



Badger Bulletin

Newsletter of the beekeeper-badger extension program



March 2003

Newsletter 2

The Honey Badger Friendly Initiative



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The Badger Friendly Initiative aims to minimize the conflict between badgers and commercial beekeepers in S.A, and provide positive incentives for 'badger- friendly' beekeeping.

This initiative arose as a result of a survey completed by K.S. Begg in 2000 and is a joint initiative by the beekeeping associations, the South African Bee Industry Executive, Nature Conservation and various NGO's.

Extension Work

A full time extension officer , Joan Isham has been appointed for the next three years (2002-2005) to assist beekeepers with hive protection and to coordinate the use of badger friendly labels on the products of badger friendly beekeepers in S.A. In addition part time extension workers in Gauteng province (Deon Cilliers and Pat Fletcher) will help with accreditation where necessary.

Progress Report

- More than a hundred beekeepers were visited by EWT's extension workers.
- Up to date fifty six beekeepers and some processors have signed the declaration, committing to environmentally friendly and law-abiding beekeeping (see list of names on pg. 4).
- This is not just a Western Cape initiative, as it is also receiving significant support from Mpumalanga beekeepers, that have signed the Declaration and are using a variety of hive protection methods to prevent further badger damage.
- Most of these authorized beekeepers have received audit visits, to verify their 'badger friendliness'.
- Many landowners, landmanagers, and farmstall owners are aware of this initiative and are enforcing 'badger-friendly' beekeeping practices, by only dealing with accredited beekeepers.
- Retailers such as Pick 'n Pay and Woolworths have provided an important incentive for ensuring 'badger-friendly' beekeeping. Woolworths in particular have gone as far as to reject honey coming from a supplier that could not produced the signed declaration.
- With the assistance of other NGO's the public are made more aware of their role in badger conservation: Manned displays on this project were held in larger shopping centers.
- A poster on this project (developed with the assistance of WESSA and funded by Lomas Wildlife Protection Fund) was widely distributed.

How can you help?

If you are a beekeeper: You are urged to apply for 'badger friendly' accreditation by signing a declaration committing yourself to environmentally friendly and law-abiding beekeeping.

If you are a land owner: You are urged to only deal with 'badger friendly' accredited beekeepers.

If you are a retailer of bee products you should strive to ensure that beekeeping products are derived from accredited beekeepers only.

Conservation Groups: You can assist in the education of the general public.

Schools: you can learn more about honey badger conservation.

General public:

Be proactive and only buy honey if it displays these labels (see top of page)

If you can't find 'badger friendly' products in your retail outlet, ask the manager why! Only these labels can be trusted. Individual beekeepers allowed to use these labels have signed a declaration committing to 'badger-friendly' beekeeping and do not kill badgers. They are also independently audited by appointed extension officers from conservation NGO's.

For more information you can contact

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joan.isham@bermar.co.za
or visit our website:
www.honeybadger.com



Leisure
Kitchens



Beskerm teen ratelskade en spaar geld!

Onderstaande tabel is n opsomming van gebeure, gebaseer op werklike feite. Mnre. Johan en Stephan van Eck het ernstige ratelskade oor die afgelope vier jaar ondervind, maar d.m.v. deursettingsvermoeie en gereelde verbetering van hul beskermingsmetodes, kon die probleem opgelos word.



Jaar	Beskermings metode	% van korwe verloor	Totale skade (berekas as R1000 per korf)	Koste van beskerming per korf (Totale koste vir 250 korwe)
1998	Geen Beskerming	tot 100%	R250000	R0.00 (R0.00)
1999	Korf vasgemaak op twee bande met metaal penne en draad.	tot 80 %	R200000	R0.00 (enigste koste: materiaal en arbeid)
2000	Vier-been staander, minder as n meter bo die grond. Nie geanker nie	tot 50 %	R125000	R45 (R11250)
2001	Enkel paal staander, minder as n meter bo die grond.	tot 20 %	R50000	R50 (R12000)
2002	Vier- been staander. Een meter bo die grond Stewig geanker	Minder as een %	R2500	R55 (R13750)



Nog idees vir korf beskerming

Die oopbreek van korwe deur die ratel kan as aangeleerde gedrag beskou word: dus hoe gouer n byeboer sy korwe teen ratelskade beskerm, hoe minder moeite sal hy in die toekoms



Korfbeskerming op die grond kan suksesvol wees!

- Om korwe op die grond te beskerm, moet die korf in n goeie toestand en van stewige konstruksie wees. Hierdie korwe moet ook deeglik in standgehou word.
- Maak seker dat die onderskeie dele van die korf stewig aan mekaar geheg is d.m.v. bv. kramme, staalbande of baaldraad.
- Die korf moet ook op n manier geanker word, sodat die ratel dit nie kan omrol nie.
- Die bostaande metode (sien foto) word reeds geruime tyd deur Mr. Mike McIntyre gebruik.
- Volgens hom is die metode nie net suksesvol teen ratelskade nie, maar beheer dit ook vandalisme.
- Hierdie metode het die bykomende voordeel dat wanneer die ratel(of mens) toeslaan hy deur twee swerms verdryf word.
- Koste is minimaal: minder as R20 per korf.

