
Build funnel traps – Driftsands Educational Centre 2007/08/05

1.0 Introduction

Marius Burger (Project Field Herpetologist for SARCA) gave an overview of what SARCA is all about, how the traps are designed and what funnel traps are used for.



Marius explained that SANBI is responsible for the SARCA project, but depends on all herpetologists and herpetological institutions, and the participation of members of the public. The project's main aim is to improve the conservation status of reptiles and our understanding of the diversity and distribution of reptiles. He said that the Red Data book for reptiles, published in 1988, is out of date thus the need to undertake new surveys to improve the information base from which assessments can be done. It also falls in line with the latest internationally accepted assessment criteria. Marius then spoke a bit about the VM and how the public can get involved with the data collecting process.

- SARCA Field work volunteers - Contact Linda Tsipa at Itsipa@adu.uct.ac.za (phone 021 6504697).

Gathering of SARCA data

- Institutions
- General Public – take picture of reptile, send to SARCA for ID
- SARCA Survey – Active search & Trapping (use volunteers)

Marius then explained that this was a joint initiative between SARCA, CN (HNCO's) and the CRC, and the purpose of the trap building exercise is namely for:

- SARCA to make use of public and institutions help to build traps for the field work required.
- CN and HNCO's to make use of three complete traps for the Reptile Census at the Briers Louw Nature Reserve in October 2007.
- The sharing of knowledge (thanks Marius) on how to build funnel traps for the public and institutions that volunteered to help.

2.0 Participants (Groups represented)

South African Reptile Conservation Assessment (SARCA)	
Marius Burger	James Harrison
Francis Harrison	
Cape Nature (CN)	
Yzelle Symington	Johanita Alberts
Siyabulele J. Mendlake	Michael Mbana
Eric Pietersen	
Cape Reptile Institute (CRI)	
Marcel Witberg	Ryno Bezuidenhout
South African National Parks (Honoree Ranger) - (SANParks)	
Ruedi Siegenthaler	Julien Erwin
Honoree Nature Conservation Officer (HNCO)	
Marcel Witberg	Rudie Van Zyl
Morne' Havenga	Erika Dau
Philip Brockman	Lynn Parker
Cape Reptile Club (CRC)	
Marcel Witberg	Ryno Bezuidenhout
Rudie Van Zyl	Morne' Havenga
Ruedi Siegenthaler	Lourance Klose
Nicky Klose	Khaleel Parker
Lynn Parker	
University of Cape Town (UCT)	
Hanlie Engelbrecht	Marius Burger
James Harrison	

3.0 Acronyms

CN	-	Cape Nature (www.capenature.org.za)
CRC	-	Cape Reptile Club (www.capereptileclub.co.za)
CRI	-	Cape Reptile Institute (www.crepinstitute.co.za)
HNCO	-	Honoree Nature Conservation Officer (www.hnco-cape.co.za)
SANBI	-	South African Biodiversity Institute (www.sanbi.org)
SANParks	-	South African National Parks (www.sanparks.org)
SARCA	-	South African Reptile Conservation Assessment (www.saherps.net)
VM	-	Virtual Museum (www.saherps.net)

4.0 Building the funnel traps (Rough SPEC)

Reptile Traps

Four buckets in Y- shape, 10m fence connecting the buckets, funnel trap on each side of fence on all three fences between buckets.

These traps don't only catch reptiles but also all types of insects and small mammals.

