



OCTOBER 2020

WILDLIFE RANGER CHALLENGE

Transfrontier Africa Monthly Newsletter



THE BLACK MAMBAS APU

BY VALERIA VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, MEDIA LIAISON

October month was eventful. The Black Mambas took part in Wildlife Ranger Challenge organized by TUSK in collaboration with Scheinberg Relief Fund and aimed to support rangers of Africa whose salaries had been reduced due to the pandemic or who had lost their whole income.

The Challenge included Ranger Quiz and a 21 km walk with 15 kg backpacks.

In the Quiz our team came 9 out of 23 registered teams. On the 3 October we walked under the rain, accompanied by two security vehicles and completed the challenge in 5 hours.





We would like to thank TUSK and Scheinberg Relief Fund for this fantastic fundraiser, and all the partners: Natural State, International Ranger Federation, The Thin Green Line Foundation, Game Rangers Association of Africa, Global Wildlife Conservation, For Rangers, Great Plains Foundation, Save the Rhino International, Project Ranger, Lion Recovery Fund, Fauna & Flora International, Ivan Carter, The Lion's Share.

Big thanks to Transfrontier Africa staff members for organizing the event in the reserve, and The Black Mambas team for proudly carrying a flag and facing the Challenge with songs. Huge thanks to every single donor for your generosity and contribution to our cause!

OUR CORE DUTIES



In October The Black Mambas found the tracks of copper thieves who left the PVC strings that had been stripped off the copper cables.

The BMs continued regular snare sweep in the reserve and the buffer zone and found wires that acted as snares. The traps were successfully removed.

Our K9 ranger Qolile are now back on duty from maternity leave! In October she visited a local school to show the children how she, as a ranger, works with the anti-poaching dog Ella to protect animals at Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre.

We would like to thank our partners Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre for organizing this session.





October was the month of generous donations for The Black Mambas. We would like to thank Rhino Whisky for stunning Rhino masks, Naledi Game Lodge for rain ponchos, and Whylo Distributors for brand new Vortex binoculars!

These gifts made a difference in our rangers' daily work in the field.

DONATIONS THAT MADE OUR WORK BETTER





THE BUSH BABIES ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

BY LEWYN MAEFALA, PROJECT MANAGER



In October Phalaborwa SPCA taught our EMs about five animal freedoms. After the class, the EMs cleaned the kennels. We keep on learning by doing!

We are thanking Phalaborwa SPCA for your love for animals and assisting our EMs with hands-on learning.



Our Mashishimale matriarchs went to The Kruger National Park, where they visited Masorini archaeological site, Letaba Museum and saw some of our iconic African animals.

Huge thanks to Kansas City Zoo for sponsoring the program and to Letaba Rest Camp for your professionalism.

5 ANIMAL FREEDOMS

- Freedom from hunger and thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury or disease
- Freedom to express normal behavior
- Freedom from fear and distress



In October The Environmental Monitors in collaboration with The Black Mambas delivered 100 more food parcels to the local communities. This time the food was sponsored by HCI Foundation and we are very grateful to you for this!



DONATE
HERE

In total we raised more than \$6000 and would like to raise more!





BALULE RESEARCH PROJECT

BY PAUL ALLIN, RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR

We completed the scat collection in the field for this year's predator prey study. With a wild dog den site in the buffer-zone we managed to get a good sample size for wild dogs for the first time so it will be interesting to see the composition of their diet. With limited people we have not yet been able to complete all the data analysis but have made good progress.



Throughout the year we take pictures at the same location every month, and during the South African spring we do this twice a month. Following the good, solid start to our rainy season the bush has greened phenomenally and this is clearly visible in the photos. After almost 2,5 years of running this project some of the sites have become quite disturbed, mainly by elephants. Paul and Andy checked all the sites and resprayed the marker rocks to ensure we continue to take the pics from the correct locations.

We have also been assisted in the field and office by Rio Button, who completed her MSc at the university of Cape Town a few years ago and was keen to get some experience in the lowveld. Rio has been helping Paul develop a data collection app to make field work more efficient and should help all projects in Balule and for the Bush Babies.

RESEARCH IN OCTOBER:

- Predator-Prey study
- Fixed Point Photography
- Data collection app for field research and The Bush Babies Program





INDLOVU BUSH CAMP VOLUNTEER PROJECT

BY VALERIA VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, MEDIA LIAISON

Despite the lack of volunteers, our Indlovu Camp is alive and we are busy with the conservation work in the reserve. Paul, Andy and Leonie did the annual game count in Ekuthuleni Conservancy to determine the number of each species present in the area.

We are thanking our team and Gerry McDonald for this great work.



Our volunteer Rio Button joined The Bush Babies, Wild Response and Phalaborwa Natural Heritage Foundation for snare sweeping in Phalaborwa area. More than 50 snares were found which tells us it is important to join forces to tackle this issue together.





We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all our sponsors, donors and fundraising partners:

Australia Zoo*Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors* Aalborg Zoo*Africa Tours
Afresco Tours*Anna Rosholt Jewellery Design* Cleve Hicks
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Helping Rhinos*Flying4Rhinos&Conservation*Hi-Tec South Africa
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Without your support, it would be impossible for us to continue helping animals, people and the environment.

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