

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2017



Zululand Conservation Trust

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Vision of the Zululand Conservation Trust

Our mission at the Zululand Conservation Trust is a *commitment to the conservation of endangered species whilst maintaining and supporting partnerships with neighbouring communities*. The Trust was established in 2011 in order to achieve a common dream between a group of devoted wildlife enthusiasts. Based in the stunning setting of northern Zululand, we recognise the fundamental need to **involve, empower, educate** and **support** local communities, in order to achieve effective and lasting conservation.

The Zululand Conservation Trust has developed partnerships both big and small across the years with individuals, organisations and companies, both within South Africa and across the world. We aim to target regional conservation and community projects, in order to facilitate a far-reaching impact throughout the greater Zululand region.

Year-on-year, we look back at how far we've come and set new goals for the future – a rewarding and inspiring process. Reflecting on how we have evolved throughout 2017, we are proud of what we have achieved, and would like to share our progress with you.

In April 2017, we initiated our largest project to date – the Zululand Rhino Orphanage. This has been an enormous milestone for us and an exciting new adventure. We are now equipped with trained staff and a safe haven to house rhino calves that have been orphaned. Our facility enables us to assist with the ongoing poaching crisis, through rehabilitating and rewilding those left behind.

We are able to fund our wide variety of projects through generous donations from individuals, businesses and organisations, as well as our own fundraising events. All of our funding is focussed towards our two main types of projects:

- Community upliftment, with a keen focus on the betterment and empowerment of previously disadvantaged black communities, in adherence with the B-BBEE initiative.
- Conservation of endangered species, specifically wild dog, black rhino and white rhino. Our conservation projects include our newly-established Zululand Rhino Orphanage.

10% of all donations to the Zululand Conservation Trust is assigned towards our admin fees, enabling us to function efficiently, and run our projects effectively on the ground.

All donations we receive are allocated according to sponsors' wishes, and when possible, donors are invited to come and assist or see what they have helped us achieve.



Chairman's Report



After reviewing this; the Zululand Conservation Trust's (ZCT) Year in Review for 2017, and seeing the projects that have been achieved, I found it incredibly humbling to pen this report. One becomes so involved in the projects and the day-to-day progress that one starts to take these projects for granted - and it takes a review such as this to bring these achievements into perspective. It is from this position that I extend my heartfelt thanks to:-

- The staff of the Zululand Conservation Trust and the Zululand Rhino Orphanage, without you none of this could have been achieved,
- The trustees whose involvement, support and sage guidance make our goals achievable,
- Our donors, and friends of the Trust, your generosity and willingness to step up to assist whenever needed is indeed humbling and gratifying

Thank you to one and all.

In 2017 the Zululand Conservation Trust changed its name and identity from the Zululand Rhino Reserve Foundation, this because our involvement was more widespread than only within the Zululand Rhino Reserve which our previous name insinuated.

This change of name and the revealing of our new logo, identity and website was announced at a gala dinner held at the Oyster Box on the 8th November. The event was a success in its core aim of revealing the new look, judging from the incredible feedback we received, it was enjoyed by all and it provided the added bonus of raising some much needed funds thanks to the generosity of the 'friends of the foundation'.

Whilst we have changed our name, we did not and will not change our goal which remains to do whatever we can to 'preserve endangered spaces for endangered species'. At the same time, we are acutely aware that conservation cannot be conducted in an island amongst communities who have lived alongside and previously amongst these species, which have now become endangered, they are essential in ensuring the long term preservation of your and my biodiversity. In this regard it is our goal to include community members, school groups and in fact all facets of our neighbours, in the projects that we are associated with. We strive to create employment, tourist opportunities, skills enhancement and self-help projects in our neighbouring communities.

One of the projects referred to in this report was, the upgrade of our website, the escalation of our social media penetration and the electronic 'visibility' of our foundation. This had been a shortcoming of which we had been made aware by donors and potential donors who had pointed out that the integrity of the Trust is reflected in these faces. These enhancements were successfully carried out and it is our commitment to maintain, update and interact to ensure that we remain at the forefront of you, our supporters minds.

Looking forward to 2018 and in fact the years beyond, we are acutely aware that our goals are bigger and our projects more far-reaching, in this regard I know that with all of your ongoing support we will achieve these and more.

Thank You,
David Attenborough

Meet the people behind the Zululand Conservation Trust

David Attenborough
Chairman and Trustee

Don Airton
Trustee

Murray Collins
Trustee

Todani Moyo
Trustee

King Nkosi Zulu
Patron

Kelly Airton
Administrative Manager

Frances Hannah
Project Coordinator

Megan Lategan
Zululand Rhino Orphanage Manager



Zululand

Conservation Trust

*The trustees at the Zululand Conservation Trust Gala Dinner:
King Nkosi Zulu, David Attenborough, Murray Collins,
Todani Moyo, Don Airton*



Frances Hannah & Kelly Airton



Megan Lategan



FUNDRAISING EVENTS



In 2017, the Zululand Conservation Trust organised two major fundraising events: the annual adventure mountain bike race; the **Rhino Ride**, and the inaugural **Gala Dinner**.



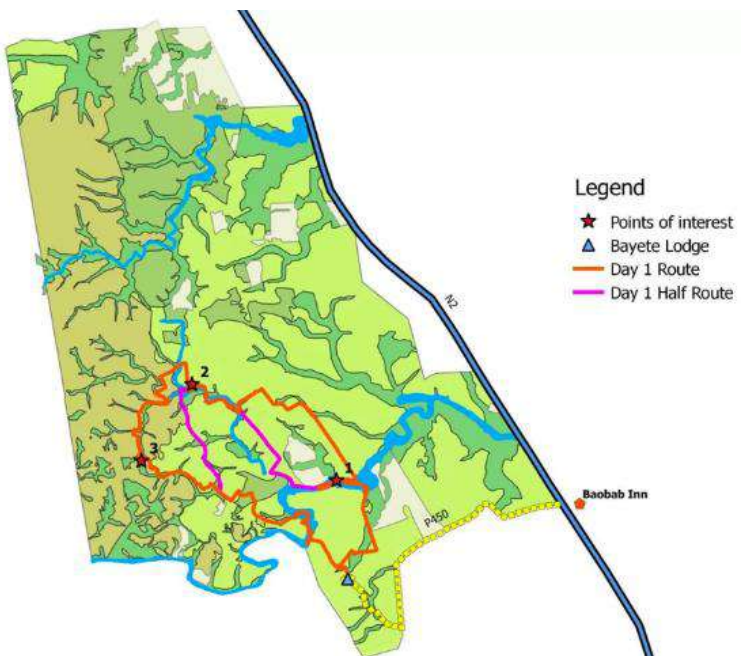
Rhino Ride

The Rhino Ride is our annual adventure event, which provides a unique opportunity for cyclists to embark on a ride of a lifetime. Cycling through the pristine natural habitat of the Manyoni, a Big 5 Private Game Reserve, with breathtaking views and magnificent scenery. Cyclists and families are invited to camp within Manyoni and experience unspoilt nature at its finest. All proceeds from the event go directly to the Zululand Conservation Trust to assist in our rhino conservation projects.

