

# Natural resource use in protected areas – 30 years of transforming policy and practice in SANParks

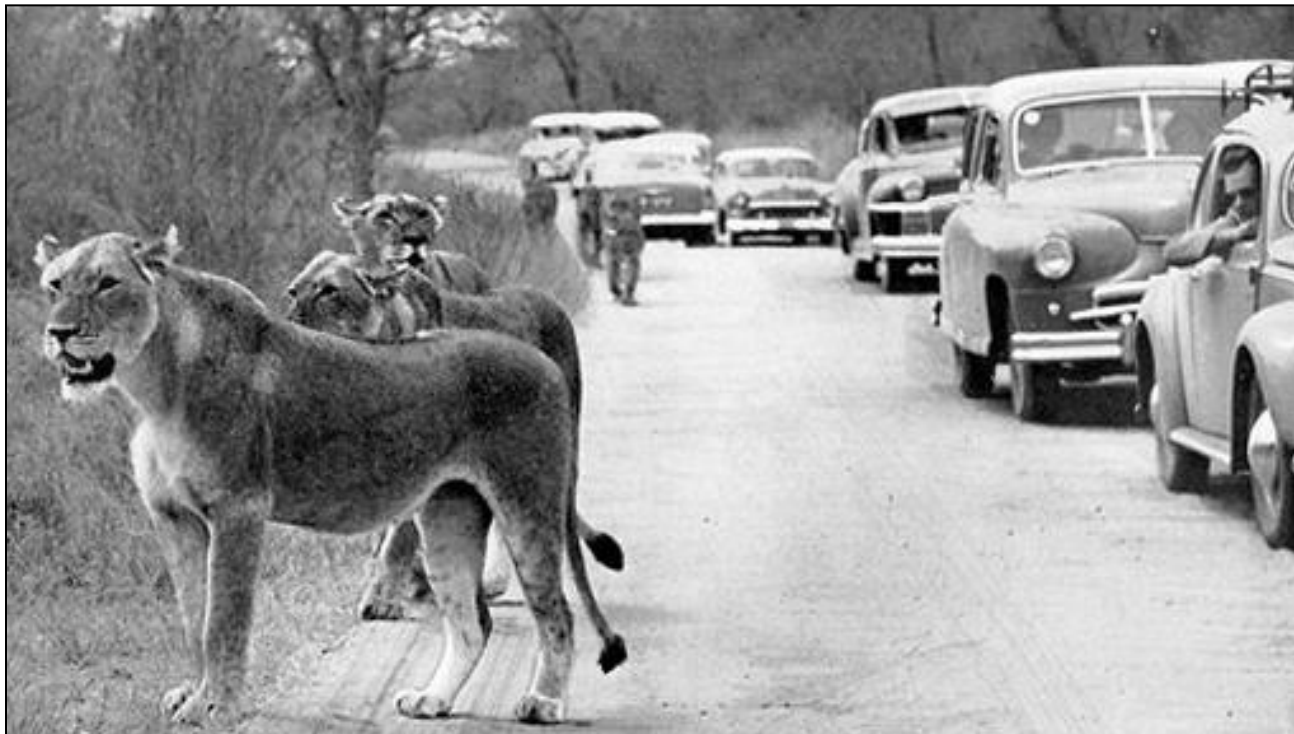


South African  
NATIONAL PARKS

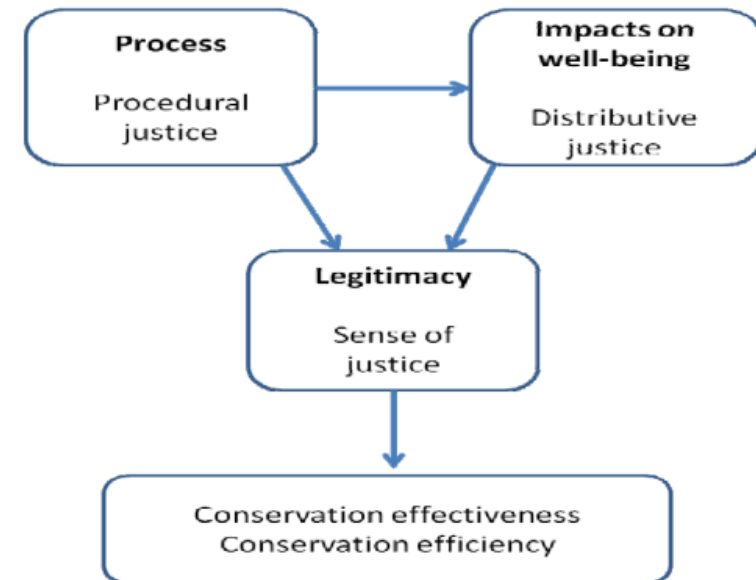
Louise Swemmer, Michele Hofmeyr, Meurel Baloyi, Karen Hannweg, Willem Froneman, Tim Neary, Tony Swemmer, Traditional Authorities, Traditional Healers, Community forum representatives, Vukuzenzele Nursery, Skukuza Nursery, Wits Rural, Lucia Hlatswayo, Aitken Makhense, Lindiwe Chuma, Patience Mdungasi, Jeremiah Machavi, Lufuno Sahide, Kirsty Redman, SANParks Honorary rangers, Witness Mmatho, Matimba Maluleke, David Maphophe, Helen Mmethi, Navashni Govender, School principals, MTPA, LEDET, K2C, Richard Mathebula, David Sambo, Januario Fernandes, Stephen Midzi, Cathy Greaver, Charlene Bisset, Jessica Hays, Kyle Smith, Nkabeng Mzikazi, Alexis Symonds, Park Managers, Aliston Apple, Januario Fernandes, Juicy Mashele ....

SNM, Skukuza, Kruger National Park, 3 – 6 March 2025

# *Extractive use of natural resources in SANParks has a wide scope, unique context (species/beneficiaries) long history*



- Tourism infrastructure, building and maintenance
- Revenue generation (game sales)
- Biodiversity management
- **Socio-economic benefits**
  - Wellbeing in local communities
  - Constituency (environmental justice)



1. Has there been a transformation in policy supporting legal natural resource use from within national parks?
  - Expect to see a wealth of supporting legislation and institutional arrangements
2. Has there been a transformation in practice supporting legal natural resource use from within national parks?
  - Expect see an increase in scale and scope of natural resources being used, especially locally
3. To what degree is resource use contributing towards environmental justice?
  - Expect to see positive impacts on human wellbeing (tangible and intangible), participation AND conservation effectiveness

# Resource use is well governed, supported and is not breaking the rules

- **International Agreements and Conventions:**
  - IUCN, CITES, CBD - Addis Ababa principles and guidelines for SUB
- **South Africa:**
  - Constitution - *Ensure that natural resources are developed while also promoting the economic and social development of people*
  - NEMBA, NEMPAA, TOPS - *Supply of ecosystems good and services; sustainable use of biological resources; contribute to social and economic development*
- **SANParks**
  - Vision and mission- *A sustainable National Park System connecting society*
  - SANParks Policies and procedures
    - *Resource Use P., Wildlife management P., Donation of Wildlife and Wildlife Products P., Wildlife Utilization Strategy, Wildlife Utilization SOP, various species specific guidelines*
  - Kruger Management plan - LLPS

