

ILLEGAL SNARING

A deadly threat to biodiversity



CAPE
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TRUST





Legislation

NATURE CONSERVATION ORDINANCE NO. 19 OF 1974

[PROMULGATED ON THE 21 FEBRUARY, 1975 -
English text signed by the State President.]

29. **Prohibited ways of hunting**—No person shall unless he or she is the holder of a permit authorising him or her to do so, hunt any wild animal—

- (a) by means of fire or poison;
- (b) with the aid of artificial light;
- (c) on or from a public road;
- (d) by means of any trap;
- (e) during the period one hour after sunset on any day and one hour before sunrise on the following days—
- (f) by means of any weapon in a public place within the area of jurisdiction of a local authority;
- (g) by means of a fire-arm which discharges a rim-fire cartridge of a calibre less than .22; or
- (h) by means of a fire-arm which discharges more than two shots;
- (i) by means of a bow-and-arrow;

- (j) by means of a snare;
- (k) by means of a net, gin, cage, trap, pitfall or birdlime, or any other device or method whatsoever which can be used or adapted for the capture of wild animals;
- (l) by the use of any of the following or searching for any such animal which has been wounded;
- (m) in the case of any bird, by means of a boat for the purpose of chasing or killing such birds;

provided that in respect of—

- (i) rodents, the provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), (d), (e) and (f), or
[Sub-para. (i) amended by s. 7 of Ord. 26 of 1986.]
- (ii) any bird or any other wild animal which is not an endangered or a protected wild animal, the provisions of paragraph (g), or
- (iii) any such wild animal by a registered veterinary surgeon in practising his or her profession, the provisions of paragraph (k),
[Sub-para. (iii) amended by s. 1 of Act No. 3 of 2000.]

all not apply.

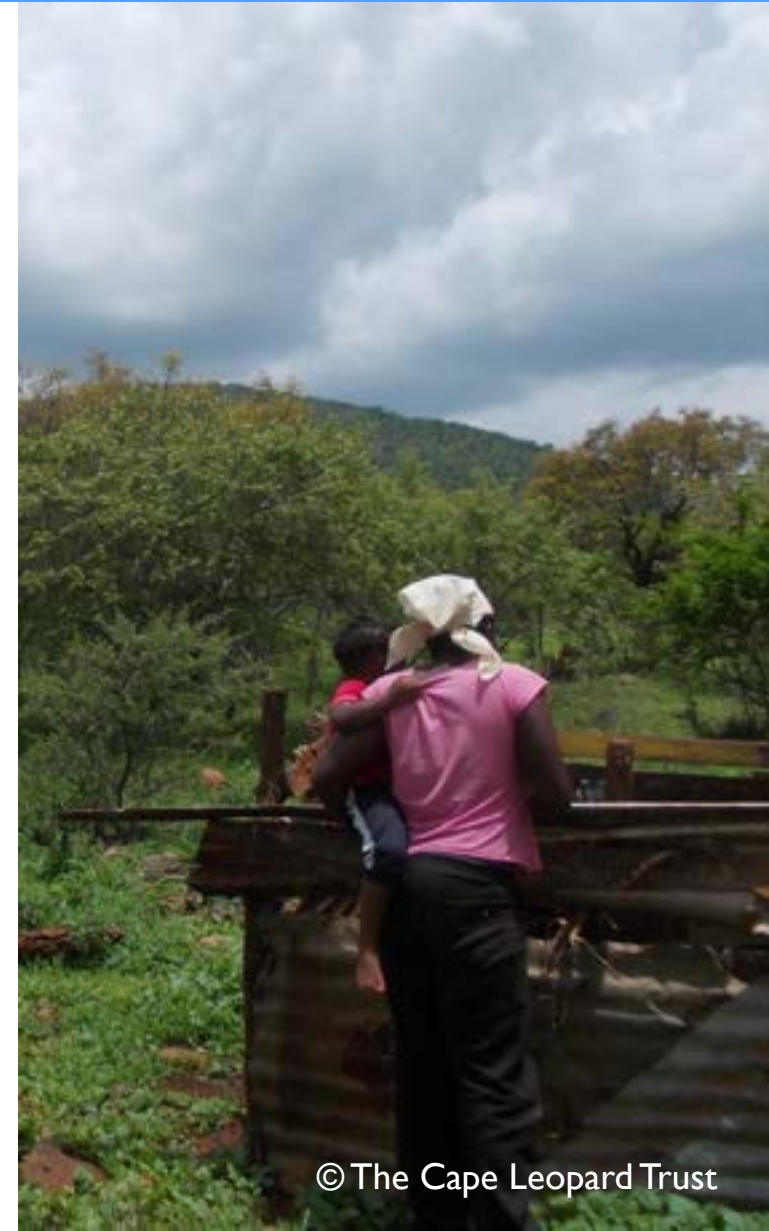
[S. 29 amended by s. 1 of Act No. 3 of 2000.]