Year-on-year, Kelly Airton and Frances Hannah, throw their life and soul into the organisation of this unforgettable event, and it really shows.



In this action-packed weekend, cyclists enjoy 2 days of cycling, covering 70kms of carefully prepared route through the Manyoni Private Game Reserve. On Friday, cyclists register and enjoy dinner, before a welcome, race briefing and presentation outlining where past funds have been spent, and what the event is in aid of.



Rhino Ride 2017 beat all expectations and raised an incredible **R945,872.00** ...just short of R1 million!

From humble beginnings in 2012 raising **R157,300** the team have come a long way and look forward to growing even more and raising **over R1 million** at

#RhinoRide2018

Rhino Ride would not be the success it is without the sheer generosity of participants, shareholders, dedicated managers and enthusiastic staff of Manyoni Private Game Reserve. We also have Grindrod to thank who have been by our side for the past 6 years as our main sponsor.

A special thank-you to *Murray Collins*, trustee of Zululand Conservation Trust and shareholder at Manyoni Private Game Reserve, who endlessly gives to the event each year. A note of thanks should also go to *Llewelyn Nel, Adam Riley, Andrew Haynes, Dale Airton, Ryan Vivier* and *Rob Harvey* who donated to our 2017 auction, held at the ride, which raised R330,000.00.

Thanks to *Sbo Ngcobo*, manager of Hlekani Homestead for ensuring that all participants and helpers were well-fed during the course of the weekend. Leftover food from the Rhino Ride is donated each year to the Mbuzeli and uBhejane crèche, much to the delight of the children.

We look forward to hosting the 7th annual Rhino Ride on the 24th, 25th and 26th of August 2018. Entries open on the 1st May, be sure to keep a look out for any updates on our website!

<http://www.zululandconservationtrust.org/rhinoide#about>





Save the Date...
#RhinoRide2018

25th & 26th August

Entries open online 1st May 2018



Gala Dinner

Formerly known as the Zululand Rhino Reserve Foundation, The Zululand Conservation Trust announced the name change and rebrand at the first fundraising gala dinner on the 8th November 2017 at the Oyster Box hotel in Durban. The event, which was supported by like-minded conservation enthusiasts, donors and friends of the Zululand Conservation Trust, was a festive affair, with drinks, dinner, entertainment and a successful auction.

The gala dinner allowed the Zululand Conservation Trust to showcase an exquisite, one of a kind, rhino-themed jewellery, the 'Ithuba range', which was created especially for the Trust by renowned British jewellery firm *Deakin & Francis*. All proceeds from the sale of the Ithuba range go directly to the fight against rhino poaching within the Manyoni Private Game Reserve and the surrounding Zululand area. This year we launched our new Friend of the Trust award, which will be presented annually. Diana Penny, shareholder at Manyoni Private Game Reserve was the first beneficiary for her contributions in setting up this exciting partnership.

The gala dinner auction raised *R280,663* which proved to be a very successful evening and we have all of our sponsors to thank. The Zululand Conservation Trust looks forward to hosting more events so that they can thank current donors, as well as introduce themselves to fellow conservationists, and community supporters.

Local entertainer, Aaron McIlroy, kept the crowd in jovial spirits as our MC and comedian which made the evening a thoroughly enjoyable one. Maskandi band, Qadasi played in bursts throughout the evening with their uniquely Zululand sound. It was a fine evening to celebrate and share the success of the Zululand Conservation Trust.





Dallas Safari Club Foundation Grant

The Zululand Conservation Trust was the recipient of a significant grant from the *Dallas Safari Club Foundation*, to the value of \$30,000 (R395,778.00). The grant was applied for in order to support community and conservation work, and it enabled the Zululand Conservation Trust to roll-out a number of successful community and conservation projects as well as support ongoing projects, illustrated below.

Improving Rhino Protection on Manyoni Private Game Reserve:

Sitoni and Mfundisi are two full time rhino monitors based on Manyoni. They spend 8 hours every day out in the field on quad bikes and on foot, searching for and monitoring white and black rhino populations on the reserve. Both monitors are vital for maintaining up-to-date records of the whereabouts and health status of the rhinos, and for keeping track of new rhino calves.

We use a well-known ear-notching technique to identify rhinos on the reserve, as each notch represents a number and each pattern adds up to a number – the rhinos identity. To effectively monitor these populations, Sitoni and Mfundisi need to get close to read notch patterns and identify the rhinos, especially if they come across a large group of rhino.

Thanks to the Dallas Safari Club Foundation grant, we were able to issue Sitoni and Mfundisi with brand new high-quality SigSauer binoculars to enable them to identify rhino ear notches more easily. As they are out in the field every day carrying expensive equipment, they were issued with chest rigs for easy access to their cameras, trimbles, radios, and binoculars.



A Sportsman 570 quadbike was purchased for fence line patrols, a vital part of reserve management at Manyoni. This quadbike has the necessary specifications to traverse the rough and mountainous terrain of the western boundary, which is a high priority for monitoring incursions and damaged fence line. Having a daily presence in the area aims to discourage both subsistence and rhino poachers.

The management team at Manyoni Private Game Reserve is on 24-hour standby to assist the anti-poaching unit in responding to security threats or gun shots. The Zululand Conservation Trust bought bullet-proof vests to provide protection for those who put their life on the line responding to such incidents, as well as 5 tactical backpacks for use in fieldwork, and management operations such as game capture, vegetation assessments, animal darts, emergency veterinary procedures and anti-poaching.



Supporting local communities:

The Dallas Safari Club Foundation grant enabled the Zululand Conservation Trust to fund two rhino darts for communities surrounding Manyoni Private Game Reserve. Not only are rhino darts a great tool to showcase the importance of rhino conservation to the community, they also allow the reserve to update DNA records, which help keep track of rhino populations across the region and the country.

