



Hawaan Forest Conservation Trust

Monthly site inspection report:

Summary:

0- .0- .2024

1. Work at the Hawaan forest over July has comprised maintenance of forest encroachment into grassland Block 5, while some herbicide has been applied to the coppicing shrubs and the Doddha in grassland Block 4.
2. There was only 20 mm of rainfall during July and the forest is still very dry. Consequently, the HCT staff have been kept busy filling up water-points which comprise roughly 60 L per day.
3. No snares were collected during July, but camera trap No. 3 did observe a group of poachers who came in on the M4. The estate security was notified, and Marshall Security team was deployed.
4. Trails within WEssa forest have been maintained during July – but there have been requests for the leaf-litter on the trails to be raked slightly in order to help with pedestrian navigation. The central pathway leading from Bulbul Trail to the eastern outlook has been done; the next portion would be to maintain slightly the northern loop that links the Bushshrike Trail.
5. There have been a number of birding groups visiting the forest during July. Sightings have included the Spotted Ground Thrush, Blue-mantled Flycatcher, Dark-backed Weaver, Bar-throated Apalis, and Green Malkoha.
6. We have started developing a fauna photographic portfolio from the camera trap images that have been collected. The first month of the presentation is of the Antelope of the Hawaan Forest - see page 4.

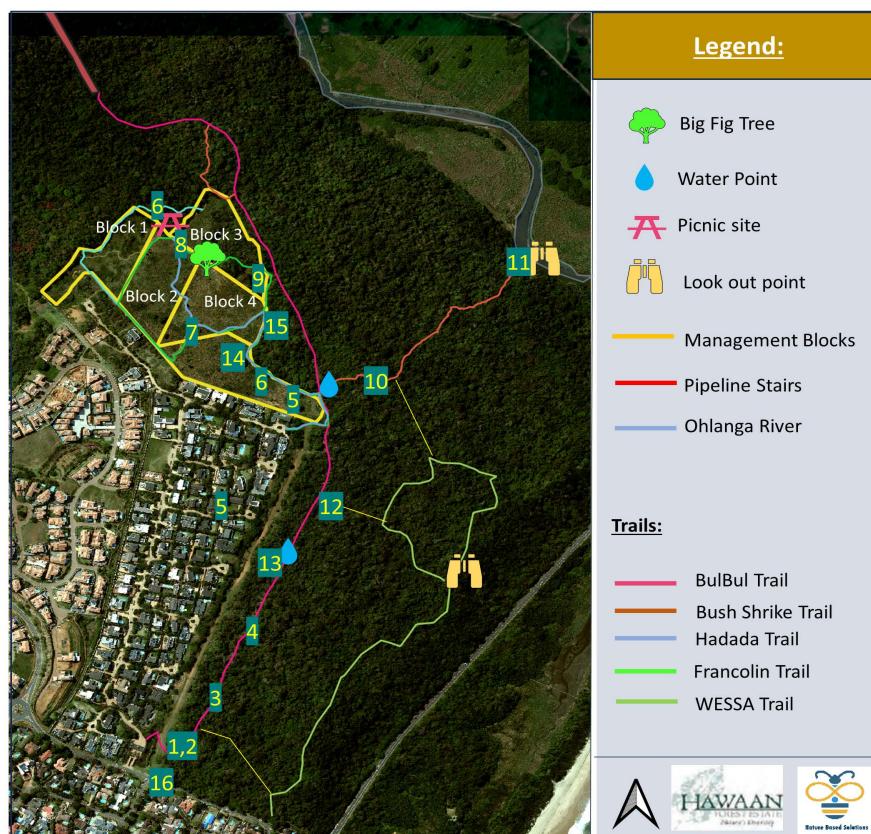


Figure 1. Numbers on the map refer to items below.

(1)



The new forest gate and cameras have been installed and working properly.

(2)



Housekeeping at the sheds is still not great and urgently needs to be attended to by the security contractor, especially since guests are using the entrance gate to access the forest. *Note that this was sorted out by the end of July.*

(3)



This image of the understory gives us an idea of how dry the forest has become at this time of year.

(4)



Pruning of broken branch from quite a large Ziziphus was done in July.

(5)



On the northern edge of the buffer zone, some bush encroachment will be cut back and will be ready for burning in August.

(6)



Bush-clearing has been done preparation for prescribed burn in August.

(7)



Tracer-belts at Block 2 have been prepared.

(8)



Grassland pathways were not mowed this month but remain neat.

(9)



The final tracer belt will be installed at the end of July along the Hadada trail.

(10)



Trees tags in the forest, have been scheduled to cleaned and serviced in July.

(11)



The small cyclone in May, in fact did cause some local damage to the crowns of forest trees but no serious issues have been found. The deck and outlook area were neat during inspection.

(12)



Camera traps in the logs have been installed and are monitoring both wildlife and humans within the forest.

(13)



The amount of water used daily by animals during this dry period in July on average 60l. The HCT staff replenish this two to three times per week.

(15)



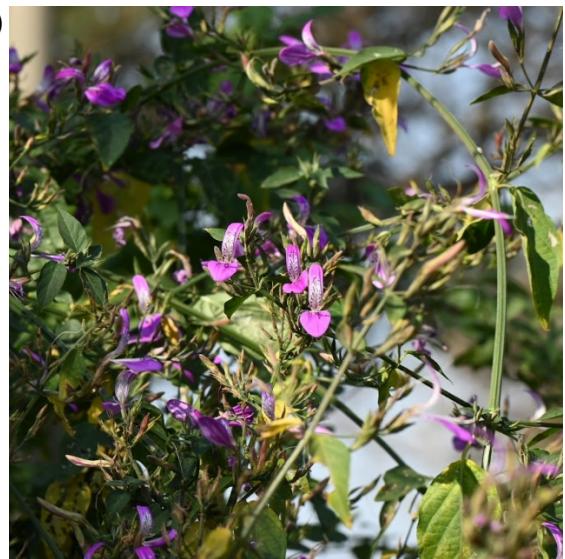
While, also fruiting is Coastal Bone Apple, *Catunaregam spinosum*.

