



# MRI 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**“Mammal research in southern Africa: a blueprint for the next two decades”**

**Mopani Camp, Kruger National Park  
12-16 September 2016**



**Organising Committee:**

Bob Millar (Chair), Armanda Bastos, Nico de Bruyn, Duncan MacFadyen,  
Michael Somers, Andrew McKechnie, Chris Chimimba, Marthán Bester

**Symposium Facilitator:**

Brian Huntley assisted by Bob Millar

**Publication preparation:**

Bob Millar, Armanda Bastos, Nico de Bruyn, Brian Huntley

**Sponsors**

University of Pretoria, National Research Foundation, E Oppenheimer & Son,  
Mammal Review (Wiley), SANParks, Inqaba Biotech, Painted Wolf Wines



**National  
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Foundation**



## **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

14:00 - onwards:            *arrive at leisure – book-in (Camp reception)*  
16:00-18:00:                *Registration (Conference venue)*  
18:00-20:00:                *Ice-breaker (Conference venue)*

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## **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

05:30-08:00:    *Breakfast (own arrangements) / Game Drive*  
07:00-08:00:    *Registration (Conference venue)*

### 08:00-09:00 Official Opening

08:00-08:20    **Bob Millar & Brian Huntley**

08:20-08:50    **Nigel Bennett**  
50 years of MRI Mammal Research

### **Theme 1: People and Wildlife (Coordinator: Bob Millar)**

08:50-09:20    **Chantell Ilbury** (Mindofafox) *INVITED TALK*  
The socio-economic landscape over the next two decades: implications for national parks and conservation

09:20-09:50    **Albert van Jaarsveld** (University of KwaZulu-Natal) *INVITED TALK*  
Integrative mammalogy

09:50-10:20    **Morne du Plessis** (WWF) *INVITED TALK*  
A sub-Saharan perspective on conservation challenges for southern African mammals over the next two decades

10:20-10:50    *Tea / Coffee Break*

10:50-11:20    **Johan du Toit** (Utah State University) *INVITED TALK*  
Adaptive management of large wild mammals and livestock in Anthropocene ecosystems

11:20-11:50    **Corey Bradshaw** (University of Adelaide) *INVITED TALK*  
Current and future human population pressures on mammals in southern Africa

11:50-12:20    **Elissa Cameron** (University of Tasmania & University of Canterbury) *INVITED TALK*  
Getting the balance right for mammal research and conservation

12:20-12:40    **Ken Maggs** (SANParks) *INVITED TALK*  
Combatting poaching in the Kruger National Park

12:40-13:40    *Lunch (Students to be allocated to mentor tables)*

13:40-13:50    **Ken Findlay** (Cape Peninsula University of Technology) *TALK - 10min*  
Natural capital accounting and governance within expanding oceans economies

13:50-14:00    **Samantha Naidoo** (National Zoological Gardens of SA) *TALK - 10min*  
Feast now, pay later: The cost of foraging at wastewater works for an urban adapter, the banana bat (*Neoromicia nana*)



- 14:00-14:10 **Martin van Rooyen** (University of Pretoria) *TALK - 10min*  
A historical perspective on the use and demand for rhinoceros products
- 14:10-14:20 **Gareth Hempson** (University of the Witwatersrand) *TALK - 10min*  
Large mammals matter: ecological feedbacks from distorted African herbivore communities
- 14:20-14:30 **Samual Williams** (Durham University) *TALK - 10min*  
Reconciling wildlife conservation and land reform
- 14:30-14:40 **Raymond Jansen** (Tshwane University of Technology) *TALK - 10min*  
Scales of injustice: Pangolins in the African bushmeat commodity chain
- 14:40-14:50 **Simon Elwen** (University of Pretoria) *TALK - 10min*  
The MRI's role in whale and dolphin research in southern Africa: leading or lagging?
- 14:50-14:55 **Christo Fabricius** (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University) *POSTER & 5min TALK*  
Framing human-wildlife conflict management: a typology
- 14:55-15:00 **Aliza le Roux** (University of the Free State – Qwaqwa) *POSTER & 5min TALK*  
Love and hate between family members: flexible primate neophilia in anthropogenically modified landscapes
- 15:00-15:05 **Kathryn Williams** (Durham University) *POSTER & 5min TALK*  
Brown hyaena diet and social perceptions indicate a need for intra-guild protection
- 15:05-15:40 *Tea / Coffee Break*
- 15:40-17:10 **Brian Huntley** - Daily Review / Panel Discussion
- 17:10-19:00 *Leisure / Game Drive*
- 19:30-21:00 *Dinner*