Inviting people to experience a rhino dart is an opportunity to educate at a hands-on ground level. Being able to touch the rough skin, and witness the extreme process of humanely dehorning such a magnificent animal all contribute to the unforgettable experience, but also spread awareness, as each individual will have an amazing story to tell their families and friends, with what they saw, and most importantly what they learnt. The aim is to increase awareness by getting people talking about the plight of the rhino, and the drastic measures being taken to promote their survival.



On 13th June 2017, Vungama and Bangonomo community leaders were invited to take part in a rhino dart to dehorn a female black rhino. It was an invaluable experience to provide community leaders with an insight into the drastic lengths that we must go to in order to protect these iconic species' from poachers, and to enable the traditional leaders to get up close to a rhino and see for themselves the incredible creatures they are. After the dart the reserve management team sat down with the traditional leaders for a lunch and entered into lengthy discussions on the future well-being of our wildlife. Many thanks to *Sbo Ngcobo* for his assistance in translating for us.

On 6th July 2017, a local soccer team from Sekane were invited to take part in darting and veterinary treatment of a female white rhino with a severely damaged udder. This invitation was a prize allocated to the winning team of the Youth Day Soccer Tournament.

Four months after the dart, in early October, our rhino monitor Mfundisi found this female pushing, as if she was giving birth. Once the calf was born, the management team on the reserve decided to monitor the situation carefully to see if the calf was getting milk despite the mothers damaged teat. Unfortunately, her udder was too severely damaged to deliver the milk, and the decision was taken to pick up the desperately hungry and malnourished calf and take him into the Zululand Rhino Orphanage. He was later named Khula, which means 'to grow'.



Supporting the Zululand Rhino Orphanage:

The Zululand Conservation Trust allocated a portion of the Dallas Safari Club Foundation grant towards the Zululand Rhino Orphanage. The grant enabled the Zululand Conservation Trust to create community employment opportunities. We were able to employ local community members to assist with building a boma for the older rhino orphans, and to pay wages for two rhino orphan carers in the long-term. The grant also enabled us to erect the vital, electrified security fence, which includes state of the art cameras.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

*“Tell me and I’ll forget,
Show me and I may not remember,
Involve me and I’ll understand”*
Zulu Proverb

Community crèche support

The Trust provides ongoing support and sponsorship to two crèches in communities neighbouring the Manyoni Private Game Reserve. These crèches provide an essential service by enabling the children’s mothers to work during the day, as well as providing a safe space to educate the children in their most informative and early years.



The **Mbuzeli Crèche** is based in the Vungama Community, and was built by Leopard Mountain Safari Lodge and Manyoni Private Game Reserve in 2008. Ivy, the crèche teacher, has been with the crèche since it’s inception. Ivy, along with two assistants who help cook, takes care of 47 children age 2-6. With the support of African Spirit Game Lodge, Ivy is furthering her studies to qualify to teach grade R students.

The **uBhejane Crèche** in the Sekane Community was built by the Zululand Conservation Trust in 2014. Due to harsh weather conditions, the crèche had to be rebuilt in 2016, this was made possible thanks to a donation from *P. Trimborn Agencies*. The Zululand Conservation Trust employs Lethiwe as the crèche teacher, who teaches 15 children up to age 6. A big thank-you to *Pongola BuildIt* for the discounted materials, *Hluhluwe BuildIt* for donating the colourful paints, students from Umlhanga College who painted the outer walls and friends of the Trust who spent many weekends on the murals inside the crèche.





The Zululand Conservation Trust has received requests for a further two crèches in communities neighbouring Manyoni on the Northern boundary. Fundraising quickly began and we have the *Victor Daitz Foundation* to thank for a generous donation which has enabled us to break ground for the construction of the third crèche in the Gudlintaba Community. This crèche will be completed in the first half of 2018 and will accommodate a further 40 children.



Ongoing sponsorship at the crèches include monthly food drops, salaries for teachers and cooks, general maintenance, annual celebrations for Easter and Christmas, and the facilitation of various donations.

The lodges and guests at Manyoni Private Game Reserve regularly support the crèches with donations of clothes, toys and stationary. The Zululand Conservation Trust is extremely grateful for these contributions, as they often make the monthly food drop an exciting time for the children.

A special thank you to following lodges and shareholders who contributed to the crèche in 2017: *Zebra Hills Safari Lodge, Hlekani Homestead, Leopard Mountain, Rhino River Lodge, Luthuli and African Spirit.*





Christmas at the community crèche

On the 5th December, a joint crèche Christmas party was held for the uBhejane and Mbuzeli crèche children. This is always an absolute highlight for the children and staff alike, who are presented with gifts and a wholesome meal.

The children were presented with gift bundles from Julia and Norma, representing *Blankets for Baby Rhinos*. The gift packages had knitted flannels, knitted teddies, a bar of soap, a knitted toy and some sweets – these bundles were all hand crafted by ladies from across the world, so no child's bundle was the same and the children were ecstatic in receiving their unique presents.



The Christmas party provides a great opportunity to thank the hardworking teachers and cooks for their dedicated work in keeping the children well-fed and safe throughout the year. Each teacher and cook received a personalised blanket for their dedication and efforts.



The Zululand Conservation Trust has implemented two annual educational projects, School Game Drives and Rhino Art, both of which are hands-on activities which assist to spread the message of conservation to children who attend the local community schools.



School Game Drives

The Zululand Conservation Trust school game drive programme enables students to experience game drives within their neighbouring Reserve, Manyoni. A high proportion of these children have never seen wild animals in their natural habitat, let alone the big 5. This is often an exciting experience for them, which aims to educate the children, who are our future, about the benefits of game reserves, not only to their local communities but to the economy as whole.

In August, the Zululand Conservation Trust coordinated an unforgettable experience for the Grade 7 classes from Manyoni and Obani Primary School, which lie just beyond the Manyoni West and North-Western boundary. Over 150 students experienced a full two days out in the bush on game drive with qualified field guides teaching them about trees, birds, mammals, insects and the importance of their role in the environment and how they share it with all these wonderful living things.

Each day, the children stop for a pre-prepared bush picnic. Here they are quizzed on what they have learnt so far. This is always a rewarding and very special experience for the children, and a definite highlight of their Grade 7 year.

Thank you to the lodges who provided guides to drive the students and teachers around, and to Jabu, Olwen, Izzy and our volunteer Megan for their assistance in preparing the lunches.





Rhino Art

Rhino Art is an educational roadshow initiated by the *Kingsley Holgate Foundation* and *Project Rhino*. Project Rhino's Rhino Ambassador, Richard Mabanga, tours schools across South Africa sharing his vibrant and theatrical show in isiZulu about the importance of conserving and protecting our rhinos for future generations.