(14)

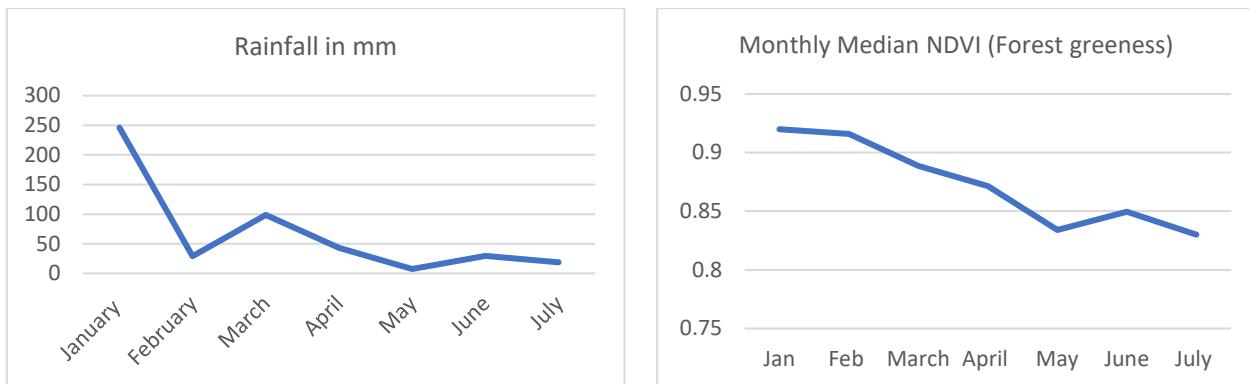


Unlike the indigenous gardens, not too many forest trees are flowering during July but there are few, including Coastal Guarri – *Euclea racemosa*.

(16)



Within the lovely indigenous gardens and verges around the estate, and out of the range of the many Bush Buck which are around, wintering flowering shrubs such as Ribbon Bush, *Peristrophe cernua*.



Antelope of the Hawaan Forest



RED DUIKER
(FEMALE)
Cephalophus natalensis
(iSikhapha)





**Hawaan Forest
CONSERVATION TRUST**





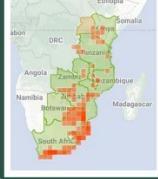
RED FOREST DUIKER
(MALE)
Cephalophus natalensis
(iSikhapha)







BUSH BUCK
(FEMALE)
Tragelaphus scriptus
(Intakajolwanemnyama)





**Hawaan Forest
CONSERVATION TRUST**





BUSH BUCK
(MALE)
Tragelaphus scriptus
(Intakajolwanemnyama)







BLUE DUIKER
(FEMALE & FAWN)
Philantomba monticola
(iNkonkon)





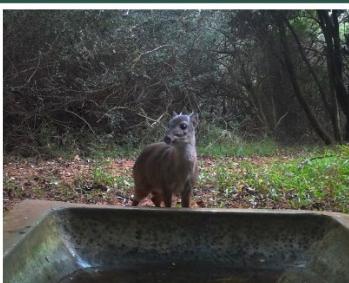
**Hawaan Forest
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BLUE DUIKER
(MALE)
Philantomba monticola
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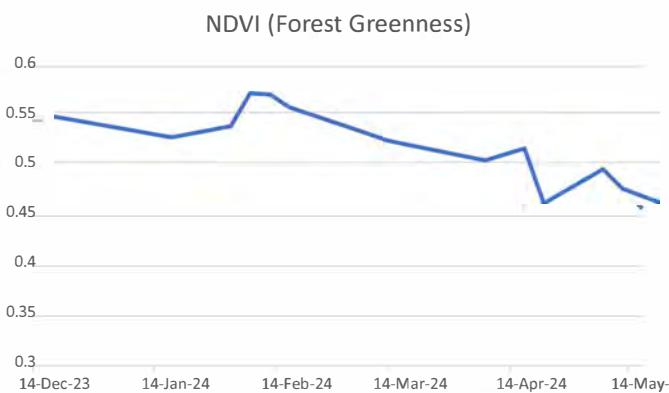




Operations: Tasks 2024

Item	Herbicide name	Active ingredient	Type	Litres in stock	Date used	Species applied	Location
5.	Plenum	Picloram	Selective	18L	13/4	Pepper, Yellowbe	West grassland
6.	Plenum	Picloram	Selective	5L	05/9	Is Pepper,	West grassland
7.	Plenum	Picloram	Selective	5L	05/03/24	Searsia	East grassland
8.	Plenum	Picloram	Selective	3L	05/08/24	Searsia, Doddia, Euclea	East grassland

Item name	Herbicide name	Active ingredient	Type	Litres in stock	Date used	Species applied	Location
1. Gladiator, pre-mix	Picloram	Selective	15L (pre-mix)	16/4/22	Creeping inch	Forest mgmt zone	
2. Round-up	Glyphosate	Non-selective	3L	-	-	-	
3. Gladiator, premix	Picloram	Selective	Used 15L	15/11/22	Brazilian pepper	Eastern grassland	
4. Plenum 160	Picloram	Selective	20L – concentrate. Mixed 2L	25/02/23	Brazilian pepper – Yellow bells.	Eastern grassland	



Normalised differentiated vegetation index, on a scale from 0-1, is a satellite derived metric used to monitor vegetation health and primary productivity. This can be tracked on a monthly bases through the growing season, where it can be noted that mean NDVI at the Hawaan peaked in Mid-February at 0.58 and dropped to 0.45 during late May,



Male Bushbuck



Female Bushbuck



Blue Duiker - Male



Lemon Dove



Red Duiker - Male



Banded Mongoose



Vervet Monkey

Camera Trap imagery from April 2024



Vervet monkeys have been enjoying the fresh water provided HCT at the Bushshrike water point



As have many of the Red Duiker



The large male bush-buck



and the beautiful female bush-buck, all look in fine condition.



