

NEWSLETTER

April 2023 Issue

Quick Steenbok Facts

1. Steenbok (*Raphicerus campestris*) is a small antelope species found in southern and eastern Africa.
2. They are usually between 60-90 cm tall and weigh between 8-14 kg.
3. Steenbok are primarily active during the day and are most active during the early morning and late afternoon.
4. They are herbivores and mainly feed on leaves, flowers, and fruits.
5. Steenbok have a lifespan of around 10-12 years in the wild.
6. They are solitary animals and usually only come together during mating season.
7. Steenbok have a unique behavior of standing on their hind legs to reach higher vegetation.
8. They have large, rounded ears that can move independently, allowing them to better detect predators.

DEAR OLIFANTS FAMILY

Summer is behind us and we now move into my favourite time of the year, Bushveld Autumn. Temperatures are starting to cool in the evening and early mornings and the grasses are ever so slowly turning a hue of blonde.

It feels like Christmas was just last week and Easter is already on our doorstep. This year is already zipping past us at a rate of knots!

I hope you enjoy the April edition of the Olifants Newsletter. Happy Reading!

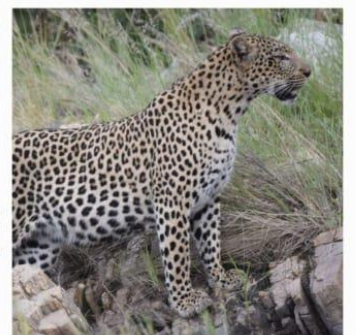
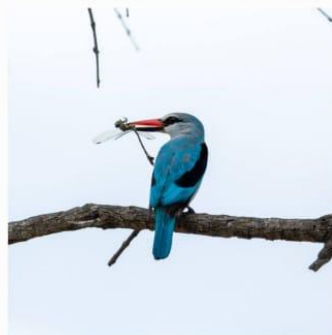
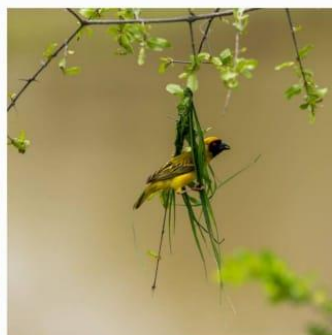
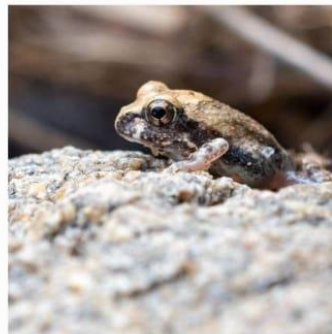
"I am an African, not because I was born in Africa, but because Africa is born in me." - Kwame Nkrumah



ORGR GAME DRIVE

The vegetation has transformed from the relatively dry January to a thick and lush landscape with the heavy rainfalls received in February. Despite the thick bush, game viewing has remained excellent in the last two months. We are blessed with regular Wild Dog sightings from three different packs that move through our area. Big cat viewing is still world-class and yes the old Pompom female is still alive. General game has been excellent with zebra and giraffe populations in abundance. Elephant activity on the reserve has increased in the last months, with a large number of these pachyderms seen and encountered. A special sighting for last month was a Pels Fishing Owl seen on Pels Loop which was very exciting.

Thank you to those who submitted photos...please keep posting those sightings on the Telegram group!



