



CAPE  
LEOPARD  
TRUST

IMPACT REPORT 2019

15 Years in Review





*"In the end we will conserve only what we love;  
we will love only what we understand;  
and we will understand only what we are taught."*

*Baba Dioum, 1968.*



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*Cover photo: Camera trap image - curious leopard cub*

*Photo: Leopard spoor*

# 2003

## Cape Leopard Trust – milestones on our 15-year journey

*The Cape Leopard Trust has achieved so many significant milestones in its short life, it's difficult to choose the highlights that are most deserving of being mentioned. What stands out above all else, is the way people have responded to the cause over the years and how much we've achieved. Something that's easy to lose sight of when 'in the thick of it'.*

*Quinton Martins first started the project in the Cederberg in 2003. He discovered that on average seven leopards per year were killed due to human-wildlife conflict at that time. As the project evolved and awareness was raised, this dropped to around two fatalities per year. Farmers in the Cederberg Conservancy subsequently made a commitment not to use lethal predator control, and this was a watershed moment in the CLT's history. The Cederberg Conservancy remains a major supporter of our work, along with many other new partners and friends that have joined us along the way.*

### 2003

- Landowner and farmer, Johan van der Westhuizen, meets Quinton Martins in the Cederberg. Johan becomes the first funder of leopard research in the Cederberg, and offers a loan vehicle to mobilise the project for a year. A 1963 Landy known as 'Old Blue'.

### 2004

- The Cape Leopard Trust is formalised in August 2004 by Johan van der Westhuizen, Quinton Martins, Andrew Baxter, Judy Sole, Nicole Martins, Peter Lloyd and Chris Henshilwood.
- First field cameras gather records of leopards roaming the Cederberg.

# 2004

- CapeNature pledges their support for the project.
- The first official project vehicle, a special Suzuki affectionately known as 'Frikadel', joins the project.
- Publication accepted for the International Journal of Environmental Studies reporting first significant results.
- First CLT fundraiser takes place at the Two Oceans Aquarium. Leopard's Leap Family Vineyards becomes a project partner.

### 2005

- Funds raised for GPS tracking collars. First leopard successfully collared and tracked.

### 2007

- Little Karoo pilot project begins with CapeNature at Gamkaberg Nature Reserve.

### 2009

# 2007

- CLT Environmental Education Programme launched.

### 2010

- Large-scale camera survey and leopard collaring gets underway in the Little Karoo.
- TokTokkie camp at Matjiesrivier is established.
- Two leopard cubs born to the collared female F10 known as 'Spot'. The youngsters were safely observed at a remote den site for two months.
- With a large-scale field camera survey the Boland Leopard Project was launched to determine the status of the area's mammal and leopard population

# 2005

# 2009

# 2010

# 2016

## 2016

- Partnership with Animal Demography Unit (UCT) established with the launch of Virtual Museum for Mammals (VIMMA, now called MammalMAP)
- Launch of associate research: Black Eagle Project in the Cederberg and Sandveld
- Education Project acquires a 21-seater bus to transport groups for camps and outings.

# 2017

## 2017

- Community Outreach Project launched in the Cederberg.
- Science support partnership established with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).

# 2018

## 2018

- Cederberg Project completes year-long, large-scale field camera survey.

# 2019

## 2019

- Boland Snare Patrol Project initiated.
- Dedicated Cederberg Environmental Educator appointed to serve Cederberg schools and communities.
- Four community-nominated Verification Officers recruited and trained by the Cederberg project.
- CLT Camera Trap Analysis Workshop in partnership with ZSL & Wilderness Foundation Africa to take place in November to train early career conservationists.

# 2011

## 2011

- Partnership with Animal Demography Unit (UCT) established with the launch of Virtual Museum for Mammals (VIMMA, now called MammalMAP)
- Launch of associate research: Black Eagle Project in the Cederberg and Sandveld
- Education Project acquires a 21-seater bus to transport groups for camps and outings.

# 2012

## 2012

- First leopard collared in the Boland

# 2013

## 2013

- Namaqualand PEACE Project launches in partnership with Conservation South Africa & Woolworths to investigate ecologically and economically supportive farming methods.

## 2014

- Launch of associate research: Cape Cryptic Carnivore project in the Little Karoo
- Dr Quinton Martins leaves for the USA. Bryan Havemann appointed CEO.
- Launch of associate research: Urban Caracal Project in Table Mountain National Park in partnership with SANParks.
- Dedicated Cape Town & Boland Environmental Educator appointed.

# 2015

## 2015

- CLT Scientific Advisory Board formed. Academic support network to guide CLT research plans.
- Bryan Havemann leaves the CLT to relocate to the Timbavati.



# Chairman's letter

*This year we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Cape Leopard Trust. From a humble beginning in 2004, the Cape Leopard Trust has grown into an internationally recognized research NGO.*

*Our organization is built on solid relationships and we are blessed to maintain collaborative partnerships with various conservation organizations, a core of wonderful corporate sponsors and also the many land owners and individuals who are passionate about conservation and who support our vision. Their contributions ensure that the foundations of our organization remain solid and secure.*

*This report contains a reflective overview from our management and the research and education teams, in which they share their successes and challenges. Over the past years we have been able to produce ground-breaking research on the Cape's leopards and the challenges they face for their survival. Of particular concern is the alarming escalation in numbers of illegal wire snares which we now encounter in the Western Cape areas where these leopards roam.*

*These inhumane snares are used in the bushmeat trade and are devastating for predator and prey species alike. It is estimated that 90% of all animals caught in snares are never even collected by their hunters. The drivers of hunting with wire snares is being explored by our Boland research team and is the subject of one of our most recent scientific publications, but one influence comes as a direct result of the migration of huge numbers of people to the Western Cape.*

*The increasing pressure this puts on our finite natural resources is a daunting challenge which now confronts the Cape Leopard Trust and nature conservation officialdom.*

*Our future endeavours to secure the safety and survival of our leopards and other wildlife will now also include engaging this rapidly expanding threat.*

*We are proud of our dedicated and hardworking personnel. My thanks to our CEO, her management team and staff for their enthusiasm and dedication. They are a small group of people who do a tremendous job.*

*A special word of thanks to CapeNature, our partners in the Western Cape, who over the years supported our conservation efforts and helped to ensure that the Cape Leopard Trust could operate efficiently and produce quality research.*

*Also, my thanks to our Board of Scientific Advisors and the Board of Trustees for their dedication and inputs into the activities of the Cape Leopard Trust. Their support and counsel is often behind the scenes, but of vital importance. It is a privilege and pleasure to be associated with this Cape Leopard Trust team.*

*Johan van der Westhuizen  
Chairman*



**Photo opposite:** A rare camera trap photo of a leopard in the snow

# Introduction from the CEO

*An anniversary provides the perfect opportunity for reflection, allowing us to delve into the past and witness the growth and change over the passing of time. When the Cape Leopard Trust started fifteen years ago, there was scant knowledge among landowners of leopard behaviour, or the role of predators in functioning landscapes. So, from the outset we prioritised scientific research, which enabled us to gather valuable data, and with it the ability to share the first evidence and information on leopards in the Cape. We have chosen to remain small, and over the years we have expanded our reach by establishing collaborative partnerships with conservation stakeholders and communities that stretch far beyond the borders of South Africa. As a small organisation we can also react quickly to evolving conservation challenges, particularly in human-wildlife conflict situations, and our experience working hand in hand with people on the ground using research continues to be a good formula for achieving positive local conservation successes.*

