



# KRUGER2CANYON

NEWS

December 2024

The Farm House, R527, Zandspruit, Hoedspruit, Limpopo email: editor@kruger2canyon.co.za



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# 2025



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# From the Editors desk

As the year draws to a close, we at Kruger2Canyon News would like to thank all those loyal advertisers for their support, all the contributors for their efforts in supplying great copy, the editorial and layout team for their help and time. Another year has gone by in a blink, and we now look forward to 2025.

We do need to consider the way forward as digital copy is now fast becoming the norm, and why not for us? Our reach will increase exponentially, and advertising can become more targeted. It is the way forward and we will be seriously exploring this avenue next year.

As the sun sets on 2024, there's a unique magic that envelopes the world. Christmas and New Year's, though distinct in their celebrations, share a common thread - one that reminds us of the simple joys of togetherness, reflection, life, love, and renewal. It's a time when

our hearts soften, our homes brighten, and we embrace traditions, old and new, that connect us to each other and to the world around us.

Christmas, with its twinkling lights and "supermarket carols", has a way of drawing people closer. Whether you celebrate it as a religious holiday, a family gathering, or simply a festive occasion, there's something universally heartwarming about it. The act of giving, both in gifts and kindness, encourages us to pause and think about those present and gone. It's a season that reaffirms the importance of love, compassion, and generosity - values that resonate year-round but are especially amplified during these weeks ahead.

As we move on to the New Year, the sense of possibility is palpable. The turning of the calendar brings with it a fresh start, a moment to reflect on what has been and what might have



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been. We make resolutions, big and small, hoping to grow and improve. But beyond the promises we make to ourselves, New Year's offers a collective sense of hope and optimism. It's a reminder that no matter the struggles or challenges of the past year, the future is full of potential, and according to our stars - transformation and growth.

In a world so weighed down by chaos

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and uncertainty, Christmas and New Year's offer a welcome respite. They are a reminder that, at their core, the simplest joys - shared laughter, heart-felt conversations, and the warmth of community - are the things that matter most. Here's to our readers, advertisers, helpers and team, we wish you a season of peace, love, and renewal. Cheers to a wonderful 2025!

# Love The Hoed® Titbits

## Did we make the list – best small towns to visit?

Ed Stoddard, Talia Kincaid and Hannah Theron of Daily Maverick recently published a list of 'South Africa's best small towns to visit' ... and these are the towns per province.

The winner was from the Eastern Cape – Kenton-on-Sea. A combination of bush and beach, safe, clean, good accommodation, and laid back. Can't fault those credits.

Then there were the others in no particular order:

- Western Cape – Montagu a blend of natural beauty, architecture and fine dining. A local resident said that Montagu "blends old world dorpie [town] with modern convenience". Plenty outdoor activities, and not to forget the nature reserve of Klein Karoo plant life. You cannot really miss the wine and dine

options either.

- Free State – Clarens. The jewel of the eastern Free State surrounded by the Maluti mountains, it has natural beauty, a rich history and vibrant community. Plenty of shops and good eateries, but the stand-out feature are the nature trails.
- Gauteng – Cullinan. From the beautiful historic mining homes to the preserved murals created by Italian prisoners of war. The town is somewhat frozen in time. Best known for the discovery of the world's largest diamond – the Cullinan Diamond. It was cut and mounted into the British Crown Jewels. Again, we have natural beauty and good fair dining.

- Kwazulu-Natal – St Lucia. A natural paradise with abundant wildlife, diverse fauna and flora and unique marine ecosystems.
- Mpumalanga – Dullstroom. With tranquil escapes and outdoor adventures, this town is the "fly-fishing capital" of the country.
- Limpopo – HOEDSPRUIT! We made it! Limpopo's "hidden gem". One resident explained it as a "proverbial global melting pot" because of its steady flow of local and international tourists. You're right there! By road or air, direct from Cape Town and Johannesburg – hospitable, friendly and accommodating people. Plenty of safari and other outdoor activities, and

magnificent nature.

- North West – Magaliesberg. Hartbeespoort Dam and the mountains – plenty outdoor activities, mainly focused around the dam.
- Northern Cape – Sutherland. A quaint little town that is world-renowned for its astronomy. Everyone goes to Sutherland for the stars!

So we made it. Well done "Hoedies", lets all come and visit because "we know what they don't"!

# Trivia questions - on Africa

- 99% of which country's population live in a valley or delta of the River Nile?
- What percentage of the African continent is covered by the Sahara Desert?
- For most of the 20th century, what was Zimbabwe called?
- Which natural feature lies between Zambia and Zimbabwe?
- Which of the countries of Africa is first alphabetically?
- Which countries in Africa are considered to never have been colonised?
- The Gusii, the Meru, and the Kikuyu are tribes in which African nation?
- Bamako is the capital of which African country?
- Which is Africa's least densely populated country?
- The ruins of ancient Carthage are found in the suburbs of which modern city?
- Which popular holiday destination lies off the coast of Western Sahara in Africa?
- Which African country is furthest north?
- What is the more common name for the island of Unguja, which lies off the east

- coast of Africa?
- In terms of population, what is the largest city in Africa?
- What is the largest country in Africa?
- Name the highest peak in Africa?
- What is Africa's largest desert?
- After which natural feature is the African country of Niger named?
- What percentage of the world's population live in Africa?
- In which country did Robert Mugabe come to power in 1980?
- Off which coast of Africa does the island of Zanzibar lie?
- What is the newest country in Africa?
- What is the oldest independent country in Africa?
- What natural feature is 155m below sea level (the lowest point in Africa)?
- What is the coldest country in Africa?

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# South Africa exports millions of creatures great and small in shadowy global wildlife trade

Don Pinnock

Among the top three suppliers to the global wildlife market, South African breeders and exporters exploit loopholes and a lack of enforcement to bypass conservation rules.

In an earlier version of this story, *Global Supplies* was erroneously listed as an exporter of wild animals. This was incorrect and has subsequently been removed from the text below. We apologise for the error.

South Africa is the biggest exporter of parrots in the world and, with Indonesia and Honduras, one of the top three countries delivering wildlife into the global marketplace.

The numbers are staggering. Between 2013 and 2023, South Africa officially exported more than 16 million live wild creatures, which included:

- 3,366,796 birds, mostly parrots
- 23,803 mammals, including a huge number of marmosets and many lions, lechwes, tamarins, servals, cheetahs, tigers and grey wolves
- 12,951,599 fish, dominated by sturgeon and including 252,000 seahorses; and
- 1,420 reptiles, mainly crocodiles and tortoises.

These numbers are extremely conservative, and here's why. These are the exports documented by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites). Not counted are large numbers of creatures exported illegally, and possibly an even larger number of creatures not listed by Cites.

Of the estimated 11,000 bird species in the world, only 1,400 are Cites-listed; of around 6,400 mammals only 1,500 are listed; and of 11,500 reptiles only 1,600 are listed. For those that are unlisted, anything goes.

## Birds

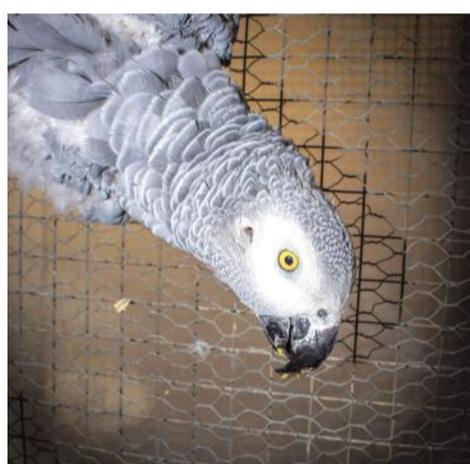
Over 10 years from 2013, Cites listed hundreds of bird species exported from South Africa for the pet trade. Most were smaller, cageable birds, but there were also francolins and a range of ducks, eagles, hawks, vultures, swans, geese and penguins.

