



# Hawaan Forest Conservation Trust

## Monthly site inspection report:

Summary:

01.07.2024

1. Work at the Hawaan forest over June has comprised with ongoing maintenance of forest encroachment into grassland Block 2, which has almost been completed. The HCT teams will move to Block 5 on the eastern area of the grassland during July.
2. Other major actions conducted by staff over June have been filling up water stations for the many Antelope, Monkeys and other wildlife which use the water-points on a daily basis. We estimate that we are replacing about 10 L of water per day at this time of year.
3. According to the Marchussen weather station, Hawaan received 29 mm of rain over June, but regardless ongoing dry and semi-deciduous phase remains as noted by the measure of NDVI for June. See page four of the report.
4. The WESSA side of the forest, although, not yet formally transferred, continues to be managed by part-time HCT staff who ensures the trails are maintained, snare patrols are conducted and that camera traps are working.
4. Camera traps have been working overtime, especially at the busy water-points where on a daily basis, all three species of antelope are observed.

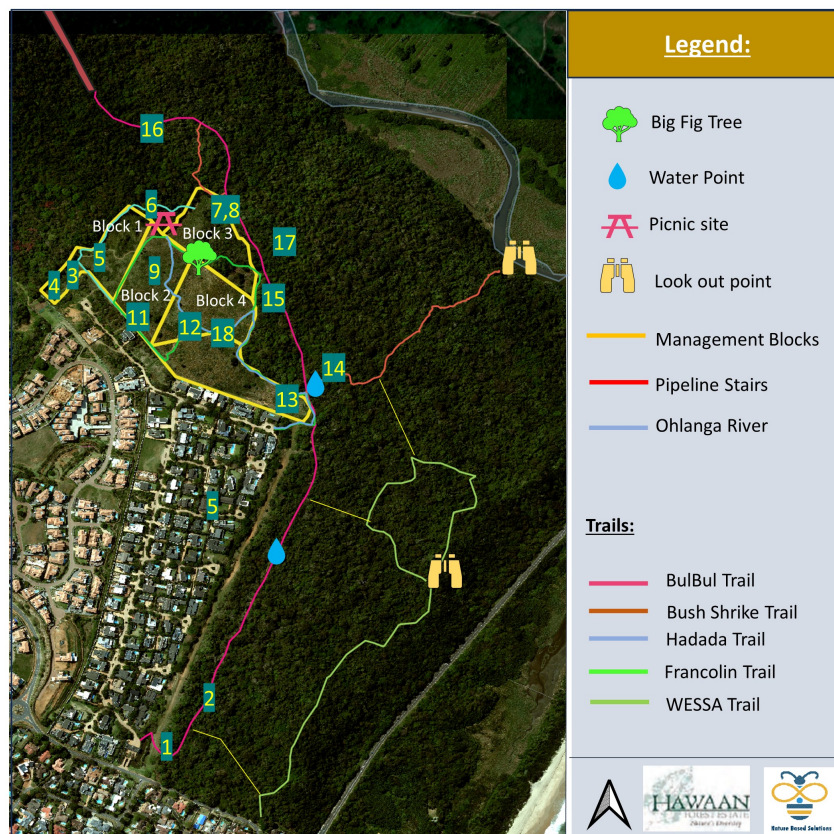


Figure 1. Numbers on the map refer to items below.



(1)



We are still standing by regarding house and keeping and cleaning up of IT infrastructure.

(2)



Forest trails have been mowed and maintained during June.

(3)



HCT to mow and maintain the servitude on the west of Python place.

(4)



On the western bufferzone, Life Landscapes may need look at maintaining the woody plants and aliens on the bufferzone.

(5)



The grassland trails on the west of the reserve were neat and well maintained in June.

(6)



There are still two smaller bush clumps, on the western side of the reserve. These will be cleaned up and removed during late August.

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(7)



A couple of large Indian Laurel, and small Pepper saplings in the far corner of Grassland Block 2 to be managed in June.

(8)



Vegetation on the Block 2 grassland block, with young pepper trees to be scheduled for July.

(9)



Bush encroachment species such as *Allophylus africanus* have been spot sprayed in Block 2.

(10)



Bush clearing has been done in the Python Grassland bowl in preparation for annual prescribed burn.