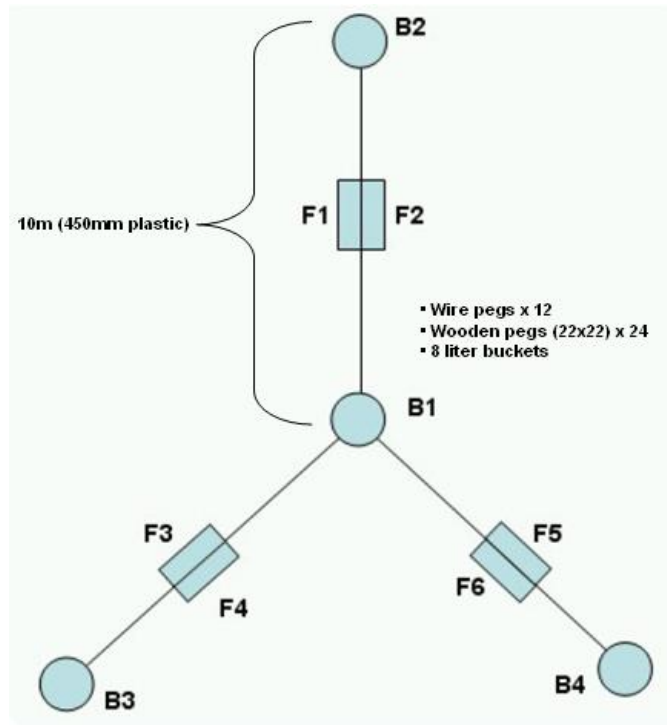


Diagram A: Trap Layout

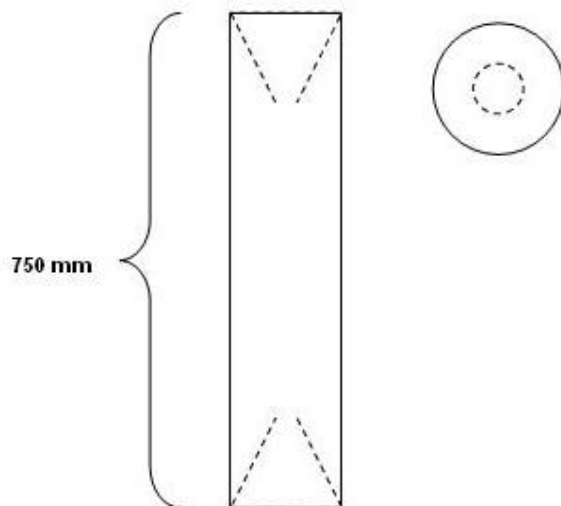
Legend: B = Bucket trap
F = Funnel trap

Funnel Traps

Funnels are 750mm long and round, with zip along the length of the top, and cones pointing into the funnel, through which reptiles get in.

Equipment required

- Silver mosquito gauze/screening (rol 30m long & 1.2m wide, makes about 60 funnels)
- Stapler & staples
- Scissors
- Measuring tape
- 750mm Zip

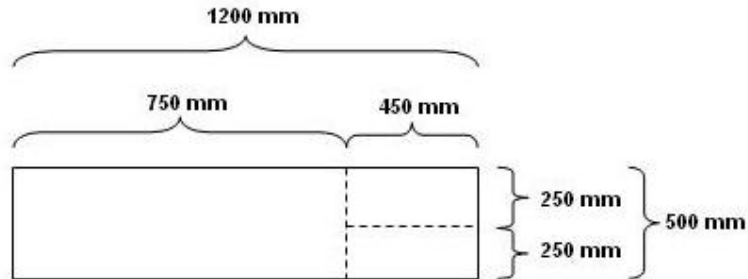


Method

Cut strips of 500mm wide and 1.2m long from gauze. Cut the gauze along a row, to cut as straight as possible.

Cut the 1.2m strip in a 750mm and 450mm piece.

All the cut pieces' edges must be folded over about 5mm, to prevent the gauze from threading.



Tube (Funnel)

The zip must be stapled to the 750mm piece, to make a long, round tube. The smooth side of the staple on the outside of the tube. There must be no gaps between staples for reptiles to get out.

Cones

Cut the 450mm piece in half (fold edges over, to prevent threading) ; fold a cone with each piece. The folded over edges must be on outside of cone, when cone is folded (for animal not to be in contact with rough edges). Cones must be wide enough to fit into each side of the tube.

Take loose staples from stapler and manually fasten cone with staples (smooth side of staple on inside of cone).

Connect cone to tube

Place cones in open ends of tube. Make sure tip of cone is in middle of tube inside (cone tip should not touch inside of tube, animal might escape). Staple cone to tube, with smooth side of staple on inside of cone. Leave no gaps between staples where animal could escape.

5.0 Building the funnel traps (The lesson)





6.0 The teams at work



6.1 Cutting the funnels and cones





6.2 Adding the zips to the funnels





6.3 Folding the edges (Funnel and cones)



6.4 Constructing the cones





6.5 Finalizing the funnel trap



6.6 The Cone Clan





6.7 Marius having fun with the Canon 350D



7.0 Closure Phase

A great big thanks goes to all who volunteered their time in assisting with the initiative. Without the volunteers this would not have been possible.

THANK YOU TO ALL

---oOo---

Thanks Nicky Klose (Cape Reptile Club) for the Banner for the Day (Much appreciated)



trap building for



Dear CRC / HNCO Members

You have been accordingly invited in assisting Marius Burger, the Project Herpetologist for the SARCA project in constructing funnel traps for the up and coming season of SARCA field trips.

Logistics
Date - 2007/08/05
Time - 08h30 – 17h00
Venue - DriftSands (See directions below)

RSVP by 2007/08/02

Directions to Driftsands
From the N1, take the R300 off-ramp, direction Mitchell's plain, and carries on until you get to the M54 Hindle Road off-ramp (last off-ramp before N2). Turn left on the bridge and right at the traffic lights at the Engen garage. Carry on with this road until you get to a security gate, drive through and turn right and first left again and continue to the end at the Driftsands Environmental Centre.

From the N2, take the R300 off-ramp, direction Kulls River and take the M54 Hindle Road off-ramp (first off-ramp). Turn right on the bridge and right at the traffic lights at the Engen garage. Carry on with this road until you get to a security gate, drive through and turn right and first left again and continue to the end at the Driftsands Environmental Centre

What to bring
Bring your own refreshments and/or lunches for the day.
Bring your own stapler and staples
Bring a friend (RSVP please)