



WildlifeCampus

Nature Calls

**Nature
Patterns**
By Amy Holt

**Travel Buggz
Adventures**

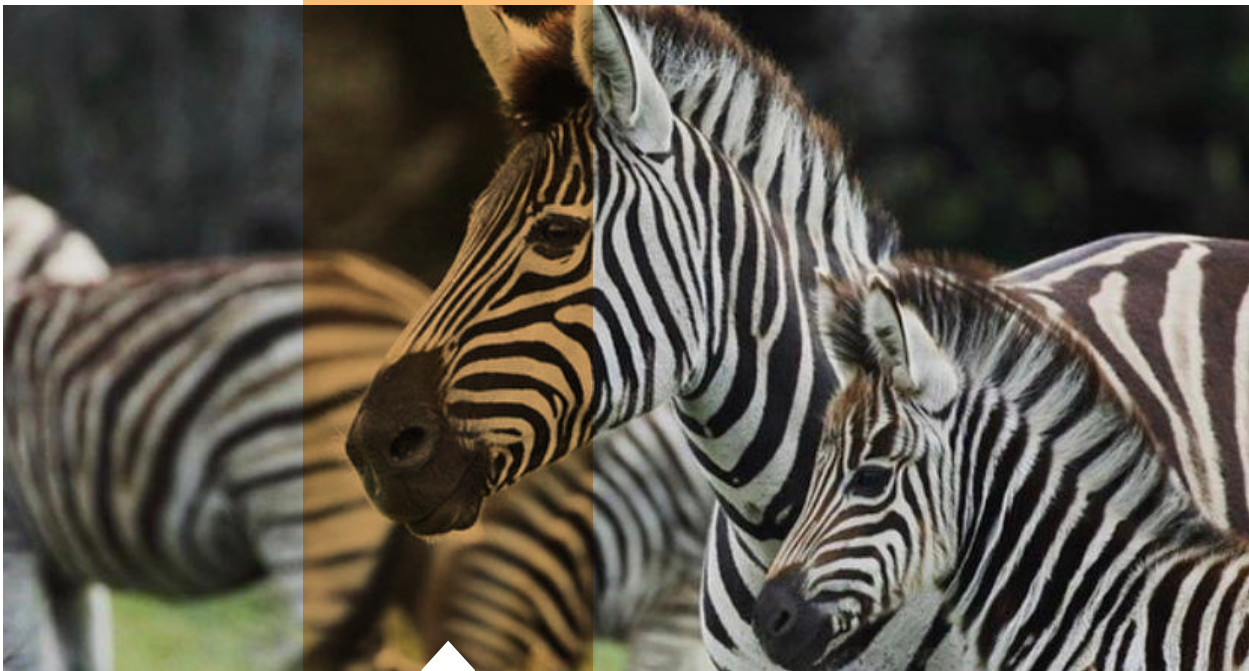
Mimi Magic
Laure-Marie Martin

**My time with
Bennet de Klerk**
By David Batzofin

**African
Folklore**

**Experience
Sibuya Game Reserve**

CONTENT



01

The origins of WildlifeCampus

“The show must go on”, a book written by Peter Armitage tells the birth story of a company called AfriCam. Read with us as the story unfolds, AfriCam grows and eventually, WildlifeCampus finds its origin.

Part 28

PAGE 4

02

Nature Patterns

This month, WildlifeCampus student Amy Holt, explores patterns in nature part 2.

A pattern can help attract a mate, provide camouflage, deter predators, or even act as a form of communication.

PAGE 8

03

Mimi Magic Part 1

WildlifeCampus Student, Laure-Marie Martin shares the emotional story of Mimi, a brave little white rhino who survived a poaching incident.

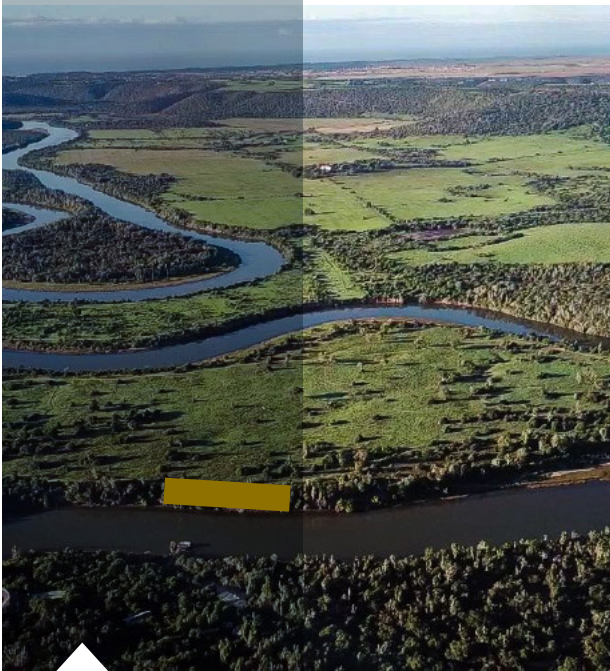
PAGE 12

04

Travel Buggz

Something cool for the kids! Bella Butterfly, Aiden Ant and Lucy Ladybug contine their trip in the Kruger National Park!

PAGE 18



05

Experience Sibuya Game Reserve

Sibuya - A refuge for wild animals and operated with respect for the environment.

Read more about this incredible wild haven on page 20.

PAGE 20

06

African Folklore

The yellow-billed hornbill. This content is written from transcribed tapes recorded by the late Credo Mutwa, one of Southern Africa’s most celebrated Sangomas. The content therefore is not scientific but rather represent the feelings, beliefs and experiences of this exceptional man.

PAGE 22

07

FOH Course and Job Vacancies

Check out our Front of House Lodge Operations Course details as well as the latest Wild Dreams Hospitality Job Vacancies.

PAGE 24

08

My time with Bennet de Klerk

David takes us on a trip to Motsumi Bush Courses, a FGASA-endorsed training and assessment provider since 1997. Many of their ex-students hold senior positions in lodges, safari companies and other Guide Training Facilities. He finds out what makes Motsumi so different?

PAGE 26

The show must go on!

The origin story of WildlifeCampus

01

By co-founder of
WildlifeCampus and
Anchor CEO

Peter Armitage



Missed the previous parts of this story? [Click here](#) to open the WildlifeCampus magazine where this exciting journey starts.

“Hermanus” - 2000

Hermanus is one the best places in the world to view southern right whales. This picturesque town is about an hour’s drive from Cape Town and the steep cliff surrounding a sheltered natural harbour provides an excellent platform for whale-lovers to spot the biggest mammal in the water.

AfriCam concluded an agreement with Hermanus-On-Line to set up a camera. The Municipality of Hermanus was particularly keen to benefit from the coverage that the webcam would bring and installed a lamp-post with the specific purpose of providing a power source for the webcam.

Alex, Adam Fisher and Sean O’Reagan were the installation team and they decided to install the camera on a ledge about halfway down the cliff (about 40m), primarily because they were concerned about theft of the camera. This was not a risk that AfriCam usually faced, as deep in the bush the chance of becoming a lion’s lunch is generally a sufficient deterrent to potential thieves.

The camera installation was again reasonably routine and fairly regular sightings of whales breaching were special moments for AfriCam viewers.



However, this particular installation involved an unsettling experience for the team.

Alex was abseiling down the cliff and Sean was carefully monitoring the rope at the top of the cliff when a drunk local, accompanied by his two children arrived at the scene. He started talking to Sean and within minutes he took a step over the wall and started muttering statements like “there is nothing for me to live for”. He was now only 1m away from the cliff.

It became obvious to Sean that there was a very real possibility that the guy would jump off the cliff in front of his two kids, who by now were crying hysterically. Sean abandoned his post, leaving Alex to fend for himself and assumed the role of counsellor. Sean is a likeable, easy-going guy and it took him all of 45 minutes to talk the drunk back over the wall.