*In 2019, our education project celebrates its 10th birthday. In its short life, it has reached over 60 000 youth and exposed numerous interns and volunteers to the benefits of learning in nature. Knowledge transfer is the only solution if young people are to understand the true wealth of the environment. Our history in experiential learning has enabled us to curate valuable resources that contribute to and support this space, and there is still so much we can do to inspire the next generation to discover and protect the natural resources upon which they depend.*

*As a teenager, our organisation is now in an exciting transition phase, and our focus this year has been on building resilience and evaluating how we can amplify our impact even further, while maintaining operational efficiency. The conservation world faces mounting challenges to conserve dwindling fauna and flora, and though there are positive signs that governments are beginning to acknowledge the importance of protecting nature because of its benefit to human well-being as well as the economy, political will to make the necessary changes to policy is still the exception rather than the rule. The relevance of our work should not be underestimated.*

*Our success is ultimately down to the strength of our network. I would like to acknowledge the many influencers that over the years have been instrumental in shaping the Cape Leopard Trust of today. I thank our dedicated team who drive our vision forward, our board of Trustees and our Scientific Advisory Board. Most important is that we could not have done this without you, our partners, friends and supporters. We are proud to present our 15-year review, reflecting on where it all began, identifying our unique strengths as a conservation organisation, and considering where our journey will take us next. We look forward to crafting our next chapter of research, conservation and education - with your help. Going forward, our collective investment in protecting Africa's iconic wildlife and their habitats is more urgent than ever, and time is a luxury we cannot afford to waste. We are all architects of our own destiny, and we each have the potential to create the change we want to see in our world, but it's even more powerful if we do it together.*

*Helen Turnbull - Chief Executive Officer*





**Helen Turnbull**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



**Lana Müller**  
*Research & Operations Manager*



**Anita Wilkinson**  
*Boland Project Coordinator*



**Jeannie Hayward**  
*Boland Researcher & Media Spokesperson*



**Yvonne Kamp**  
*Trust Administrator*



**Chris Eksteen**  
*Education & Outreach Manager*



**Naas van Jaarsveld**  
*Environmental Educator Boland*



**Jaco Fourie**  
*Environmental Educator  
Cederberg*



**Chavoux Luyt**  
*Community Outreach Officer*



**MJ Grobler**  
*Snare patrol officer*



**Hadley Lyners**  
*Environmental Education  
Coordinator (2014 - 2019)*



**Catherine Kühn**  
*Environmental Educator  
(2014 - 2019)*



**Mike Henshall**  
*Environmental Educator  
(2017 - 2018)*



**Ismail Wambi**  
*Community Outreach Officer  
(2017 - 2018)*



**Christiaan Lochner**  
*Cederberg Research Assistant  
(2017 - 2018)*



**Frank Scheepers**  
*Verification Officer Cederberg*



**Rosco Ockhuis**  
*Verification Officer Cederberg*



**Ben Farmer**  
*Verification Officer Cederberg*



**Gerald Swartz**  
*Verification Officer Cederberg*

## Our Team

# The purpose of Cape Leopard Trust

*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, and high levels of conflict with people. The Cape Leopard Trust is a not-for-profit organisation that for 15 years has been working to ensure the long-term survival of leopard populations for the benefit of nature and society. We use a combination of research, conservation, and education to better understand leopards, mitigate human-leopard conflict, promote biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity, uplift and upskill community members living in leopard areas, and inspire the next generation to become conservation ambassadors.*

**Field research, helping us to understand leopards**



**Understanding leopards**

*A thorough understanding of wildlife ecology and behaviour underpins effective management and conservation strategies. Working primarily in the Western Cape, we use a combination of field camera surveys, scat analysis, GPS tracking collars, and questionnaires to improve knowledge of leopards and the threats they face. We also work to understand the extent and drivers of illegal hunting with wire snares on the peripheries of protected areas, and the impact of these snares on leopards and their prey base. We share our findings widely to inform leopard management and conservation efforts, to help bolster regional and global knowledge of leopard ecology, and to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.*

## ***Mitigating human-leopard conflict***

*Wherever humans and wild animals overlap there is an inevitable potential for conflict that can result in harm to both wildlife and human livelihoods. In livestock farming areas, farmers may use poison and traps to kill leopards in response to predation events. To help secure farmer livelihoods and reduce human-induced leopard injuries and fatalities, we promote holistic herd management techniques and encourage the use of humane predator deterrents. We monitor these conflict mitigation activities to track changes in the distribution and intensity of human-leopard conflict over time.*

## ***Promoting biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity***

*Across South Africa, a vast proportion of suitable leopard habitat falls outside of protected areas, making private landowners fundamental conservation partners. To improve the integrity and connectivity of habitat for the benefit of leopards and all biodiversity, we work with landowners across the Western Cape to encourage their involvement in stewardship programs, and promote sustainable land-use and wildlife management practices.*

## ***Uplifting and upskilling communities***

*By involving local communities in conservation activities we not only increase the effectiveness and sustainability of these activities, but help to build the knowledge and skills of community members. Working with communities in the Cederberg we arm subsistence farmers with the knowledge, skills and resources they need to build predator-proof livestock enclosures.*

*Through our Conservation Activator programme we train community-elected representatives to be Verification Officers who assess livestock predation sites, promote humane predator deterrents, and raise awareness of predator behaviour and conflict-mitigation techniques within their communities.*

## ***Inspiring the next generation***

*If we are truly to conserve leopards and biodiversity, then we believe that we need to help people to connect with nature in a way that inspires them to be conservation ambassadors and activists. We use wilderness camps, eco-clubs and art competitions to enable schools and youth groups from within and outside leopard areas to immerse themselves in nature, connect with the wild, and learn about leopards, ecology and conservation. We also use public fora to instil a consciousness and appreciation for biodiversity across a wide spectrum of adult audiences.*



***Developing new strategies***

***Photo:*** From left to right  
Jeannie Hayward, Hadley Lyners, Anita Wilkinson, Helen Turnbull, Christiaan Lochner, Yvonne Kamp, Catherine Kühn and Ismail Wambi

# Understanding Leopards - Our 5 Points of Purpose & The Theory of Change

DRIVERS	ASSUMPTIONS	MECHANISMS	OUTCOMES	IMPACT
As apex predators, leopards contribute to and are indicators of ecosystem health	There is a lack of knowledge about leopard populations in the Cape – a biodiversity hotspot	<b>RESEARCH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Threats and mitigation</li><li>• Behavior</li><li>• Ecology</li><li>• Population density</li></ul>	Enhanced understanding of leopard ecology, behaviour and conflict mitigation informs regional conservation efforts and contributes to global knowledge	
Leopards in the Cape have large territories, resulting in competition with humans for food and space	Leopards require protecting in South Africa			
Loss of habitat means a lack of protected areas for leopards and wildlife	Leopards have cultural and practical value to society	<b>CONSERVATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stakeholder engagement</li><li>• Tools and guidelines</li><li>• Monitoring and reporting</li><li>• Policy development</li><li>• Stewardship</li></ul>	Lower levels of human-leopard conflict help to secure farmer livelihoods and reduce human-induced leopard injuries and fatalities	
The risk of human-wildlife conflict is influenced by insecure livelihoods in leopard areas	There are local capacity development and employment opportunities in conservation			
Lack of education means limited understanding about the value of the environment	Outdoor education is an excellent way of creating local stewards and ambassadors	<b>EDUCATION AND OUTREACH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learner and teacher engagement</li><li>• Farmer engagement (subsistence and commercial)</li></ul>	Improved habitat integrity and connectivity leads to healthier ecosystems with a more secure prey base for leopards and improved conservation of all species	<b>Long-term survival of leopard populations for the benefit of nature and society</b>
	Improved understanding leads to behavior change		Upskilled local community members are employable within the conservation sector	
			Youth from within and outside leopard areas feel more connected to nature and are inspired to become conservation ambassadors	

