



# Strategic Conservation Initiative -Magaliesberg Biosphere South Africa

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7/1/25



# Overview of the Project



## The Need:

- The communities surrounding the greater Magaliesberg area rely heavily on **eco-tourism** for their livelihoods.
- Tourists are drawn to the region's **rich biodiversity** and the opportunity to experience its unique and abundant wildlife.
- However, this way of life—and the wildlife that supports it—**is under threat**.
- A small minority of residents engage in **illegal poaching**, most commonly through the use of wire snares, which are indiscriminate and cruel. These snares not only kill targeted animals but also severely injure or kill non-target species, **threatening the ecosystem** and the future of tourism in the region.

## Project Objective:

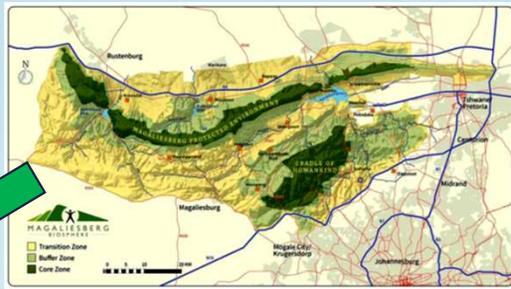
This project will address poaching through a two-pronged approach:

**1.Awareness & Education:** Five local community leaders will be trained to deliver education and outreach programs in schools, eco-lodges, and community groups. These sessions will emphasize the long-term environmental and economic impact of poaching, especially snaring.

**2.Action on the Ground:** The same trained leaders will form snare removal teams that will patrol wildlife areas to locate, log, and remove snares. A system will also be established for continuous, sustainable re-surveying of the area to ensure it remains snare-free over time.



# The Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve is located between Pretoria and Johannesburg in South Africa



The Magaliesburg Biosphere Reserve is a 3579 sq km (1,381 sq mile) UNESCO Site

- Here are some key details:
- **Biodiversity:** Home to rich biodiversity, including floral species like **Aloe peglerae** and **Frithia pulchra**, and faunal species such as the forest shrew and sable antelope. It hosts **443 bird species**, representing 46.6% of the bird species in the southern African sub-region.
- **Geography:** Features a variety of landscapes, including slopes, cliffs, crests, kloofs, rivers, wetlands, and valleys.
- **Economic Activities:** Tourism, agriculture and mining.

# Status

- ✓ Community Assessments and benchmarking of similar snare removal projects are complete and posted to the GG site
- ✓ Draft GG has been developed and reviewed by the District Global Grant advisor ( Karen Berner)
- ✓ 5 MOUs have been developed and signed by local ECO High Schools and Conservancies and posted to the GG site
- Fund raising is in work (\$48,311 Of \$98,086 committed)



# This is not sustainable....





## The Approach includes Awareness Education and Actions over two years



The aim of the project is to create an awareness of the impacts of large-scale organized poaching especially the use of snares in the environment and a full scale action to create awareness on the ground for the 2 year period by using a three-pronged focus:

- Trainer Training by the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA)
- Education in the Community (ECO Rangers, Teachers, Travel Guides)
- Actions to remove snares



# The Community Needs Assessment is Complete!!



## Tools Used;

- Community Focus Groups; The issue of large-scale organized poaching was discussed during two focus groups on 8/28/24 and 1/2/25 and results are documented
- Interviews; Poaching was discussed during interviews with WESSA naturalists with previous experience in snare removal
- Benchmarking; Similar efforts to remove snares have been studied and best practices applied to this project
- The community has been sweeping the area to remove snares on an ad hoc basis, in the community needs assessment it became obvious that regular sweeps for a prolonged period are needed

***The community assessment revealed that progress to eliminate large-scale organized poaching needs regular patrols and snare elimination***



# The Education Component Drives Sustainability with MOUs



- These 5 trained individuals will also go out to schools and community groups to enlighten them as to the impacts of large-scale organized poaching on the environment
- Training Sessions will be presented once per week, by pairs of the trained individuals;  
(24 months x 8 sessions / month x 6 people) = 1152 people trained!
- MOUs have been developed integrate the training program in schools, community groups, 4 interact clubs, tour operators and tourist activities to continue the training once the project is complete (5 are complete)

***The training concept will focus on implementing a community approach to conservation***



# The Trainer Training Program is Scalable



- 5 community leaders\Eco rangers\School teachers to undergo the Train the Trainer course as well as courses on the environment in which they live including alien invasive plant species
- The Wildlife and Environmental Association of South Africa (WESSA) a non profit will be funded to run the courses and project with the Rotary club oversight and participation
- The program can easily be scaled to nearby areas once the pilot demonstrates positive results



## Field Action Results and MOUs will motivate the Community to extend the project



- Practical snare removal training for 5 Eco-Rangers
- Snare removal patrols where a stipend is paid, and transport funded for a period of 2 years after which the various communities would look at continuing the project
- The grant includes equipping the patrols with equipment
- Snare locations and removals will be logged with location and revisited
- Conservancies in the area will fund the trained snare removal teams on their property to keep them funded after the program is complete per a signed MOU
- MOUs will be put in place with local community groups to conduct periodic sweeps for snares



# Our Partners – Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort and WESSA



*Journey to where it all began...*

## WESSA

PEOPLE CARING FOR THE EARTH

**Join WESSA today, as a general or business member and add YOUR voice to conservation...**

Key partner since 2006 in the establishment of the Biosphere & leader in conserving SA since 1926.....

