



Hawaan Forest Conservation Trust Monthly site inspection report:

Summary:

21.02.2021

- i. The monthly site visit to the Hawaan Forest conducted by A. Starke took place on the 21.02.2022
- ii. Items checked during the visit are detailed below. Fauna and security monitoring was by trail cameras. The trail cameras are being successfully managed by Marshall (Thulani) and A. Starke. There have been a couple of beautiful wildlife images captured during February, and fortunately no security issues. No snare patrol took place in February.
- iii. In addition to their monthly routine tasks, the conservation management team have focused clearing *Brachyleana* (Silver Oak) and other invasive herbaceous annuals from the grassland areas.
- iv. As growing season peaks (Jan and Feb), observations of annual invasive species have increased. This is because their flowering and seeding time is in Feb/March. Species that are being managed to prevent mass seeding are *Khakibos* and the invasive grass *Rottboellia cochinchinensis* (<https://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=4568>). A *Senecio* species, yet identified, is growing in some of the disturbed grassland sites and will be monitored accordingly.
- v. The brush-cutter has been sent for repair and the pathways will be mowed upon return of the machine.



Figure 1. Path covered during site visit (white). Numbers on the map refer to items below.

(1)



The forest pathways were generally neat but will be cut again once the machine is back from workshop. Birds heard near forest management zone were Gorgeous bush shrike, Forest weaver and Yellow-bellied Greenbul.

(2)



The water point on the forest Greenbul trail was cleaned in February. This will be the next spot for one of wildlife cameras.

(3)



Bloodberry (*Rivinia humilis*) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rivinia_humilis seedling have been noted on the Greenbul and other forest trails. They will be checked and handpulled in during March.

(4)



Forest management staff have attended to pruning back and maintaining woody vegetation on the trails in February.

(5)



Some rubble noted on the forest path has been attended to in February by forest management staff.

(6)



Rottboellia cochinchinensis grass will be attended to by forest management team in March.

(7)



The ground nesting bees at the Bushshrike junction were still active at the end of February.

(8)



Water point II has been checked and was clean.

(9)



A forest curcubit creeper, *Coccinia palmata* is in fruit on the Bushshrike trail. They are very beautiful but their stems will now die off for the rest of summer and emerge again in Spring.

(10)



The Forest signal grass looks beautiful along the Bushshrike trail forest at the insect moment, community and it is providing pollen resources for the forest insect community.

(11)



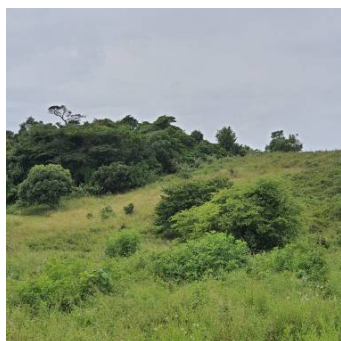
Forest staff will slash herbaceous annuals such as Khaki-bos before too much seed accumulates.

(12)



Silver Oak has been hand-pulled in the northern grassland section.

(13)



Yellow bells (*Tecoma stans*) and Pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) will be sprayed in this section of grassland.

(14)



Yellow bells have been cleared from open plot near Python place. The pathway from road will be recut once the brush cutter is back in action.

(15)



Ageratum conyzoides will be handpulled from the grassland areas in March. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ageratum_conyzoides

(16)



Fox glove (*Ceratotheca trilobais*) is in flower in the grassland area near the picnic area. (<http://pza.sanbi.org/ceratotheca-triloba>).

(17)



Tephrosia grandiflora, a forest edge legume was noted flowering on the forest edge.

(18)



Drimera sp. (Chick weed) is not a listed plant but a weed and will be dug out from the forest pathway.

Camera trap images February 2022

During Jan/Feb the HCT have worked closely with the HRA and Marshall security. The camera trap maintenance and daily checking is being conducted by Marshall security, though the HCT still have camera located in locations that will capture beautiful and interesting wildlife images. One highlight from February was a Bushbuck male captured at dawn on the interface between the estate and the grassland.



Bushbuck male at dawn.



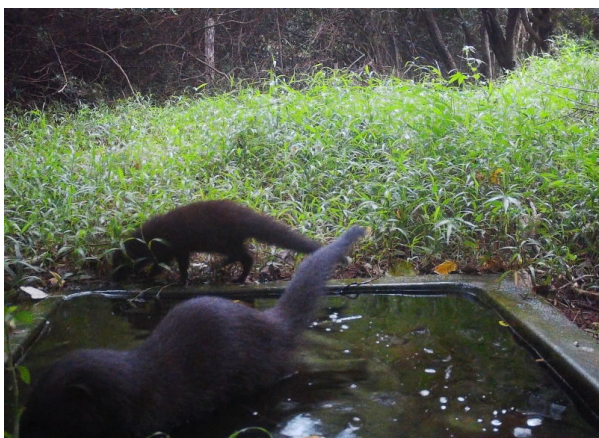
Crested-guinea fowl in the forest at night!