In May, Richard visited over 2,000 pupils from 10 schools in the rural communities neighbouring Manyoni. The students are invited to express themselves through art, and are given a blank rhino template to colour in and decorate, this proves very popular and an incredible 1,698 pupils entered. Richard returns two weeks later to judge the art and choose a winner from each school. The winners are then afforded the opportunity to join a 4-day environmental camp and become the Rhino Ambassador for their school.

The camp is held at Somkhanda Game Reserve, where the children learn about the conservation of wildlife through bush walks, presentations, game drives and other activities. The children love this creative project and the Trust is always taken aback by the thoughtfulness and effort that goes into their art.





Blankets for Baby Rhinos

Blankets for Baby Rhinos are a non-profit, voluntary craft and fundraising group who raise funds in aid of wildlife conservation. The dedicated group has more than 2,000 volunteer members, who contribute by knitting the items, all of which are donated. They have generously chosen to support the Zululand Conservation Trust, by donating numerous knitted blankets, beanies, gloves and toys to the Mbuzeli and uBhejane Crèches, and the Zululand Rhino Orphanage. In partnership with the Zululand Conservation Trust, the fortunate recipients have been children from local communities, and the rhino orphans being rehabilitated at the Zululand Rhino Orphanage.



COFWA - Creating Our Future with Arts and Crafts

COFWA is a two-fold project, "*Creating Our Future with Arts and Crafts*" for the unemployed, and "*Creating Our Future Wildlife Ambassadors*" amongst young children. COFWA assist unemployed women to create an income through knitting rhino toys. *Marjo Felderhof* from COWFA, delivered an incredible 80 knitted rhino toys to hand out to the children at our two crèche.

With the delivery of these special toys the children were told a touching story about a rhino and her calf, with the ultimate message that each and every rhino needs to be looked after and cared for. Each of the knitted rhinos have an isiZulu message stitched onto them, reading "*Angivikele! Ngisize! Ngithande!*" which means "*Protect me, Help me, Love me*". Marjo hopes to be able to return in 2018 and assist ladies in the Sekane community with skills development, so that they too can make these toys and sell them.





Uzwelo Bags

The ZCT joined forces with *Uzwelo Bags*, an amazing organisation who train local community members to make school bags out of waste fabrics that would otherwise go into landfills. The ladies who create the bags gain entrepreneurial opportunities by converting scrap material into durable, colourful hand-crafted school bags with a built-in rain poncho. A portion of the profits from Uzwelo goes to the *Bateleurs*, who provide a free-of-charge aviation service to environmental causes throughout Southern Africa.

Through our fundraising events and individual donations, the Zululand Conservation Trust has equipped nearly 1,000 local school children each with their very own, unique, Uzwelo School Bag. This is an ongoing project which we will continue to pursue in 2018 in order to give as many children as possible an Uzwelo School Bag.

In 2017 we handed out 500 school bags to the students of Manyoni Primary School, these bags were pledged from our fundraising event the Rhino Ride. More recently at the gala dinner we had another 500 pledged. These will be handed out to the Obani Primary school after the Easter break in April.



Annual Soccer Tournament

Each year, over the festive season, Goodman Mafuleka organises a soccer tournament in the Vungama Community on the Manyoni Western boundary. This is an exciting 3 days for the community members, which brings local football players and fans together for some friendly competition. The Zululand Conservation Trust sponsored soccer kits and registration fee for the Manyoni Private Game Reserve team, as well as soccer balls, prize money and entertainment for the tournament. Unfortunately, the Manyoni Private Game Reserve team was knocked out on the second day by the tournament winners, the Sekane Community team.



Thank you to the Manyoni Private Game Reserve managers, who allowed their staff to participate in the event, and play for their various community teams.

The Zululand Conservation Trust also graded a new soccer pitch in the Mandlakazi community neighbouring Senzokuhle High School. Once the grader had cleared the area, the ground needed further attention, so we created a competition between the school grades to clear sections of the field. The winning team received Uzwelo School bags, with runners up receiving exercise books and sweets. We plan to upgrade the Vungama field at a later stage.



Other community support projects

Mange Community school fence

The Zululand Conservation Trust donated over R25,000 worth of bonnox fencing and poles towards the Mange Community on the Eastern boundary. The bonnox was used to fence off their new high school. Thank you to Dale Airton, manager of Rhino River and Bonzo properties on Manyoni for coordinating this project.



Vungama Community borehole

A borehole pump supplying water to community members in Vungama was broken, causing the community to use a natural stream which was also being used by livestock. Once alerted to the problem, the Zululand Conservation Trust jumped into action to fix the pump. A huge thank you to *Neville Hawkey* for his assistance with the replacement and enabling the community access to fresh clean drinking water again.



Rise n Fly Youth Day

Rise n Fly, a non-profit organisation based in the rural area of the KwaNgwenya community in Jozini, provides social support and training to under-privileged youth within their community. *Ziggy Buthelezi*, who runs Rise n Fly, organises various community days, including sports events and dance competitions. In 2017 the Zululand Conservation Trust sponsored trophies and prize money towards the Rise n Fly Youth Day event as well towards their dance competition.

Manyoni Youth Day sports event and rhino dart

Over 300 people attended a weekend sports event in the Vungama Community. The event focused on getting the youth out onto the field to participate in sporting tournaments mainly soccer but also netball. There was some serious competition on the soccer field which saw the tournament being extended. The Zululand Conservation Trust sponsored soccer balls and sports kit for the event, and meat for the spectators to enjoy. The final round was held on 24th June, and the Sekane team took home the trophy, along with an unforgettable prize – an invitation to attend a rhino dart.



