



VOGELGAT NATURE RESERVE NEWS - September 2018

News from the Bridge

At Vogelgat it is all about relationships. How precious is it to witness families and close friends hiking? The littlies taken up by their intrepid parents. I've been at Vogelgat for over 18 years and I now see the children of members hiking with their own babies!



Member children from England hiking up and overnighting at leopard camp with mommy and granny!



Sipping the water of eternal pleasures!



Or just putting your feet up and enjoying the views!



Multiple Red Disa's have people enthralled



Disa uniflora at Fault Falls were blooming marvelous! To see eight flowers, open in such a natural, and unique floral display was spectacular. Excited members and their friends hiked the 38 minutes to have a glimpse of these stunning flowers.

It pays to protect bio-diversity



Healthy natural landscapes such as veld, wetlands, rivers, and estuaries across South Africa generate value to the economy amounting to at least R275 billion per year, a new study by economists at the University of Cape Town (UCT) has found. This is equivalent to at least 7% of the national gross domestic product (GDP), or three times the annual combined value generated by the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors.

This is only a partial estimate of the value of the country's natural capital, says Dr Jane Turpie, lead author on the study and a resource economist from the UCT School of Economics.

The study focuses on a number of values generated directly or indirectly from nature, through providing South Africans with a range of natural products or services. These contribute indirectly to economic production through services such as regulation of water flows, or through their contribution to cultural values such as recreation and tourism gained from natural vegetated landscapes, rivers, wetlands, and estuaries.

This includes the provision of forage for livestock and game farming, carbon storage in trees and soils, pollination of agricultural crops by wild insects and birds, the slowing down of freshwater flows and improved water quality. The economy also benefits from the income derived from the increased property prices and higher municipal revenue earnings associated with properties that are nearer to picturesque natural spaces such as beaches. Tourism income is also linked closely with unspoiled natural beauty such as that found in nature reserves. Meanwhile, poorer households derive considerable value from harvesting food, medicines, or materials such as thatch or firewood from the natural veld.

The South African government recently committed itself to developing an accounting system that takes natural values into consideration. These will eventually be used in conjunction with conventional national accounting measures, such as GDP, to provide policymakers with a better understanding of the economic and social consequences of the impacts on ecosystems, and help to guide a more sustainable development path, says Turpie.

‘The real value of this kind of exercise will be felt through continued accounting and assessment of changes over the longer term,’ she says. ‘We believe that it will highlight the benefits of keeping different ecosystems healthy, so that they can continue to deliver these services to the benefit of South Africans.’

If we included the value of our carbon stocks and wildlife to the rest of the world, for instance, our estimates would be orders of magnitude higher.’

Policy makers should protect ecosystems

Policy makers need to respond by ensuring these systems are protected, especially since the very activities which give them such value are often the same activities which undermine them in the long-term. For instance, many estuaries along the coast are losing their potential as fish ‘nurseries’, as over-extraction of river water upstream of the estuary means there isn’t enough fresh water flowing out into the sea to allow for estuarine fish stocks to thrive. Recreational fishing in estuaries by anglers has also undermined fish stocks in these important nursery areas.

Natural systems soften the blow of water damage during floods and stop sediments and agricultural pollutants from washing down into rivers and dams. This, in turn, saves on the costs of developing new dams and storm water infrastructure, and on the costs of treating water for human consumption.

Some ecosystem service values have not been included in this study, such as the value of protection against storm surges offered by coastal dunes and mangroves, and the effects of ecosystems and natural features on local climate.

Similar future studies will need to estimate how the trees in South African city streets and parks dampen temperature extremes during heat waves both by providing shade, and through the cooling effect of evapotranspiration. ‘We also haven’t included other services such as the cultural value attached to harvesting natural resources, keeping cattle, and using rivers for cultural and religious rituals.’

‘Our future calculations will also need to include the value of maintaining a source of genetic material for the cut flower and rooibos and honey bush tea industries, which have developed from the unique

biodiversity of the Cape Floral Kingdom and bring in approximately R800 million and R150 million each year.'

Similarly, other research found that [failing to halt the loss of biodiversity](#) could result in annual losses in ecosystem services worth \$14tn per year by 2050, equivalent to 7% of global GDP.

The [world's fisheries employ as many as 260-million people](#) and generate a [landed value estimated at about \\$150bn](#) annually.

<http://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/196/628/177177.html>

First Evidence of Long Probosid Fly (LPF) pollination in Ericaceae



Giorgio is busy with submitting a scientific paper as described above to the South African Journal of Botany. However his supervisor Dr. Craig Peter asked if he could capture the LPF actually visiting the flower Erica aristata (The Pride of Hermanus). Well these insects are extremely swift flyers and Giorgio shook his head. Well Rhodes University sent down two trap sensor cameras with special close-up lens. What a wonderful surprise when downloading the images that this elusive insect was caught pollinating locally endemic species! A proud moment for our Hermanus research community.

MEMBERS BRING N BRAAI BRUNCH 16TH DECEMBER 11.00 @ VOGELGAT

NNB! Please remember to pay your 2019 annual fees they are due now.

Vogelgat Nature Reserve **R2 750.00**

Maanschynkop **R350.00. A total of R3 100.00 for both reserves.**

Do note that **Leopard Camp R100 per person per night.**

Buys se huis R550.00 for whole cottage, inclusive of bedding and towels

White House R380.00 for whole cottage, inclusive of bedding and towels.

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NNB reference your surname + Initials. Thank you.