

## UNDERSTANDING WASTE MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOUR IN PRIVATE NATURE RESERVES THROUGH THE THEORY OF PLANNED BEHAVIOUR

Claudine Roos<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Francois Retief<sup>2</sup>, Reece Alberts<sup>2</sup>, Dirk Cilliers<sup>1,2</sup>, William Hodgson<sup>3</sup> and Iain Olivier<sup>3</sup>

\* Corresponding author: Claudine.roos@nwu.ac.za

<sup>1</sup>School for Geo- and Spatial Sciences. North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa

<sup>2</sup>Research Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management, North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa

<sup>3</sup>Sabi Sand Wildtuin, Sabi Sand Pfunanani Trust, Skukuza, South Africa

### ABSTRACT

Responsible waste management in protected areas is essential to ensure that these areas remain protected and that negative impacts on visitor experience are reduced. Behaviour plays an important role in establishing and implementing responsible waste management measures. This paper aims to provide insights about the Theory of Planned Behaviour and its application towards understanding waste management behaviour in private nature reserves. The Sabi Sand Wildtuin, a private nature reserve located in the Greater Kruger National Park in South Africa, was selected to explore the research aim. Surveys were used to gather data from the management authority, and the owners or managers of the commercial- and non-commercial properties in the reserve. The responses from forty participants indicated that all three stakeholder groups generally had positive attitudes towards waste management and supported the development of an integrated waste management strategy. The participants also generally expressed their intention to implement responsible waste management practices. The Pearson Chi-Square test highlighted some statistically significant associations between: intrinsic motivation and intent/willingness to participate in certain waste-related interventions; attitude (mostly related to perceiving waste management as a benefit) and support; as well as support and intent.

Key words: attitudes, intent, willingness, support, protected areas, South Africa

## **INTRODUCTION**

Protected areas are increasingly expected to generate tourism revenue and deliver resultant community benefits, placing increased development pressure on already threatened and sensitive environments (Sandbrook et al., 2019). One specific concern with increased development within protected areas is effective waste management (Steg & Vlek, 2009; Sandham et al., 2020). The negative impacts of waste on protected areas are well-known (Przydatek, 2019), affecting conservation efforts, adjacent communities, and visitor experience (Morrison-Saunders et al., 2015; Mateer, 2020). The research by Morrison-Saunders et (2015), which focused on understanding expectations for responsible tourism in protected areas, indicated that visitor expectations for waste management included:

• "Effective waste management";

- Consideration of the "waste management hierarchy" and the "circular economy"; and
- Improving "awareness" of visitors around waste management issues and waste management practices.

The need to supplement the income of state-owned (public) conservation areas has been globally recognised, due to a decline in public funding aimed at conservation initiatives, as well as the lack of human resource capacity of public entities to effectively manage existing conservation estates (Kamal et al., 2015). Privately protected areas, such as private nature reserves (PNRs), are considered a key component of protected area strategies (Mitchell et al., 2018; Przydatek, 2019). When compared to protected areas in general, the defining characteristic of PNRs is the reliance on private governance.

In the waste management context, the management frameworks and measures of PNRs may differ from those of state-owned nature reserves. For state-owned protected areas, the management of waste and funding of waste management measures would be the responsibility of government. For PNRs on the other hand, multiple stakeholders may be involved in waste management. The management authority, for instance, may set goals and develop guidelines/best practices and procedures for the management of waste, whereas owners and managers of private land would be responsible for the implementation of these measures (practically and/or financially).

Within the context of waste management in PNRs, responsible waste management practices may, thus, require considerable effort and resources, along with continual commitment and often, changes in behaviour (Gilli et al., 2018). It is, therefore, important to understand the underlying factors influencing behaviour (Ghani et al., 2013; Gilli et al., 2018). In this regard the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) provides an appropriate theoretical framework to better understand waste management behaviour.

The TPB, a psychological theory which was derived from the Theory of Reasoned Action in 1980, aims to predict a person's intention to engage in a specific behaviour (Gilli et al., 2018). The TPB suggests that intentions predict behaviour, and that intentions are a function of subjective norms, attitudes and perceived behavioural control (Nixon & Saphores, 2007). Research findings on waste management behaviour have challenged the traditional thinking around the TPB framework, suggesting the addition of some factors. Cecere et al. (2014) and Gilli et al. (2018) argue that attitude is strongly influenced by intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, while Ghani et al. (2013) and Razali (2020) included situational variables as a factor influencing waste-related behaviour. Chen et al. (2020) have found that support for policies or interventions is a key aspect that can have a positive effect on behavioural intention.

In the light of these findings, this study applies an amended TPB framework (Figure 1) focusing on intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, attitude, subjective norms (reciprocity), intention and support.

Although responsible waste management behaviour in protected areas is imperative from an environmental and social perspective, limited published research is available on waste-related behaviour in protected areas. This paper aims to provide insights about the TPB and its application towards understanding waste management behaviour in PNRs.

## **METHODS**

Given the lack of research on waste management in protected areas in general, and more specifically in PNRs, a South African PNR, the Sabi Sand Wildtuin<sup>i</sup> (SSW) was selected as a case study to explore the research question.



Figure 1. Adapted TPB framework informing this research (adapted from Ghani et al., 2013; Cecere et al., 2014; Gilli et al., 2018; Chen et al., 2020; and Razali, 2020). Variables included in this research are shaded in grey.

#### Case study design

To apply the TPB towards understanding waste-related behaviour, the case study area would preferably need to meet the following criteria:

- Have existing waste management measures, procedures or practices in place (Chen et al., 2020);
- Provide for pluralistic or divergent views from different stakeholders (Vijayabanu & Amarnath, 2013) in respect of waste-related behaviour; and
- Have an adequate number of individuals willing to participate in the research (Strydom, 2018).

