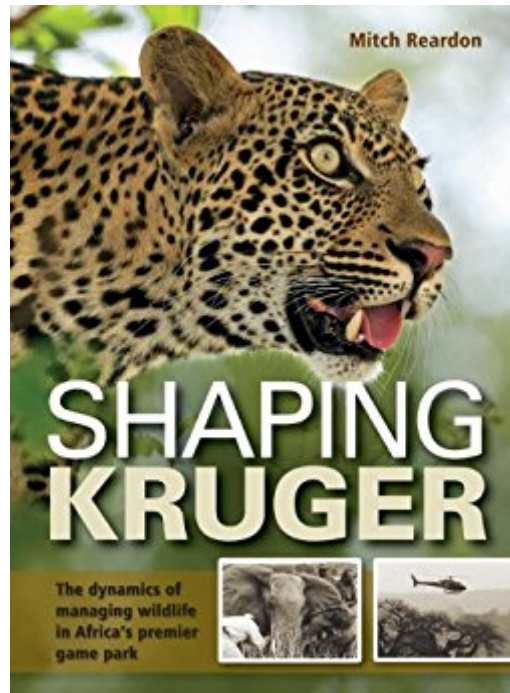




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Shaping Kruger



Synopsis

The Kruger National Park is one of the world's leading stewards of biological diversity. Its management requires ongoing monitoring and re-evaluation to ensure that species survive. *Shaping Kruger* provides fascinating insight into the lives, habits and behaviour of the larger animals that significantly affect the workings of the park. It expertly synthesizes decades of ground-breaking research into the animals and their environment, examining along the way individual species; predator-prey relationships; mammal distribution, and browsing and grazing interactions. This detailed look at how Park management has had to interpret, monitor and adapt the processes that allow species to survive – even thrive – in an ever-changing environment makes for an intriguing and enlightening read.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Well-written compilation of recent field research on the biology and population ecology of various South African mammals. A great companion to seeing elephants, zebras, giraffes, lions, antelope and more in Kruger. Answers many of the questions I had about habitats, game management,

conservation, population dynamics and more while visiting the park.

This is an excellent introduction to the ecology of the Kruger Park. The author has drawn extensively on the huge amount of detailed research done in this area and produced something that is both informative and readable.

For those that love Kruger and all the larger game that inhabit it, this book is a must! Highly informative.

Shaping Kruger by Mitch Reardon: The Dynamics of Managing Wildlife in Africa's Premier National Park is most interesting to read, with tales of incidents that have occurred over the last century as wildlife in Kruger has been observed, managed, mismanaged, and protected. This island of safety for the natural inhabitants of the African continent is surrounded by a sea of humanity, which would have encroached long ago and completely eliminated many of these treasured and unusual species from the earth if unprotected. But often the wrong kinds of management for protection have been used, such as killing the spotted jackals in the 1920's because they were preying on larger mammals and threatening their population, but then the jackals almost became extinct. Now that population of necessary scavengers has returned to thrive and help keep the correct balance of nature. Learning from observing the various species and looking back on past successes and failures in park management of natural habitat is teaching those in charge how to best manage this huge responsibility in the best way for all. The book's discussions of this is a quality read. The author lived in and was a ranger in the National Parks of South Africa and Namibia before becoming the wildlife writer/photographer as he is known now. The full color images throughout the book are ones only a photographer who knows animal habits well could possibly succeed in getting.

This is just the kind of book I was looking for before visiting Kruger NP again this year. It delves into many details of the behaviour and ecology of a number of the mammals of Kruger, and also into conservation and management issues, including controversy over many points, which the author presents fairly while also making his own views known. It is written in language that makes it accessible and interesting for wildlife specialists and general readers alike, and is very relevant to much of southern Africa, not just the Park itself. I found it fascinating reading while traveling through Kruger, explaining much of what I was witnessing, and would thoroughly recommend it not only to visitors to Kruger but to anyone interested in wildlife ecology and behaviour and conservation

management.

This book goes a lot further than your average coffee table book. It contains a wealth of information for those who want to know, or already know, the Kruger: paying close attention to preferences and habits of quite a number of the Park's more important mammals, while also showing how policy decisions have changed, and sometimes crucially interfered with, previous behaviour and numbers. One of the best books I've read on this area.

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