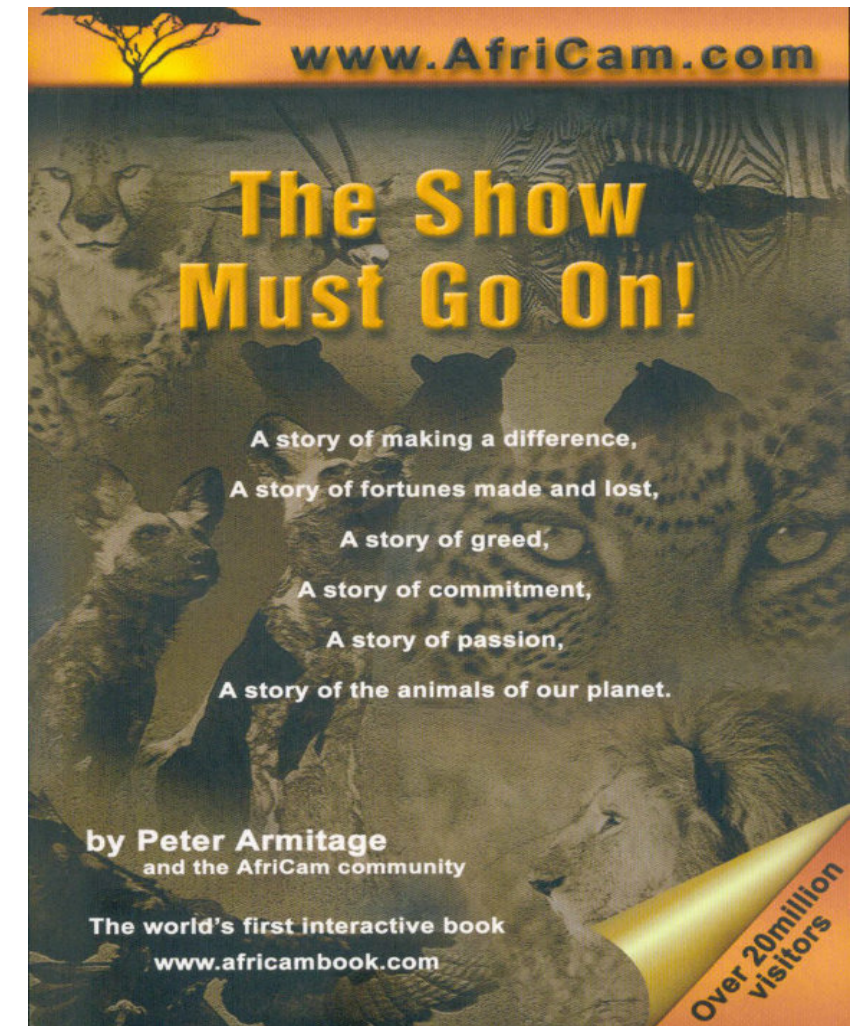
All in a day’s work.

“Swaying in the wind” - 2001

In the instance of the Hermanus cam, the AfriCam team had probably saved a life, but on many occasions AfriCam staff members risked their own lives to bring images to the audience, live and wild.

One of the scariest moments for Alex was climbing 30 metres up a relatively thin pine tree in a swirling wind at the Blackwater Refuge in Chesapeake Bay, Maryland. The Friends of Blackwater (www.friendsofblackwater.org) had sponsored a camera on a bald eagle’s nest, which AfriCam had undertaken to install. Tom Hook accompanied us to the eagle’s nest and showed us the location.

Graham, Alex and I were on this trip and we were under a great deal of time



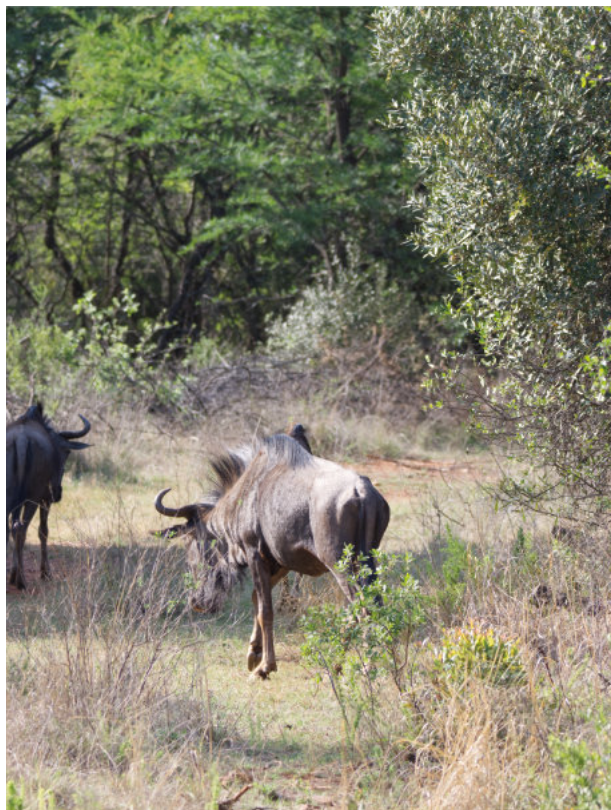
“The Show Must Go On by Peter Armitage and the AfriCam community.”

pressure to complete the job, so that we did not miss our flight from Washington to Rio de Janeiro. The wind had picked up, but if we wanted to install the camera, Alex had no choice but to climb the tree. Taking all the necessary precautions and fully harnessed, Alex started the climb and the wind continued to pick up.

Standing at the base of the tree, Graham and I both started getting nervous as we saw Alex sway a full 5m either way as the tree bent in the wind. Alex was visibly shaken when he returned to terra firma, and it was clear that he felt in real danger. This was another successful installation, but unfortunately a normally reliable bald eagle failed to use this nest that year and AfriCam viewers never saw the fruits of Alex’s efforts.

The folks at Blackwater were determined to have a camera, however, and they organised the installation of a camera on an Osprey nest shortly thereafter, which was also broadcast on AfriCam.

Alex mastered his bow and arrow technique at the Blackwater Refuge.



He used the apparatus to shoot a weighted piece of string over a branch. He then pulled a stronger piece of rope over the branch to enable him to safely climb the tree. The bow and arrow proved invaluable in the subsequent installation in the Brazilian Rain Forest a few days later.

“Golden Lion Tamarins” - December 2001

The UK headquarters of the WWF had sponsored GBP5000 for AfriCam to install a webcam and broadcast live Golden Lion Tamarins from the Atlantic Rainforest in Brazil, about 100km west of Rio de Janeiro. Our lottery was also using the tamarins as a project to raise capital and had agreed to pay for the installation.

The golden lion tamarin (which we referred to as the GLT) is a small, squirrel-sized mammal with a lion-like fiery orange mane. Once considered the most endangered primate in the world, serious conservation efforts had seen the population in the wild increase from an estimated 100 to close to 1000. The UK WWF was one of the bodies responsible for the revival of the GLT and was using the “birth of the 1000th tamarin in the wild” as a marketing success story, which was the motivation behind the camera installation.

Setting up the installation logistics from Johannesburg was a feat in itself. We could not get anybody on the phone who could speak English and eventually our Portuguese bookkeeper was used as an intercontinental telephonic translator.

Graham, Alex and I arrived in Rio and immediately set off in a hire car for the Poco das Antas Biological Reserve, a 6000 hectare piece of land which was at one time was the only place in the world where the GLT was found in the wild.

Getting to the Reserve must feature as one of the most terrifying experiences in the history of AfriCam. In South Africa, road manners are among the best in the world, but compared to Brazilian drivers, the infamous South African taxi-drivers look like little old ladies. Overtaking on blind rises resulted in many fatalities and we felt relieved to reach the reserve.

