

## CYBERTRACKER IN ALL CORNERS OF SANPARKS

Sandra Mac Fadyen

1 April 2008

The SANParks' CyberTracker Program (see <http://www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger/conservation/scientific/gis/cybertracker.php>) will be operational in most National Parks by the end



Fig 1: AIRIS T620

of 2008. Collective fund raising initiatives throughout 2007 and 2008 have enabled SANParks' to purchase new AIRIS T620 POCKET PC+GPS+WIFI+BT's for the

following arid, cape and northern parks: Augrabies, Kalahari, Mokala, Namaqua and Richtersveld; Tankwa Karoo; Golden Gate, Mapungubwe and Marakele.

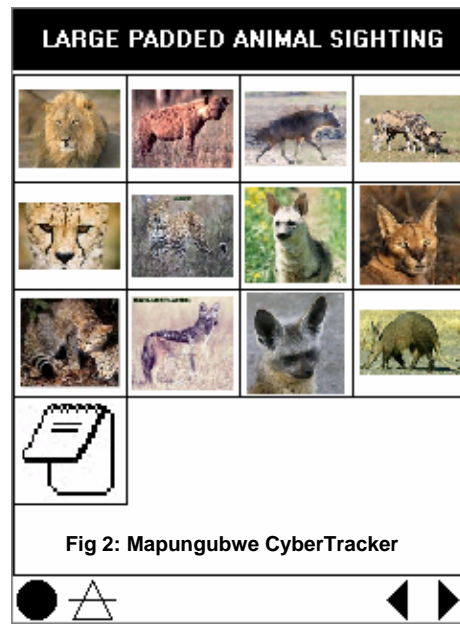


Fig 2: Mapungubwe CyberTracker



Fig 3: Augrabies

These devices are used to collect field information for effective environmental management and research. CyberTracker ([www.cybertracker.org](http://www.cybertracker.org)) software is customised for each National Park in order to facilitate park-specific monitoring e.g. important field observations in Mapungubwe might include aardvark and cultural sites while Krugers' may contain elephants and baobabs (see Fig 1 for screenshot of an animal sightings page from Mapungubwe's CyberTracker program).



Fig 4: Richtersveld

We were further able to support our local communities by asking community craft programs to design and make protective canvas cases for the fragile devices.



Fig 5: Mr. Lucky Malamule: Xilongana Community Program in Thulamahashe

The bulk of the funds were generously sponsored by the Richtersveld Poverty Relief Unit (R17 000), UNITRANS (R25 000), MEDSCHEME (R25 000) and the West Rand Honorary Rangers (R25 000).



UNITRANS is a diversified transportation, distribution and logistics, motor retailing and car rental company. Its business interests include freight and passenger transport, warehousing, distribution and logistics services, express freight, vehicle retailing, fleet management, vehicle leasing and insurance, and car rental (<http://www.unitrans.co.za>).

Medscheme's products include  
Medscheme Health; Medscheme Health



Risk Solutions and Medscheme Financial Services. Medscheme Health is SA's premier multi medical scheme administrator while Medscheme Health and Risk Solutions provide health and risk management facilitates. Medscheme Financial Services harnesses these health and financial risk management expertise to offer highly competitive life, asset management and cash management products and services (<https://www.medscheme.co.za>).



The Ranger Support Services unit of Honorary Rangers, have been SANParks' rock of support over many years. Through the tireless efforts of John Turner, Margaret Stafford, Snowy Botha and many others we are one step closer to achieving our National conservation management and research goals. Furthermore, the West Rand Honorary Rangers annually make a meaningful contribution to SANParks and conservation with the funds they raise from "Kruger Big Birding Day" under the guidance of Chairman Peter Zietsman.

In addition, over 40 members of the public kindly made numerous contributions towards the CyberTracker program through the donations pages on our SANParks website (<http://www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger/conservation/scientific/donations/cybertracker.php>):

Ashton, Freda (RSA)	Fourie, Trevor (RSA)	Scott, Brenda (Elsa) (RSA)
Boll, Katja (Denmark)	Freedman, Mark (USA)	Scott, David (RSA)
Boon, Agnes (RSA)	Hall, Peter (RSA)	Scott, Jennifer (AU)
Branfield, Gary (UK)	Hanna, Naomi (RSA)	Smith, Arks (USA)
Brant, Michael (RSA)	Harding, Matthew (RSA)	Smith, Mercia (RSA)
Briton, Gerry/Carol (RSA)	Head, Archar (RSA)	Steenkamp, Lorinda (RSA)
Brooke, Simon (UK)	Hollman, Dorothy (UK)	Tee, Gwendolen (NL)
Crane, Diana (UK)	Marsden, Deborah (UK)	Tipping-Woods, Di (RSA)
Currie, Isabelle (RSA)	Merry, Pam (RSA)	van der Hoorn, Jose (NL)
de Graaf, Perry (NL)	Mia, Muhammad (RSA)	van der Lith, Jaco (RSA)
de Jager Riana (RSA)	Moll, Pippa (RSA)	van der Westhuizen,
de Villiers, Jacques (RSA)	Monson, Glenda (UK)	Arnold (RSA)
du Plessis, Louis (RSA)	Nomell, Terry (Dubai)	van Hamersveld, G (NL)
Dukas, Heather (RSA)	Oelofse, Les (RSA)	van Rensburg, (RSA)
Dunmore, Terence (UK)	Preston, Dalene (RSA)	van Vuuren, Ralph (RSA)
During, Jackie (RSA)	Preston, Neil (RSA)	van d Wijn (NL)
Fitt, Craig (RSA)	Quanjer, Arnoud (NL)	van Zyl, Chris (RSA)
Foster, Sara (UK)	Schutte, Jan Harm (RSA)	



Fig 6: A-List Birders

These donations were further encouraged by the creative fund raising initiatives (Operation Duke; “A”-List Birders Weekend; Cricket@Skukuza and more) of the SANParks forum moderators and members (<http://www.sanparks.org/forums/>) who not only generously offer their money but also their valuable time in aid of conservation.

I would therefore like to send out a heart-felt **THANK YOU** on behalf of myself, SANParks researchers, park managers, section rangers and field rangers, to everyone who generously donated (big or small) to the SANParks CyberTracker initiative over the past year. Without your help, none of this would be possible. Our next goal is to expand the project further to equip the rest of SANParks and perhaps increase the number of units per Park.



Fig 7: Augrabies Rangers



Fig 8: Richtersveld Rangers



Fig 4: Mapungubwe Rangers



Fig 4: Marakele Rangers