FEATURE ARTICLE: PRIVATE RHINO – THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIVATE SECTOR RHINO CONSERVATION



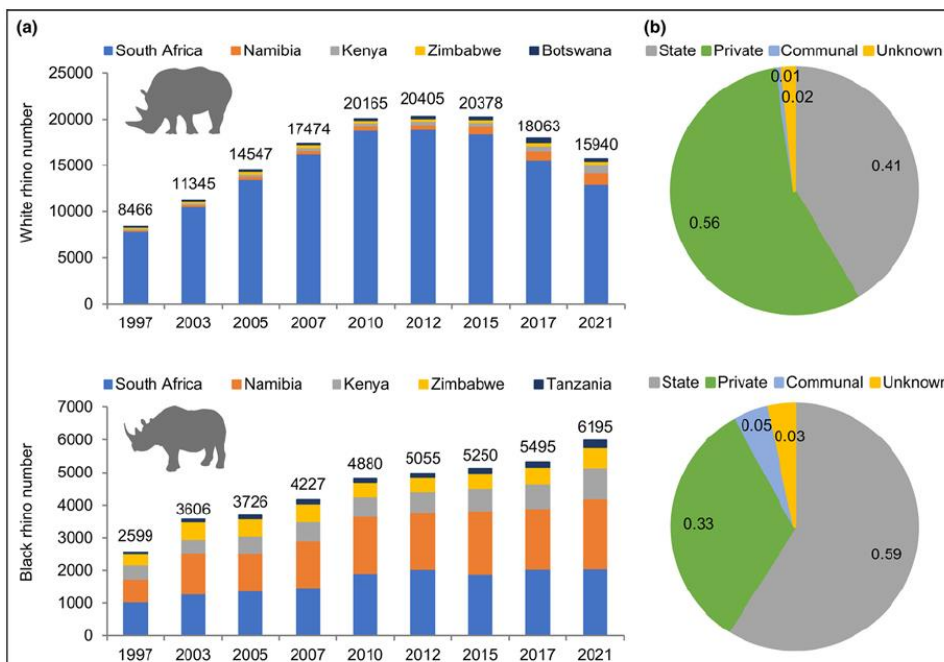
Private landowners in South Africa now collectively support the largest population of white rhinos on the African continent. More than half of the continent’s rhinos are in private hands. This was the inevitable outcome of declining wild populations and increasing numbers of rhinos found on private land. It brings into stark relief the importance of the private sector in rhino conservation. Given the rising costs associated with protecting rhinos, what will it take to build resilience in the private industry?

A new study published in *Frontiers* examines the contribution of private and communal land to rhino conservation as well as the financial and policy implications of such an arrangement. The authors also outline the policies necessary to create a secure environment for private conservation, including decision-making around trade, hunting and management.

Private contributions to rhino

Across the continent, over half of Africa’s white and a third of its black rhino occurred on private land in 2021. An additional 5% of the continent’s-black rhino were held on communal land in Namibia and South Africa. Despite having suffered considerable poaching losses, South Africa remains home to the largest number of white rhinos (81%) on the continent, as well as around a third of the remaining black rhino. However, the focus on poaching on state-run parks such as the Kruger National Park and Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park has resulted in a steady decline in wild rhino on state land. At the same time, the number of rhinos on private land has increased. Consequently, the proportion of the country’s white rhinos on private land has shifted from 25% in 2010 to 53% in 2021.

Data from other rhino range states, such as Zimbabwe and Namibia, also indicates a similar trend. Private lands in Zimbabwe now hold 88% and 76%of the country’s black and white rhino, respectively. 75% of Namibia’s white rhinos are found on private land, while 27% of its black rhinos are on private land, and 7% are in community conservancies.



Within the countries that conserve 99% and 97% of white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*) (top) and black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) (bottom) populations, respectively, (a) number of white rhinos and black rhinos from 1997 to 2021 and (b) proportion of white rhinos and black rhinos across different land tenure types in 2021. ©Clements et al. (2023).

Costs and incentives

Previous research showed that, on average, private properties spent approximately US\$2,200 per animal on security in 2017, amounting to a cost of over US\$100,000 per

property on average for that year. More recently, this security cost increased substantially – some 50% in only three years. International trade in rhino horn is banned, and the price of live white rhinos sold at auction has declined 75% over the last decade. Furthermore, private and communal landowners receive no direct state funding to support their enterprise or the cost of securing their animals. Consequently, private ownership of rhinos (or land hosting them) has become considerably less attractive.

Without any constitutional mandate to protect these rhinos, some landowners are simply disinvesting. This is not yet a significant trend for private custodians (some are even growing their herds and investing in more rhino), but this may be due to the hope that trade in rhino horn will eventually be legalised. If this reality does not materialise, large-scale disinvestment seems likely. Furthermore, keeping intensively managed populations (fed and kept at higher-than-natural densities) may prove the more practical (financially and otherwise) strategy in keeping captive rhinos safe. These kinds of captive populations cannot maintain natural breeding or evolutionary processes and do not contribute to ecosystem function.

A new path for rhino?