**POLICY**  
RESOURCE USE POLICY  
Reference Number: 17/P-CSD/Resource use/03-10/v1

POLICY INFORMATION	
Responsible Executive Manager:	Dr Hector Magome
Division/Unit Responsible for Formulation:	Conservation Services Division
Policy Writers:	Dr Howard Hendricks
Review Date:	October 2015
Number of Pages:	12

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS	
Reviewed by SANParks Policy Unit:	Alexis Symonds
September 2009	March 2012
Principles reviewed by CE (if applicable):	Confirmed

## Resource Use Policy:

The policy makes allowance for the sustainable use of renewable and non-renewable resources for the purpose of managing biodiversity and sharing socio-economic benefits from harvesting resources within national parks

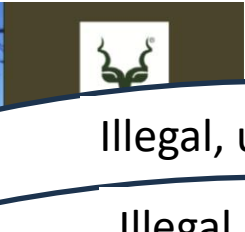
**STRATEGIC PLAN**  
WILDLIFE UTILIZATION STRATEGY  
Reference Number: 17/P-CSD/Strat/Wildlife Utilization (06-17) V1

INFORMATION	
Responsible Executive Manager:	Dane Pieterse
Division/ Unit Responsible for Formulation:	Conservation Services Division
Writers:	Markus Holtz, Sam Ferreira, Angela Gaylard, Howard Hendricks, Alex Symonds
Date/Version:	June 2017/Version 1
Review Date:	July 2021
Consultation Process:	Extensive consultation with various stakeholders

## Wildlife utilisation Strategy:

To enhance the conservation benefits from wildlife in national parks through the development of programmes incorporating sustainable utilisation. ...balancing ecological needs with needs of society and economies

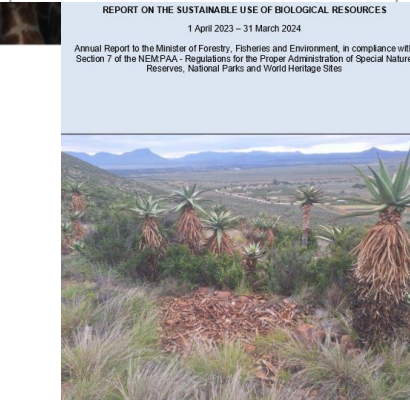
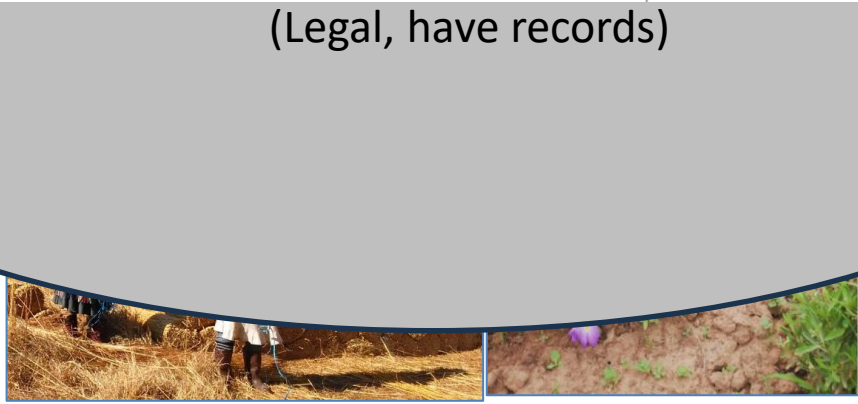
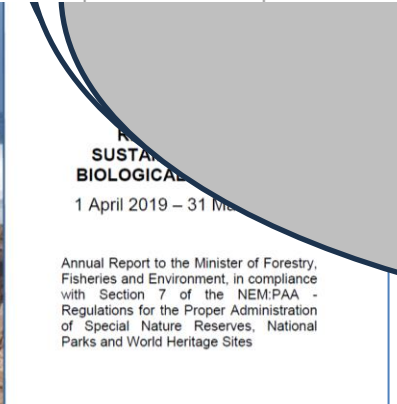
# Resource use is reported annually to the minister of DFFE, in compliance with national legislation (2010 – 2024)



