



# Morukuru Goodwill Foundation

**THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MORE CRITICAL ISSUE IN THE HISTORY OF HUMAN CIVILISATION THAN THE IMMEDIATE PROTECTION OF THE NATURAL WORLD. POACHING OF RHINO HAS INCREASED 10-FOLD DURING THE LAST DECADE AND OUR PRECIOUS RHINOS NOW FACE EXTINCTION. OVER 8000 RHINOS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES DUE TO GREED SINCE 2008 WHICH IS A NUMBER HARDLY FATHOMABLE. DESPITE EVERY EFFORT TO PREVENT POACHING, THIS NUMBER INCREASES DAILY.**

Why are we still losing rhino? Sadly, few people understand the challenges faced on the frontlines. At this stage the poachers have the upper hand. They know when, they know how, and if need be, they will just come back another day to hit a softer target.

Rhino poaching has become much more organised over the past few years as the monetary value for rhino horn has increased. Poachers are using advanced technology and are sometimes heavily armed with a lot of support. Contrary to popular belief, not all poachers are driven by poverty. Criminals involved in cash in transit heists, vehicle hijacking, ATM bombing, gun running, murder and other aggressive crimes are now also getting involved. This increases the mortal threat to rhinos and field rangers alike.

Madikwe Game Reserve employs a wealth of initiatives to prevent poaching and trade in wildlife and animal parts and works closely with law enforcement to protect not only Madikwe but also the surrounding farms with vulnerable animals. Our teams not only protect rhinos on the ground but also educate the local communities on the benefits of rhino conservation as opposed to the poaching of rhino for their horns. Addressing the social and moral decay that is a product of rhino poaching within their communities.

We are doing everything we can to help by channelling public support to rhino protection projects in the hope that we can buy our precious rhino time while diplomatic solutions are sought. We are in for a long haul and it will take every single one of us to win this battle.

Madikwe has two major projects which the public can assist with, namely:

## **1. RHINO EAR NOTCHING:**

In order to determine rhino movements, home ranges, birth rates, inter-calving periods, associations and aggression to name a few, we have implemented a per individual marking system. Simply put, the rhino's ears are notched (shapes cut out in pre-defined areas) to provide a mechanism for positive identification of each individual based on the notching's on their ears.

Guests can get involved by assisting the veterinarian to take DNA samples, implant microchips as well as watching the wildlife helicopter pilot and vet in action as they dart the rhino. This is an unforgettable opportunity to get up close and personal with these magnificent African giants, not to mention the massive and direct impact you will have on the conservation of our precious rhino.

## **2. RHINO COLLARING:**

In order to obtain valuable information in the fight against poaching, we are starting to fit intelligent foot collars to rhino.

These collars will not only track the rhinos movements but will also identify individuals in distress or poached.

This gives us an early warning system to catch poachers or to tend to any injuries from foiled poaching attempts or territorial fighting between rhino bulls.

If a female rhino is poached, we will also be able to determine if the female had a calf. Her data will be able to identify in which area the calf could be found, thus giving us a focused area in which to look for the calf. Time is of the essence if an orphaned calf no longer has its mother to feed and protect it. Guests can also get involved with the collaring of rhino as with the ear notching and can assist in fitting the collar to the rhino.

**To anyone who calls themselves a lover of nature, a supporter of conservation, a human being, let's stand together to combat rhino poaching!**



## Keeping Madikwe Safe

Camera traps are motion detecting and send images in real time, allowing reserve security to be monitored 24/7. Any illegal activity captured by the camera trap is immediately sent to relevant security personnel within the game reserve, which minimises the response time of the anti-poaching unit to any security breaches. They also act as a deterrent to poachers as word is out that they are being watched.

To date MGWF has donated 24 camera traps to be used around the reserve. These cameras operate on a Wi-fi system, so they also cover the data and running costs. Since the inception of these cameras in November 2016 several arrests have been made, which resulted in long prison sentences for the prosecuted poachers. This has in turn resulted in a drop from 15 poaching incidents in 2016 to just 2 in 2019.