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

“Look deep into nature, and you will understand everything better”

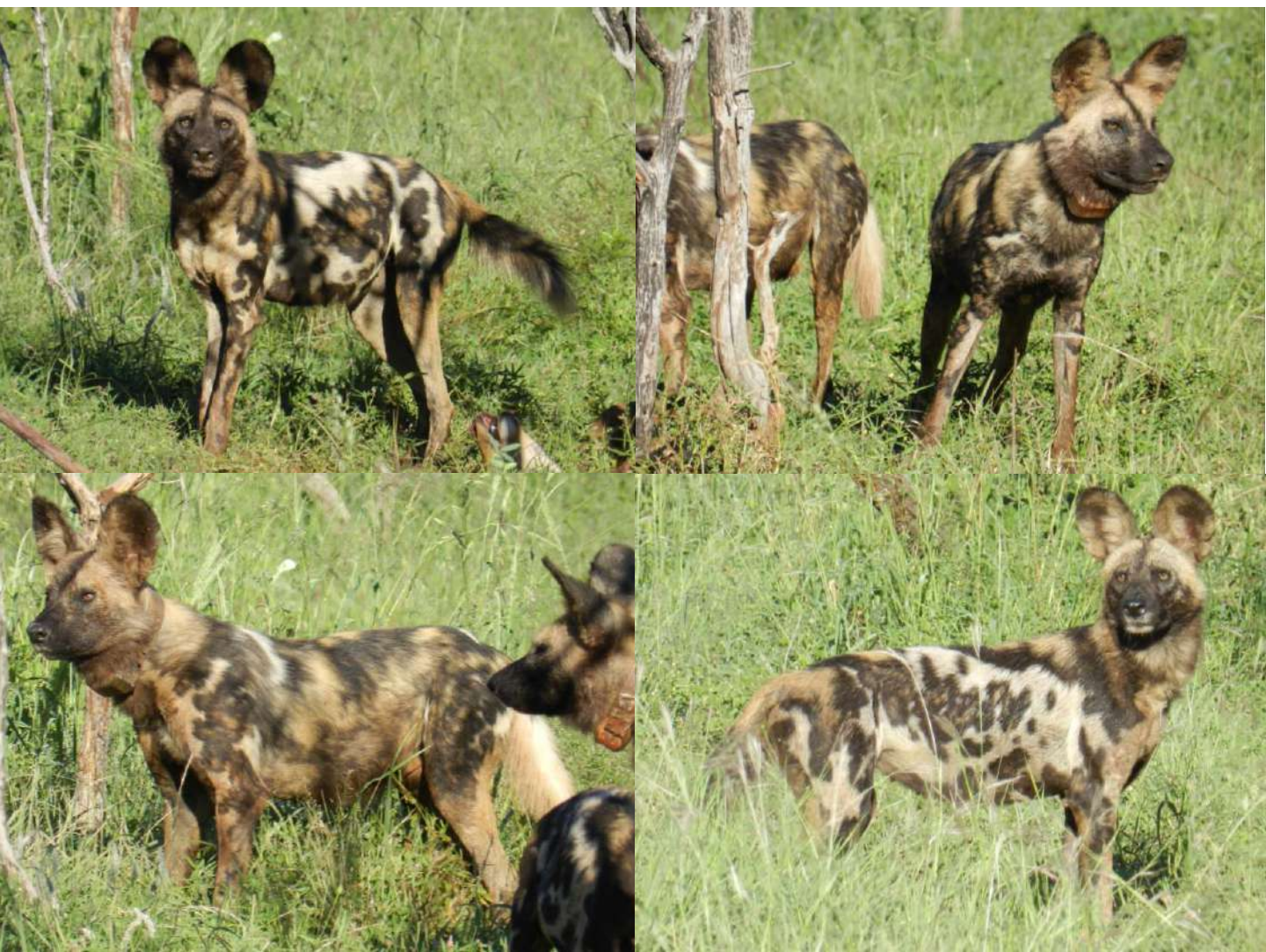
Albert Einstein

The Zululand Conservation Trust strives to support conservation activities within the Manyoni Private Game Reserve, and to assist with conservation projects within the greater Zululand region. With the main focus being on the conservation of endangered species, specifically the Black Rhino, which is state owned.

Wild Dog Conservation

The Zululand Conservation Trust received a generous sponsorship from *Illovo* in 2015, which was dedicated solely to the conservation of the pack of wild dogs, which had been introduced into Manyoni Private Game Reserve the previous year. The African wild dog is an endangered species, and the pack was introduced to Manyoni in order to aid conservation of the species, and contribute to the metapopulation. Wild dogs are state-owned, so there is no financial input from the Manyoni Private Game Reserve shareholders. Therefore, the Zululand Conservation Trust was able to use the funds from the Illovo donation for conservation and monitoring of the Wild dogs.

Having had the pack of wild dogs on Manyoni for 3 years, we needed to upgrade and replace their tracking collars, as the signal was becoming increasingly weak. This was beginning to affect our ability to monitor the pack effectively. The Zululand Conservation Trust purchased one new VHF collar and one new radio collar, and have committed to covering the costs of darting and fitting these. The collars will be fitted in 2018.



Rhino Conservation



The Zululand Conservation Trust places great importance on the conservation of the black rhino population residing in the Manyoni Private Game Reserve. We therefore cover a large proportion of the security costs which the reserve incurs from their ongoing anti-poaching operations.

Due to the pressure game reserves are facing with the increase in rhino poaching, Manyoni made the decision to dehorn their entire population in order to deter potential poachers – this was a last resort and the Zululand Conservation Trust funded R66,000 towards these dehorning costs.





Return of the rhino orphans back into the wild

Ithuba and Thando are two white rhino orphans from Manyoni Private Game Reserve who were being rehabilitated at a rhino orphanage in the province. They returned to Manyoni in September 2016, as part of their rehabilitation program, which aims to return them back into their natural habitat. On 10th February 2017, we took the next step – darting and fitting both white rhino with tracking collars to enable us to monitor them post-release. A few days later, the doors were opened and Ithuba and Thando took their first steps back into the wild. This was a historical moment for the Zululand Conservation Trust, as these rhinos had been under our financial care since they were first orphaned. It was an emotional moment to see them back in their natural habitat, where they belong.

The Zululand Conservation Trust directly contributed to saving these two orphans, through funding:

- helicopter time searching for the orphans' mothers
- capture and relocation costs
- employment of a full-time staff member to care for and feed the orphans
- continuous veterinary care
- monthly orphanage boarding fees
- relocation and release of both orphans onto Manyoni
- follow up care of collaring, darting, dehorning and monitoring



A special mention of thanks must go out to *the Freeland Organisation*, which funded the darting of both rhinos, and to *Vision Africa Wildlife* for the donation of two foot collars to assist with vital post-release monitoring of Ithuba and Thando.

