

# Morukuru Goodwill Foundation

THESE LARGE CREATURES ARE IN VITAL NEED OF ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT AFRICA. THE MORUKURU GOODWILL FOUNDATION IS PUTTING SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF MONEY INTO COMBATING RHINO POACHING SPECIFICALLY WITHIN MADIKWE GAME RESERVE.

## Save the rhino before it is too late

**THE MORUKURU GOODWILL FOUNDATION (MGWF) IS AN AVID SUPPORTER OF THE MADIKWE GAME RESERVE AND OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE SPONSORED VARIOUS PROJECTS IN THE PARK. THE MANAGEMENT OF MADIKWE IS DONE BY NORTH WEST PARKS & TOURISM BOARD (NWPTB).**

Although Madikwe seems big with an area of 76000 ha, it stays a fenced park so the ecology and animal numbers needs to be closely monitored to keep the nature in balance. In the process of managing the park project needs to be done or wishes exist that shortfalls the budget of NWPTB. Therefore our foundation steps in, and by involving guests of the Morukuru Family in the conservation activities, whether it be elephant, lion, wild dogs, cheetah or rhino's, we can create a win-win situation for all.

The animal that needs the most attention and protection at the moment is the rhino. Africa is facing a very serious problem in the form of rhino poaching. Rhino poaching is becoming even more predominate than it ever has in the past few years. Rhino poaching incidents have increased from a mere 7 rhino poached in 2000 to a terrifying approx. 1215 in 2014. Rhino are currently been poached at an alarming rate of about 3 per day. At this current death rate it is said that by 2023 Rhino will become extinct as a species if nothing is done to

counter these poaching incidents. At present Rhino horn fetches anything between US\$ 60,000 – US\$100,000 Per KG which in fact means that Rhino horn is worth more than the live animal on auction which currently is only worth about US\$ 30000. The demand for horn is still driven by far Eastern markets, in particular China and Vietnam, and the uses remain in the traditional medicinal market.

To date 34 rhino have been poached within Madikwe Game Reserve since October 2010. The most recently found carcass was that of a young black rhino on the 1st October 2014.

### HOW DO WE HELP

We support the rhino protection in a few ways. By notching all rhino's in the park we give every animal an identity. Notching is the process whereby certain sections of the ear are cut out in various shapes, sizes and positions for which a value is allocated. Once notched the individual is given a number determined by how its ear is notched. During the notching process, all animals will get a chip in the horn and the

body and DNA samples which allows conservationists to record information about individual rhinos over time including territory/home range, birth rates (calving intervals), associations with other known (notched animals) and eventually age of post reproduction etc. As a result of the poaching crisis in South Africa, DNA samples are also collected during the notching operation to add to the national DNA database at Onderstepoort Veterinary institute. (By doing these DNA samples can be used as evidence in poaching cases.)

The most active support to actually protect the rhinos is to support the anti-poaching teams dedicated to protect them. Funds generously donated have been invested in equipment. The war against the poachers is mostly vivid during the nights when there is supposed to be nobody out in the park. This means the anti-poaching teams need the adequate equipment for nightly stayovers in the bush.

One of the most important support facilitated by the MGWF however is the training of the anti-poaching teams. The regular training of the park rangers is based on a more scientific responsibility of data collection and wildlife monitoring. Being able to

protect the rhino's against armed and trained poachers, the MGWF has offered these teams intensive training by the specialized Wildlife Protection Academy. The course will adequately train them to deal with all aspects of anti & counter poaching, including armed combat and bush survival skills. Our park rangers need to be dreaded opponents; fully equipped, armed and trained. The last component is motivation but luckily the park rangers, either from NWTPB or the rangers from the lodges in the park joining them will do everything to protect these beautiful animals.