## PATHWAY TO IMPACT



# Conducting robust research to better understand leopards

*A thorough understanding of wildlife ecology and behaviour underpins effective management and conservation strategies. Working primarily in the Western Cape we use a combination of field camera surveys, scat analysis, GPS tracking collars, and questionnaires to improve knowledge of leopards and the threats they face. We share our findings widely to inform leopard management and conservation efforts, to help bolster regional and global knowledge of leopard ecology, and to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.*

## **WHAT WE'VE DONE**

*We use a combination of methods to develop a detailed understanding of leopard ecology and behaviour. Using photographs from field cameras to identify individual leopards by their unique rosette patterns, we've estimated the number and density of leopards in our Cederberg, Boland and Little Karoo study areas. The camera images have also given us insight into the relative abundance and availability of leopard prey species. We've used GPS tracking collars to obtain important information on leopard home range distributions, habitat use and movement patterns. To better understand what leopards eat we've analysed leopard scat and assessed the remains at leopard kill sites (identified through GPS cluster analyses).*

*More recently we've worked to understand the extent and drivers of illegal hunting with wire snares on the peripheries of protected areas, as well as to evaluate the impact of these snares on leopards and their prey. We've also explored the roles that large predators like leopards play in ecosystems, and how they impact on the behaviour and ecology of other predators, such as caracals and jackals.*

*Over the last fifteen years, the Trust has had the privilege of facilitating and supporting over 30 conservation researchers or interns through our work.*

## WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

### **Leopards in the Cape are small cats in need of large areas**

*Despite being only half the size of leopards in other parts of South Africa, leopards in the Cape have exceptionally large home ranges. Male leopards in the Cederberg have home ranges of between 200-1000km<sup>2</sup>, as much as 10 times the size of their Kruger National Park counterparts. Female leopards in the Cederberg have home ranges between 80-180km<sup>2</sup>, as much as seven times the size of their Kruger National Park counterparts. The vastness of these home ranges is in part driven by the relatively low productivity of the Fynbos biome compared to the Savannah biome, as prey species here are smaller, occur at much lower densities, and range in much more rugged terrain. As a result, the landscape can support relatively few leopards, and these animals must cover large areas in order to find enough food.*

### **Despite high levels of human-leopard conflict, leopards seldom prey on livestock**

*On average, livestock accounts for less than 5% of the biomass consumed by leopards in our Cederberg study area, less than 1% in our Boland study area, and less than 10% in the Little Karoo study area. Instead, as opportunistic and versatile hunters, leopards eat a wide range of species, typically taking prey in proportion to its availability in that habitat. In the Cederberg, leopards mainly eat klipspringer and rock hyrax (60% of their diet), while in the Boland, leopards mainly eat porcupine, klipspringer, rock hyrax and Cape grysbok (80% of their diet).*

*Photo: A typical wire snare positioned over a well used wildlife pathway.*

### **Illegal hunting with snares can have a detrimental impact on leopards and their prey**

*Illegal wire snare poaching on private property in the Boland affects a wide range of animals. The primary target species are small antelope and Cape porcupine, but as snares are indiscriminate many species – including leopards – may be caught. The impacts of this snaring on leopards are two-fold. Firstly, trapped leopards can be badly injured and even killed by the snares. Secondly, as small antelope and porcupines are the main prey base of leopards in this area, the uncontrolled poaching of these prey species could potentially influence the availability of food and compromise leopard survival.*

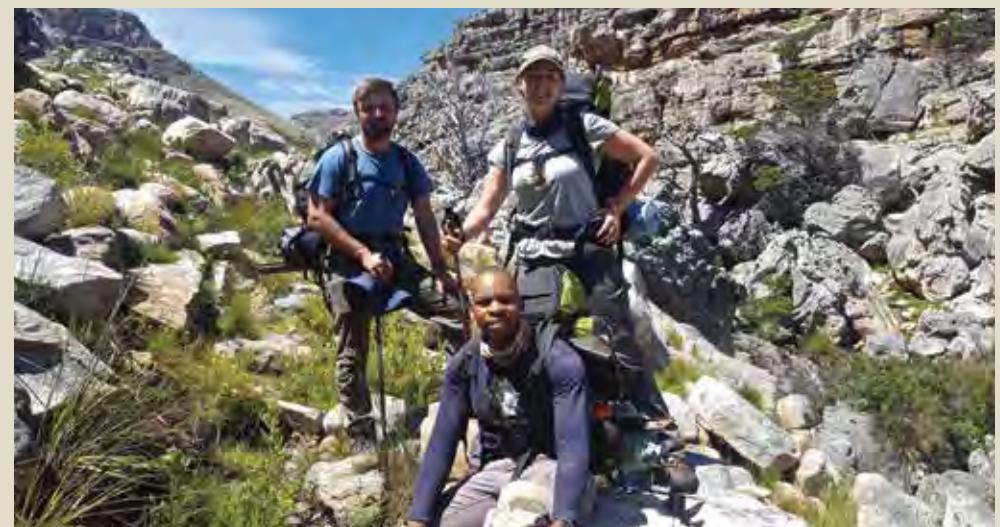


## WHAT'S NEXT

*In the Western Cape, we will continue with our existing research on leopard ecology and human-leopard conflict, refining our methods, and working to fill in the gaps in our knowledge. Using the large dataset from our Cederberg field camera survey, we will establish best-practice guidelines for monitoring leopards in low-density regions. These will include determinants of an optimal survey design (density of field cameras, survey duration and minimum survey area) for robustly estimating leopard population density and abundance in the Cape mountains and surrounding lowlands.*

*Through collaborations with key partners we will use postgraduate projects and training sessions to develop the capacity for applied research in the conservation sector. We will also continue collaborating with landowners, conservation authorities and research partners to ensure that our emerging findings inform strategic approaches to regional, national and global leopard research and conservation.*

*Finally, we intend to broaden our research approach so that we can better address the systemic drivers of human-wildlife conflict – such as habitat transformation and livelihood insecurity. To do this we will seek out opportunities across South Africa to participate in collaborative landscape-scale projects that help to develop alternative and resilient livelihoods, and that promote ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change and other pressures.*



*Photo: Leopards in the Cape have huge territories. Great distances are covered on foot in order to ensure that successful camera trap positions are located.*



*Photo: Leopard collaring*



*Leopards in the Cape are extremely elusive, GPS tracking collars and camera traps are essential tools in discovering their secret world.*

# Celebrating 10 Years of Learning in Nature

*If we are truly to conserve leopards and biodiversity, then we believe that we need to help people to connect with nature in a way that inspires them to be conservation ambassadors and activists. We have 10 years of experience in environmental education, using wilderness camps, eco-clubs and art competitions to enable schools and youth groups from within and outside leopard areas to immerse themselves in nature, connect with the wild, and learn about leopards, ecology and conservation. We also use public fora to instil a consciousness and appreciation for biodiversity across a wide spectrum of adult audiences.*

## WHAT WE'VE DONE

*Our Environmental Education programme was launched in 2009 to focus on educating the youth. It began with the construction and establishment of Tok Tokkie campsite in CapeNature's Matjiesriver Nature Reserve in the Cederberg. The rustic camp provided an eco-friendly, down-to-earth experience for school groups, enabling children to truly immerse themselves in the wilderness. The success of the programme led to the addition of a Cape Town arm in 2014 that offered day outings, a winter school holiday programme and eco-clubs.*

