

GLOBAL WETLANDS PROJECT

SOUTH AFRICA

In South Africa, GLOW surveys were conducted across seven estuaries along the KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape coastline. These surveys produced several exciting biodiversity observations and demonstrated the value of non-invasive monitoring methods for documenting mangrove-associated fauna across different estuarine systems.

One of the key highlights was the rediscovery of the fiddler crab *Cranuca inversa* in Durban Bay. This species had not been recorded in the region since Kingsley's note in 1880, making the observation a particularly significant contribution to local mangrove biodiversity knowledge. Alongside target crab species, the camera systems also captured a range of non-target organisms, including the Mangrove Whelk (*Terebralia palustris*) and the silver-lined mudskipper (*Periophthalmus argentilineatus*). These records provide a broader snapshot of the species using and moving through mangrove habitats.

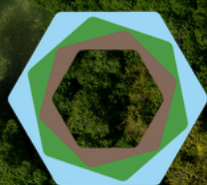


Cranuca inversa (male)

The South African team also deployed AudioMoth recorders to document acoustic activity within these systems. This adds another layer to the monitoring approach by allowing researchers to detect species presence and ecosystem activity through sound. Together, the camera and acoustic observations show how GLOW's methods can generate rich biodiversity insights while minimising disturbance to sensitive mangrove environments.



Silver-lined mudskipper
(*Periophthalmus argentilineatus*)



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