

# Tracking Pleistocene vertebrates in Protected Areas on the Cape coast

Thursday, 17 March 2022  
13:00-14:30 SAST

SANParks, Cape Research Centre is inviting you to another exciting webinar scheduled for Thursday, 17 March at 1pm, SAST.

Kindly join us for a talk on Tracking Pleistocene vertebrates in Protected Areas on the Cape coast by Dr Charles Helm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Most of the 300 Pleistocene vertebrate tracks identified on the Cape have been found in protected areas, including three national parks, four provincial nature reserves, and private nature reserves. These include numerous globally unique discoveries (e.g. tracks of hatchling turtles, crocodiles, very large birds, and giraffe) as well as an unexpected variety of hominin tracks and traces. Most sites are ephemeral, becoming rapidly eroded once exposed, slumping into the sea, or being subjected to graffiti. The presentation will highlight the most important and dramatic sites identified thus far, and will consider possible management strategies, given their substantial heritage value.

Dr. Charles Helm is a Research Affiliate with the African Centre for Coastal Palaeoscience, Nelson Mandela University. He is a palaeontological researcher, author, explorer, designer of hiking trails and family physician. He grew up in Cape Town and Great Brak River and moved to Canada in 1986. He has made numerous fossil discoveries, and led the creation of the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark in 2014. He and his wife Linda return to their home in Great Brak River every year to search for and study Pleistocene fossil tracks and traces along the Cape south coast. He is currently enrolled for his PhD in the Department of Geoscience, Nelson Mandela University.

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