

Boom in the Bushveld

Mabula Ground-Hornbill Project

August 2011



Ground-Hornbills and Electricity



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Mnyameni, the rescued bird from the Eastern Cape, was electrocuted by a transformer box. This is only the second reported case of electrocution for Southern Ground-Hornbills but we suspect this happens more often. It is likely that carcasses are scavenged before they can be retrieved and cause of death determined.

Electricity and Wildlife

Representatives from both EWT Wildlife and Energy and Eskom came out to look at the site and assess what could be done differently. The mitigation measures that were in place were obviously insufficient. Eskom and EWT have responded positively to the problem and will be testing new mitigation measures that will hopefully ensure that Mnyameni is the last Ground-Hornbill to be electrocuted.

What can you do?

If you own or know of properties that are home to any Ground-Hornbills and do not have wildlife mitigations in place please let us know. We would like to build a database of this so that we can work together with EWT & ESKOM to eradicate this threat throughout the Ground-Hornbill range. What we do for Ground-Hornbills will also help vultures and other large birds prone to this threat.

New Project Manager

We would like to introduce the new Project Manager, Lucy Kemp, to you. She has an MSc from the University of Cape Town and has worked on various conservation projects covering single species, ecosystem level conservation planning and the people aspect of conservation (the KNP Wild Dog and Cheetah Census, black rhino conservation and community-based resource management in Namibia, feeding ecology of forest hornbills in Thailand's Khoa Yai National Park, Khoi-San fish traps along the south coast and sustainability of people living within national parks in Bwabwata National Park, Caprivi). Ground-Hornbills were an integral part of her childhood and she hopes that, together with the scientific advisory Board, this Project will continue to play a vital role in ensuring the future of Ground-Hornbills in South Africa.



<http://groundhornbillproject.givengain.org>

We have now made it much easier to support this project with the GivenGain safe online payment site for local and international donations. This is used by WWF, SanParks, Peace Parks and others successfully and safely. GivenGain take 5% of the donation so if you rather do an EFT then please just drop us email project@ground-hornbill.org.za for our banking details.

