



South African
NATIONAL PARKS

WRAP-UP
22ND SAVANNA SCIENCE NETWORK MEETING
3-6 MARCH 2025

Savanna Science Network Meeting over time

1st

25-27 March 2003
Goldfields Auditorium
No Wrap-up

2nd

Early April 2004
Goldfields Auditorium
Synthesis: **Dr H. Biggs**

3rd

4 – 8 April 2005
Goldfields Auditorium
Wrap Up:

4th

13 – 17 March 2006
Goldfields Auditorium
Wrap Up:

5th

16 – 20 April 2007
Goldfields Auditorium
Wrap Up: **Prof W. Bond**

6th

21 – 25 April 2008
Goldfields Auditorium
Wrap Up: **Prof B. Scholes**

7th

19 – 24 April 2009
Goldfields Auditorium
Wrap Up: **Dr A. Anderson**

8th

7 – 12 March 2010
Goldfields Auditorium
Wrap Up: **Dr Tally Palmer**

9th

13 – 18 March 2011
Goldfields Auditorium
Wrap Up: **Dr L. Dziba**

10th

5 – 9 March 2012
Nombolo Mdluli C.C.
Wrap Up: **Dr S. Freitag**

11th

3 – 8 March 2013
Nombolo Mdluli C.C.
Wrap Up: **Prof Ed February**

12th

9 – 13 March 2014
Nombolo Mdluli C.C.
Wrap Up: **Dr H. Biggs**

13th

8 – 12 March 2015
Nombolo Mdluli C.C.
Wrap Up: **Dr S. Freitag**

14th

13 – 18 March 2016
Nombolo Mdluli C.C.
Wrap Up: **Dr S. Archibald**

15th

12 – 16 March 2017
Nombolo Mdluli C.C.
Wrap Up: **Dr N. Owen-Smith**

16th

4 – 8 March 2018
Nombolo Mdluli C.C.
Wrap Up:

17th

??? 2019
Nombolo Mdluli C.C.
Wrap Up: **Dr L. Hedin**

18th

1 – 5 March 2020
Nombolo Mdluli C.C.
Wrap Up: **Dr N. Owen-Smith**

19th

5 – 9 March 2022
Nombolo Mdluli C.C.
Wrap Up: **Dr L. Foxcroft**

20th

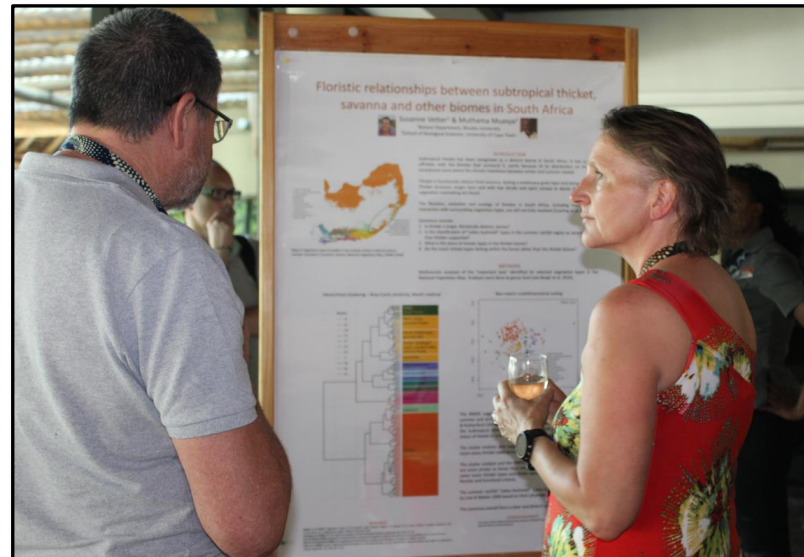
5 – 10 March 2023
Nombolo Mdluli C.C.
Wrap Up: **Dr W. Twine**

21st

3 – 7 March 2024
Nombolo Mdluli C.C.
Wrap Up: **Dr R. McCleery
& Dr D. Parker**

22nd

3 – 6 March 2025
Nombolo Mdluli C.C.
Wrap Up: **Ms C. Greaver**



SAVANNA SCIENCE NETWORK MEETING 2025

RE-IMAGINING CONSERVATION:

Healthy, sustainable, climate resilient savannas that benefit people

The Savanna Science Networking Meeting has become one of the most important conferences in the savanna scientist's calendar. We invite you to join us as we discuss all issues pertinent to savanna ecology and management.

By continuing to embrace the historical focus of learning, listening, sharing, and networking, we aim to explore, in addition to the broader issues facing savannas globally, also some of the strategic challenges facing SANParks.