Zululand Conservation Trust Merchandise

We have been fortunate to enter into partnerships with some incredibly talented artists, designers and companies to help expand our influence and create awareness through art and jewellery. Below is the variety of such ventures that we have undertaken this year. If you are interested in purchasing any of the items you can visit our website for more details: <http://www.zululandconservationtrust.org/Shop>

The Ithuba Collection



With the help and guidance of the Penny family, shareholders at Manyoni, we became involved in a unique project with *Deakin & Francis*, a seven-generation, family-run British jewellery business. Henry Deakin visited a game reserve outside Johannesburg and was horrified by the plight of the rhino. On his return to the UK, he set to work thinking about what he could do to fulfil his newfound desire to help the desperate situation of the rhino. The Zululand Conservation Trust have partnered with Deakin & Francis, and the Ithuba Collection is the proud result of much hard work and careful thought. Ithuba was the first rhino calf to be orphaned as a result of poaching on the Manyoni Private Game Reserve. The Zululand Conservation Trust has funded his entire rehabilitation process back into the wild and we are proud to say that he is wild and free, roaming again on the reserve where he was born. This is a significant and special part of our story and we hold this almighty success very close to our hearts. This range of handcrafted jewellery has been designed exclusively for the Zululand Conservation Trust to fund ongoing community and conservation projects.

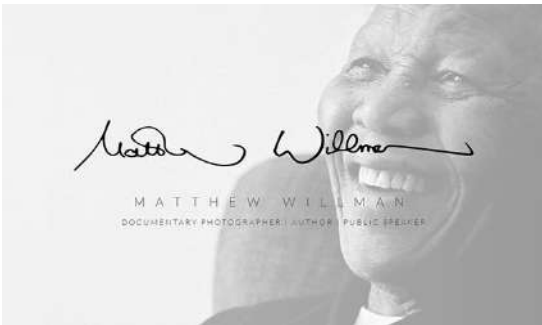


Annabel Pope

In association with the Ithuba Collection, renowned artist *Annabel Pope* skilfully sketched an image of young orphaned Ithuba while he was at the Rhino Orphanage. Pope is a British-born artist whose work attracts international interest. She has exhibited successfully in the UK and worldwide, establishing herself as a leading wildlife artist.

The original Ithuba sketch was auctioned at our gala dinner, which was held at the Oyster Box Hotel in Umhlanga – selling for *R15,000*. We have limited prints available for sale with all proceeds going to towards our conservation projects.

Matthew Willman Photographic Collection



We first met *Matthew Willman* on a school tour, in which we were invited to speak to a group of Hillcrest Primary School learners about conservation. Willman showed a keen interest in our project, and we invited him to come and take some photographs at the Zululand Rhino Orphanage. From here, the relationship grew into what we see today.

In partnership with the Zululand Conservation Trust and the Zululand Rhino Orphanage, Willman created two collections to help support our magnificent rhinos: a collection of limited edition Hahnemühle Fiber base prints, and a very small private photographic art collection. This is a unique collection that has been personally signed by the subjects of the photographs – two of our white rhinos, Khula and Ntoto signed their portraits with their own footprints!



BushStraps

The Zululand Conservation Trust has partnered with *BushStraps* to create personalised paracord survival wrist bracelets. Described as ‘a tough bracelet and a life-saving device’, the BushStrap provides you with several meters of 550 paracord which can be unravelled and used if you find yourself in a sticky situation and need a strong reliable rope!

For each Bushstrap sold, we receive a portion of the sales which goes towards our community and conservation projects.

Many thanks to *Leopard Mountain* and *Rhino River Lodge* in Manyoni Private Game Reserve for supporting us by selling BushStraps in their curio shops.



“Only when the last of the animals’ horns, tusks, skin and bones have been sold, will mankind realize that money can never buy back our wildlife.”

Paul Oxton



The Zululand Rhino Orphanage

The Zululand Rhino Orphanage was born out of tragedy when a regional rhino orphanage was brutally attacked by poachers on 22nd February 2017. Due to the ongoing security threat, the facility made a difficult decision to close down.

In the wake of this tragedy, there was an urgent need to re-home the orphans. With nowhere nearby to send them, the only option was a facility far away in Limpopo.

Realising the impracticality of not having a rhino orphanage to service the local area in the midst of an ongoing poaching crisis, the Zululand Conservation Trust seized the challenge and decided to build an orphanage. We immediately kicked into action, and began working against the clock to build a facility for these displaced animals.

With a firm belief that we had the capability to rise to the task, our team set about building a 3.5-hectare boma – a first step to enable our two oldest animals, black rhinos Nandi and Storm to move in. On 12th March, they were brought to the newly built boma, where our carers could feed and take care of them.

Inspiration quickly transformed into hard work as we set the wheels in motion to design and construct the facility to house the remaining three smaller orphans: two young white rhinos, Makhosi and Isomiso, and a young hippo – Charlie.

Being much younger than Storm and Nandi, these three little ones were considerably more dependent on their carers, requiring round-the-clock monitoring and feeding every 3-4 hours. crucial requirements for this level of care in their rehabilitation process included a kitchen for milk preparation, and a warm sleeping area.

With a generous donation from *Container Conversions*, we were able to set up the facility in a matter of weeks. Following our rapid progress, the three babies moved into their new home on 30th April.

Over the next 10 days, the orphans began to settle in and adjust to their new home. This allowed the staff to adjust to the long and demanding hours required to be a full-time carer.





On 15th May, not even a month after we had opened, we received a devastating phone call in the early hours of the morning from another reserve in the province. A white rhino cow had been poached, leaving behind a four-month-old male calf. This was our first plea to take on an orphan.



For six cold, rainy days this tiny calf had survived next to the lifeless carcass of his poached mother. Having just opened our doors, every space we had was already occupied.

However, it is said that necessity is the mother of invention, and arrangements were immediately made to build a temporary living space to house the calf and arrange for additional staff to be brought in to relieve the already overworked team at the Zululand Rhino Orphanage.



We named our the newest orphan Ntoto. He proved to be a fighter, having survived against all odds. It was an uphill battle to overcome the trauma he endured, but he is now a healthy young male, with an outgoing personality and a large appetite!

Having taken on Ntoto, we realised we are not just a facility for existing victims of the poaching crisis, but we also need to be able to cater for future victims in the province.



The Zululand Rhino Orphanage, with its capacity to grow as the need arises, is a facility for the future. Based on current poaching statistics, it is a tragic necessity.

In nurturing and raising these precious survivors, it is our stated mission at the Zululand Rhino Orphanage to return each and every one of our orphans back into the wild where they belong.





