



# Nuusbrief / Newsletter

## FEBRUARIE / FEBRUARY 2023

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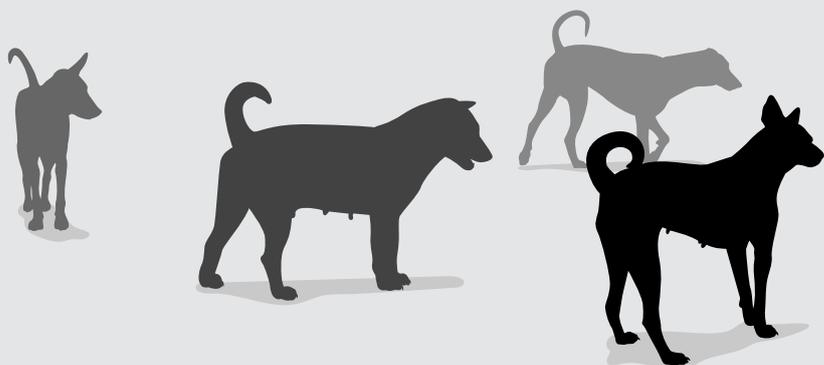


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## Predation monitor farm in Mount Fletcher – a first for communal farmers!

A communal monitor farm was started in the beginning of last year after the selection of four shearing sheds in Mount Fletcher. Livestock numbers and proper statistics have been recorded to form a baseline for the monitoring. The

types of predators have been identified, with stray dogs being a huge threat to the communities. The analyses and evaluation of data will be contained in an annual report.



## Predation training in communal areas

Predation specialist Niël Viljoen has been appointed to train 150 communal farmers by the end of February 2023. The programme, funded by AgriSETA, consists of seven training courses covering basic principles of livestock management, handling, and protection.

Viljoen was in Mount Fletcher and Flagstaff the past week, where 32 learners tapped into his knowledge and specialised skill of predator management. They were shown the various ways of controlling predators by adapting the methods according to their unique farming practices, namely:

- Deterrent methods such as the “protect-a-lamb” collar
- Herding of animals during the day
- Kraaling at night
- Fencing of protected areas during lambing

Traits relating to colour, habitat, traces, mating season, catching and eating patterns, and territory between the jackal and caracal were discussed. The use of cage traps to successfully manage caracal and stray dogs were also demonstrated.

The areas of Sterkspruit, Tsolo, Lady Frere, and Middledrift will conclude the training programme.





## Benefits of shepherding

A published paper highlighting the benefits of shepherding with regard to livestock predation mitigation was recently released.

“Shepherding is not a shot in the dark: evidence of low predation losses from the Northern Cape province of South Africa” was work that arose indirectly from the PredSA process, pinpointing the lack of information on predation management in communal areas.

**Click here to read the paper.**

[https://www.pmfsa.co.za/images/news/Shepherding\\_is\\_not\\_a\\_shot\\_in\\_the\\_dark.pdf](https://www.pmfsa.co.za/images/news/Shepherding_is_not_a_shot_in_the_dark.pdf)



## The economic consequences of predation

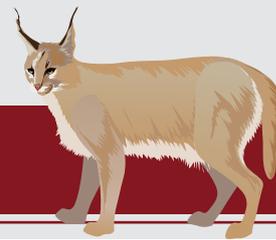
The following is an extract of PMSA commentary that was submitted as consultation on the Draft White Paper on conservation and sustainable use of South Africa’s biodiversity.

- Predation has an irrefutable and very significant economic impact on landowners, who are the only party that faces the financial disadvantages of predation. Research that quantifies the extent of the financial burden to domestic stock losses suggests a cost of more than R3,2 billion per annum (Van Niekerk *et al.*).
- Predation erodes the financial feasibility of land-based enterprises focused on production and there is no compensation or mechanism for compensation for affected landowners (Van Niekerk *et al.*, Kruger, 2019).