GENERAL NOTE

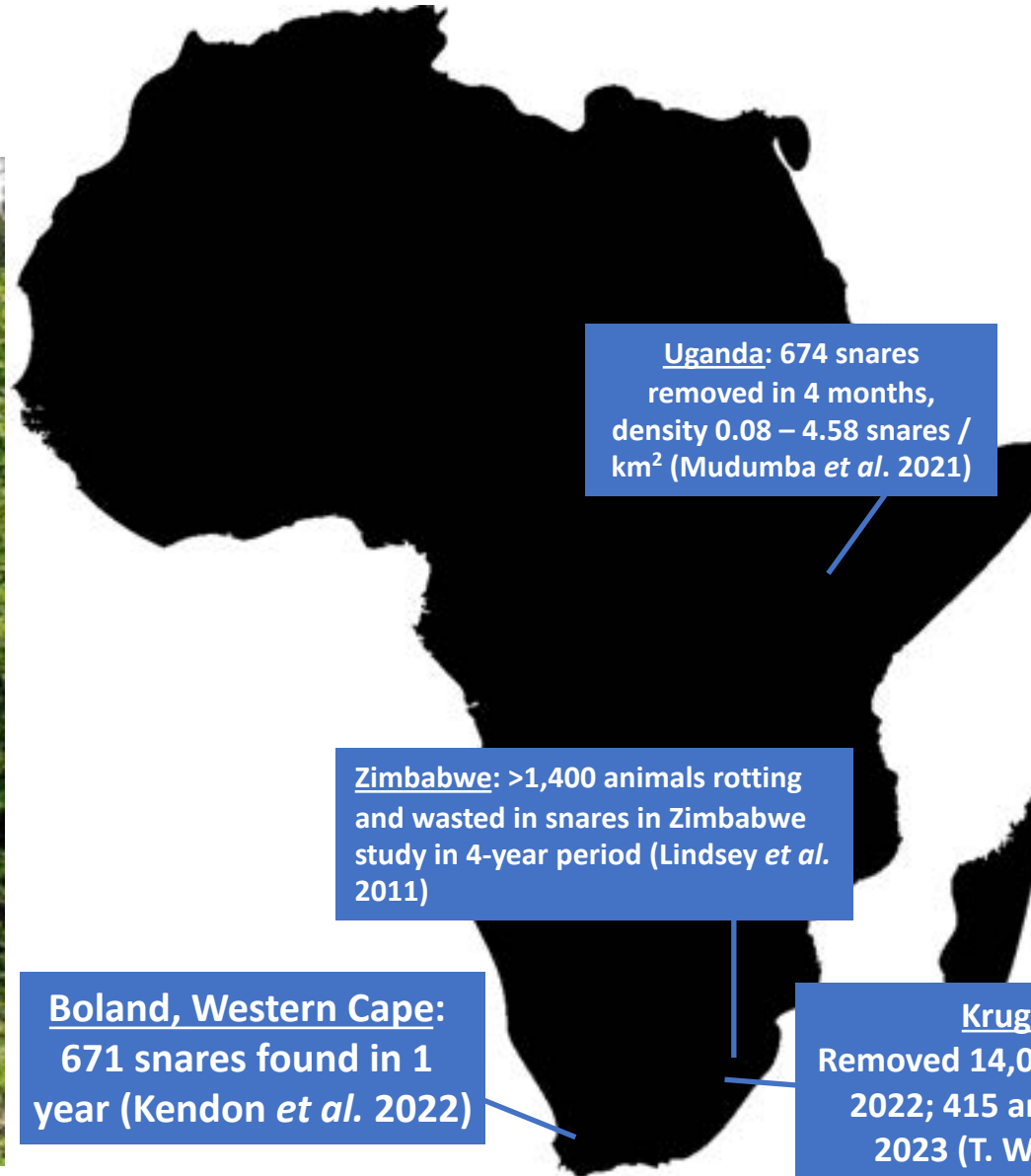
In terms of the ordinance: "trap" means any trap, springtrap, snare, gin, cage, net, pitfall or birdlime and any other device or method whatsoever which can be used or adapted for the capture of wild animals;