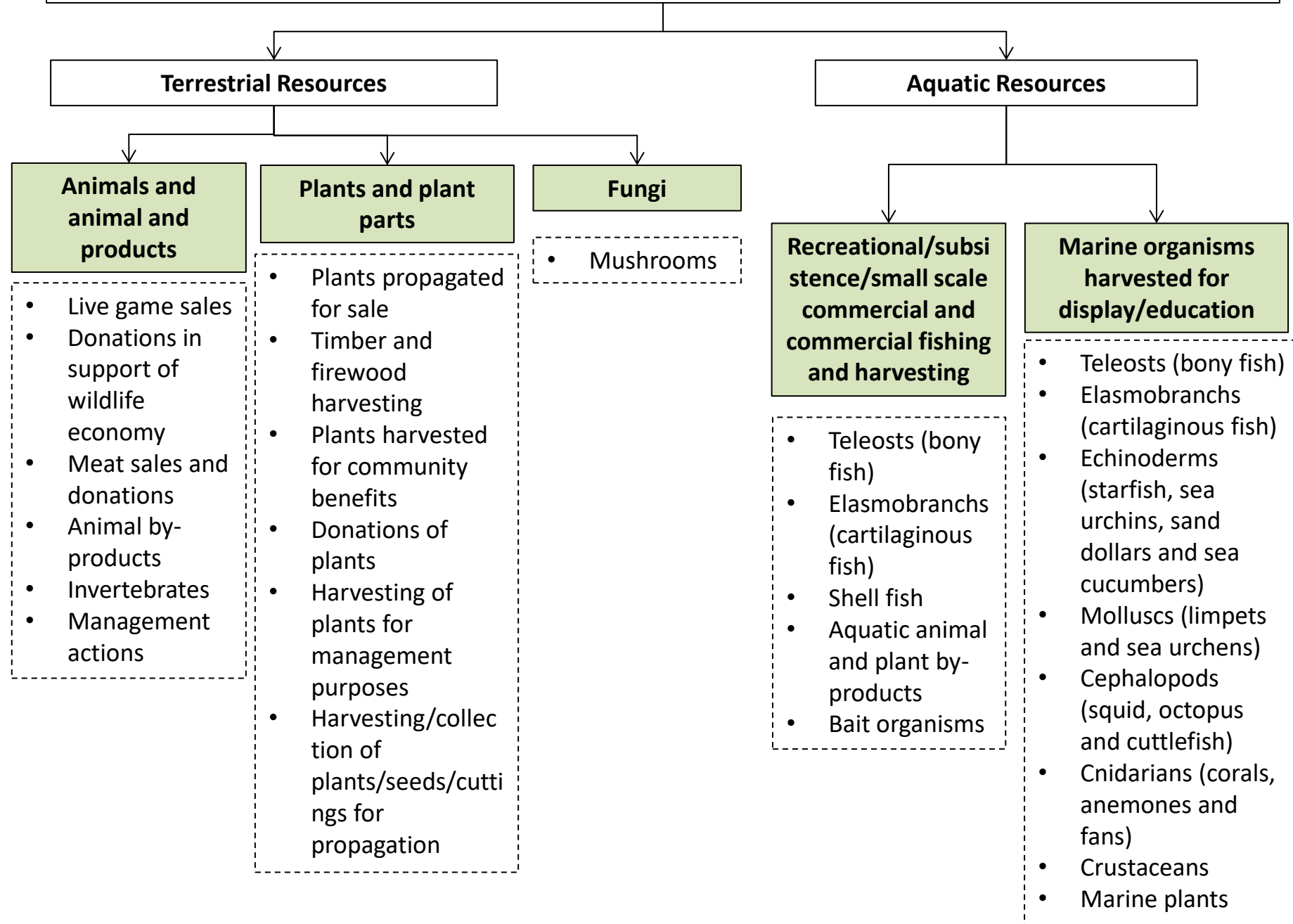
Illegal, unknown  
Illegal, known

Park	Quantity	Description	Income generated/estimated value	Purpose	Licenses, permits and agreements
Mokala NP	59	Red hartebeest ( <i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i> )	R 306,800	Wildlife Economy Program (Loan agreement)	TOPS, permits & Agreements
Mokala NP	11	Red hartebeest ( <i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i> )	R 57,200	Wildlife Economy Program (Donation agreement)	TOPS, permits & Agreements
Mokala NP	57	Springbok ( <i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i> )	R 91,200	Wildlife Economy Program (Loan agreement)	TOPS, permits & Agreements

(Legal, have records)



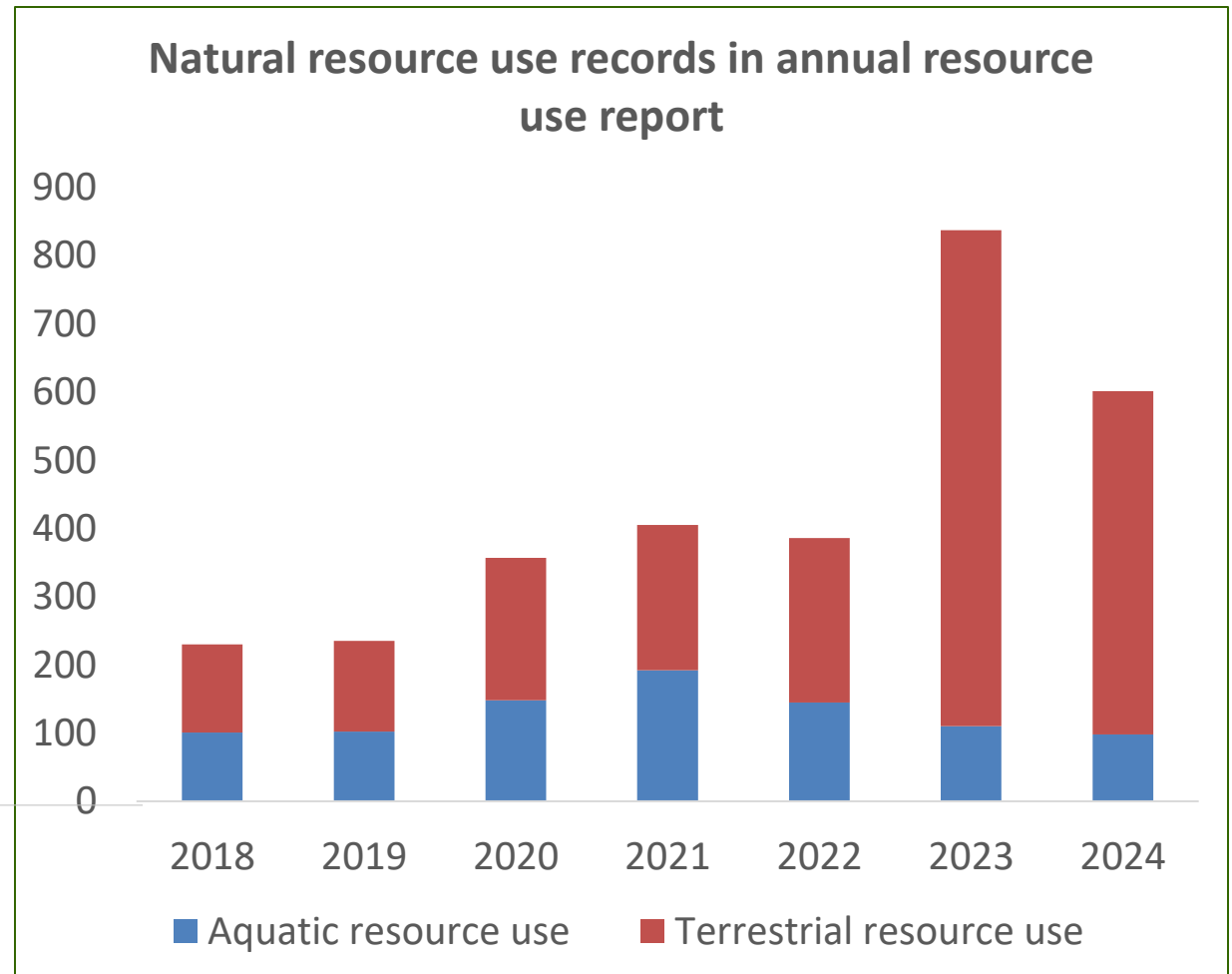
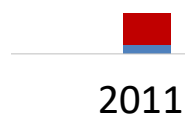
Biotic natural resource categories legally harvested in SANParks between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023



*Extractive use of natural resources from SANParks is expanding, is diverse, includes a wide range of species, and has economic, ecological and social value*