The head of the reserve, Denise Mareal Rambaldi, was an exceptionally good host and accompanied us to our Fazbom (guest lodge) which was in a beautiful setting on a mountain slope.

That afternoon we were taken to the rainforest where we had our first sighting of a GLT. One of the GLT’s in each family unit is collared and one of the staff from the Reserve located the monkeys by using a battery-powered antennae, which makes a loud noise when you are in the vicinity of the collared GLT.

We walked through the forest for about an hour before we had our first sighting of these beautiful animals. A little bigger than a newly born kitten, a GLT has incredibly long “artistic” fingers and its long fur looks, quite literally as if it is spun gold. This amazing glittering pelt stands away from its face in a sort of semi-recumbent mane which gives it a lion-like look. Like all the marmosets and tamarins, their movements are incredibly quick and sometimes they move with such speed it is impossible to follow the movement with your eye.

The GLT’s that we saw had been re-introduced from captivity and hence were tamer than those born in the wild. They leapt from tree to tree around us, fascinated by our presence. The noise surprised me and their vocalizations are very bird-like as they communicate in a series of trills, sharp squeaks and chatterings. (see www.africambook.com for pictures and video clip).

When GLT’s are reintroduced into the wild, food is left at a feeding station and this was the ideal location for a webcam as sightings were guaranteed. It takes about six months before the GLT’s become accustomed to living in the wild and they then stop relying on the food provided by humans. GLT’s naturally eat fruit, insects, eggs, and occasionally catch small lizards, toads, and frogs.

The following day we had a more authentic view of GLT’s as we travelled a little further from the Reserve to a farmer’s land where truly wild tamarins were present. Corridors of trees have been planted between existing forest patches to

allow the GLT’s to move between previously isolated populations.

These GLT’s were a little harder to locate and we ventured far into the forest before the radio antennae started beeping. I looked up and the sight was reassuring – a GLT family unit as nature intended. They naturally live in the middle level of the forest canopy and did not come within 20m of us. The GLT’s we had seen the day before often ran along the ground, but this family stayed at least 1500 feet above the ground.

Our guide needed to go back to the Reserve and we were keen to stay and watch the GLT’s. Graham reassured her that we knew our way back. She was happy to give us the benefit of the doubt, but left us with a panga to cut through the dense forest in case we got lost.

After about another hour, we decided to go back. Graham immediately assumed the role of guide. Alex and I dutifully followed him, but started losing faith after about an hour.

“Are you sure you know what direction we should be heading in,” I questioned, getting a little tired.

“Don’t be a doubter,” Graham responded, “I am a walking compass.”

“Sure,” Alex remarked cynically.

Half and hour later we were deep in the forest and I feared that we were walking in circles. Graham came in for heightening levels of abuse from both of us, as it became necessary to use the panga to cut away vegetation to move forward.

We were about to review our strategy when suddenly the forest opened up and we could see our car in the distance. “And you doubted me,” Graham said triumphantly.

We were convinced that this was pot luck, but Graham maintains to this day that he knew exactly where we were going. That night I annihilated Graham on the table tennis table and we went to bed early after a full day.

The next morning we went back to the first location to install the camera. We identified the appropriate location for the camera, overlooking the feeding station. We now needed to find a way to get the image out of the forest. This required getting the image to the top of the tallest tree, where we would position a microwave receiver. This receiver needed to have line of sight to a location on the ground where we would place our satellite dish.

I was a spectator for this part of the installation, preferring to

keep my feet on the ground. Alex pulled out his now famous bow and arrow and made numerous attempts to get the rope over the branch of a tree that we reckoned was the tallest in the vicinity. Eventually he was successful and, after donning his climbing gear, he made his way up the tree.

The intrepid adventures eventually reached the top of the tree and Alex spotted a house in the distance, which was in direct line of sight.

Graham joined Alex, but some nervous moments ensued when he realised at the height of his ascent that he had not correctly fitted his abseiling equipment. In order to descend he had to reconfigure his buckle with one hand, while hanging from a branch with the other hand. It took him a few minutes to gather the confidence to perform the feat, realising that he would fall 30m if he let go. He did it, largely because there was no other option, but there was sweat pouring from his brow.

Our mission was now to get permission to locate the PC and satellite dish at the house Alex spotted from the treetops.. That afternoon, Denise accompanied us to the house and played the role of translator and chief negotiator. She was confident that the homeowner would co-operate. “The people here are very friendly,” she explained, “And they have begun to buy into the concept of conservation.”





Nature Patterns

By WildlifeCampus student

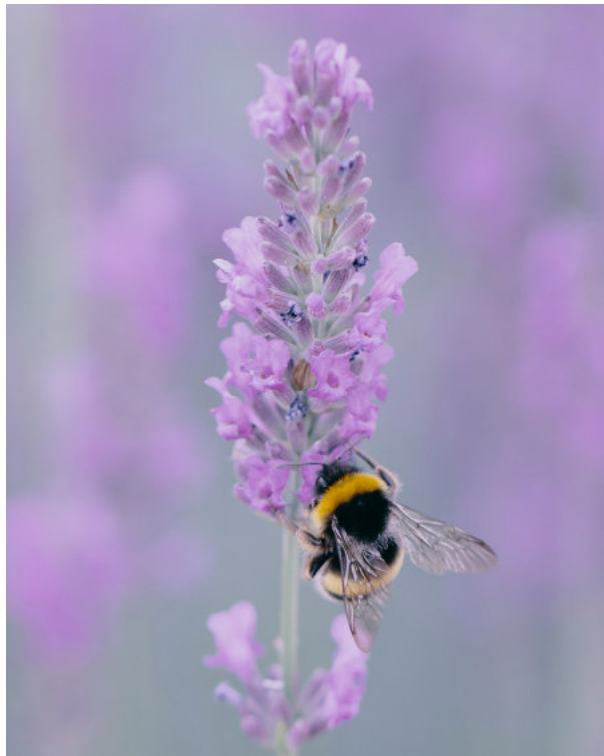
Amy Holt

Many animals on our planet have a stripy pattern. From the black and white stripes of a zebra to the yellow and black striped body of a bumblebee, these stripes tell the story of how each animal survives and thrives in nature.

The tiger is instantly recognisable for its bright orange coat and bold black stripes. As solitary cats, tigers rely on stealth and camouflage to hunt. The tiger's stripes act as a form of disruptive colouration. They help break up the tiger's shape and size amongst the light and shadows in the long grass of the dense jungles they inhabit. As apex predators, tigers shape and maintain the ecosystem they inhabit. By preying on herbivores, they prevent overgrazing. If tigers didn't control prey populations, they would become too large and exceed the carrying capacity of their habitat. This would deplete resources and increase the spread of diseases for the prey species and others who live in that habitat. By protecting tigers, the forest habitat can be maintained, which helps safeguard water supplies for local communities. Despite appearing to stand out to humans with their bright orange colour, tigers are actually hiding in plain sight. Their prey has limited colour vision, so they perceive the tigers as green, which blends seamlessly with the background of the dense jungle. Each tiger has a unique stripe pattern, just as humans have unique fingerprints. These unique stripes provide social recognition and identification within the species. This is especially useful between mothers and cubs.

Zebras are iconic and photogenic thanks to their stripes. Each species of zebra has a different stripe width, spacing and continuation on their body. Plains zebra have bolder stripes that extend around the belly. Mountain zebra have fewer and wider stripes. While, Grevy's zebra have narrow, closely spaced stripes that cover the entire body—the Grevy's zebra is the most densely striped zebra species. The stripy pattern of a zebra doesn't just differ between species, but is unique to each individual zebra. Zebras are considered to be black with white stripes.

