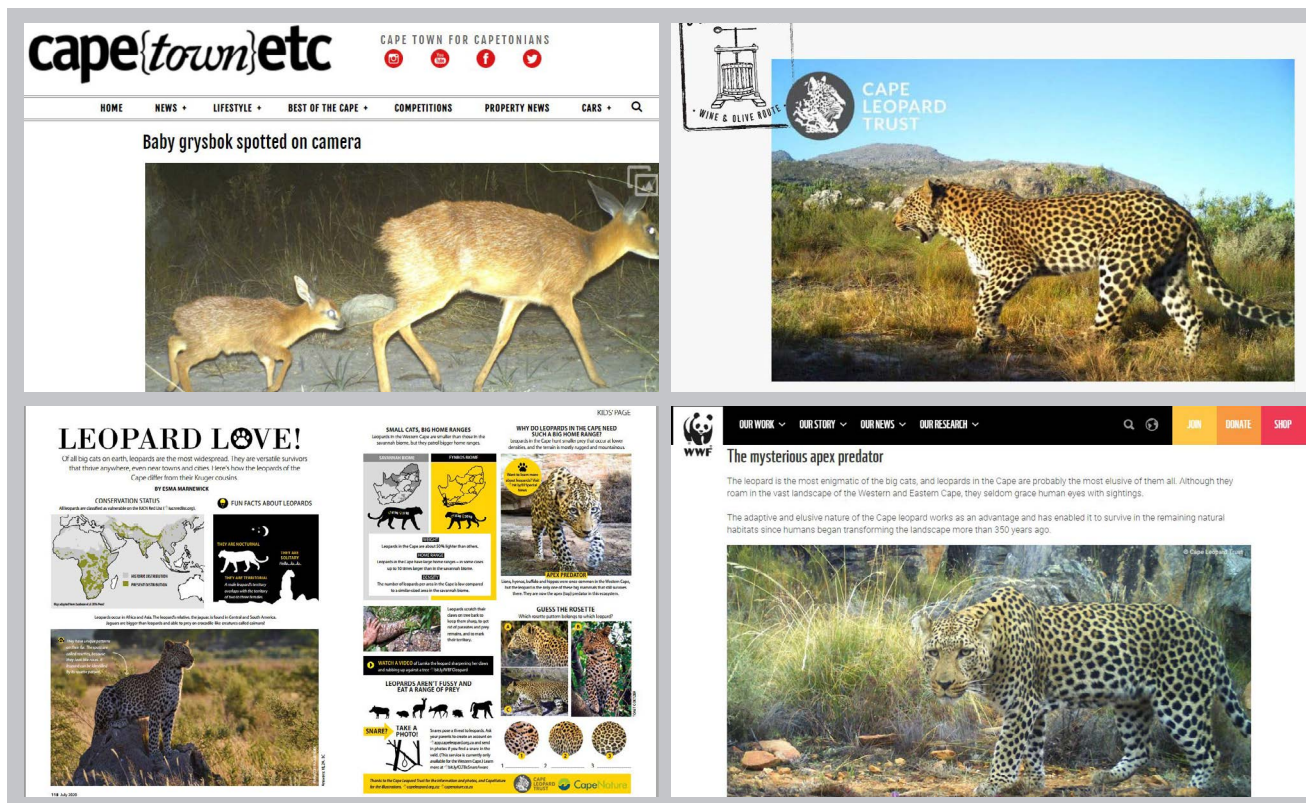
- Sir David Attenborough





# BROADCASTING OUR MESSAGE

The Cape Leopard Trust is a very small organisation aiming to make a big and meaningful impact. One way of doing this is by ensuring that all of our Research, Conservation and Education activities and stories are disseminated accurately in an accessible format to a wide audience. To accomplish this, we added a dedicated Communications and Media Portfolio to the CLT staff complement at the start of 2020. It includes all media (CLT website and social platforms), digital storytelling and content creation, internal and external communication and liaison, and outreach via public presentations and field outings for sponsors and ambassadors. While this portfolio is still in its infancy and finding its feet, it has proven invaluable in bolstering awareness about the CLT in the public consciousness.