Future policies must identify ways to incentivise private rhino ownership to compensate for rising security costs. The authors acknowledge that the trade in rhino horn could theoretically provide such an incentive. However, they emphasise the need for context-specific research that takes into account the complexities of the issues at play. They also indicate that trophy hunting is a crucial revenue source in funding protection, which could be hampered by the growing international pressure to ban trophy hunting. In terms of both trade and hunting, the researchers highlight the need for consideration of local contexts. Given the potential for increasing emphasis on intensive farming systems, there also needs to be additional incentives for extensive systems where the captive animals lead more natural lives. These might include implementing a more favourable tax structure or eligibility for carbon credits or “rhino bonds”. Crowdfunded donations linked to conservation performance are also a possibility.

“If additional incentives are not enabled, we risk losing private and communal rhino custodians, and with them, half of the remaining African rhinos”, concludes lead author Dr Hayley Clements.

In February 2023, the owner of the world’s largest private rhino farm, John Hume, announced that his Platinum Rhino farm, home to close to 2,000 rhino, would be auctioned in April. His press release cited rising security costs as the reason for the sale.



CONSERVATION

Olifants River Clean Up

A squad of dedicated members volunteered one of their mornings to assist us with cleaning up the rubbish along the Olifants River which was washed downstream by the recent heavy rains. We split into two teams and tackled Pels loop from both sides and two hours later we filled over 20 refuse bags with rubbish, an interesting assortment of items might I add. Everything ranging from Industrial pipe fittings to flipflops and everything in between. Many thanks to the clean-up crew!



APNR Predator Enclosure

The Associated Private Nature Reserves require a Predator Boma and Olifants River Game Reserve in conjunction with Balule Nature Reserve has offered to assist in providing an area along our southern cutline to build this important facility. Conservation Beyond Borders has come to the table with support and in collaboration with Back to Africa, the project is well funded.

Project Introduction: by Joel Alves WildScapes Veterinary & Conservation Services

“With the importance of a boma, greatly evident in the management of the majority of the small to medium-sized, fenced reserves across the country, it is extremely unusual and surprising that the entire Associated Private Nature Reserve area does not have a boma on any of their reserves. Something we have brought to the attention of the reserves, where we have constantly found ourselves needing one and frustratingly, not having it available. After multiple discussions, over the past three to four years, Balule Nature Reserve has agreed to have bomas built on the reserve. The understanding was that the reserves do not typically have spare budget to put into a boma and therefore would look towards external funding, which drove Back to Africa to take the reins and begin to reach out for support and make the project a reality. These bomas would be the first of their kind in the APNR and it cannot be understated how desperately we need them in an area where we have the Greater Kruger National Park on our doorstep.”

What is a Boma?

A boma is a fenced enclosure used as a temporary holding facility for either sick/injured animals or those that have just been recently translocated - and the boma acts as an acclimatization facility. Bomas are relatively small, to allow for intensive monitoring and visualization of the animals while they are in there. The typical period an animal would spend in a boma depends upon the reason it is in there, but is typically 4-8 weeks. The average boma size is 1 to 2ha, surrounded by an electrified fence that has been driven into the ground to prevent escape through digging. Bomas are an absolutely essential management tool for reserves.

Why do we need a boma?

On an annual basis, The APNR Reserves deal with an average of 4-5 cases of escaped carnivores that need to be captured and returned into the formal protected area. These are often dispersing wild dogs or young lions, which find themselves under pressure from other carnivores/lions and push out of the western boundary. Typically, before euthanasia is considered, attempts to capture and relocate are tried first. The problem is that once capture is facilitated we have nowhere to take them and they are "hot-released" back into the protected area with a high chance of escape occurring again. A boma provides the opportunity to temporarily hold these predators until a suitable release site can be ascertained. When a predator is found outside the formal protected areas, we have to respond immediately to attempt capture and there is no time to try and consider

potential, ideal release sites. A boma provides that safety net, knowing you always have that to fall back on while plans are made.

The second reason is to provide a space of safety to recover from severe injuries, especially snaring wounds. We have had to euthanize a number of large carnivores as we did not have access to a facility for them to be follow-up treated and recover in and it would not be fair to allow them to suffer further and die a painful death, free-roaming. A boma provides a safe, temporary facility where we can treat badly wounded carnivores until they are healthy enough to be released again.

The uses for a boma are really endless and disease surveillance, temporary holding, treatment and translocation are a number of the positive uses for them. The hope is that by demonstrating tangibly how much a boma can be of benefit in the open system, it will stimulate interest from some of the other reserves to construct one or allow us to use the same model of funding to approach them with. The long-term hope is to have at least five bomas in the APNR, ranging from the southern Sabi Sands, to northern Balule.

