6. Boland Mountains, the Bot River Estuary and Cape Whale Coast: Private land conservation contributions to ecosystem services.

The Boland Mountains run to the east of False Bay forming a majestic backdrop to the towns of Stellenbosch and Somerset West. This range runs almost vertically down to the ocean along the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, which is considered the most botanically diverse region within the Fynbos Biome. The Bot River Estuary supports high numbers of water birds and migratory shorebirds, whilst the bays along the Cape Whale Coast provide sanctuary for many seabirds and whales during their breeding season.

During the field trip through the Boland Mountains and along the coast we will visit a Wine and Fruit farm which has entered into a Biodiversity Stewardship agreement with CapeNature. These innovative approaches allow for an expansion of the protected area estate, in partnership with private landowners, to support the long-term conservation of biodiversity. We will discuss various ecosystem services supported by these areas and hear from the landowners themselves.

Lunch will be taken at the Bot River Estuary Mouth, with further discussions regarding the issues at play in conserving this complex socio-political landscape, as well as the approaches to long-term conservation currently underway at this site, and the variety of ecosystem services provided by estuaries.

After lunch, we will stop in at the Stony Point Penguin Colony and meet some of these cute, yet highly endangered birds, before a brief discussion regarding the Marine Protected Area and aspects relating to the ecosystem services provided by this site.

On the way back to Stellenbosch, we will drive along the magnificent Clarens Drive, with the Kogelberg Mountains dropping right into the ocean, it is considered one of the most beautiful coastal drives in the world, providing beautiful sunset views across False Bay.

Max. amount participants: 40
Timetable (provisional): 08:30-18:00

Detailed (provisional) program:
08:30         Depart from Spier for Paul Cluver Wines and De Rust Nature Reserve
09:30 – 10:30 Arrive at Paul Cluver Farms; head out into the field for a discussion regarding the approach to private land conservation as well as the variety of ecosystem services provided by these conservation areas.
10:45 - 12:00 Continue the visit at Paul Cluver with a potential cellar tour and wine tasting.
12:00         Depart for Rooisand Nature Reserve on the Bot River Estuary.
12:30 – 14:00 Have lunch at the Rooisand Reserve and discussions regarding the private land and other conservation initiatives underway, as well as the conservation and provision of ecosystem services at this site.
14:00         Depart Rooisand and view the Lamloch swamps and small mouth of the Bot River Estuary – before continuing to the town of Bettys Bay.
14:30 – 16:00 Visit the Stony Point Penguin Colony and Bettys Bay Marine Protected Area, hearing from the managers of this site regarding
the conservation and ecosystem service provision from a marine perspective.

16:00 – 17:30 Depart for Stellenbosch, travelling along the beautiful Clarens Drive, with stops along route to discuss various conservation actions underway and make time for some photography.

This field trip will be led by staff from CapeNature Conservation and BirdLife South Africa, with discussions with various stakeholders along the route.