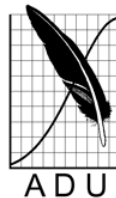


Atlasing for Dummies

Twenty Easy Steps to Submit Your First Atlas Card



Ernst Retief

BirdLife South Africa

Introduction

There is a general perception that participating in the second Southern African Bird Atlas Project is really difficult. Too technical. Too time consuming.

We hope to show you with this guide that it is really easy and fun. Following the 20 steps below you will be able to submit your first atlas card using only your internet browser. No other software needed. Only a browser, internet access and maybe a printer.

Participation in this programme means that you can make a valuable contribution to our knowledge of birds and to bird conservation. The data are used for our Important Bird Areas Programme, for Environmental Impact Assessments, and for ornithological research projects.

But submitting data for this project is also fun. You will learn a lot about birds, their behaviour and distribution. You will also become part of a larger atlasing community – a community committed to bird monitoring and to bird conservation.

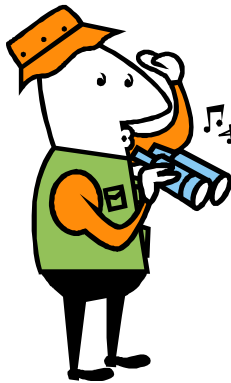
Please spend a few minutes reading this document and follow the 20 steps below and see how easy it is to participate in this project!!

Ke Nako!

The Time is Now!

For more information about this project, visit www.sabap2.org or email Doug Harebottle at doug.harebottle@sabap2.org

Where to atlas?

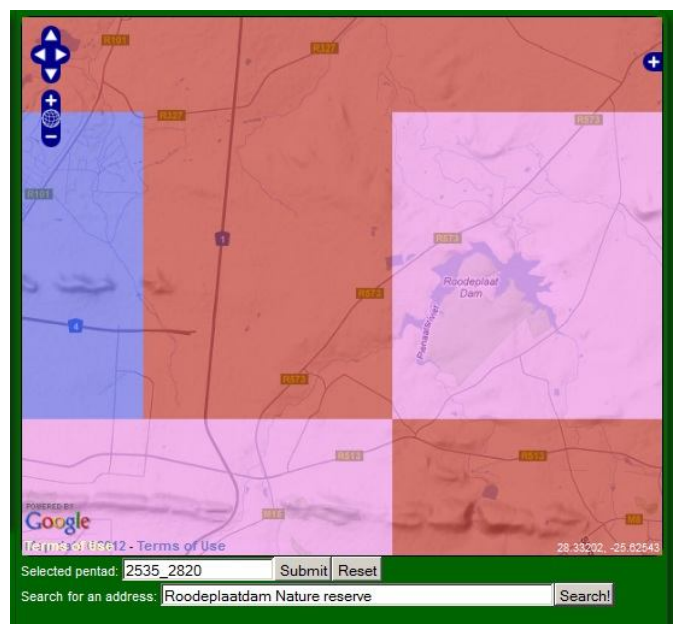


Hi, I want to atlas. The country is large – where must I go?

Step 1: Go to sabap2.adu.org.za

Step 2: Click on “Coverage Maps” in the second row of menu items. A map of South Africa will load.

Step 3: At the bottom of the map in the box next to “Search for an address” type in the name of the town or area you would like to visit (you see it is your choice!). Let’s use the example “Roodeplaatsdam Nature Reserve”. Click on “Search!”. A map will load showing the area you have typed into the search box. The pentads will show as blocks in different colours. You will note “Roodeplaats Dam” is clearly indicated on the map.



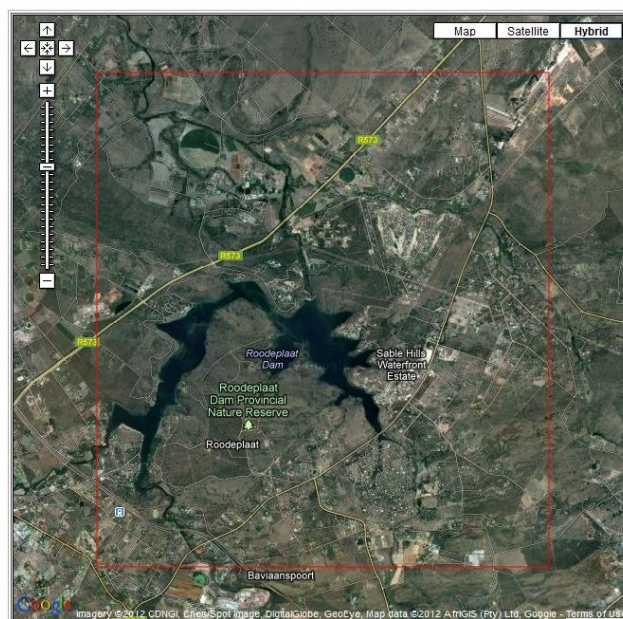
Step 4: Click on the relevant pentad on the map (the one you would like to visit). As soon as you do so the pentad code/name will appear in the box next to “Selected Pentad” at the bottom of the map. The pentad code is 2535_2820.