The SSW, located in the Greater Kruger National Park, South Africa (Figure 2) was considered a suitable case study to provide insights about the TPB and its application towards understanding waste management behaviour in PNRs, because:

• The SSW is well-established (since 1948) and has a single management authority in the form of an association that is more than 50 years old and which employs around 300 people;



Figure 2. Sabi Sand Wildtuin (SSW) – the PNR selected as a case study for the research

- A number of stakeholders are involved in the management (of waste) at the SSW, which provides the ideal context to explore waste-related behaviour;
- The SSW is relatively large (consisting of 49,481 hectares of land). The reserve mainly caters for the higher income and international ecotourism markets, and provides for different tourism products, with a range of activities, services, facilities and infrastructure with resultant waste management challenges; and
- Waste management has been identified as a particular priority by SSW. The management of the reserve is in the process of developing an integrated waste management strategy (IWMS). The SSW is the only PNR in South Africa to have initiated the development of an IWMS.

### Survey

Three categories of stakeholders were selected for inclusion in the research, namely: the SSW management authority; owners or managers of commercial properties (lodges); and owners of non-commercial properties. Although visitors' behaviour plays an important part in responsible tourism and related waste management, visitors were not included in the scope of this research<sup>ii</sup> and is an interesting area for future research.

Surveys, in the form of structured questionnaires (see Supplementary Online Material Table 1), were used to gather data regarding their responses related to:

- Attitudes and subjective norms towards waste management (A1 to A7);
- Support towards the development and implementation of a coordinated waste management strategy (S1); and
- Intention (or level of willingness) to implement certain (future) waste management practices (I1 to I9).

No pre-designed statements or questions exist to explore waste-related behaviour in PNRs, or any other protected areas. The works of Ghani et al. (2013), Gilli et al. (2018) and Razali et al. (2020) mainly focus on household behaviour towards waste management, and were adapted for the purposes of this research.

Ordinal scales were used to measure the level of agreement, support and intention of respondents relating to these statements. Statements related to intention/willingness were not posed to the management authority, since they have already communicated their commitment and intention as part of their waste management strategy development process. Reasons for agreement or disagreement with the statements posed were not investigated and form part of future follow-up research.

The survey was administered electronically to 65 potential participants during a response window of 30 days (February to March 2020). Responses were received from a total of 40 participants (62% response rate) that included:

- Eleven (11) members of the Executive Committee of the management authority (100% response rate);
- Representatives from fifteen (15) of the commercial properties (63% response rate from a total of 24 commercial properties); and
- Representatives from fourteen (14) non-commercial properties (47% response rate from a total of 30 non -commercial properties).

The IBM SPSS software package was used to analyse the data (IBM, 2021). The frequency of responses (expressed as percentage per ordinal scale ranking) related to the attitude- (A), support- (S) and intent- (I) statements were calculated per stakeholder category (Supplementary online material – Table 2). The mean ordinal scale ranking was also calculated for each of the statements per stakeholder category. Cross-tabulation (also referred to as contingency tables) was used to determine whether any associations exist between the different TPB factors (i.e. whether associations exist between attitude (A) and support (S); attitude (A) and intent (I); or support (S) and intent (I)). Ordinal scale ratings related to A1, A2, A3, A5, A6iii, S1 and I1 to I9 were included in the cross-tabulations. Pearson's Chi-Square test (X2), with 2-sided p-values, was used to determine whether associations between TPB factors (individual statements) were statistically significant (if p<0.05). The Chi-Square test only assesses associations between categorical variables and cannot provide any inferences about causation (IBM, 2021).

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION** Attitude and subjective norms towards responsible waste management

Responses related to intrinsic motivation, subjective norms and extrinsic motivation are discussed below.

## *Intrinsic motivation/inner beliefs (Statements A1, A2 and A3)*

Intrinsic motivation may be based on factors such as care for other's well-being or altruism, moral norm, and ethical orientation (Gilli et al., 2013). Statements related to beliefs and intrinsic factors (Statements A1 to A3, for detailed wording see Supplementary Online Material Table 2) generally scored well for all three stakeholder categories. The majority of respondents from the management authority, commercial and non-commercial properties either strongly agreed or agreed that waste management is an essential part of environmental management (A1) and that waste management should form an integral part of the reserve's activities (A2).

The value or benefit of sound waste management practices as a benefit for all properties (A3) was accepted by the management authority and commercial properties, while the majority of respondents from noncommercial properties did not support this view. This may be due to the fact that respondents representing non-commercial properties regard sound waste management practices to be of greater value or benefit to commercial properties (than to themselves) due to indirect benefits accruing to commercial properties, such as marketing and reputation, which would not necessarily be applicable to non-commercial activities.

### Subjective norms (reciprocity) (Statement A4)

Reciprocity refers to attitudes towards waste management based on perceived social norms and reputational concerns. Statement A4 required the management authority and commercial properties to reflect on their level of agreement with the statement: "Sound waste management practices are expected by our guests". Existing literature shows that sound waste management is one of the main expectations of visitors to protected areas (Morrison-Saunders et al., 2019; Mateer, 2020).

All of the respondents from the management authority and 80 per cent of the commercial property (lodges) respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that sound waste management practices are expected by the reserve's guests (A4), highlighting the important role that reciprocity may play in waste-related attitudes. It is significant to note that although the majority of respondents agreed that sound waste management practices are expected by their guests (A4), most of these respondents did not believe that waste management considerations should outweigh the convenience and ecotourism experience of their guests (A7).

#### Extrinsic motivation (Statements A5, A6 and A7)

Extrinsic factors influencing attitudes towards waste management may include factors such as incentives or disincentives, cost, effort, as well as recognition and reward from external sources. For this research, extrinsic considerations focused on the contribution of sound waste management towards the image and brand of the PNR (A5), as well as negative aspects such as cost and effort (A6), and perceived inconvenience caused to guests (A7). Respondents from the management authority and commercial properties mostly strongly agreed that sound waste management could improve the image of the SSW and marketing of the SSW brand (A5). Respondents from non-commercial properties had diverging opinions, with 38 per cent of respondents feeling neutral or disagreeing with the statement. This may be due to the largely non-commercial nature of their activities, where marketing and the image of the

PNR may be less important.