# Leave only your footprints...



**PLASTIC. A WORD WHICH WE ALL KNOW IS NOT VERY WELL LIKED. WE FIND IT EVERYWHERE, INCLUDING ALONG OUR PRISTINE BEACHES IN DE HOOP NATURE RESERVE, THE LOCATION OF BOTH MORUKURU OCEAN HOUSE AND BEACH LODGE.**

Although our guides do their best to pick up any litter they encounter during their Marine Walk with guests, there are stretches of beach frequented by day visitors to the reserve that unfortunately leave evidence of their visit.

Due to recent budget cuts in certain sectors within Cape Nature, the managing body of the reserve, they found they were unable to

continue with their monthly clean-up of the beaches.

This is where Morukuru Goodwill Foundation (MGWF) decided to join forces with Ouplaas Primary School to help clean the beaches and educate the students about the effect pollution has on not only the aquatic and terrestrial life but also the environment around them. It was an early

start to the day as 25 grade 6 and 7 pupils were treated to a mug of hot chocolate and cookies while being given an educational talk by the Morukuru team. Each child was issued with a refuse bag made from compostable material before being divided into 2 teams, which then worked their way along the beach picking up any plastic or other waste items they found. The school children were then rewarded with a picnic

lunch in the beautiful surrounds of the reserve overlooking the beach.

As a thank you to the school for helping play such an important part in keeping De Hoop Nature Reserve waste-free, the Morukuru Goodwill Foundation donated R5 000.00 worth of stationary and sports equipment which will be put to good use by the pupils.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT IT TAKES 10 - 20 YEARS FOR A PLASTIC SHOPPING BAG TO DECOMPOSE AND PLASTIC BOTTLES 450 YEARS!**



## Owl Rescue & Release

**THE LADIES IN OUR JOHANNESBURG-BASED RESERVATIONS OFFICE HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING THE OWL RESCUE CENTRE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BY DONATING PLASTIC WHICH THEY USE TO MAKE ECO BRICKS.**

Eco Bricks are a simple concept that makes use of used 2-litre drink bottles that are filled with non-recyclable materials, like plastic wrap or tin foil which is compacted to create a "brick". This is then used to build homes and other structures. The Owl Rescue Centre use these bricks to build owl houses for not only their rescued owls but also to sell to the public to raise funds for the owls in their care.

Our Reservations Manager, April Knight, has been supporting the Owl Rescue Centre by collecting and donating plastic waste materials. She recently visited their open night to learn more about the owls they rescue, rehabilitate and where possible, release back into the wild.

On one particular visit, April discovered that they were looking for a release site in the North West Province for

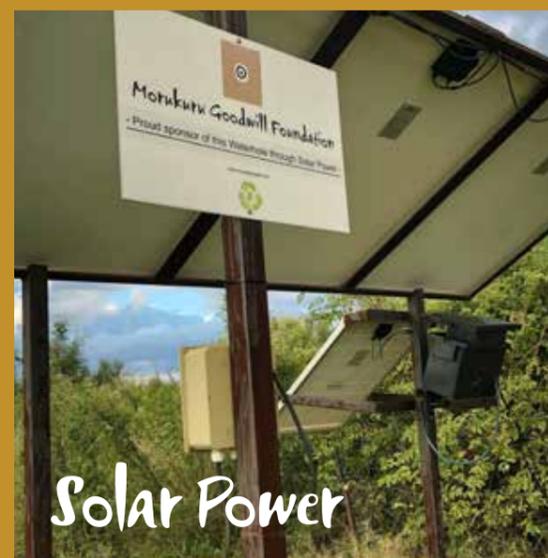
two young Spotted Eagle Owls. The owls had been confiscated from people that were going to use the birds for traditional medicine and were now looking for a release site. She put them in touch with the Morukuru Goodwill Foundation who were happy to assist.

Before the owls were brought to Morukuru Madikwe a large enclosure was built inside a quiet section of the staff village. This would be used to house the owls while they familiarised themselves with their surroundings. The enclosure was large enough for the birds to fly and maintain a level of fitness to allow them to successfully adapt back into the wild.

As owls are a nocturnal species, they were only fed in the evening and always by the same person, who would whistle when the feeding took place. This is done to prevent the owls from associating food with humans, instead they would associate the food with a whistling sound.

After approximately 4 weeks the owls were showing signs that they were ready to take the next step in their transition back to a wild life, so a soft release was conducted. A hatch that was built into the side of the enclosure was opened which allowed the owls to exit whenever they were ready. Food was left out for the owls for a few days after they left to allow the birds to return should they be struggling to hunt for themselves.