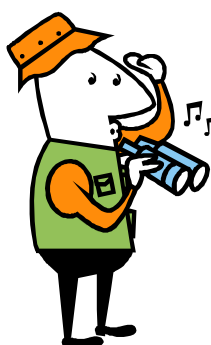
Step 5: Now click “Submit” next to the pentad code. A page with graphs and a species list for the pentad appears.

Step 6: Click on the link “Google Map” just below the graphs.

A Google Earth Map of the pentad will load. The default map will only list the map without the satellite data. Select “Hybrid” in the top right hand corner to see the map and satellite data together. The red lines indicate the boundaries of the pentad. Using this map, you should be able to find the boundaries of the pentad without any problems. A nice trick is to select the “-” or zoom out button and you will see exactly where your pentad is located in relation to a larger area. You can now print this map using the print function of your internet browser.



In the field



Ok, now I know where to atlas. I have a map and I am super excited to get going! But what now?

Step 7: Drive to the pentad using your printed Google Earth Map. As soon as you enter the pentad write down the time, for example 06:00 (nice and early start!).

Step 8: Record birds in the order they are seen or heard. No need to count birds – a thousand Red-billed Queleas = 1! You only list a species once.

Step 9: After one hour draw a line to indicate that one hour has passed. Continue listing species. Try to record as many species as you can by visiting as many habitats in the pentad as possible. You will be able to identify some of the habitats on the Google Earth map such as water bodies, agricultural lands or grasslands.

Step 10: After two hours draw a line to indicate that two hours have passed. You can now stop as you have sufficient time atlasing for the submission of a full protocol list, or you can continue for a few more hours indicating the time when each additional hour passes. Please remember that only one list is completed for a five day period.



Submit your data



Man that was fun! 35 species in two hours and three lifers! But how do I tell the computers in Cape Town about all these magnificent birds I have seen?

It is now time to submit your data to the database at the Animal Demography Unit (ADU) in Cape Town.

Step 11: Go to sabap2.adu.org.za. Please note you need to be connected to the internet while submitting your data.

Step 12: Log in using your email address, ADU number and password on the top right of the page. A new menu item will appear, in white below the yellow menu items. If you do not have a number and password click on “**Register**” in the main menu.



Step 13: Select “**New Field Sheet**”.

Step 14: On the next page click on “**Add new card**” on the left hand side of the screen. A new box will appear on the right hand side.

A screenshot of a web-based data entry form. The form has a white background with a green border. It contains three rows of input fields. The first row is labeled 'Pentad' and contains the text '0000_0000'. The second row is labeled 'Start date' and contains the text 'YYYY-MM-DD' followed by a small grey box with the letter 'T'. The third row is labeled 'Observer No.' and contains the text '10831' followed by a checked checkbox and the text 'Full protocol'. At the bottom left of the form is a green button with a white checkmark and the text 'Save'. A red 'X' icon is in the top right corner of the form's border.

Step 15: Enter the pentad code (as given to you in step 1 above), start date (for example “2012-07-18”) and indicate it this is a full protocol card. It should be, as you spent two hours in the pentad.

Step 16: Click “**Save**”. A new screen will appear.

Step 17: Enter the start date and end date as well as the start time – for example 06:00. The pentad number and your observer number will already be listed. Indicate the number of species you have

Card details

Save to draft Submit

1 Card header information

Card number: 2535_2820_001691_20120724
 Start Date: 2012-07-24 End Date: 2012-07-24 Start Time:
 Pentad: 2535_2820
 Observer: 1691

Hour 1	Hour 2	Hour 3	Hour 4	Hour 5	Hour 6	Hour 7	Hour 8	Hour 9	Hour 10	Total Spp	Total Hours
25	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2

Includes Night: No AllHabitats: No

2 Additional Observers

ADU No	Observer
	<input type="button" value="Add"/>

3 Add species

Sequence: Enter Species number: or select from list: Search for:
 Show all species Saved

Sequence	Spp	English	Rarity in regions
2	317	Laughing (Palm) Dove	
1	314	Red-eyed Dove	

seen per hour – for example “24” in the first hour and by the end of the second hour, “53”. This tells us you saw 29 new species in the second hour.

Step 18: If you did not atlas during the night, select “No” and if you think you have not visited most habitats in the pentad select “No”.

Step 19: Now begin to enter species. For example, let’s say the first species you saw was a Red-eyed Dove, scroll down to “Dove, Red-eyed”, click on the name of the bird and click on “Add” at the right hand side of the page. The bird will now be added at the bottom of the page. Now continue to add the species in the order you saw them and recorded them in your notebook.

Continue until you have added all your species! You can also search for a species name by entering part of the bird’s name in the search box. For example entering “dove” will provide you with a list of all the dove species.

Step 20: As soon as you are done click “Submit” at the top of the page.

Congratulations your have submitted your first atlas card!



Now for card number two!
and then card number three...
and then you’ll be hooked....

Atlasing = Birding = Fun!