02



But why does the zebra have stripes? The zebra’s stripy pattern has puzzled scientists for years. One theory is that the stripes evolved to confuse predators. When zebras group together, the stripes act as disruptive camouflage, making it difficult for a lion to distinguish an individual zebra from the group. Theory two suggests that the stripes help control the zebra’s body temperature (thermoregulation). The most likely reason for the zebra’s stripe pattern is theory three, to prevent or deter fly bites. Zebra fur is short and more susceptible to fly bites, and the diseases carried by the flies are fatal to zebras. Researchers placed different striped sheets on horses and measured the effect this had on horseflies. Patterns of contrasting stripes deterred the horseflies. Thus, the stripes of a zebra may confuse the flies’ visual system and make it difficult for them to land. More research is needed to fully understand why the zebra has its stripes; however, it is evident that this stripe pattern isn’t just for show.

The common clownfish is instantly recognisable for its bright orange body with white stripes. These stripes appear as clownfish mature from larvae into adults in a process known as metamorphosis. The white stripes may help hide clownfish among the tentacles of sea anemones. They may also allow clownfish to recognise individuals belonging to the same species. Scientists have discovered that the speed at which the white stripes form depends on the species of sea anemone that the clownfish inhabits. Sea anemones and clownfish have a symbiotic relationship known as mutualism (both species benefit from each other). The sea anemone provides a home and protection for the clownfish. In return,

clownfish provide the sea anemone with nutrients (ammonia) from their waste and remove parasites. Young clownfish that live in the giant carpet anemone get their white stripes faster than clownfish living in the magnificent sea anemone. These white stripes form due to pigment cells, known as iridophores, which express a specific subset of genes. Thyroid hormones sped up the formation of white stripes by activating the iridophore genes. The scientists discovered that the levels of thyroid hormones were higher in clownfish that inhabited the giant carpet anemone than in clownfish from the magnificent sea anemone. Giant carpet anemone is more toxic, and so thyroid hormone levels may increase as a response to stress. Thus, the clownfish’s survival is enhanced by forcing them to grow and become adults faster. Clownfish are covered in a thick mucus layer, which gets thicker as they grow. This mucus layer acts as a physical barrier, protecting them against the venomous tentacles of sea anemones. The evolution of the clownfish’s white stripes is intertwined with its symbiotic relationship with the sea anemone. This perfectly showcases the power of cooperation in the natural world.

Bumblebees are easily identified by their large, hairy bodies and distinctive yellow and black stripes. This stripy-coloured pattern is used to advertise that they are not worth eating (aposematism). There are about 250 species of bumblebee, but they don’t all have the classic yellow and black stripes. For example, the white-tailed bumblebee has a white tail, as the name suggests, and two bright yellow stripes on its black body. The garden bumblebee also has a white tail, but it has three instead of two yellow stripes, while the early bumblebee has an orange-red tail with two yellow stripes. In fact, there are over 400 different colour patterns. The same few colours are mixed and matched over the various segments of the bumblebee’s body. Different bumblebee species in the same geographic region often resemble each other’s striped colour pattern. Each bumblebee species is distasteful (due to its sting) and shares a common predator. By mimicking each other’s honest warning signal, the predator only needs to encounter one of the bumblebee species for them both to benefit from protection. This is known as mullerian mimicry. The evolution of the bumblebee’s stripe pattern provides an insight into the interconnected world of nature.



WildlifeCampus Study Options

FEATURES	PURCHASE COURSES	MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION	LIFETIME SUBSCRIPTION
COURSE ACCESS	UNLIMITED ACCESS TO THE COURSE/S YOU PURCHASE FOR LIFE.	ACCESS TO ALL OUR COURSES <u>WHILE SUBSCRIBED</u> .	UNLIMITED ACCESS TO ALL OUR COURSES FOR LIFE.
HOW DOES PAYMENT WORK?	YOU CAN PAY FOR YOUR COURSE/S IN ONE PAYMENT, OR TAKE A MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN.	R300 PER MONTH FOR 24 MONTHS (YOU CAN CANCEL ANYTIME- NO CANCELLATION FEES).	R 18 000 ONCE-OFF PAYMENT.
ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATE COSTS	NONE. THE CERTIFICATE FEES ARE INCLUDED WITH YOUR PURCHASE.	R250 PER CERTIFICATE REDEEMED.	NONE. THE CERTIFICATE FEES ARE INCLUDED WITH YOUR PURCHASE.



Mimi magic Part 1



A white rhinoceros
miraculously rescued,
but still in danger.

By WildlifeCampus Student

Laure-Marie Martin

03

Mimi's story begins on a hopeful note. Born at Sibuya Game Reserve in 2022, she is the first White Rhino to be born to an orphaned mother, herself the survivor of a poaching incident. A glimmer of life, in a difficult context, for an endangered species.

South Africa is home to the White and Black Rhino, two endangered species, mainly as a result of human activity and poaching. Sibuya is a testament to the fight being waged day after day to protect its Rhinos.

Like most game reserves in South Africa, Sibuya Game Reserve is privately owned. It was in 2004 that Nick and Carol Fox and Fenella Lawrenson, the current owners, invested in a family project.

The name Sibuya reflects the philosophy of the operation:

“Sibuya” means “We return”...

A place to come back to, for wild animals and guests alike.

Sibuya has evolved little by little, a refuge for the animals and operated with respect for the environment.

The amount of game drive vehicles circulating on the reserve at one time is limited and the rangers constantly communicate so as not to cross paths. It's a unique experience for customers who are immersed in a privileged environment. Sibuya has one main objective: to develop diversity. More than 400 species of birds live side by side with no fewer than 45 species of wild animal, including the famous Big 5, the most dangerous on the planet.

The White Rhinoceros is one of the iconic species, a challenge for the reserve. As the property extends over 36sqkm (3'600ha), the threat of poaching is a constant pressure. A team of Anti-poachers is dedicated 24 hours a day to monitor this species, which is so coveted for its horn. Made from the same material as our human fingernails, Rhinoceros horn has been transported from Africa to China, Korea and Vietnam for hundreds of years for use in traditional medicine. It is reputed to be an aphrodisiac and even to have healing powers for certain cancers. Although science refutes these beliefs, they continue to haunt all species of Rhinoceros. Since the ban on the Rhino horn trade in 1977, poachers have been supported by criminal gangs, equipped with sophisticated weapons and equipment to hunt down these vulnerable and endangered animals. The aim of the Anti-poaching teams is to act quickly. The animals are often mutilated by the heartless hacking off of their horns, leaving them to die slowly in their own blood. Because there's no question of losing even a precious gram of horn, the criminals slash right down into the face, generally with chain saws or axes, damaging the sinuses and sometimes the optic nerves. The brutal “operation” is carried out without mercy on drugged and immobilized animals (the substance deprives them of the slightest movement). Frozen, but without anesthetic, the Rhinos feel the pain and agonize in silence. Their young usually do not flee. When they're not also prey for the criminals, frightened and traumatized, they stay by their mother's side, witnessing the massacre. Frequently in their distress, they rush in to help their mother and are then attacked with axes or shot so that they do not get in the way of the poachers - as was the case with Mimi.

Sibuya is well aware of the risks. A potent high-voltage electric fence runs around the reserve and is permanently maintained to protect against assailants. A team of Anti-poachers is trained and ready at a moment's notice.

During 2016, the first poaching incident hit Sibuya.

Bingo, the father of all Sibuya baby Rhino at the time, was mutilated and left to die but was revived the next day by the Vet. Sadly, as a result of the severity of his wounds, he was blinded by the incident and it was only a day later that his condition was discovered. Tragically, being blind, he had fallen down a bank into the estuary and for a whole day the team struggled to assist him to find his way out, but sadly failed. The heart-breaking and tragic decision was made that Bingo had to be euthanized otherwise he would have drowned with the incoming tide.