This proved to be a story with a happy ending as the two Spotted Eagle Owls are now completely independent and have chosen to remain in the area and are regularly seen by guests on safari.



### Solar Power

Water is so important to sustain life in an ecosystem, especially in a game reserve. The Groot Maurico River runs through the eastern section of the reserve and is the only natural source of water throughout the 75 000 hectares, so it is vitally important to provide man-made water sources to allow the wildlife to drink.

Without these waterholes' animals would have to travel great distances to congregate around perennial water sources which would put a strain on certain areas and lead to overutilization and overgrazing.

To combat this, The Morukuru Goodwill Foundation (MGWF) has been supporting Madikwe Game Reserve by purchasing and installing various solar pumps throughout the southern sector of the reserve.

During the drier months of winter most of the natural waterholes and pans dry out which force animals to go in search of water. These pumps allow the reserve management to select suitable areas for water to be pumped into artificial dams or waterholes. By doing this it enables an equal dispersion of the animals throughout the reserve.

The solar pumps operate quietly and without anyone even knowing they are running and offer great game viewing opportunities to guests as the various animal and bird species congregate around the watering holes to drink throughout the day. One can always be sure to find some activity at these important water sources, whether it be in the morning as the sun breaks over the horizon or late at night when the nocturnal species are looking to quench their thirst.

Without these solar pumps the animal and birdlife would have much harsher winters not only searching for food but also water.

# Managing the Kings

**THE MORUKURU GOODWILL FOUNDATION HAVE BEEN SPONSORING ROB HARRISON-WHITE SINCE 2007 WHILE HE CARRIES OUT VITAL RESEARCH IN MADIKWE GAME RESERVE. ROB'S SPECIALITY IS PREDATOR MANAGEMENT AND IN RECENT YEARS HE TOOK CHARGE OF LION MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE PARK. HE CLOSELY MONITORS THE GROWTH OF THE LION POPULATION, GENE POOLS, CONTRACEPTION PROGRAM AND EXCHANGE OF LIONS WITH OTHER GAME RESERVES TO ENSURE GENETIC DIVERSITY.**

Here Rob explains the fascinating dynamics of lions and how he took an interesting flight with 3 potential Kings of the Jungle...

Lion prides consist of a certain number of females and their offspring and 2 – 3 territorial male lions, usually older than 4 years. These males defend and “guard” the territorial area of the females and restrict other male lions from traversing the territory and reaching their females.

In large protected areas such as the Kruger National Park, the Masai Mara and the Okavango Delta for example, lion populations are regulated to a large extent by food availability as well as by their social structures and associated interactions.

Herbivorous distributions may change in rhythm with climatic conditions. This may result in poor food availability to certain prides of lions at specific times of the year, a factor which will influence lion survival rates. In addition, in these vast areas male lion coalitions seldom hold territorial dominance for longer than 4 years before they are challenged and ousted by incoming and generally younger male lion coalitions, the latter which take over the females of the particular pride and thereby increase the genetic vigour of the pride.

The new incoming lion coalitions which usually number between 2 - 4 young males, are normally formed by younger males from other prides which generally leave their natal pride range at around

2 and a half years and wander the landscape as young male coalitions.

By the time they reach 4 years of age these young coalitions may become a formidable force to challenge other dominant male lion coalitions. Pride takeovers may result in the death of previously dominant males and even some of their young offspring. This is a very disruptive process for the pride females but yet an essential mechanism to ensure genetic diversity and prevent inbreeding.

In smaller protected areas such as the Madikwe Game Reserve, natural movements of herbivores and lions are prevented by an impenetrable boundary fence, thus in effect compromising the ability of the herbivores to avoid excessive predations, as well as restricting the genetic profile of the lion population.

If left unmanaged, these factors can lead to a disastrous situation in which the lion population can grow to levels whereby herbivores, depleted by predations, may plummet to unsustainably low levels. In addition, lions would begin to inbreed and ultimately would not be able to be supported by a diminished food supply.

As a consequence, the lion population in Madikwe has to be managed both for the sake of the herbivores as well as the lions. This is mainly achieved through contraception of some of the female breeding population and by introducing new male lions into the Park.