(11)



We will be on schedule to finish clearing the hill in Block 2 by the end of June.

(12)



One of few flowering plants in the grassland during June was Cape Honey Suckle, which occurs in one or two bush-clumps.

(13)



From July, HCT staff will move to eastern grassland edge in Block 5, where young Forest Crotons and other bush encroachment species are scheduled to be cleared.

(14)



We have plans to conceal the exposed edges of water-point at the very active Bush-shrike junction.

(15)



*Secamone alpini*, is a forest creeper, that is famous for its white sap and climbin habitiat. Like many plants in the Apocynaceae family, they have dehiscent fruits which eject wind-blown *seeds* that allow them parashoot across the forest, often getting tangled along them.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/22485643>

5

(16)



Another creeper which was observed flowering along forest edges in June was the cousin the Canary Creeper, *Senecio pleistocephalus*. This Senecio, when compared with usual forest Canary creeper (*Senecio tamoides*) has thicker succulent leaves and is often located in exposed, and dry areas of the forest.



(17)

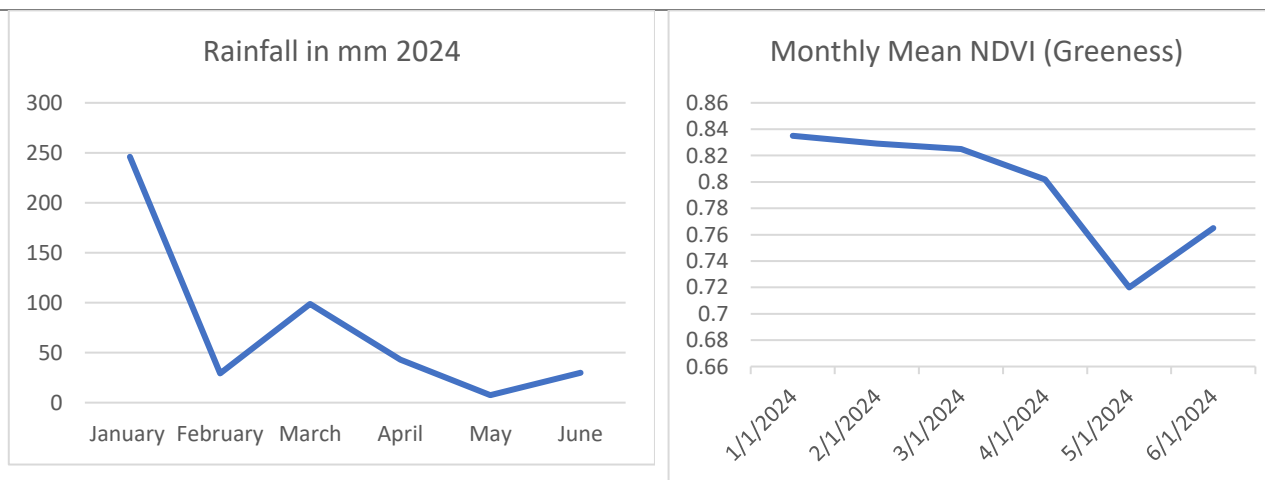


There are two species of Iron Plum in the Hawaan forest, the smaller and most common *Drypetes arguta* is a forest specialist, and fruits throughout the year.  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/22485630>

(18)



This colorful insect belongs to a group of moths called Handmaiden Moths. Often mistaken for small butterflies, the larval stage of these moths is restricted to certain plant families for feeding, particularly plants in the Coffee family (Rubiaceae) and the Morning Glory family (Convolvulaceae).  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/224856240>



Climate summary of Hawaan, showing Rainfall (courtesy of the Marchussen weather station) and NDVI, which is a satellite-derived metric of vegetation productivity (courtesy of the Sentinel-2 satellite and Google Earth Engine).



The camera trap at the Bushshrike Trail during June 2024 has captured some lovely action from a great variety of animals. The forest has been very dry and these animals have been using a lot of water, keeping the HCT staff busy, who fill up around 10L per day at each water point.



Vervet Monkeys, seem to enjoy the fresh water, especially during Winter.



The Genet, visits at night and we usually see him or her, about one a month on the cameras.



This Blue Duker, and a very cute fawn were also using the water-point.



Of the birds, the Purple Crested Turace was a frequent visitor during June.



