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# The Bateleur

Quarter 4, Issue 4, 2018

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Welcome to this year's final issue of The Bateleur. It covers the last quarter of 2018. It's been an exceptionally busy few months. Articles in this issue include:

- [From the Editor](#)
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## FROM THE EDITOR



The Southern African Wildlife College is ending the year on a high note! Our students from the Natural Resource Management Higher and Advanced Certificate programmes have graduated! It is an annual highlight and emphasises our core purpose as an accredited SADC institute for higher education and training, as we train beyond boundaries.

We wish all the graduates the very best as they return, transformed with skills, knowledge and renewed passion to their countries and organisations. We look forward to staying in touch and watching you play a critical role in shaping the future of conservation.

In the weeks prior to graduation, the SAWC was honoured with a Kudu Award, attended a prestigious event in the UK hosted by The Royal Foundation to recognise the projects it supports through United for Wildlife, hosted a very successful Founders Day including an “Amazing Race”, and continued to host student groups, media and other stakeholders whilst also facilitating various staff development opportunities.

As always, we include updates from our various business units as they reflect on the quarter and year that has passed, going into 2019, we are buoyed by some exciting opportunities but are also cognisant of the fact that we have a number of candidates in need of support to complete Natural Resource Management Higher and Advanced Certificate programmes, our SADC Youth Access Conservation and Environmental Bridging Course, our Field Ranger training at various levels as well as our Field Guiding programmes.

Students enrolled in these courses are the conservation leaders and implementers of the future. Please drop me a note by emailing [jpoultney@sawc.org.za](mailto:jpoultney@sawc.org.za) if you'd like to support deserving students wanting to complete these programmes in the coming year.

Should you wish to know more about our other training programmes and counter poaching projects aimed at protecting and conserving our wildlife, we will also happily send you more information.

To our current partners and donors; thank you from all of us at the Southern African Wildlife College for your support. What we've achieved during 2018 would not have been possible without your valued support. We wish you all a restful holiday period, and look forward to connecting with you again early in 2019 as we jointly work towards making a real difference.

**Jeanné Poultney**  
Executive Manager - Marketing, Fundraising and Media Relations  
Southern African Wildlife College

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## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



## Passionate graduates conserving across boundaries

There is no doubt that the illegal wildlife trade is one of the biggest threats being faced globally, with species such as elephant, rhino, lion and pangolin being targeted across the African region. Without trained men and women on the ground, who are able to manage their wildlife areas sustainably, whilst also protecting vulnerable species such as these, the situation would be even more dire.

This year, 40 graduates of the Southern African Wildlife College's Natural Resource Management qualifications programme, will go back to their respective parks across Africa equipped to tackle these challenges head on.

[Read more](#)

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## CORPORATE NEWS



### SAWC honoured with Kudu Award

The [Southern African Wildlife College](#) (SAWC's) [K9 Unit](#) won a prestigious [Kudu Award](#) at a gala event at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Gauteng on 16 November. They shared this honour with the Meerkat Project, a high tech surveillance operation in the Kruger National Park. Both projects were recognised for their innovation and results in countering poaching.

[Read more](#)

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## Founders Day

On Friday 26 October, the Southern African Wildlife College celebrated Founder's Day, which is an opportunity to commemorate not only the day on which His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, unveiled the foundation stone of the Southern African Wildlife College, but to highlight to fact that every staff member has played a role in the organisation's success.

[Read more](#)

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## Rwanda visit

Southern African Wildlife College CEO, Theresa Sowry, spent a very interesting few days in Kigali, Rwanda recently, attending 'The Business of Conservation' conference hosted by the African Leadership University (ALU). Theresa was part of a panel discussion on leadership and talent in conservation, and spoke to the conference on the role of the SAWC in producing middle level managers across the SADC region. The sessions and events were hugely beneficial from a networking perspective, and she was able to create meaningful connections and opportunities for SAWC in wildlife conservation in Africa.