## Cape Leopard Trust website

During the reporting period, our website attracted in excess of 31 000 views. The most popular news stories were an update to our Piketberg camera survey, and our blog piece on leopards and lockdown (4800 and 3500 sessions respectively). A refresh of the current CLT website, that will result in a simplified, trimmed down information gateway and more effective donation portal, is planned for the next reporting period.

## Cape Leopard Trust Social Media

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 a leopard sighting on top of Uitkyk Pass in the Cederberg – reached >72 000 people. The second most popular was our blog piece on leopards and lockdown, reaching 50 000. Ten different FB posts reached in excess of 25 000 people. The total combined reach of all CLT-generated FB posts for the reporting period amounted to 765 000 (this is excluding the reach of CLT posts by external pages).

## Cape Leopard Trust in the media

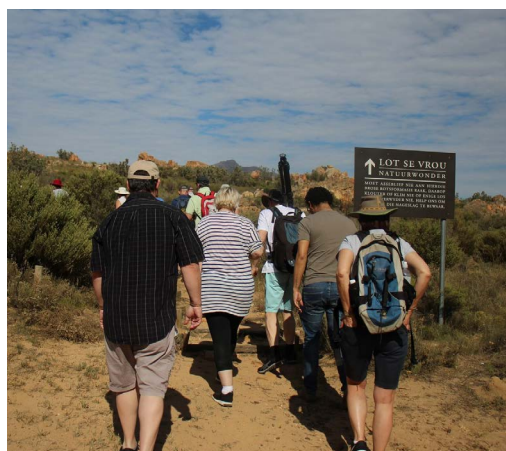
The CLT was featured or received mentions in a range of printed, online and broadcast media including Getaway, Earth Touch News, Netwerk24, WWF SA, Weg!/Go!, SmileFM and RSG.



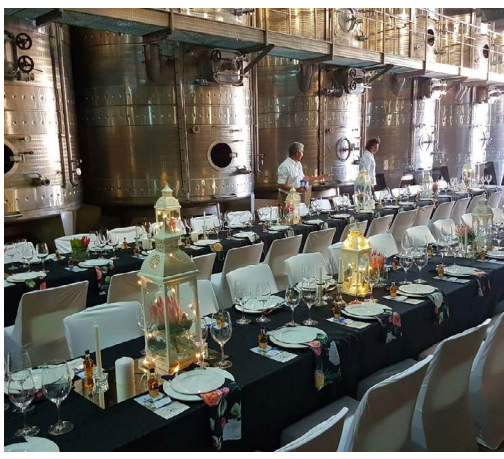
# CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

In 2019, the Cape Leopard Trust marked its 15th birthday, and this presented the perfect opportunity for a celebration. Over a sunny weekend in October, 60 special guests, friends and partners joined the CLT team and our board of Trustees at the spectacular setting of Cederberg Private Cellar to spend a weekend worthy of the occasion. Guests were treated to a variety of activities and treats, culminating in a gala celebration dinner in the warm heart of the wine cellar.

Celebrating a landmark birthday in the Cederberg, where the Cape Leopard Trust began its journey, reminded us once again why it is so important to protect the Cape's last wild places. These landscapes offer protection not just for rare fauna and flora, but also for our heritage and culture, which is part of our unique African identity.









# LEOPARDS, LEGENDS AND LITERACY

The Cape Leopard Trust Environmental Education Project has always dreamed of creating a children's book that could double as a conservation tool and a teaching resource to complement the EE programmes. One of the positive outcomes of the extended lockdown period was the opportunity to finally realise this longstanding dream. The book: "Footprints in the Fynbos" (English version) and "Voetspore in die Fynbos" (Afrikaans translation) is a collaborative effort drawing on 16 years' worth of CLT research, the writing art of children's book author Liza M Roux and the engaging illustrations of Judy Maré. In October 2020 the dream finally came true and culminated in the launch of the newly published book at an intimate event hosted by Dylan Lewis Sculpture Garden, Cederberg Private Cellar and Regina Mundi Global Advisors, and attended by private, corporate, government and NGO partners.

## More about the book

The 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 facts, while the final section includes fun activities for young and old.

The goal was to offer an accessible and entertaining activity book aimed at participants between the ages of 7-14, introducing them to leopards and the CLT, explaining the importance of conservation and encouraging youngsters to take interest and pride in their natural environment.