Case examples:

1) Three wild dogs had to be mass captured and darted from a helicopter after they moved out of Balule onto a game farm where the owner threatened to shoot them if not removed immediately. No boma was available so they had to make a plan with an old buffalo boma on a property that was not within the APNR and said they would assist. Down the line, it became an issue after the dogs were there for "too long"



2) One of the worst snare wounds we've ever seen. We would have undoubtedly been able to save this lioness if we had a boma but without one there was no humane option but to euthanize her in the field.

3) Four wild dogs dispersed from the greater Kruger area and ended up on a mango farm and then a game farm where they were shot at and three individuals in the pack "disappeared". They were immediately caught through enormous effort and time and relocated to a makeshift boma and escaped within 48 hours. The pack was never seen again.



4) A male lion with a severe snare wound was given the benefit of the doubt and treated in the field and allowed to recover but required a follow-up treatment which was extremely challenging as they had to relocate him. Recovery would have been 3-4 weeks faster if we could have put him into a boma.

This facility will be constructed within the next month along the southern outline with minimal impact to the Olifants Community. Protocols around the predator enclosure will be sent out once the facility is ready to use. Olifants is proud to be able to contribute to this very important initiative.

REACHING OUT

Due to the super generous members contributions towards the Christmas party last year, we had enough money left over after purchasing the 42 gifts for the children, so we have had 35 printed t.shirts made for all the staff. these are being handed out for easter.

The Balule outreach trust is currently working on a brand new website which will soon be completed. the fresh, updated site will offer more frequent updates including press releases and newsletters.

Three of our bursary students who we are supporting through the S.A.M.E. Foundation are doing the Nature Site Guide (NSG) course through Enviro Training Africa. Lans Mashaba, Malwandla Nyathi and Macmillan Nzob are from Acornhoek and have joined seven others from the White River/Sabi Sands area.

The course consists of three modules, with the first module covering a general introduction to Tourism. The second teaches the students to create a Guided Experience for customers and in the third module students are taught how to conduct a Guided Nature Experience in a limited geographical area.



The selection of these students as well as the other seven who make up the class, was made from 50 candidates and interviews conducted by Octavia Makhubela, who is a highly qualified guide in the Kruger National Park. She has completed Natural Resource Management NQF level 5, Nature Conservation advanced certificate NQF level 6, Stake holder/Community engagement certificate level 6, and is passionate about bringing about positive upliftment to her local communities. Octavia was born in the village of Sigagule and raised as an orphan by her grandmother. She was given the chance to start her career with a bursary provided by SANPARKS at the South African Wildlife College.

As always, we thank those who continually support the trust, allowing us to do valuable work in the surrounding communities, to uplift those less fortunate than ourselves. Should you wish to make a donation, please use the details below, referencing your EFT payments with your name. We will also require your email address to allow us to send you an 18a Certificate.

Banking details of the BALULE OUTREACH TRUST

First National Bank (FNB), Bryanston, South Africa

Account number: 6233 678 7877 Clearing Code: 250-017

Swift number: FIRNZAJJXXX

Please reference EFT payments with your name.

MEMBERS UPDATES

THE WEATHER REPORT

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently in a La Niña state, and forecasts indicate that it will likely return to a neutral state by autumn (Mar-Apr-May). As ENSO remains in a La Niña state, early autumn rainfall remains likely to receive above-normal rainfall over the summer rainfall areas. However, as summer comes to an end so does the typical impact of ENSO and it is to be monitored for the next summer season. The multi-model rainfall forecast indicates above-normal rainfall for most parts of the country except for the south-western parts during late autumn (Apr-May-Jun) and early winter (May-Jun-Jul) which is expected to receive below-normal rainfall. Minimum and maximum temperatures are expected to be mostly above-normal countrywide for the forecast period.

February Rains

We were starting to get a little concerned with the lack of rain in January with a mere 19,88mm falling in that month. In February the heavens opened and BIG rains arrived with 483,27mm falling within 16 days. We have never recorded more rain in a single month than this... truly astonishing.

The Olifants River levels rose very quickly with all the local rainfall and the rains coming down the catchment areas. This massive amount of water falling in the area caused all the local tributaries and drainage lines to flow heavily for a good couple of days, causing access challenges to the reserve. The Causeway was completely flooded on the 12th of February, thankfully no damage was caused to the structure and we managed to reopen this river crossing a week later.