Why are snares set?

- Bushmeat hunting is linked to **socio-economic factors**:
 - Economic hardship
 - Low levels of formal education
 - Unemployment
 - Food insecurity (Lindsey et al., 2013)
- **Drivers of snaring in Boland, Western Cape**
 - Protein supplementation 95%
 - Convenience 81%
 - Pest control 12%
 - Cultural requirements 5%
 - Commercial buying / selling 2.5%
 - Recreational hunting 2.5% (Nieman et al., 2019)
- For **subsistence** but an increasingly **commercial practice**



Snaring – A global extinction crisis



Kruger National Park: Removed 14,000 snares between 2020 – 2022; 415 animals killed in snares in 2023 (T. Walters, Daily Maverick)



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The Table Mountain Fund



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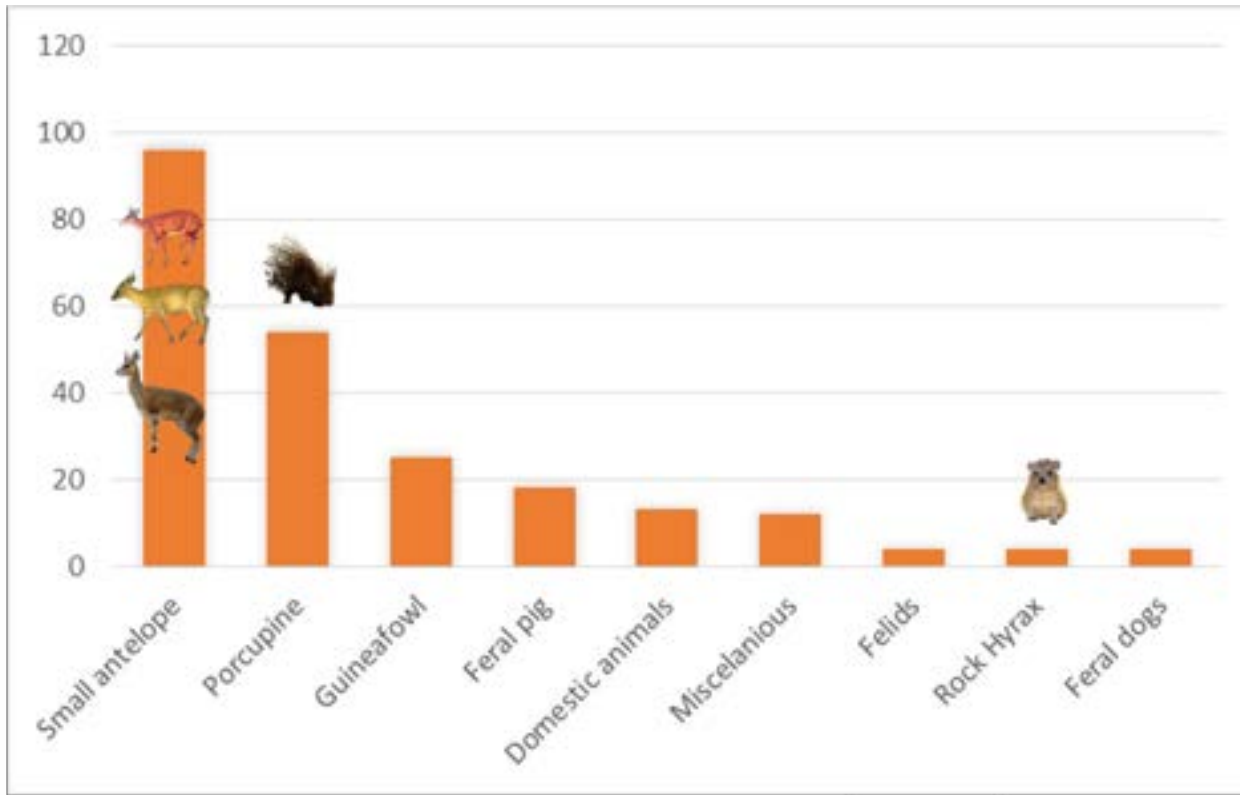
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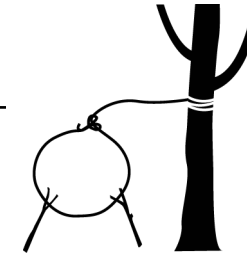
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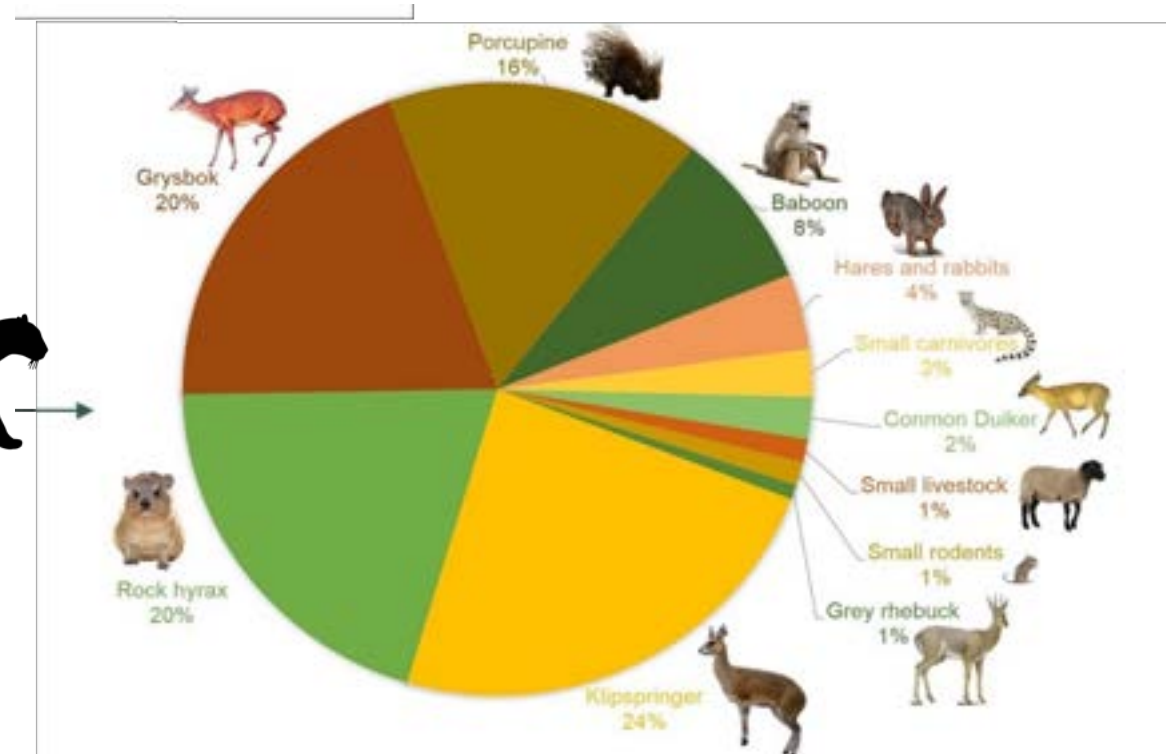
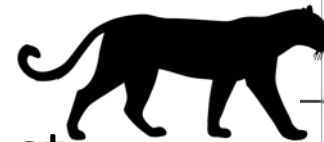