The meeting aspires to enhance evidence, knowledge and understanding that help the maintenance and restoration of sustainable and resilient social ecological savanna systems



South African
NATIONAL PARKS



VISION
2040

DATE

02-07 MARCH 2025



NOMBOLO MDHLULI
CONFERENCE CENTRE,
SKUKUZA



Scientists love to network



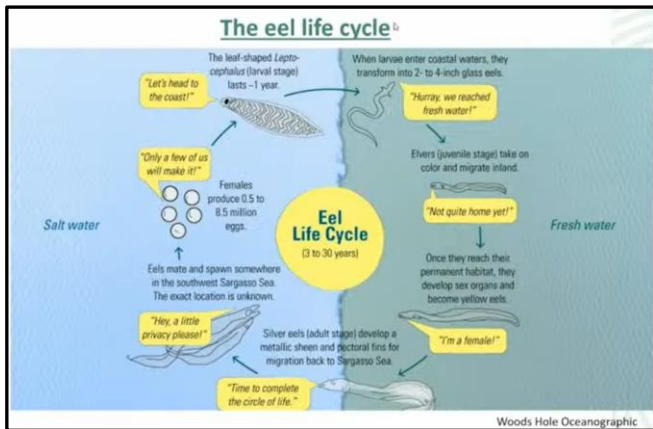
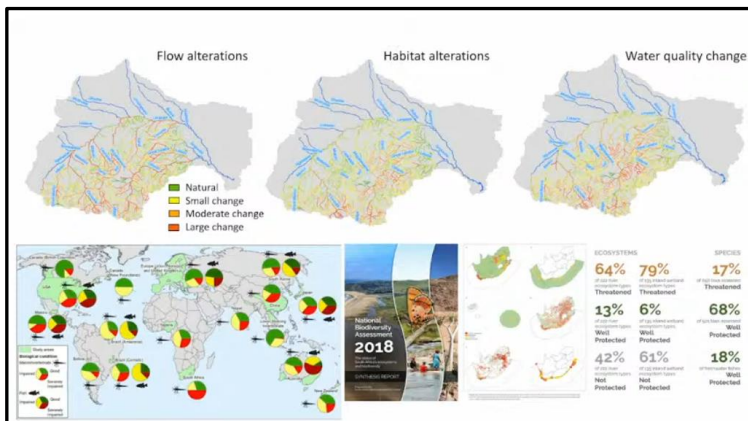


Speaking your mind

- What values do elephants have for you?
- What kind of challenges does Kruger have with elephants?
- How do you think these challenges come about?
 - What are the underlying mechanisms?
- What do you think is a good way to address these challenges?

- ❑ Studies on mega herbivores (like elephants), small mammals, birds, and bats
- ❑ Balancing Biodiversity and Human Needs
- ❑ Human-Wildlife Coexistence
- ❑ Microorganisms and Soil Health
- ❑ Zoogeochemistry to proboscidoecology



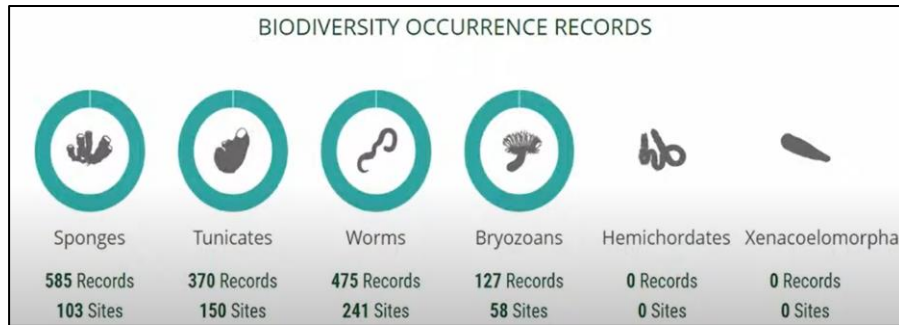
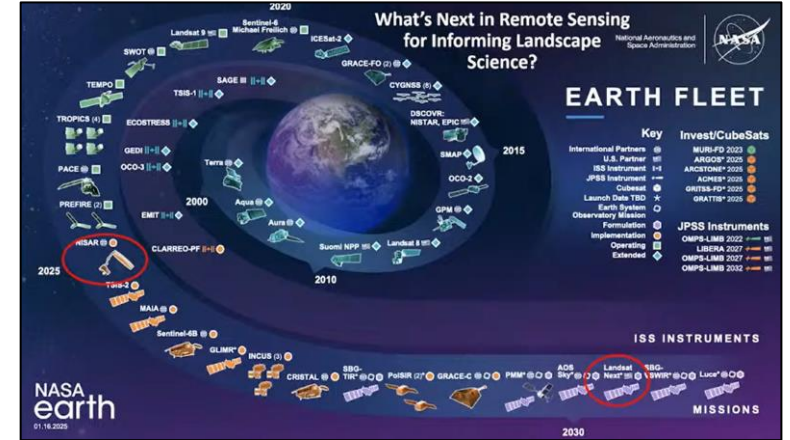


