
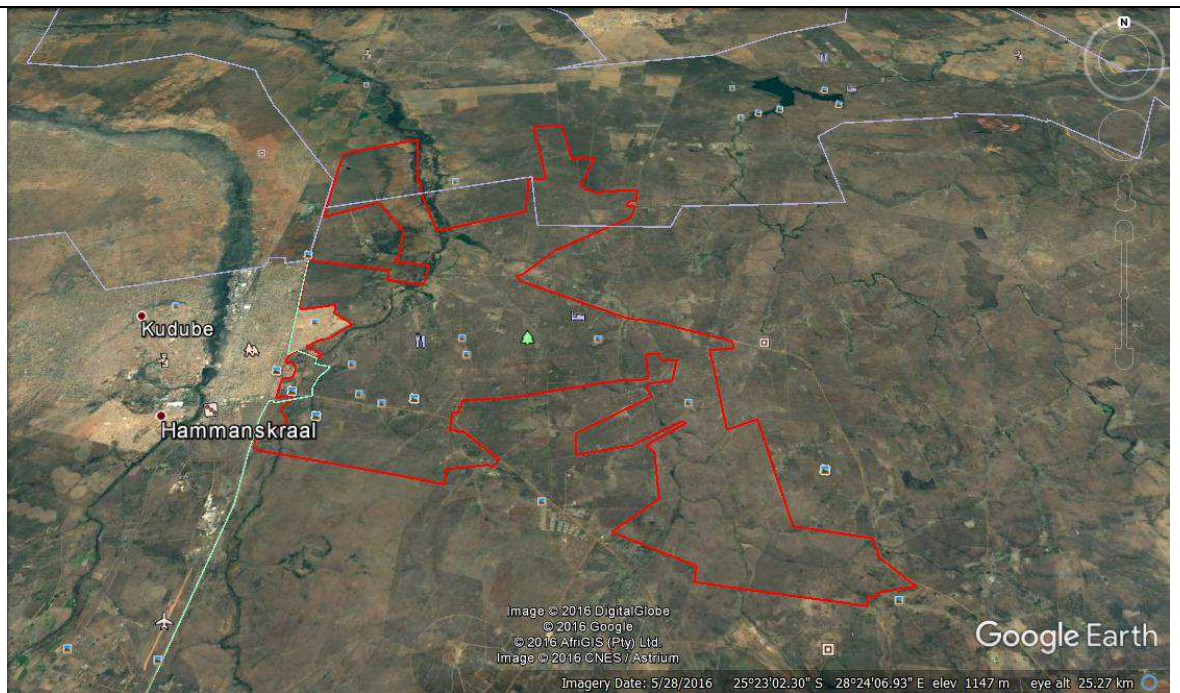




Country:	South Africa	Host Organisation:	WTSA Volunteering		Date:	May 2018
Name of Project:	Dinokeng Game Reserve – Hammanskraal (Gauteng)					
Project Type:	Wildlife Conservation, Animal Behaviour and Reserve Management Project					
Project address:	Dinokeng Game Reserve R734, Hammanskraal Pretoria, Gauteng 0400					
International airport for flight arrivals:	OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg (JHB) is the international gateway, from where volunteers are collected and transported by vehicle on a 100km journey to camp. Dinokeng Game Reserve is located approx 45km north of the urban center of Pretoria, Gauteng.					
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Unit Manager	Stephan van Straaten	Contact Details:	+27 (0)21 851 9494 Mobile: +27 (0)82 338 9970		After Hours	Mobile/Emergency: +27 (0)76 832 1219
Volunteer Coordinator	Norman Jafta	Contact Details:	+27 (0)60 506 4501			
Period when no volunteers are accepted:	None	Note:	Christmas & New Year are quiet periods when some staff may be on leave.			
Staff on the project:	3 Permanent					
Volunteers get a certificate at the end of their stay: (yes/no)	Yes, from WTSA	If yes, name of the responsible person:	Volunteer Coordinator			
Maximum # of volunteers at any time:	10	Project Duration:	2 weeks; 1; 1.5; 2; 2.5; 3 months - start/fin dates on 1 st and 15 th every month.			
Name and country of these Organization(s):	WTSA Volunteering is the only organization which recruits student volunteers for conservation research and reserve management work at Dinokeng Game Reserve. The reserve is however also used for many tourist lodges and adventure activities operated by other suppliers and land owners inside the reserve.					