Cost and effort related to the implementation of waste management measures are frequently mentioned as a factor negatively influencing attitudes and participation in waste management practices (Moh & Manaf, 2017). Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with statement A6: "The cost and effort associated with sound waste management do not outweigh the benefit". In this instance, it was the respondents from the non-commercial properties who tended to be more in agreement with this statement, than the more neutral management authority and commercial property respondents. This response may be due to the higher costs and more effort required for waste management for the management authority and commercial properties when compared to the smaller, less complex nature of non-commercial properties and their required waste-related practices.

Lastly, respondents from the management authority and commercial properties were asked to consider whether sound waste management considerations are more important than convenience and the ecotourism experience of their guests (A7). Approximately 55 per cent of the respondents from the management authority and 80 per cent of respondents from commercial properties either strongly disagreed or disagreed with this statement, indicating that the convenience and positive ecotourism experiences of their guests play an important role in waste management considerations. SSW is a world-renowned reserve, which caters for the international market. It is not surprising that positive ecotourism experiences of guests play an important role in their waste management considerations.

## Support towards the development of an integrated waste management strategy (IWMS) (Statement S1)

Following Chen et al. (2020), support for policies or interventions is a key aspect that can have a positive effect on behavioural intention. All of the respondents from the management authority and the majority of respondents from commercial properties (87 per cent) indicated that they fully support the development of an IWMS. Responses from the non-commercial property participants also indicated that the majority of participants (76 per cent) fully or partially supported the development of the IWMS. Two respondents (14 per cent) were neutral, and one respondent (7 per cent) indicated that he/she did not support the development of an IWMS. It was found that some of the respondents from non-commercial properties regarded waste management as having limited benefits for them (related to their responses to A3 above), which could explain the reason for the lower level of support from this stakeholder category.

## Intention towards implementing waste management practices (Statements I1 to I9)

The majority of commercial and non-commercial property participants reported a relatively strong intention (willingness) to implement the suggested waste management practices (I1 to I9). Statements related to intention/willingness were not posed to the management authority.

Statements I1, I4, I7, I8 and I9 scored relatively highly, with between 47 and 87 per cent of commercial properties indicating that they are willing to implement these measures. Commercial property respondents reacted less enthusiastically to statements I2, I5 and I6, where they indicated willingness "under certain circumstances". Statements 15 and 16, requiring some kind of intervention to or restriction of guests' wasterelated activities, may be linked to statement A7, where none of the commercial property respondents agreed with the statement, implying that sound waste management considerations are less important than convenience and ecotourism experience of their guests. This highlights the importance of finding solutions for waste-related issues that are deemed to be acceptable and relatively convenient to guests, or that require limited guest intervention.



Sabi Sand Wildtuin Reserve © Sabi Sand Wildtuin Pfunanani Trust

When comparing mean scores for intent/willingness statements, participants from commercial properties generally reported higher levels of willingness to engage certain waste management practices than in participants from non-commercial properties. The exceptions were statements I5 ("require visitors or occupants to participate in waste separation at source") and I6 ("restrict the disposal of certain waste streams at the PNR"). The more "willing" nature of the noncommercial property respondents (with reference to I5 and I6), may be related to the non-commercial nature of their activities, where the practices suggested in I5 and I6 will not require commercial guest interventions. Owners of non-commercial properties largely use their properties for private purposes. Controlling or influencing the practices of these non-commercial property occupants may be perceived as requiring less effort and impacting less negatively on ecotourism experience, when compared to the more complex guest relationships and interventions required from commercial properties.

The majority of participants from non-commercial properties indicated that they were willing to implement measures related to statements I1, I5, I6 and I7, and were neutral towards statements I3 and I8. They

were, however, largely unwilling to: "Allocate human resources towards waste management" (I2) and to "Replace non-recyclable materials, with recyclable materials" (I4).

# Associations between attitude and subjective norms, support and intention

Cross-tabulation (also referred to as contingency tables) was used to determine whether any associations exist between the different TPB factors (i.e, whether associations exist between attitude (A) and support (S); attitude (A) and intent (I); or support (S) and intent (I)). Responses to A1, A2, A3, A5, A6, S1 and I1 to I9 were included in the cross-tabulations. Pearson's Chi-Square test (X2), with 2-sided p-values, was used to determine whether associations between TPB factors (individual statements) were statistically significant (if p<0.05).

The TPB framework suggests that relationships or associations exist between the different factors (or constructs) influencing behaviour (Ghani et al., 2013; Cecere et al., 2014; Gilli et al., 2018; Chen et al., 2020; Razali, 2020). Table 1 indicates that the associations between the different TPB statements included in this research were generally not statistically significant.