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[Watch the video covering this important and inspiring event here.](#)

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## DONOR NEWS



### College attends prestigious Royal Foundation event

Southern African Wildlife College CEO Theresa Sowry recently attended the annual dinner of [The Royal Foundation](#). Hosted by The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, the private function was at Victoria House in London.

Since Prince Harry's visit to the College at the end of 2015, The Royal Foundation has been supporting the College, as a regional hub for capacity development under the [United for Wildlife](#) umbrella. This is a project

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spearheaded by The Duke of Cambridge and The Royal Foundation that brings together seven of the world's global conservation organisations under a common purpose: to create a global movement for change.

[Read more](#)

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## FUNDING THE FUTURE

The past year has certainly been a busy and exciting one. As times change so do funding needs, which in turn require new strategies, diversification and new approaches to income generation. This is especially relevant for growing core costs, which include general management and staff costs, operational costs as well as IT, finance, fundraising and governance. And whilst these costs do not directly produce outputs in terms of programme and project activity, they are necessary to deliver these activities.

This is then further underpinned by costs linked to communication and marketing activities. Here the College has made great strides over the last year to ensure the redevelopment of our website and stronger use of social media platforms. This has required increased capacity, use of new technology, and the need to expand skills sets whilst also including a good dollop of inspiration and innovation.

We continue to work hard to build strong sound relationships with our various stakeholders including our partners, supporters and donors. We are very fortunate to have partners and donors who really believe in what we do and what we are trying to achieve. We welcome our interactions with them and their visits to the College, which help ensure that they really are *"part of it"* as per our donor Friends of African Wildlife's slogan.

Without this support we would not be able to continue providing needs-based, applied and innovative training programmes and projects, which help ensure the ethical and sustainable management of our natural resources, wild areas and wildlife species across the African region.

When we see the impacts being achieved and the resultant development of the wildlife economy to the benefit of communities, when we see how our students grow during the time they spend with us, when we see our students placed in employment or advanced in their careers, when we hear how they passionately go about their work often at great risk and sacrifice, when we hear about how the College has made a real difference in people's lives, that is when our hearts swell with pride and we attack the way forward with renewed vigor.

You all play a part and whilst this is not necessarily the forum to thank the 55 plus donors who have supported the College this year, we want each and every one of you to know that we couldn't do this without you and extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued support.

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## RECENT DONATIONS

As we reach the close of the 2018 academic year, we are buoyed by some recent donations, which include much-needed vehicles for our K9 Unit provided by both the [Ivan Carter Wildlife Conservation Alliance](#) and by Unitrans Volkswagen via their [Unite against Poaching](#) campaign. The latter vehicle, our faithful VW 2.0 TDI Amarok, is also now supported by an extended mechanical warranty and service plan.

[Our Horn is NOT Medicine](#) donors, introduced to the College by Lee-Anne Davis, also continue to provide support to our counter poaching projects. These oft unexpected donations made by individuals helps boost to the project coffers, which in turn helps keep our “Eye in the Sky” and our dogs noses to the ground.

We also recently heard that [First Rand Foundation’s Rand Merchant Bank Fund](#), will continue to help fund our Applied Learning Department for a further three years as part of their quest to ensure a greener economy through investment in education, training and skills development.

This year [Friends of African Wildlife](#) was the single biggest contributor to individual student bursaries across various training programmes, having sponsored a total of 44 full bursaries. In addition Friends of African Wildlife continued to support our counter poaching projects, and also provided funding for the pilot of the schools-based Coaching for Conservation (C4C) programme.

Our sincerest thanks to these and all our donors who have, throughout the year, contributed to our training programmes, projects, staff costs and capital items.

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## Rogz

The dogs operating within the Southern African Wildlife College’s K9 Unit may be working dogs, and very fine ones at that considering the work they are doing to protect rhino in the Greater Kruger National Park, but they certainly do step out in what is known as “the world’s coolest pet gear”. This is thanks to [ROGZ](#) who has since the K9 unit’s inception donated much-needed equipment to the unit. With the last delivery from Rogz, out spilt items such as leads, collars, bowls, toys and harnesses which will be used to support and train the dogs. Thank you!