<p>Vision Statement of WTSA Volunteering:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our programmes and projects are aligned with our passion for South Africa, its environment and its people. 2. We appreciate and love the natural resources of South Africa and its inherent uniqueness in the world. 3. We assure our clients of the integrity of our projects, offer value for money at a fair price, and endeavour to create life changing experiences and lasting memories for our volunteers.
<p>Our Partners in Conservation:</p> <p>Wildlife and Ecological Investments</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wildlife & Ecological Investments</p>  <p>WEI offers a unique resource that harnesses volunteer man power and funding through partner organizations, and then couples it with solid scientific infrastructure in some of South Africa's most ecologically important areas. Financed by international partner organizations, volunteer students and donor funding, WEI's expertise lie in coordinating research projects to a high standard, thus ensuring that the reserves in which volunteers work can fully use their outputs to make informed management decisions.</p> <p>WTSA in association with WEI currently hosts volunteers at many different conservation projects and expeditions in multiple game reserves and parks around South Africa. These efforts have amongst others resulted in the most comprehensive biodiversity data base collated anywhere in Africa, as well as informed provincial and national government on leopard densities and resultant legislation. WEI employs highly experienced Field Researchers, a Research and Training Manager, and a Senior Ecologist whose enthusiasm and expertise ensure scientific rigor and quality of our data collection.</p>
<p>Description of the Area:</p>	
<p>Dinokeng Game Reserve is situated north of Gauteng with a small section in the south of Limpopo. The reserve is 18,500ha with lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino, elephant and cheetah present. There are 170 homesteads within the reserve and communities neighbouring the DGR. The reserve was established as a private / public partnership between private landowners and the Gauteng Provincial Government. After a 10 year planning period and extensive land consolidations, the reserve was officially opened in 2011 with the introduction of big game. This realized Government's objective of establishing a Big 5 reserve in Gauteng near a metropolitan centre, while also creating employment opportunities for the local community and empowering land owners to develop eco tourism products for the region. The reserve falls within the savanna biome.</p>	

Map of
Dinokeng Game
Reserve
Location



Our Team in Camp:



Norman Jafta – Volunteer Coordinator

Staff Profile – Norman Jafta:

Norman is one of our most experienced field staff members and has been with the organization for a number of years. He grew up in the rural community of Bela Bela, Limpopo. After completing his national diploma in Nature Conservation and Level 1 Field Guide training, he worked as guide and ranger on a number of reserves in the game rich Limpopo region.

Norman has a compassionate and helpful nature and was often required to assist with guests, staff and visitors that require extra care and attention. He developed exceptional skills to interact with different personality types and is exceptionally effective as a project leader. This has been invaluable in his current position where he is required to engage with the many varied students and volunteers joining our Dinokeng project.

Norman is particularly interested in working with communities around our reserve and is a passionate facilitator of our environmental awareness course presented at schools in the area.

Norman enjoys being part of the WEI team in a position that allows him to live in the African bush while making a daily contribution towards more effective game reserve management and ongoing field research. He most enjoys managing the base camp and mentoring our students to share and appreciate the beauty of nature and the environment.

Description of Volunteer Project:

The Dinokeng Game Reserve (DGR) is the first free-roaming Big 5 residential game reserve in Gauteng, and probably in the world, next to an urbanized area. It is a private / public initiative for which planning and development started in the early 2000's. It was officially opened on 22 September 2011 after the introduction of four of the Big 5 game species. The last of the Big 5 (buffalo) were introduced in late 2012.