Goedkoop staander teen ratels: P.A. en P.J.P. Van Mieghem, Eureka Byeboerdery

Deur die gebruik van n spesiale inslaantoestel (sien foto) neem dit minder as drie minute om die staander op te rig. Die H-vormige platform word op n plat yster vasgebout en dan aan n stuk (ongeveer 20cm) boorgat pyp vasgesweis.

Hierdie pyp gly eenvoudig oor die bopunt van die yster paal. Die korf word met n draad bo-op die platform vasgetrek. Die koste van so n staander is ongeveer R25. Gebruik n voorhamer om die paal weer los te slaan. Gebruik afval hout, wat eers in ou motor olie gesteeek word.

Velddag: Saterdag 15 Maart 2003

Aangedied deur WKBV (Wes-Kaapse Byebedryfs Vereniging)
Plek: Immenhof, Kleinmond-Die Kieslings(028 2714334)
Navrae: Robert Post 021 9768865 **RSVP:** Die Kieslings

Furthering the aims of the Honey Badger initiative

Last year, with the aid of funding from the Lomas Wildlife Protection Trust, the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa: Western Cape (WESSA: WC) co-ordinated two specific projects which were identified in conjunction with the various Honey Badger Initiative partners and roleplayers. These involved providing support for a community-based beekeeping project in Elim, and the production of an educational poster for the initiative.

The Elim Fynbos Beekeeping Project was initially set up by the Plant Protection Research Institute of the Agriculture Research Council. The aim was to contribute to poverty alleviation and social upliftment through the sustainable use of natural resources leading to a viable community-run, commercial business. The project is relatively new and about thirty hives have been established in the fynbos around Elim. Badgers are active in the area and considerable damage has been inflicted on those hives not protected. The Lomas Wildlife Protection Trust funding was used to further support the Elim Project by providing sufficient materials, mainly timber poles, to protect all existing hives against badger damage as well as any envisaged new hives. The project was also officially accredited as 'badger friendly', and education was provided for the community about the initiative, sustainable use of natural resources and conservation in general.

The poster, which is currently being distributed, gives a good, broad overview of the initiative and the way forward using a solution-based format, and the 'badger friendly' logos are prominently displayed in order to raise the profile of these in the public eye.

By Michelle Preen (WESSA/Western Cape)

Byboere: Hoekom registreer?

Registrasie as n byeboer in SA is verpligtend in terme van Regulasie 6388 (Wet 36 van 1983). Die doel van die Wet is om die Bye-Industrie te help om beter te organiseer en effektief met lede te kan kommunikeer. Verder word n unieke nommer aan elke byeboer toegeken waarmee sy korwe geïdentifiseer kan word. Die merk van korwe is verpligtend sedert Oktober 2000.

Die **voordele van registrasie** is kortliks as volg:

- Beter organisering van die Byebedryf
 - Beter inligting verspreiding aan bedryf ingeval van nasionale krisis soos siektetoestand
 - Positiewe identifikasie van korwe en bewys van eienaarskap wat diefstal bekamp.
 - Alle geregistreerde byeboere ontvang die Suid-Afrikaanse Bye-tydskrif as basiese kommunikasie middel.
- n Registrasiesertifikaat word uitgereik as bewys van lidmaatskap wat op verskillende vlakke gebruik kan word.
- SABIE kontak-besonderhede:**

Dr Adriaan du Toit
die Bestuurder
SABIE
Posbus 14840
Hatfield 0028



A completed badger-proof stand with beehives in front of project members, extension officers and WESSA staff

Well done Bell Porto !

Following various television and newspaper coverage regarding the conflict between honey badgers and beekeepers and discussions between Keith Begg and Andries Olivier (commercial beekeeper at the Bell Porto School, Cape Town), this school pupils decided to raise funds for the protection of the honey badger of the Western Cape. They managed to raise R1500 for the badger/beekeeper project by selling muffins during the school



Delightful drawing of a honey badger by Marcelle Beal, a Bell Porto pupil.

First Badger Friendly Beekeeper



Mr. Cochrane and his wife Lorraine sell their various badger friendly bee products at farmstalls and craft markets. They are convinced that their sales have increased, since the public has become more aware of their role in honey badger conservation by only buying honey clearly displaying the nationally accepted 'badger-friendly' label

What CNC is doing for honey badgers

Amanda van Niekerk

Cape nature conservation works closely with Joan Isham. Our conservation officers are perfectly placed, as they go about their biodiversity conservation duties, to do extension work with farmers they come in contact with. Jaco van Deventer, who work in the West Coast region, says that recently, for example, he discovered a small colony of honey badgers on a farm. The farmer agreed to look out for spoor and other baseline data on the honey badger, and he also realised that he would need to put his hives on stands, out of the reach of the badger. CNC's interactions with farmers have been very positive.