(Pearson's Chi         A1         A2         A3         A5         A6         S1           Square)         x2         0.960         5.886         18.733         45.217         11.759           S1         p         0.987         0.751         0.028         0.000         0.465           11         p         0.987         0.751         0.028         0.000         0.465           12         p         0.000         0.000         0.455         0.085         0.721         0.297           x2         5.053         12.244         17.728         14.048         11.683         10.930           12         p         0.537         0.200         0.038         0.298         0.471         0.281           x2         8.117         11.406         15.393         9.888         22.871         17.560           p         0.230         0.249         0.081         0.626         0.029         0.041           x2         3.435         7.934         8.621         6.632         9.794         18.874           p         0.753         0.541         0.473         0.881         0.634         0.026           x2         12.287	Association							
Square)         X <sup>2</sup> 0.960         5.886         18.733         45.217         11.759           p         0.987         0.751         0.028         0.000         0.465           l1         p         0.000         0.000         0.465         0.028         0.000         0.465           l1         p         0.000         0.000         0.455         0.085         0.721         0.297           l2         p         0.537         0.200         0.038         0.298         0.471         0.281           l3         p         0.537         0.200         0.038         0.298         0.471         0.281           l4         p         0.537         0.200         0.038         0.298         0.471         0.281           l3         p         0.230         0.249         0.081         0.626         0.029         0.041           l4         p         0.753         0.541         0.473         0.881         0.634         0.026           l5         p         0.056         0.276         0.592         0.640         0.129         0.205           l6         p         0.567         0.787         0.751         0.840	(Pearson's Chi		A1	A2	A3	A5	A6	S1
X2         0.960         5.886         18.733         45.217         11.759           p         0.987         0.751         0.028         0.000         0.465           X2         29.703         32.518         8.815         19.136         8.783         10.705           p         0.000         0.000         0.455         0.085         0.721         0.297           X2         5.053         12.244         17.728         14.048         11.683         10.930           p         0.537         0.200         0.038         0.298         0.471         0.281           X2         8.117         11.406         15.393         9.888         22.871         17.560           p         0.230         0.249         0.081         0.626         0.029         0.041           X2         3.435         7.934         8.621         6.632         9.794         18.874           p         0.753         0.541         0.473         0.881         0.634         0.026           X2         12.287         10.999         7.431         9.729         17.575         12.143           p         0.056         0.276         0.592         0.640	Square	)						
p         0.987         0.751         0.028         0.000         0.465           x2         29.703         32.518         8.815         19.136         8.783         10.705           p         0.000         0.000         0.455         0.085         0.721         0.297           x2         5.053         12.244         17.728         14.048         11.683         10.930           p         0.537         0.200         0.038         0.298         0.471         0.281           x2         8.117         11.406         15.393         9.888         22.871         17.560           p         0.230         0.249         0.081         0.626         0.029         0.041           x2         3.435         7.934         8.621         6.632         9.794         18.874           p         0.753         0.541         0.473         0.881         0.634         0.026           x2         12.287         10.999         7.431         9.729         17.575         12.143           p         0.056         0.276         0.592         0.640         0.129         0.205           x2         15.423         17.745         12.295	S1	χ2	0.960	5.886	18.733	45.217	11.759	
x2         29.703         32.518         8.815         19.136         8.783         10.705           p         0.000         0.000         0.455         0.085         0.721         0.297           x2         5.053         12.244         17.728         14.048         11.683         10.930           p         0.537         0.200         0.038         0.298         0.471         0.281           x2         8.117         11.406         15.393         9.888         22.871         17.560           p         0.230         0.249         0.081         0.626         0.029         0.041           x2         3.435         7.934         8.621         6.632         9.794         18.874           p         0.753         0.541         0.473         0.881         0.634         0.026           x2         12.287         10.999         7.431         9.729         17.575         12.143           p         0.056         0.276         0.592         0.640         0.129         0.205           x2         4.817         5.522         5.890         7.266         8.770         7.676           p         0.017         0.038 <t< th=""><th>р</th><th>0.987</th><th>0.751</th><th>0.028</th><th>0.000</th><th>0.465</th><th></th></t<>		р	0.987	0.751	0.028	0.000	0.465	
p         0.000         0.000         0.455         0.085         0.721         0.297 $\chi^2$ 5.053         12.244         17.728         14.048         11.683         10.930           p         0.537         0.200         0.038         0.298         0.471         0.281 $\chi^2$ 8.117         11.406         15.393         9.888         22.871         17.560           p         0.230         0.249         0.081         0.626         0.029         0.041 $\chi^2$ 3.435         7.934         8.621         6.632         9.794         18.874           p         0.753         0.541         0.473         0.881         0.634         0.026 $\chi^2$ 12.287         10.999         7.431         9.729         17.575         12.143           p         0.056         0.276         0.592         0.640         0.129         0.205 $\chi^2$ 4.817         5.522         5.890         7.266         8.770         7.676           p         0.017         0.038         0.197         0.019         0.409         0.009 $\chi^2$ 15.423         17.745	11	χ2	29.703	32.518	8.815	19.136	8.783	10.705
x2         5.053         12.244         17.728         14.048         11.683         10.930           p         0.537         0.200         0.038         0.298         0.471         0.281           x2         8.117         11.406         15.393         9.888         22.871         17.560           p         0.230         0.249         0.081         0.626         0.029         0.041           x2         3.435         7.934         8.621         6.632         9.794         18.874           p         0.753         0.541         0.473         0.881         0.634         0.026           x2         12.287         10.999         7.431         9.729         17.575         12.143           p         0.056         0.276         0.592         0.640         0.129         0.205           x2         4.817         5.522         5.890         7.266         8.770         7.676           p         0.0567         0.787         0.751         0.840         0.722         0.567           x2         15.423         17.745         12.295         24.296         12.468         22.111           p         0.017         0.038		р	0.000	0.000	0.455	0.085	0.721	0.297
12         p         0.537         0.200         0.038         0.298         0.471         0.281           X2         8.117         11.406         15.393         9.888         22.871         17.560           p         0.230         0.249         0.081         0.626         0.029         0.041           X2         3.435         7.934         8.621         6.632         9.794         18.874           p         0.753         0.541         0.473         0.881         0.634         0.026           X2         12.287         10.999         7.431         9.729         17.575         12.143           p         0.056         0.276         0.592         0.640         0.129         0.205           X2         4.817         5.522         5.890         7.266         8.770         7.676           p         0.567         0.787         0.751         0.840         0.722         0.567           X2         15.423         17.745         12.295         24.296         12.468         22.111           p         0.017         0.038         0.197         0.019         0.409         0.009           X2         12.625         16.	12	χ2	5.053	12.244	17.728	14.048	11.683	10.930
x2       8.117       11.406       15.393       9.888       22.871       17.560         p       0.230       0.249       0.081       0.626       0.029       0.041         x2       3.435       7.934       8.621       6.632       9.794       18.874         p       0.753       0.541       0.473       0.881       0.634       0.026         x2       12.287       10.999       7.431       9.729       17.575       12.143         p       0.056       0.276       0.592       0.640       0.129       0.205         x2       4.817       5.522       5.890       7.266       8.770       7.676         p       0.567       0.787       0.751       0.840       0.722       0.567         x2       15.423       17.745       12.295       24.296       12.468       22.111         p       0.017       0.038       0.197       0.019       0.409       0.009         x2       12.625       16.594       15.275       8.882       25.458       5.430         B       0.049       0.050       0.084       0.713       0.013       0.795         y2       11.643       18.926		р	0.537	0.200	0.038	0.298	0.471	0.281