Many more than those are exported but are not listed in the Cites database. Take songbirds, much desired for their sweet singing in lonely cages by people unaware of the cruelty. Of the estimated 6,659 traded species, research published



Animals of all kinds are being exported from South Africa in staggering numbers, making the country one of the leaders in the global wildlife trade  
Photos: iStock; Graphics: Pixabay, Vecteezy

in the *Journal of Environmental Management* last year found no songbirds listed by Cites.



South Africa is the world's largest supplier of captive-bred African grey parrots  
Photo: iStock

## Parrots

Parrots are an anomaly because South Africa has very few species. Generally, what we export are South American, Australian and Central African species that come from 410 South African breeding farms. Most of these are in North West, Free State, Kwa-Zulu-Natal and Gauteng.

Is captive breeding a conservation measure? A new study published in *Conservation Biology* by researchers from the World Parrot Trust and World Animal Protection says that in most cases current practices are not a straightforward conservation

solution and inadvertently threaten wild populations.

According to the study, hundreds of thousands of parrots, valued for their plumage, intelligence, mimicry and rarity, are traded globally each year. The global parrot trade increased from around 60,000 in 1990 to more than 500,000 in 2020.

Captive-bred parrots now lead the international wildlife trade, and South Africa's mega-facilities dominate the market.

This drive to supply the exotic pet trade has driven the extinction of species in the wild and caused drastic population declines in formerly widespread and abundant species, such as the African grey parrot. It has also led to the spread of infectious diseases.

The problem, says the study, is that increasing the supply of captive-bred wildlife may also increase demand for wild-sourced animals by stimulating latent demand and normalising consumption. Global demand is escalating for wild-sourced specimens as breeding stock.

The trade also creates opportunities for the laundering and misdeclaration of wild-sourced specimens as captive-bred.

In the past, South Africa imported large volumes of wild-sourced parrots, particularly African greys, as breeding stock, but is now the world's largest supplier of greys bred from these imports.

Several assessments across a range of species indicate that captive-bred birds are more expensive than wild-sourced parrots, in part because of major up-front costs associated with investment in infrastructure.

The study points out that while the profits

go to relatively wealthy farm owners, the costs of monitoring the impacts of trade are often externalised by the industry, with the burden falling on governments or NGOs, often with little capacity to do so.

Conditions are not always ideal. In 2020, hundreds of dead parrots were discovered on the premises of a prominent parrot breeder in Gauteng. The SPCA searched Farmall Parrots after a tip-off and found about 300 dead birds in appalling conditions.

The same year, 150 dead parrots were found at the home of the vice-chairman of the Parrot Breeders Association.

## Mammals

The primate trade is of great concern. A report by the EMS Foundation and Ban Animal Trading, *Breaking Point: Uncovering South Africa's Shameful Live Wildlife Trade with China*, said no checks were conducted by South African authorities on the legitimacy or even existence of importers listed on permits. In a number of cases these were found to be dummy entities or non-existent.

The range of animals being exported from South Africa is extraordinary.

From OR Tambo Airport alone, from the start of 2016 to the end of 2022, 3,782 live primates were legally exported, plus 5,244 dead hunting trophies consisting of 3,349 chacma baboons and 1,886 vervet monkeys. During this period 1,141 live bushbabies were exported, and nine as hunting trophies. (Who hunts tiny bushbabies?)

Zoos claim to play a major role in conservation and education. This is not only a fallacy, according to a report, *Our Kin Discarded*, but also a fiction that allows the zoo industry to continue its wildlife trading business with little scrutiny.

Zoos "play a potentially oversized role ... in helping to launder illegal wildlife products into the supply chain," says the report. "Animals sold to or exchanged between zoos are seldom traceable."

According to the report, there's a loophole in Cites so big that the very intention of the organisation can be undermined with the use of one letter, the purpose code Z (which applies to zoos), rather than code T (which applies to commercial transactions).

"In practice it does not seem to matter if the zoo in question is unable to provide any conservation benefits or even meet minimal welfare requirements, nor does it matter if the trade to this so-called zoo has huge commercial value," the report says.

Cont. on page 4

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# Justice for Anton Mzimba: two years on, no answers

Mark Bishop

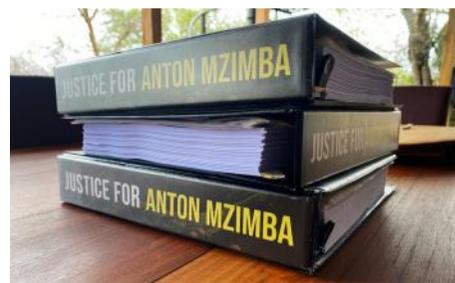
On July 26, 2022, Anton Mzimba was tragically murdered at his home by hitmen linked to rhino poaching. His wife was left wounded, and his children were left to endure the traumatic aftermath of witnessing the brutal attack. The murder sparked international outrage and calls for justice, yet over two years later, no arrests have been made, and the case remains unresolved.

Mzimba's death sent shockwaves through the community and ignited widespread anger across South Africa and beyond. However, despite numerous appeals from his family, colleagues, advocacy groups, and the public, local authorities have failed to make significant progress in the investigation. The lack of arrests has led many to question why the case remains unsolved and has fuelled growing frustration over the slow pace of justice. The Mzimba family, along with concerned citizens and organizations, continue to demand accountability, urging authorities to act with urgency.

As time passes, the call for action and answers grows louder. Anton's family, supported by local and international groups, remains determined to see justice done. Together, they are working to ensure that the investigation receives the attention it deserves. They believe that the right people are now on the job, but the key question remains: When will the authorities take meaningful action to solve Anton Mzimba's murder?

## Global Petition for Justice

In the wake of Anton's murder, the Care2 Team launched an online petition that has now gathered over 100 000 signatures from people around the world. The petition has garnered widespread support, including



Anton with Horn (left), photo - Nick Smith - Global Conservation Corps and Justice for Anton Binders Stacked, photo by John Jurko II (above)

signatures from nearly 1 500 South Africans, almost 50 000 Americans, and 20 000 Britons, amongst others, all calling for justice. Those advocating for Anton's case urge people from around the world to add their voices to this global effort for justice.

## Cape Town Campaign Launch

In November, the Justice for Anton Mzimba campaign hosted a series of events in Cape Town, marking a renewed push for justice. The campaign reached a significant milestone at the United for Wildlife Global Summit, where Prince William once again raised Anton's case in his opening address. Prince William, who had met Anton virtually in 2021 and was familiar with his conservation efforts, highlighted the need for justice during the summit, emphasizing the ongoing fight against wildlife crime.

The events in Cape Town also included the premiere of RHINO MAN, a film that showcases Anton's dedication to conservation. The screening was attended by key figures, including landowners from the

Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, law enforcement officers, conservationists, and rangers. In a memorable moment, David Fein, Co-Chairman of United for Wildlife, moderated a Q&A session where the launch of the "Justice for Anton Mzimba" campaign was publicly announced.

## Supporting the Investigation

Efforts to bring Anton's killers to justice are being bolstered by a fundraising campaign aimed at supporting the investigation. A reward fund is being set up to incentivize those with information that could lead to a conviction in the case, with an initial goal of raising between R55 000 and R100 000 (USD 3 000 to USD 5 000). In addition, funds are being raised to support Focused Conservation, a U.S.-based nonprofit working directly with South African law enforcement to assist in gathering evidence and building the case against the perpetrators. The overall fundraising goal is R650 000 (USD 35 000).

The collaboration between the South African Hawks (the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation) and Focused Conservation is crucial to the success of the investigation. The Hawks, known for tackling serious crimes such as organized

crime and corruption, are leading the investigation into Anton's murder. Focused Conservation brings vital intelligence and operational support to the law enforcement agencies, helping to dismantle illegal wildlife trafficking networks. Recently, their efforts contributed to the arrest of a major figure in the wildlife crime world, Joseph "Big Joe" Nyalunga, in October 2024.