CNC has also printed and distributed pamphlets that inform beekeepers and the public about honey badgers, and have linked the honey badger website to ours. A number of articles on the badger produced by us have appeared in various publications. This helps keep the public informed about the value the vulnerable honey badger has for our ecosystem.

Die Ratel - *Mellivora capensis*

- Die ratel is n mediumgrootte dier (6-14kg) met die formidabele reputasie dat hy besonder sterk en taai is.
- Die ratel is n opportunistiese predator met n wye verkeidenheid prooispesies (65 verskillende spesies in Kalahari aangeteken).
- Diere op die ratel se spyskaart sluit in: knaagdiere, giftige slange, kleintjies van jakkalse, rooikatte, asook ongewerwelde diere soos skerpioene en insekte soos bylarwes.
- Ratels is alleenlopers en in gebiede waar daar op hul jag gemaak word, is hul geneig om slegs snags rond te beweeg.
- Die mannetjies het besonder groot loopgebiede, wat soms honderde vierkante kilometers kan beslaan.
- Die loopgebiede van mannetjies oorvleuel en sluit die kleiner loopgebiede van n paar wyfies in.
- Die ratelwyfie maak een tot twee welpies groot oor n tydperk van 12 tot 18 maande.
- Die mannetjies is tot n derde groter as die wyfie.
- Die wyfieratel en n groot manlike spruit wat saam gesien word, kan verkeerdelik as n 'ratelpaar' geidentifiseer word.
- In die Rooidataboek vir soogdiere word ratels as 'kwesbaar' gelys, wat aandui dat hulle bedreig kan raak as hulle getalle nog verder afneem.

Honey Badger Research

Keith and Colleen Begg recently completed a six month research trip through East Africa and Zambia. The aims of the trip were to collect genetic samples, as well as to investigate the relationship between traditional beekeepers and honey badgers in these areas.



Traditional barkhive hanging from a tree to prevent badger damage in north western Zambia

Keith and Colleen are also currently trying to assess the distribution and status of the honey badger throughout their range and are collecting all available information. Please send information on your sightings (date/area/habitat/activity) to ratel@iafrica.com.

This project is funded by the Carnivore Conservation Group of the **Endangered Wildlife Trust, Leisure Kitchens**, and the **Green Trust**, an associated trust of **WWF-SA**, made possible by **Nedbank Green**

We also thank the following organizations/persons for their support and assistance in this project

Wildlife and Environment Society
-HottentotsHolland Branch
-Montagu Friends
-Southern Cape Region
Western Cape Nature Conservation Board
South African Bee Industry Executive
Lomas Wildlife Protection Trust

Authorised Beekeepers

Western Cape

Mr. P. Blewitt
Mr. C. R. L. Barker
Mrs. C. Butler
Mr. P.B. G. Carey
Mr. C. Claassen
Mr. P. J. Cochrane
Mr. J. Coetzee
Mr. B. A. Cooper
Mr. K. Dehning
Mr. J. F. De la Querra
Mr. A. Du Preez
Mr. F. Du Toit
Mrs. A. Grunder
Mr. D. Hugo
Mr. J. Hurter
Mr. J.J. Hoffman
Mrs F. Kotze
Mr. P. Murray
Mr. J. J. Munro
Mr. N. Langehoven
Mr. H. Londt
Mr. S. Neate
Mr. L. J. B. Van Buren

Mrs. R. Olivier
Mr. R. Poole
Mrs. C. F. Schmidt
Mr. W. Sullwald
Mr. H.A.B. Swart
Mrs. W.E. Urquhart
Mr. F. J. E. Van der Westhuizen
M. K. U. Kiesling
Mr. P. Van der Walt
Mrs. O. W. Smuts
Mr. F. Daniels
Mr. A. Hayes

Other Provinces

Mr. G. Beverley
Mr. F. Bence
Mr. J. Charls
Mr. B. Dawkins
Mr. M. J. en D.W. De Klerk
Mr. H.W. Du Toit
Mr. A. Esterhuysen
Mr. G. B. Falconer
Mr. J.T. Hugill
Mr. R. C. S. Jackson
Mr. M. Lutz
Mr. E. Meiring
Mr. C. Nash
Mr. A. Schehle
Mr. J. Smith
Mr. H. Steenpoorte
Mr. H. Van der Merwe
Mr. E. Van Zyl
Mr. J. Verdoes
Mr. T. Engelbrecht
Mr. C.A. Reid