j         0.230         0.249         0.081         0.626         0.029         0.041           x2         3.435         7.934         8.621         6.632         9.794         18.874           p         0.753         0.541         0.473         0.881         0.634         0.026           x2         12.287         10.999         7.431         9.729         17.575         12.143           p         0.056         0.276         0.592         0.640         0.129         0.205           x2         4.817         5.522         5.890         7.266         8.770         7.676           p         0.567         0.787         0.751         0.840         0.722         0.567           x2         15.423         17.745         12.295         24.296         12.468         22.111           p         0.017         0.038         0.197         0.019         0.409         0.009           x2         12.625         16.594         15.275         8.882         25.458         5.430           p         0.049         0.050         0.084         0.713         0.013         0.795           x2         11.643         18.926 <th< th=""><th rowspan="2">13</th><th>χ2</th><th>8.117</th><th>11.406</th><th>15.393</th><th>9.888</th><th>22.871</th><th>17.560</th></th<>	13	χ2	8.117	11.406	15.393	9.888	22.871	17.560
x2         3.435         7.934         8.621         6.632         9.794         18.874           p         0.753         0.541         0.473         0.881         0.634         0.026           x2         12.287         10.999         7.431         9.729         17.575         12.143           p         0.056         0.276         0.592         0.640         0.129         0.205           g         0.0567         0.787         0.751         0.840         0.722         0.567           f         p         0.567         0.787         0.751         0.840         0.722         0.567           g         0.017         0.038         0.197         0.019         0.409         0.009           x2         12.625         16.594         15.275         8.882         25.458         5.430           g         0.049         0.050         0.084         0.713         0.013         0.795           k2         11.643         18.926         19.201         14.078         18.150         5.566           p         0.070         0.026         0.024         0.296         0.111         0.782		р	0.230	0.249	0.081	0.626	0.029	0.041
I4         p         0.753         0.541         0.473         0.881         0.634         0.026           x2         12.287         10.999         7.431         9.729         17.575         12.143           p         0.056         0.276         0.592         0.640         0.129         0.205           x2         4.817         5.522         5.890         7.266         8.770         7.676           p         0.567         0.787         0.751         0.840         0.722         0.567           x2         15.423         17.745         12.295         24.296         12.468         22.111           p         0.017         0.038         0.197         0.019         0.409         0.009           x2         12.625         16.594         15.275         8.882         25.458         5.430           B         p         0.049         0.050         0.084         0.713         0.013         0.795           x2         11.643         18.926         19.201         14.078         18.150         5.566           p         0.070         0.026         0.024         0.296         0.111         0.782	14	χ2	3.435	7.934	8.621	6.632	9.794	18.874
x2         12.287         10.999         7.431         9.729         17.575         12.143           p         0.056         0.276         0.592         0.640         0.129         0.205           x2         4.817         5.522         5.890         7.266         8.770         7.676           p         0.567         0.787         0.751         0.840         0.722         0.567           x2         15.423         17.745         12.295         24.296         12.468         22.111           p         0.017         0.038         0.197         0.019         0.409         0.009           x2         12.625         16.594         15.275         8.882         25.458         5.430           p         0.049         0.050         0.084         0.713         0.013         0.795           x2         11.643         18.926         19.201         14.078         18.150         5.566           p         0.070         0.026         0.024         0.296         0.111         0.782		р	0.753	0.541	0.473	0.881	0.634	0.026
js         p         0.056         0.276         0.592         0.640         0.129         0.205           k2         4.817         5.522         5.890         7.266         8.770         7.676           p         0.567         0.787         0.751         0.840         0.722         0.567           k2         15.423         17.745         12.295         24.296         12.468         22.111           p         0.017         0.038         0.197         0.019         0.409         0.009           k2         12.625         16.594         15.275         8.882         25.458         5.430           l8         p         0.049         0.050         0.084         0.713         0.013         0.795           k2         11.643         18.926         19.201         14.078         18.150         5.566           p         0.070         0.026         0.024         0.296         0.111         0.782	15	χ2	12.287	10.999	7.431	9.729	17.575	12.143
x2         4.817         5.522         5.890         7.266         8.770         7.676           p         0.567         0.787         0.751         0.840         0.722         0.567           x2         15.423         17.745         12.295         24.296         12.468         22.111           p         0.017         0.038         0.197         0.019         0.409         0.009           x2         12.625         16.594         15.275         8.882         25.458         5.430           l8         p         0.049         0.050         0.084         0.713         0.013         0.795           x2         11.643         18.926         19.201         14.078         18.150         5.566           p         0.070         0.026         0.024         0.296         0.111         0.782		р	0.056	0.276	0.592	0.640	0.129	0.205
b         p         0.567         0.787         0.751         0.840         0.722         0.567           x2         15.423         17.745         12.295         24.296         12.468         22.111           p         0.017         0.038         0.197         0.019         0.409         0.009           x2         12.625         16.594         15.275         8.882         25.458         5.430           p         0.049         0.050         0.084         0.713         0.013         0.795           y2         11.643         18.926         19.201         14.078         18.150         5.566           p         0.070         0.026         0.024         0.296         0.111         0.782	16	χ2	4.817	5.522	5.890	7.266	8.770	7.676
x2         15.423         17.745         12.295         24.296         12.468         22.111           p         0.017         0.038         0.197         0.019         0.409         0.009           x2         12.625         16.594         15.275         8.882         25.458         5.430           p         0.049         0.050         0.084         0.713         0.013         0.795           x2         11.643         18.926         19.201         14.078         18.150         5.566           p         0.070         0.026         0.024         0.296         0.111         0.782		р	0.567	0.787	0.751	0.840	0.722	0.567
p         0.017         0.038         0.197         0.019         0.409         0.009           x2         12.625         16.594         15.275         8.882         25.458         5.430           p         0.049         0.050         0.084         0.713         0.013         0.795           y2         11.643         18.926         19.201         14.078         18.150         5.566           p         0.070         0.026         0.024         0.296         0.111         0.782	17	χ2	15.423	17.745	12.295	24.296	12.468	22.111
x2         12.625         16.594         15.275         8.882         25.458         5.430           p         0.049         0.050         0.084         0.713         0.013         0.795           x2         11.643         18.926         19.201         14.078         18.150         5.566           p         0.070         0.026         0.024         0.296         0.111         0.782		р	0.017	0.038	0.197	0.019	0.409	0.009
$p$ 0.049         0.050         0.084         0.713         0.013         0.795 $\chi^2$ 11.643         18.926         19.201         14.078         18.150         5.566 $p$ 0.070         0.026         0.024         0.296         0.111         0.782	18	χ2	12.625	16.594	15.275	8.882	25.458	5.430
x2         11.643         18.926         19.201         14.078         18.150         5.566           p         0.070         0.026         0.024         0.296         0.111         0.782		р	0.049	0.050	0.084	0.713	0.013	0.795
<b>p</b> 0.070 0.026 0.024 0.296 0.111 0.782	19	χ2	11.643	18.926	19.201	14.078	18.150	5.566
		р	0.070	0.026	0.024	0.296	0.111	0.782

