



# CAPE LEOPARD TRUST – THEORY OF CHANGE

## VISION

A South Africa where leopards thrive, for the benefit of nature and society.

## MISSION

We protect leopards and leopard landscapes, and support coexistence between humans and wildlife, through collaborative research, conservation, education and strategic communications.

### CHALLENGES

Vulnerability of leopards in the Cape is a risk to ecosystem health

Climate change may have far-reaching cascading impacts

Loss, change, and fragmentation of limited leopard habitat

Vulnerability of leopard prey due to poaching and environmental change

Illegal hunting and lethal predator control

Insecure local livelihoods and food insecurity

Limited knowledge about conservation, and how and why to value and protect nature

Limited local employment opportunities in the green economy

### ASSUMPTIONS

Leopards are a flagship species with symbolic and cultural value to society

Leopards are a keystone species that is critical for ecosystem functioning

It is valuable to share what we are learning with regional, national and global conservation partners

Novel, interdisciplinary research methods and conservation solutions are required to understand and address leopard challenges

Creative, inclusive approaches to managing competition for resources between people and wildlife will enable conservation

When people have a better awareness of and relationship with nature, they are more likely to protect it

It is crucial to provide opportunities to develop skills and livelihoods for people living in leopard areas

### MECHANISMS

#### RESEARCH

- Robust data sets
- Academic publications and presentations
- Popular science materials
- Deeper understanding of leopard ecology

#### CONSERVATION

- Protected, monitored environments
- Novel, human-centred approaches to wildlife and biodiversity conservation
- Strategies, policies and plans

#### EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Educational resources
- Workshops, nature experiences, trainings, enrichment groups, presentations
- Beneficiary reach

#### STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

- Impact stories
- Websites
- Communication campaigns
- Social media storytelling
- Popular media engagement

### OUTPUTS

Best practice monitoring and understanding of leopard populations, distribution and risks

Reduced levels of human wildlife conflict

Population connectivity is safeguarded through strategic stewardship of key leopard corridor habitat

Improved collaboration with landowners, communities, local government and other role-players

Better protection of environments for leopards, biodiversity and people

Increased accessibility of quality education resources across sectors

Increased awareness and understanding of the value of nature for people living in leopard areas

Increased local capacity development and employment opportunities in conservation

### OUTCOMES