Two beautiful forest doves, the rarer forest, Lemon Dove..



and the more common, more often associated with woodlands, Tambourine Dove, were captured on the camera during April

Observations from the camera traps in February showed the usual allotment of animals using the water provided by the HCT staff to bathe and drink. We are working towards formalising the logging of this data on a consistent basis so that it can be used as baseline information for the forest and to track change.



Spotted Genet



Tambourine Dove



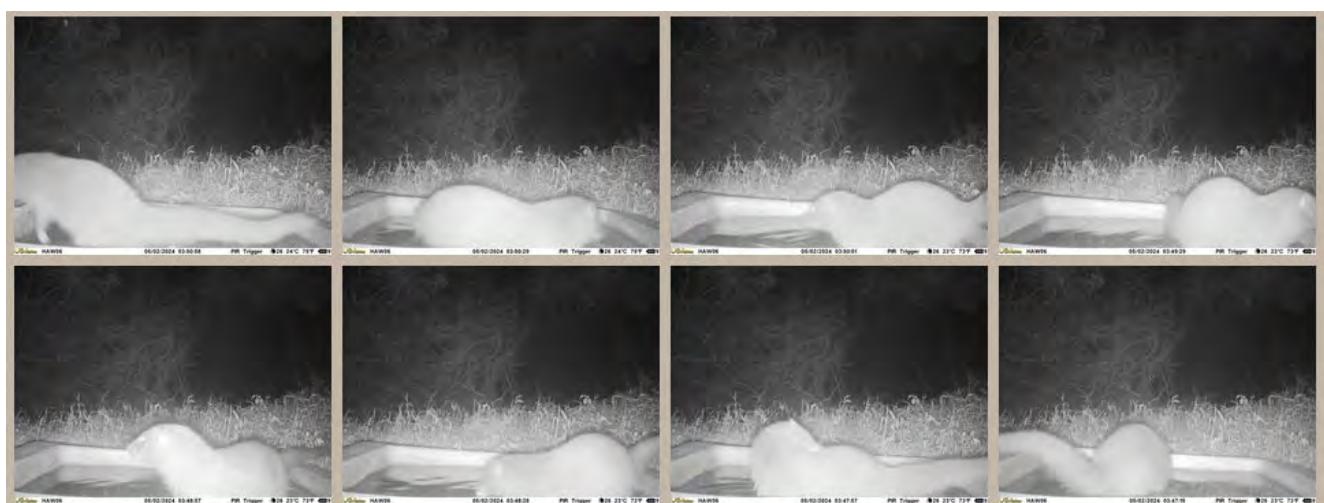
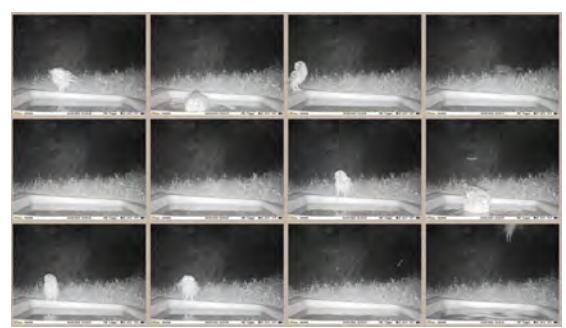
Red Duiker



Blue Duiker



Spotted Eagle Owl



Water Mongoose

Camera Trap highlights from November 2023. Hawaan Forest.



Large Spotted Genet



Female Bushbuck



Red Capped Robin Chat



Pair of Red Duikers



Purple crested turaco

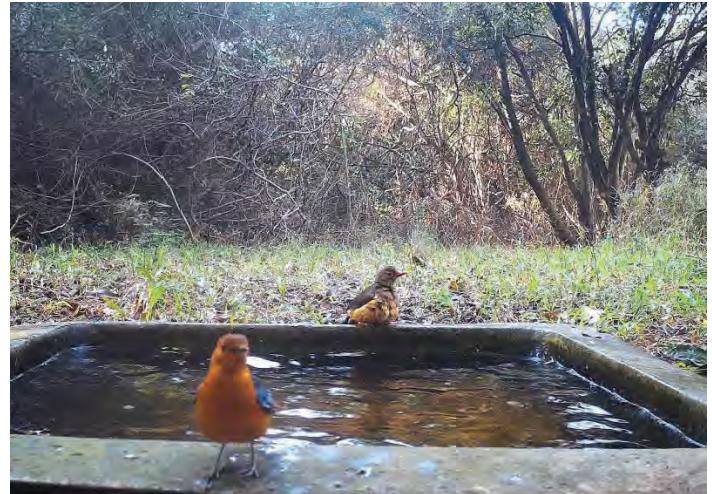


Tambourine dove

The forest fauna have been out in full force during August and the action has clearly revolved around the water point at the entrance to the Bush Shrike trail. One again some beautiful forest images have been captured.



