



Communication and Marketing Department  
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso  
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa  
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town  
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

[www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za)

**7 May 2025**

## **UCT lecture explores effectiveness of rhino poaching interventions**

**8 May 2025 | 17:30 SAST | Hoeri LT2, Second Floor, Hoerikwaggo Building, Upper Campus**

How many rhinos live in Kruger National Park, is their population declining, and if so, what can be done about it?

These and many other questions will be under discussion during the inaugural lecture by Professor Res Altwegg, founding director of the [Centre for Statistics in Ecology, Environment and Conservation](#) (SEEC) at the University of Cape Town's (UCT) [Department of Statistical Sciences](#). In his lecture, titled "Adventures in Statistical Ecology," Professor Altwegg will explore how data and models can help us answer critical conservation questions.

The lecture will take place on Thursday, 8 May 2025, at 17:30 SAST at Hoeri LT2, second floor, Hoerikwaggo Building, upper campus. Professor Altwegg will take the audience into the dynamic world of statistical ecology, a field that lies at the intersection of statistics and environmental science.

"I chose the title 'Adventures in Statistical Ecology' to convey the excitement around this rapidly growing field. Our environment is under increasing pressure. At the same time, our ability to collect data on ecological and environmental processes is growing at a fast rate. To make sense of these data and extract relevant information from them is the domain of statistical ecology," said Professor Altwegg.

"In this lecture, I will give you some examples from my own research in statistical ecology. You will hear about the effectiveness of different interventions against rhino poaching, the astonishing life history of a small frog that only occurs on the Cape Peninsula, our work on modelling the shifting range of bird species and several other topics," he said.

SEEC is a pioneering research group that brings together ecologists and statisticians to address urgent environmental issues. Under Professor Altwegg's leadership, SEEC has grown to become one of the largest statistical ecology groups globally and the only one of its kind on the African continent.

Professor Altwegg's research interests encompass the broad field of statistical ecology, with a particular focus on population ecology, wildlife demography and the modelling of species

distributions. His research addresses critical questions related to climate change, conservation, and ecology in general.

- Members of the media wishing to attend the event in-person are requested to [RSVP](#).
- Media wishing to attend virtually can [request the event link](#).



Professor Altwegg

Photo: Supplied

***Ends***

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**Thami Nkwanyane**

**Media Liaison and Monitoring Officer**  
Communication and Marketing Department  
University of Cape Town  
Rondebosch  
Tel: (021) 650 5672  
Cell: (072) 563 9500  
Email: [thami.nkwanyane@uct.ac.za](mailto:thami.nkwanyane@uct.ac.za)  
Website: [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za)