“We were delighted to once again receive a box of requested goodies from Rogz,” says dog trainer Tina de Flamingh. “We cannot do without these items, which do need replacing every so often, and which we would have to go out and purchase,” she said. The dogs, which include breeds such as Beagles, Blue Tick, Black and Tan and Redbone breeds as well as Belgian Malinois and Bloodhounds, have played an instrumental role in the College’s four-tiered approach to counter poaching.

If you'd like to get behind our hounds, you can donate via our GivenGain campaign [HERE](#).

Every donation, big or small, helps.

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## SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE COLLEGE TRUST



**Nurturing and strengthening  
conservation leadership for today and  
tomorrow**

### Visit to the College

The Trust was thrilled to have a number of our donors join us in November for a two extraordinary days at the College, to attend the “highlight event of the year”, the Natural Resource Management student dinner, followed by the graduation ceremony the next day. A sense of anticipation hung in the sweltering air as the College and its students prepared with excitement and pride, after a full year dedicated to great learning and achievement. A violent hailstorm and much needed downpour of rain in this drought-stricken region just an hour before the graduation ceremony only served to heighten the sense of anticipation. Heart-stirring conversations with the five enthusiastic and very grateful beneficiaries sponsored by the Trust in 2018, as well as with the three scholarship recipients excited to be announced for 2019, had us in awe of their passion and commitment to conservation. To hear about each of their trials, triumphs and dreams, before the lengthy two to four-day return trips home to their families and conservation workplaces across southern Africa.

Our donors appreciated the extensive Phase II and eco-friendly developments, and interacted with the staff and students to gain insight to the challenges and threats being faced by conservationists across the region. This included a tour of the field ranger training base, exposure to the anti-poaching canine training unit, informative early morning game drives, as well as a presentation by the College’s CEO, Theresa Sowry, in which the College’s theme of ‘Training beyond boundaries’ was highlighted - which resonates too for the Trust, it supporting education in nature conservation at the College *in perpetuity!*

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## Hear from some of our graduates

We'd like to share from the excellent speech made at the graduation by one of the top students sponsored by the Trust, the SRC president, 39 year-old **George Kamuzhu Phiri**, from the **Zambian Carnivore Programme** in **South Luangwa National Park**.

[Read more](#)

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## Our sincere thanks to these donors for their valued support – August to date:

- Investec Bank Limited
  - Ovland Group (Pty) Ltd
  - FC Carter Charitable Trust
  - Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust
  - Dr Surandar and Mrs Savitri Singh
-

To confront the colossal changes in our natural world, people everywhere must take part. We are committed to our work, of nurturing and strengthening nature and wildlife conservation leadership for today and tomorrow. Investing in conservation in perpetuity via the Trust, provides future generations with the opportunity to enjoy our beautiful natural heritage. A living legacy well worth considering!

For more information kindly contact our fundraiser, Janet Wakelin,  
at [SAWCTfundraiser@sawc.org.za](mailto:SAWCTfundraiser@sawc.org.za) or call on 082 924 3749.

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## APPLIED LEARNING



## A closer look at mosquitoes

by

Peter

Hamming

They are all around us but if you could make them disappear from the world, I bet you'd jump at the chance! With the burgeoning mosquito population at the college, the Applied Learning Unit is conducting a project to help control the mosquito population at the water treatment reed beds. The problem though, is that the more you learn about the critters the more you get feelings for them...

[Read more](#)

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## ACADEMIC SUPPORT & QUALITY ASSURANCE

# Collaboration is key when it comes to development of course content

By **Anelle Rautenbach**  
With thanks to Elna de Beer and Linda Hlengwa for their detailed feedback.

During the final Training Advisory Working Group gathering of 2018, the focus was on the review process conducted by the RISE team on the Community Development and Conservation (CDC) module. It was a true “Learning by Doing” approach, as the content of the learning material was revised by the team while it was being implemented through contact with the Higher Certificate students and the Makuleke community. This was truly an undertaking of significant proportions, as it took six months to fully review, update and implement the revised and improved contents.