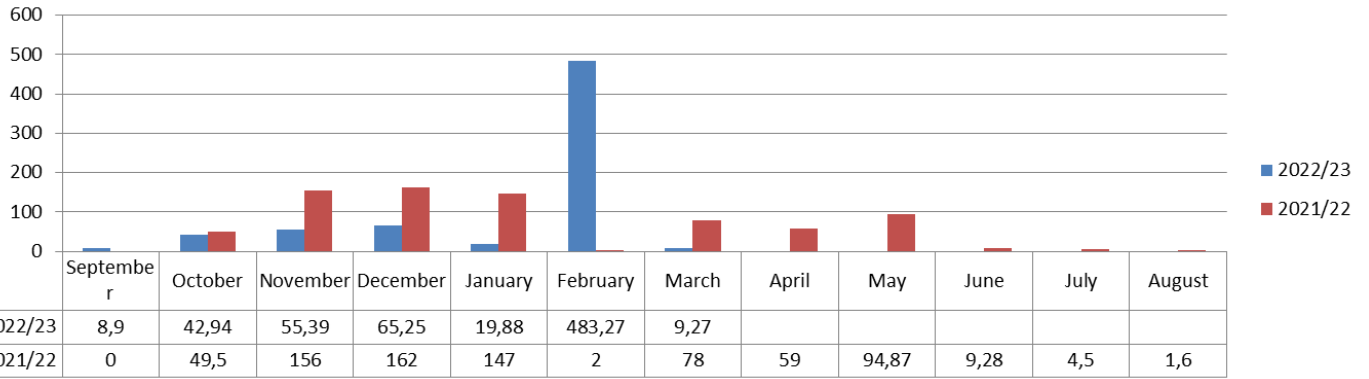


Double Dam, which was bone dry before the rains, filled up in 8 hours with rainwater rushing down the drainage line from Big Dam and within 12 hours a Hippo had already moved in. The Mothlabetsi River flowed strongly for a good few days, cutting us off from Hoedspruit for some time. The photo on the left was taken from the railway line bridge over the Mothlabetsi during the peak of its flow, incredible to see this otherwise dry riverbed flowing strongly.

The internal roads held up fairly well during the rains but the railway line did suffer significant damage which we have subsequently repaired.

March delivered significantly less rain with only 6,36mm of rain falling bringing our seasonal total up to 682 mm . Last year we received good late rains in March, April, and May. Let's see what happens this year.

ORGR Rainfall Comparison 2022 and 2023 Season



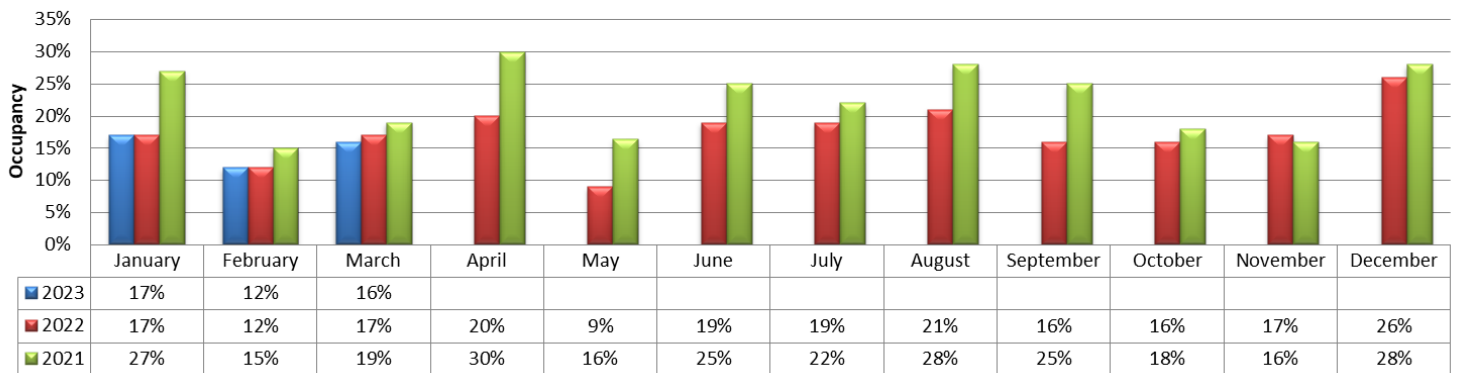
Feb 2023 Weather Summary - ORGR	High	Low	Average	March 2023 Weather Summary - ORGR	High	Low	Average
Temperature	36.3 °C	18.9 °C	25.3 °C	Temperature	37.6 °C	0.0 °C	24.9 °C
Dew Point	25.4 °C	13.9 °C	20.3 °C	Dew Point	23.4 °C	-9.9 °C	18.5 °C
Humidity	95 %	36 %	75 %	Humidity	91 %	33 %	70 %
Precipitation	483.27mm	--	--	Precipitation	9.27 mm	--	--
Wind Speed	24.5 km/h	0.0 km/h	6.2 km/h	Wind Speed	23.0 km/h	0.0 km/h	5.0 km/h
Wind Gust	34.9 km/h	--	9.4 km/h	Wind Gust	33.0 km/h	--	7.6 km/h
Wind Direction	--	--	SSE	Wind Direction	--	--	SSE
Pressure	1,012.33 hPa	993.70 hPa	--	Pressure	1,013.44 hPa	999.76 hPa	--

