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Mabula Newsletter

Cheetah update.



In January 2015 Mabula became the proud home of 4 baby cheetah. It was a very welcome surprise when we found out that the young female (Released in December 2013) gave birth to 4 healthy cubs. We decided to stay away from her and the cubs for five weeks in order for her to start raising her first litter without interference from people. Unfortunately, when we tracked her again after the five weeks we noticed that she lost two of her cubs. The remaining two cubs, a brother and sister, are doing very well. They follow their mother all over the place and are already big enough to start taking part in hunts. They are still very clumsy and do not know what to do with their prey once they have caught it.

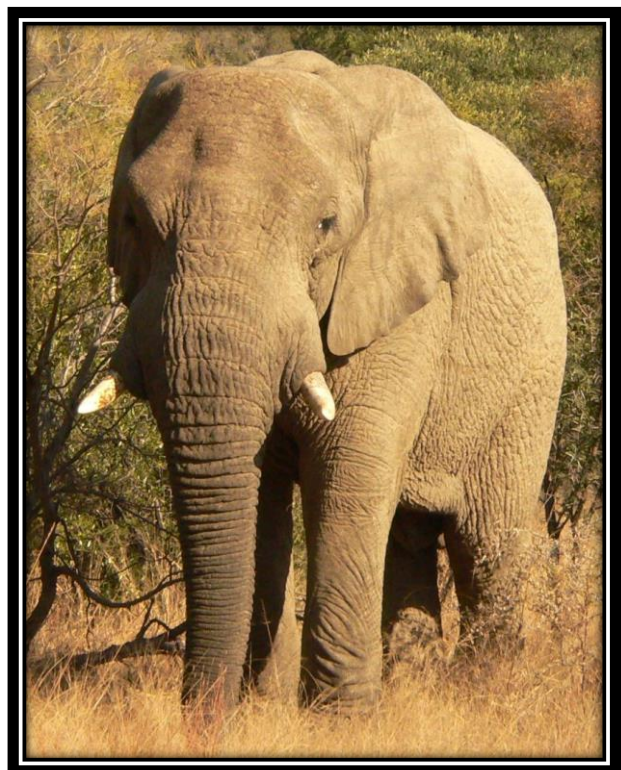
In the meantime the males are carrying on with life as normal. Between all of them, they hunt a wide variety of game that include impala, eland, zebra, blue wildebeest, kudu, nyala, red hartebeest and other smaller mammals. This is very good news and means that they do not target one specific prey species and therefore leading to that species disappearing from Mabula.



Elephant update.

The Mabula elephant herd entered a new era in their long and fruitful history. In April this year we sadly lost one of the Mabula icons. Ngama, the adult elephant bull, unfortunately passed away as a result of serious injuries sustained during a fight with the younger bull Mafuta. Mafuta, aged 16, now has the responsibility of filling the shoes of an adult. This role usually falls upon elephant bulls at the age of about 25. This means that Mafuta did not have the opportunity to go through his teenager phase. The sudden passing away of the dominant bull resulted in Mafuta going into must a lot sooner than anticipated. This sudden change in his hormones causes confusion for both him and the herd. It is therefore that we replaced his old satellite collar with a new one so that we can keep track of his movements and closely monitor his behaviour.

During this exceptionally long and dry winter, we needed to supplement their diet. Supplementing their diet is a vital part of managing these animals. If we do not supplement their diet in winter, the veld cannot provide in all their nutritional needs. This then lead to them uprooting many trees in order to get to their nutrient rich roots. Adding some supplementary feed reduces this seemingly destructive behaviour of the elephants. Overall it is still going very well with the herd. They continue to provide good sightings for those lucky enough to come across them on their game drives.



Guest Entertainment.

The Modjadji Braai is still very popular, despite the cold weather we had recently.

Some of our esteemed guests, this one lady has been coming to the braai every year for 20 years.



World Environment Day at Modjadji Tea:

On 3 June we held our Annual World Environment Tea. Ryno Erasmus (Reserve Manager) gave a talk on the Environment and we planted a Marula tree with our guest's assistance. The Ground Hornbill staff also gave their presentation and it was enjoyed by all.



Cubz Club & Holiday Programs.

We have added a couple of new activities to our school holiday program and were well attended by all.

- ✓ Kiddies Ground Hornbill drives with Nthabiseng.



- ✓ Leaf painting and seed creations:



- ✓ Family Bushveld Ikebana Creations
– even the parents joined in and had loads of fun!

- ✓ Family Elephant dung paper making.



- The new family orientated program proved to be very popular and we will ensure that we keep similar activities in the program going forward.

Social Responsibility

We donated the following items to Manger Care Centre:

- 20 Blankets
- 20 x Bath towels
- 20 x Hand towels
- 20 x Curtains
- 2 x Boxes shoes, donated by timeshare owners: Mr/s Brown, Unit 35.

A bit more about the Care Centre, current projects:

- Family support programme and food collection drive,
- Manna soup kitchen provides and delivers food to 40 early childhood development centres (approximately 2 000 children) in the Etwatwa area,
- Dolphin House – abandoned and abused children in Pretoria,
- Eden House – Abused women and children, orphans, unemployed, destitute and disabled persons, situated in Benoni.



Timeshare News

We are almost finished with year 4 of our 5 Year Refurbishment Plan.

The following items were done over the last four years:

- Replaced all beds in all units,
- All crockery, cutlery and kitchen utensils was upgraded and replaced.
- Bedding, softs and loose furniture in all bedrooms were upgraded and replaced,
- Lounge and Dining room furniture and softs were upgraded and replaced in all units,
- Patio furniture and umbrellas was upgraded and replaced for all units,
- Replaced fridges in Modjadji and Share Blocks,
- Replaced dining room hanging lights in all units,
- Placed blinds in all kitchens and bathrooms,
- 60 Harvey Roofs was done over the last four years and we are only left with 16 roofs to be done in 2016.

Whole Owners

The whole-owners sub-committee, also known as the "Friends of Mabula" will have their next meeting on 26 September 2015 at 14h30 and will be held at W/O 25 "Rhulane"

We would like to take this opportunity to invite all whole owners to attend this informal gathering in order to get to know each other better and to catch up on some exciting new reserve developments.