[Read more](#)

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## **Congratulations Fanuel, we are very proud of you!**

Our international Volunteer, Fanuel Nleya, successfully completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management through the University of Stellenbosch.

The Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management (PGDip Environmental Management) is equivalent to a honours level degree programme at 120 credits. The programme comprises eight modules and is presented during the scheduled contact sessions at Stellenbosch University on a modular basis.

Fanuel managed his full-time job and his full-time studies in an admirable way. You are an inspiration to us all Fanuel!

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**PROTECTED AREA INTEGRITY**

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Our African Field Ranger Training Services Division was invited to a workshop to develop a planned new [IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas \(WCPA\) Best Practice Guide on Professionalising Protected Area Management](#).

The workshop is jointly organized by IUCN-WCPA and the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). Ruben de Kock attended the workshop on behalf of the AFRTS Division and the Southern African Wildlife College. It took place at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Island of Vilm in Germany from 5 to 7 November 2018.

Professionalisation is major focus of the work of WCPA. The aim of this workshop was to highlight the diversity of efforts around the world to build protected area management as a respected, secure profession and to provide practical guidance to those who wish to follow that path.

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation covered the costs of travel of those without own funding for this meeting.

- The main topics discussed were
- Improving individual capacity and performance
  - Improving organisational capacity and performance
  - Official recognition of protected area occupations
  - Protected Area performance measurements and standards
  - Rights, equal opportunities, remuneration and working conditions for protected area workers
  - Professional Networks and Associations and common standards and codes
  - Young professionals
  - Professionalization, indigenous peoples and local communities.

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## UNIVERSITY GROUPS, TOURS AND SHORT COURSES

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## An introduction to tourism - a sneak peek from a trainers point of view

By **Marilize van der Walt**

I had the opportunity to train our Higher Certificate in Nature Conservation Implementation and Leadership class for six days in the introductory topic of tourism. This is a very important topic for most of our students attending this particular course in Natural Resource Management mainly due to the fact that all of them work for either national, provincial or private nature reserves that offer tourism destinations with all of the related and relevant tourism products.

[Read more](#)

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## “When the tekkie hits the tar...”

By **Marilize van der Walt**

Looking back on this year of 2018, we have had the privilege of engaging with people from all over the world who have visited our college from both foreign and local universities. This included visits by student groups with their faculty from five different continents – Asia, Africa, Australia, America and the Europe.

[Read more](#)



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## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH ACCESS



## Mayibuye Project - An Overview

By

Sboniso

Phakathi

Having established a formal relationship with the Mayibuye Game Reserve (Mayibuye Community Trust specifically) in October 2017, the RISE Unit, which falls under the Community, Youth and Development department, has used a 'learning-by-doing' approach at the Mayibuye project site, testing methods relating to stakeholder engagement, governance and leadership in line with project objectives.

[Read more](#)

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## **A new approach to “Youth Access” in the conservation sector**

During 2018, we spent a lot of time obtaining stakeholder feedback on the kinds of programmes we could offer that would lead to job placement. This was largely as a result of the fact that a number of students who completed our SADC programme in 2017 were yet to be absorbed into the industry. In further drilling down, we found that a number of the host institutions are active in nature guiding as opposed to the law enforcement and environmental education, which to date has been the main focus of the Youth Access: Bridging Programme, both for the SA-based programme and for the newly introduced SADC programme.

[Read more](#)

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## SUSTAINABLE USE AND FIELD GUIDING

### 2018 PH graduation

By

Gawie

Lindeque

On 16 November 2018 a near two-and-a-half-year journey for five of our 2016/2017 intake of students came to an end. The journey started in June 2016 with a 75-day Dangerous Game Site Guide course, followed by a professional hunting programme and finally came to conclusion after a gruelling practical 2018 season.