Table1:AssociationsbetweendifferentTPBfactorsindicatedby meansofPearson'sChi-Square(X²)and p-values

Statistically significant associations (which are highlighted in grey), however, exist between:

- A1 and A2 (intrinsic motivation statements), and I1, I7, I8 and I9. This indicated that respondents agreeing with the statements "Waste management is an essential part of sound and sustainable environmental management (A1)" and "Waste management should form an integral part of the reserve's activities (A2)" (i.e. having positive intrinsic motivation) were willing to participate in the interventions suggested in I1 (implement activities outlined in the reserve's IWMS), I7 waste-related (acquire infrastructure), 18 (participate in awareness and education) and I9 (support local community involvement in waste management).
- A3 (intrinsic motivation statement) and A5 (extrinsic motivation), and S1. These were the only attitude statements which showed an association with S1 (supporting the implementation of the IWMS). This means that respondents agreeing with the statements "Sound waste management is for the benefit of all (commercial and non-commercial)



Community-based recycling projects by the Sabi Sand Pfunanani Trust © Sabi Sand Wildtuin Pfunanani Trust

properties" (A3) and "Sound waste management can improve the image of the PNR and marketing of the PNR's brand" (A5) were more likely to support the development of an IWMS. Statements A3 and A5 relate to benefits and improving the image/brand of the reserve, as a result of sound waste management. The association between A3 and A5, and S1 may indicate that respondents who regard sound waste management as having some form of benefit, may be more inclined to support the development of the IWMS. The opposite may also be true – that respondents who do not regard sound waste management as having any benefits, would not support the development of the IWMS.

• S1 (support), and I3, I4 and I7. These associations indicated that respondents who were likely to support the development of the IWMS, would also be willing to "avoid the purchasing of non-recyclable materials" (I3), "replace non-recyclables with recyclable materials" (I4) and "acquire waste related infrastructure" (I7). All of these actions relate to the waste management hierarchy where waste should be avoided, minimised, re-used, recycled and recovered; and where disposal should be the last resort. The association between support and these intent/willingness statements may indicate the willingness of respondents (who are supportive of the IWMS development) to implement measures to achieve the waste management hierarchy.

The interrelated nature of the TPB factors discussed above emphasises the potential role that these variables may play to influence behaviour towards responsible waste management, as suggested by the TPB framework.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The paper aims to provide insights about the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) and its application towards understanding waste management behaviour in private nature reserves (PNRs) using Sabi Sand Wildtuin (SSW) as a case study. In particular, the research evaluated the attitudes, support and intention of different PNR stakeholder categories towards responsible waste management.

The majority of respondents from all three stakeholder categories reported positive attitudes towards waste management, supported the development of an IWMS, and were largely willing to participate in waste management practices. However, non-commercial properties indicated their reluctance towards allocating human resources and avoiding the purchasing of nonrecyclable materials, while commercial property respondents were sensitive towards inconveniencing their guests or influencing the visitors' ecotourism experience. These experiences and expectations in PNRs with a strong commercial/tourism component need to be balanced against the implications of waste management requirements. Both stakeholder categories strongly supported community involvement in wasterelated projects, as well as the acquisition of waste separation bins in pursuit of recycling. Differences in stakeholder category attitude/opinion, support and willingness need to be taken into consideration during the implementation of the IWMS, since divergent views may influence buy-in of the different stakeholders, as well as the actual implementation of and compliance to measures stipulated in the IWMS.

The Pearson's Chi-Square test highlighted some statistically significant associations between: intrinsic motivation and intent/willingness to participate in certain waste-related interventions; attitude (mostly related to perceiving waste management as a benefit) and support; as well as support and intent. This emphasises the potential role that these variables play to ultimately influence behaviour towards responsible waste management. The following is, therefore, recommended:

- Since intrinsic factors are more difficult to change, a focus on extrinsic factors are suggested to change attitudes, and ultimately behaviour. Examples may include interventions related to address the cost and effort of waste management, where inexpensive and convenient alternatives need to be considered.
- The role of external incentives and external recognition for sound waste management practices should be optimised. This may include improving brand image, marketing value and international recognition to appeal to eco-conscious tourists.
- Creating awareness amongst the stakeholder categories on the benefits of responsible waste management is an important aspect as it may increase support/buy-in, and change waste-related attitudes and behaviour. This may be achieved through stakeholder communication on legal compliance, local community benefits, financial benefits, as well as environmental benefits.
- The role of education and awareness in waste management behaviour should be taken into consideration. Research by Strydom (2018) on recycling behaviour in South Africa, suggests that the level of education and awareness, as well as the perceived success of existing programmes or practices, have a significant influence on behaviour. Including these aspects in future research may be useful.