To this effect and to bolster the lion genetics in Madikwe, 3 young male lions of approximately 2 years 7 months were flown from Addo National Park in the Eastern Cape to Madikwe Game Reserve in May 2019.

This was an interesting experience as we placed the lions on the floor of the plane and kept a watchful eye on them for the 3 and a half hour flight from Addo to Madikwe, topping them up with anaesthetic when they showed signs of waking up - and they could wake up, if only briefly whilst under anaesthetic - we were lucky! After an acclimatisation stage lasting one month in a small fenced area, known as a boma, within the park, the Addo males were finally released.

It was truly amazing that two territorial lions that were recorded at 9pm to be about 12km away from where the new Addo lions were “housed”, were outside the boma the following morning at 5:30am. How they knew that the Addo lions had been placed in the boma within their territorial area is anyone's guess!

In addition, 3 young nomadic lions that traversed this area also found their way to the boma to survey the new lions. So, in total 5 male lions approached the new

Addo lions within 1 day of us placing them in the boma - a formidable welcome party.

The reality is that the Addo lions will have to avoid getting killed by older males until they reach approximately 4yrs of age where they may be strong enough to challenge other male territorial lions for a pride take over. Even then they will have to mate with the females within the pride that they may take over, to produce surviving offspring that will influence the genetic diversity of the Madikwe lion population.

The hard-core fact is that it is extremely difficult to introduce lions into a smaller protected area where lions already exist - we're looking at, at least 2 years before the Addo lions can improve the lion genetics in Madikwe - they will need plenty of luck!

To this extent the Addo males have already been involved in a skirmish with a territorial coalition pair in which the one Addo lion was significantly injured in August 2019. Fortunately, the injured lion appears to have recovered well. Hopefully they will learn from this experience and avoid altercations with other older lions until they reach a suitable age to challenge for territorial status in Madikwe Game Reserve.

Rob Harrison-White keeping an eye on the sleeping lions



**LIONS ARE VULNERABLE ON THE IUCN RED LIST AND ARE EXTINCT FROM 26 COUNTRIES THEY PREVIOUSLY ROAMED**

## To date the Morukuru Goodwill Foundation have sponsored the following projects in both Madikwe and De Hoop

- # Jackal research # Lion management # Hyena count # Elephant research # Elephant & wild dog collaring # Provided camera traps # Provided equipment for Madikwe anti-poaching team # Numerous rhino notchings, including DNA storage # Introduction of a new cheetah to Madikwe together with 3 other lodges
- # Relocation of 3 Lions from Addo Elephant National Park by plane # Introduced additional wildebeest to Madikwe # Provided 3 solar powered water pumps # Provided a building to house students attending Madikwe Academy # Provided the following for Molatedi School: new toilet block / school books / black boards / gardening equipment / ceiling fans / freezer & fridge / supported salaries for teachers / computers / paint and painting materials / cleaning products / photocopier # Built a recycling facility at Molatedi School # Library # Rehabilitation center at Morukuru Madikwe # Contributed towards the Cape Leopard Trust

# Meet the Barten's...

LONG-TIME VISITORS TO MORUKURU FAMILY, DIRK AND VERA BARTEN HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY WORK EACH TIME THEY VISIT MADIKWE. THEY LOVE THE UNSPOILED WILDERNESS THAT AFRICA OFFER'S, YOU COULD EVEN SAY IT HAS STOLEN THEIR HEARTS.

Over their last 6 visits, they have taken part in the removal of an elephant's collar, several rhino notching's, participated in a conservation presentation lead by Rob Harrison-White (which forms part of the Safari with a Purpose package), sponsored a study of elephant behaviour in Madikwe Game Reserve and personally developed vegetable seeds specific to the soil type found at Molatedi Primary School.

Dirk's family business in Holland develops seeds and during one particular visit to the school he donated several different vegetable seeds, gardening equipment and gave the students a hands-on lesson in how to grow their own vegetables. On subsequent follow-up visits, he found they were struggling to grow the vegetables due to the soil being a combination of both sand and clay. He decided to put his expertise to the test and develop seeds specific to this soil



type to give them the best possible chance at harvesting their own vegetables.

Anticipating future visits to Madikwe, Dirk and Vera encouraged friends who were joining them on their next visit to think about how they can contribute to the local community. In the last year their friends, who are both Dentists, gave a very informative presentation, including a dental kit to all the students at the school.