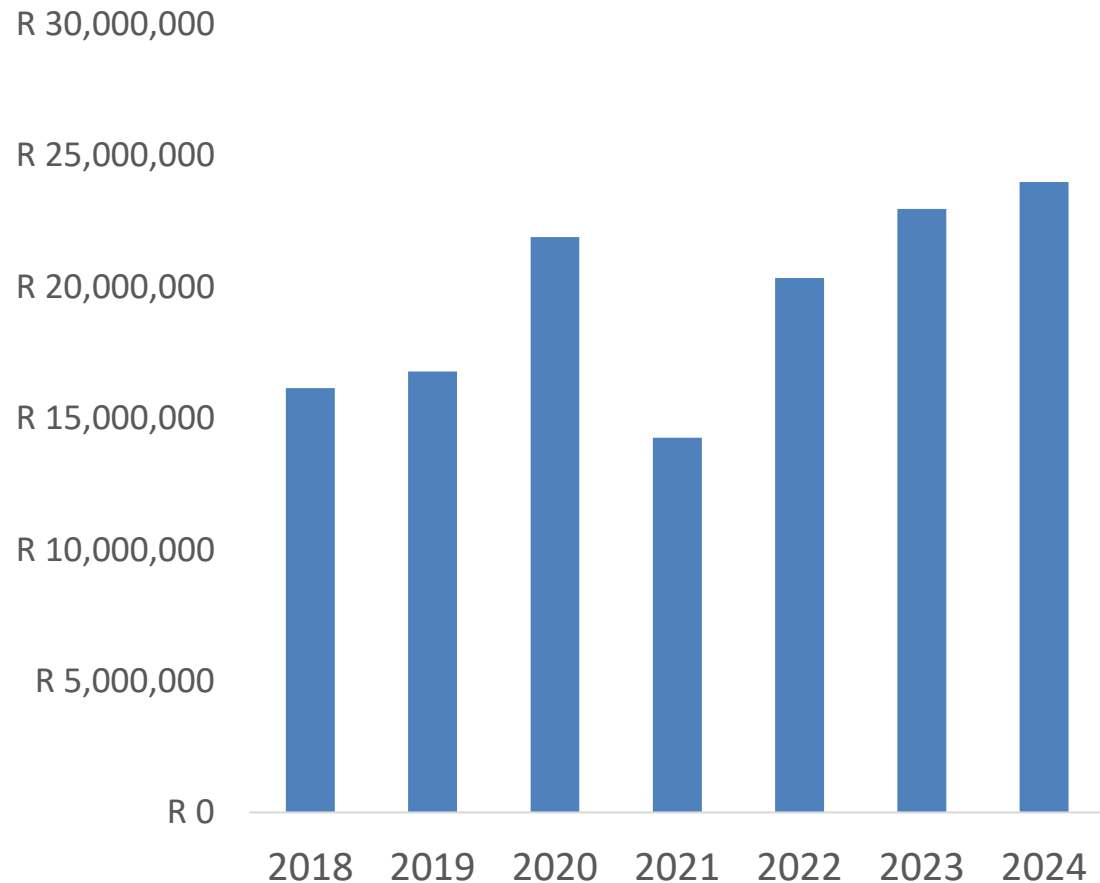
7 years, 3051 records

- 71% terrestrial
  - 64% plants
  - 36% animals
- 29% aquatic
  - 75% recreation/commercial/subsistence
  - 25% display

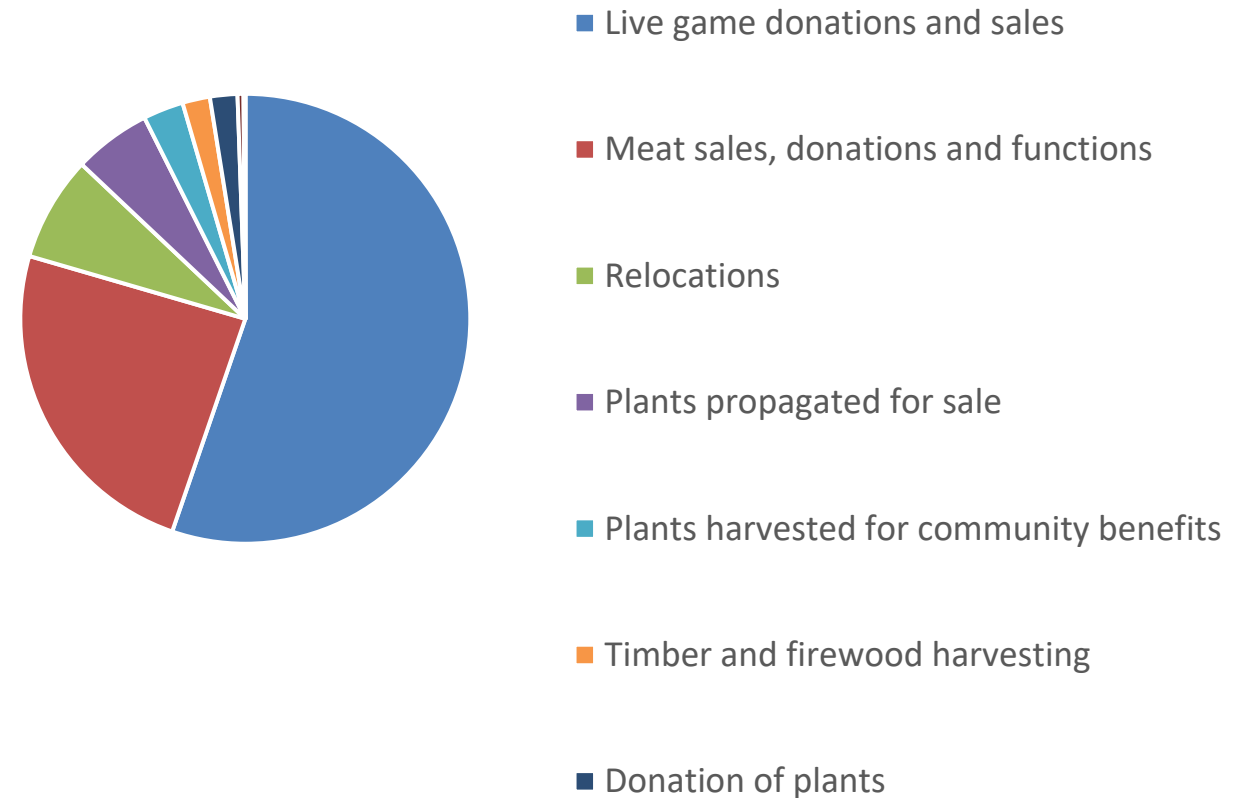


# *Extractive use of natural resources from SANParks has financial value, part of which is accrued locally*

**Estimated annual financial value of resources harvested in SANParks**



**Relative financial value of resource use types harvested from SANParks**



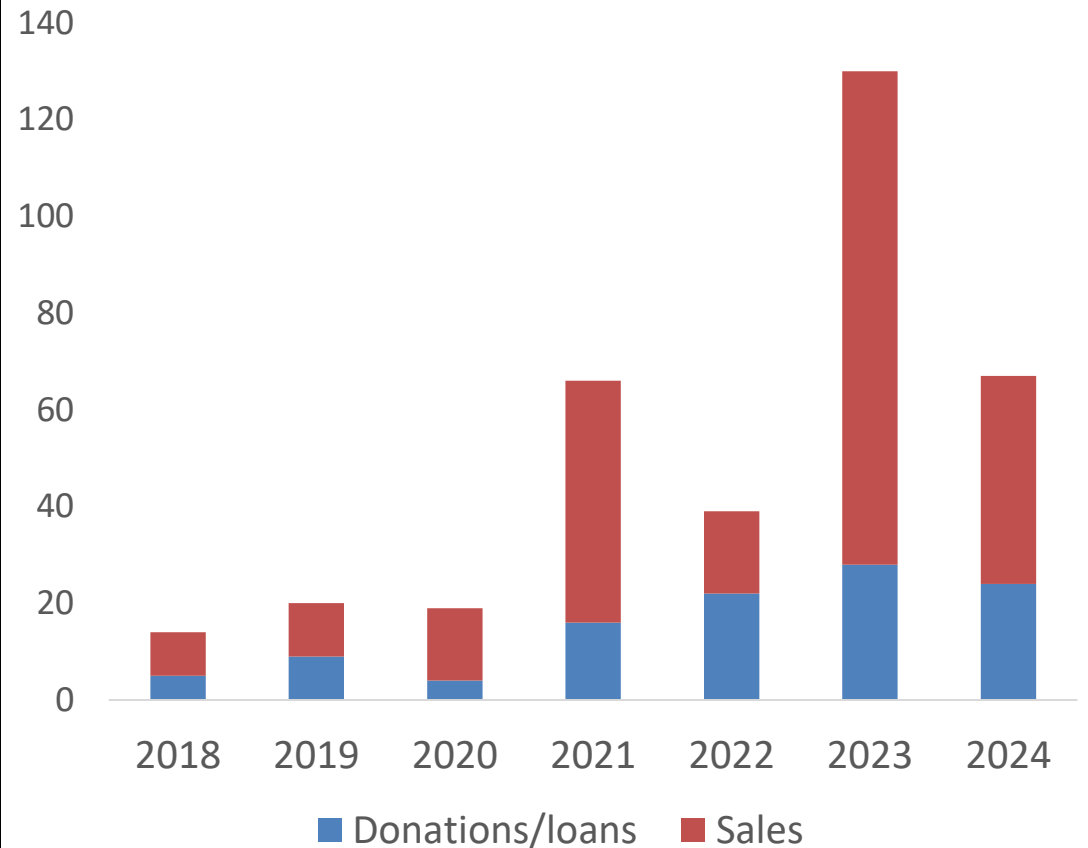
# Majority of records for animal use are for live game donations and sales