In-depth interviews with the stakeholder categories to further understand the reasons behind these results could provide the basis for future research. Furthermore, research into visitors' behaviour in the context of responsible waste management in protected areas is also recommended to gain further insights.

By progressively improving our understanding of waste management behaviour in PNRs, better management and conservation of these protected areas could be achieved.

### **ENDNOTES**

<sup>1</sup>Sabi Sand Wildtuin is the official name of the private nature reserve. Wildtuin is an Afrikaans word that can be translated as "Game Reserve".

<sup>2</sup>Data on visitors' perceptions were not available at the time of the research because of travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Visitors' perceptions on waste management as it relates to the TPB is an area for future research.

<sup>3</sup>Statements A4 and A7 were omitted from the cross-tabulations, since these statements were not posed to all stakeholder groups.

## SUPPLEMENTARY ONLINE MATERIAL

Table 1. Survey statements related to attitude, support and intent towards responsible waste management

Table 2. Frequency of responses (expressed as percentage per ordinal scale ranking) and mean ordinal scores per statement for each of the three stakeholder categories

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The authors acknowledge the contributions of the Sabi Sand Wildtuin and Sabi Sand Pfunanani Trust towards this research. The participation of the various stakeholders, namely the SSW management authority, owners/managers of lodges and owners/managers of non-commercial properties are acknowledged and highly appreciated.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

**Claudine Roos** is a senior lecturer at the North-West University (NWU), South Africa. She holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences. She is the programme coordinator for the Masters programme in Environmental Management with specialisation in Waste Management. Her research focus is on environmental- and waste management governance, as well as understanding waste-related behaviour. ORCID: 0000-0002-6290-6129

**Francois Retief** is a professor in environmental management within the Research Unit for Environmental Science and Management at NWU. He

completed his PhD at the University of Manchester and previously served as Director of the School for Geo and Spatial Sciences at NWU, as well as co-editor of the journal Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal. He is currently developing a Master's programme with specialisation in conservation leadership at NWU. ORCID: 0000-0001-7164-9593

**Reece Alberts** is senior lecturer at NWU. He holds a PhD in Geography and Environmental Management and has a Master's degree in Environmental Law. Reece does research in environmental impact assessment, nature conservation, environmental law, environmental governance and environmental leadership. His latest publications are aimed at understanding the effectiveness of environmental policy instruments in protected areas. ORCID: 0000-0001-6840-4405

**Dirk Cilliers** is associate professor at NWU where he obtained his PhD in Geography and Environmental Management. Prof Cilliers is Subject Chair for Geography and Environmental Studies at NWU. His research interests focus on Geographical Information Systems, biogeography, biodiversity and environmental management. ORCID: 0000-0001-9777-0463

**William Hodgson** is the Sabi Sand Pfunanani Trust Projects Coordinator. Mr. Hodgson is responsible for coordinating the development of the integrated waste management strategy for Sabi Sand Wildtuin. ORCID: 0000-0002-3766-0315

**Iain Olivier** is the Sabi Sand Wildtuin Reserve Manager. His background is in Conservation Ecology. Iain has 15 years of experience working in protected areas in the field of conservation management with a strong focus on field rangers, monitoring, management of conservation programs, and research. ORCID: 0000-0002-5284-6249

#### REFERENCES

- Cecere, G., Mancinelli, S. and Mazzanti, M. (2014). 'Waste prevention and social preferences: the role of intrinsic and extrinsic motivations'. *Ecological Economics* 107: 163–176. DOI: 10.1016/j.ecolecon.2014.07.007
- Chen, F., Chen, H., Liu, S., Li, W., Li, Q. and Long, R. (2020). 'Formation and recurrence mechanism of residents' waste separation behaviour under the intervention of an information interaction'. *Resources, Conservation and Recycling* 162: 105027. DOI: 10.3390/ijerph16101859
- Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF). (2020). South African Protected Areas Database (SAPAD), Quarter 3, 2020. Available from: https:// egis.environment.gov.za
- Ghani, W.A.W.A.K., Rusli, I.F., Biak, D.R.A. and Idris, A. (2013). 'An application of the theory of planned behaviour to study the influencing factors of participation in source separation of

food waste'. *Waste Management* 33 (5): 1276–1281. DOI: 10.1016/j.wasman.2012.09.019