WESSA FRIENDS

WESSA Member of State & Provincial Health & Environmental Education & Training Council

Healthy Environment Eco-Schools

IUCN Founding Member

WILDLIFE

Production & publishers of African Wildlife & Environment Magazine

Become a member of WESSA:  
see [www.wessa.org.za](http://www.wessa.org.za),  
[www.wessalife.org.za](http://www.wessalife.org.za) or contact John via Whats App : 083 444 7649

Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort

MAGALIESBERG DISTRICT

*Journey to where it all began...*

**END POLIO NOW**

**Brits - Hartbeespoort**

Serving the community since 1960

True to the motto of: "Service above Self"

Contact: John 083 444 7649 or Rotary Club of Brits Hartbeespoort face book page

Interact

50th Anniversary 2010

The Rotary Foundation



# GG2574451- The Partners



**Host:** Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort, South Africa  
**International:** Rotary Club of Cupertino, USA  
**Cooperating Organization:** Wildlife Society of South Africa (WESSA)

- *RC Brits-Hartbeespoort*, established in 1960, has several significant and active conservation projects including the
  - Endangered Blue Crane educational\ conservation project ,
  - Endangered Cape Vulture feeding and conservation project,
  - Feral Cat Rescue,
  - Water Conservation,
  - Testing and Waterway Cleanups
- **Patrick Coleman the current District 9400 Rotary Fund Coordinator (DRFC) and Francis Callard the Grants Sub-Committee chair are responsible for the Foundation training and club qualification in the district they are supportive of this global grant.**



## GG2574451- The Partners (continued)



- *RC Cupertino* has an active International committee, often conducting 10 active global grants, as well as serving as a financial sponsor for a dozen others at any given time.
- *The Wildlife Society of South Africa (WESSA)* - *WESSA* is a non profit founded in 1926 with a long history of championing the protection of South Africa`s natural heritage. They will provide teachers and subject matter experts for the training component of this project.



# Our Partners have several significant on-going projects



**WESSA**  
WORLDWIDE ENDANGERED SPECIES SOUTH AFRICA

**NYOKA RIDGE PHOTOGRAPHIC CULTURE HIDE**







**NYOKA RIDGE FARM  
SKEERPOORT**

Close to Hartbeespoort dam  
Open from 1st September 2023  
Max 8 photographers and  
8 enthusiasts.  
To hire whole hide R 1000 or  
R 200 pp sharing.

Itrekanye:  
Contact John via WHATSAPP only  
08339437549 or  
email | jwesson@wessa.org.za

Endangered Cape Vulture feeding and conservation



Endangered Blue Crane educational\ conservation project, in Skeerpoort

**HARTIES FERALCAT RESCUE**



TRAP • NEUTER • RETURN

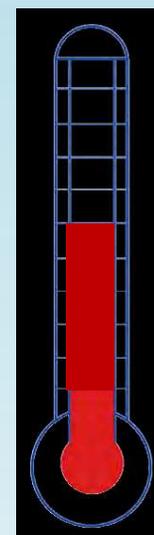
# GG2574451 Finances

Project duration : 24 Months, 5 Rangers, 5 Trainers	Rand / Dollar	18.30
Train the trainers, develop materials, training, food, travel, venue	R 172,000.00	R 9,398.91
Snare removal actions (5 people\4 days\month )	R 489,600.00	R 26,754.10
Educate the Community (5 people \4 days\month)	R 489,600.00	R 26,754.10
Project management , security, safety & presentations	R 336,000.00	R 18,360.66
Equipment for Snare removal and Location tracking	R 144,750.00	R 7,909.84
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>R 1,631,950.00</b>	<b>R 89,177.60</b>
10% contingency funds	R 163,195.00	R 8,917.76
<b>Final Project Cost</b>	<b>R 1,795,145.00</b>	<b>R 98,095.36</b>

March 2025 status: \$49,785 to go\*

## Funds/DDF Committed

\$16839 DDF (proposed)  
\$0 Cash  
RC Cupertino  
\$ 0 Cash  
10000 DDF  
RC B-H



## Project Value

\$30311 RC Cupertino  
\$18000 RC B-H

**Target Global Grant Submission Date:** August 2025

**Project Implementation:** One month after approval and funding

**Project Duration:** 24 months

\*Assuming request is approved



## Join us for this important Rotary Global Grant!

### Contacts

Host Club: Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort, South Africa

Project Champion:

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Rotary



THANK YOU



WESSA

PEOPLE CARING FOR THE EARTH

Rotary



CLUB OF BRITS HARTBEESPOORT

Rotary Club of Cupertino