## Elevating the Case to Top Priority

In a bid to raise the case's profile, the campaign has distributed media kits highlighting Anton's life and legacy, along with the urgent need for justice. The campaign has reached key officials, including Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, Dr Dion George, Minister of Police, Senzo Mchunu, and the Head of the Hawks, Lt-Gen Godfrey Lebeya. These media kits, including over 100 000 petition signatures, aim to push Anton's case to the top of the national agenda, securing more resources for the investigation.

Digital versions of the media kit are being shared widely with international media, local press, and government officials. With enough attention, the case could be given the priority it deserves.

## Join the Fight for Justice

The Justice for Anton Mzimba campaign is calling on people around the world to act. You can help by signing the petition, donating to the reward fund, and supporting the ongoing investigation. The need for justice is urgent, and together, we can help ensure that Anton's murder does not go unanswered.

The appeal is to act, visit the petition website and donate today. Links: [justiceforanton.org/](https://www.justiceforanton.org/); [@rhinomanthemovie](https://www.rhinomanthemovie.com/)

## Lead story continued from page 3

"Countless examples have shown that by simply proclaiming the transaction to be for zoo purposes, a commercial enterprise and transaction is able to escape from Cites' most fundamental safeguard."

Smaragda Louw of Ban Animal Trading, one of the researchers of the Breaking Point report, says the Environment Department is lulling the public into a false sense of security by claiming that the international trade in wild animals is regulated.

"Nothing could be further from the truth. The Cites permit system is inherently flawed and the regulation is beset by inefficiencies, audacious fraud and illegality."

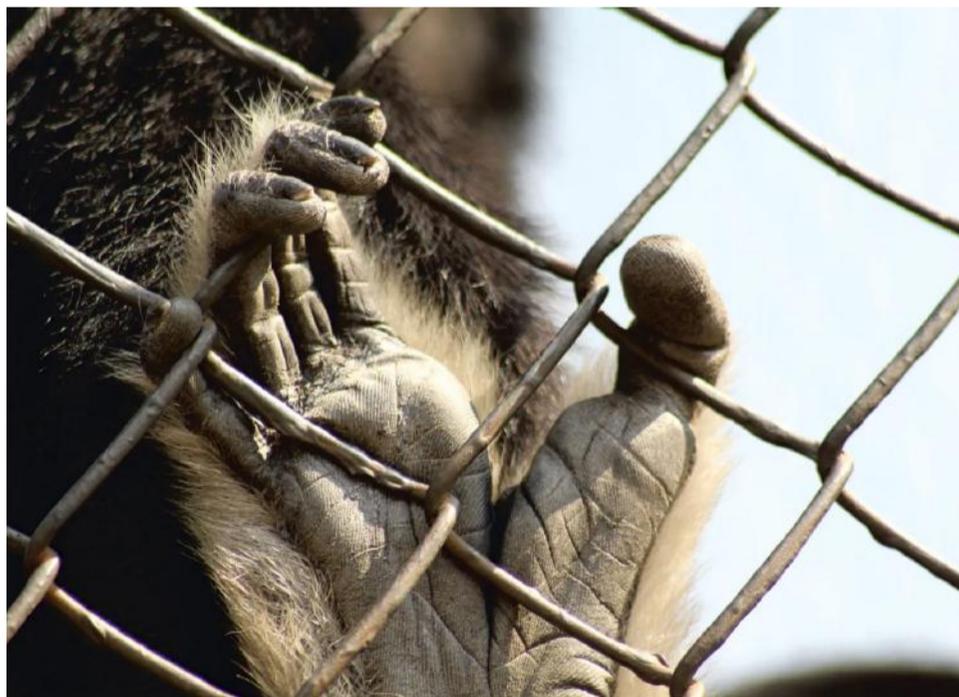
She says it becomes very difficult to distinguish between legal trade and illegal trade. "Wildlife traffickers don't have to make use of cruel methods to smuggle animals. They simply use the Cites permit system [fraudulently]."

Such fraud, she says, is either not detected by the authorities or not responded to by provincial and national regulators. "It is fair to conclude that the regulatory authorities do not effectively police the industry."

## Reptiles

A report in New Scientist on the reptile trade listed 4,500 reptiles sold internationally from South Africa, including thousands of tortoises and hundreds of snakes, lizards, rock monitors and crocodiles. Because many are not listed by Cites, only 1,420 were documented exports, mostly crocodiles.

According to the Breaking Point report, the pet industry itself acknowledged a 70% mortality rate. As many as four out of five animals captured and transported through the illegal wildlife trade will die in transit or within a year of captivity.



The hand of a caged primate. Nearly 3,800 live primates, and more than 5,200 dead ones, were exported between 2016 and 2022  
Photo: iStock

## Breeders

With 410 breeders and exporters, the wild bird trade is by far the biggest. According to Breaking Point, few local traders are involved in other types of wildlife exports, but they generate large volumes of exports.

For example, the Facebook page of African Pride Imports & Exports, under the name of Edward Coetzer, formerly listed for sale a range of animals including a black leopard, white lion cubs, white tiger cubs and giraffes but now, according to photos, appears to specialise in white lions, tigers, cheetahs and wild dogs. Impex Wildlife offers for export a range

of big and small cats, giraffes and reptiles. It claims to be able to source wildlife both in South Africa and from abroad "using many agents throughout the world". Its website says it can "arrange species of animal others cannot and is able to help re-export imported birds, reptiles and primates". It can "source any zoo animals you can think of as well as redirect ... exports of small mammals, birds, primates and reptiles".

Mystic Monkeys and Feathers Wildlife Park in Limpopo breeds marmosets and exports them to a Chinese breeding farm, and sends penguins, cheetahs, lemurs, meerkats, bat-eared foxes and capuchins

to a Chinese wildlife broker.

It also exports chimps, hyenas and lions, among other species.

Other exporters include Hartbeespoort Dam Snake and Animal Park, Wildlife Assignments International, Naaupoort Parrots, Anderson Wildlife Traders and Zoological Live Animal Suppliers.

The rarer the creatures, the harder they get hammered. It doesn't mean all exported species are under threat; it's that we just don't know. It is largely a free-for-all.

Following discussion of the Breaking Point report in Parliament, the authors sent former Environment Minister Barbara Creecy a list of suggestions to clean up SA's act on live wild animal exports, including:

- A halt to all trade that does not benefit conservation
- Transparency of export information
- Verification of traders and buyers
- Increased enforcement, and
- Consideration of animal welfare in issuing Cites permits.

All these measures remain to be implemented. Creecy committed her department to undertake the necessary investigations, assess the accuracy of the report and see if measures were required to strengthen the regulatory system. She said permit requirements were being updated.

As her successor, Deon George, takes the reins in the Environment Department, the welfare of the huge number of wild animals that are exported will be one of the horses he will have to ride.

**This article was previously published by the Daily Maverick – Our Burning Planet – Animal Market**

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Website : www.century21wildlife.co.za



SOLE MANDATE

**RAPTORS VIEW WILDLIFE ESTATE** R 4 900 000  
Beds 3 | Baths 3 | Floor size: 360 m<sup>2</sup>

This spacious home is located in a quiet area. The living area has an open plan lounge and kitchen with a loft. The neat scullery has ample storage. The dining area and guest bathroom is set to the side of the living area. The main patio overlooks an attractive rocky outcrop, pool and boma area.

Rob Severin - 083 469 3820 Ref: 2218613



SOLE MANDATE

**WILD FIG APARTMENTS, HOEDSPRUIT** R 750 000  
Beds 1 | Baths 1 | Floor: 65 m<sup>2</sup>

This ground floor apartment is well positioned within the complex and has an open plan living area with lounge and kitchen. Ground floor units have the benefit of applying to have a pet. One small dog or cat is allowed with permission from the board of trustees. Communal pool and braai facilities.

Michelle Severin - 083 469 3821 Ref: 2325962



SOLE MANDATE

**LEOPARD ROCK NATURE RESERVE** R 3 500 000  
Beds 2 | Baths 2 | Floor size: 152 m<sup>2</sup>

Spacious and inviting, this home provides a peaceful and serene atmosphere. The open-plan kitchen and living room feature high, vaulted ceilings with wooden beams, natural tones, custom-made light fixtures, and unique design elements. The design seamlessly blends indoor and outdoor spaces.