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### Use of animal species

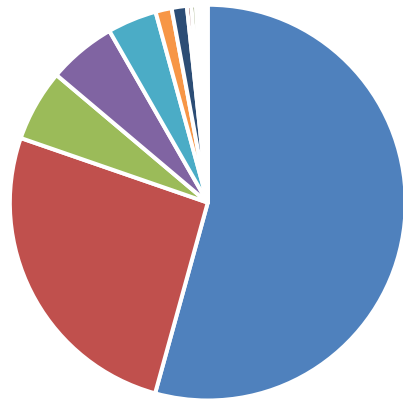


### Live game donations/loans/sales records



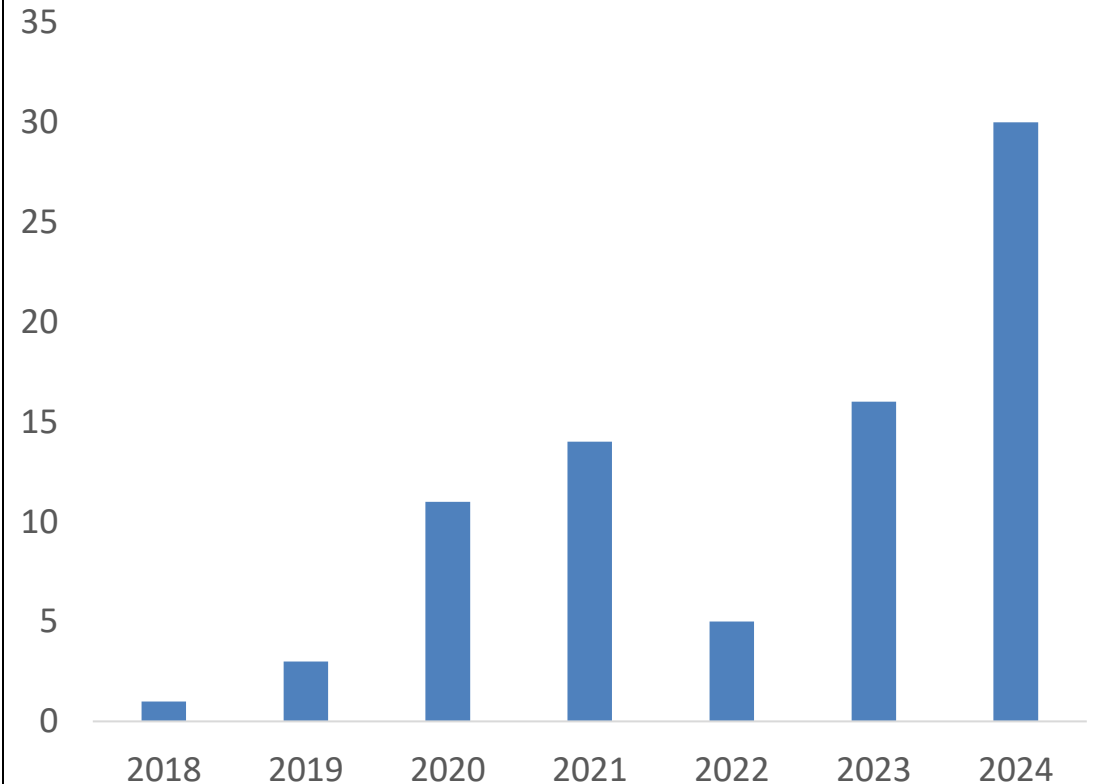
*Majority of records for plant use are for harvesting/collection for propagation, propagation for sale, community benefits*

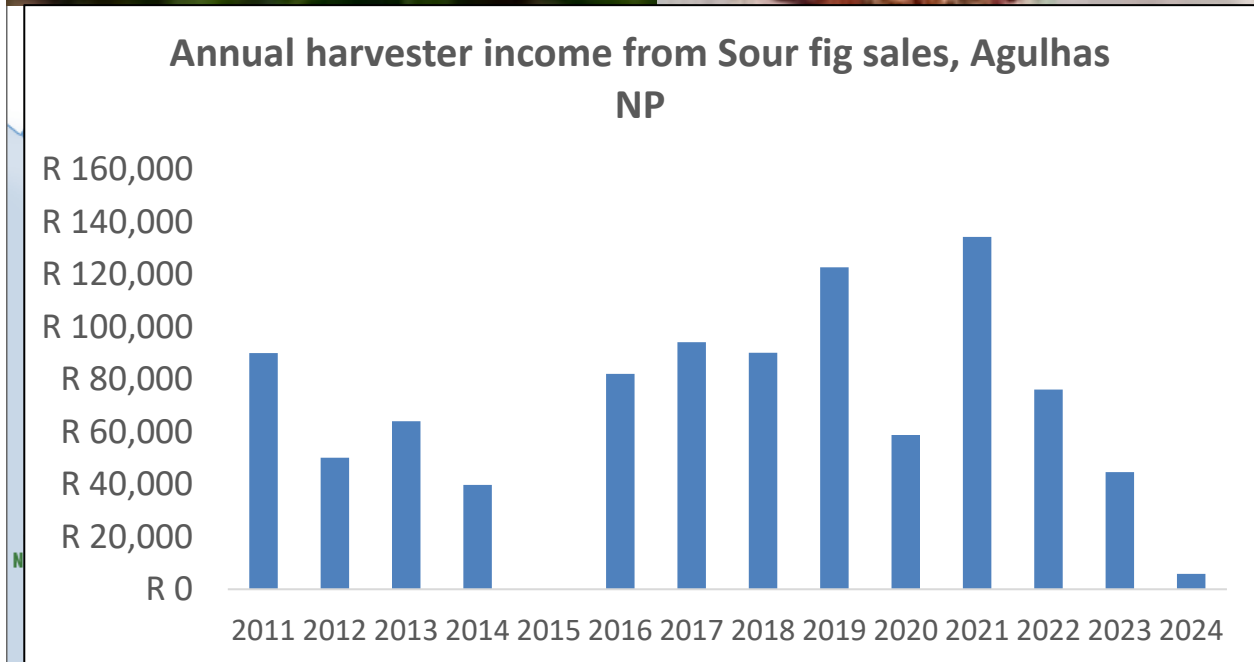
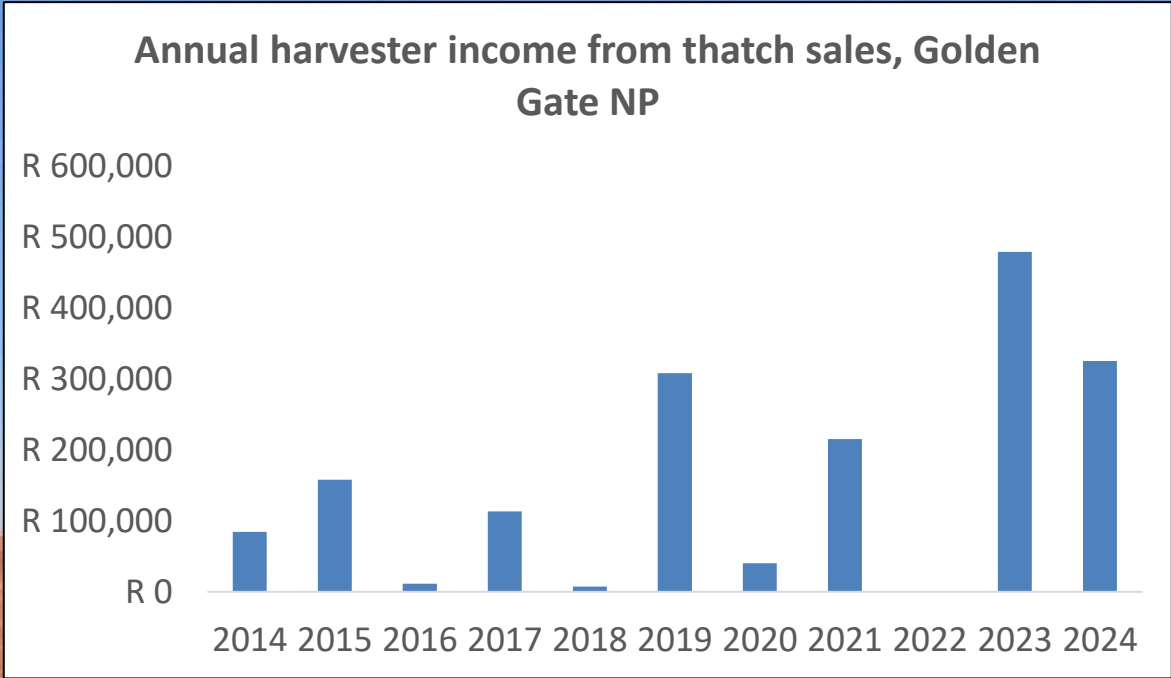
Use of plant species



