



Saving our wildlife – combatting biodiversity crime

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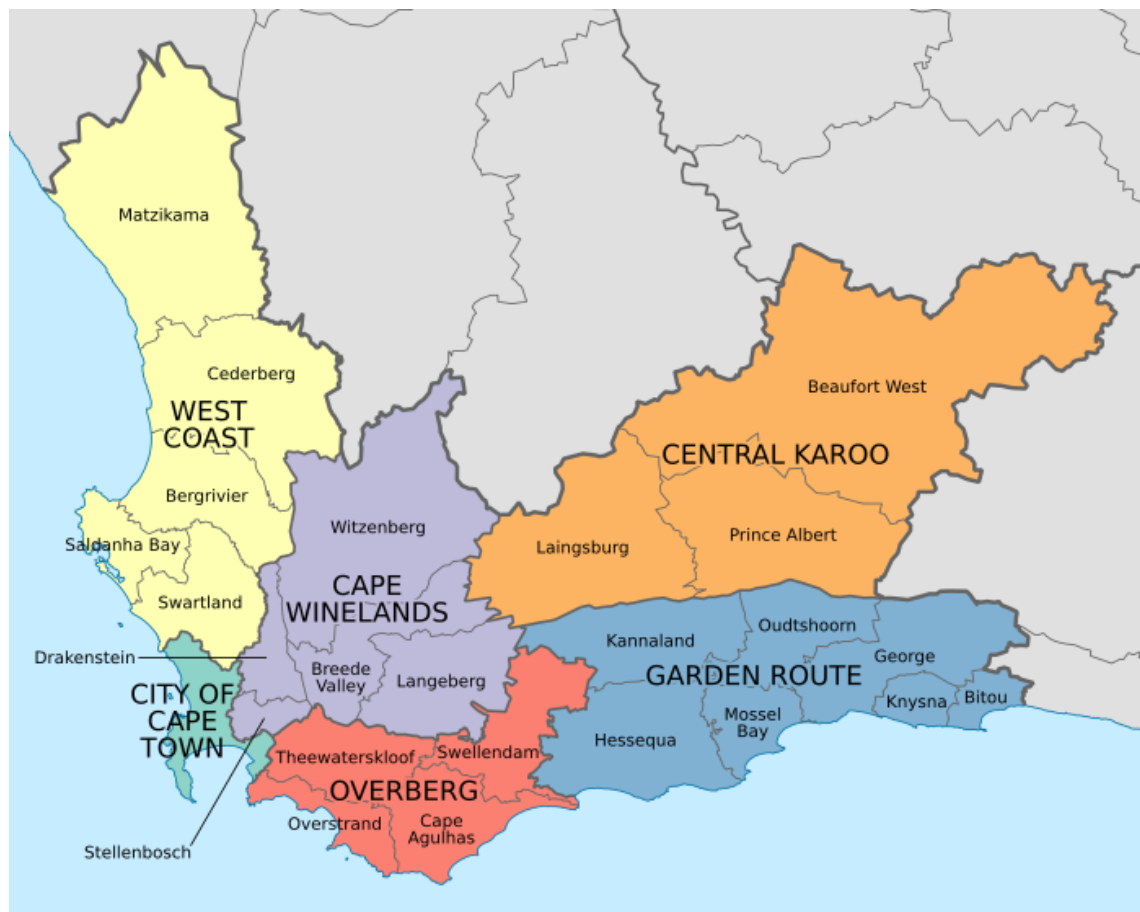
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Who are we?



CapeNature is the part of government that protects natural occurring plant and animal life (biodiversity) in the Western Cape.