Tragically Bingo's herd, two female Rhinos, had also been slaughtered where they peacefully slept with their calves. Noelle (2 1/2 months old) and Binky (11mths) - two baby females - were now orphaned and had borne witness to the death of their mothers. Traumatized, they could not have survived without their mother's milk and care in the wild. They had to be darted and transferred to a Rehabilitation Hospital for 24hour monitoring and feeding. Baby Noelle was bottle-fed specialized Rhino milk formula every 2 hours by a small team of dedicated carers.

Binky joined and bonded with another older orphaned Rhino called Courage. The two of them were kept in a larger paddock under strict surveillance. They needed this respite to regain their strength, overcome the trauma and find their

bearings again. Binky, considerably older, was the first to be successfully reintroduced to Sibuya, with her friend Courage, who Sibuya purchased because they couldn't bear to separate them! He became a new member in the Sibuya Rhino herd!

Fortunately, Noelle was not alone either. Another even younger orphaned Rhino calf, Winston, was brought to the Rehabilitation Hospital. As soon as he arrived, they developed a close-knit, inseparable relationship.

Another friendship born out of horror. Sibuya couldn't think of breaking the bond so they negotiated to purchase Winston, much to Noelle's delight. After a year of tremendous expense and adjustment, they were both ready to be re-wilded. When they were released back onto Sibuya, Winston didn't let Noelle out of his sight.

It was a huge but stressful adventure to transport two young Rhinos but thankfully all went according to plan!

A very emotional event to all those watching the two young Rhino coming out of their trailers and back to be free on Sibuya.

The group of young Rhinos found their feet again in the safety of Sibuya. Winston and Courage, the two males, and Binky and Noelle. Life returned to normal on Sibuya with a close-knit guard keeping a watchful eye. At this time the Anti-poaching Unit was expanding and arming itself to deter and ward off poachers.



And then there was Covid 19! Shut down! Overnight!

Airlines stopped carrying customers. No more revenue... The reserve had to virtually close down, but thanks to Nick's resolve to keep Noah's Ark from sinking, the reserve's limited 'behind the scene operations' were kept ticking but very low-key. Fences were repaired, maintenance operations kept to a minimum.

The game drive cruisers remained in their garages, and the animals returned to an unprecedented level of wild tranquility. Two years of lethargy for the deserted reserve. With no finances, the Anti-poaching team gradually fell apart. Two members remained, the ones to whom Rhinos really counted, driven by a passion for their highly responsible work and dedication to their precious charges.

The Fox family stuck together and managed, only just, to hold out until 2021 when the reserve finally reopened its doors. Fortunately Sibuya's loyal employees answered the call and returned to work. Operations resumed at a slower pace and the customers gradually returned. Again Noelle, Binky, Winston and Courage got used to the sight of the guides' cruisers conveying the visitors. At the beginning of 2022, a new ray of hope lit up Sibuya.

Noelle unexpectedly expanded the Sibuya family by giving birth to her little one.

Mimi, a miracle!

An event welcomed with great joy by the whole reserve. The hope of peace and prosperity was restored.

Unfortunately, tragically, the calm preceded the storm. In April 2023, Sibuya was hit by another tragedy - an attack by ruthless poachers took place, orchestrated by daring criminals who seemed to know the schedules and the terrain. They were efficient and blatantly daring. Noelle and Binky, both pregnant, were found mutilated and dead.

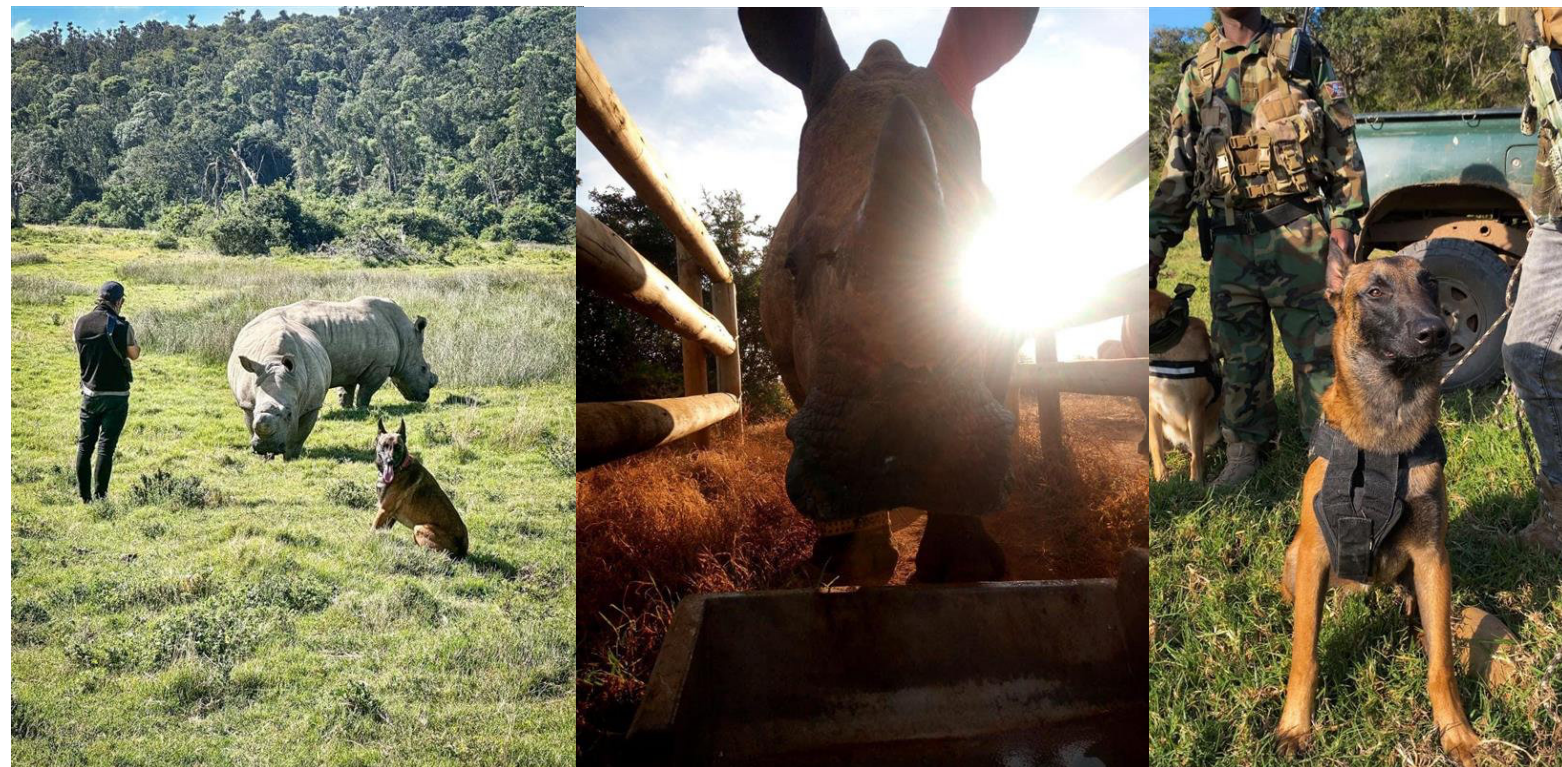
The whole Sibuya family was heartbroken yet again with this devastating incident.

The group of Rhinos split up during the attack so fortunately, Courage and Winston were unharmed. As for Mimi, she was nowhere to be found. Two helicopter searches were launched immediately to attempt to find the poachers and baby Mimi.

The hunt was on. Hours of nightmare anxiety. The police blocked the roads to arrest the criminals. All of Sibuya was called upon to find Mimi. Without her mother, without food and, as it turned out, severely injured, time was running out. An intense and traumatic situation.

Part 2 and the search for Mimi continues in our August Magazine.