The DGR is a unique ecosystem that is home to free roaming wildlife within an urban setting. The ecological needs and the care of animals both on and off the reserve are of key importance to maintain the wellbeing of the reserve. DGR is the first inclusive reserve which has humans co-existing with wildlife. This set up increases the value and opportunity to understand some of the potential future developments in conservation. The DGR requires extensive manpower to address the diversity of issues arising from the human-wildlife co-existence and provides a location to develop and test methods of mitigating human-wildlife conflicts.

Objectives:

1. To determine the herbivore carrying capacity of DGR
2. To determine the distribution of herbivores in DGR
3. To assess the large herbivore population dynamics (elephant, buffalo, rhino) in DGR
4. To assess the impacts of elephants on woody vegetation and trees.
5. To categorize the predator guilds (lions, cheetah, hyena, caracal) and distributions.
6. To assess the spatial and resource use by lions on the DGR.
7. To assess the human-wildlife and domestic animal interface.
8. To measure the human – wildlife interactions and how they can be mitigated.

Volunteers will be allocated assignments and work responsibilities after their arrival at the camp upon completion of an initial 2 day introductory period. The introductory period allows for volunteers to gain a better understanding of operations, reserve management practices and safety policies. During this time volunteers will be educated on basic savannah ecology and how to safely conduct themselves in a big game environment. They are assessed on their skills and interests, and the potential areas where they can make a valuable contribution during their stay.

Volunteers receive hands-on experience in conservation research and practical biodiversity survey techniques such as habitat assessments (measuring trees and grass species), bird point counts (to determine utilisation in different habitats) and herbivore transects (observing herbivore and antelope behaviour in relation to predator activity). There are also 32 camera trap sites throughout the reserve which are in operation all year round. Volunteers are responsible for the set-up, installation and maintenance of faulty and damaged equipment at these camera trap sites. A large part of every day is also spent on the continued servicing of the cameras e.g. replacement of batteries and memory cards, as well as sorting of the photos in the data base. These studies are essential to understand the carrying capacity for large animals and the optimum numbers of different game species which can be sustained in this Highveld savannah vegetation.

Little is known about the lion behaviours, activity and range use on DGR. To better develop management strategies for introduced lion populations in small reserves, lion behaviour will be monitored and records of location, date and time, behaviours and condition of the individuals seen. Kill data will also be recorded. The monitoring will take place opportunistically for 20 minutes at a time whenever sightings occur.

For ongoing monitoring, the rhinos and elephants will have ID kits. The rhinos have and will be ear notched and an ID kit made. The rhino ID kit includes a frontal photo and left and right profile pictures. The distinguishing features of the horn length and shape and ear notches are also recorded. The elephant ID kits use distinguishing features such as tusk characteristics, ears and scars. The elephants will be fitted with collars for ease of tracking. The elephant ID kit includes a frontal photo and left and right profile pictures. The details of the tusks, ear venation and forehead wrinkles are the key features used to identify the animals

Volunteers will be involved with different types of work activities, including tasks that are not animal or wildlife related but are critical in conserving the environment, i.e. erosion control measures (rock packing dams, building gabions), road maintenance, bush clearing and hard manual labour.

Volunteers that are studying in relevant areas of interest i.e. conservation & wildlife, environmental & natural sciences, biology & botany - may depending on their skills and activities which are on-going, be assigned to specific tasks related to practical components of their studies. Volunteers will work closely with the WEI Field Staff and Reserve managers on a daily basis.

We will endeavor to balance the exciting wildlife related activities with the more mundane tasks of every day work in the bush. However both are required and volunteers must remain flexible about the type of volunteer work they will do, and also be willing to work with the less enigmatic tasks / species in the reserve.

Throughout their stay volunteers will gain knowledge on bush ecology and an understanding of animal behaviour, dealing with potentially dangerous game, navigation, basic bush skills, GPS and GIS techniques. Volunteers also learn about Animal, Plant and Bird identifications as well as bush interpretation skills such as spoor identification, tracking and animal behaviour. An extensive library of reference guides, literature and books are available in camp.