Jason Jones - 083 267 4794 Ref: 2329290



SOLE MANDATE

**GRIETJIE, GREATER KRUGER, BIG 5** R 8 500 000  
Floor size: 400 m<sup>2</sup> | Reserve: 2,800 ha

This property offers elevated views of the surrounding bushveld, with peace and quiet only the bushveld can provide. The beautifully maintained property offers 3 dwellings - a 3-bedroom main home, a 2-bedroom cottage and a rondavel.

Yvette Thompson - 083 655 7176 Ref: 2335934



SOLE MANDATE

**KAMPERSRUS** R 2 450 000  
Bedrooms 3 | Bathrooms 2 | Floor size: 120 m<sup>2</sup>

This home is a great option for first-time home buyers or those looking for an investment opportunity. The home has an open plan living room with the kitchen set to the side. Above the kitchen is a loft area which can be utilised in various ways. The property is fenced and pet friendly.

Michelle Severin - 083 469 3821 Ref: 2247851



SOLE MANDATE

**COMMERCIAL LODGE AND GAME FARM** R 10 000 000  
Beds 8 | Baths 8 | Floor: 1,230 m<sup>2</sup>

This new boutique lodge is located on its own private game farm (67 ha), offering the owner plenty of flexibility and freedom. The lodge is currently set up with 8 commercial beds. There are 4 rooms for family accommodation and 5 for staff. A solar system powers the lodge.

Rob Severin - 083 469 3820 Ref: 2334368



SOLE MANDATE

**BLYDE WILDLIFE ESTATE** R 4 950 000  
Bedrooms 4 | Bathrooms 3 | Floor size: 310 m<sup>2</sup>

This expansive property comprises main house and separate cottage. The main house features an open plan living area with lounge, kitchen and loft area. The covered patio has beautiful mountain views. A well-established garden, a large pool and built-in braai are also found in the outdoor area.

Michelle Severin - 083 469 3821 Ref: 2238263



**KHAYA NDLOVU GAME RESERVE** R 10 900 000  
Beds 4 | Baths 4.5 | Floor size: 450 m<sup>2</sup>

Beautiful home set on the banks of the dry riverbed. The large open plan entertainment area consists of a dining room, lounge and open plan kitchen. Khaya Ndlovu is a low density residential reserve with only 35 stands on 1,305 ha; it is home to 4 of the Big 5 animals.

Yvette Thompson - 083 655 7176 Ref: 2209629



**BLYDE WILDLIFE ESTATE** R 5 100 000  
Bedrooms 4 | Bathrooms 4.5 | Floor size: 320 m<sup>2</sup>

This spacious home offers you an open plan kitchen and living area which leads out to an elevated covered patio with views over the pool, boma area and trees around the home. The garage has space for 4 vehicles as well as a covered carport. Under the patio is a storage room and bathroom.

Jason Jones - 083 267 4794 Ref: 2268885



**HOEDSPRUIT WILDLIFE ESTATE** R 4 800 000  
Beds 4 | Baths 4.5 | Floor: 286 m<sup>2</sup>

**COMMERCIAL** - This fully furnished and recently renovated guest house offers an open plan living, dining and kitchen area, leading to a patio with a raised viewing deck. Two carports, swimming pool and a fire pit area add to the features.

Yvette Thompson - 083 655 7176 Ref: 2255810



**LEOPARD'S LANE New Development** from R 2 700 000  
Beds 2 | Baths 2.5

A modern, off-the-grid lifestyle just minutes from town. This home offers 2 en-suite bedrooms, a guest toilet, an open plan lounge and kitchen, and a thoughtfully designed patio that creates a seamless connection between indoor and outdoor living. Development is pet friendly.

Calin Leppan - 082 824 9482 Ref: 2335178



**KAMPERSRUS** R 2 800 000  
Bedrooms 3 | Bathrooms 2 | Floor size: 220 m<sup>2</sup>

This double storey home is set in a wonderful garden and has great mountain views. Upstairs is an en-suite bedroom, open plan kitchen and lounge with a covered patio. Downstairs are two bedrooms, a bathroom and kitchenette. A 1-bedroom cottage in the garden offers income generating potential.

Jason Jones - 083 267 4794 Ref: 2253232



**ORCHARD HILLS New Development** from R 2 500 000 excl  
Beds 2 | Baths 2

These off-plan houses feature a contemporary, luxury farmhouse style and is also full title ownership. The homes comprise of an open-plan lounge, dining area, and kitchen with a separate scullery/laundry. The lounge area opens to a beautiful, covered terrace with a built-in braai.

Calin Leppan - 082 824 9482 Ref: 2269562



**INCOME GENERATING COMMERCIAL LODGE** R 10 500 000  
Beds 8 | Baths 8

This lodge consists of a main owner's house, central lodge area and 5 luxury treetop chalets. Sold as going concern; this lodge has bounced back after Covid and has great potential. There are future bookings and well-trained staff. Movable items and furniture included, as well as a bakkie.

Rob Severin - 083 469 3820 Ref: 2160187



RENTAL

**NDLOVUMZI NATURE RESERVE** R 15 000 pm  
Bedrooms 2 | Bathrooms 2

Available 1 Jan 2025 - 31 Mar 2025, furnished, not pet friendly - This wooden house offers a secluded escape into nature for those seeking peace, privacy and creative inspiration. The living area consists of a cozy kitchen and living room with basic amenities including a gas stove.

Michelle Herb - 071 652 9140 Ref: 2326788



RENTAL

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Available 1 January 2024, not pet friendly - This home comprises open plan kitchen/living area, three bedrooms with the main being en-suite plus a loft room. The living room has sliding doors that open onto a wonderful patio that has covered area. There is also an enclosed courtyard.

Jason Jones - 083 267 4794 Ref: 2222024



# FGASA seeks formal recognition as a professional body for the nature guiding sector

PRESS RELEASE

FGASA is transitioning towards becoming a SAQA-recognised professional body, as the South African government formalises guiding qualifications and standardises training, to align with the country's tourism goals to produce top-tier field guides.

Hoedspruit, South Africa – 2 December 2024. In line with the South African government's 2021 Tourism Sector Masterplan and Professionalisation Strategy, the Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA) is transitioning from a CATHSSETA-accredited training provider to a SAQA-recognised professional body for the nature guiding sector. This shift marks a positive change in the professionalisation and recognition of field guides.

Since it was established as a non-profit organisation in 1991, FGASA has set professional standards for field guiding qualifications from entry-level to professional and specialist levels. More than 40 000 field guides have been developed through FGASA over the past three decades. To support the guiding sector and tourism professionalisation strategy, FGASA is seeking recognition from SAQA as a professional body. "We will be able to better represent the interests of field guides, advocate for their professional development, and ensure the standards and qualifications are aligned with the industry's needs," says Michelle du Plessis, FGASA's Managing Director.



The most significant change is that FGASA will no longer be providing entry-level accredited programmes for nature guides from June 2026, the deadline of enrolment

for the expiring CATHSSETA programmes. This means that in future, aspiring nature guides will need to obtain their entry-level qualification via the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO). Those already undertaking their training before mid-2026 will have a three-year 'teach out' period in which to complete their certification.

During this time FGASA will continue to consult with its partners and the industry, provide guidance on the development of new qualifications to ensure a smooth transition from the current training system to the professional body model. "We've been working closely with CATHSSETA, the body responsible for overseeing the process, and other industry stakeholders to ensure the new qualifications are developed in a timely manner and to meet the needs of nature guiding as it evolves," she adds.

As the transition progresses, FGASA will complete the registration process to become a professional body with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). "By formally registering as a professional body, we will be able to better advocate

for the interests of our members, ensure the maintenance of high standards, and open the sector to greater diversity and transformation," says du Plessis.