The book has been developed in engaging fun-to-read and easy-to-follow prose. Rather than being presented didactically, the learning outcomes are approached in a playful, interactive manner. The educational teaching and learning resources contained in the book are aligned with the South African school curriculum, and the book is written in a dyslexic-friendly font with weighted characters.

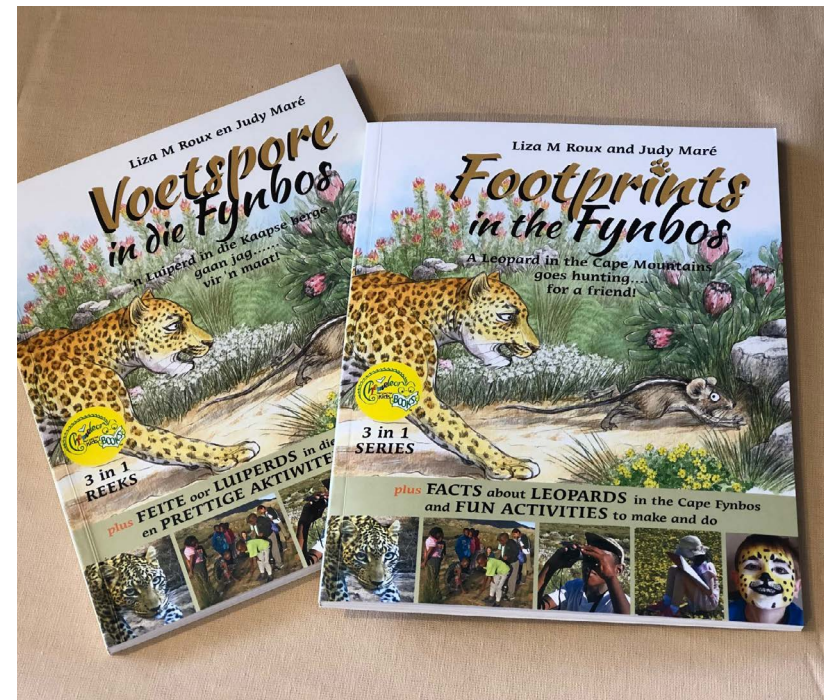
## Future vision and distribution

To increase awareness and broaden our reach we are working with partners on an isiXhosa translation, as well as a South African sign language interpretation of the story and an audiobook in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa to aid our teachings for hearing and visually impaired learners.

The book was originally intended as a teaching tool for the CLT EE programme, but it quickly became evident that there was a wider need for this kind of resource. It was decided to also offer the book for sale [\[CLT online shop\]](#). Each book sold enables us to gift another book to an underprivileged child in South Africa, many of whom have never had a book to call their own.

## In the media

The book launch was supported positively by the media, and enjoyed book reviews, features and interviews broadcast on eNuus, CapeTalk, RSG, Weg!/Go! and Cape Town's Child Magazine, among others.



Book distribution to Anna Foundation through a sponsorship from Regina Mundi Global Advisors



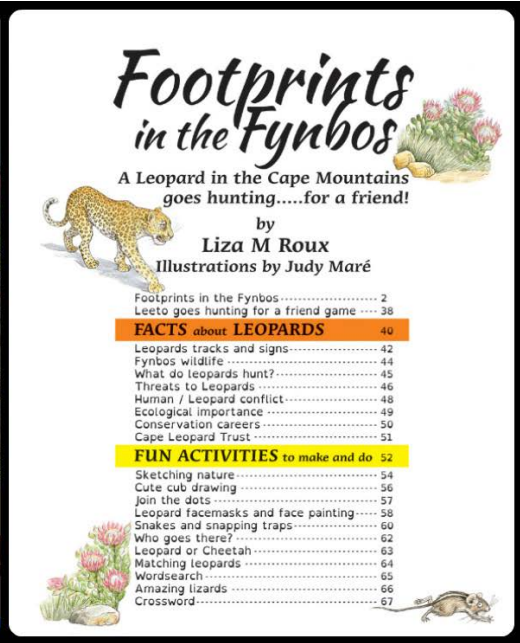
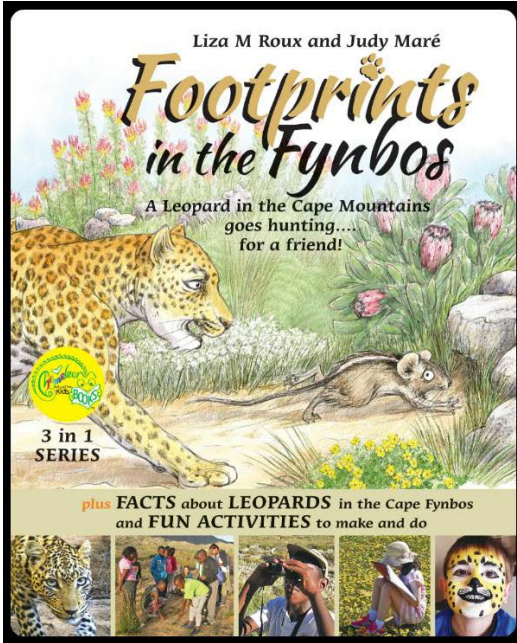