Zululand Rhino Orphanage Timeline 2017

20 February 2017

Thula Thula Rhino Orphanage closes down due to ongoing security threat



12 March 2017

Black rhinos, Storm and Nandi are moved to a secure location provided by the Zululand Conservation Trust



21 February 2017

Trustees of the Zululand Conservation Trust make the decision to build a facility to house both our orphans and others

4 April 2017

Plans drawn up to build a new orphanage and to move the remaining animals in. Bomas are completed for their relocation on 27th April

30 April 2017

Three more orphans are moved in to the newly built Zululand Rhino Orphanage: two white rhinos and a hippo – Makhosi and Isomiso, and Charlie



5 May 2017

Donated containers from *Container Conversions* arrive, and the Zululand Rhino Orphanage gets electricity



15 May 2017

A newly orphaned 5-month-old white rhino, whose mother was shot and killed by poachers arrives at the Zululand Rhino Orphanage. A makeshift pen is built for him until his container arrives on 12th June



27 June 2017

Nandi and Storm are moved to their larger, newly built, enclosure at the Zululand Rhino Orphanage



7 July 2017

The name and logo are finalised for the Zululand Rhino Orphanage



11 July 2017

3.5-hectare boma is complete, providing a natural habitat for their rehabilitation

15 July 2017

Construction begins on Charlie's dam



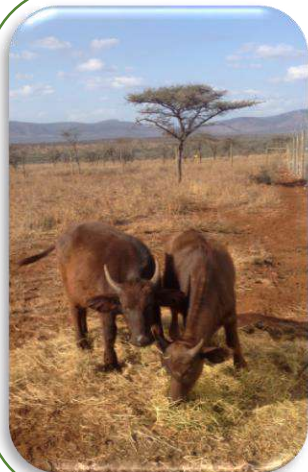
26 July 2017

18-strand electric fence installed around the Zululand Rhino Orphanage perimeter



1 August 2017

24-hour infrared security cameras installed



10 August 2017

Two buffalo, Caramel and Savage, that were orphaned in the drought are brought to the ZRO



9 September 2017

A frail white rhino calf is brought to the Zululand Rhino Orphanage, after sustaining critical injuries from a hippo attack. We name him Thunga, which means 'to sew'



4 October 2017

Khula, a 2-day-old white rhino who is unable to receive milk from his mother, due to her damaged udder, is brought to the Zululand Rhino Orphanage



18 September 2017

After multiple surgeries and sleepless nights for our carers, sadly Thunga's injuries are too severe and he passes away peacefully after putting up a brave fight

5 October 2017

Dr Trevor Viljoen performs the first rhino plasma transfusion for Khula, who has received no antibodies from his mother

4 December 2017

Completion of a third pole boma at the Zululand Rhino Orphanage. The entire fenced-in area of the Zululand Rhino Orphanage is 7.04 hectares





8 December 2017

Moomin, an orphaned female hippo, arrives from the Eastern Cape, and is introduced to Charlie, so that he can interact with another hippo



19 December 2017

Thandi, a young abandoned zebra approaches the induna at our staff accommodation. She is brought into the care of the Zululand Rhino Orphanage



Meet the Zululand Rhino Orphanage Team



Megan Lategan
Zululand Rhino Orphanage Manager

Since opening in April, the Zululand Conservation Trust has employed a manager and four rhino carers, all of whom are dedicated and hard-working. On a daily basis, they provide the orphans with food and water, mix milk regularly, monitor the orphans closely, and ensure that the entire facility and all equipment contained within are kept in clean and sanitary conditions for the rhinos.

The feeding schedules are ever-changing as we wean the older orphans and increase milk for the young animals. Each orphan has their own dietary needs, and so they all have an individual specially-formulated feeding plan. When we take on a new calf, the first few weeks require intensive care, and the team often works through the night, waking up every two hours to feed the new calf and to cater to his/her needs.