A lemon dove and male blue duiker



A Red capped robin chat with a Olive thrush



Juvenile crowned eagle



A family of bushbuck

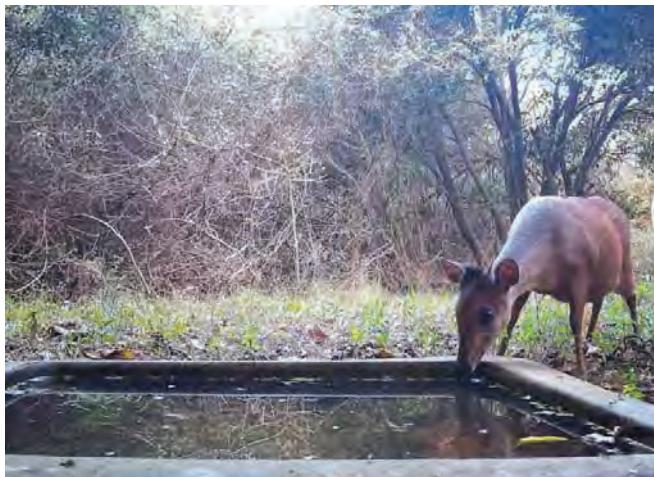


Large spotted Genet



Dwarf mongoose

Some beautiful camera trap images were taken at the forest water point during July, 2022.



Red Duiker, female.



Bushbuck females.



Crested guinea fowl.



Red Duiker, male



Vervet Monkey, Banded Mongoose, and Guinea fowl.



Banded Mongoose.

Some beautiful camera trap images were taken within the dry forest interior during June.



Bush buck female)



Bush buck (male)



Bush buck (female)



Red duiker (female)



Bush buck (female)



Blue duiker (pair)

Camera Trap imagery from March 2024



The have been some great mixed foraging parties captured on the camera's during March. Here, Crested Guinea fowls and Red Duiker.



On the Bush-Shrike trail, Crested Guinea fowl and Bush Buck.



The recent hot weather has prompted a diverse array animals captured at the water-hole on the Bush-shrike trail. Such as the Crowned eagle drinking at the water-hole.



A family of Purple Crested Turaco's.



A nice large Bushbuck passing by the water-hole on the Bush Shrike trail.

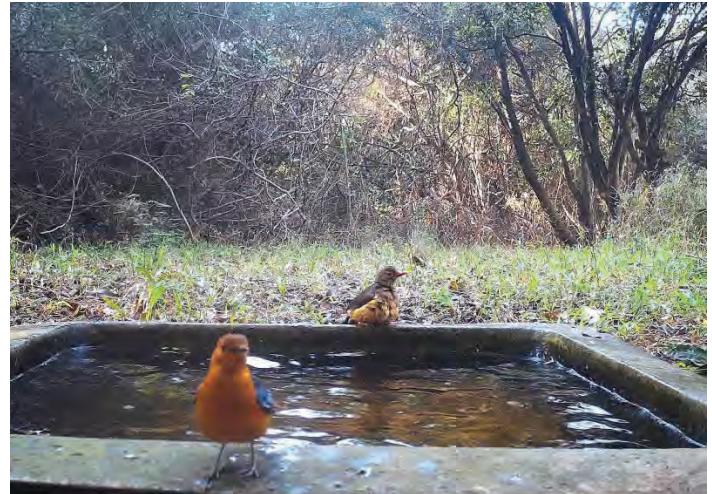


A small, blue Duiker close up at the water-hole.

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Bushbuck females.



Crested guinea fowl.



Red Duiker, male



Vervet Monkey, Banded Mongoose, and Guinea fowl.



Banded Mongoose.

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September 2022

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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.



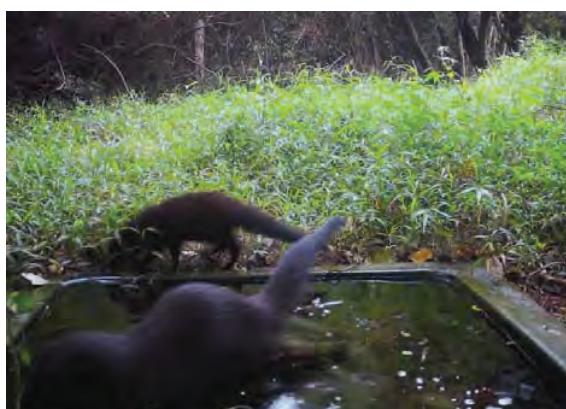
Crested-guineafowl in the forest at night!



Blue duiker in the forest



Lemon dove in the forest leaf litter



The pair of resident water-mongoose



A pair of Olive-thrush's

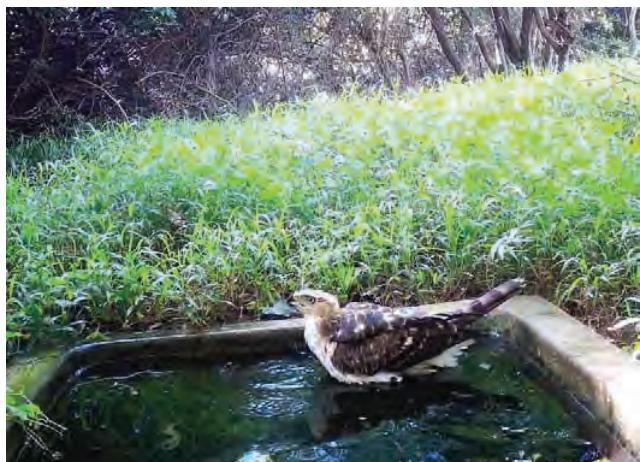
Camera trap observation Jan 2022. Due to the heat in January the most notable camera trap observations for Jan 2021 focused on the water trough at Bushshrike trail. An exciting observation was a juvenile crowned eagle having a drink and cooling off in the water.