Blue duiker in the forest



Lemon dove in the forest leaf litter



The pair of resident water-mongoose



A pair of Olive-thrush's

Operations: Tasks 2021															
Category	Item	Task	Schedule	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Trails	1.1	Clearing away vegetation that is growing over, repairing washaways	Weekly	x	x										
	1.2	Repairing washaways	Weekly	-	-										
	1.3	Resetting concrete sleeper treads on steeper parts of the trails	Weekly	-	-										
	1.4	Cut the trails using a brush cutter once every two weeks in summer and check for overgrowth in winter	Weekly	x	x										
	1.5	Trails should be maintained because they function as fire breaks or tracer breaks for fire-fighting when annual burn is done each year in July/August.	Weekly	x	x										
	1.6	Check trails for over-hanging branches and other vegetation.	Weekly	x	x										
	1.7	Clearing litter on the trails and in the forest twice a week as not much pedestrian traffic if usage increases then checking daily will have to be done.	Weekly	x	x										
	1.8	Check fuel and oil for machines and report.	Monthly	x	x										
	1.9	Snare management – check hot spot sites for re-applied snares on a weekly basis	Monthly	x	--										
Water points	2.1	Check if waterpoints are soiled by animals	Weekly	x	x										
	2.2	Fill waterpoints along the trails	Weekly	x	x										
Infrastructure	3.1	Observe and report to Management where signage needs to be cleaned or replaced due to vandalism or fading	Monthly	x	x										
	3.2	Check signs and clean signs and benches weekly	Weekly	x	x										
	3.3	Check exclusion plot for fallen trees or branches damaging the wire.	Monthly	x	-										
	3.4	Keep tools and equipment clean and serviced daily for hand tools.	Weekly	x	x										
	3.5	Clean and service machine tools after each session of use. Chainsaw, Brushcutter.	Weekly	x	x										
	3.6	Service of machinery at Berries	Yearly	-	-										

[illegible]

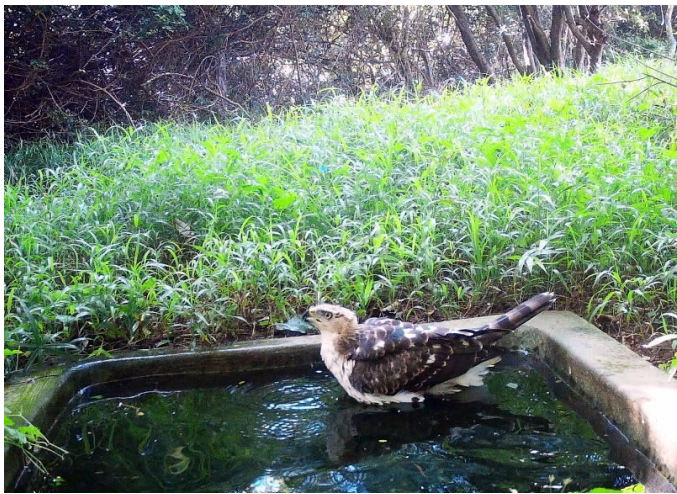
Camera trap observation Jan 2022. Due to the heat in January the most notable camera trap observations for Jan 2021 focused on the water trough at Bushshrike trail. An exciting observation was a juvenile crowned eagle having a drink and cooling off in the water.



Crested Guinea fowl



Purple crested turaco



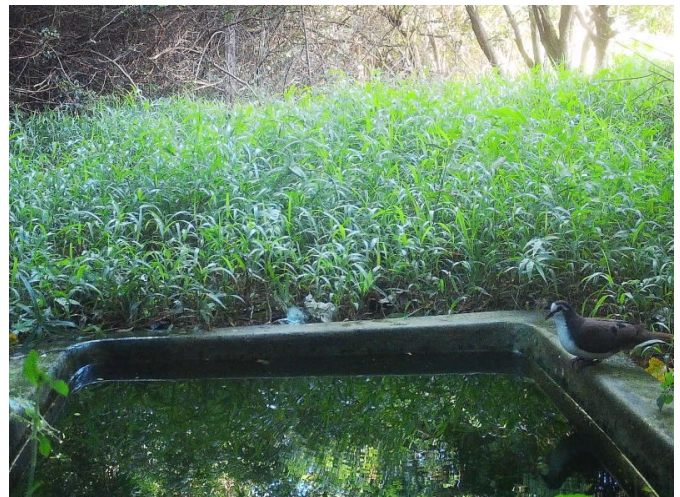
Crowned eagle (Juvenile)



