



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

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





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see www.wessa.org.za,
www.wessalife.org.za or contact
John via Whats App :
083 444 7649

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Brits - Hartbeespoort

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





50th Anniversary 2010






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



Endangered Cape Vulture feeding and conservation



Endangered Blue Crane educational\ conservation project, in Skeerpoort



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
Total Cost	R 1,631,950.00	R 89,177.60
10% contingency funds	R 163,195.00	R 8,917.76
Final Project Cost	R 1,795,145.00	R 98,095.36

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

Funds/DDF Committed

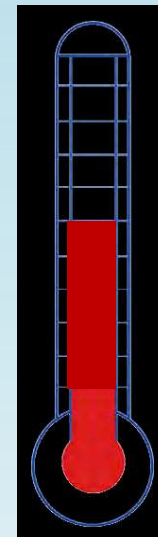
\$16839 DDF
(proposed)
\$0 Cash
RC Cupertino

\$ 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

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Rotary



THANK YOU



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Rotary Club of Cupertino