As a rather cosmopolitan group, the students got together like a house on fire from day one and I am sure more than one lifelong friendship has been formed between a Frenchman, a Zimbabwean, a Mozambican and two young South Africans. During their time a firm friendship also developed between Brighton Jazire from Zimbabwe and Frederic (Flip) Collot d'Escury from the Netherlands, to such an extent that Flip skipped class and hopped on a plane just to attend the graduation. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Flip for ongoing support and friendship.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors, Aimpoint Sweden, Dallas Safari Club, SA Hunters and Game Conservation Association (Ammunition via PMP) and everybody else that continues contribute to make this programme a success. The aim of this programme is to supply the industry with ethical, well rounded Professional Hunters that will act as ambassadors to the profession as dedicated conservationists first and hunters second. I am certain that these five gentlemen will make the industry proud.

Congratulations to all and good luck in your endeavours. If we do meet you on social media may it be to spread a positive message of the importance of hunting as a conservation tool and the need to professionalize the industry underpinned by a strong set of conseration ethics. We will be watching.

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### 2nd Dangerous Game Site Guide course

Early August saw the start of our second Dangerous Site Guide course for 2018. In keeping with the department's aim of providing quality training we again only took on ten students, four of whom are from Malawi's Department of National Parks, funded by The Royal Foundation. Other students are two young women from Makuya Trust, two gentlemen currently working for a private camp in the Klaserie Nature Reserve and two self-funded students, one from Denmark and the other a young South African.

[Read more](#)

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## OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE



With the water reclamation system reaching a refined stage of development, the fruits of all the hard work that has gone into the project is finally paying off. It all starts with College black water being processed through a biological system, at this stage grey water is pumped to ponds where further natural processing takes place. Located in the designated area for water treatment are four large collection tanks from where the reclaimed water is the distributed to various public areas and used for the greening of these areas. This is extremely evident during the dry months as shown in the pictures where irrigation is currently in place.

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## STAFF NEWS

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## Casual Day

The Southern African Wildlife College has an ethos of inclusion of all people, of all ages, ethnicities, religions, and abilities.

[Read more](#)

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## Achiever of the Month Awards



## **September Winner: Vivian Mnisi**

Vivian Mnisi, who works as a food service assistant in the Kitchen, within the hospitality department, was voted the Achiever of the month for September. She won this coveted award based on the following motivation, put forward by the Higher Diploma students and the HET Coordinator, Fortunate Mathonsi. During the course of this month Vivian accompanied the students on our Higher Certificate programme to Letaba camp in Kruger National Park, to prepare food for them. When they arrived at Letaba, they found the stoves and kettles were not functional, and Vivian had to improvise to provide food. She used fire, and a braai stand, with a three legged pot (known as a 'potjie') to prepare food for the students and accompanying staff. Despite this challenge, the food was prepared on time, was delicious, and she remained professional and cheerful throughout the field trip. She was thus nominated for her tenacity, diligence, and ability to think conceptually, in doing her job in challenging circumstances.

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## October Winner: Dzilang Elvis Mkhondo

Elvis Mkhondo works in our Maintenance department, and he won this award for single-handedly cutting all the firebreaks around the Ranger Camp and at the College. He was nominated by the Programme Co-ordinator at the Ranger Camp Tshilidzi Mercy Ntsandeni, and this nomination was endorsed by his manager, Michael Gardiner, Maintenance Operations Manager. Not only did he cut large tracts of land as fire breaks at the Ranger Camp, but he did so on his own, in extremely hot weather. His work was of such a high standard the KNP Section Ranger commended the way the fire breaks had been cut.

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## Rhino Award

This award is handed out monthly by the CEO to someone who has done something exceptional, remarkable or thoughtful that is **not** related to their job in any way.

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## **September Winner: Stephanus de Jager**

The September winner, of this prestigious award, was Stephanus De Jager, for the way he exceeded all expectations, and for the long additional hours worked, assisting the IT Department, during the challenge after the college server crashed, affecting college communications.



## **October Winner: Daphne Gengayan**

Daphne Gengayan who works in the Resource Centre, within the Academic Support and Quality Assurance department, assisted the Community Development and Youth Access department with last minute printing and preparation for their courses, doing work that is not expected of her to ensure the course would be ready to run on time.