Female bushbuck



Wood owl



Tambourine dove

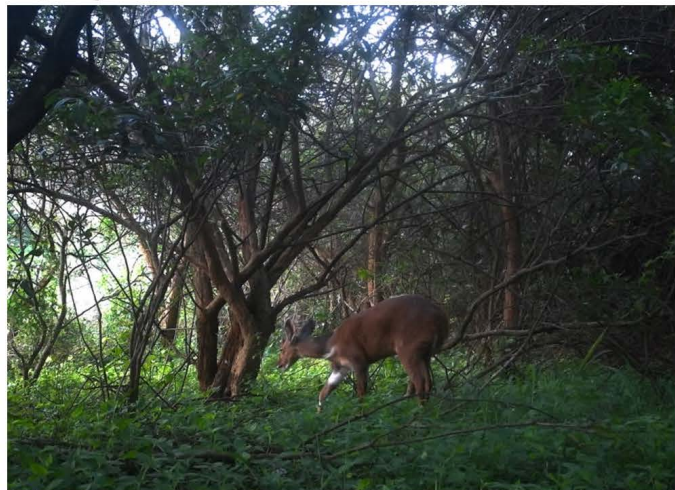
Six of the seven camera have been in operation during November-December. The Seventh camera is due to be installed within the next week. Camera batteries appear to last between 3-4 four weeks, while each camera used between 500 mb and 1gig of data. The data budget for each camera should be in the order of R 50-75 per month. Importantly no non-resident 'humans' have been noted on the cameras. AS will continue to monitor the camera in December but the way forward in January will be garner support from the HOA security to help with monitoring. Some interesting new species were observed over the Nov/Dec period, for example: on Camera V, a Steppe Eagle. Other observations in the images are : i) = Large spotted Genet ; ii) & vii) Female bushbuck; i) Water mongoose i) Male bushbuck.



v)



i)



iii)



vii)

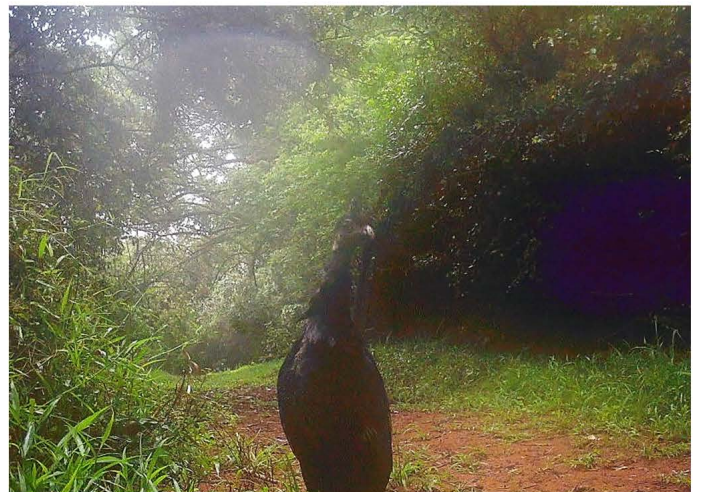
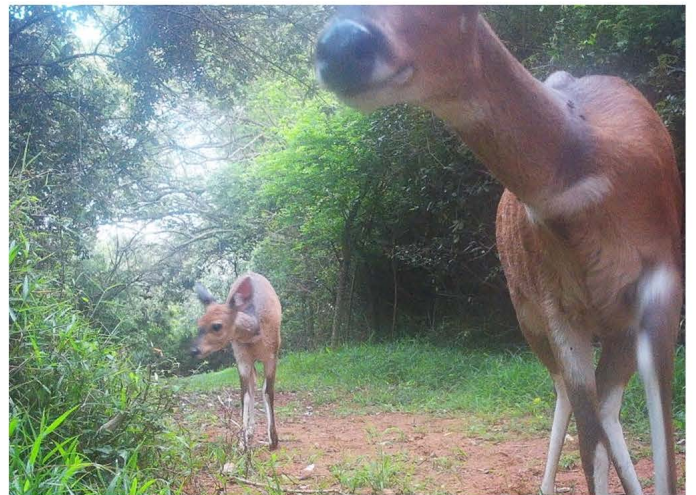


i)



i)

Camera trap images October-November 2021. New species observations in November were Water Mongoose. Other sightings include: Bushbuck family activity, Blue Duiker pairs and Crested Guine fowl.



Camera trap images September /October 2021

Given that we are still working out how best to deploy the camera traps in the nature reserve, some of the images received so far have been beautiful. Species noted below are as follows: Crested guinea fowl, spotted Genet, and female, male and juvenile bushbuck. Other forest antelope noted have been both red and blue duiker. Four cameras have now been deployed. Their locations have been sited in Fig. 1.