This, young male Red Duker, identified by having only one horn, was also spotted during June.



In deeper areas of the forest we have set up trail cameras which are hidden in logs. This provides a slightly more interesting angle to passers by such as this Blue Duker.







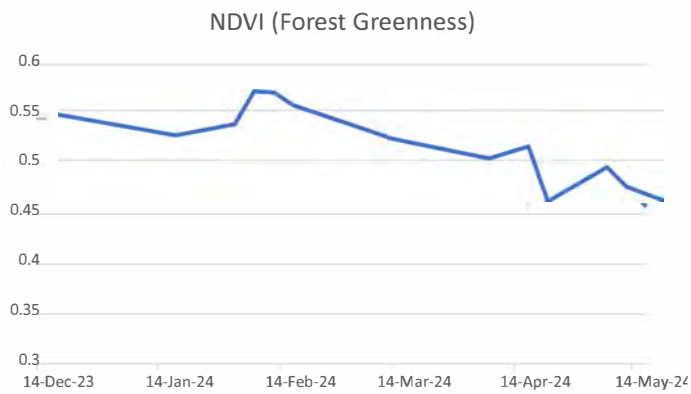
	3.7	Keep Tilley Huts neat and tidy sweep daily, clean windows every 10 days check maintenance and rusting on a monthly basis and report to HCT members.	Weekly	x	x	z	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3.8	Check that trail cameras y ggmf to ensure they are not stolen.	Daily	x	x	z	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3.9	Cleaning of shower on a daily basis after use.	na	-	-	z	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3.10	Check and order cleaning consumables for shower and toilet	na	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woody plant management	4.1	On-going daily work is clearing invasive introduced plants such as Pepper Trees, Triffid etc..in both the forest and grassland systems.	Weekly	x	x	z	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Checking for regrowth of IAPs monthly and set out new work areas each month.	Monthly	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4.2	Removal of selected indigenous woody encroachment species such Silver Oak in the grassland section	Monthly	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4.3	Monitoring herbicide stores on a monthly	Monthly	x	x	-	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fire management	5.1	Ensure tracers belts and pathways in the grassland open before prescribed burn	Yearly	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5.2	Service fire-fighting equipment once before the annual burn is completed and then oil up so that ne-t season the equipment has not seized up with rust. <i>Fire fighting =equipment one drip torch, 3 rubber beaters with handles, two Knapsack sprayers.</i>	Yearly	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consumables	6.1	Order uniforms and personal protective gear for the 2 staff.	Yearly	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Item	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

5.	Plenum	Picloram	Selective	18L	13/4	Pepper, Yellowbe	West grassland
6.	Plenum	Picloram	Selective	5L	05/9	Pepper,	West grassland
7.	Plenum	Picloram	Selective	5L	05/03,24	Searsia	East-grassland
8.							





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,



**Female Bushbuck**



**Male Bushbuck**



**Blue Duiker - Male**



**Lemon Dove**



**Red Duiker - Male**



**Banded Mongoose**



**Vervet Monkey**



## Camera Trap imagery from April 2024



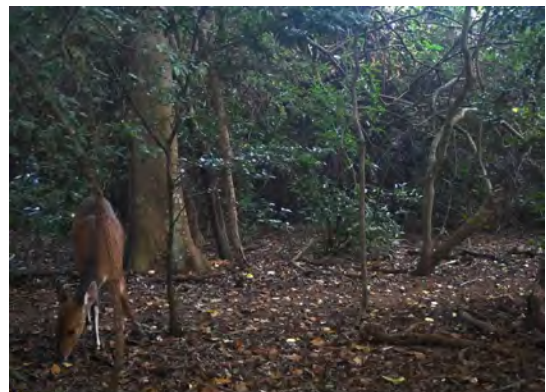
Vervet monkeys have been enjoying the fresh water provided HCT at the Bushshrike water point



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 of 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 bath and drink. We are working towards formalising the logging of this data on a consist basis so that it can be used a baseline information for the forest and to track change.



