

MEDIA RELEASE - 10 June 2004

<< back >>

UPDATE ON REMOVAL OF HIMALAYAN TAHRS ON TABLE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

On 08 June 2004 the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NSPCA) was invited to accompany South African National Parks (SANParks) to observe the Himalayan Tahr removal operation being conducted on Table Mountain.

"Our objective is to ensure that the removal of the Himalayan Tahr is achieved through humane means, what was observed today satisfied our criteria. We will continue to conduct inspections from time to time until the removal programme is complete. Once done we will file a report of our findings," says Rick Allan, Manager of the NSPCA's National Wildlife Unit.

The decision for the NSPCA to observe SANParks was the result of a meeting between the two organizations that was convened by Dr Crispian Olver, Director General of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT).

SANParks CE David Mabunda said, "We are happy that the NSPCA has had the opportunity to observe this operation as their sanction will serve to underscore our own belief that we are acting in the most humane way possible under these circumstances".

"Given the onset of winter rains SANParks will now begin winding down the operations. With 109 Himalayan Tahrs removed we estimate that the operation is 95% complete." said Mabunda.

... Ends ...

Issued by:
South African National Parks

Inquiries:
Wanda Mkutshulwa
Head of Communications
Tel: + 27-12-426-5201
Fax: +27-12-343-0153
Cell: 082 908-2692
E-mail: wandam@sanparks.org
Web: www.sanparks.org