Explaining Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services



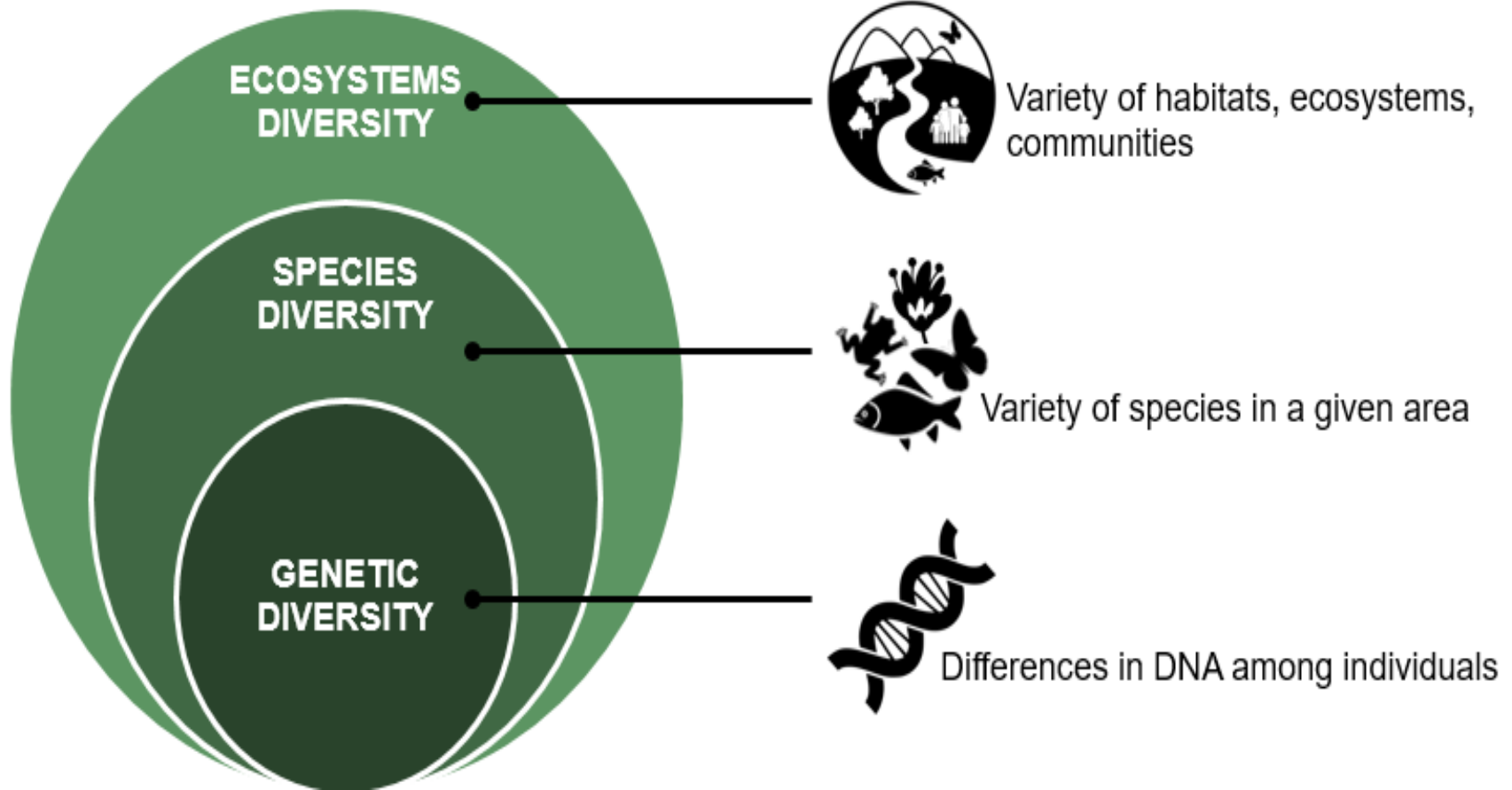
What is biodiversity ?

BIO-DIVERSITY

Biological - 'life'

'variety'

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth, including genes, species and ecosystems



B I O D I V E R S I T Y



What do we get from biodiversity?



Plants & Animals

Soil forms through the gradual breakdown of rocks through physical, chemical and biological weathering.