This shift aims to formalise standards, provide recognition, award professional designations and support the sector with continuous professional development for nature guides. "It's the best thing that could happen to the guiding industry. It brings this profession in line with other recognised professions. It will position nature guiding as a professional career to ensure that guides are recognised as highly skilled professionals within the Tourism sector," du Plessis explains.

"These changes will ensure that South Africa continues to produce the best guides in the world. By professionalising this sector, we're not only supporting the guides, but also contributing to the overall growth and competitiveness of South Africa's tourism industry," she concludes.

Aspiring nature guides are encouraged to contact FGASA for further clarification at [marketing@fgasa.org.za](mailto:marketing@fgasa.org.za)

## The sweet thorn - *Vachellia karroo*

The tree formerly known as *Acacia karroo* is one of South Africa's most iconic and versatile species, deeply woven into the country's history. It has been used for a wide range of purposes—from crafting rafts and sewing needles to building fences for the royal Zulu women's homes. Early naturalists even used its thorns to pin collected insects.

This tree, now classified as *Vachellia karroo*, is one of the most widespread *Vachellia* species in southern Africa and thrives across a diverse range of environments. It can be found in savannahs, woodlands, rocky hillsides, and along dry riverbanks. Its shape and size vary greatly, from a small shrub of about 2 meters tall to a tree reaching heights of over 20 meters, with characteristic white thorns and attractive yellow flowers.

*Vachellia karroo* ranges from the Western Cape all the way to Zambia and Angola, occupying a variety of habitats, including low-lying areas and highveld regions, though it is absent from mist belt and montane zones. Its rounded crown is typically low-branching, and its bark starts red on young branches, darkening and becoming rough with age, sometimes revealing a reddish hue in deep fissures. The leaves are finely textured and dark green.

In early summer, the tree bursts into bloom, producing masses of yellow pompom-like flowers that attract a variety of pollinating insects. Thanks to its abundant nectar and pollen, *Vachellia karroo* can flower multiple times a year—up to three or four times. The flowers are also a boon for beekeepers, as the nectar yields a pleasant-tasting honey. The seed pods are flat, crescent-shaped, and green when young, turning brown and dry before splitting open to release the seeds.

The tree's thorns are paired, straight, and greyish to white, though on mature trees they may be shorter. *Vachellia karroo* is an indicator of "sweet veld," a term for the fertile, high-quality grazing areas prized by farmers. However, when overgrazed, the species can become invasive, spreading rapidly in pasturelands. In arid regions, the tree also signals the presence of water - both surface and underground - making it a welcome sight for early travellers and nomads.

With a lifespan of 30 to 40 years, this adaptable pioneer tree can establish itself without the need for shade or shelter and can survive grass fires once it is a year old. Its long taproot allows it to access water and nutrients deep underground, while its ability to fix nitrogen benefits surrounding vegetation. *Vachellia karroo* is highly resilient, able to

withstand fire, drought, frost, termites, and salinity. It is also known for stabilizing sand dunes and disturbed areas. Birds often nest in the tree, protected by its thorns, and its foliage supports the caterpillars of various butterfly species, including the club-tailed charaxes and the topaz-spotted blue.

The common name "sweet thorn" comes from the gum the tree produces when its bark is wounded. This gum has a sweet taste and is consumed by both humans and animals, including the lesser bushbaby, which feeds on insects and gum. In the past, this gum was commercially valuable, exported as "Cape Gum" for use in confectionery, similar to gum Arabic, which serves as a water-soluble glue. The tree is also an important fodder source, with livestock and game feeding on its leaves, flowers, and pods. However, its high tannin content can reduce protein availability for livestock.

The bark contains tannin, which is used in tanning leather to a reddish colour, although this process results in a distinct odour. The wood is reddish-brown, hard, and moderately heavy, making it ideal for firewood, as it burns brightly and evenly with minimal smoke and ash. The inner bark, when wet, can be used to make cord, twine, and rope.

In traditional medicine, the tree's bark,

leaves, and gum are used for various treatments, including poultices for wounds, eye care, and cold remedies. The roots are used in Zimbabwe as an aphrodisiac and for treating ailments such as pain in the digestive system, rheumatism, convulsions, and gonorrhoea. The tree's roots are also used to treat cattle affected by tulip poisoning; a condition caused by toxic bulbous plants.



The pompom-like flowers of the sweet thorn  
Image : Random Harvest Nursery

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# Two-spotted ground beetle - unveiling the secrets of a giant beetle



Tim Baynham  
Wildlife Safety Solutions

With the onset of the summer rains the bush has come alive with an array of insect life. With this onset it doesn't take long for the two-spotted ground beetles (*Anthia thoracica*) to make their presence known as they scurry rapidly through the undergrowth in search of prey.

These large, flightless beetles can grow to lengths in excess of 50 mm. Easily identified by their sheer size, black bodies, conspicuous oval shaped yellow spots located on each lateral extension of the pronotum, and a band of whitish setae on the lateral margins of elytra. The aposematic colouration serves as a warning to any would-be predators to leave this beetle well alone, a warning well worth heeding as they are equipped with a potent chemical defence mechanism. When feeling sufficiently threatened they are able to spray a powerful jet of noxious formic acid in the direction of the attacker, which serves, as one can imagine, as a rather effective deterrent from any further harassment. This behaviour is where the common Afrikaans name for this species has been derived, the so

called "oogpisters" beetles.

They rely on their speed and agility to both capture prey and to avoid becoming prey themselves. They are active free roaming hunters feeding on a variety of invertebrates, which they overpower and dispatch with their powerful mandibles. Males are slightly smaller than females and have more elongated mandibles.

A rather intriguing aspect of this insect's natural history is their perhaps unknowing role, in one of nature's most fascinating examples of a "Batesian" mimicry system. Juvenile bushveld lizards copy not only the beetle's aposematic colouration but also mimic their skittish movements. The juvenile lizards dramatically arch their back and forage in a jerky and erratic fashion in almost perfect mimicry of the beetles, thus affording themselves a degree of protection from potential predators who wish to avoid a dose formic acid. As the lizard matures it takes on a more cryptic colouration to blend more effectively into its environment.

The two-spotted ground beetle is an awe-inspiring insect that plays a vital role in maintaining the ecological balance of Africa's diverse ecosystems. Its impressive size, striking appearance, and fascinating behaviour make it a captivating subject for study

and appreciation.

For more information on scorpions, snakes, spiders and other venomous animals, awareness training and talks, as well as a professional 24hrs problem snake rescue service, contact the author at Wildlife Safety Solutions: 073 934 6156; [info@wildlifesafetysolutions.co.za](mailto:info@wildlifesafetysolutions.co.za); [www.wildlifesafetysolutions.co.za](http://www.wildlifesafetysolutions.co.za), FB Wildlife Safety Solutions, Instagram [wildlife\\_safety\\_solutions](https://www.instagram.com/wildlife_safety_solutions)

A Two-spotted ground beetle (*Anthia thoracica*) with its aposematic colouration (above)

A Bushveld lizard (below) one of nature's most fascinating examples of a "Batesian" mimicry system

Images supplied.