- Harvesting/collection of plants/seeds/cuttings for propagation
- Plants propagated for sale
- Plants harvested for community benefits
- Timber and firewood harvesting
- Donation of plants
- Propagation for rehabilitation/conservation
- Management actions
- Grazing and browsing of livestock
- Harvesting of plant species for management purposes

Records of plants harvested for community benefits





# Sharing access to natural resources contributes to environmental justice, while benefitting people and nature



Thatch – 3mo, 30pp, +-R2500



Mopane worms – 25l, R562/d



Warburgia - 40 000 trees, 200 villages, 400/3000 THP's



Wild ginger



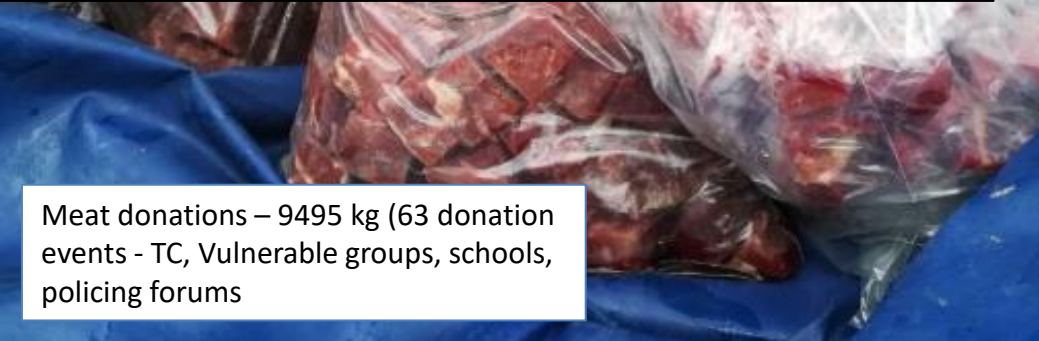
Elephant dung – 170kg, 400 THP's, 33 villages (rhino..)



Hides & skins – 35 impala (Gutshwa), protocol



Elephant fat..



Meat donations – 9495 kg (63 donation events - TC, Vulnerable groups, schools, policing forums)

