

# Update on the Digitising of the Donald Killick Herbarium (CPF): Feedback on the vision, progress and challenges

Dr Boyd Escott<sup>1</sup> and Dr Clinton Carbutt<sup>2</sup>

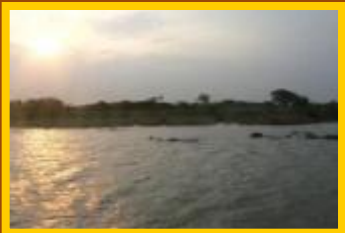
1- Manager Biodiversity Spatial Planning and Information

2 – Plant Scientist

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife



# Background



- Established in 1951, the Donald Killick Herbarium is located at Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's (EKZNW) Head Office
- Named after Donald Killick (1926 – 2008)
- Curated by Rob Scott-Shaw from 1988 - 2012.
- Focus areas: KwaZulu-Natal, especially Drakensberg Mountains; Midlands grasslands; Maputaland; Zululand
- Houses important collections by.....

T. Everson,

D. J. B. Killick,

A. T. D. Abbott,

C. J. Ward,

H. C. Taylor,

I. Gordon,

G. Youthed,

D. K. MacDevette,

D. Ekhard,

A. Nicholas,

C. Everson,

K. L. Tinley,

P. M. Hitchins,

O. Bourquin,

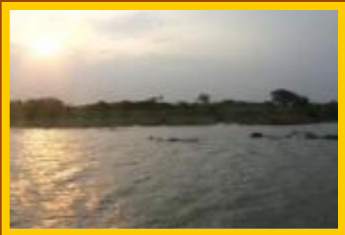
P. S. Goodman,

J. E. Granger

G. F. Van Wyk,

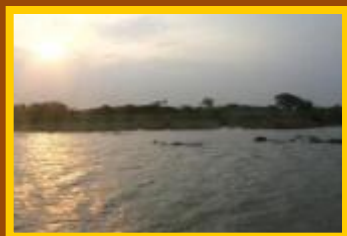
D. R. MacDevette

# The Vision



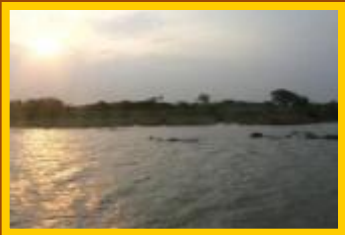
- Make the Donald Killick Herbarium available electronically via BRAHMS
- To have an updated EKZNW Biodiversity Database
- Over long-term, we wish to translocate CPF to the BEWS Herbarium (NU) located at the University of Natal, PMB campus (still in early negotiation)

# The Project



- The Donald Killick Herbarium currently houses approximately 33000 specimens
- A majority of these records have been captured into the EKZNW Biodiversity Database – needs review
- Project, funded by FBI, has three phases
  - A) Barcode and Photograph vouchers and correctly capture entries ‘as-is’ into EKZNW Biodiversity Database
  - B) Record verification, co-ordinate corrections
  - C) Extract data and upload into Brahms\*.