- Commercial and communal, small and large stock farmers suffer losses because of predation (Kerley *et al.*, 2019).
- The state also suffers indirect losses because of the loss of value added, taxes, employment creation, etc. that come about because of predation.
- Protected areas including national parks contribute to predation losses for the state and farmers (Dikobe, 1997). The Kruger National Park has a campaign to compensate communities adjoining the park: <https://www.sanparks.org/scientific-services/our-stories/its-not-about-the-cow-compensation-for-livestock-losses-adjacent-to-the-kruger-national-park>.
- Aligned to research on the topic, any policy that addresses/affects predation management requires a holistic, scientifically justifiable base, with a balance of interests of all affected parties.

Although well advanced, much more livestock predation research needs to be conducted and applied before this white paper can be accepted as a guideline for biodiversity management.



## Caracal leaflets



The Predation Management Centre (PMC) continues to update information on various leaflets relating to predator species.

“Caracal hunting technique/feeding signs” on how to identify a fresh caracal kill, have been updated with new and older South African studies.

Determining the cause of death of livestock or game can assist with changes in management strategies, which may reduce losses. These losses can be because of predation, farm, or herd/flock management inadequacies, or diseases. Where the cause of loss is predation, identifying the predator species responsible for the loss will guide management decisions on a property.

**Click here for the updated leaflet:**

[https://www.ufs.ac.za/docs/librariesprovider22/pmic-documents/02\\_08\\_1-predation-by-caracal.pdf?sfvrsn=1ebf6a20\\_5](https://www.ufs.ac.za/docs/librariesprovider22/pmic-documents/02_08_1-predation-by-caracal.pdf?sfvrsn=1ebf6a20_5)



For further information, contact the Predation Management Centre (PMC) through their website <https://www.ufs.ac.za/pmic>, or email [PredationMC@ufs.ac.za](mailto:PredationMC@ufs.ac.za).



## Deel u bestuurs- praktyk met ons!

Daar is menige boere wat predatore doeltreffend bestuur en daarom wil ons graag sulke suksesstories aanhoor en deel met medeboere. U geslaagde bestuurspraktyk sal in die maandelikse PMF- nuusbrieff verskyn en ook op die webtuiste geplaas word. Skakel Bonita Francis by (041) 365 5030 of per e-pos by [nwga@nwga.co.za](mailto:nwga@nwga.co.za).



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## STOCK THEFT ? PREDATORS ?



Get alarm calls when **DANGER** is detected

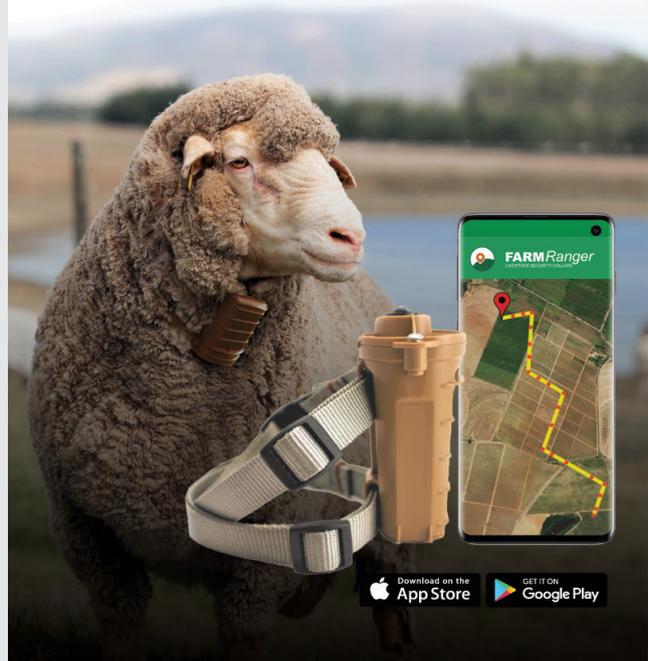


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