Nokwanda Mabuyakhulu
Rhino Carer



Jabu Nkosi
Rhino Carer



Olwen Jakumeit
Rhino Carer

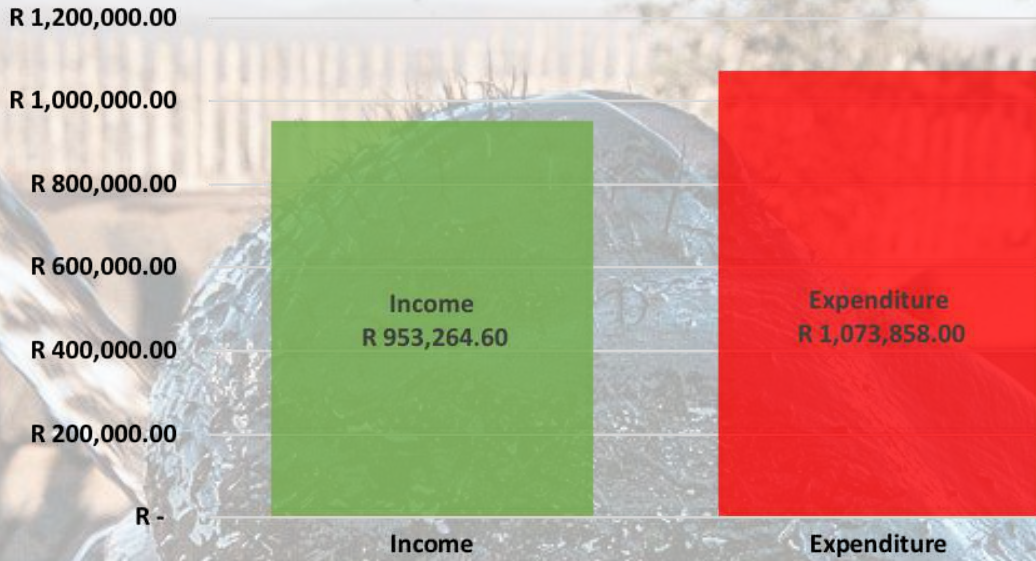


Izzy Rowles
Rhino Carer



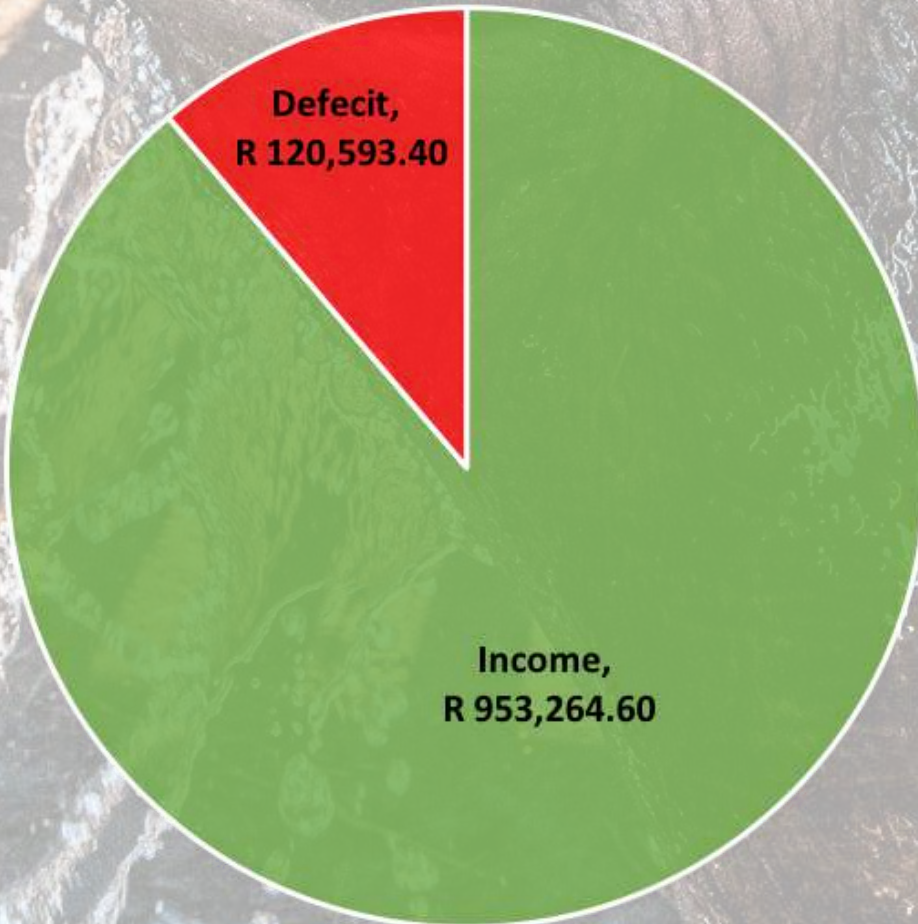
Zululand Rhino Orphanage Financials: 2017-2018 Financial Year

Income vs Expenditure



Income & Deficit

We have managed to raise 88.77% of our total expenditure.





Zululand Rhino Orphanage – How YOU can help



The Zululand Rhino Orphanage is always looking for donors who can help us continue building this sanctuary for orphaned animals –help us save the ones that have been left behind by contributing towards our cause.

Thank you!

Zululand Rhino Orphanage Banking Details:

Bank Account Name: Zululand Rhino Reserve Foundation

Bank Name: First National Bank / FNB

Branch: Florida Road

Branch Code: 220526

Bank Account No: 62752589344

Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ

Donate Via:



<https://www.payfast.co.za/donate/go/zululandrhinoreservefoundation>

For more information contact:

Megan Lategan

Zululand Rhino Orphanage Manager

Email: orphanage@zululandconservationtrust.org

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Zululand Rhino
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Zululand Conservation Trust – How YOU can help

If you would like to donate towards our community and conservation projects, please see our banking details below.



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Bank Account Name: Zululand Rhino Reserve Foundation
Bank Name: First National Bank / RMB
Branch: Florida Road
Branch Code: 220526
Bank Account Number: 62305315386
Swift Code: FIRZAJJ

Bank Address:

First National Bank, 267 Florida Road, Morningside, Durban, 4001



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A huge thank-you for all your support

All of us at the Zululand Conservation Trust would like to extend our most sincere gratitude to each and every individual who has donated towards our cause.

Whether donating time, money, tools, or equipment, every donation is most gratefully accepted by the Zululand Conservation Trust, the communities that we support, and the species' that we help to conserve.

With every contributor, we are delighted to share our passion and enthusiasm in order to make a real, tangible difference to the lives of communities and endangered species.

**"If you think you are too small to make a difference,
try spending a night with a mosquito"**

African proverb



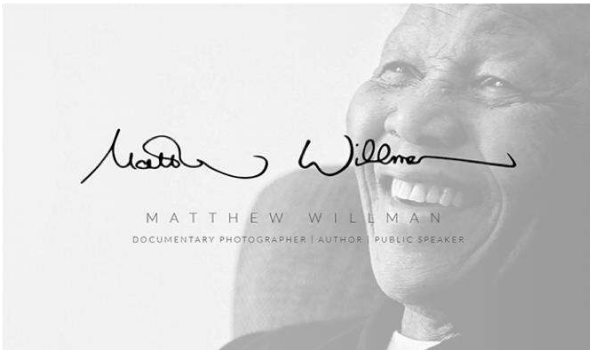
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ANNABEL POPE
Wildlife And Travel Art



DEAKIN & FRANCIS
ENGLAND



Zululand Conservation Trust - Partners and Sponsors 2017



UzweloBAGS

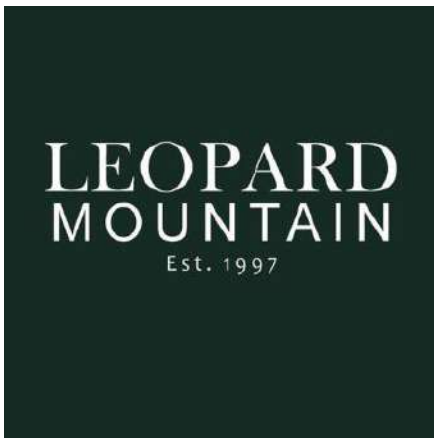


MANYONI

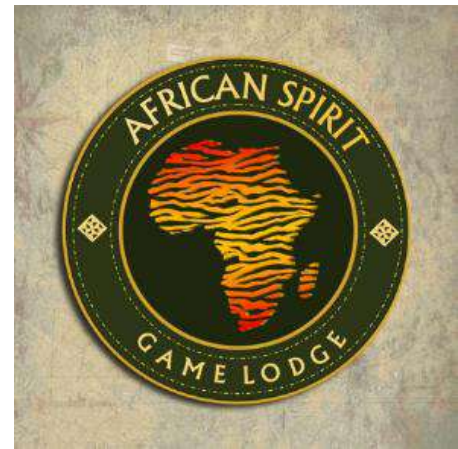
— PRIVATE GAME RESERVE —

Many thanks to the shareholders of the Manyoni Private Game Reserve for their continued support and donations towards the

ZCT



ZEBRA HILLS
SAFARI LODGE



MAVELA GAME LODGE
MANYONI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Zululand Conservation Trust - Partners and Sponsors 2017

**CONTAINER
CONVERSIONS**



**UNIVERSAL
NETWORKS**



ASSTech PROCESS ELECTRONICS
◦ INSTRUMENTATION cc



THE CYCLE OF LIFE



GCC
GLOBAL CONSERVATION CORPS



Zululand Conservation Trust - Partners and Sponsors 2017

RHINO TEARS



KIFARU WILDLIFE VETERINARY SERVICES



& BEYOND

PHINDA
PRIVATE GAME RESERVE



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RICHTER SCALE



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