\* Subject to sensitivity class

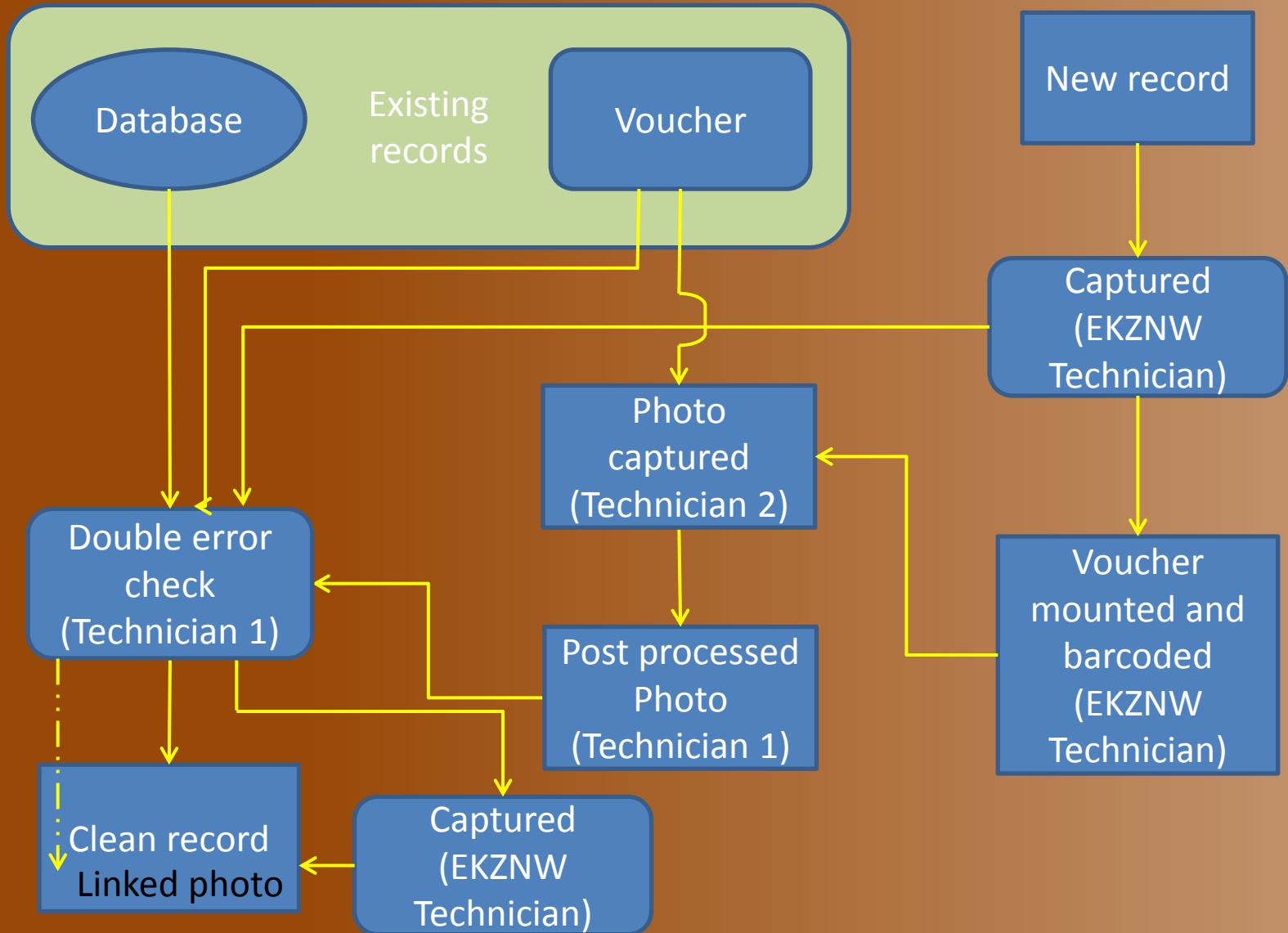


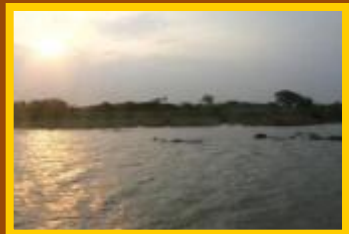
# Current Status (4 months)

| Description   | Value |
|---|-------|
| New records captured in entirety  | 682   |
| No# old records checked   | 1750  |
| No# photographs taken of existing database entries (pre-processing)         | 5800  |
| No# photographs processed (existing database entries) and linked to records | 3259  |

\* Complete review of data capture procedure and refinement of the data sensitivity categories

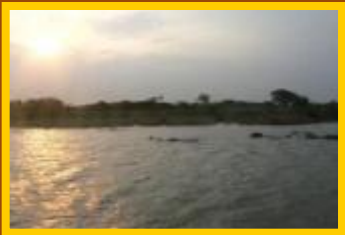
# Current Workflow





# Un-expected challenges

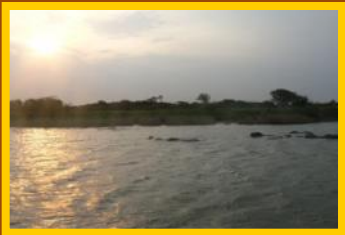
- Un-defined data capture protocols / guidelines
- Highlighted unstructured data management habits
- Administrative challenges
- Human resource challenges
  - Project initiation date a problem
  - Staff retention



# Tips for the un-initiated

- When designing a project, think simple, ..... then dumb this down.
- Ensure you have good protocols in place first.
- Try to advertise for positions by December to start in the new year.
- Explore alternate avenues of data transcription (phase 1 of data capture)
- Appeal: Need to embed the host organisation's ID into the receiving entities Database





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project possible

Please feel free to contact me at...

[Boyd.escott@kznwildlife.com](mailto:Boyd.escott@kznwildlife.com)

Data requests to be sent to:  
[data@kznwildlife.com](mailto:data@kznwildlife.com)



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**K Z N W I L D L I F E**

Conservation, Partnerships & Ecotourism