Spotted enet



Tambourine Done



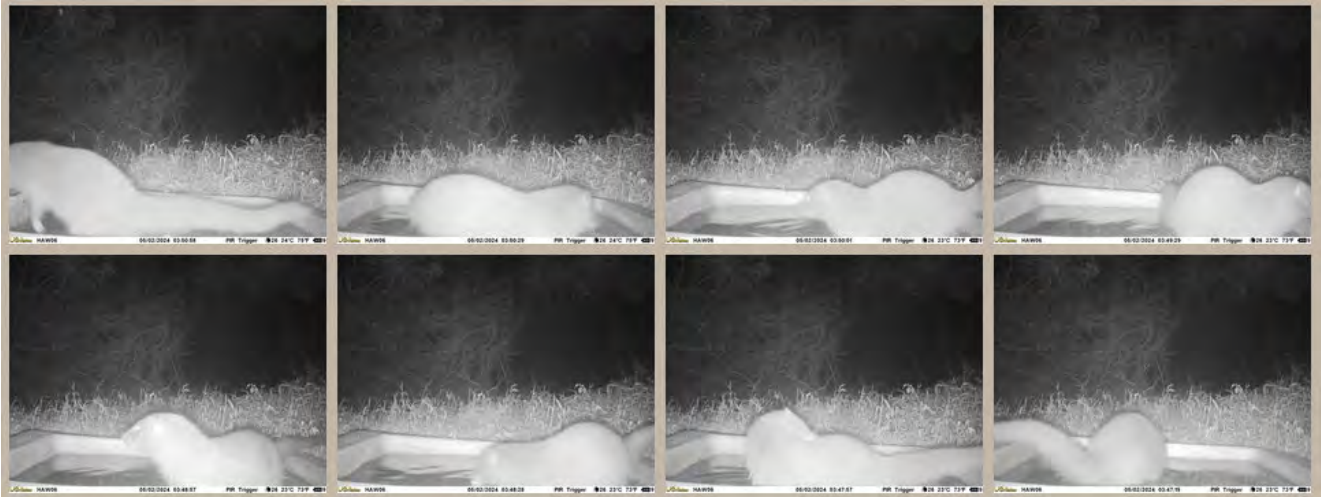
ed Duiker



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



There 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 of 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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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



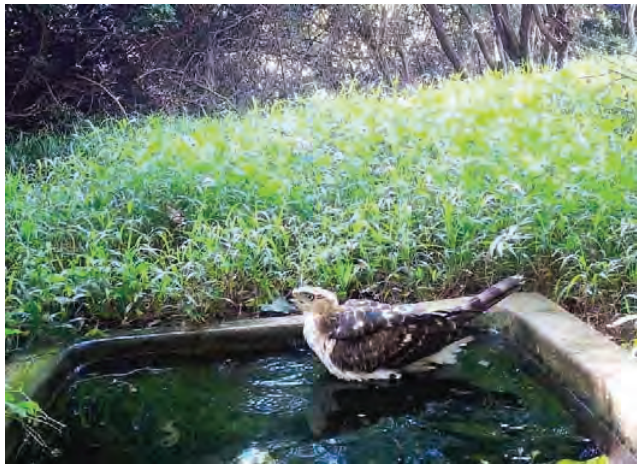
Camera trap observation Jan 2022. Due to the heat in January the most notable camera trap observations for Jan 2021 focused on the water trough at Bushshrike trail. An exciting observation was a juvenile crowned eagle having a drink and cooling off in the water.



Crested Guinea fowl



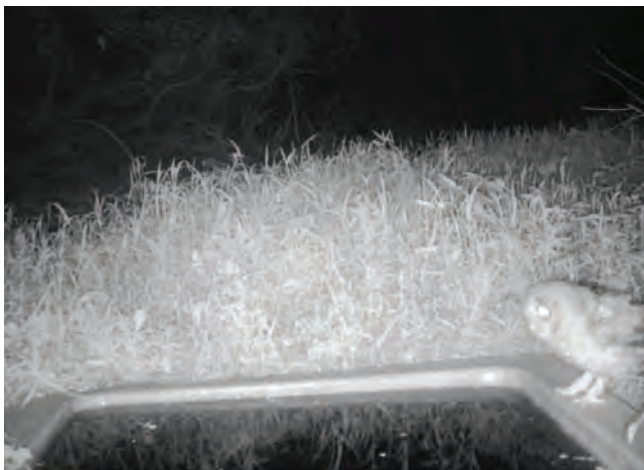
Purple crested turaco



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.