Support:

BIOLOGICAL WEATHERING

Plants, micro-organisms such as bacteria or fungi, burrowing insects, animals and humans make soil, ready for plants to grow.

Soil formation

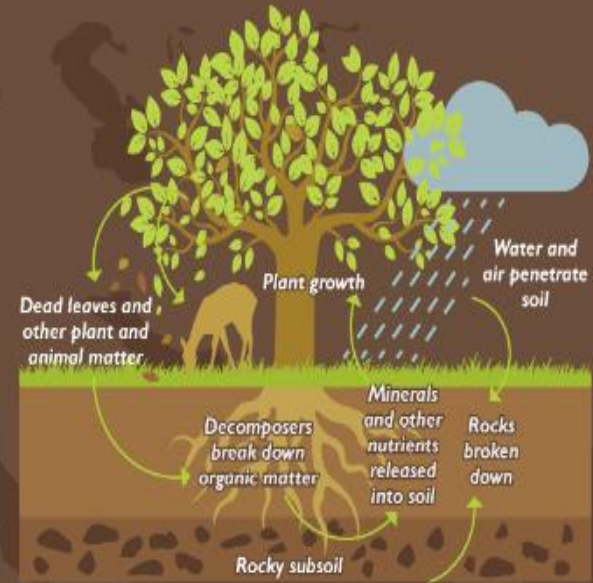
Burrowing animals help water and air get into rock, and plant roots can grow into cracks in the rock, making it split and disintegrate.



Nutrient cycles

NUTRIENT CYCLE (Ecological Recycling)

The movement and exchange of organic and inorganic matter back into the production of matter.



Plants & Animals

Regulate:



Climate



Disease



Pollination



Water purification



Plants & Animals

Provide:



Oxygen



Medicine



Food



Fuel

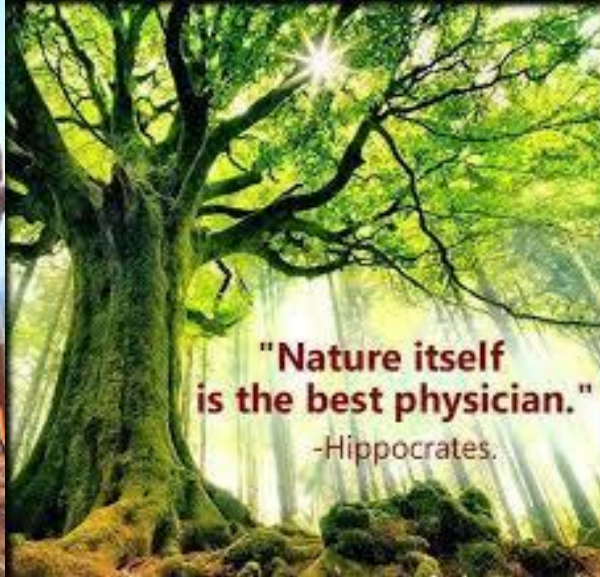
BIODIVERSITY = LIFE

You can't have one without the other

Provisioning services such as food, shelter, water and raw materials



- Health and enjoyment
- Cultural services – aesthetic value & recreation



Regulating services such as pollination & water purification



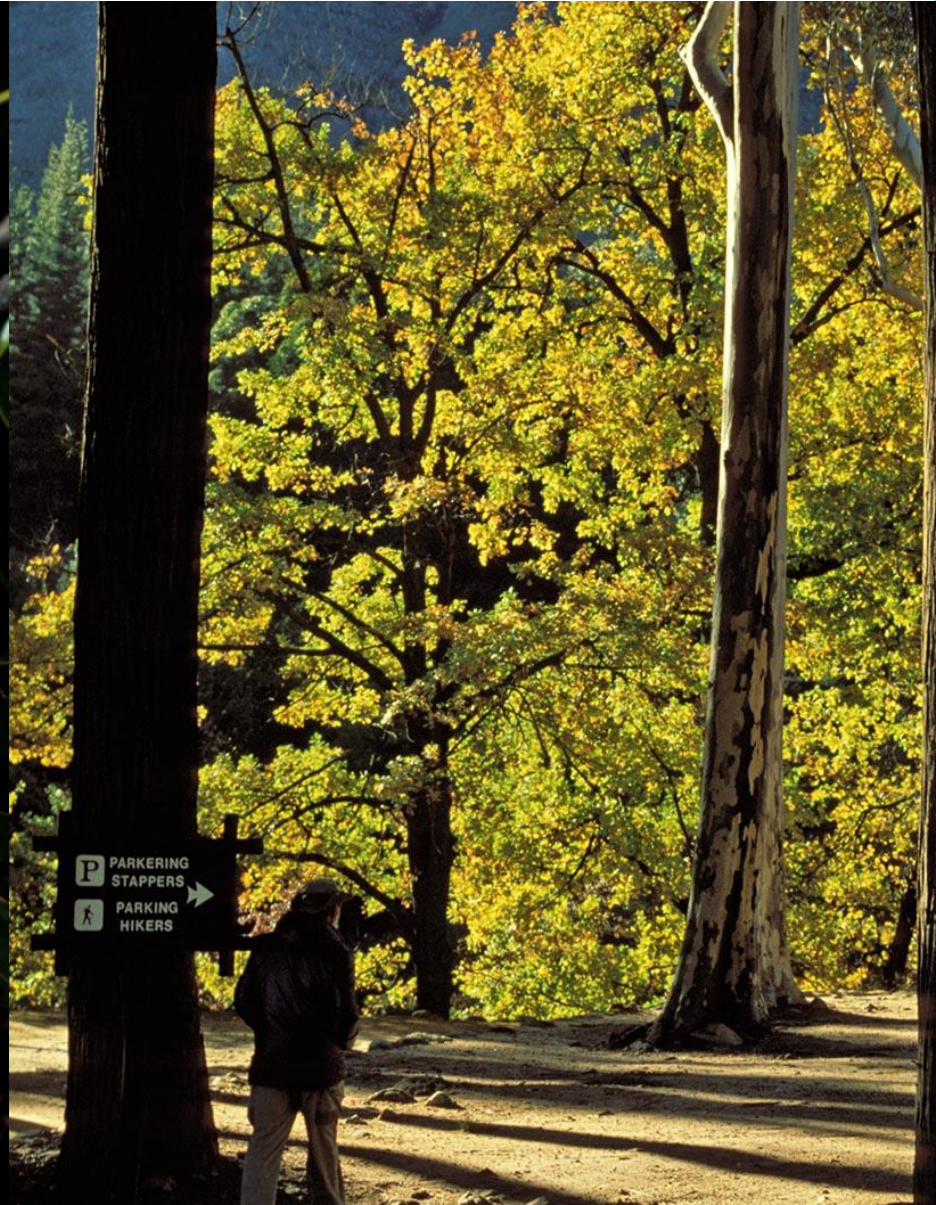
Biodiversity attracts tourists and in turn provide jobs



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Interesting facts about Biodiversity in the Western Cape



Biodiversity in the Western Cape is - unique and irreplaceable

- The Western Cape is home to the **smallest** of the world's six floral kingdoms, the Core Cape Sub region
- This contains approximately **9 300** plant species (more than the whole of Europe!)
- Our biodiversity is incredibly special and unique and needs to be protected

Almost **70%** of its species are endemic,
which means it is found nowhere else on Earth.