Through Dirk and Vera's passion for wildlife and extreme generosity, the Morukuru Goodwill Foundation has been given the opportunity to not only raise awareness, but also protect the animals in Madikwe, combined with the upliftment of the local community by providing them with skills they are now able to pass on to future generations. We would like take this opportunity to thank them for their generous contributions.

## Safari with a Purpose

Morukuru Goodwill Foundation and Morukuru Family have created a 3-day 'Safaris with a Purpose' package exclusively for you and your party which includes at least the following three special elements:

- # Joining an Elephant collaring / Rhino notching / Lion (or other big cat) veterinarian procedure which includes the use of a helicopter and a large team of experts, including the vet. (Half day)
- # Visit of the local school in Molatedi Village and be informed by the local Head Teacher about the various projects supported by Morukuru Goodwill Foundation. If appreciated or initiated by the guests we will also gladly facilitate, manage and prepare your own personal interactive project with the school. (Half day)
- # Private talk by Rob Harrison White or one of the other local researchers in Madikwe Game Reserve, explaining about the very useful work they are doing. (Half day)

This package can only be pre-booked - at least one month prior to arrival - together with a stay at one of our exclusive-use houses in the malaria-free Madikwe Game Reserve. Subject to availability.

## Pack for a Purpose

Morukuru Family specialises in family safaris and many of our guests ask us if there is anything they can bring to support the local school and community. The Molatedi School is frequently visited by our guests and our lodge management seeks to match the interest or expertise of the guests with the needs of the school. For example, an entrepreneur in vegetable seeds introduced vegetable seeds for the school garden. Another guest, working with a sports clothing brand, brought soccer sport outfits for the children, and a dentist did a presentation for the school children on dental hygiene and supplied dental materials.

Our guests frequently choose to donate money and we buy the necessary schoolbooks which the guests can then take to the school themselves. We have also seen children doing special fundraising projects at their schools at home, before they go to Africa, and we will make sure that the children can personally hand over their donation to the specific project they support.



### The goals of the foundation are:

- # Promotion of wildlife preservation & conservation
- # To improve educational facilities and/or individuals within the education sector
- # To improve healthcare and associated healthcare facilities
- # To assist in the welfare and wellbeing of people by providing assistance at sporting events
- # Assisting in initiating, guiding and/or financing economical activities to improve the social and economic standards of the people

All of these goals are focused within South Africa but more specifically within and around the Madikwe Game Reserve & De Hoop Nature Reserve.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.MORUKURUGWF.COM](http://WWW.MORUKURUGWF.COM) ON OUR WEBSITE YOU WILL ALSO FIND A MOVIE FOCUSING ON OUR ACTIVITIES.

Please feel free to take this personal copy!

## Details of the Morukuru Goodwill Foundation

The Morukuru Goodwill Foundation (MGWF) was founded in 2007 by Ed & Anka Zeeman, Owners of the Lodges in the Morukuru Family within the Madikwe Game Reserve and of De Hoop Nature Reserve.

The Morukuru Goodwill Foundations Office address is De Hulk 16, 1622 DZ, Netherlands.

The MGWF has the status of ANBI, meaning that under certain conditions Dutch donors can have some tax-benefits. Other nationalities will have to check with your tax-advisors.

The board members of the MGWF comprise of Mr. Ed Zeeman (Chairman), Arend Gerritsen and Peter de Vries, all of whom are from the Netherlands.

**For projects, ideas, donations or questions please feel free to contact:**

ed.zeeman@morukuru.com  
anka.reijnen@morukuru.com  
Alternatively contact your lodge managers on lodge@morukuru.com.

### BANK ACCOUNTS

*In Holland:*

Bank: Rabobank  
Accountnummer: 12.83.56.332  
IBAN nummer: NL13RAB00128356332

*In South Africa:*

Bank: Investec Bank Ltd.  
Account number: 10011271348  
Branche code: 580105  
Branch name: 100 Graystone Drive, Sandton  
SWIFTCODE: IVESZAJJ



MORUKURU GOODWILL FOUNDATION  
MORUKURU FAMILY MADIKWE  
MORUKURU FAMILY DE HOOP  
ATHOLPLACE HOTEL & VILLA



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