Rhino notching

# Protecting the fynbos

With the opening of the Morukuru Ocean House in April 2014, the MGWF has expanded her field of activity also to this beautiful, but poor Overberg region in the Western Cape. Within our MGWF goals we will assist where needs are to help people, animals and/or nature. One of our donations made was to the Overberg Trust to facilitate the research in the Renosterveld – named after the many rhino's that once roamed in the region when the early settlers arrived - and the creation of the Renosterveld Visitor & Research Centre. The Renosterveld is part of the Cape Floral Kingdom and is the richest bulb habitat on Earth, displaying a spectacular bloom over the spring season. Unfortunately, with an increasing use of the land for agriculture, the Renosterveld is nearly disappearing with less than 2% of this vegetation type been formally conserved.

Another (big) project that we are studying at the moment is to help with the removal of Rooikrans (*Acacia cyclops*) in the De Hoop Nature Reserve. Rooikrans is not indigenous to the area with it being brought to South Africa for the primary purpose of stabilizing shifting sand dunes and for a fuel source for the early settlers in the Western Cape. It is a very fast growing plant that outcompetes and throttles the indigenous flora. We therefore, in partnership with Cape Nature, work together to try and eradicate it. However there are many hectares of Rooikrans in the park which is quite a costly and complex logistical operation.

*Rooikrans is non-indigenous to the area and destroying the fynbos*

# Education: investing in the future

## MADIKWE GAME RESERVE

Madikwe was created some 25 years ago with the prime goal to create jobs, sustainable income and upliftment for the surrounding communities. Education is the foundation for better jobs, creating a better life for everybody connected. With an ongoing investment in the future of communities the MGWF is ensuring that our young learners start to understand the benefit of eco-tourism and conservation. It is our sincere hope that this creates much needed future ambassadors for Africa's natural heritage.

At this moment, the MGWF is supporting 3 schools in the proximity of the Morukuru-operated lodges. The MGWF bought a building for the creation of the park school, The Madikwe Academy, and provided the use of the building at very soft conditions to the school.

Near Madikwe the MGWF adopted an ongoing project to assist the Molatedi Primary School. Molatedi is the nearest community near Madikwe and with the MGWF we contribute to a safe and productive learning environment. Over the years lots of Mor-

ukuru guests have visited the school and/or her dancers, often resulting in a wish to contribute in the needs of the school. Guests have donated English books for the school library, soccer outfits, computers, schoolbooks, stationary. With the proceeds of the performances of the Molatedi School dancers we have bought paint, building materials, a copymachine and schoolboards. A few years ago the MGWF could, together with a dedicated guest of Morukuru, fulfil one of their biggest wishes, a new ablution block with flushing toilets.

## DE HOOP NATURE RESERVE

Considering the own goals of our Foundation but also noticing that a lot of Morukuru guests and their families want to experience something of the local community life in the area, we have recently adopted a 3rd school. This school is the Ouplaas EK Primary School, just a few km's from the entrance gate of the De Hoop Nature Reserve. The school is around 100 years old and educates

approx. 105 kids from grade 0-7. Like the school in Molatedi, EK Primary is also run by a very dedicated team of teachers that has to work with minimal funding and resources to give the children a good start in their life. The school not only assists with educating the children but provides much needed meals for the kids while they are at school. The meals received at school for some of the kids might be the only meals that they will get for the whole day as most of the families cannot provide for their own children.

The MGWF visited the school a few months ago and we are now in talks with them about their biggest needs and how we can connect the Morukuru guests with this school too. One item that was on their wish-list was a lawn mower to keep the sportsfield in good shape as they were making use of an old brush cutter to trim their football pitch. We decided this would be a great way to start off the funding and donated one to them. Recently we also, through funding from some of our guests at Morukuru Ocean House, purchased a monitor for the school and help with numerous other small jobs for them.



GUESTS HAVE DONATED ENGLISH BOOKS FOR THE SCHOOL LIBRARY, SOCCER OUTFITS, COMPUTERS, SCHOOLBOOKS, STATIONARY

*Donations for the Primary Schools Ouplaas and Molatedi and the schoolbuilding of The Madikwe Academy.*

## Pieter and Evelyn Smits, Netherlands

Friends asked us to join them to Morukuru where they had been before. They are also very involved with the MGWF over the years which inspired us to think what we could contribute. Being dentists in Holland we decided to do a workshop Dental-care at the Molatedi Primary School. We brought for all the kids a package with a brush, toothpaste and ofcourse we gave them a demonstration and instructions. We had a great day at the school!