**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

05:30-08:00 *Breakfast (own arrangements) / Game Drive*

**Theme 2: Environmental Stressors (Coordinator: Nico de Bruyn)**

- 08:00-08:30 **Bob Scholes** (University of the Witwatersrand) *INVITED TALK*  
Expected impacts of climate change on southern African mammals
- 08:30-09:00 **William Bond** (University of Cape Town) *INVITED TALK*  
Ecosystem impacts of mammal extinctions and the value of Africa as the control
- 09:00-09:30 **Duncan Mitchell** (University of the Witwatersrand) *INVITED TALK*  
Climate change and long-lived mammals in Africa: what the mammals are telling us
- 09:30-10:00 **Barry Lovegrove** (University of KwaZulu-Natal) *INVITED TALK*  
Towards a mammalian umbrella: sustaining synergies and scholastic opportunities
- 10:00-10:30 **Stephan Woodborne** (iThemba LABS & University of Pretoria) *INVITED TALK*  
Mediating climate change and human wellbeing: on the value chain of mammal research
- 10:30-11:00 *Tea / Coffee Break*
- 11:00-11:30 **Norman Owen-Smith** (University of the Witwatersrand) *INVITED TALK*  
Population dynamics and distribution of large herbivores in a spatially changing world
- 11:30-12:00 **Tim Clutton-Brock** (University of Cambridge) *INVITED TALK*  
Reproductive cooperation and environmental stress
- 12:00-12:30 **Peter Lindsey** (Panthera & University of Pretoria) *INVITED TALK*  
Determinants of the effectiveness of African protected areas at conserving lions and their prey
- 12:30-13:30 *Lunch (students to be allocated to mentor tables)*
- 13:30-13:40 **Bob Millar** (University of Pretoria) *TALK - 10min*  
Monitoring environmental stress: current and future perspectives
- 13:40-13:50 **David Gaynor** (Kalahari Meerkat Project & University of Pretoria) *TALK - 10min*  
Drought: Individual responses and their effect on group, and population level changes
- 13:50-14:00 **Nico de Bruyn** (University of Pretoria) *TALK - 10min*  
From daring to dependable: field methods for detecting change within long-term studies
- 14:00-14:10 **Ryan Reisinger** (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University) *TALK - 10min*  
Killer whale research at South Africa's sub-Antarctic Prince Edward islands: a globally significant cetacean research programme in the making
- 14:10-14:20 **Fannie Shabangu** (DAFF & University of Pretoria) *TALK - 10min*  
Acoustic monitoring of the recovery of blue and fin whales in the Benguela ecosystem
- 14:20-14:30 **Tony Swemmer** (SAEON Ndlovu Node) *TALK - 10min*  
Do low recruitment and growth rates preclude tall trees from landscapes with elephants?
- 14:30-14:40 **Craig Tambling** (University of Fort Hare) *TALK - 10min*  
Sexual segregation in a large African ungulate: contrasting habitat use, predation risk and diel activity patterns



- 14:40-14:45 **Shannon Conradie** (University of Pretoria) *POSTER & 5min TALK*  
The possible role of epigenetics in mammalian wildlife adaptation to changing environments
- 14:45-14:50 **Heike Lutermann** (University of Pretoria) *POSTER & 5min TALK*  
Digging for answers: contributions of density- and frequency-dependent factors on ectoparasite burden in a social mammal
- 14:50-15:20 *Tea / Coffee Break*
- 15:20-17:00 **Brian Huntley** - Daily Review / Panel Discussion
- 17:00-19:00 *Leisure / Game Drive*
- 19:30-22:00 **Gala Dinner**
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**Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