*Through local fundraising efforts we have been able to fully sponsor approximately 60% of the children joining these experiences, and to subsidise every child to ensure the opportunity is accessible to all. Over the last 10 years we have reached over 60,000 children, helping each of them to develop a better understanding and appreciation of the natural world. In nature's classroom, youngsters are exposed to a diverse array of learning opportunities, from studying geology while climbing through rock tunnels, or discovering the stars while gazing up at the night sky. The groups also learn about research, such as how to set up camera traps, or how to view bugs through a microscope. To augment our programme we added leopard-focused art competitions to encourage budding young artists to learn more about leopards and ecology (read more about our Art Competitions on page 22).*

## WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

### **Leopards can inspire people to learn more about the environment**

*In this age of climate change and environmental degradation, we need to equip the next generation with the knowledge and skills to address and adapt to new and complex challenges. One thing we can do is encourage children to connect with nature, and to help them appreciate the immense value that healthy ecosystems provide. We've realised that leopards – as charismatic and intriguing animals – provide an excellent entry point for teaching children about the environment, and inspiring them to explore and conserve the natural world.*

### **Environmental education can provide far-reaching benefits to children**

*When children first arrive at our wilderness camps, they can be reluctant to engage with us. This is the first holiday experience for many of them, and it takes them far out of their comfort zone. But soon enough, nature starts to work its magic, and we see the children transform as their confidence grows and their self worth develops. Being away from their everyday worries gives them a sense of freedom, and allows them to imagine a different future for themselves. They also learn a lot about themselves. A challenging hike, for instance, can show them that they are stronger than they realise, while sleeping outdoors can teach them to overcome fear. It's also a time of excitement and discovery, fun and collaboration. These processes are so valuable, especially for children from socially or economically marginalised communities.*

### **Even people with no interest in the outdoors can become conservation ambassadors**

*We've seen that children who participate in our Environmental Education Programme undergo a shift in their thinking, and the more time they spend in wild spaces, the greater the shift. Some of our most impassioned learners may even become the next cohort of researchers and conservation practitioners. One of the Cederberg Verification Officers, Frank Scheepers, from the tiny village of Kleinvlei, acknowledged that it was his participation in a Cape Leopard Trust wilderness camp many years ago that ignited his love for nature. He is now sharing this passion and his newly-acquired conservation skills with his community.*

### **Art is an excellent way to get children thinking about nature**

*Art is increasingly recognised for its ability to promote environmental learning and facilitate behaviour change. We're always struck by the level of thought and consideration that young entrants put into their work in our annual art competitions. We can see from their interpretations of our leopard-related themes that they have grappled with different aspects of leopard ecology, behaviour or conservation. This is especially true for those who have participated in more than one of our competitions, and it is evident that their knowledge and understanding has improved from one year to the next.*

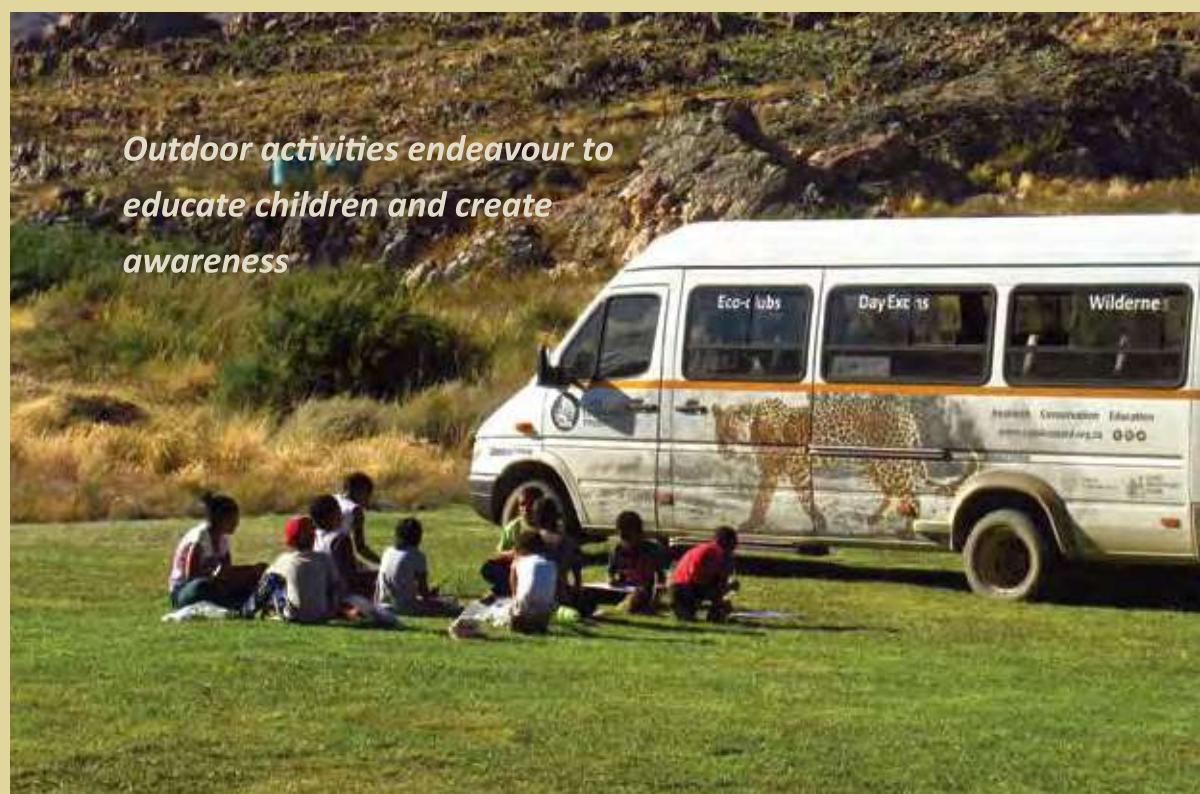
## WHAT'S NEXT

*We will continue the process we started in 2018 to restructure our education material in order to enhance children's knowledge of the environment and to develop their practical skills, while adhering to national curriculum standards. In particular we have made our curriculum more leopard-focused, drawing on our emerging research findings to do so. We also intend to include content that helps children understand the drivers, dynamics and necessary responses to global environmental and social challenges. Through this restructuring process we aim to better address many of the Sustainable Development Goals.*

*The capacity of our education team has now increased, and this means we can considerably amplify our reach by running programmes concurrently in the Boland and the Cederberg. As part of our skills development agenda, and to capacitate future conservation education specialists, each of these sites will also have a flow of local and international nature conservation interns as part of their practical training.*