References:
 Kendon *et al.* (2022), Mann *et al.* (2019), Nieman *et al.* (2019)



Snaring increased

- Closer to protected areas, rivers and at slightly higher elevations
- If people didn't know it was illegal
- If punitive measures were lacking





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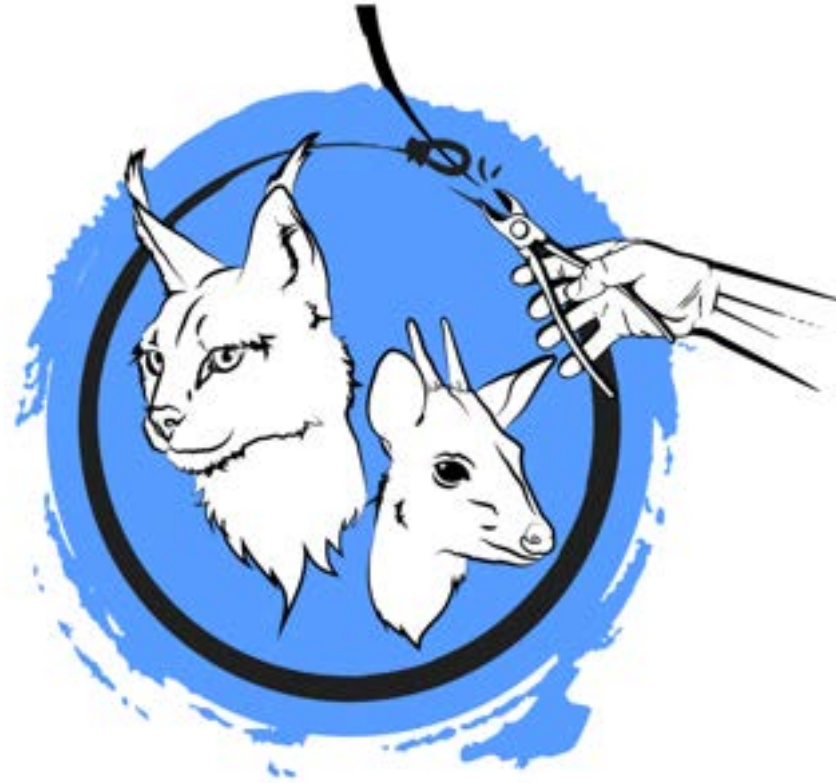


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Western Cape Snare Response Plan



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Public reporting



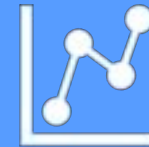
Communication structures



Coordinated response



Data collection



Follow-up and support

snarefree.co.za



Snare Free – Resources & Outreach

snarefree.co.za/resources/

Information guides, legislation support, videos, posters, scientific publications

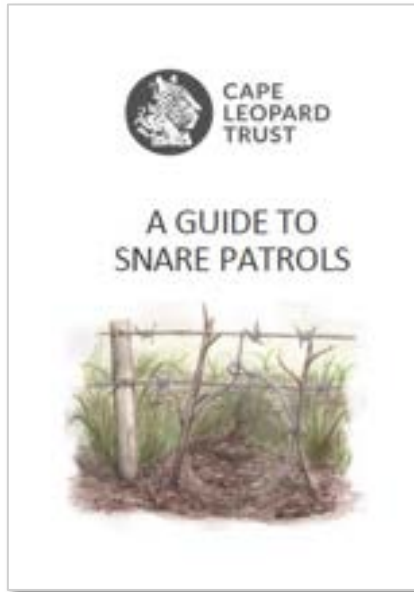
FACT SHEET
A landowner's guide to
**MONITORING AND PREVENTING
ILLEGAL HUNTING WITH SNARES**

Where are snares placed?
Snares are placed along game trails or fence lines where there is a lot of animal activity. The snares are carefully camouflaged or held in place with live vegetation, and traps or rocks are often placed to direct animal movement towards the snare. Some hunters even go as far as building their traps or placing them directly in front of animal droppings such as droppings from antelope. Snares of alien and disturbed natural vegetation tend to be hotspots for snaring activity.

