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Welcome back, Rettet Das Nashorn!

April month surprised us with wonderful visits to our Headquarters. Our sponsor from Germany Rettet Das Nashorn (Perdita and Ralf) help us tremendously with animal rescue cases in the reserve. During the visit, Perdita and Ralf joined Craig and Mambas for patrols, saw lions' kill, and were welcomed at The Mambas parade. It was raining heavily, but we celebrated our cause and all the wonderful people who help us so much, so rain was seen as a good omen.

We would like to warmly thank Rettet das Nashorn, and Perdita & Ralf for your support, and little gifts for our women rangers. We enjoyed your visit!

World Female Ranger Week is coming!

In April we were happy to welcome Holy Budge, the founder of our fundraising partner How Many Elephants and the founder of World Female Ranger Week. This year we are going to take part in the WFRW again, and truly hope to connect to other female rangers across the Globe thanks to Holly's project!

We are very grateful to Holly and How Many Elephants for your support and the initiative to bring women rangers together.

Stories from patrols

The Mambas continued with their regular morning and night patrols and snare sweeping operations. During one of the night patrols, our team saw lionesses that were busy hunting, and later sharing the food amongst each other.

African predators is the main reason why night patrols are conducted only in the patrol vehicle.

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE
One of April's training highlights was a collaborative project between Transfrontier Africa and Share Screen Africa that aimed to teach rangers how to look after their K9 dogs better.

10 Mambas were trained as K9 handlers in the past. This course was a great refresher course for some of them. Craig and his K9 partner Sosha demonstrated some obedience tricks, and shared praise tips with the Mambas.

Later the experts in the field shared their knowledge and answered Mambas questions.

We are thanking Share Screen Africa and the experts in K9 care for this training.

The Living Desert and the Gardens now has a display about The Mambas!

Our partner The Living Desert and the Gardens now has a display devoted to The Black Mambas APU! The display is located in the Rhino Savannah, the newest area on grounds in the Conservation Station building. This is now a permanent visual representation and is very engaging, as we have heard! The visitors are updated about our team's work through the Keeper Connections.

Thank you The Living Desert for the display and spreading the conservation message across on your part of our planet!

Sergeant Nkateko's charity

Our Sergeant Ms Nkateko Mzimba has taken The Black Mambas ethos and values further to start her own charity. During the pandemic, Nkateko wanted to help her neighbours and came up with the idea of supplying them with food parcels every other month. But that is not all. Nkateko also buys food, stationery and electricity for the local creche in her village, plays with the children and shares her knowledge about African animals with them.

"It is not easy, often it takes me months to save, but I will keep on doing it anyway. Nature needs it. My community needs it".
In April one of the boreholes in the reserve caught a flame which spread to the bushveld. The neighbouring landowners acted immediately and the fire was quickly killed with the assistance of our staff and volunteers.

We are grateful to Olifants West Nature Reserve landowners for helping out in this emergency situation and Transfrontier Africa staff and volunteers for assisting.

**Elephant rescue**

One of the elephants uprooted quite a big tree: Uprooting may help dispersing seeds, creating pathways in forests, help plants get sunlight and make homes for smaller creatures. However in the inhabited protected areas, the large uprooted trees may cause inconvenience for residents, researchers and anti-poaching teams who need to patrol the area. Our volunteers acted immediately and the tree was removed from the road.

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**Fire alert!**

Our staff and volunteers assisted in the rescue of an Elephant. One of the landowners reported seeing an elephant with a broken leg. We tracked it down, called the vet and waited on standby. The elephant had a septic wound in its leg.

The volunteers were dousing the elephant’s ears with water to keep her cool.

Thank you Craig Spencer for letting volunteers assist the vets. It was an opportunity of a lifetime to see the largest terrestrial animal ever so close, and help her recover. Thank you Rettet Das Nashorn for funding the treatment, and Dr Peter Rogers and his team for your great work!

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**Dealing with tree uprooters**

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Sunday adventures

Every Sunday our camp staff and volunteers embark on the new adventure to explore our stunning Limpopo province. The Blyde River Canyon is one of volunteers’ favourite places to visit. The Drakensberg Mountain range is stunning, and once you are surrounded by it while looking at the sparkling surface of the river, you can truly feel the heart of Africa.

The Mongoose news

Goosie is growing into a beautiful and a very strong Mongoose! She spends a lot of time outdoors, running and playing, and now hunts for food herself. A variety of bugs are in the current menu of Goosie.

Once she gets bigger and stronger, she will be rewilded and will get back to her tribe.

Thanks to all the staff who looks after this little one!
Term 2 started!

The learners started their second term in April. The Bush babies received their Term 1 marks, did revision and corrections. We celebrated 36 distinctions!

We would like to congratulate Mhalamhlala Primary School and Phalaborwa Primary School for obtaining 8 distinctions each.

Tree walks

In April we hosted learners from Mashishimale Primary School on the guided indigenous tree walk at Silonque Phomolong. The students learnt about the Sjambok pod (Cassia abbreviata, Long-tail cassia).

FUN FACTS ABOUT THIS TREE

Fascinating Spekboom tree

Our Bush Babies Education Centre keeps on flourishing! Our youngest learners, called Cubs, have a very important job to do. They water and look after Spekboom (Portulacaria afra). This fantastic tree is a native South African succulent, that is highly resistant to drought. The tree’s main habitat is Little Karoo and Eastern Cape, but happily grows in the dry river valleys East and up to the Limpopo, where we live.

Spekbooms efficiently trap large amounts of carbon using very little water. The leaves of this tree are edible, packed with vitamin C!
"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together"
~ African proverb ~

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


Without your support, it would be impossible for us to continue helping African wildlife and people.

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