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)

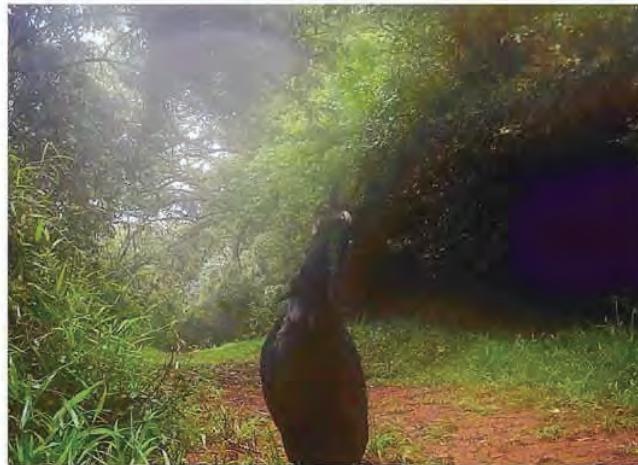


⌚ i)



⌚ j)

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 March 2022

During March the HCT have again worked closely with the HRA and Marshall security. Highlights from March 2022 include: Many different forest fauna utilising the water point at the BushShrike junction, including: Blue Duiker; Black Sparrow Hawk; Purple Turaco; and a Wood Owl. The camera on the Bush-Shrike trail also picked up some beautiful images of foraging Banded Mongoose and Crested Guinea fowl.



Blue Duiker



Black Sparrow-Hawk



Purple Turaco



Wood Owl



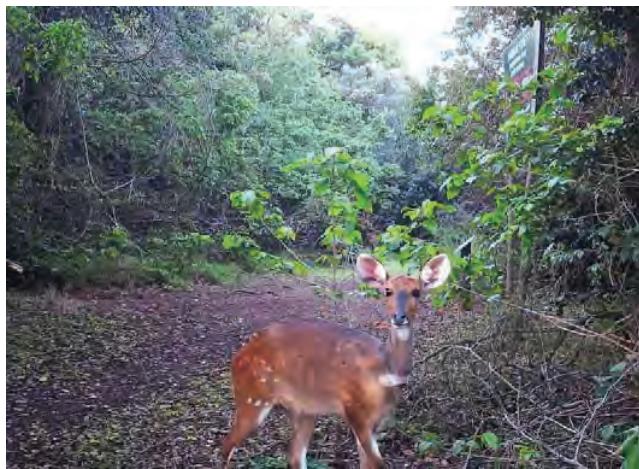
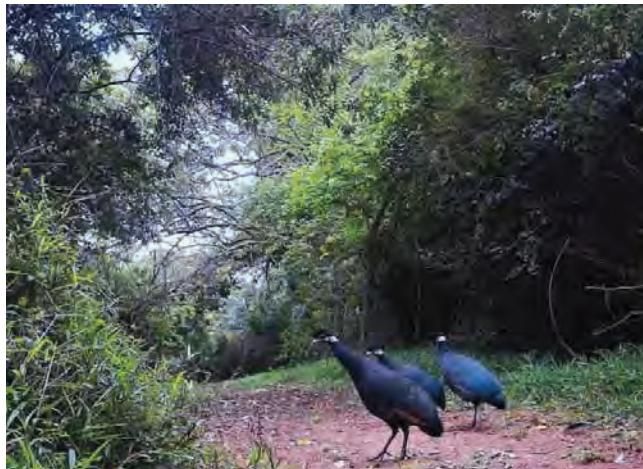
Banded Mongoose



Crested Guinea fowl

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Bush buck female)



Bush buck (male)



Bush buck (female)



Red duiker (female)



Bush buck (female)



Blue duiker (pair)

Sewer break: During the rainfall and flooding in mid-April the municipal sewer pipeline on the boundary of the HFT property ruptured. The damage is therefore not in the HFT property but will effect the species in forest. The event resulted in a high pressure flow of sewerage which eroded sections of the pipeline infrastructure while causing a plume of waste into the forest. Fortunately, it appears that the runoff did not undercut the pipeline too badly and good work from the city ensured that the issue was resolved timorously. What remains, is for the city to repair the ailing infrastructure and to co-ordinate a clean-up of the litter/plastics which was discharged into the forest.



Fig 1a. The flow of the effluent took a north-easterly direction.



Fig. 2b. Some areas of the pipeline have been undercut and will need to be repaired.



Fig 2c. The manholes on the pipeline remain open for the time being.

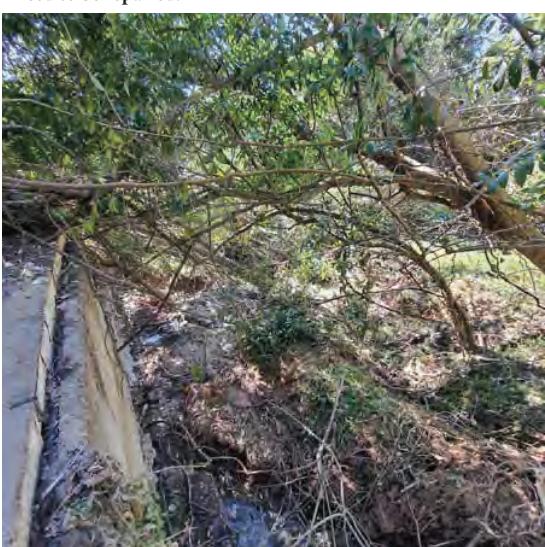


Fig2d. Some of the surrounding vegetation at the source point has collapsed but damage does not seem to be extensive. However, a full inspection has not been conducted.