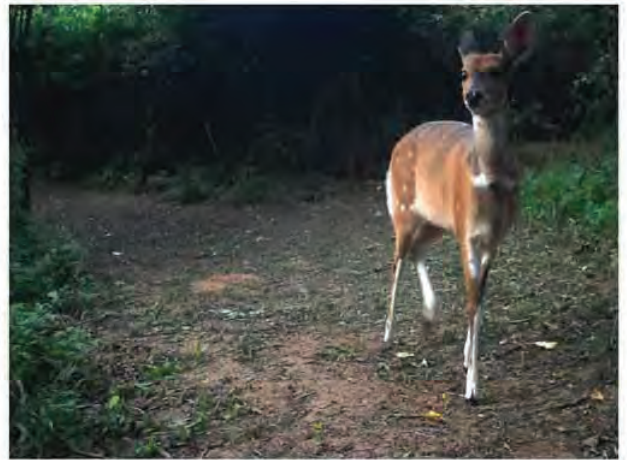
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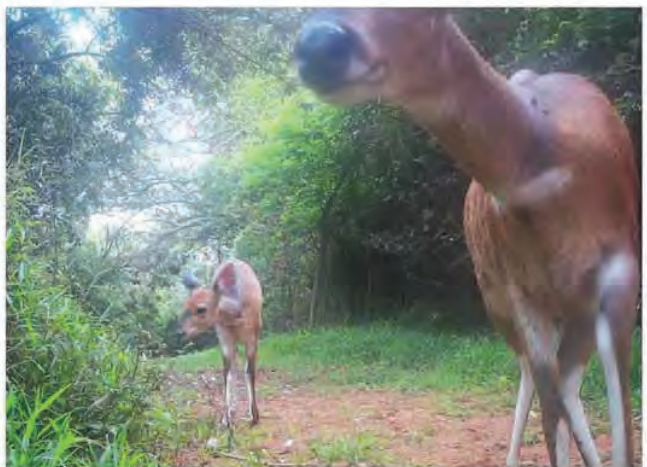
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Camera trap images October-November 2021. New species observations in November were Water Mongoose. Other sightings include: Bushbuck family activity, Blue Duiker pairs and Crested Guine fowel.





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Blue Duiker



Black Sparrow-Hawk



Purple Turaco



Wood Owl



Banded Mongoose

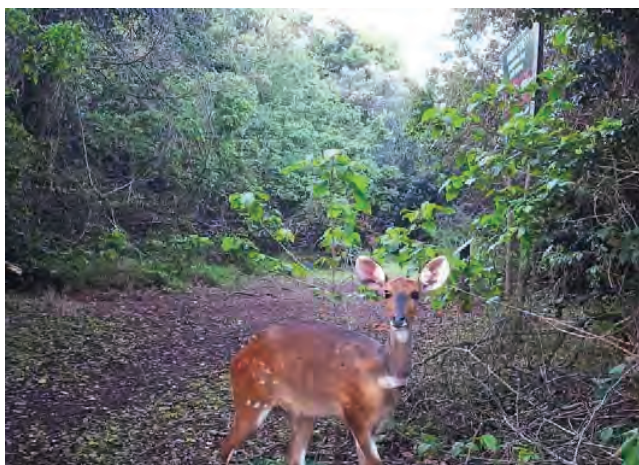


Crested Guinea fowl



## Camera trap images September /October 2021

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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