OCCUPANCIES

February was a little quieter on the reserve with an occupancy of 12% with the busiest day seeing 18 units in residence. March picked up a bit with an occupancy of 17% and peaking at 29 units in residence on the busiest day.

Average Occupancies	
2023	15%
2022	17%
2021	22%
2020	22%
2019	14%

ORGR Occupancies 2023 to 2021



BUILDING COMPLIANCES

Compliance certificates are an important part of our building regulations as they ensure that the units are safe and remain within the legal thresholds.

Gas Rectification Project

As you are all aware, ORGR needed to get all the units compliant with SANS 10087-1-2013 to ensure the installations are safe and that insurance will cover us in the event of an incident. This has been a colossal project and has taken up substantial time and effort from several parties. Special thanks to Al Pearce who has spearheaded the project and to the management team in following it up. Work has begun and we are hoping to have this project complete in a few months.



COC Certificates

A new electrical Certificate of Compliance (COC) is required in the event of a new build/rebuild or major changes to the electrical installation of a unit. The COC is to be issued by a suitably qualified electrician in the name of the share block detailing the unit number. The COC is to be signed for by the electrician and also by the nominated person responsible for the share block, to then be placed in the office file of the respective unit. The electrical COC is required to be issued prior to the occupation of the unit. Upon change of ownership of a unit, a new COC is required if the original COC was issued in the name of the individual shareholder and not in the name of the ORGR share block.

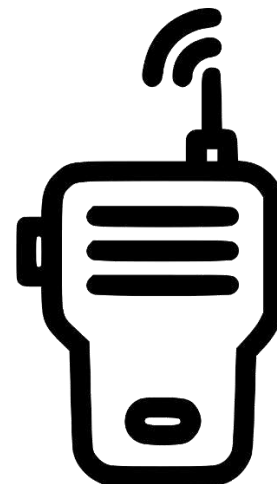
Solar/Standby Power units require an individual COC specific to that installation, issued by a certified installer and following the guidelines applicable to the Electrical COC mentioned above.

Occupation Certificate

The Management and/or the Building Committee require the following on completion of the work carried out: A final cost statement from the Member, the Contractor and if applicable, the Principal Agent, stipulating the final contract price for the purposes of calculating the Building Levy in clause 17; and the appropriate compliance certificates in respect of all Electrical, Gas and/or Glass/Glazing installations and in respect of Termite Proofing and/or Thatched Roofing construction.

RADIO MIGRATION

We are progressing well on the migration from analog to digital with 50% of members having already moved across to digital devices. There are some challenges with stock availability on digital radios at the moment but we are working through it. Currently, we are running the analog system as the primary repeater with the digital devices linking into the analog network via a repeater link which translated the broadcasts from analog to digital and vice versa. This translation can cause a little



delay when it activates and the radio procedure below should be followed to ensure clear communications.

When calling on the radio hold in your handset button for **two seconds before transmitting your message**. General radio protocols worldwide encourage that you state the station you are calling twice to ensure the initial message is transmitted. Example: “**Office, Office come in for Unit 1**”. Repeat this again if no reply is received within 10 seconds.

We encourage all members to move to digital devices as soon as they can so we can start using the digital repeater as our main communication instead of running both systems side by side. All Admin and Security communications on the reserve are already fully digital.

