Title: Assessment of wild honey bee harvesting densities, genetic diversity and economic beekeeping benefits in the Western Cape

Description: This project builds from a few isolated and limited studies that sought to generate baseline data on wild honeybees' contribution to sustaining managed hives, and contributing to the economic value chain and food security. For this project, the focus will be to contribute further on the data generation on this subject area and address the following aims: 1) record and monitor wild honey bee harvesting frequencies in selected areas (across different landscapes) over a two year period; 2) determine and compare genetic diversity of harvested swarms across the selected areas – also over a two year period; and 3) record and quantify all activities (economic – based on services and products) associated with harvested swarms over the two year period. The project is expected to give an indication on the status of wild honey bee population in the respective areas over a two year period. These findings will assist to determine whether any interventions are needed in managing or regulating the harvesting of wild honey bees for beekeeping practices.

Field: Entomology
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