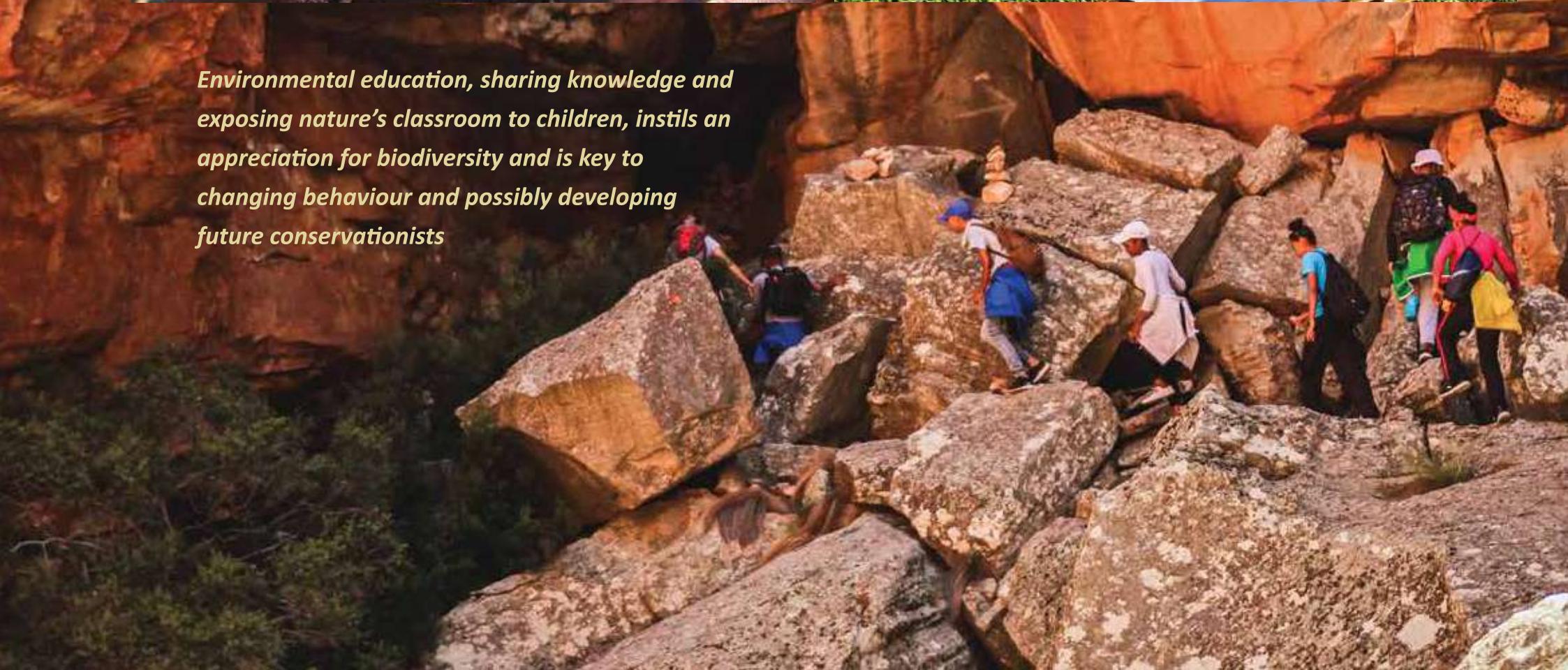
*Photo: Explaining the role of leopards in nature*



*Outdoor activities endeavour to educate children and create awareness*



*Environmental education, sharing knowledge and exposing nature's classroom to children, instils an appreciation for biodiversity and is key to changing behaviour and possibly developing future conservationists*



## Reflecting on 10 Years of Success

*As a Waldorf teacher, I took my students away on camps once a year, and I knew how poignant and impactful a direct encounter with wild nature could be - the adventure, the challenges, the opportunity for 'aha!' moments. When I moved to the Cederberg with Quinton, who was then the CEO of the CLT, I wanted to create a programme that could do all of this with the incredible added component of having real, exciting predator research and conservation at its heart. The power of the CLT's education program is that it's not only teaching about leopards and it's not just an environmental education programme. Rather it combines the two experientially, providing participants with a wonderful opportunity for learning and for being connected to nature.*

*The education programme was launched in January 2009. Our primary goal was to offer children from all backgrounds environmental camps in the Cederberg. We decided to build our own eco-camp at Matjiesrivier, but first had to go through the process of negotiation with CapeNature, and an environmental impact assessment. Not wanting that to hold us up, we used a campsite at Dwarsrivier for the first year. To facilitate every camp meant we would load the tents, mattresses, gas freezer, tables and chairs onto the trailer and transport it to the temporary venue. From the outset, the first exciting activity on a camp was helping the children to set up their own tents, a first for many of them!*

*Despite initially being told we could not build our camp at Matjiesriver, our persistence paid off and in 2010 it happened. It was an exciting time. Drawing on Quinton's experience building tented safari camps, we created the eco-friendly Matjiesriver "Tok Tokkie" Campsite. Getting the big things to the Cederberg proved challenging*

*- a water tank, dry toilets, breeze-blocks, poles and a shed. We were fortunate that much of the materials and transport of materials to the Cederberg was donated by several generous people and organizations. A wooden shed was divided into kitchen and storeroom with a large shaded area in front. Children from a local Cederberg school, who I had been working with, came and helped us to create a mosaic around the bathroom sinks (they later camped with us at 'their' finished campsite). Finally, we were ready to host our first young guests.*

*Critical to the success of the programme was successfully securing a large grant from the National Lotteries Commission, which allowed us to buy a 21-seater bus and to sponsor camps for any group who needed to be subsidized. With those essentials covered the programme was quickly filled with eager and sometimes anxious faces.*

*Highlights for me were those moments when fear was transformed into curiosity; when a group of high school children perched on a rock at 'Stadsaal' heard their own words and experiences reflected back to them in a group poem; when a class of Wuppertal students spontaneously broke into glorious song in response to the natural majesty of the Wolfberg Cracks; when children told me they had climbed a mountain for the first time; when eyes lit up at the sight of leopard tracks; when a group of 20 children hushed to many minutes of silence sitting alone beside a Karoo plant and drawing every detail they saw - and each drawing capturing the essence of that plant despite the many protests of 'I can't draw'.*



*The Education Program has expanded and changed over its 10 years of life, with amazing individuals who have carried and shaped it and have now moved on - Willem Titus, Matthew Dowling, Jaclyn Stephenson, Nicole le Roux, Hadley Lyners and Catherine Kuhn. It is with deep gratitude and joy that I have watched the Cape Leopard Trust bring special and important opportunities to many children and adults from all walks of life, facilitating experiences that bring participants a sense of wonder and care for the beautiful and complex natural world of which we are all an inextricable part.*

*Elizabeth Martins*

*Founder of the Cape Leopard Trust Education Programme  
California, USA*



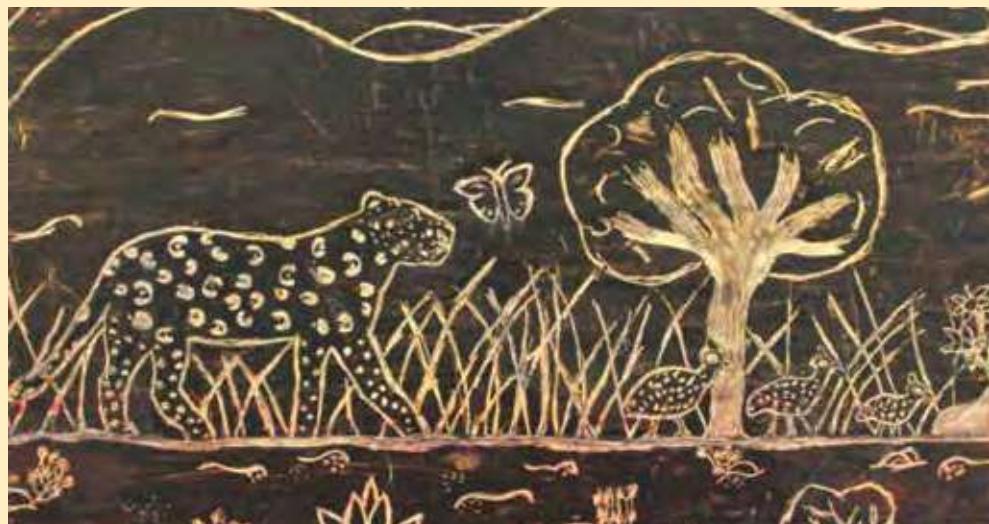
*Photo: Elizabeth Martins*

# Art for conservation

*The Cape Leopard Trust annual art competition evolved alongside the education project, complementing the diverse programme of practical experiences. Bridgestone South Africa pledged its support from the outset, and the top artists selected by the panel of judges are invited to attend an all expenses paid wilderness camp in the Cederberg. It's an exciting prospect for many, and it's a joy to see how children are inspired by and interpret a leopard relevant theme.*