# It's snake season again



A Mozambique spitting cobra eating a toad (above) and a Reticulated centepede-eater biting a bag (above right)

Images: Johan Marais

A Puffadder near a house (below left) and an ASI snake handling and removal demonstration (below right)

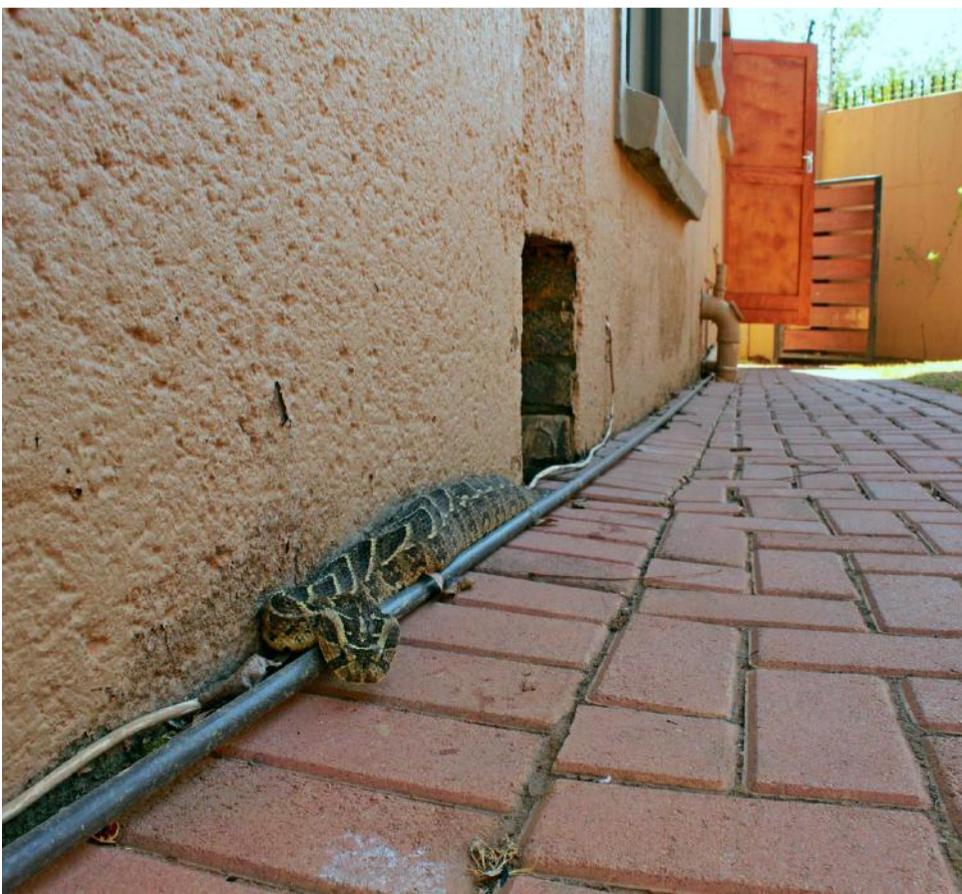
Luke Kemp  
African Snakebite Institute

With the onset of the first summer rains, the lowveld is buzzing with activity. The plants are bursting into leaf and flower, birds are building nests and frog choruses are deafening around watering holes, dams and ponds. The emergence of termite alates (flying ants) often causes a variety of animals to go on a feeding spree. The first rains will often signal an increase in snake activity. As the lowveld winters are not too cold, most reptiles will not truly hibernate, but they are often less active. Many snakes will remain underground during the dry winter months. The temperatures below ground are stable and living below ground will reduce water loss in the snakes. As the summer rains arrive, the snakes will move above ground in search of food and water. Many snakes will

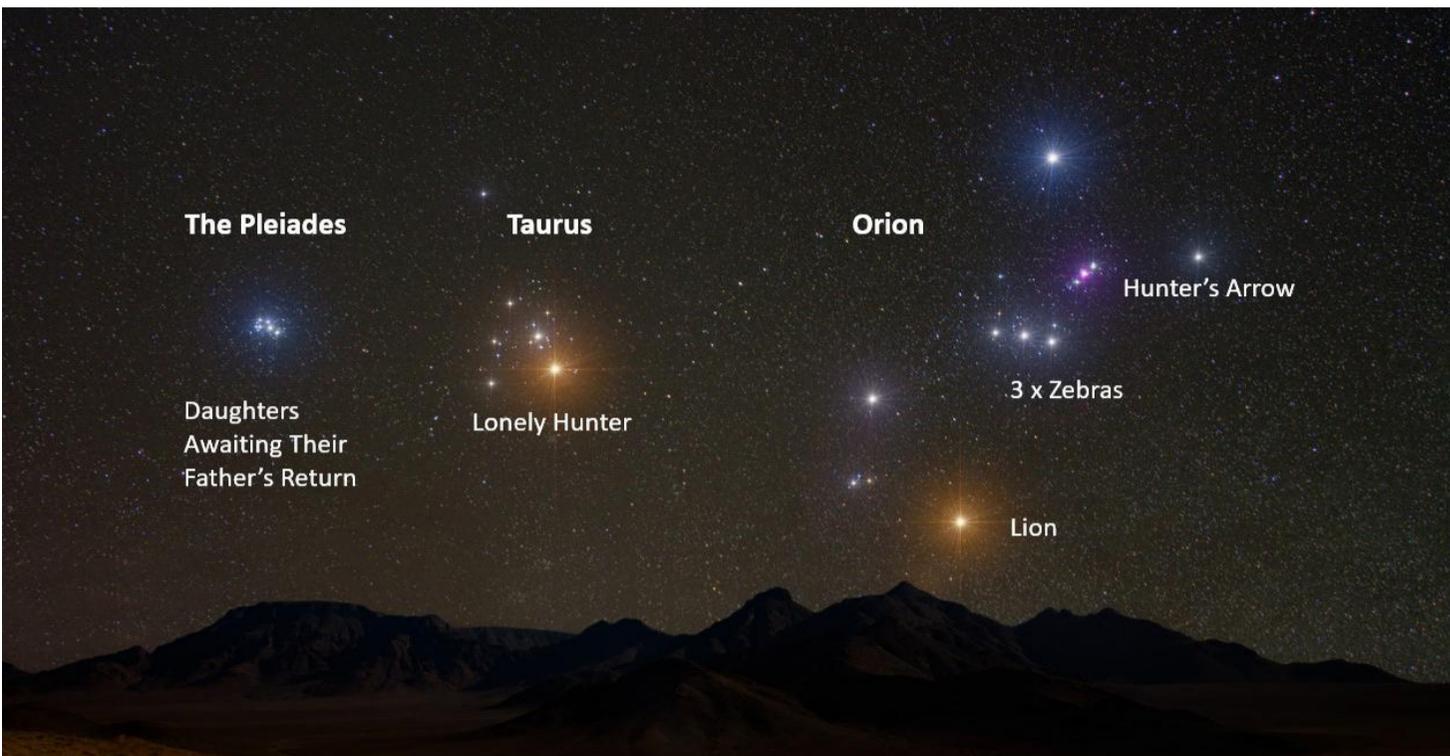
feed on the abundance of frogs, especially snakes like the Mozambique spitting cobra and the herald snake. This is often a problem when frogs are found near houses, feeding on insects attracted to lights. There are several certified snake removers across the Lowveld, and their contact information can be found on the free ASI SNAKES app. These trained removers can catch and relocate the snakes to a safer area, away from people and pets. This is a far safer option than attempting to catch the snake yourself. There are snake handling courses held in Hoedspruit and Mbombela (Nelspruit) every few months. The dates can be found on the African Snakebite Institute website or app. Snakebites are an unpleasant and expensive experience. A problem with certain areas, like Hoedspruit, is that there is no hospital currently available. The same applies to many camps and lodges in Kruger.

Most victims will need to be transported to Mbombela (Nelspruit) or Tzaneen. Bites are easily treated in a hospital and ideally the victim must be transported as soon as possible. Highly venomous snakes like black mambas, may cause serious symptoms within 2 - 6 hours after a bite, and the person is likely to struggle to breathe, as the muscles around the lungs become paralyzed. These victims can be kept alive by any form of ventilation whilst *en route* to the hospital. Occasionally, black mamba bites may be serious in under an hour, however in the majority of bites it usually takes more than two hours to become critical. If you manage a lodge or work with guests, it is advisable to have a snakebite protocol in place and have contact details for an ambulance service and your local hospital. Other venomous snakes like puff adders,

Mozambique spitting cobras and boomslang are generally only critical after 24 hours, but the tissue damage can be serious and ideally you want treatment as soon as possible. As the temperatures increase and the rainy season commences, be prepared for an increase in snake activity. Keep doors closed, especially at night, and be watchful when out in the garden or on walks. Save the number for a local snake catcher or do a snake handling course so you can safely remove a problem snake. Snakes generally move off quickly when encountered but will defend themselves if threatened or cornered. **Check out the website on [www.africansnakebiteinstitute.com](http://www.africansnakebiteinstitute.com) – and get your FREE App on the link <http://bit.ly/snakebiteapp>**



# The Seven Sisters



Bushmen starlore (top left), Atlas and the earth (top right), Matariki - Living by the Stars (left) and the Pleiades-Wikipedia (above)  
Other images: supplied by Ben Coley



**SUBARU**

Ben Coley

Summer is coming to South Africa, and it is almost time to say goodbye to the constellations that have watched over us for the past few months. The most noticeable departure is that of the great celestial scorpion which is currently nose-diving towards the western horizon after sunset, its curved tail standing ominously above the horizon, poised to strike. The centre of the Milky Way that runs through Scorpius and the neighbouring Sagittarius is also sinking, offering some wonderful photographic opportunities as its mighty arch begins to envelop the Drakensburg mountains.

