

Open Questions to the Landmark Foundation – Leopard and Predator Project.

Against the backdrop of media reports, many prompted by reporting from the Landmark Foundation concerning the death, in 2020, of a captured leopard in the Uniondale district, and the Foundation's subsequent efforts to promote the prosecution of the farmer involved, one broader question deserves to be asked and answered:

What role has the Landmark Foundation played in building trust with livestock / game farmers, and promoting practical human–wildlife coexistence in the Uniondale district since the death of the leopard in question?

Long-term leopard conservation cannot depend solely on advocacy or legal action after conflict has occurred. It also requires constructive engagement with the farmers who currently bear the full financial and emotional burden of these free roaming apex predators.

In this context, the Foundation is asked to clarify:

1. **Engagement and awareness:** What proactive initiatives has it undertaken to promote leopard conservation and practical, affordable measures to reduce human–leopard conflict? How many farmers have been engaged?
2. **Direct engagement:** To what extent has the Foundation engaged face-to-face with commercial farmers, both before and after the leopard's death? How frequently has it engaged with the local Farmers' Association or participated in events such as the annual Uniondale Agricultural Show?
3. **Practical assistance:** What technical, financial or material assistance has been provided to farmers to help protect livestock and game from leopard predation?
4. **Compensation:** Was any compensation offered or paid for losses attributed to leopard predation?
5. **Farmer participation:** To what extent have farmers adopted or implemented measures recommended by the Foundation, and how many have done so?
6. **Effectiveness:** Has the Foundation assessed the effectiveness and affordability of these interventions? Is there evidence of increased farmer awareness, improved livestock protection or reduced human–leopard conflict?

Most importantly:

How many leopards have been saved through the Foundation's direct assistance to farmers in the Uniondale district since the death of the leopard in question?

These questions are not intended to diminish the importance of leopard conservation, nor the seriousness of the leopard's death. They concern the broader responsibilities of conservation organisations working in landscapes where predators and livestock / game farming must coexist.

If conservation is to succeed, meaningful and constructive engagement with the farming community is surely essential.

Similar questions were posted as a comment on the Landmark Foundation's Facebook page on 9 September 2026. At the time of writing, no response has been received.

This open letter provides the Foundation with an opportunity to respond publicly and to inform the farming community and wider public about the practical conservation and coexistence work, it has undertaken in the Uniondale district since the death of the leopard in question.

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