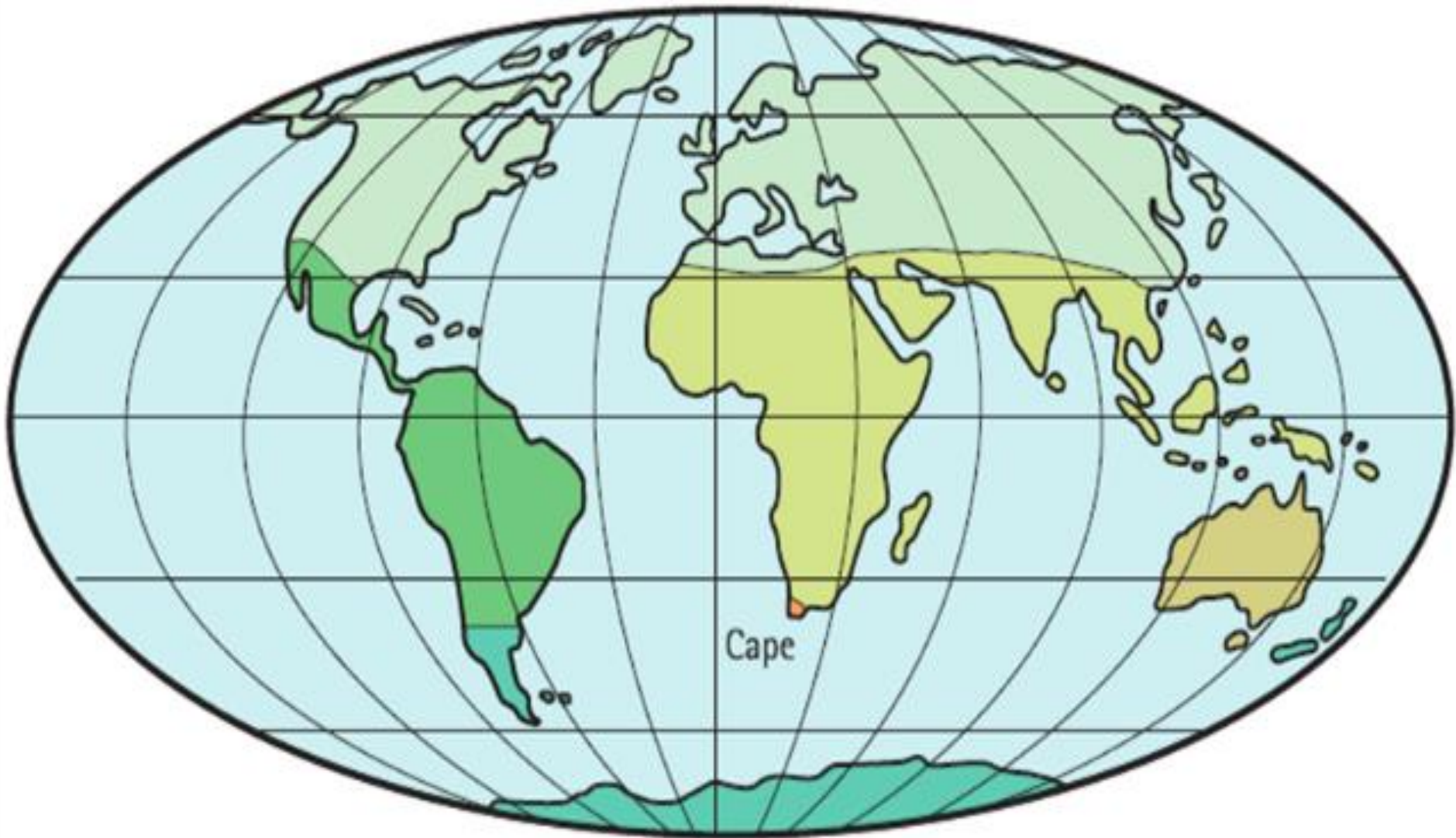


The Core Cape
Subregion comprises

less than
0.05%

of the earth's land
surface, yet harbours
3% or 4%
of the world's species.