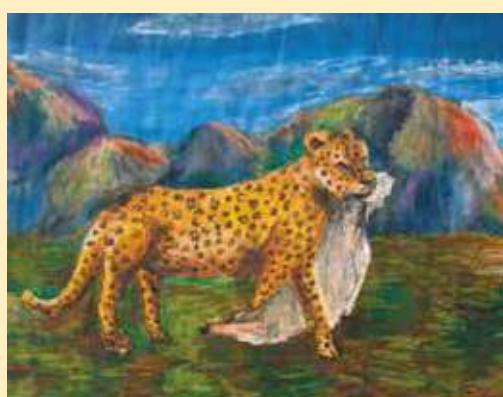
*Art is increasingly acknowledged in conservation circles as a powerful tool for environmental learning, and it's easy to see how much careful thought and consideration has gone into each unique art piece from the novel titles! The level of creativity and skill this year has been particularly outstanding, and the theme exploring the leopard's food chain seemed to capture the imagination.*

*The art competition engages with a wide community of young artists, some of whom have entered year upon year. One such artist is Hannah Möller, who will be joining us as a judge in 2020, as she has now outgrown the ranks! The winning art works will create a calendar for 2020, and each child whose art features is gifted a copy to keep as a personal memento. Our hope is that the legacy of the art competition will be to empower young people to become advocates for our wildlife. The calendar will be on sale later this year to raise funds for the education project.*



**Photo: above and opposite**

*The winning artworks selected for the 2020 calendar*



# A Holistic Approach to Conservation



*In the Cape, and across South Africa, the challenges to leopard conservation are complex. In livestock farming areas, farmers may use poison and traps to kill leopards in response to predation events. In other places illegal hunting with snares along the boundaries of protected areas can be detrimental for leopards and their prey. Across the region – and indeed nationally – a vast proportion of suitable leopard habitat falls outside of protected areas. To effectively address these challenges, conservation efforts need to be multi-dimensional, involve diverse role players, and span a cross-section of land-use types.*

## WHAT WE'VE DONE

*The Cape Leopard Trust has always been committed to developing sustainable and collaborative conservation strategies that are supported by scientific evidence. We endeavour to mitigate human-wildlife conflict by engaging extensively with subsistence and commercial farmers, working to understand their experiences of living alongside leopards and other predators. We promote holistic herd management techniques, and encourage the use of humane, non-lethal predator deterrents. We monitor these conflict mitigation activities over time to track changes in the distribution and intensity of human-wildlife conflict.*

*We also investigate the impacts of illegal snare hunting on leopards and their prey species, as well as the factors driving this hunting behaviour. To improve the integrity and connectivity of habitat for the benefit of all biodiversity, we work with landowners across the Western Cape to encourage and guide their involvement in stewardship programs, and to promote sustainable land-use and wildlife management practices. To raise public awareness about leopards, biodiversity and conservation challenges we give public talks, write popular articles and maintain a strong presence on social media. In partnership with CapeNature we've also designed educational signboards that have been deployed at provincial and private nature reserves and along popular tourist routes in the Cederberg and Boland areas.*

## WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

### ***The removal of damage-causing leopards will not prevent future predation events***

Although leopards seldom and only sporadically prey on livestock, when they do the losses for both commercial and subsistence livestock farmers are substantial. In response, farmers may retaliate, using methods such as poison and traps to kill leopards. However, this is not an effective means of reducing predation, as the removal of one leopard simply creates a vacant territory for another leopard to occupy. Additionally, as apex predators, leopards can affect the behaviour of other animals, and in their absence, predation by smaller predators, like caracals and jackals, may increase. To more effectively and sustainably reduce predation by all predators, it is instead necessary to adopt a more holistic approach.

### ***Mitigating livestock predation requires a holistic approach***

There is no simple, one-size-fits-all solution to livestock predation. Instead, adopting a holistic approach is more likely to be effective. In livestock farming areas in the Western Cape we promote a range of methods that focus on protecting livestock day and night. To ensure that livestock are not left unattended or vulnerable to predation while they are out grazing during the day, we advise that they are accompanied by human herders (eco-rangers) or livestock guarding animals, such as alpacas, donkeys, ostriches and appropriately-trained Anatolian dogs. Electronic shepherd devices that intermittently emit flashing lights, noises and scents can also be effective for warding off predators, if used unpredictably so that the animals do not habituate to their presence. Finally, to protect livestock at night, we recommend that farmers reinforce their livestock enclosures (kraals) to reduce the risk of predation.

Given that different areas present different challenges, it can take time and experimentation to determine which of these methods, used on its own or in combination, will be most effective.

### ***Leopard conservation presents opportunities for upskilling and uplifting local community members***

By involving local communities in conservation activities we not only increase the effectiveness and sustainability of these activities, but help to build the knowledge and skills of community members. We recently worked with the small farming community of Kleinvlei in the Cederberg to predator-proof their livestock kraals. By contributing to the costs of the materials, and along with support from our project partners, the community developed an important sense of ownership of this process. Equipped with enhanced knowledge of predator behaviour, farmers had a better understanding of how to reduce predation risk, and worked systematically as a team to reinforce eight different kraals.

We've also seen how the skills gained through involvement in conservation activities can present new opportunities, particularly for people like those living in 'leopard areas' in the Western Cape who experience high levels of unemployment and livelihood vulnerability. Through our Conservation Activator programme, launched in 2019, we've trained four community-elected representatives to be Verification Officers who assess livestock predation sites, promote humane predator deterrents, and raise awareness of predator behaviour and conflict-mitigation techniques within their communities. This training and work experience introduces local people to conservation, and could encourage them to consider seeking employment in the green economy sector.

