

# NEW DIRECTIONS AT THE FITZ



CALLAN COHEN

The new director of the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology is Associate Professor Susie Cunningham (left). Susie has been part of the Fitz family since 2010 and joined the academic staff in 2015. During this time she has built an international reputation as a global change biologist, co-leading the Hot Birds Research Project, which studies the impacts of climate change on birds in Africa and around the world. She brings a decade's experience of the institute and African ornithology as well as a fresh perspective to the role.



DAVID LLOYD-JONES

Dr Sally Hofmeyr (right) has taken over the reins of the Fitz's Conservation Biology MSc course for 2023 and 2024, which Susie Cunningham had led since 2015. The course's more than 300 alumni make a tangible difference to many different areas of conservation – not just avian – across Africa and around the world.



LEANNE TOL

The Fitz team continues to lead the world in ecology, evolution and conservation research using birds. Professor Claire Spottiswoode (above) this year gained an A-rating from the National Research Foundation in recognition of her cutting-edge work on co-evolution as an engine for biodiversity, focusing on African cuckoos, Cuckoo Finches and honeyguides. Emeritus Professor Peter Ryan has retained his long-standing A-rating for his world-leading research on marine plastic pollution and seabird ecology. Gaining an A-rating is no mean feat; the National Research Foundation reserves it for researchers who are truly global leaders. Having two at the Fitz is a huge feather in the cap for African ornithology.



MAIRENN ATTWOOD

The Fitz family also retains a substantial presence on the continent and internationally. The Pan-African Ornithological Congress at Victoria Falls in November 2022 was a family reunion for Fitz-affiliated delegates from across Africa and further afield, showcasing the broad impact of the institute and its diverse and important international links.

For more information, contact  
The Director, FitzPatrick  
Institute of African Ornithology,  
University of Cape Town,  
Rondebosch, South Africa 7701.  
E-mail [fitz@uct.ac.za](mailto:fitz@uct.ac.za),  
tel. +27 (0)21 650 3291 or  
visit [fitzpatrick.uct.ac.za](http://fitzpatrick.uct.ac.za)

