

Majete Wildlife Reserve

Newsletter—December 2007

Babies, birds and butterflies



The rainy season has begun. And with the first rains, the vegetation in Majete changed almost overnight, as if someone had taken a big brush and painted everything green! Hundreds of different shades of green make the scenery stunning.



Flowers are blossoming, butterflies fly everywhere and a lot of animals are having babies! Bird life is even more abundant.



Different birds have found their way back to Majete, like the Southern Carmine Bee-eater.



Majete has the advantage that most of the roads stay accessible throughout the whole year. This means that everybody can come down to Majete and witness the beauty of this season.

Mushroom project

The newest Income Generating Activity is the mushroom project in M'bwemba. With the rests of bananaplants, sorghum stems and maize stems they create manure. Together with unpounded rice this manure goes into plastic bags. After about a week the white proof of the presence of the mushrooms is visible and the plastic bags are hung in a special house to further develop.

The bags are treated with lots of water to get the atmosphere as humid as possible and after some time, the mushrooms appear! Or this is in a nutshell how a difficult process is being explained by the committee themself. The whole process takes about one month from manure to edible mushrooms.

The treasurer of the committee says this is one of the best projects he is involved in with a good profit and he wants to continue with it the rest of his life!



Project Coordinator: Patricio Ndadzela — Technical Coordinator: Jes Gruner—Financial Coordinator: Martijn de Bruijn

Extension Coordinator: Stella Mzumara—Law Enforcement: Harvey Mtete—Marketing and Education: Amy Franken

Six black rhino released



Moving rhino into boma



Transmitter in horn



Rhino released



Black rhino



Handover to Minister

After months of preparation, the moment was finally there! In the early morning of the 1st of November, a big truck with six crates arrived at the Gate of Majete.

In the truck were six black rhino, one male and five females.

Rydon and Nangondo, who had been staying in the boma since September, were taken back to South Africa on the same truck.

After a few days Lundu (male), Shamwari, Cassia, Callista, Kumi and Reagan (females), were released in Majete. Each one in a different sector of the reserve. Black rhino are known as very territorial animals and we don't want them to fight each other!

Each rhino got a small transmitter placed in its horn, so the scouts know where they are. The horn is made of the same material as hair or nails. With a drill a small hole was made and the transmitter inserted.

And as an extra surprise, all the females are pregnant! Next year, from July onwards, we are expecting 5 calves!

The rhino are a donation from Paul van Vlissingen's family and have been officially handed over to the Government of Malawi through the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Culture, Callista Chimombo.

The rhino are monitored by our scouts every day. All are doing fine. They have established their own territories and they are all south of Mwembezi river. Visitors are seeing them regularly now as well.

African Parks Network

As of 1 January 2008 the operational organization of African Parks will move from The Netherlands to South-Africa. Under the name of African Parks Network they will carry out the management of the different parks in Zambia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Congo and Malawi. This new name replaces the old name African Parks Foundation.

The African Parks Network

A business approach to the management of protected areas

Visit the new Camp Site



Spending the night at Majete was already possible in our comfortable bush tents at Thawale Camp. Now you can also camp at the new Majete Community Camp Site funded by USAID. Bring your own tent and enjoy the adventurous wilderness and wildlife. Self-catering only. Camping per person per night: MK 700



Bar and Braai



Camp staff

Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre is up and running now. More and more products of different communities are sold, like grass hats, jewellery, peanut butter and honey.

A dedicated volunteer is visiting the CBOs in search of materials and stories for the exposition area of the Lower Shire Culture.

Daily Times Leadership Challenge visited Majete



Painting the school

The Challenge is an initiative from UK where 64 companies compete against each other in leadership skills. The finals were in Majete. Four teams, 40 people, 3 days, a challenge for both them and the Majete team. The teams donated a school block in Namitsempha. In Majete they helped with the building of a signpost and a drift.

They were the first visitors of the Majete Community Camp Site. In 2008 they will come back with new finalists to support other projects!

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2008

The Majete Management team wishes you and all your family and friends the best of luck for 2008.

And your first good intention for 2008 will be to visit Majete of course!



Santa on safari



Baby elephant born

In the morning of the 2nd December, two scouts were very lucky to witness the birth of a baby elephant. The mother was protected and comforted by the other cows. They stood around her and flapped their ears to keep her cool. When it was born, the matriarch even helped the little one to get to his feet! Both mother and baby are doing fine.

New website

There is now one website for all the different parks under management of African Parks Network.

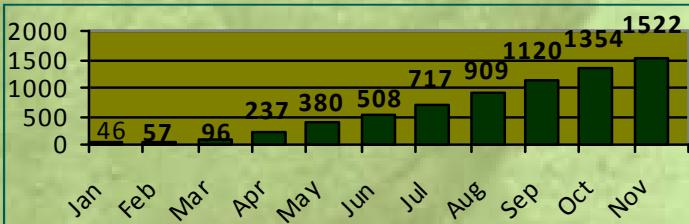
Go to www.african-parks.org and choose one of the parks.

Go to "Majete—visitors information" to see a short movie of the reserve online.

Achievements 2007

At the end of the year, it is always good to look back what you have achieved. Majete 2007 in highlights:

- **Wildlife:** Six black rhino introduced
- **Infrastructure:** Office block, Entrance gate, Community Camp Site, Heritage Centre, Management House, Staff Houses, Rhino boma, two school blocks in Mwembezi & Kachere, Ndife Amodzi Rural Library, four cattle water troughs on East Bank and bore hole in Maganga II finished.
- **Income Generating Activities:** M'bwmbeba Mushroom project, number of Beekeeping clubs increased and 100 individuals trained in Beekeeping, Poultry clubs raised more capital for the CBOs, for instance at Kapichira and Namitsempha, arts & crafts promoted, 15 women trained to make necklaces from tree seeds. Cultural dances and performances encouraged
- **Training:** 60 volunteers trained in Home based Care, 90 trained in Forestry management techniques, 20 carpenters trained to make modern Bee hives based on Malawi Gold Standards, 8 staff trained in tourism and hospitality.
- **Tourism:** Visitor number increased from 285 to more than 1500!



Total visitor numbers 2007

Contact

If you want to make a reservation to spend the night at Majete Community Camp Site or in one of our bush tents at Thawale Camp, please call +265 9 521 741 or send an e-mail to info@africanparksmw.com.