## ***Involving private landowners and local communities in conservation efforts can amplify outcomes***

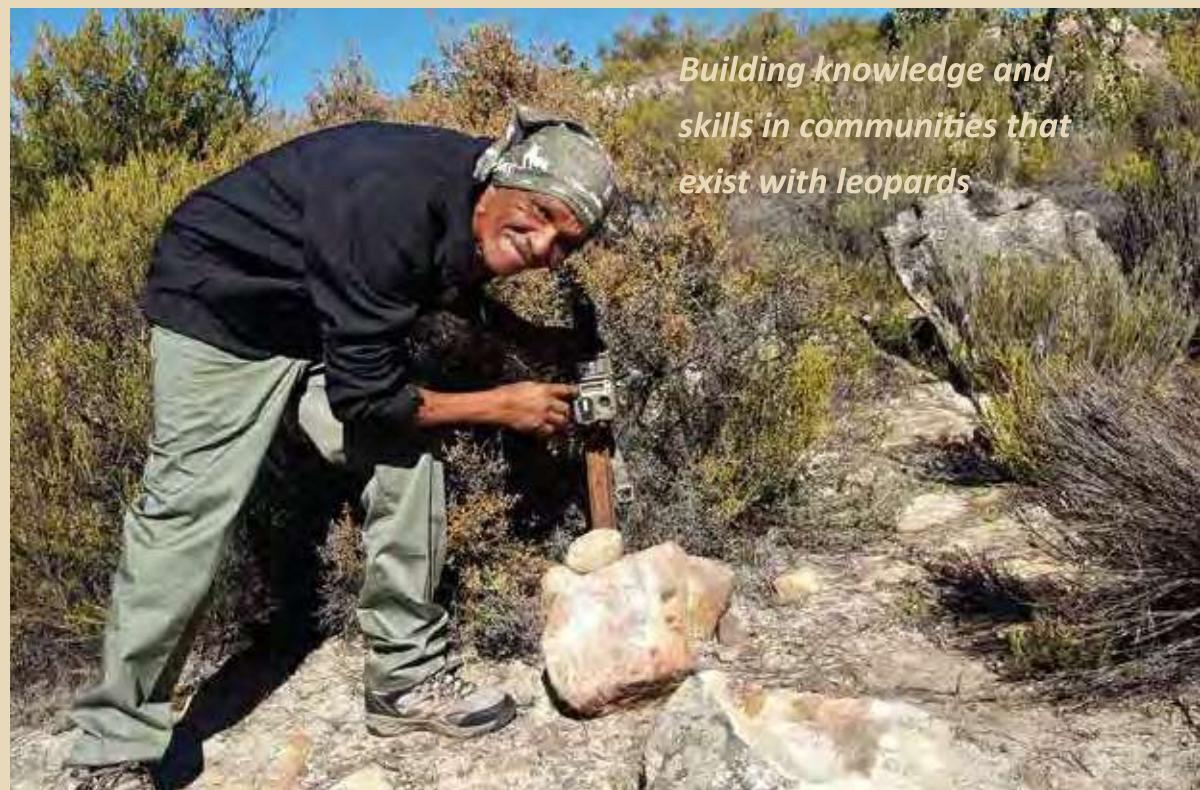
*In the Boland, we learned that illegal hunting with snares – particularly on private properties bordering protected areas – has a detrimental impact on leopards and their prey species. However, we realised that the majority of private landowners were unaware of the prevalence of this practice on their own or adjacent properties, or its impact on biodiversity. Once we started concerted education efforts with these landowners they began to implement stricter controls on their properties. To support their efforts, and in collaboration with CapeNature and the City of Cape Town, we appointed a dedicated Snare Patrol Officer who collects information and detects and removes snares. In addition, we run information and outreach sessions in communities on the peripheries of protected areas to create awareness about snaring, to better understand the factors driving the activity, and to explore ways of curbing it.*

### **WHAT'S NEXT**

*To ensure our conservation efforts remain robust and relevant, and with the potential to be upscaled, we will compare our approaches with those of other leopard and biodiversity conservation organisations – both in South Africa and globally – and refine and enhance our methods accordingly.*

*We will continue to use the Conservation Activator programme to build the capacity of local community members, and to engage them in regional research and conservation efforts. As we learn more about the factors that enable or limit the success of this programme, so we will work to strengthen and expand it. We will also explore the potential for guiding some or all of the Verification Officers into permanent employment in the conservation sector. As a part of this process, and to support the existing conservation programmes in the Cederberg and Boland, we will work to establish a permanent Conservation Officer position.*

*Photo: Ben Farmer setting a camera trap*



***Building knowledge and skills in communities that exist with leopards***



*Photo: Community members in Agterstevlei learn about the 'Skaapwagter' device.*



*Photo: The newly qualified Verification Officers receive their Qhubeka bicycles*



*Photo: Traditional community kraal*



*Photo: Community farmer with his sheep*

# Events

## ABSA Cape Epic 2019

*Our journey with the Absa Cape Epic began five years ago, and we are thrilled that our partnership as an official charity of the event has grown organically and has been secured for another three years. It's a huge privilege to be a part of this annual pinnacle of global MTB racing, and to have watched it go from strength to strength into its adolescence. Quite coincidentally we are almost the same age! As well as persuading teams from around the globe to ride for us, we voluntarily contribute to each event as an organisation. Boland Researcher, Jeannie Hayward, is allowed out to play and becomes an expert route guide, sharing stories with VIP's of the leopards whose territories the cyclists are likely to cross. Our environmental education team prepare the leopard bus and themselves for action, donating their time to children in the communities hosting the event. We have supported fellow Epic charity Anna Foundation, and taken their young charges on hikes looking for leopards, and we have reached out to new schools along the route who would normally not have an outdoor adventure. After all, it is these young people who one day will inherit and hopefully protect the incredible biodiversity of the Cape. By using our resources to make our Epic interactions meaningful, we hope to inspire future leopard ambassadors, both young and old. It is interesting to note, that despite the harrowing 7 days of the event, and the physical and emotional exhaustion that goes with it, the riders openly admit that the incredible landscapes and the beauty of the Cape make it all worthwhile. This symbiotic partnership of conservation and sport is a powerful combination that should not be underestimated. We look forward to the next few years of being along for a wild ride!*



*Photo: Björn Tschenett and Bernard Aebli - Bike2Help Switzerland*



*Photo: Above: A group from Maxonia Primary School in the Elgin Valley visiting the Absa Cape Epic.*



*Photo: Alan and Gary Bub from team USA.*



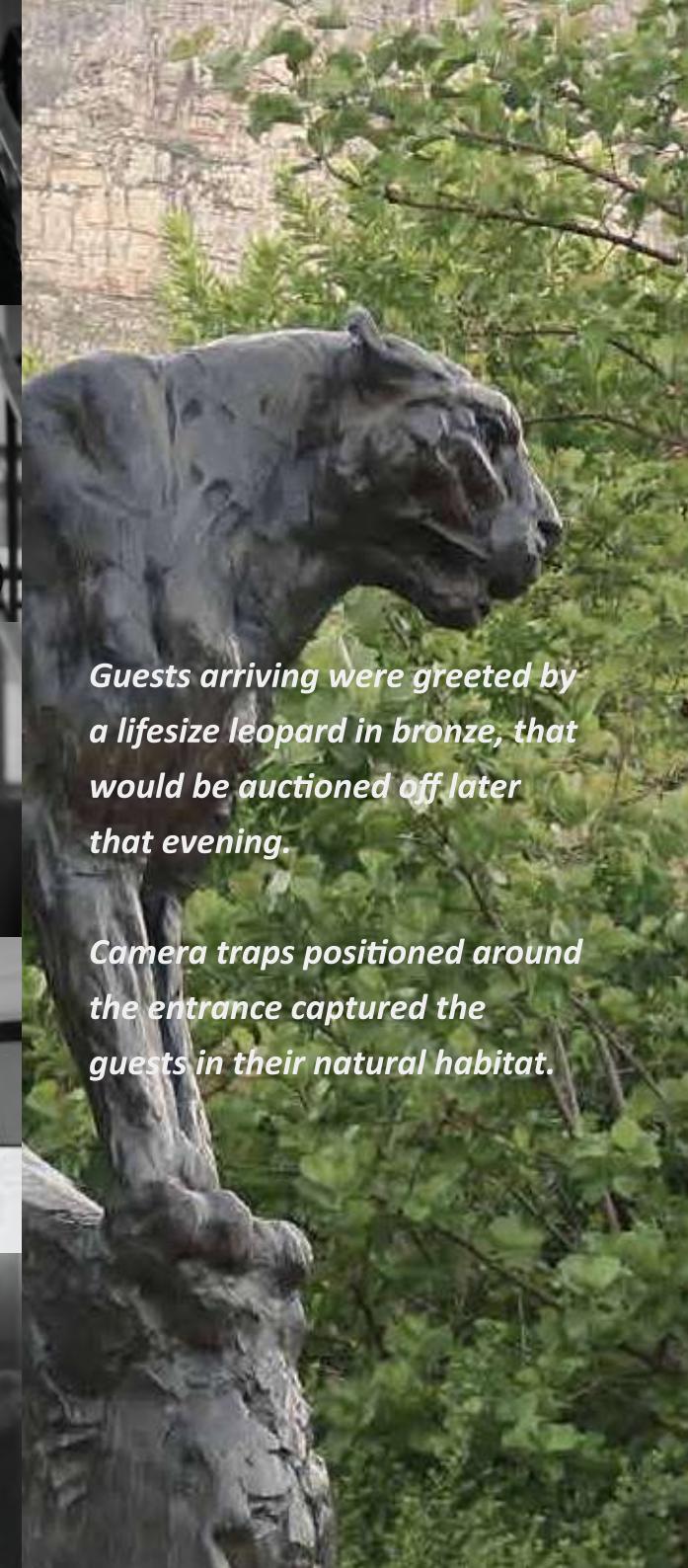
*Photo: Jeannie Hayward on one of the VIP route tours.*