- Gilli, M., Nicolli, F. and Farinelli, P. (2018). 'Behavioural attitudes towards waste prevention and recycling'. *Ecological Economics* 154: 294–305. DOI: 10.1016/ j.ecolecon.2018.08.009
- IBM. (2021). IBM SPSS trails. https://www.ibm.com/za-en/ analytics/spss-trials. Date of access: October 2021.
- Mateer, T., Taff, B.D. and Miller, Z. (2020). Using visitor observations to predict proper waste disposal: A case study from three US national parks. DOI: 10.1016/ j.crsust.2020.01.001
- Mitchell, B.A., Stolton, S., Bezaury-Creel, J., Bingham, H.C., Cumming, T.L., Dudley, N., Fitzsimons, J.A., Malleret-King, D., Redford, K.H. and Solano, P. (2018). *Guidelines for privately protected areas. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No.* 29. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. https:// mpg.eurosite.org/wp-content/uploads/IUCN-Guidance-on-Management-of-Privately-Owned-PAs.pdf
- Moh, Y.C. and Manaf, L.A. (2017). 'Solid waste management transformation and future challenges of source separation and recycling practice in Malaysia'. *Resources, Conservation and Recycling* 116: 1–14. DOI: 10.1016/j.resconrec.2016.09.012
- Morrison-Saunders, A., Hughes, M., Pope, J., Douglas, A. and Wessels, J. (2019). 'Understanding visitor expectations for responsible tourism in an iconic national park: differences between local and international visitors'. *Journal of Ecotourism* 18 (3): 284–294. DOI: 10.1080/14724049.2019.1567740
- Nguyen, T.T.P., Zhu, D. and Le, N.P. (2015). 'Factors influencing waste separation intention of residential households in a developing country: evidence from Hanoi, Vietnam'. *Habitat International* 48: 169–176. DOI: 10.1016/ j.habitatint.2015.03.013
- Nixon, H. and Saphores, J.M. (2007). 'Financing electronic waste recycling – Californian households' willingness to pay advanced recycling fees'. *Journal of Environmental Management* 84(4): 547–559. DOI: 10.1016/ j.jenvman.2006.07.003.
- Przydatek, G. (2019). 'Waste Management in Selected National Parks – A Review'. *Journal of Ecological Engineering* 20 (4): 14–22. DOI: 10.12911/22998993/102609
- Razali, F., Daud, D., Weng-Wai, C. and Jiram, W.R.A. (2020). 'Waste separation at source behaviour among Malaysian households: The Theory of Planned Behaviour with moral norm'. *Journal of Cleaner Production* 271: 122025. DOI: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2020.122025
- Sandbrook, C., Fisher, J.A., Holmes, G., Luque-Lora, R. and Keane, A. (2019). 'The global conservation movement is diverse but not divided'. *Nature Sustainability* 2: 316–323. DOI: 10.1038/s41893-019-0267-5
- Sandham, L.A., Huysamen, C., Retief, F.P., Morrison-Saunders, A., Bond, A.J., Pope, J. and Alberts, R.C. (2020). 'Evaluating Environmental Impact Assessment report quality in South African national parks'. *Koedoe: African Protected Area Conservation and Science* 62(1): a1631. DOI: 10.4102/ koedoe.v62i1.1631
- Steg, L. and Vlek, C. (2009). 'Encouraging pro-environmental behaviour: An integrative review and research agenda'. *Journal of Environmental Psychology* 29: 309–317. DOI: 10.1016/j.jenvp.2008.10.004

- Strydom, W.F. (2018). 'Applying the Theory of Planned Behavior to Recycling Behavior in South Africa'. *Recycling* 43(3): 1–20. DOI: 10.3390/recycling3030043
- Tonglet, M., Phillips, P.S. and Read, A.D. (2004). 'Using the Theory of Planned Behaviour to investigate the determinants of recycling behaviour: a case study from Brixworth, UK.'

*Resources, Conservation & Recycling* 41 (3): 191–214. DOI: 10.1016/j.resconrec.2003.11.001

Vijayabanu, U. and Amarnath, N.S. (2013). 'A study on environmental attitude and ecological behaviour.' *Indian Journal of Health & Wellbeing* 4(4): 868–871.

#### RESUMEN

La gestión responsable de los residuos en las áreas protegidas es fundamental para garantizar que estas áreas permanezcan protegidas y que se reduzcan los impactos negativos en la experiencia de los visitantes. El comportamiento desempeña un papel importante a la hora de establecer y aplicar medidas para la gestión responsable de los residuos. El objetivo de este artículo es proporcionar información sobre la Teoría del comportamiento planificado y su aplicación para comprender el comportamiento de la gestión de residuos en las reservas naturales privadas. Para explorar el objetivo de la investigación se seleccionó la reserva natural privada Sabi Sand Wildtuin, situada en el Gran Parque Nacional Kruger de Sudáfrica. Se utilizaron encuestas para recopilar información del órgano de gestión y de los propietarios o administradores de las propiedades comerciales y no comerciales en la reserva. Las respuestas de cuarenta participantes indicaron que los tres grupos de interesados tenían, en términos generales, actitudes positivas hacia la gestión de residuos y apoyaban el desarrollo de una estrategia para la gestión integrada de los residuos. Los participantes también expresaron su intención de implementar prácticas responsables de gestión de residuos. La correlación de Pearson de chi cuadrado puso de manifiesto algunas asociaciones estadísticamente significativas entre la motivación intrínseca y la intención/ voluntad de participar en determinadas intervenciones relacionadas con los residuos; la actitud (mayormente relacionada con la percepción de la gestión de residuos como un beneficio) y el apoyo; así como la intencionalidad y el apoyo.

## RÉSUMÉ

Une gestion responsable des déchets dans les aires protégées est essentielle pour assurer la protection de ces zones et réduire les impacts négatifs sur l'expérience des visiteurs. Le comportement humain joue un rôle important dans l'établissement et la mise en œuvre des mesures de gestion responsable des déchets. Cet article vise à fournir des informations concernant la Théorie du Comportement Planifié et comment son application peut contribuer à mieux comprendre le comportement humain face aux défis de gestion des déchets dans les réserves naturelles privées. Le Sabi Sand Wildtuin, une réserve naturelle privée située dans le parc national du Grand Kruger en Afrique du Sud, a été sélectionné pour servir de support à cette recherche. Des enquêtes ont permis de recueillir des données auprès de l'autorité de gestion ainsi que des propriétaires ou gestionnaires de propriétés commerciales et non commerciales de la réserve. Les réponses de quarante participants ont indiqué que ces trois groupes d'intervenants affichent en général des attitudes positives à l'égard de la gestion des déchets et soutiennent l'élaboration d'une stratégie intégrée de gestion des déchets. Le test du Chi Carré de Pearson a mis en évidence certaines associations statistiquement significatives : entre la motivation intrinsèque et l'intention/la volonté de participer à certaines interventions liées aux déchets; entre l'attitude (principalement liée à la perception de la gestion des déchets comme un avantage) et le soutien; et entre le soutien et l'intention.