Floral Kingdoms of the world



-  Antarctic/Patagonian
-  Australian
-  Boreal
-  Neotropical
-  Palaeotropical

Biodiversity Crime

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS



Biodiversity crime threatens our biodiversity

BEWARE OF BIODIVERSITY CRIME

Biodiversity Crime involves the illegal collection or exploitation of indigenous wild animals and plants.

● Rectangular Snip

It can destroy our natural resources, habitats and biodiversity.

It compromises our natural heritage and the ecological integrity of the Western Cape.

It contributes to general criminal activity with all its negative social consequences.



Types of biodiversity crime

What are some illegal biodiversity activities?

Illegal trade in animal carcasses (skins, tusks, horns, meat etc.).

Illegal hunting of protected wild animals.

Illegal picking and possession of flora.

Illegal hunting of game and the use of illegal hunting methods, such as traps, snares, or poison.



Who are the culprits?



SCIENTISTS

- Botanists, zoologists etc. who do research in a specific field or on a specific taxon.
- Individuals in this category often do this research without permits.
- They often collect additional specimens, without permission, for propagation for commercial purposes.

PROFESSIONAL TRADERS

- Foreign nationals who collect animals and plants with solely a commercial motive.
- The availability of South African species on online catalogues is evidence of the scale of the trade.

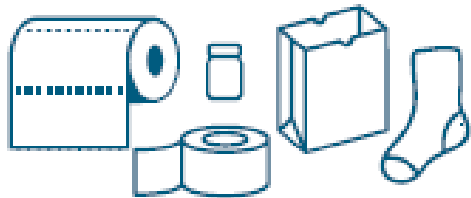
SYNDICATE RECRUITS

- Syndicates fund the travel of recruits to South Africa.
- Their job is to collect certain numbers and species of plants or animals.
- If they are caught, they are abandoned to fend for themselves.

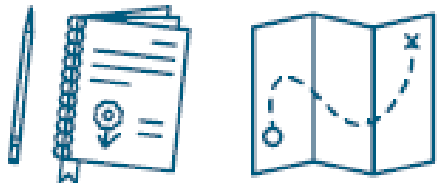
What signs to look out for?



Everyday items such as screwdrivers, crow-bars, wire, nets and fishing rods are used to catch wild animals or to dig out plants.



Perpetrators use cloth, toilet paper, Roller towel, brown paper bags, socks, duct tape, small containers and other materials to package and conceal their contraband.



Field guides or similar books, pamphlets, maps and GPS equipment are usually part of their equipment.



They often have a detailed itinerary which lists their planned destinations.



Wild animal traffickers will use lights to attract insects or to hunt other types of wild animals at night.



Vehicles that stop intermittently on public roads are suspicious. Often someone will get out and walk seemingly aimlessly in the veld before they head off again.



Vehicles may pull off public roads and park with their boots open in which containers and capture apparatus may be visible.



Finding solutions to biodiversity under threat



What is CapeNature doing?



Since 2015 CapeNature's alliance with provincial and national prosecuting authorities has resulted in more than 600 criminal enforcement actions

What can you do?



REPORT THE FOLLOWING

Illegal use of traps and snares and poison.

The transport of game and plants such as buchu, proteas and succulent plants on public roads.

Any suspicious activities and irregularities to CapeNature or the nearest police station.

Report a crime anonymously to the police on the
CRIME STOP TIP-OFF LINE 086 00 10111

Call the emergency police telephone number
10111 from a landline, or 112 from a cell phone

Contact CapeNature directly
<https://www.capenature.co.za/contact-us/offices/>

- Do not provide information to strangers about the distribution of plant and animal species.
- Do not let strangers convince you to act as their guide, or to accept payment, or to provide information about specific plant and animal species.
- Make detailed notes about suspicious vehicles. Note the registration numbers, model, colour, number of occupants, nationality of the occupants, time of day and the place where it was seen. Try to take photographs.
- Never try to confront people acting suspiciously yourself.



Make sure YOU are legal...



- Permits
- Catch size
- Bag limits
- Is harvesting allowed?

THANK YOU.

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