Fig. 2e. The sewage plume continues in a north-east direction down the forest slope. Litter from this plume should be cleaned-up.

Some beautiful images and interesting sighting on the camera traps were observed during May. Firstly, a lovely bushbuck male on the Bushshrike trail camera. While many birds (tambourine dove, dark backed weaver, natal-robin, kurrichane thrush, wood owl, purple-headed turaco, thick-billed weaver and ashy fly catchers) and forest mammals (red and blue duikers, bushbuck, water mongoose, vervet monkey) have also utilised the water point.



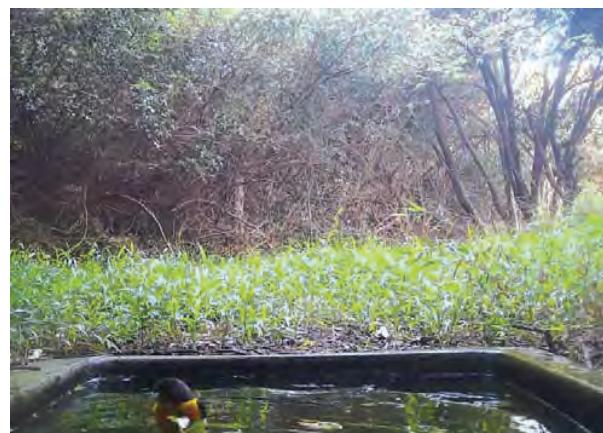
Male bushbuck



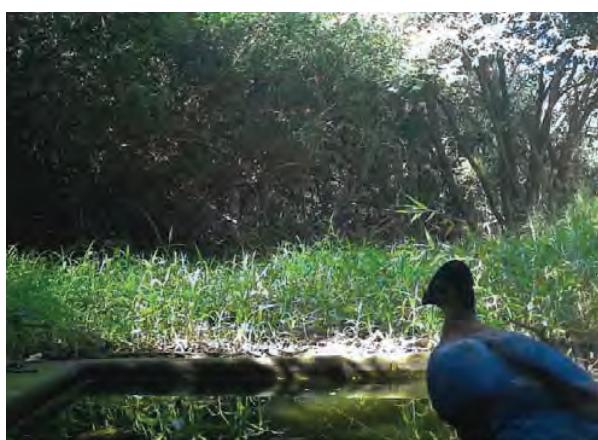
Tambourine dove



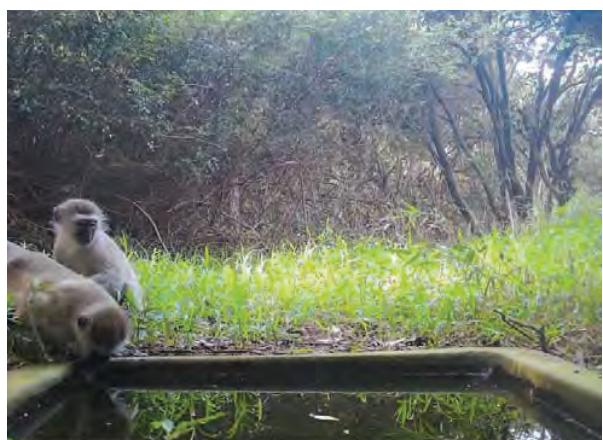
Blue duiker (female)



Dark backed forest weaver



Purple-headed turaco



Vervet monkey

The most interesting camera trap images for October 2022 were of Bush buck males rutting, Red duiker and parties of Crested guinea fowl. Unfortunately we are yet to pick up Bushpig in the forest.