## **Big Cat Ball – Fundraiser 2018**

*Over the years, we have hosted some impressive fundraising events with the kind support of many sponsors and friends. From the very early days of entertaining guests at the Two Oceans Aquarium with the elegant backdrop of the predator tank, to the Franschhoek sophistication of La Motte Wine Estate and Leopard's Leap Family Vineyards. We should not forget our night in the basement with the full African Vibe at green spot, Hotel Verde, and the awesome creative space we filled with leopard art at the Donald Greig Gallery.*

*The most ambitious in our history so far must be the 2018 Big Cat Ball. Mobilising an event on this scale required a herculean effort and meticulous planning. One&Only Cape Town was the perfect partner to pull it off, and with volunteer event coordinator Di Botha of Curated for Conservation, a truly magical evening unfolded and enabled us to raise R1.8m for the project. We would like to particularly thank One&Only Cape Town, the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, and each event partner and guest who literally came to the party in support of the Cape's leopards. With fond memories of the special night we share this gallery of images.*

**One&Only**  
CAPE TOWN  
*South Africa*



***Guests arriving were greeted by a lifesize leopard in bronze, that would be auctioned off later that evening.***

***Camera traps positioned around the entrance captured the guests in their natural habitat.***



# Celebrating science

## ***List of CLT Scientific Publications***

A key priority of The Cape Leopard Trust is to invest in and empower scientific research. Over the last 15 years, our employees, students and associates of the Cape Leopard Trust have authored and co-authored various peer-reviewed academic articles.

These scientific papers are vital to consistently improving the strategic management of ecosystems and landscapes in which we work. Contributions to scientific literature are a valuable tool to assist researchers globally by sharing knowledge. Any of the publications shown here can be downloaded from our website.

Nieman, W.A., Leslie, A.J., Wilkinson, A. Wossler, T.C. 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.

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Jansen, C. (2016). *Diet of key predators responsible for livestock conflict in Namaqualand, South Africa*. MSc Thesis, University of Stellenbosch.

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# Financial Narrative & Overview

## **FUNDING THE FUTURE**

### **Why support our work?**

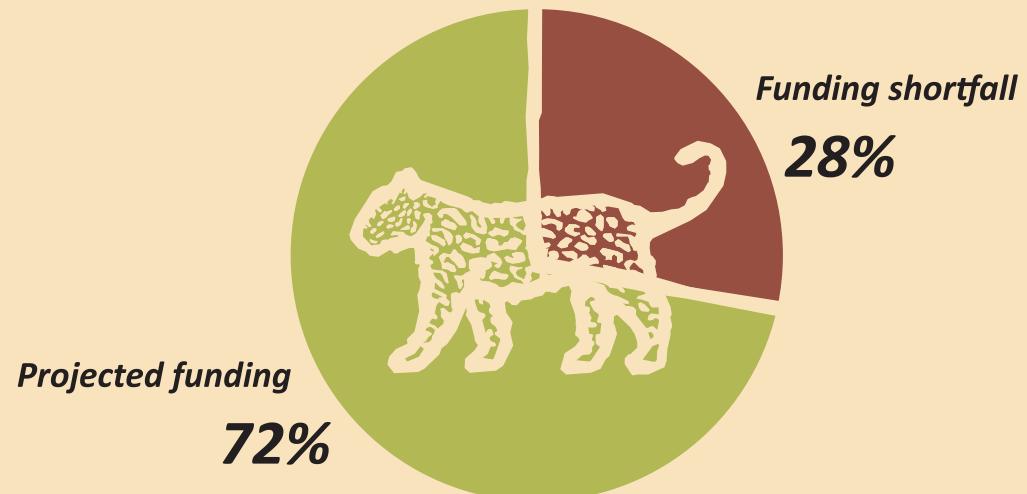
- **We conduct research to address knowledge gaps and inform conservation efforts.**
- **We mitigate human-leopard conflict by securing farmer livelihoods and reducing human-induced leopard injuries and fatalities.**
- **We promote biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity.**
- **We empower local communities to participate actively in leopard and habitat conservation, increasing skills and improving livelihood security.**
- **We inspire the next generation to become conservation ambassadors and activists.**

### **Support the Cape Leopard Trust to continue and amplify its impact:**

*To date, the Cape Leopard Trust has successfully resourced its research, conservation and education activities through donations by individuals and organisations. We will continue to drive our targeted fundraising and partnership development efforts.*

*Our goal is to raise an additional R2.4 million per year to ensure the continuation and expansion of our programme and body of work. Every cent donated helps us to protect leopards and their habitat.*

### **Funding requirements**



**The Cape Leopard Trust**  
**(Registration number IT 2720/2004)**  
**Financial Statements for the year**  
**ended 28 February 2018**

**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Revenue	R4 845 046	R5 288 854
Cost of Sales	-R69 155	-R26 571
<b>Gross Surplus</b>	<b>R4 775 891</b>	<b>R5 262 283</b>
Other income	R70 562	R0
Operating Expenses	-R4 397 523	-R3 955 480
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	<b>R448 930</b>	<b>R1 306 803</b>
Investment revenue	R182 180	R112 742
Finance costs	-R129	R0
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>R630 981</b>	<b>R1 419 545</b>
Other comprehensive income	R0	R0
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>R630 981</b>	<b>R1 419 545</b>

**Statement of Financial Position**

**Assets**

**Non-Current Assets**

Property, plant and equipment	R1 446 742	R1 766 273
Other financial assets	R20 403	
	<b>R1 446 742</b>	<b>R1 786 676</b>

**Current Assets**

Inventories	R62 025	R50 648
Trade and other receivables	R23 915	R186 050
Other financial assets		R39 600
Cash and cash equivalents	R4 769 552	R3 651 925
	<b>R4 855 492</b>	<b>R3 928 223</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>R6 302 234</b>	<b>R5 714 899</b>

**Equity and Liabilities**

**Equity**

Trust capital	R200	R200
Accumulated surplus	R6 282 188	R5 651 207
	<b>R6 282 388</b>	<b>R5 651 407</b>

**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

Trade and other payables	R19 846	R63 492
<b>Total Equity and Liabilities</b>	<b>R6 302 234</b>	<b>R5 714 899</b>

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## **Cape Leopard Trust**

*PO Box 31139, Tokai, 7966  
Cape Town, South Africa  
[www.caapeleopard.org.za](http://www.caapeleopard.org.za)*

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