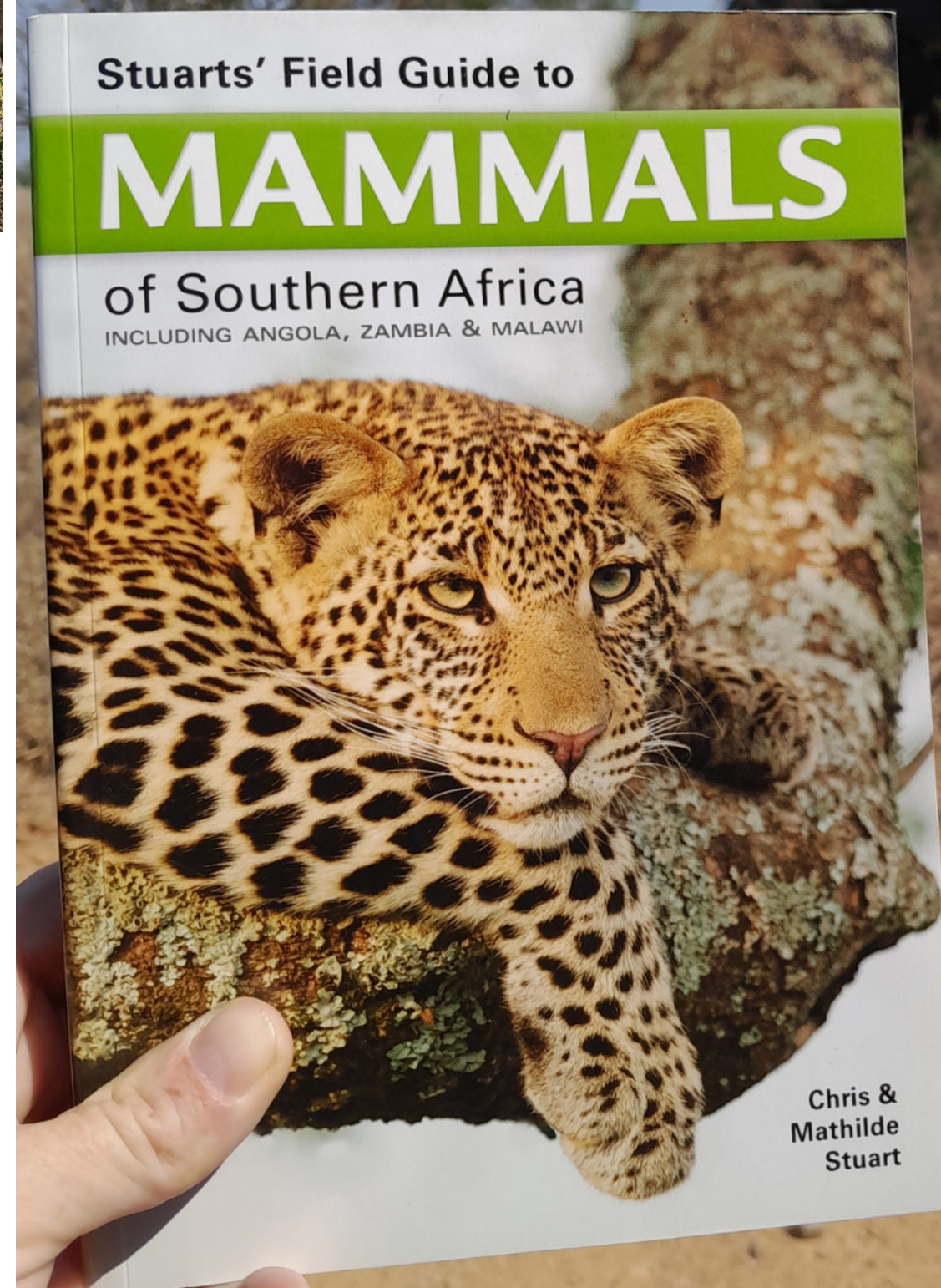
Money rules our society, silently driving the most vulnerable to extinction. Let's not wait until it's too late.

Protecting Rhinos starts with raising awareness. We need to talk about this problem, which affects the whole of Africa, and bring it to light internationally. Setting up partnerships so that together, in solidarity across the world, we can leave children a world as diverse as the one we find so wonderful today.

<https://sibuya.co.za/rhino-foundation/>



Highly recommended Field Guide by



Greater southern Africa has a wealth of mammal species, almost 400 – all of which are covered in this fully updated, comprehensive field guide.

Get your
copy here



The Travel Buggz Adventures

Bella Butterfly, Aiden Ant and Lucy Ladybug continue their Kruger National Park experience.

"In the open plains Bella points to a tower of Giraffe. "Look how their tongues curl around the thorn bush and they even swallow the thorns.

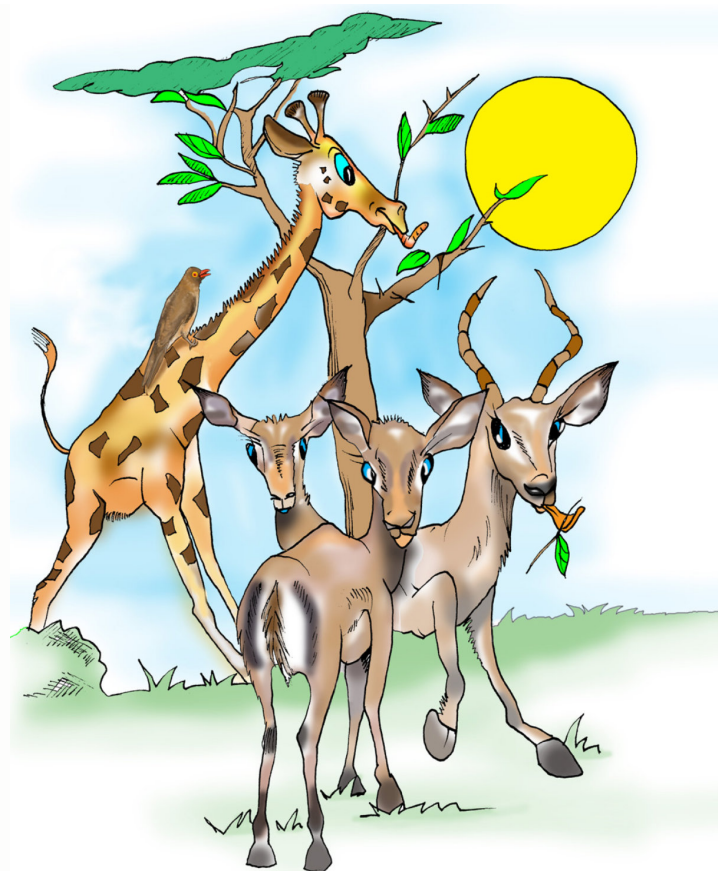
See how their necks stretch to reach the tree tops." "And look, the baby has a Red-billed Oxpecker sitting on his back," says Aiden.

"Let's go to Lake Panic bird hide, near Skukuzacamp, it's always alive with wildlife."

"I am scared to get out the car," squirms Lucy Ladybug. "It's dangerous out there, what if" she splutters.

"You're allowed to leave your car; at your own risk!" Aiden Ant confirms sternly.

"Don't rush, don't run and please don't make loud noises," Bella asks. "We must respect the bush and the other people in the hide."



The wooden floor creaked. Spiders scurried along the fence as their webs built the night before were disturbed by the visitors. A sandbag perched on the ledge, the camera resting in place to capture something special. Aiden scanned the water.



Suddenly a blast of water changed the glassy dam surface to a ripple of waves. "It's a hippopotamus," he yelled as their bobbly eyes slowly popped up to the surface like corks bobbing up and down.



"Count the different water birds you can spot, I'll get the coffee and rusks to enjoy," suggests Bella.

"I'll get more than you", Aiden taunts Lucy Ladybug.