Image credit: Anna Foundation



Image credit: Anna Foundation



# LEOPARDS AND LOCKDOWN

The main talking point of 2020 is undoubtedly the COVID19 pandemic and how it changed life as we know it. One of the most revealing aspects at the height of the worldwide lockdowns were the multiple reports and stories from around the globe showing wild animals in places usually overrun by humans. Countless memes, comics and illustrations on social media enforced the idea that “animals were reclaiming the earth” and wildlife once again had more freedom to roam since a large proportion of the world’s human population was confined to their homes.

South Africa experienced one of the harshest lockdowns of all countries. Virtually everything came to a grinding halt and people were forced to be still. Many took this time to appreciate the wonder of things around them, wildlife included, and we received more than our usual share of reports of leopard and other animal sightings. The media, desperate for some good news, reported widely on camera trap photos of leopards in the Cape Winelands and Overstrand. In many cases, photos were touted as being the direct result of lockdown and leop-

ards now suddenly “roaming free”. What the reports and articles failed to convey was that leopards have always been here – and the sightings were not necessarily linked to the lockdown. Much hype and sensation were created around images that would during “normal times” have gone unnoticed – and maybe that in itself is some food for thought...

It was indeed entirely possible for leopards to be a bit bolder and move lower down mountain slopes than they usually would due to the decrease in human movement and activity. It’s not just the physical presence of humans that was much reduced, but also our cacophony of sounds (traffic, construction etc) and smells (exhaust fumes, processing plants etc), which collectively, usually act as a powerful deterrent to most wildlife. Leopards are territorial and will constantly look for opportunities to extend their individual home ranges. They are also inquisitive and like to investigate new areas, especially younger cats that do not yet hold a territory of their own. Leopards are generally quite savvy and will readily retreat as soon as danger is sensed or if it feels uncom-

fortable. That said, never try to approach a leopard on foot, never corner it and never try to catch it. If you are on foot, retreat slowly, facing the animal, to prevent it from panicking. Leopards in the Cape are generally very wary and will try not to attract attention.

Many people are unaware that wild leopards are still living free and unfenced in almost all of the mountainous regions of the Western Cape – and that they have been there since long before lockdown – even long before human settlement of the Cape Province. This is something to be celebrated and valued, but as urban and agricultural developments encroach further into our natural areas, there is ever greater pressure on natural habitats – the homes of our wild neighbours... Perhaps we can use this lockdown lesson to reflect on how we perceive the wild spaces around us and how we conduct ourselves in nature, knowing that wildlife like leopards and so many other species were there first. Ultimately, it is our actions and choices that will drive them closer and closer to the edge of existence.



Camera trap images of leopards with the lights of Grabouw, Gordon’s Bay and Stellenbosch Farms/Kuilsriver in the background.



## RECENT SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

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.

