

Project Update: May 2011

Eleven Cape mountain zebra sub-populations (three in national parks and eight privately owned populations) were visited in the second half of 2010 and again in March-May 2011. A few days was spent with each population, recording information on as many social groups (breeding and bachelor) as possible. The sex and age (categorised as foal, yearling or adult) of all individuals was determined and individual identification photographs were taken where possible. For smaller populations where most individuals were sighted, the identification record was handed over to the manager as a useful tool for the long term detailed monitoring of the population. During the second visit in 2011, for example, changes in group composition (e.g. a new herd stallion) and the dispersal of offspring were detected due to previous photographic records. An interesting sighting was in the Karoo National Park where the recently released lions were seen preying on a Cape mountain zebra, highlighting this new emerging threat.