All is not lost, however. As the Earth continues its endless cycle around the Sun, the summer constellations are beginning to come into view, bringing with them some of the most famous stars and objects in the night sky.

No object has received more attention, and is the centre of more cultural stories, than the fabled star cluster colloquially known as the Seven Sisters. Officially named 'the Pleiades' this vibrant group of young stars is unmistakable, twinkling close to the horns of the great bull, Taurus. Through binoculars or a small telescope, it is a remarkable object containing close to 500 blue/white stars that are just starting their stellar journeys. Its prominence has been noted by multiple civilisations in both hemispheres and its importance in cultural astronomy cannot be underestimated.

**Africa**

Early Bushmen tribes considered the glis-

tening stars as a nest of ostrich eggs, since its nightly appearance coincided with the summer and the breeding season of these great flightless birds. This is one of many examples in African star lore, whereby stars and objects were named in accordance with the availability of important seasonal resources.

Another beautiful Bushmen story tells of a group of seven daughters who patiently await the return of their over-confident father from a hunting trip (represented by Aldebaran in Taurus). He had set out to hunt one of the three zebras of Orion's Belt, but was so confident in his success, he took only one arrow. He duly missed his quarry, his wayward arrow symbolised by the sword of Orion but was unable to retrieve it due to the presence of the marauding lion (Betelgeuse) that was also hunting the zebra. To this day he remains cold and lonely, too ashamed to return to his hungry daughters.

All across sub-Saharan Africa, the Pleiades is known as the 'digging stars'. Its arrival, in conjunction with the rising Sun in early spring, signified to people that the dry, harsh winter period was coming to an end and that it was time to prepare the fields in anticipation of the summer rains.

**Greek**

To the Greeks, the Pleiades represented the seven daughters of the Titan, Atlas. Atlas was very protective of his daughters, but after the Titans lost their war against the gods, he was sentenced to holding up the Earth as punishment for his involvement, leaving them unprotected. Orion became infatuated with them and chased them relentlessly across the land. In des-

peration, they complained to Zeus, who agreed to protect them by turning them into a flock of doves. They flew up into the night sky for safety, but the infatuated Orion followed them into the heavens and still pursues them to this day. The Greek word 'Peleiades' means 'dove' and this may be one explanation for its name.

Whereas the helical rising of the Pleiades foretold of the arrival of winter in Africa, it indicated the beginning of the northern hemisphere summer. Its appearance at dawn signified to the Greeks that better weather was approaching and thus marked the start of the sailing season. In Greek, the word 'plein' means 'to sail' and is also considered an origin of the name Pleiades.

**Māori**

Perhaps no culture reveres the Seven Sisters as much as the Māori's of New Zealand. Its conjunction with the sunrise marks the start of the Māori new year and was recently proclaimed a national holiday by the government. Thousands of people gather to watch it appear above the horizon along with Taurus and Orion, the three shapes forming a giant boat with a net that scoops up the souls of those who lost their life during the previous year. The souls are then transported into the heavens to become stars. It is a time to mourn lost loved ones, but also to give thanks for the previous year and pray for a bounteous new year.

**Japan**

The Pleiades are known as 'subaru' in Ja-

pan, which means 'coming together'. The car manufacturer, Subaru, was formed when six companies merged, and the union was immortalised in their logo.

It is worth noting that whilst known as the Seven Sisters, only six stars are visible to the naked eye. This has not always been the case, however. Tens of thousands of years ago, seven stars were clearly visible but over time, the stars' slow migration across the cosmos has brought two so close together that they have merged from our perspective. It is therefore odd that so many cultures, many of which were only established after this event, have stories pertaining to seven protagonists.

The Bushmen stories of this object are therefore considered by many archaeoastronomers, to be the oldest of all the great cosmic narratives. They noted seven stars, and if *Homo sapiens* did indeed originate in Africa, is it quite conceivable that their descendants carried this knowledge with them, sowing this starlore seed to new civilisations and cultures across the globe.

See Celestial Events SA advert for contact details

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**CELESTIAL EVENTS SA**

# Gingerbread muffins for Christmas



## Ingredients:

- 125g softened butter
- ½ cup dark brown sugar
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 1 tbsp mixed spice
- 1 tbsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- Pinch of salt
- ¼ cup of milk
- 1 cup self-raising flour
- Icing sugar

## Method:

1. Preheat oven to 200°C
2. Lone 6-hole large muffin tray with paper cases
3. Place butter, sugar, vanilla extract and salt in a large bowl
4. Beat until light and fluffy
5. Now add eggs, ginger, cinnamon and mixed spice – beat for 1 minute
6. Add flour and milk and beat until well mixed
7. Spoon mixture in muffin cases until each is two thirds full
8. Sprinkle extra cinnamon on top
9. Bake in oven for 15 minutes
10. Remove from oven and cool
11. Serve dusted with icing sugar

# Lady Godiva and your 2025 horoscopes

## Overall:

2025 is a year of transformation and growth. We should all embrace change and step out of our comfort zone. Focus on personal development and building strong relationships. Opportunities for career advancement and financial stability are present. However, be mindful of potential challenges and stress. Practice self-care and maintain a positive outlook. Trust in the universe and the unfolding of your destiny.

## Aries (March 21 - April 19)

A year of bold moves and passionate pursuits. Embrace your leadership qualities and take charge of your destiny. Focus on your career and finances, but don't neglect your personal life.

## Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

A year of stability and security. Focus on building strong foundations in your relationships and career. Embrace your sensual nature and indulge in the finer things in life.

## Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

A year of communication and connection. Express yourself authentically and build strong relationships. Focus on your intellectual pursuits and creative endeavours.

## Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

A year of emotional healing and growth. Nurture your relationships with loved ones and prioritize self-care. Trust your intuition and embrace your sensitivity.

## Leo (July 23 - August 22)

A year of shining brightly and embracing your

leadership qualities. Focus on your creative pursuits and express yourself authentically.

## Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

A year of organization and productivity. Focus on your health and well-being and prioritize practical matters.

## Libra (September 23 - October 22)

A year of harmony and balance. Focus on your relationships and seek compromise and cooperation. Embrace your social nature and connect with others.

## Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

A year of transformation and mystery. Deepen your connections with others and explore your passions. Embrace your intuition and trust your gut feelings.

## Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

A year of adventure and exploration. Expand your horizons and seek new experiences. Focus on your spiritual growth and philosophical pursuits.

## Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

A year of ambition and achievement. Focus on your career and finances, and work hard to achieve your goals.

## Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

A year of innovation and creativity. Focus on your friendships and community involvement. Embrace your unique perspective and think outside the box.

## Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

A year of spirituality and compassion. Nurture your intuition and embrace your sensitivity. Focus on your inner world and connect with your higher self.