- Environmental flows
- Red** is bad and **green** is good
- Dams, barriers and irrigation
- Eel migration- and their complex life cycle
- Research on microplastics
- Invasive crayfish
- Climate change, CO2 increases, and nitrogen deposition.
- Impacts of elephants on baobab trees
- Fire frequency and herbivore exclusion
- Invasive species

The day of the Gedi or Jedi

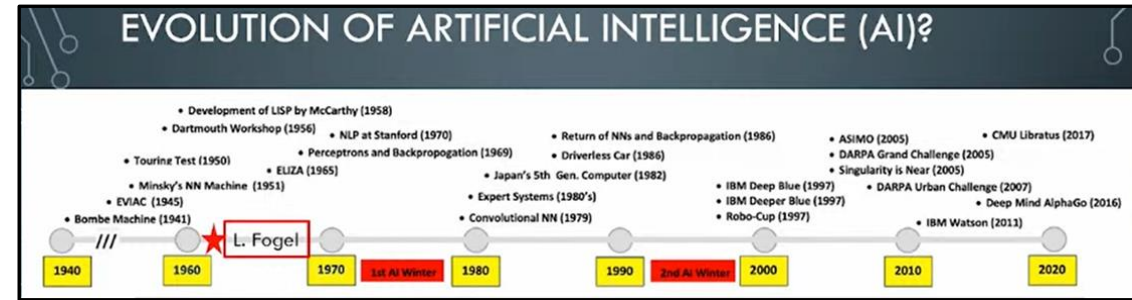


Timelines are important



Biri Marung Challenge Closed 🙌🏻👏🏻

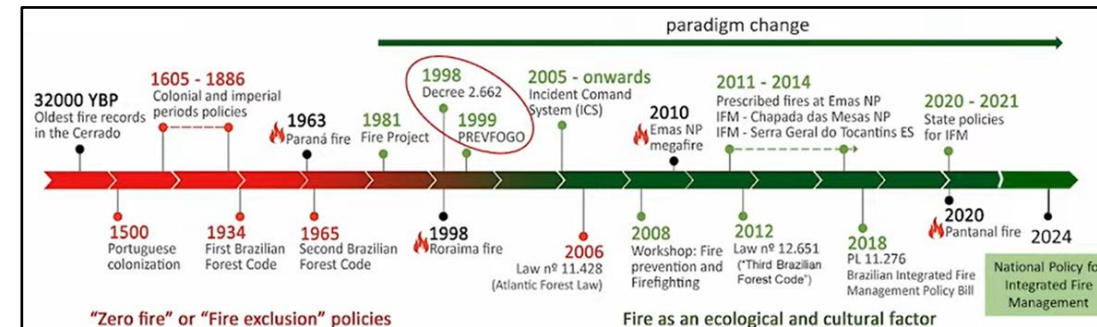
By President Ramaphosa



AN EYE IN THE SKY

USING GPS-TRACKED VULTURES TO ADDRESS AFRICA'S WILDLIFE POISONING CRISIS

ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST



**LARGE ANIMALS
EAT LARGE FRUITS...**



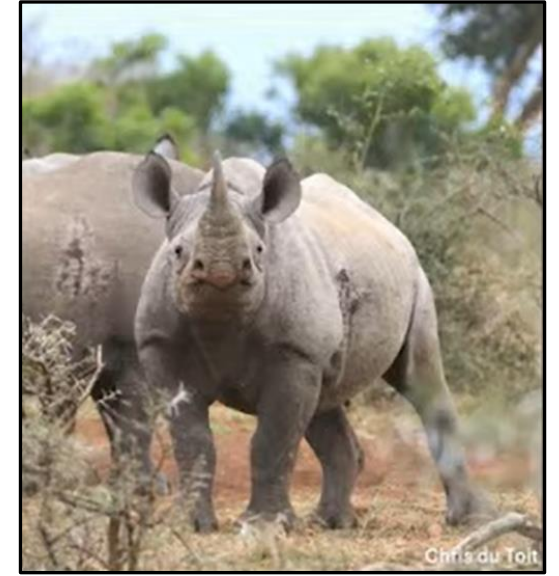
... AND PLANT LARGE TREES

Climate change

Biodiversity loss



Nature-based solutions (NbS)



A trolley for a tough road

Baseline 2025



Vision 2040



...a step in the right direction