Red duiker



Red duiker



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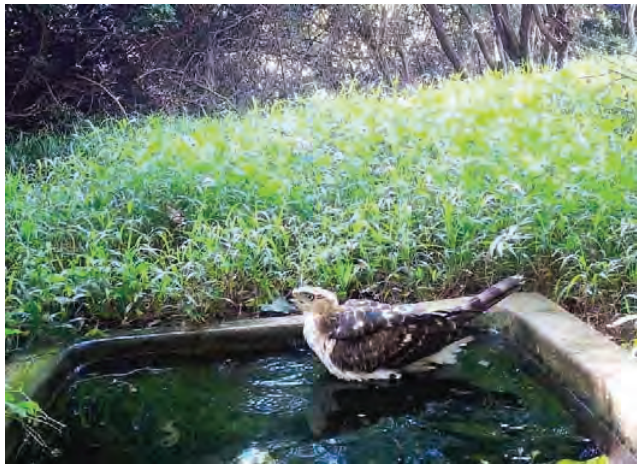
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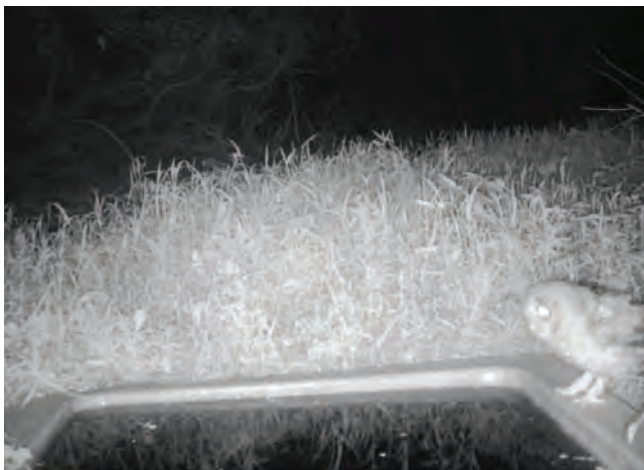
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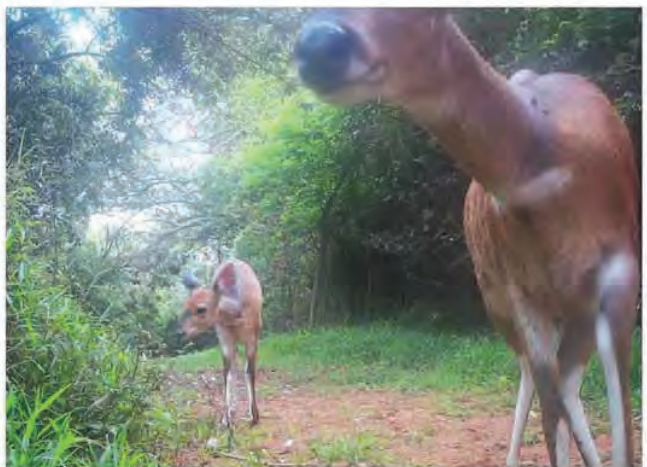
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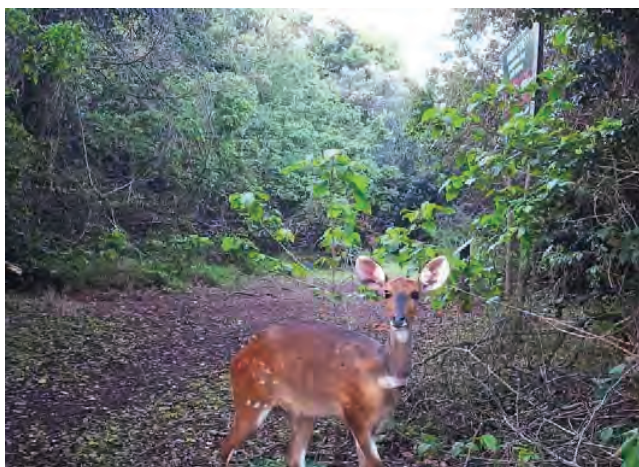


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Embankment slip: The extensive rain in mid-April and flooding of the Umhlanga river has triggered a slip of a steep section of the northern forest embankment (Fig. 1a,b). This section of forest appears to have been compromised for some time as exposed 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. Its 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 (*Euwallacea fornicatus*\*) and Fusarium dieback (*Fusarium euwallaceae*)

The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) 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/](http://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](mailto: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

Compiled by Z.W. de Beer & T. Paap (Version 2021-03-04) [www.fabinet.up.ac.za/pshb](http://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/pshb)



HAWAIIAN ESTATE GRASSLAND  
(ALIEN PLANT CONTROL)

Scale 1:2000  
Date: 11/2009  
Drawn: 11/2009

Legend  
Parcels  
Study Area

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING  
ENVIRONMENT & MANAGEMENT UNIT

**B**IODIVERSITY BRANCH  
Created by: Lucky murebe  
Tel Number: 081 311 7940  
Email address: murebe@biodiversity.gov.za  
Peta C: ven lucky@26-01-2009 Richard

**ETHEKWINI**  
MUNICIPALITY