"I know my bird species too," she accepts the challenge.

A Jacana wading in the reeds, a Kingfisher in the dead tree, a red-knobbed coot swimming between the water lilies.

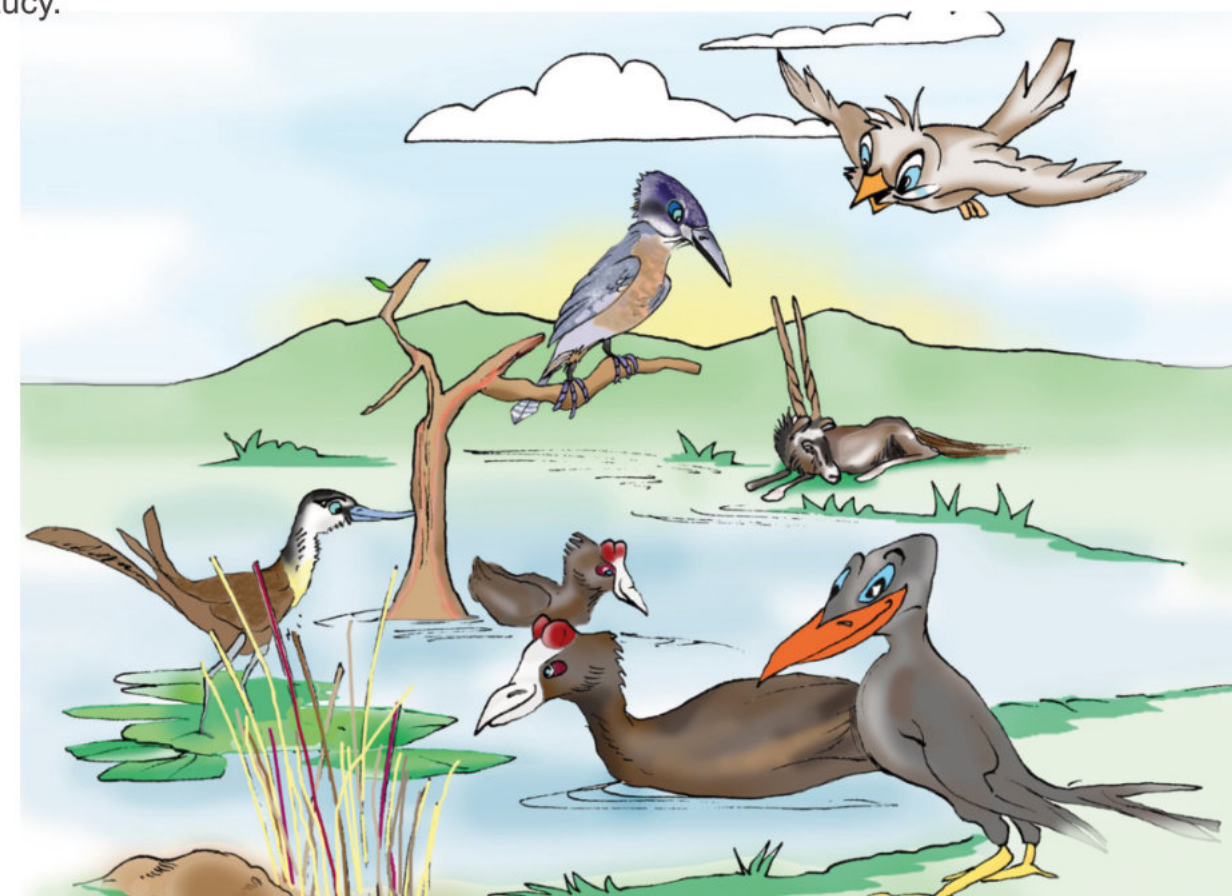
"And, what's that one with long legs?" points Lucy.

"That's not a bird silly, it's an antelope's horns."

The Buggz had fun at the bird hide and cant wait to see what other animals and interesting things they can find. Catch up with them in the next episode, featured in the upcoming issue of WildlifeCampus.

The Travel Buggz stories are a series of children's story books about the adventures of the author and her two children. If you would like copies of any of the nine titles of books, contact : sandy@travelbuggz.co.za

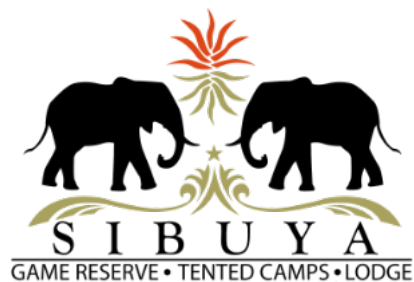
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Experience the enchantment of Sibuya Game Reserve

By WildlifeCampus COO

Eloise Acx



Website: www.sibuya.co.za
Email: res2@sibuya.co.za
Instagram: [sibuya_game_reserve](https://www.instagram.com/sibuya_game_reserve)
Facebook pages: Sibuya and Sibuya Rhino Foundation

Imagine a wild place where animals roam ancient floodplains and pristine coastal forests. A place where your senses come alive as you hear the rumble of elephants, see majestic rhinos, hear the call of the African fish eagle, smell a herd of buffalo and feel the bark of trees that have been there for thousands of years. A place where your soul is truly connected to the wilderness and you feel completely at peace.

Now imagine that the only way you can reach this wild haven is by taking a boat ride through a meandering estuary that is alive with otters and hundreds of bird species. If you scan the banks during your journey, you can spot antelope and charismatic megafauna, namely the “Big 5”.

What if I told you that you need not imagine? This is a reality.



Yes, dear readers. Such a magical place exists in our very own country! This is Sibuya! Located in the Eastern Cape along the iconic Kariega Estuary, this malaria-free Game Reserve is South Africa's only game reserve accessed solely by boat.

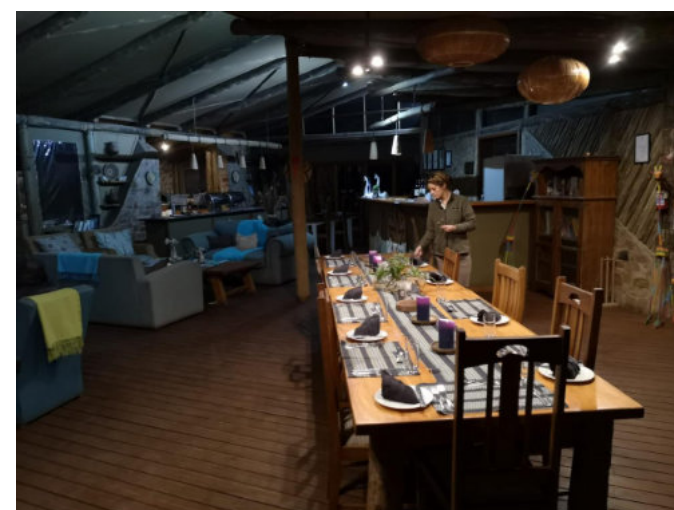
After the 40-45 minute boat transfer up the Kariega Estuary, the unique “Sibuya experience” does not end there. Upon arrival at the bush lodge or either of the two exclusive bush camps, guests will be welcomed into their accommodations, consisting of luxury en-suite tents on elevated wooden decks. Their professional guides are dedicated to providing personalised experiences through tailored game drives, insightful guided walks, and exclusive boat excursions to ensure an unforgettable experience.

Delicious buffet-style dining with an African twist is an integral part of any visit to Sibuya. Meals are served in a variety of settings, whether it be in the traditional lapa, on picnics, or under a starlit sky in the magnificent open-air boma. Each dining experience is complemented by exceptional South African wine.

But wait, there is more! For those seeking a truly unique volunteer experience, The Sibuya Wilderness Experience offers volunteers the exciting opportunity to get hands-on experience in the conservation efforts of Sibuya Game Reserve. To learn more about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, please click [here](#). Visit the Sibuya website.

