



Lentswe la Madikwe

A newsletter for the
Madikwe Game Reserve
stakeholders

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTRIBUTE AND HELP TO MAKE THIS A NEWSLETTER YOU WANT TO READ BY GIVING SUGGESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

All contributions to be directed to Sibusiso by the last week of each month
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1. Editorial

Flick a switch and make a difference.

International research has shown that households can save as much as 10% of their annual electricity bill by reducing their “phantom” power or standby power consumption. Phantom or standby power is the energy consumed by appliances while switched off or not performing their main function. It is the power, for instance, that a cellphone charger draws when it is still plugged in but isn’t being used to charge a cellphone. According to Eskom, between 5% and 10% of an appliance’s energy consumption takes place while it is in a standby mode. With households consuming about 16, 5% of national energy demand, South Africa could make dramatic power savings if consumers switched to more energy-efficient appliances.

As a conservation authority and operators, what are we doing to become energy-efficient compliant? We can do a lot. For example, we can ensure that power is switched off when cellphones are fully charged. Installation of solar water heating instead of electric geysers. This would free up electricity capacity. Use of bio-degradable chemicals. The department of energy affairs is instituting an appliance-labelling programme to help households become more energy efficient. Appliances are graded for energy efficiency from A to G, A being the most efficient and G being the most inefficient. Look out for these labels next time you go shopping. It’s worth the trouble.

Let’s do our bit and join the rest of the world in becoming activists of energy-efficient.

Till next time!!!
Editor

2. Parks Board Updates: By Declan Hofmeyr (Field Ecologist)

MADIKWES HYENAS HEAD EAST

As regular readers of Lentshwe and most of the community of Madikwe are aware, the 10th of October this year saw the culmination of a huge amount of effort in communication and cooperation (between NWP&TB, EWT, The Madikwe Collection and Federal Air) when the Collection Pack of wild dogs was released into Madikwe to compliment our existing population.

Once again, this month we find ourselves in a similar state of cooperation between ourselves, The Carr Foundation and Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique as we prepare to move 10 spotted hyenas into Gorongosa as part of a grand plan to re-establish and restock this one once world renowned National Park.

For the past few years the Carr Foundation (US NGO) has been attempting to re-establish the infrastructure of Gorongosa after it was all but destroyed during Mozambique's years of civil war. As part of this rebuilding, they have established a fenced sanctuary inside the parks boundary that has been slowly restocked with all the non-predatory species that are indigenous to the area.

Now it is time to add the boys and girls that bite and our hyenas should shortly be on their way to Mozambique with one little snag... someone forgot to mention this whole spirit of cooperation to the hyenas...



Samples are taken from one of the Vlei Pan males before placing in the Elephant boma to await translocation out to Gorongosa National Park in Mocambique

For the last two weeks it's been a nightly effort from sunset to sunrise to first habituate the hyenas to feeding off bait with vehicles nearby and then actually getting them in dartable distances and positions. It has been two long weeks but I have no doubt now that the spotted hyena with all its less than noble reputation is without doubt, to my mind at least, the most awesome animal in Madikwe.

I've learned more about these amazing animals in the last two weeks sitting with them than in my whole conservation career. They're much more intelligent than lions and more sociable than wild dogs. They're interested in and protective over members of the clan that have been anaesthetized but at the same time don't take the unnecessary risks that lions do. In the bomas, they test the electric fences by biting on and timing the pulses. Yip, you read right... timing the pulses. They'll hold onto the live wire to take a few hits of electricity in their mouths and then actually time it to bite the wire between pulses until they're through. Wow!

So, while it's been long and tiring working with these uncooperative animals. It has been a pleasure and a privilege which I'll cherish and remember every time I see a spotty dog ambling down the road or hear one calling to her sisters.

Two clans have been targeted and as of writing this we have 3 females and 2 males from the Vlei Pan clan that are in the Elephant boma and ready to fly out this Saturday, while another 2 males and 1 female from the Tshwene North clan will soon be joined in the Lion boma by another female or two, and they'll fly out in a week or two.

3. Community Development Project: By Refiloe Chuma (Development Officer)

In an effort to discourage illegal dumping of waste, Madikwe Game Reserve, private sector and a Glass Recycling Company have teamed up to initiate a Glass recycling project in Madikwe Game Reserve. The objectives of this initiative are to:

- Reduce the amount of non-biodegradable elements in landfills.
- Create opportunities for local communities to generate and supplement their income
- Reduce the demand for raw materials, thereby placing less strain on the environment.

The Mmasebudule Community, a community 20km outside the Reserve, has been identified as a community that would benefit from this initiative.

How is the process going to work?

- The lodges will be supplied (free of charge) with bins for separating their glass.
- Every 2 weeks individuals from the Mmasebudule Community collect glass from the lodges.
- The Glass Recycling Company will supply the Mmasebudule Community with:
 - 3x Stamp crushers.
 - Glass collection bags.
 - Safety equipment
- The community crushes the glass and places it into collection bags.
- Once the community has collected 30 tons, the Glass Recycling Company collects the glass for recycling.
- The Community receives R300 per ton of collected glass.

For the Mmasebudule Community to cover their costs and make a profit they would need to charge a R200 collection fee per month, per lodge.

For this project to work, we encourage all the lodges to give their support and participate.