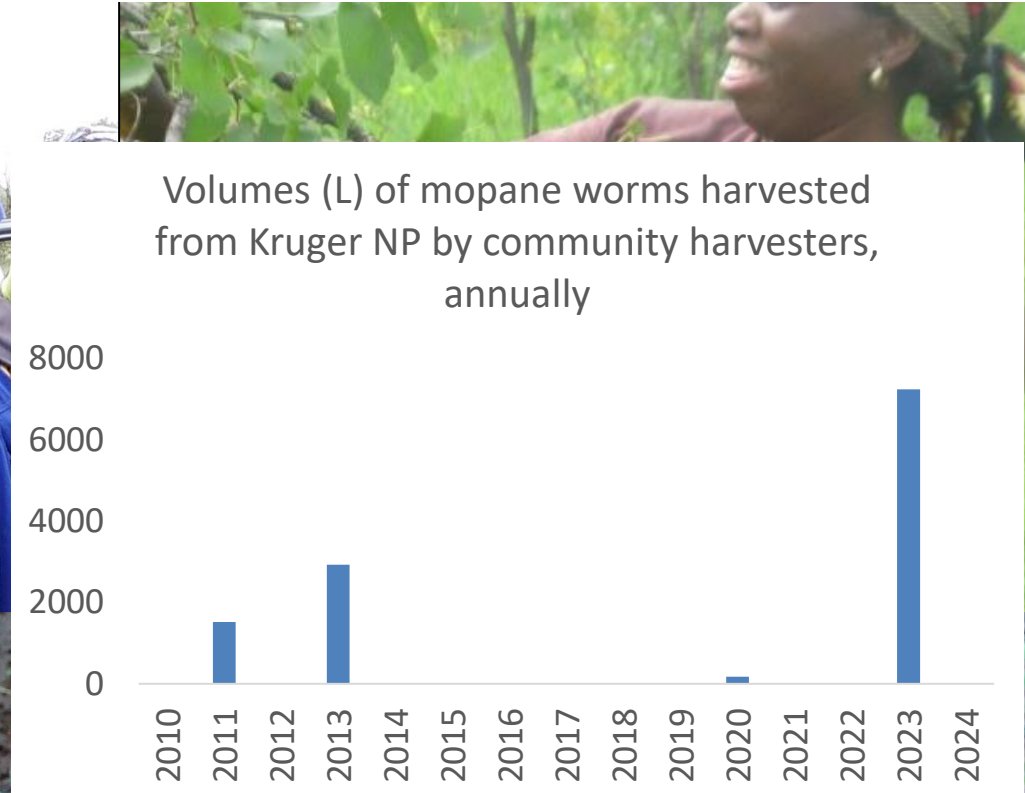
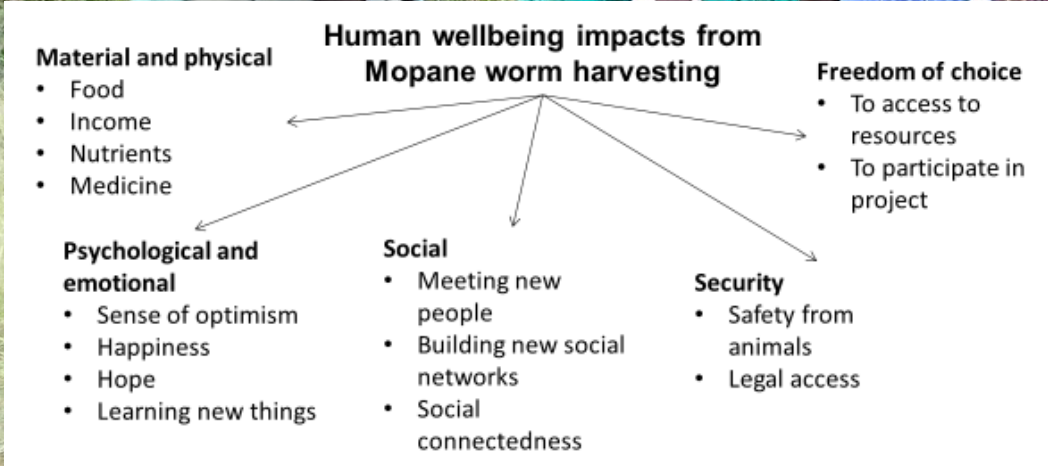
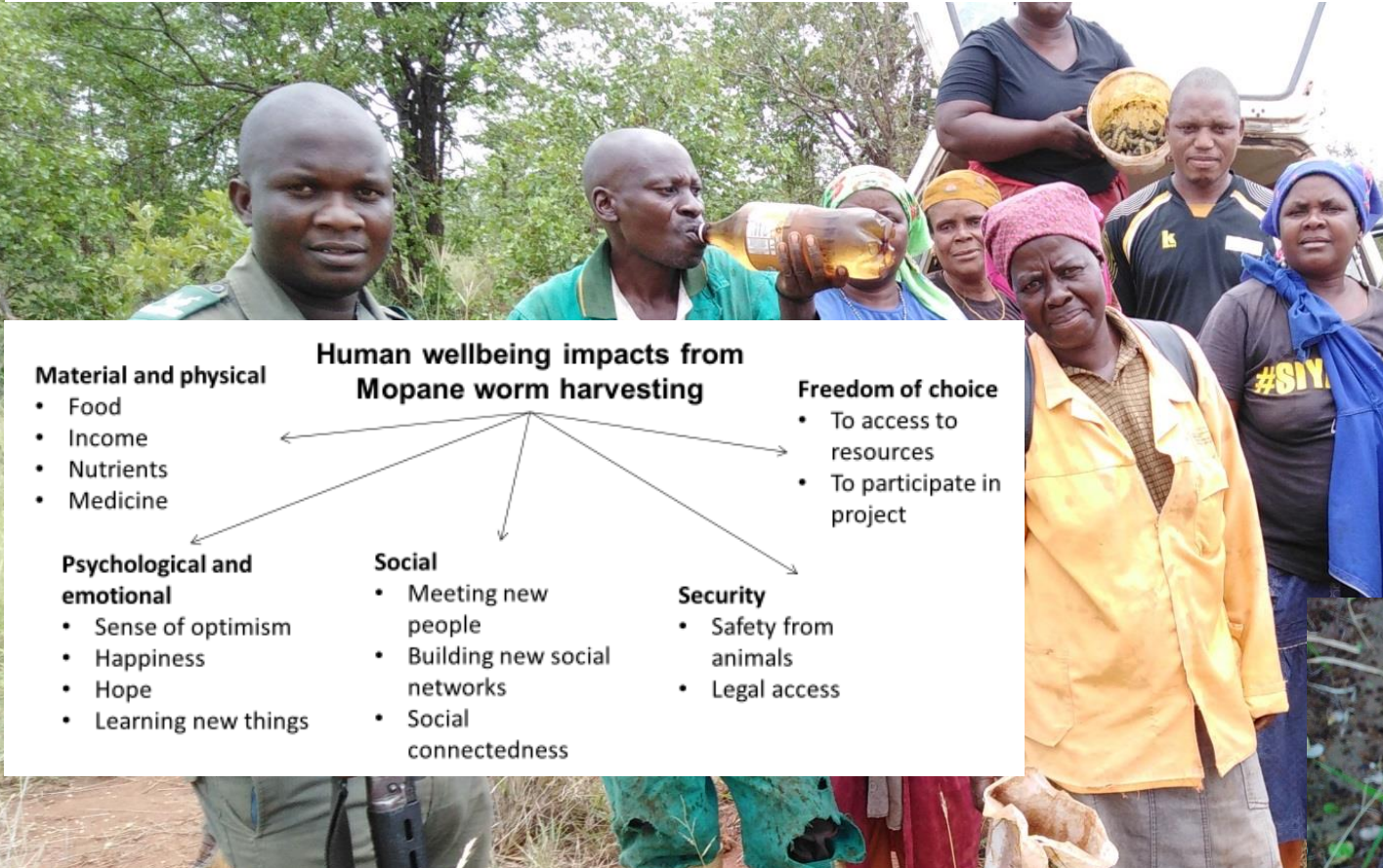


Lalapalm (2013)– Ndindani, 34 pp



Keiapple processing facility

# Harvesting mopane worms in Kruger has positive impacts on tangible and intangible wellbeing, relationships and perceptions

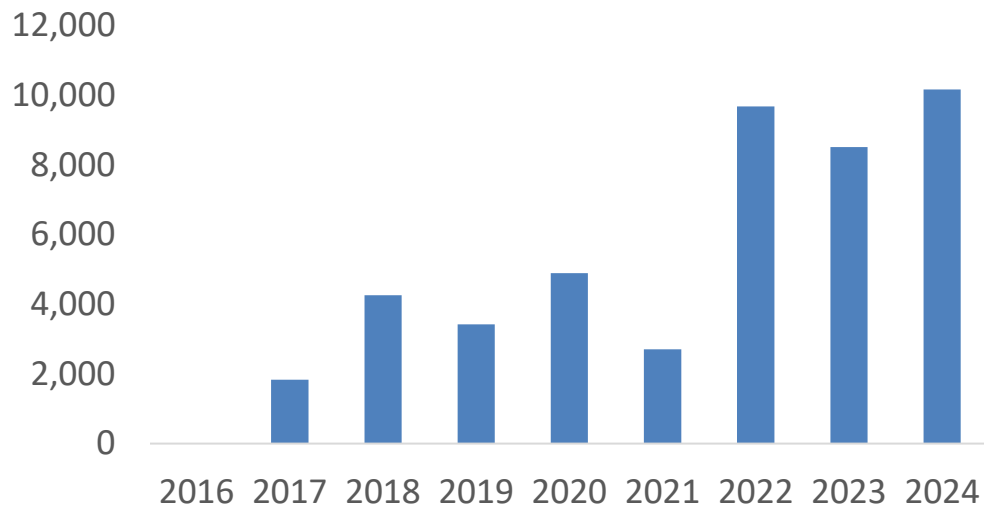


*“Having been allowed to enter the park resulted in [us] seeing the park differently” “enabled us to realise how beautiful the park is on the inside” “has changed how we think [about KNP]” “[we feel] positive!! . The KNP is opening up and changing in comparison to previous times”*