Bushbuck rutting



Bushbuck rutting



Crested Guinea fowl



Crested Guinea fowl



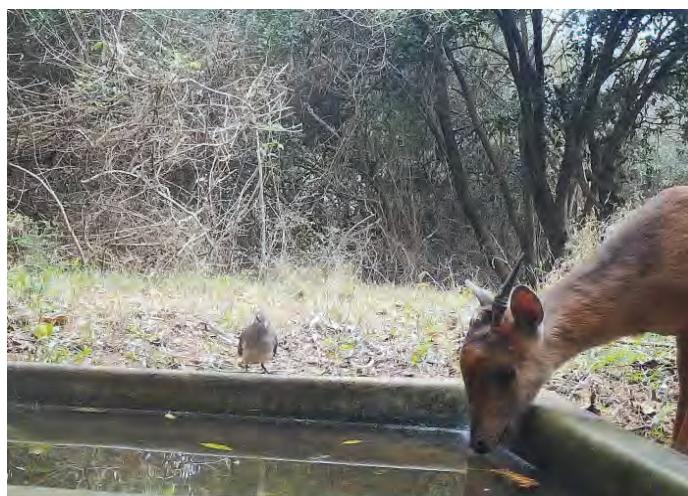
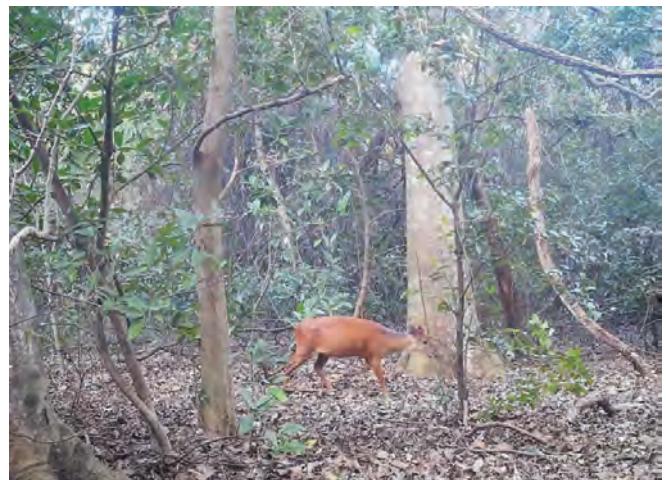
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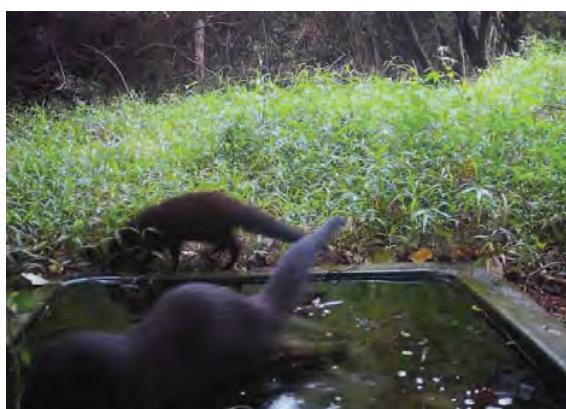
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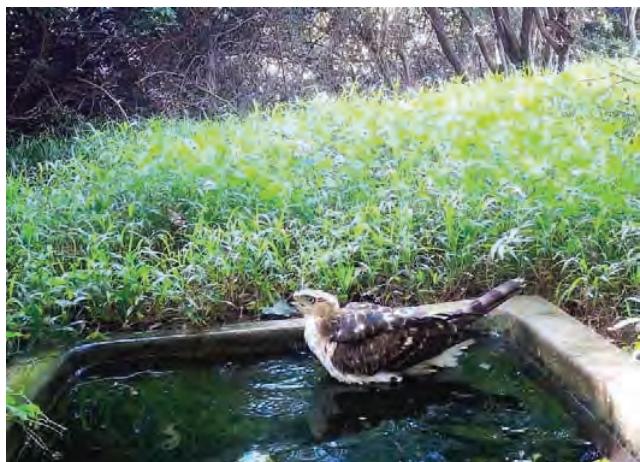
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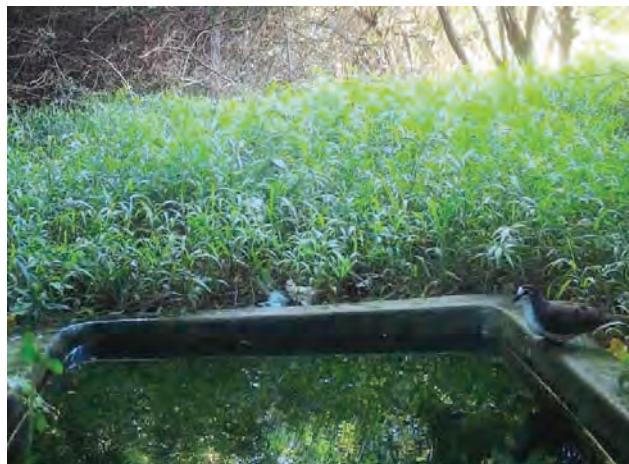
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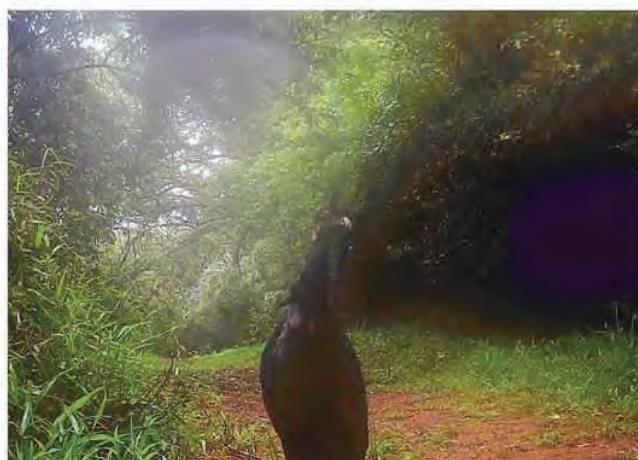
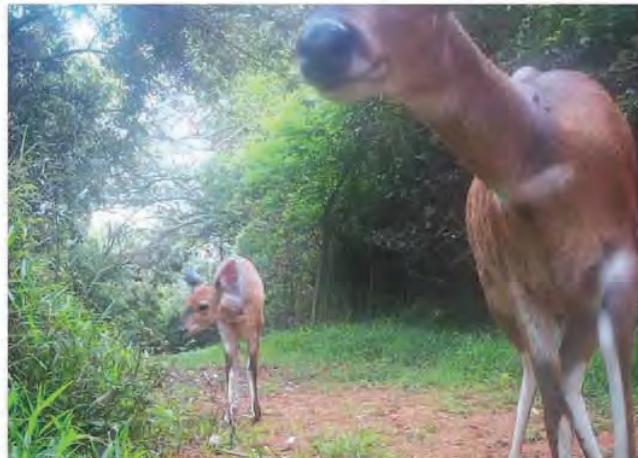


