



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

Madikwe Celebrates Tourism Month

Tourism Month is an annual celebration held in September to focus on the importance of tourism to economy of South Africa. During the tourism month all of us in the Industry showcase the unique and diverse tourism experiences offered by the country's nine provinces.

Countries around the world celebrated World Tourism Day (WTD) on 27 September. The worldwide theme for 2007 is "Tourism opens doors for women".

On Tuesday, 18 September 2007, Madikwe Game Reserve joined other tourist destinations in celebrating the Tourism Month by hosting pupils from neighbouring villages. A total of 45 pupils and 5 teachers participated in this event. Before going on game drives, pupils listened attentively to presentations by the Park Manager, Marketing Assistant and Community Development Officer. The presentations focus on deepening understanding and importance of Tourism to the economy of this region. "It was fun, educational and thanks to Parks Board for arranging this day for us", said one pupil.

The Reserve Management would like to thank the following Lodges for sponsoring the event:

Buffalo Ridge
Mosetlha Bush Camp
Jacis Tree Lodge
Madikwe Mooifontein
Thakadu River Camp

Till next time!!
Editor

2. Parks Board Updates

By Magda Goosen

On 29 August 2007, representative from the Geological Society of South Africa, Marcia van Aswegen, presented Mr Mack Mogodiolo of NWP&TB with a Geological booklet on Madikwe Game Reserve at Tau Game Lodge. The Society has donated 600 booklets developed by Prof Richard Viljoen and others to be distributed to Field Guides, Management and Scientists in Madikwe Game Reserve. This will enable specifically Field Guides to share information on the geology with guests and thereby enriching their experience.

On 14 September, Alph Sephton from the Department of Water Affairs joined Park Management in planting indigenous trees at Vleisfontein. Seeds were collected in Madikwe and propagated at various indigenous nurseries, which have in turn, sponsored some of the trees to be planted back into Madikwe. We hope that by next year we will be able to do the same but on larger scale.

Finally, Madikwe had its first rains and even though we had lots of damage at Vleisfontein (pictured) where a couple of roofs were ripped off by the wind, we are still thankful for good rains that were urgently needed. Stations recorded from 12 mm in the South East to above 30 mm in the central and North Western areas of the Park.



The 8 dogs in lion boma have bonded and Declan should be ready to release them within the next two weeks. The two Kwena's in Elephant Boma should also be ready to leave the Park shortly to their new home in a Private Reserve in Natal.

Please be reminded to keep the mortality data coming. It seems that since the last major breakdown in radio communications, there are less mortalities being called in than ever. Your assistance will be much appreciated.

This month will see the start of a new research project on the brown and spotted hyenas. Some of you have already met Nancy Barker and we are hoping that during the time that she spends in Madikwe, she will be able to confirm spotted hyena numbers. Logistics of the project will be given through as soon as she starts.

3. From the Park Manager's Desk

Land Restitution Update

The Barokologadi land restitution process has entered the third last phase this month, when Officials from the Regional Land Claims Commission for Gauteng and the North West Province arrived, to physically confirm the boundaries of the properties claimed.

The Provincial Land Reform Office will now lodge the disposal application to the Provincial land Disposal Committee. Once the application is approved, it will then be forwarded to the Regional Land Claims Commission, which will lodge a transfer request with the Office of the State Attorney with recommendations to the Minister of Land Affairs for the approval and issuing of title deeds of the claimed properties.

It is anticipated that this process will be completed by the end of this year, after which the Barokologadi Communal Property Association will approach the North West Parks and Tourism Board to negotiate issues around the co-management of their land and other related matters.

The Regional Land Claims Commissioner, Ms. Boitumelo Seboka, called a Business Consultative meeting in Rustenburg with Business, Government Departments, and other related stakeholders to address post settlement support, identify areas where stakeholders could contribute in, lobby financial and development support and to establish committees that will drive the process beyond restitution.

The above was as a result of the following identified challenges facing new land owners:

1. Lack of sustainable implementation.
2. Lack of commitment and resources.
3. Inter community dynamics and lack of farming and management skills.

In our case, the Board is expected inter alia and according to the settlement agreement, facilitates training in wild life management, employment opportunities and fast track benefit sharing for the community represented by the CPA.

There are therefore daunting tasks ahead for both the Board and the Community but most certainly for the Reserve Management, which will have to implement decisions taken and harmonize the relationship with the CPA community at large.

We seem to be entering the rain season with good showers and it is hoped that they will persist until the veld has recovered and the bigger water bodies have collect substantial amounts of water. Unfortunately for us yesterdays storm has left behind a fair amount of destruction at Vleischfontein where two store rooms, and a house's roof was blown off and some other damage to buildings and the fact that I could not get into my office this morning as flood run off water was standing ten centimeters high on the floor but hey what the heck, we needed the rain so much it dint matter.

4. Cartoon: by Minaret de Wet of Madikwe Safari Lodge

