



South Africans Find Hundreds of Species in Drakensberg!

BY BRENT LINDEQUE [@BRENTLINDEQUE](#) NOV 3, 2022



Photo Cred: Bioblitz | Supplied



BY BRENT
LINDEQUE

“It’s fascinating that we are still discovering new species in 2022, but an incredible feat for South Africans... and South Africa.”

Drakensburg, South Africa (03 November 2022) – A biological survey of a part of the Eastern Cape Drakensberg that has been earmarked for the establishment of a new grasslands national park has turned up scores of new and undescribed species.

The intention is to establish the new national grasslands park in a working agricultural landscape through voluntary stewardship agreements with both communal and private landowners.

The area earmarked for this project is in the northeastern grasslands of the Eastern Cape between Rhodes village, Nqanqarhu (previously known as Maclear) and Mount Fletcher. A better understanding of the biological diversity is required to help guide a long-term management plan.

To gain a clearer understanding of distribution patterns, species of conservation concern and the identification of endemic and range-restricted species, 50 taxonomic experts, ecologists and key biodiversity practitioners participated in the week-long “bioblitz” earlier this year. The event was led by SANParks, with support from the SA National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and WWF South Africa.

Here are some of the highlights in the final reports collated by SANBI:

- Spiders: Ruan Booysen and team from the University of the Free State found a total of 149 species, many of which could be Drakensberg endemics, and collected several unknown and undescribed species. They recommended that further research be done in the area.
- Plants: Vathiswa Zikishe and the SANBI and Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency teams observed 521 plant species including one undescribed orchid species which has yet to be published, and two species that have only recently been described.



SUBSCRIBE TO FEEL
GOOD FRIDAY

Would you like to receive truly phenomenal, inspirational and good thing stories right to your inbox. Then subscribe to our weekly GoodThingsGuy newsletter today.

Your email address

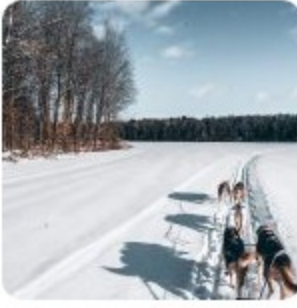
➤

☐ I accept GTG's [Privacy Policy](#).

TRENDING TODAY

- 

What It's Like Arriving in South Africa! Sawubonas, Smiles And First Impressions!
- 

Pretoria Security Company Have Backstreet Boy Fever in Hilarious Lip-Sync Video
- 

South African Anthem Played at Dog Sled Race in Alaska for Saffa Musher
- 

Trevor Noah Won the Erasmus Prize, Becoming the First Comedian to do so in 60 Years
- 

Dear Julius Malema... Open Letter Goes Viral!

FACEBOOK



TWITTER

- They said the area displayed an incredible diversity of plants and recommended regular field surveys for this “data scarce region”.
- **Ants:** Peter Hawkes and his Afribug team found 54 ant species, six of which were undescribed and a further 18 that are not yet fully identified. They also found at least one, possibly two, undescribed species of flightless katydids (sometimes known as bush crickets). Hawkes said even though the survey period was brief, it had resulted in a “substantial contribution to the knowledge of South African ant fauna”.
 - **Water beetles:** David Bilton and team from the University of Plymouth and the University of Johannesburg sampled around 70 species across 19 sites and also found some species new to science with ongoing identification.
 - **Hover-flies:** John Midgley and team from the KwaZulu-Natal Museum recorded 50 species of hover-flies which amounts to almost 1% of the global diversity. They reported that the higher altitude sites had lower overall diversity but with several rare species making the site worthy of special conservation attention.
 - **Snakes, frogs & lizards:** Werner Conradie from the Port Elizabeth Museum and team recorded eight amphibian species and 12 reptile species, with three new records for the region.
 - **Birds:** Melissa Whitecross and team from BirdLife South Africa reported that the birdlife in the area was excellent, particularly in the high-altitude areas which yielded good numbers of the endemic species and included encounters with both Cape and Bearded vultures. Overall, they recorded more than 130 species.

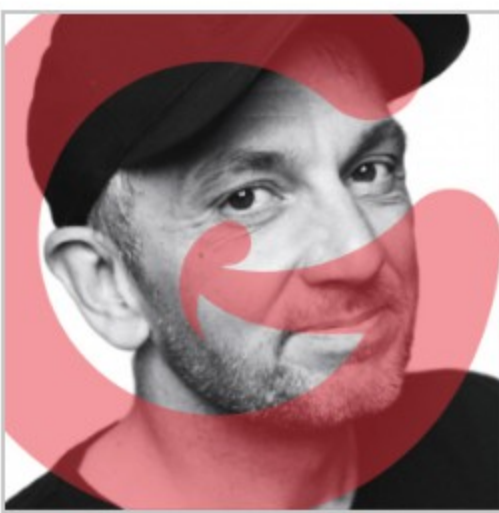
Some bioblitz participants also looked at the veld condition and the general health of the rivers and wetlands in the area. Among the management needs identified were for the maintenance of the veld through a regular fire regime, control of invasive alien species, management of erosion, and the reduction of grazing on the steepest slopes.

The bioblitz findings concluded that the high altitude sites were still in relatively pristine condition and that the area offered a multitude of natural attractions, among them birds, floral diversity, geology, stargazing, and cultural heritage. This holds great potential for training local guides from surrounding communities to meet the needs of the ecotourism market as the park project progresses.