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Black Sparrow-Hawk



Purple Turaco



Wood Owl



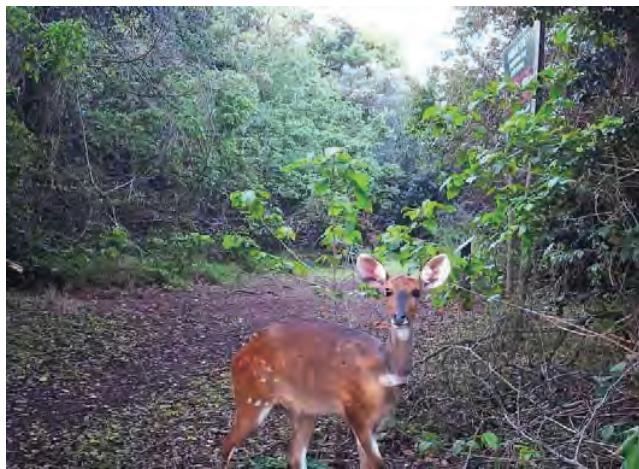
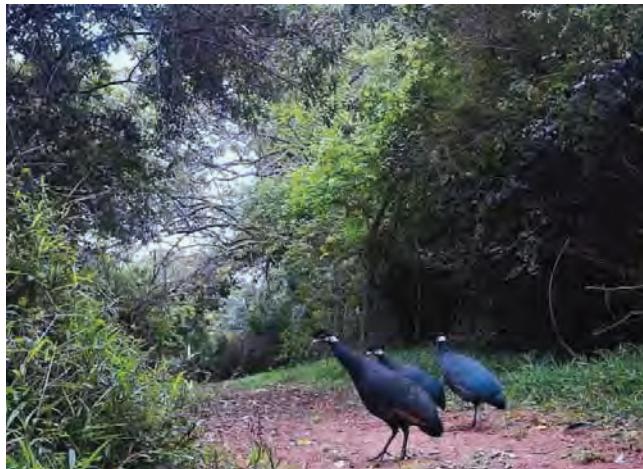
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Embankment slip: The extensive rain in mid-April and flooding of the Umhlanga river has triggered a slip of a steep section of the northern forest embankment (Fig. 1a,b). This section of forest appears to have been compromised for some time as exposed sections vegetation (sandy areas in Fig 1c) are visible in the orthophoto which was taken in 2018-2019. The vegetation cover on this slope prior to the slip was largely composed of pioneer vegetation such as *Chromolaena odorata* and *Brachyleana discolor*. It is not immediately clear what management or rehabilitation actions can be conducted to secure such as steep slope. It's likely that the dune slope will find a natural gradient. Aside from engineering options, one approach could be to plant or reseed this bank with fast growing and deep rooting indigenous trees such as *Albizia adianthifolia*. These will take 10 years to become established but if so they will offer resilience to this area for next decadal-scale rainfall event.



Fig. 1a. A perspective of the slip, looking north towards the bend in the Umhlanga river.



Fig. 1b. A perspective of the slip, looking south across the Umhlanga river towards the forest embankment.



Fig. 1c. An aerial perspective of the area taken in 2018/2019 shows a previous slip which would have likely occurred due to a similar rainfall or disturbance event. The erosion site is located on the outer-apex of the river bend so this may be part of ongoing catchment-scale processes.

The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PHSB) is an ambrosia beetle native to Southeast Asia. In 2017 this pest was detected on London

Plane trees in the KwaZulu-Natal National Botanical Gardens, Pietermaritzburg. Its presence has since been confirmed in multiple

locations in eight provinces in South Africa. The beetle has a symbiotic relationship with the fungus *Fusarium euwallaceae*, which serves as a food source for the adults and their larvae. In susceptible trees the fungus causes a disease called Fusarium dieback, which can

lead to dying branches and tree death. The beetles attack a wide range of exotic and indigenous trees in urban, agricultural and natural landscapes.



Above: An adult female is 1.8-2.6mm long. Males are smaller and cannot fly.

PSHB is not able to complete its life cycle on all the tree species it attacks. Trees in which the beetle is able to breed and multiply are referred to as '**reproductive host trees**'. Important reproductive hosts include species of oaks, maples, willows and coral trees, avocado and castor bean. '**Non-reproductive host trees**' are attacked by the beetle, but the beetles do not establish galleries (tunnels) or breed. The fungus may, or may not cause disease. Trees are generally not expected to die. An updated list of confirmed hosts in South Africa can be viewed at www.fabinet.up.ac.za/pshb/

The movement of infested wood is an important means of spread of the beetle. Therefore, appropriate disposal of infested trees (by chipping/composting, solarization or burning) will be key to reducing the spread of this damaging pest. Surveys to monitor the spread of the beetle in South Africa are continuing. The public can assist by looking out for symptoms. Suspected instances can be reported to pshb@fabi.up.ac.za

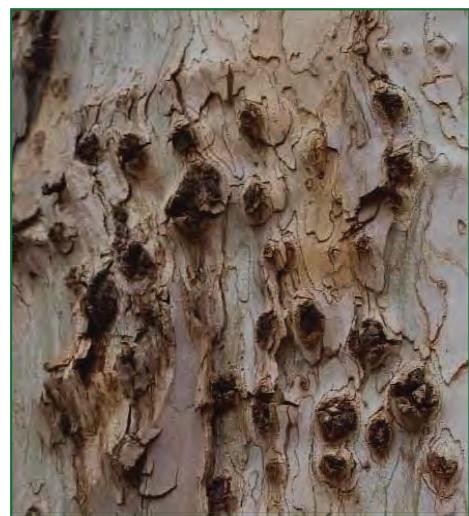
Left: Chinese maple tree killed by PSHB and its fungus



Reproductive galleries in pecan



PSHB galleries in coral tree



Shot gun-like symptoms on London Plane

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