Drouilly, M., Kelly, C., Cristescu, B., Teichman, K. and O’Riain, M.J. (2020) Investigating the hidden costs of livestock guarding dogs: a case study in Namaqualand, South Africa. *Journal of Vertebrate Biology*. Vol 69(3): 20033

<https://doi.org/10.25225/jvb.20033>

Mann, G.K.H., O’Riain, M.J. and Parker, D.M. (2020) A leopard’s favourite spots: Habitat preference and population density of leopards in a semi-arid biodiversity hotspot. *Journal of Arid Environments*. Vol 181: 104218.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaridenv.2020.104218>

Viljoen, S., O’Riain, M.J., Penzhorn, B.L., Drouilly, M., Serieys, L.E.K., Cristescu, B., Teichman, K.J. & Bishop, J.M. (2020) Molecular detection of tick-borne pathogens in caracals (*Caracal caracal*) living in human-modified landscapes of South Africa. *Parasites Vectors*. Vol 13(1): 220.

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13071-020-04075-5>

Leighton, G.R.M., Bishop, J.M., O’Riain, M.J., Broadfield, J., Meröndun, J., Avery, G., Avery, D.M. & Serieys, L.E.K. (2020) An integrated dietary assessment increases feeding event detection in an urban carnivore. *Urban Ecosystems*. Vol 23: 569–583

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11252-020-00946-y>

Nieman, W.A., Wilkinson, A. & Leslie, A.J. (2020) Farmer attitudes and regional risk modelling of human-wildlife conflict on farmlands bordering the Boland Mountain Complex, South Africa. *African Journal of Wildlife Research*. Vol 50(1): 36–54.

<https://doi.org/10.3957/056.050.0036>

Jansen, C., Leslie, A.J., Cristescu, B., Teichman, K.J. & Martins, Q. (2019) Determining the diet of an African mesocarnivore, the caracal: scat or GPS cluster analysis? *Wildlife Biology*. Vol 2019(1): 1-8.

<https://doi.org/10.2981/wlb.00579>





# MAKING OUR WORK POSSIBLE

We would like to acknowledge all our partners, friends, donors and fellow conservation organisations that have enabled us to make a difference this year. It is heartwarming to work with like-minded individuals and organisations towards our goals, and we value your support.

Main funders, donors and sponsors 2019/2020

## R1m and above

[ABAX Foundation](#)

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## R50 000 – R99 000

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John-Paul and Warrick Deacon

Patrick Krauss & Robert Schmirler

Michael Leather

## R20 000 – R49 000

[Bike2Help](#)

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[Mouton Citrus](#)

[Raramuri Design](#)

[Jack Friedmann Jewellers](#)

[MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet](#)

Anthony Mederer

Douglas Jooste Trust

Kenichi Ohashi/Redbridge

Anonymous

## The Cape Leopard Trust

(Registration number IT 2720/2004)

Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2019

### Statement of Comprehensive Income

	2019	2018
Revenue	R6 251 798	R4 845 046
Cost of Sales	-R64 696	-R69 155
<b>Gross Surplus</b>	<b>R6 187 102</b>	<b>R4 775 891</b>
Other income	-	R70 562
Operating Expenses	-R5 276 664	-R4 397 524
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	<b>R910 438</b>	<b>R448 929</b>
Investment revenue	R205 749	R182 180
Finance costs	-	-R129
<b>Suplus for the year</b>	<b>R1 116 187</b>	<b>R630 980</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>R1 116 187</b>	<b>R630 980</b>

### Statement of Financial Position

#### Assets

##### Non-Current Assets

Property, plant and equipment	R1 139 381	R1 446 742
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##### Current Assets

Inventories	R53 548	R62 025
Trade and other receivables	R51 361	R23 915
Cash and cash equivalents	R8 247 231	R4 769 552
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>R9 491 521</b>	<b>R6 302 234</b>

#### Equity and Liabilities

##### Equity

Trust capital	R200	R200
Accumulated surplus	R7 398 374	R6 282 188
	<b>R7 398 574</b>	<b>R6 282 388</b>

##### Liabilities

##### Non-Current Liabilities

Deferred grant	R2 000 000	-
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##### Current Liabilities

Trade and other payables	R46 995	R19 846
Provisions	R45 952	-
	<b>R92 947</b>	<b>R19 847</b>

<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>R2 092 947</b>	<b>R19 847</b>
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<b>Total Equity and Liabilities</b>	<b>R9 491 521</b>	<b>R6 302 234</b>
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CAPE  
LEOPARD  
TRUST

The Cape Leopard Trust  
Registered Trust Number: IT 2720/2004  
PBO Number: 930 016 841 | NPO Number: 192-416  
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Designed by: Khanya Peacock