## ALEX GRAY MUIR, UK

WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO MAKE A SMALL DONATION TO THE FOUNDATION. WHAT I HAVE IN MIND IS SOMETHING TO HELP FAMILIES TO GROW THEIR OWN FOOD - THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT WE ARE VERY KEEN GARDENERS AND BELIEVE STRONGLY IN THE MANY BENEFITS THAT WE GAIN AS INDIVIDUALS FROM CULTIVATING THE GROUND.



## Nick and Jo Riley, UK

One of the things we like from Morukuru is that they are - via the MGWF - involved in helping nature and wildlife and the surrounding communities. We like to support them and during our last visit we had to opportunity to sponsor a rhino notching operation. The park doesn't have funding for it and Morukuru gives guests the opportunity to sponsor this conservationwork by paying the costs of the operation and an extra donation for the MWGF. With this extra money they finance equipment and training of the anti-poaching team. It was such an experience to witness the notching operation. You feel like being part of a wild-life documentary.



## Leo and Janine Feikes, Netherlands

We had never been to Africa and immediately fell in love with it when we visited Morukuru for the first time a few years ago. Now we want to come back every year to this beautiful continent. As a designer I have asked the lodge how I could help the MGWF with their good work. They were looking for a designer and sponsor for their newsletter and I am very happy to provide my skills for this purpose. With the newsletters the MGWF can present herself inviting more people to get involved in the needs of Africa. A double win.

## Shane Kloeck, South Africa

I grew up in the bush from a very young age, due to my parents being nature lovers. I had the privilege of visiting Morukuru and during my stay I was involved in an elephant collaring, where we assisted the Madikwe Game reserve through the MGWF by assisting in the funding and actual collaring of the elephant. It was an absolutely amazing experience, hands on conservation work give you as a guest a completely different outlook on nature as well wildlife. During the collaring we got to touch and feel the elephant's rough tongue and were able to assist the vet while putting on the collar.

## Family Ritter, US

Our parents invited us with our whole family to celebrate Christmas holidays in South Africa a few years ago. Realizing that we are privileged being able to make such a trip we decided upfront that we wanted to spent one day of our holiday to help the local community. In consultation with the lodge we went to the school in Molatedi were one part of family helped painting the classrooms and the other part worked in the school vegetable garden. That special day was concluded with a soccer match between our family and the children of the school. Our visit to the African bush impressed so much that we went for a second trip last year. Our oldest son of 11 was so inspired by the needs of the rhino that he organized a fundraiser, making and selling bracelets, raising over \$ 4500, being able to donate for the rhino protecting project and helping the school. As Christmas Eve we brought the soccer equipment to the school and these matches are still one the highlights of our visits.

# Guests making a difference

BENJAMIN WELLS  
AND BRENDA HOWE, UK

LEARNING ABOUT THE MUCH NEEDED WORK OF THE RANGERS AND BEING INVOLVED IN THE BINOCULAR INDUSTRY MYSELF I WAS VERY PLEASED THAT I COULD HELP WITH SUPPLYING NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT FOR THE ANTI POACHING TEAM. I AM VERY HAPPY THAT OUR FAMILY CAN CONTRIBUTE THIS WAY TO HELP WITH THE RHINO PROTECTION.

## Rosa Langenberg, 18 Netherlands

I love the bush so much, luckily my parents love it too, and our family had the privilege to visit Morukuru every 2 years. Every time we are there we want to visit the Molatedi school and one time we could deliver schoolbooks there, financed by guests before us. My parents are also very involved and they supported the school with a major donation for the new ablution blocks. Being there we also want to organize something to help the local school. My sister and I sold cupcakes at our school to raise money and we also sold rhino bracelets and told everybody about we must protect the rhino's.