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## Other Achievements: Tomas Ndhlovu

Tomas Ndhlovu, an environmental monitor and registered guide, from the Applied Learning Unit, was given an award for helping the University Programmes and Short Courses department during their busiest time of the year, providing services to visiting groups that included providing food in the bush, game drives, bushwalks, guiding, interpreting and hosting.

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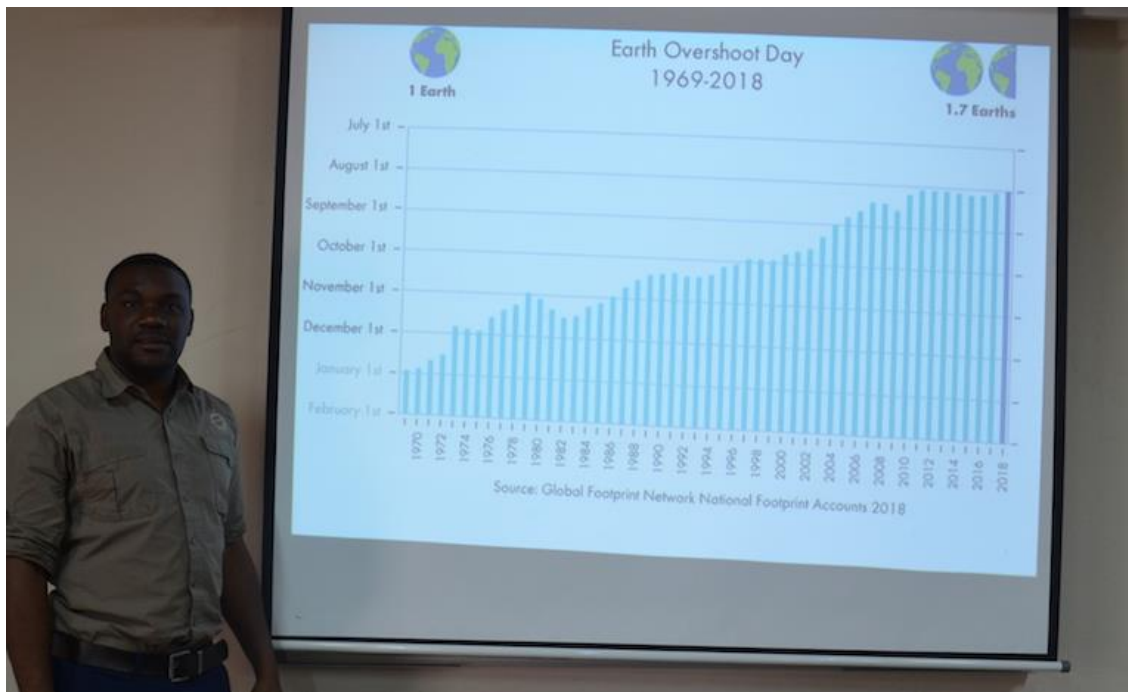
## FIELD NEWS



The last few months have been rather strange weather wise. Normally we start to experience a few warm days during September with a light rain shower here and there, so when October arrives we already have a slightly elevated humidity factor. This coupled with blistering hot days makes for a rather uncomfortable time in the bush.

[Read more](#)

## GENERAL



## Earth Overshoot Day the earliest ever

By

Fanuel

Nyela

Earth Overshoot Day was on 1 August this year. Throughout the world this day is remembered as the day we finish our allocated budget of natural resources for the year and begin operating on a deficit budget, because

we have gone beyond ecological limits. Just like a bank account in red, we are on ecological overdraft with Planet Earth.

[Read more](#)



## Bird data collection gains ground

By

Ashwell

Glasson

In 2018, many of our Higher Education and Training students have been involved in collecting valuable bird observation data in and around the campus. This is of course a really important form of environmental monitoring, where we can undertake presence and absence studies, but, also track changes over time. With the ever-present and emerging threat of climate-change in regions such as Africa, specific taxa, or animal families become useful indicators and warning tools for us.

[Read more](#)

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**That's it for this issue of The Bateleur. Thank you for reading!**



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