Why do people use this method of hunting?
Materials used to make snares are cheap and easy to come by. Snares are light weight, can be carried inconspicuously and are not easily detected in the landscape. If one does not look out for it specifically.

What does the law say?
Hunting with snares is specified as a prohibited hunting method in terms of the Nature Conservation Ordinance No 19 of 1956, specifically section 29 (6).
"...29. Prohibited ways of hunting—No person shall unless he or she is the holder of a permit authorising him or her to do so, hunt any wild animal—(d) by means of any trap..."

* Simons, M.A., Latta, A., & Williams, A. (2014). Socio-economic and Environmental Determinants of Antelope Snaring in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. *Journal of Environment & Development*, 23(4).



Promoting snare awareness through training and education

Snaring 'solutions'

1. Research: Uncovering and understanding snaring

- Multi-method approach
- Behaviours around snaring extremely difficult to examine
- Snaring impact is underestimated
- More information needed outside Protected Areas (van Velden et al., 2018)
- Predicting snaring hotspots (e.g. Loveridge et al., 2020; Kendon et al., 2022, Watson et al., 2013)

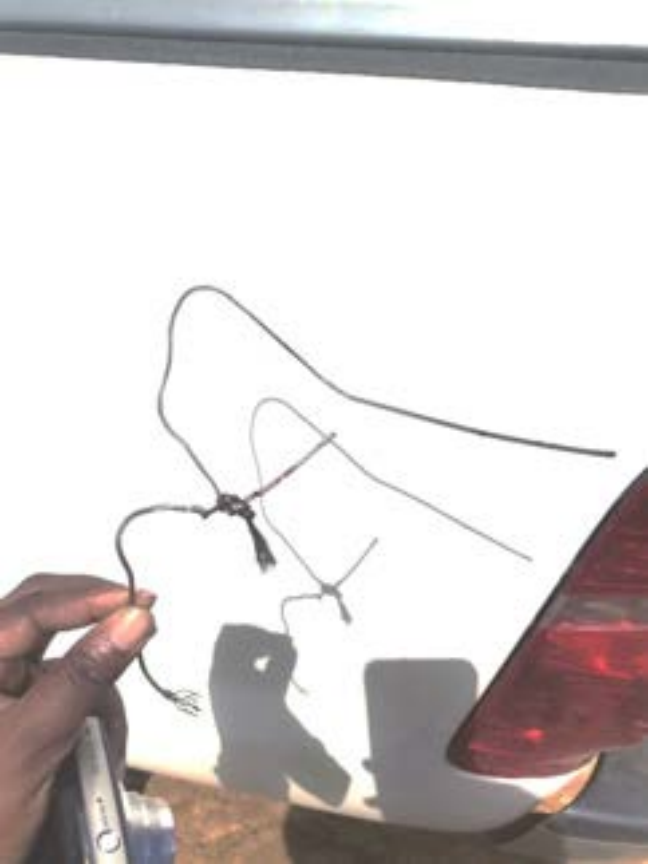
2. Conservation: Implementing strategies to address snaring

- Short term: Snare removal, responding to live animals, policing and patrolling
- Long term: Addressing the drivers of snaring & supporting other areas in need

3. Education:

- Spread awareness about snaring
- Upskill and educate communities to improve livelihoods
- Improve legislation and mitigation around snaring







Snaring – A growing problem requiring urgent multifaceted solutions

A call to action before it is too late. We need

- A national strategy led by a national forum
- Increased knowledge sharing and awareness
- Improved data collection, collation and analysis
- Resources on the ground to enable mitigation



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Thank you to IFAW for
supporting our snare
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