# Trivia answers on Africa

- |    |                      |    |                        |
|----|----------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1  | Egypt                | 14 | Lagos, Nigeria         |
| 2  | 31%                  | 15 | Algeria                |
| 3  | Rhodesia             | 16 | Kilimanjaro            |
| 4  | The Victoria Falls   | 17 | Sahara                 |
| 5  | Algeria              | 18 | A river                |
| 6  | Ethiopia and Liberia | 19 | 18,3%                  |
| 7  | Kenya                | 20 | Zimbabwe               |
| 8  | Mali                 | 21 | East coast             |
| 9  | Namibia              | 22 | South Sudan            |
| 10 | Tunis                | 23 | Ethiopia               |
| 11 | Canary Islands       | 24 | Lake Assal in Djibouti |
| 12 | Tunisia              | 25 | Lesotho                |
| 13 | Zanzibar             |    |                        |

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# The Growing Challenge: How global warming is undermining conservation efforts

AI perspective 'correspondent'

**As global temperatures continue to rise, one of the most alarming consequences of climate change is its growing impact on conservation efforts across the globe.**

While biodiversity conservation has long been a critical focus for environmental organizations, the effects of global warming are throwing a wrench into these strategies, often undermining decades of progress. From melting polar ice caps to shifting ecosystems, the unpredictable and often irreversible changes brought on by a warming planet are threatening the very species and habitats conservationists are working to protect.

## Rising Temperatures: A Threat to Species Survival

The most immediate and visible threat posed by global warming is the disruption of ecosystems, which can lead to dramatic shifts in biodiversity. A study by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that even a 1.5°C increase in global temperatures could push many species beyond the thresholds they need to survive. For example, species adapted to cooler climates, such as polar bears, snow leopards, and alpine plants, are finding their habitats disappearing due to the melting of ice sheets, loss of snowpack, and warmer temperatures at higher altitudes.

The plight of the polar bear is one of the most poignant examples of this crisis. With Arctic ice melting at an accelerated rate, these apex predators are struggling to find food and space to breed. Conservationists have long worked to protect their habitats, but as the ice recedes, polar bears are increasingly being forced to venture further inland in search of food, often coming into conflict with human settlements.

Similarly, in the tropics, rising sea levels and increasing ocean temperatures are devastating coral reefs, which are some of the most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet. The Great Barrier Reef, one of the world's most iconic natural wonders, has experienced widespread coral bleaching in recent decades. Warmer waters cause coral to expel the algae living within them, leading to mass die-offs. This not only threatens the coral itself but the thousands of species that depend on it for food and shelter, from fish to marine mammals.

## Disrupted Migration Patterns and Habitat Loss

In addition to directly threatening species, global warming is also disrupting migration patterns and the availability of critical habitats. Many animal species, including birds, whales, and monarch butterflies, rely on specific temperature cues to migrate. As seasons shift, these species find themselves out of sync with the timing of their traditional migration routes. For example, the migration of monarch butterflies is being affected by changing temperature and weather patterns, which influence the availability of milkweed—their primary food source. If these environmental changes continue, the butterflies face the risk of population collapse.

Similarly, migratory birds such as the Arctic Tern, which travels between the poles, are experiencing disruptions in the availability of food along their routes. Warmer temperatures affect the timing of insect hatches and fish spawning, leaving the birds without adequate nutrition during crucial stages of their journey.

On land, rising temperatures are shifting the habitats of many species, leading to competition for space and resources. Forests in the Amazon, Southeast Asia, and Central Africa are becoming increasingly

susceptible to drought and fires due to higher temperatures. In some areas, this leads to deforestation, which not only reduces biodiversity but also contributes further to global warming by releasing stored carbon into the atmosphere.

## A New Approach to Conservation: Adaptive Management

Given the magnitude of the threat posed by global warming, conservationists are having to rethink traditional strategies. Adaptive management, a flexible and dynamic approach to conservation, has become more prevalent in response to climate change. This approach emphasizes the need to monitor ecosystems in real time and adjust management strategies based on evolving conditions, rather than relying on static plans that may no longer be effective in a rapidly changing world.

For example, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has been working with communities in Kenya to implement adaptive conservation strategies in the face of changing climate patterns. This includes moving wildlife corridors to new areas, monitoring the health of species, and incorporating local knowledge into decision-making processes. The goal is not just to protect species in their current habitats but to anticipate where they may move as temperatures rise.

Additionally, the concept of "assisted migration" is gaining traction in certain conservation circles. This strategy involves relocating species to areas where the climate is more suitable for their survival. For instance, scientists are considering moving tree species that are particularly vulnerable to warming temperatures to higher altitudes where they may have a better chance of survival. However, this approach is not without controversy, as it raises concerns about disrupting ecosystems and introducing species to new environments where

they could become invasive.

## Collaboration and Policy Action

The urgency of addressing global warming's impact on conservation has led to calls for greater international collaboration and stronger environmental policies. One of the most significant international agreements in recent years, the Paris Climate Agreement, set ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming to 1.5°C. However, many conservationists argue that current efforts are insufficient and that more aggressive action is needed to curb emissions and slow the pace of climate change.

Organizations like the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Greenpeace have been advocating for more comprehensive policies that address the dual threats of climate change and biodiversity loss. These groups are pushing for greater protection of ecosystems, stronger regulations on deforestation and fossil fuel extraction, and more funding for climate adaptation programs.

## Conclusion

As the impacts of global warming continue to escalate, conservationists face a daunting challenge. The loss of habitats, disruptions to migration patterns, and increasing temperatures are putting species at risk and complicating conservation strategies. However, through adaptive management, innovative strategies like assisted migration, and a stronger global commitment to climate action, there is hope that the worst impacts of climate change can still be mitigated. The time to act is now, as the clock ticks on the future of the planet's biodiversity. If we are to preserve the world's most vulnerable species, we must confront the realities of a warming world head-on, with urgency and global solidarity.

*Credit: ChatGPT 4o mini - chatgpt.com*

## My 5 sent

Oupa Bobbili

**Kom ons wees eerlik, hierdie is maar net 'n mooi tyd van die jaar. Jaar bonusse word betaal, Kersfees lê om die draai, vakansie is geboek en die eksamens is verby. Kleintjies skryf briefies vir Kersvader met die hoop hulle droom geskenke gaan onder die boom sy verskeining maak.**

Winkels pak al die versierings uit, Boney M se Kersliedere speel op die sisteem en die spesiale aanbiedinge word wyd adverteer. Mamma beplan die ete, koekies en beskuit gebak en die kinders se "sugar rush" is ge-

boek soos die vakansie.

Vir die wat in hierdie bevoorregte posisie is, is dit wonderlik. Ons weet daar is mense wat die tyd as hel beskou, maar steeds hoop op 'n Kersfees wonderwerk. En dit alles om klein kindertjies se harte bly te maak. Alles om 'n mens gemaakte fantasie aan die lewe te hou. Ek staan in Pick 'n Pay op ons plaaslike dorpie en sien seker sewe winkel waentjies vol geskenke gepak. Alles skenkings vir die weeshuis.

Van ons ouerhuse is ook weeshuse, want die kinders het die ouers weg gegooi. In die feestyd is verlange die ergste, want ons

almal wil die tyd saam met ons geliefdes deel. Vir my is die tyd nie meer wat dit was nie, ons as mens het fokus verloor. Jesus se geboorte het, hoop, liefde, vreugde en genade gebring. Nie kompetisie oor wie kry die duurste geskenk nie.

Ons moet daardie tye weer terug bring en dan sal ons gemeenskappe weer kan groei. Vat 'n hand en stap saam met 'n persoon wat alleen is, en gee hoop aan die moedlose. Toon liefde aan hulle wat haat dra, en wys rigting vir die wat nie mee weet water kant toe nie. Spandeer tyd saam met die wat hartseer is en bid saam die wat nie krag

het nie. Hierdie is die beste geskenk wat gegee kan word en dit kos niks, net 'n goeie hart

Of jy ryk of arm is, ek gee nie om nie, vandag hou ek jou in my woorde met liefde vas, en wens jou net die mooi van die lewe toe. Mag elke een van julle met liefde besaai word. Mag julle in oorvloed genade van God ontvang. Mag julle hande oop wees om te kan gee en weer te ontvang. Mag julle harte oorloop van liefde en seëninge, en laat dit julle geskenke vir die mense om julle wees. Geseënde feestyd vir almal. Groete.

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