We are confident that your experience at Sibuya will be exceptional and unforgettable. True to its name, Sibuya will leave you with a profound desire to return.

“Sibuya” – we will return.



Forest Camp-Children over the age of 12 only. 4-star eco-friendly destination run on solar power but has wi-fi.



Bush Lodge-Children over the age of 12 only. Has mains electricity and wi-fi.



River Camp – child friendly. Eco-friendly. Run on solar power and has wi-fi.



African Folklore

The yellow-billed hornbill



By Credo Mutwa

The content that follows is written from transcribed tapes recorded by the late Credo Mutwa, one of Southern Africa's most celebrated Sangomas. The content therefore is not scientific but rather represent the feelings, beliefs and experiences of this exceptional man.

These stories are written in precisely the same way that Credo Mutwa tells them, with all their original colloquialisms and styles.

The yellow-billed hornbill, umkolwana, is a bird that really brings laughter to one's heart. Now, what is this name, umkolwana? In Zulu if you say, "I believe," you say "ngiakolwa," and 'a believer,' whether a Christian or a believer in any religion is known as ikolwa.

Now what has this got to do with this bird? The answer is very simple. A hornbill is a strange bird, which, when it sits on the branch of a tree always looks up at the sky as if it sees something or someone up there. Over the centuries, our people began to believe that the umkolwana is the symbol of faith, the symbol of human faith in a better tomorrow. The umkolwana, the little believer, is the bird of the optimist who says, "All shall come right in the end."

Even when there is the biggest drought, you will never see the umkolwana's beak drooping earthwards; it is always facing upwards, because it believes in a better tomorrow.



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07



WILD DREAMS JOB VACANCIES

Wild Dreams is a prominent company in the hospitality industry, specialising in recruitment and consultancy. We mainly focus on the safari lodge sector, as evident from our clientele. Our clients range from small lodges that accommodate only a few individuals to well-known large lodge groups with properties scattered throughout Africa.

At Wild Dreams, we are always on the lookout for field guides with various levels of experience. Additionally, we have positions where guiding knowledge is required, but the role is more focused on front of house or management responsibilities.

As a company, we prioritise conservation and actively support wildlife sanctuaries. We are deeply involved in community work and collaborate with numerous non-profit organisations in the wildlife and conservation field.

While we believe that most of you may find the aforementioned positions interesting, we also have constant vacancies in areas such as reservations, maintenance, and chef roles. To access these job opportunities, you can scan the provided QR code to visit our main jobs page. If you come across a job that catches your interest, you can submit your application online. However, if you don't find a suitable job at the moment, you can still upload your application directly into our database.

Furthermore, we have dedicated pages offering interview advice and CV tips. We even provide a free CV template that you can download. Our founder, who is a certified career coach, is deeply passionate about assisting individuals in finding their dream jobs.

Wishing you a successful job search!
The Wild Dreams team.

www.wilddreams.co.za



My time with Bennet de Klerk

By David Batzofin



Motsumi Bush Courses has been an FGASA-endorsed training and assessment provider since 1997. Many of its former students now hold senior positions in lodges, safari companies, and other Guide Training Facilities.

What makes Motsumi different is its personal approach. Bennet de Klerk, Motsumi's founder and trainer principal, is intimately involved in every step of the course.

Most of the training will be done by him with the occasional relief of a subject matter expert being called in for some change of scenery.

The tents offer shared accommodation for two students, while the cabins are for single use and not shared (however, they need to be reserved when you book your course). Even though Bennet spent time in the military, the camp is NOT run according to those guidelines.



David is an award-winning blogger whose work can be found at www.travelandthings.co.za

He does expect the camp and surrounds to be kept clean and to that end, he splits the students into teams that will cycle through the various tasks for the 8-week duration of the course.

They are assigned to terrain, cooking and management roles. With the latter having to take responsibility for any shortfall in the other two.

As the sun dipped below the surrounding mountain ranges, this sunset signalled the end of the first day of the NQF 2 course and the students' first night under canvas.

All meals are prepared by the students on a rotational basis. Breakfast on the first morning and it was eggs in a variety of guises. Scrambled, fried and as omelettes, together with bread and a strong cup of coffee.

The most important moment came just after breakfast: the handing out of the text and workbooks. Although this course has a practical element, paperwork needs to be completed to prove that the prescribed work modules have been completed. Paperwork can be the bane of a guide's life, but it is necessary. Records have to be accurately kept, especially when it comes to logging trail hours.

Top Tip: Keep your paperwork up to date daily where possible.

At this point reality set in and the group began to realise that intense work lies ahead for the next 8 weeks.

Students had been warned that Bruno would escape from Bennet's house and make his way to camp. And he had. He is a lovable character and students find it hard NOT to have him in camp.



Having said that, Bruno is the master of his own destiny and when he has had enough, he takes himself back to the main house, or off to check tracks and smells in the surrounding bush.

Seated in the classroom showing the students an example of just one of the many skulls that he has in his collection.

Books, books and more books. And it is not just these! Oh no, a plethora of reference books need to be used in conjunction with these.

Tests are conducted weekly, and there is an exam at the end of the course. The pass mark is 75%, and this is strictly enforced.

An accident occurred while trying to clear hornet nests in the classroom. Hornets 1-Tent 0.

However, in the end, Bennet emerged triumphant, and the hornets vacated their nest and the classroom.

A flock of geese flew overhead as we arrived at Pilanesberg National Park, a 40-minute drive from the camp.

Once a week students get the opportunity to host game drives in this park. This enables them to gain confidence and to quickly and concisely share information about what the animals are doing. This is not about the transference of book/internet knowledge. It is about interpreting what is seen and then sharing that with guests. Inform, Entertain and Educate, could be the mission statement.

A Nile monitor was one of several spotted on the side of the road. It is usually found in or near water.

FYI: Its tail can grow to more than a metre in length and has multiple functions. While running, it acts as a counterweight, an oar to help power it in the water, and a whip to lash out at assailants in self-defence.



This is probably one of the biggest elephants in musth the students have ever been this close to.

And one of the most relaxed. It had walked past earlier and at that point, it had been less than an arm's length away from the vehicle. Dribbling urine down both back legs they could smell him before they saw him...almost. It is difficult to miss an elephant of this size.

He was treated with respect and he had seemingly no interest in the students or their vehicle.

Did you know? When bull elephants mature, they go into a periodic phase known as musth, characterised by high levels of testosterone and a spurt in energy, during which they might show heightened aggression and unpredictability.

Leopards are being seen regularly in the park and we were lucky that the visual that we had, albeit brief, was not hampered by other vehicles.

Most people can recognise the lioness track, but can you tell what type of tyre left the track on the right?

As this large troop of baboons heads off to their sleeping quarters for the night, Bennet and the students must return to camp.

It was an exciting day for all, and the sightings will be talked about around campfires for years to come.

To find out more about the courses on offer, visit their website: <https://motsumibush.co.za/>

Bennet in his own words...

"I was fortunate to grow up on a Kalahari Game Farm. I had an early fascination with animal tracking and the Bushmen, leading to many disciplinary issues in high school, where my refusal to wear shoes led to a certain amount of friction with school authorities.

After finishing a degree at the University of the Orange Free State, I embarked on a 4-year stint as an overland safari guide. This took me through memorable voyages to Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia.

On May 1, 1994, I accepted a position with Kwa Maritane in the Pilanesberg National Park, where I was soon promoted to training officer for guides, and as a result, I have been a full-time guide trainer since 1996.

I hold a Level 3 SKS (Dangerous Game) guide and assessor. But that is not all... I continued my military career in the Reserve Forces and attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the SANDF. My passion is developing naturalists (the ones who wear clothes).

I do wear shoes quite often, these days".



Travel Buggz