**STOP RHINO POACHING**



One of our activities raising funds for rhino protection was our "Rhino at your Table" offer over Christmas 2014; a nice charity gift to treat yourselves or surprise someone else. We made a limited edition of 500 charger plates with a beautiful art presentation of the rhino. The perfect way to make a beautiful dining table and helping our rhinos at the same time. The project was a big success and the 500 plates were sold within a few weeks just in Holland, raising over R 150.000 for the MGWF, and we are sure that these unique plates were a true eyecatcher at some Christmas dinner tables!



# Predator management

SINCE 2010 THE MORUKURU GOODWILL FOUNDATION SUPPORTS RESEARCHER ROB HARRISSON WHITE AND HIS ASSISTANT ASHLEY HODGE. ROB IS KNOWN IN THE PARK AS THE "JACKALMAN", RUNNING THE PREDATOR BIO-DIVERSITY PROJECT THAT WE WROTE ABOUT IN OUR PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER. BUT ROB AND ASHLEY ARE DOING SO MUCH MORE. AS THEY WERE COLLECTING DATA FOR THEIR OWN RESEARCH ON A DAILY BASIS, THEY EXPERIENCED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOME PREDATOR SPECIES IN THE PARK WAS TOTALLY UNBALANCED AND NOT ADEQUATELY MANAGED. THEY ARE NOW ALSO HELPING NWPTB COLLECTING DATA. WE ASKED ROB HARRISSON WHITE TO EXPLAIN...



As the human population expands, wild animals are forced into small isolated pockets of ever diminishing land. In Africa, these small areas often have to be fenced to prevent dangerous predators such as lions, leopards, cheetahs and hyenas from escaping into surrounding areas, where they may damage or kill livestock, or even people.

The Madikwe Game Reserve with its compliment of dangerous predators is one such area designated for wildlife, where a perimeter fence keeps dangerous wild animals away from nearby human settlements. Unfortunately with such an unnatural fence barrier, which prevents the movements of wildlife both into and out of the park, there are some drawbacks. Firstly, the offspring of lions, hyenas and cheetahs for example cannot disperse out of the park when their numbers become too excessive for the amount of available food.

Secondly the prey animals such as wildebeest, zebras and impalas are

confined within the park boundaries and the fence prevents any natural replenishment of their numbers from outside the park. This can pose a problem as these prey species can only support a certain number of predators. If the scale tips and the numbers of prey animals become too small to sustain the predators, disaster looms on the horizon for both the predators and their prey. Ultimately if circumstances such as these were allowed to continue, the predators would die from starvation.

Therefore, in predator proof fenced parks, the trick is to try to keep the predator numbers to a level whereby they won't deplete the prey animals, and also to a level where the predators don't impact too heavily on other smaller mammals living within the park borders, such as jackals, caracals, honey badgers and African wildcats. In other words large predators really control the show, and their numbers need to be closely managed to ensure not only their own survival but the



survival and sustainability of all wildlife within the fenced area.

This requires intensive monitoring of both predator and prey numbers throughout the year. If a situation can be reached whereby the prey animals can breed and multiply enough to feed the predator compliment, then one has sustainability. Unfortunately this is hard to achieve, and may necessitate on occasion that some predators may have to be removed and translocated to other areas, and in some cases prey animals have to be trucked in from other areas and released into Madikwe!

To this end the Morukuru sponsored Predator Project in Madikwe, research and constantly monitor predator and prey numbers as well as keep tabs on the numbers of other smaller mammals

in Madikwe in order to try to achieve a sustainable balance between all wildlife in the park.

In a 75000 ha park this is a huge task, however, with the aid the Madikwe field guides who traverse the whole park and constantly report wildlife sightings to us using radio communication, as well as our intense radio-tracking of certain indicator species such as jackals, a reasonable idea is obtained with respect to the health and management of the wild life system in the park.



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## 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 health-care facilities.
- # To assist in the welfare and wellbeing of people by providing assistance of 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.

## 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 Breed 26, 1621 KC HOORN, 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  
or 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

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.

