

Sustainable Ceder

Monthly Report:

- Partnership with Jim Green Footwear and the Game Rangers' Association of Africa
 - First Ascent Backpack Donation
 - Celebrating 21 Years of Conservation with the Cape Leopard Trust
 - Further News
-





Fig 1. Team members with their new Jim Green Boots.



Fig 2. Replacing old boots with new Jim Green Boots.

Partnership with Jim Green Footwear and the Game Rangers' Association of Africa

Earlier this year, [Devin Trull](#) "filmmaker and photographer with a deep love for the Cederberg", introduced Sustainable Ceder to [Jim Green Footwear](#) and the [Game Rangers' Association of Africa \(GRAA\)](#), leading to a partnership in support of conservation efforts in the Cederberg.

The Cederberg is rugged, challenging terrain, and our team often spends long days hiking through remote, mountainous areas carrying gear and young trees. Jim Green Footwear, built for exactly these kinds of conditions, was the perfect fit for our field teams.



Fig 3. The Ceder Guardians and Sustainable Ceder Planting Team with their new pairs of Jim Green Boots.



Fig 4. Jim Green Footwear is the perfect fit for our field teams.

With a long history of supporting rangers and conservation projects, Jim Green Footwear runs the [Boots for Rangers Program](#), a collaborative initiative with the GRAA. This program provides boots to rangers and field teams working in some of the most remote and demanding regions of Africa. The GRAA, as the official governing body for rangers across the continent, oversees the boot donation program.

Through this partnership, 14 pairs of boots were generously donated to the Sustainable Ceder team, providing essential support to our planting and monitoring teams in the field.

We would like to thank: Gareth Crouch (Jim Green Footwear), Louise de Bruin (Chief Executive Officer of the Game Rangers' Association of Africa), and Devin Trull, for connecting us and providing photography.



Fig 5. Our team spends most of their time in the harsh Cederberg terrain.



Fig 6. The Sustainable Ceder Team with their new backpacks, with Rodney Long (Right).



Fig 7. Three 60l hiking backpacks donated by First Ascent.

First Ascent Backpack Donation

Earlier this year, we had the privilege of partnering with the [Aonijie Cederberg Stage Run](#) as one of their environmental partners.

The Stage Run team reached out to [First Ascent](#) to see how they could also get involved and support the project, and thanks to their support, First Ascent generously sponsored three hiking backpacks for our field team.

The backpacks will make a real difference to our field team during overnight hikes in the Cederberg, especially throughout the seed harvesting and planting season. Having reliable gear helps them move more efficiently and comfortably through often challenging terrain.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to thank:

- Rodney Long – Race Director of the Aonijie Cederberg Stage Run, for his ongoing support and leadership.
- First Ascent ([Performance Brands](#)) – for their support and for being part of our efforts to protect the Cederberg and strengthen its communities.



Fig 8. Jeannie Hayward (right) identifying tracks during the hike.



Fig 9. The Group taking a rest under an old Cedar tree.

Celebrating 21 Years of Conservation with the Cape Leopard Trust

We were very fortunate to celebrate the “21 years of Conservation” with the Cape Leopard Trust (CLT) this month.

The weekend kicked off with a meet-and-greet at the Cederberg Cellars Brewery.

The next day, the guests had the option of either doing a short walk to Lot’s Wife with Jaco Fourie (Cederberg-based Environmental Educator), visit the Stadsaal Caves for an interpretive walk with Cape Nature or do a longer hike led by team members of the CLT research team and Sustainable Ceder.



Fig 10. Before the Hike: The Group at Welbedacht.



Fig 11. On our way down Welbedacht Kloof, with Jeannie Hayward leading the way.



Fig 12. The beautiful setting for the Celebration Dinner at Cederberg Cellars.

We met early on Saturday morning at Driehoek Farm, where Dawie Burger from Sustainable Ceder introduced the team to the project's process, highlighting each stage from seed to sapling as well as showcasing the planting backpacks and drone technology.

After the introduction, we made our way to Welbedacht, where Jeannie Hayward led the group up the Welbedacht Kloof. As we walked, we looked for tracks and scat and shared stories and memories from the CLT's years in the Cederberg. Each part of the area seemed to hold its own story – showing a deep connection between the CLT and this special place.

Towards the end of the hike the group had a rest under one of the big cedar trees where guests had a chance to chat with Dawie and Jeannie, asking questions about leopards, cedar trees, and the work being done to protect them.

We ended the day with a celebration dinner at the Cederberg Private Cellar, reflecting on the last 21 years – from where it all started and how the CLT has grown into what it is today.



BGCI @ IUCN
WCC



Further News

Illegal Plant Trade Coalition: Wooden Bracelets at IUCN Congress

We're proud to share that our wooden bracelets, handmade by members of the Cederberg community for the BGCI Illegal Plant Trade Coalition, have safely arrived in Abu Dhabi for the IUCN World Conservation Congress.



Driven by Nature Foundation Site Visit



Fig 14. During a recent site visit to the Cederberg, the Driven by Nature Foundation team visited our nursery.

This month, we welcomed the Driven by Nature Foundation team for a short visit to see our work up close.

The Driven by Nature Foundation is a non-profit environmental organisation that provides logistical support to organisations across Africa, document environmental projects and raise awareness. Their focus ranges from wildlife conservation, community upliftment to reforestation projects.

We look forward to working together in the near future.



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