FIT TO PROTECT CAMPAIGN

Our Anti Poaching Team continue to protect our endangered species at Olifants River Game reserve with a particular focus on rhino. We have had much success through our team's work and need to sustain our momentum and approach.

As we strive for continuous improvement, Callan and Team have come up with a innovative idea that is centred around fitness which is so key to our team and their ability to monitor, track, follow incursions, chase suspects and be mobile at all times.

We are looking to install a fit-for-purpose gym for the Anti-poaching team to focus on their fitness levels and in order to do this, two of our team our currently training to compete in the Kruger 2 Canyon Challenge.

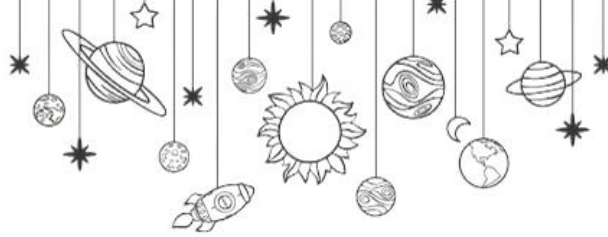
- The race will take place on 1st & 2nd July 2023
- The 47km race is split into two days
 - 28 kilometres in the mountains
 - 19 kilometres through the big five reserves
- The costs for two runners to participate in the event amount to R25000, as follows:
 - R7500
 - Training and running kit R17 500 (Hydration packs, shoes, torch, running gear)



We are looking to cover the costs for our two athletes to compete and then sponsor a rand contribution for each kilometre covered. The relevant forms to support this initiative were recently e-mailed by the ORGR office. Thanks to those who have already submitted these. Let's support the team to run this race and raise funds!



OUR NIGHT SKY IN APRIL



Constellations

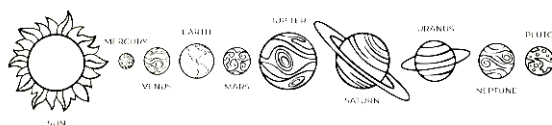
Constellations represent groupings of stars that have been given a name. For millennia they have been used as a tool to share significant cultural stories. Today, they also help astronomers delineate portions of the sky and are a navigational tool for locating astronomical objects. This month these constellations dominate the autumn sky:

- Southern Cross & Two Pointer stars – This group of stars hangs in the south-eastern sky during April evenings. The Southern Cross reaches its highest point in the sky, where it appears upright, at about 1 am at the beginning of the month and by 10 pm at the end of April. The Cross is the smallest of the 88 constellations and can be easily covered entirely by one hand. Close to the Cross are the two bright Pointer stars, about a hand's width apart. A line drawn from Alpha Centauri (the name of the brighter Pointer) towards Beta Centauri (the other one) and onwards points towards the Cross. The Southern Cross is a modern constellation dating from the early 1500s.
- Orion – The Hunter is in the north-western sky and heading for the western horizon. Its likeness to a male figure was probably obvious to the earliest humans. The three stars of Orion's belt at his waist separate his head & shoulders on the right from his sword and knees on the left. The well-known saucepan asterism consists of a base (Orion's belt) and a handle (Orion's sword) plus one additional star at the rim. With binoculars you will see a small hazy glow in the middle of the saucepan's handle – this is the Orion Nebula, a starbirth cloud. The mythology of Orion is complex and often contradictory. However, he usually represents a tall, strong, and handsome hunter.
- Leo – The Lion, one of the twelve constellations of the Zodiac, remains in the northern sky during April. The Lion earned a place amongst the constellations for being a fierce and powerful beast. To the Greeks, he was the Lion of Nemea, killed by Hercules in the first of his twelve labours.
- Canis Minor – The Lesser Dog, is an obscure and small constellation usually ignored in the search for its dominant companion, Canis Major, the Greater Dog. On any April night high overhead you will see the very bright star Sirius in Canis Major. Facing north early in the evening, look below Sirius by slightly more than a handspan (with your hand at arm's length) – the bright star here is Procyon in Canis Minor. And Procyon is just about all there is to the Lesser Dog! Like many constellations, it looks nothing like its name. The star's name comes from the Greek Prokyon meaning "before the Dog" and indeed it does rise before bright Sirius and Canis Major from the latitudes of ancient Greece. Canis Minor and Canis Major together are Orion's hunting dogs.

