

Wildlife experts address key topics

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A wildlife management colloquium, with specialised leaders in various fields, will be held in Grahamstown on 25 June. The colloquium, put on by The Royal Society of South Africa, Rhodes University and Indalo (Eastern Cape Private Game Reserve Association), will take the form of a series of 40-minute lectures by invited speakers, including Ivan Horak, Nick Kriek, Martin Hill, John Skinner and Andrew Conroy.

A number of postgraduate students from the Rhodes University Wildlife and Reserve Management Research Group will present shorter research papers. The invited speakers are all outstanding leaders in their fields and will address key topics, including wildlife parasitology, disease transmission between game animals and live stock, the control of invasive plants, the digestive physiology of large herbivores and venison production.

The organisers of the colloquium, Ric Bernard and Mike Davies-Coleman, both from Rhodes University, said that while the day is targeted at the reserve manager and ecologist, it is open to everyone and it that it will be of interest to the farming community as well. Bernard added that the one-day workshop will give the audience a chance to interact with expert leaders in the field.

The workshop will also be directed to the Eastern Cape vegetation and wildlife. The research papers will report on research on large carnivores, elephants and black rhino on reserves in the Eastern Cape region. Bernard added that emphasis during the programme will be on discussion and that there will be plenty of time for questions during and between sessions.

The lectures are:

- Horak: Parasites and wildlife: what are we doing wrong?
- Kriek: Diseases – Interaction between Game and Domestic Livestock
- Hill: The integrated control of invading alien plant species in small reserves in the Eastern Cape
- Skinner: The pregastric tract in wild herbivores and the role of the rumen in browsers and grazers,
- Conroy: The role and potential of venison and game products in the rural economy.

Registration fee for the days colloquium is R100, which covers lunch, teas and a cocktail party after the event. For more information or to register contact Ric on 083 632 2866.



ANIMAL TALK... Organisers of the Eastern Cape Wildlife Management Colloquium, from left, Dale Howarth (chairperson of Indalo and Pumba), Angus Sholto-Douglas (Kwandwe Private Game Reserve) and Ric Bernard (Rhodes University). Photo: Stephen Penney