Sources:

Don't ever miss the Good Things. Download the Good Things Guy App now on Apple or Google.

Have something to add to this story? Please share it in the comments or follow GoodThingsGuy on Facebook & Twitter to keep up to date with good news as it happens, or share your good news with us by clicking here or click the link below to listen to the Good Things Guy Podcast with Brent Lindeque – South Africa's very own Good Things Guy. He's on a mission to change what the world pays attention to, and he truly believes there's good news around us. In the Good Things Guy podcast, you'll meet these everyday heroes & hear their incredible stories:





"Don't Make Notes, Make Actions!" Catching up with Richard Mull

28 FEB 7AM / Good Things with Brent Lindeque

00:00  40:17



56k



iono.fm

Playlist



"Don't Make Notes, Make Actions!" Catching up with Richard Mulholland!!!

28 FEB 7AM / Good Things with Brent Lindeque

40:17

John Tsenoli – It's the long road that leads us home!

21 FEB 7AM / Good Things with Brent Lindeque

28:58

"If it bleeds, it leads but if it's good it should." - Mandy Wiener

14 FEB 7AM / Good Things with Brent Lindeque

14:55

The Incredible Journey of the 67 Blankets Movement!!!!

7 FEB 7AM / Good Things with Brent Lindeque

28:23

From Para to Dakar: Joey Evans joins the Good Things Guy

31 JAN 7AM / Good Things with Brent Lindeque

19:39

Or watch an episode of Good Things TV below, a show created to offer South Africans balance in a world with what feels like constant bad news. We're here to remind you that there are still so many good things happening in South Africa & we'll leave you feeling a little more proudly South African.





Pretoria teacher Mrs Bullock gave South Africans all the feels with

Watch on

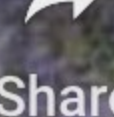
 YouTube





Pretoria teacher Mrs Bullock gave South Africans all the feels with





Watch later Share

Related Story



Dainfern Swimming Pool Littered With Pollution, Sends Powerful Message

Facebook Comments

0 comments

Sort by Oldest



Add a comment...

 Facebook Comments Plugin

Tagged:

#AwesomeSA

Don't Miss

Environment

Featured

Good News

Science

South Afri-CAN

South Africa

WOW

Tweets from
@GoodThingsGuy



Good Things Guy

@GoodThingsGuy · 2h



Lodge Raises Funds to Cover Ranger's Life-Altering Back Surgery - goodthingsguy.com/people/rangers...





WHERE MIND MEETS HEART

"Find out who you are and be that person. That's what your soul was put on this Earth to be. Find that truth, live that truth and everything else will come." – Ellen Degeneres

Captured by FireShot Pro: 23 March 2023, 19:30:53
https://getfireshot.com



Brent Lindeque

Brent Lindeque is the founder and editor in charge at Good Things Guy.

Recognised as one of the Mail and Guardian's Top 200 Young South African's as well as a Primedia LeadSA Hero, Brent is a change maker, thought leader, radio host, foodie, vlogger, writer and all round good guy.

RELATED STORIES



Duo Tackle SA's Literacy Problem with a Virtual Village of Volunteers!

MAR 23, 2023



Lodge Raises Funds to Cover Ranger's Life-Altering Back Surgery

MAR 23, 2023



Dainfern Swimming Pool Littered With Pollution, Sends Powerful Message

MAR 23, 2023



Cape Town Fashion Week Makes a Stunning and Sustainable Comeback!

MAR 23, 2023



Netball Event Scales New Heights as Bumper Field Forces Extra Day

MAR 23, 2023



Charity Staff Surprised Struggling Men with Haircuts

MAR 23, 2023

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE



Video of 'Mama Lion' Rescuing Her Cub from River Havoc Steals South African Hearts

MAR 23, 2023



Meet Kai, the Next Famous Turtle of the Two Oceans Aquarium

MAR 22, 2023



Cuddling Elephants – Guide Films Most Precious Baby Elephant Sighting

MAR 17, 2023

LEAVE A COMMENT

ABOUT GOOD THINGS GUY



GoodThingsGuy is the home of everything good, and those are the things that really matter! We believe that there is good news all around us and over 1 million readers a month agree with us.

GoodThingsGuy was officially launched on the 1 August 2015 in order to only promote good news, inspirational stories and promote only positive, upbeat media.

GoodThingsGuy is a global, multi-platform media company that distills unique content across multiple media platforms.

We consider individual and corporate contributions through the website or mail us directly here.

NEWEST STORIES



Duo Tackle SA's Literacy Problem with a Virtual Village of Volunteers!

Mar 23, 2023



Lodge Raises Funds to Cover Ranger's Life-Altering Back Surgery

Mar 23, 2023



Dainfern Swimming Pool Littered With Pollution, Sends Powerful Message

Mar 23, 2023



Cape Town Fashion Week Makes a Stunning and Sustainable Comeback!

Mar 23, 2023

TAGS

- #AwesomeSA #TheGoodStuff Animals
- Awesome Business Cape Town
- Change One Thing Charity Do good
- Don't Miss Environment Featured
- Good News Hero Inspiration
- International Lifestyle Social Media
- South Afri-CAN South Africa The Good Stuff
- Trending Video Wildlife WOW