05:30-08:00 *Breakfast (own arrangements) / Game Drive*

**Theme 3: Diseases at the interface** (Coordinator: Armanda Bastos)

- 08:00-08:50 **Steve Osofsky** (Cornell University) *INVITED TALK*  
Beyond fences: policy options for wildlife, livelihoods and transboundary animal disease management in southern Africa
- 08:50-9:15 **David Cumming** (University of Zimbabwe & University of Cape Town) *INVITED TALK*  
Disease and protected area resilience: an exploration of future scenarios for southern Africa
- 09:15-09:40 **Markus Hofmeyr** (SANParks) *INVITED TALK*  
Disease at the wildlife / livestock interface: the challenge to harmonize wildlife conservation and human livelihoods in the GLTFCA context
- 09:40-10:05 **Michele Miller** (University of Stellenbosch) *INVITED TALK*  
Infectious disease threats to wild mammals in southern Africa: risks at the intra- and inter-species interfaces
- 10:05-10:30 **Paul Cross** (US Geological Survey) *INVITED TALK*  
Continuing attempts to do disease ecology research that matters
- 10:30-11:00 *Tea / Coffee Break*
- 11:00-11:25 **Daniel Haydon** (University of Glasgow) *INVITED TALK*  
Perspectives on conservation from the boundary of ecology and epidemiology
- 11:25-11:50 **Roumen Anguelov** (University of Pretoria) *INVITED TALK*  
Can mathematics be biology's next microscope in disease research at the interface?
- 11:50-12:10 **Andre Ganswindt** (University of Pretoria) *INVITED TALK*  
Wildlife conservation and veterinary science – two sides of the same coin?
- 12:10-12:30 **Clifford Nxomani** (National Zoological Gardens) *INVITED TALK*  
The role and contribution of zoos in supporting future advances in wildlife research
- 12:30-13:30 *Lunch (students to be allocated to mentor tables)*
- 13:30-13:40 **Jacques van Rooyen** (University of Pretoria) *TALK-10min*  
Herding for Health: An integrated, community-driven approach to wildlife-livestock compatibility that is both pro-poor and pro-conservation
- 13:40-13:50 **Liezl Retief** (University of Pretoria) *TALK-10min*  
Urban wildlife: reservoirs of infection or sentinels of anthropogenic environmental influence?
- 13:50-14:00 **Darren Pietersen** (University of Pretoria) *TALK - 10min*  
Out of Africa: Insights into the illegal pangolin trade and potential health implications
- 14:10-14:20 **Heike Lutermann** (University of Pretoria) *TALK - 10min*  
Host-parasite networks in South African small mammals
- 14:20-14:30 **Barbara Mable** (University of Glasgow) *TALK - 10min*  
The value of genetics in conservation



- 14:30-14:40 **Deon de Jager** (University of Pretoria) *TALK - 10min*  
Conservation genetics and management of African Cape buffalo
- 14:40-14:45 **Katarina Medger** (National Zoological Gardens) *POSTER & 5min TALK*  
A decade of collaborative multidisciplinary research approaches to save species
- 14:45-14:50 **Sarita Maree** (University of Pretoria) *POSTER & 5min TALK*  
Effective conservation requires a sound taxonomy: lessons from recent advances in phylogenetics and phylogeography of Africa's endemic golden moles (family Chrysochloridae)
- 14:50-15:30 *Tea / Coffee Break*
- 15:30-17:00 **Brian Huntley** - Daily Review / Panel Discussion
- 17:00-19:00 *Leisure / Game Drive*
- 19:30-21:00 *Dinner*

**Friday, 16th September 2016**

- 6:00-10:00 *Breakfast (own arrangements). Delegates depart at leisure.*
- 8:00-11:00 Facilitator, chairs, invited speakers and delegates coalesce and edit documents for publication of:  
***Mammal research in southern Africa: a blueprint for the next two decades***



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