Planets

This month Venus & Mars are our evening planets. Jupiter and Saturn appear in the morning sky. If you have trouble identifying planets from stars the Moon comes to your aid later in the month.

- Venus – is easily recognizable as a very bright & white 'spotlight' above the north-western horizon after sunset. Venus moves from Aries into Taurus at the beginning of the month. From April 11 to 13 Venus passes above the Pleiades star cluster, a compact group of young stars. Binoculars provide the best view of this encounter.
- Mars – reddish and much fainter than Venus, this planet spends April in the northern sky in Gemini. Earth continues to draw away from the red planet on our 'inner track' around the Sun so even through binoculars Mars looks small and unimpressive.
- Jupiter – the King of the planets, bright & yellowish, spends much of April too close to the Sun to be seen – in fact, it is precisely on the far side of the Sun on April 12. For those on the North West Cape of Western Australia on April 20, however, Jupiter will be visible beside the Sun when the Sun is totally eclipsed. At the end of the month it reappears in the eastern sky before dawn in Pisces, but it is very low down in the morning twilight.
- Saturn – is yellowish like Jupiter but fainter. It spends the month in Aquarius in the eastern sky at dawn.



CAMPFIRE STORY: THE HONEY TREE– A FICTIONAL STORY IN PART BY GRAHAM HICKSON

Teboho was always an outsider. Perhaps it was because his clubfoot was twisted like the claw of an eagle catching its prey that prevented him from doing what young men do. Hunting and bringing back the meat for the tribe, that's what he should have been doing, instead he was delegated to collecting wood like the rest of the woman. This afforded him the time to dream of what could have been. Bringing back the days catch across his powerful shoulders. Instead he would watch the boys and the men of the village leaving early to hunt and returning with stories told around the communal fire of how they chased the sun until it dipped behind the line where the sky meets the earth. They said if one chased it too far and climbed the tall mountains in the west then there was a real danger of falling into the dark world. A place that not even the strongest of hunters could return from.

Teboho thought that one day he would step over that edge into the unknown and even if he did not return no one would miss him. Perhaps his Grandmother would. She after all had cared for him and he on the odd occasion when catching a hare would secretly give it her as a way of showing his gratitude.

It was while he was cutting wood that he heard the familiar call of the Greater Honeyguide. His Grandmother had told him that they often lead one to honey. He often followed their call but it always came to nothing. But today was different. Today the call sounded more urgent somehow. So he left his pile of wood and followed. The bird kept coming back as if to urge him on. Then up ahead he saw a grey tree with bees busy near the ground.

He returned later than usual that day and crept unseen into his Grandmother's hut. He had decided not to step proudly into the circle of men holding his golden prize high in the air. Instead he held out his heavy calabash for her to take to the people of the village. Let her be rewarded rather. Let them wonder how this old infirm woman managed to harvest this honey unscathed. Let them continue to wonder for secrets are more powerful than even the dark world.



If you travel down 'Short Cut' and look off to your left while nearing the final corner before reaching the valley floor you will see the trunk of a Leadwood, now fallen, and you will see what appears to be axe marks surrounding a narrow opening. Too large an opening would have allowed the honey badger to steal most of the precious honey. It was a valued addition to the diet of the early tribe folk and was often kept secret to prevent the hive from being overtaxed.



THE FINAL WORD

As the Easter weekend approaches, we wanted to take a moment to wish you all a very blessed and joyful holiday season. May this special time be filled with laughter, love, and precious moments with your family and friends.

While we continue to navigate through these challenging times, we take comfort in the fact that we have such a wonderful community of members at Olifants River Game Reserve. Your support and dedication to preserving this magnificent reserve are truly inspiring, and we are immensely grateful for each and every one of you.

As we look ahead to the future, we cannot wait to welcome you back to the reserve and to see the joy and wonder on your faces as you explore this stunning natural paradise. Whether it's the sight of majestic elephants, the sound of roaring lions, or the beauty of a breathtaking sunset, there is no shortage of incredible experiences to be had here.

We remain committed to providing you with the very best wildlife experiences and ensuring that Olifants River Game Reserve remains a safe, welcoming and unforgettable destination for all. So, as we bid you a happy Easter, we also invite you to start planning your next visit to the reserve. We can't wait to see you soon!

Warmest regards, Nick and the Olifants River Game Reserve Team!



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Night Sky – Powerhouse

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