Swemmer et al. 2020

# Facilitating access to venison has positive impacts on wellbeing, relationships, connections and perceptions

Venison meat (kg) donated to local community groups annually

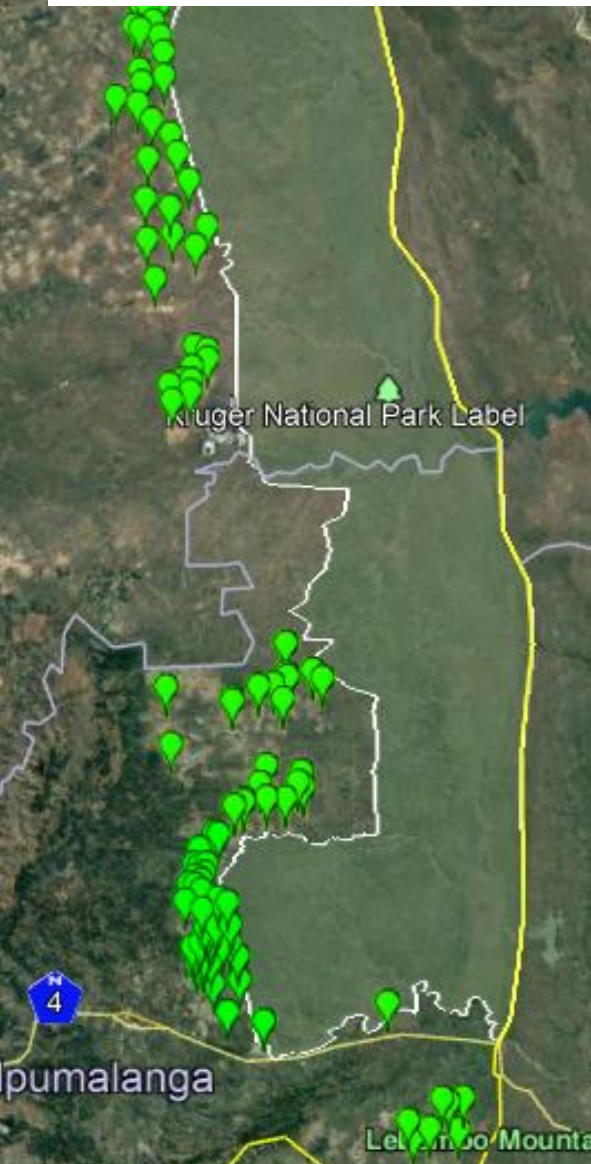


*"Family members came to our school and encouraged us to build relationship with the KNP as they feel that they want to know more about your place" "[the parents] never thought that their children can benefit from Kruger so they are very grateful" "Hoping that the relationship will grow further.." - "Your presence signalled to the learners the importance of nature conservation"*

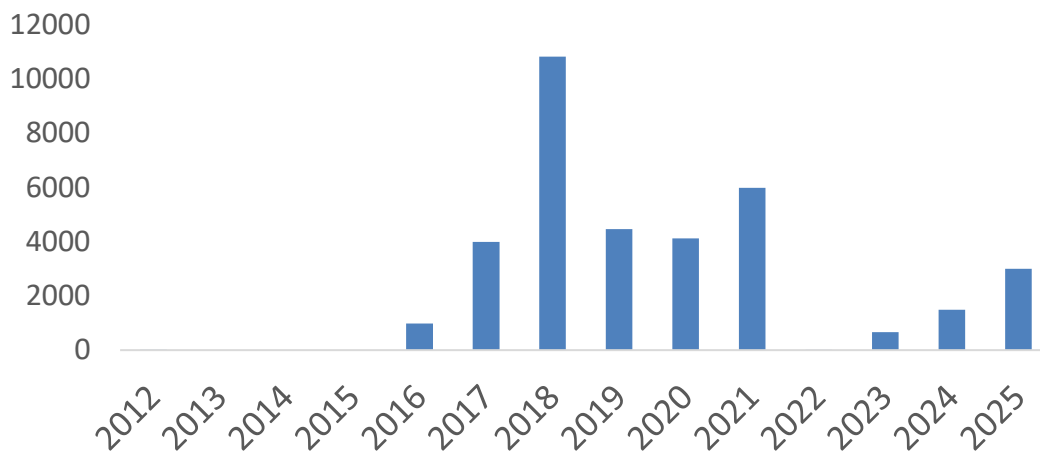


Xibaga/isibaha/Pepperbark tree  
(*Warburgia salutaris*)

# Enabling access to sustainably harvested traditional medicine, can save species and provide human wellbeing and conservation benefits

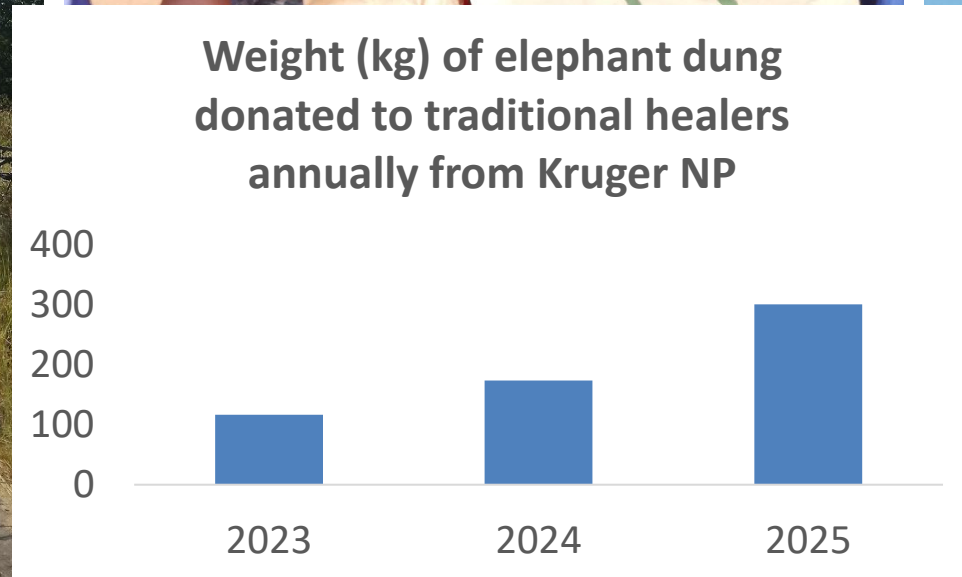


Number of plants donated to traditional healers adjacent to the Kruger NP annually



- 83% survival
- 100% use home grown (0% buy), 89% used to buy (Punda), fences
- 91% using leaves
- 40% national market – permitting?
- Reduction in illegal harvesting
- Opportunity for conversations







## Final thoughts

- Supporting policy and legislative environment – certain extent (TOPS, CITES)
- Positive impacts, sustainability – ecological, social and economic
- Tool rather than a threat – “*what if we don't?*”
- Social scientists can also make graphs