Conservation Management is very diverse and dependent on many uncontrollable influences such as climate changes, environmental factors, animal behaviour and external human intervention. Many activities are seasonal and therefore CANNOT be guaranteed during any one volunteer's stay. Volunteers must remain flexible about the type of work to be done.

Daily working hours:	On average 8 hrs per day.	Note:	Longer periods may be required depending on the work load. Shorter periods may be required depending on severity of weather conditions.
Work Days per week:	Generally 5-6 days per week, however volunteers must also be available to sometimes work over weekends depending on the research requirements, data collection times and work load / nature of activities.		
Work clothes necessary: (yes/no)	No uniform is needed. Only casual neutral colored (khaki) clothing needed.	Lunch included: (yes/no)	Yes, all meals are prepared by volunteers themselves. When working in the field away from camp a light lunch (i.e. sandwiches) is packed for eating in the field.
Description of work clothes and general items required by volunteers:	<p>Volunteers will receive a complimentary t-shirt from WTSA after arrival at the reserve.</p> <p>Volunteers are required to wear neutral colored clothing (e.g. khaki, beige, olive, brown) suitable for working in the bush, i.e. denim pants and cotton shirts. If specific tasks are undertaken which require suitable clothing (i.e. fire management) then volunteers will receive an overall which has to be returned to WTSA at the end of their stay. Volunteers must also bring their own additional casual clothing and personal gear (khaki or light brown in color). The following clothing is suggested: Trousers and Shorts; T-shirts and collared shirts (short and long); Hiking Boots; Open shoes / Sandals; Socks; Hat; Bush Jacket; Rain Coat; Small Rucksack (Back Pack) to carry food, water, raincoat (etc); 2 Water Bottles.</p> <p>Additional General Items required –</p> <p>Tick Spray (recommend Bayticol); Mosquito/Insect Spray (not essential as it is not a malaria area but more for comfort to keep insects away); Sunglasses; Binoculars; General Toiletries; Personal Medication; Torch (recommend headlamp from Pitzl); Digital Camera; Batteries (extras or rechargeable – bring own charger); Cash (exchanged into ZAR at airport or before arrival at the camp); Bath Towel; Alarm Clock; MP3 Player (recommended); Cell Phone (recommended); Personal Diary & Books; Compass (optional); Handheld GPS (optional).</p>		
Other materials required from the volunteer: (yes/no)	Yes	Description:	Sleeping Bag or Duvet / Blanket. Useful items: Tick Spray (e.g. Bayticol); Mosquito/Insect Spray (e.g. Tabbard, Peaceful Sleep).
Starting dates (2012):	Starting dates are set for every 1st or 15th of each month		
Volunteer Skills:			
English Skills Required: (basic / intermediate / fluent)	Intermediate	Short CV of the volunteer necessary? (yes / no)	Yes.
Any special skills required by the volunteer?		No, but see below.	

If yes, what kind of skills:	A love for nature and wildlife is a must and a genuine desire to make a difference in conservation. Volunteers must be fit and healthy and be prepared to work hard! <i>It is up to the volunteer to make the most of his / her stay at the reserve. Staff will provide guidance to ensure a rewarding experience, but ultimately each volunteer's attitude will determine his / her enjoyment from the programme.</i>				
Driver license necessary? (yes / no)	Preferable, but not essential. It is always advisable to have an International Drivers license especially if you wish to travel around SA after your stay at the project. The distances between towns are great and public transport is very limited.				
Arrival & Departure Information:	<p>Volunteers are met on arrival at OR Tambo Airport in Johannesburg (JHB). Volunteers have to arrange their international and/or domestic connecting flight for arrival at ORTIA on set starting dates. Volunteers will be transferred to the reserve as one group departing at 13h00 on the 1st and 15th. Volunteers that have arrived on earlier flights are therefore required to wait at the airport for later arrivals. We advise volunteers to stay over in Johannesburg if their flight arrival is not on the 1st or 15th. If you stay in town you are required to report to ORTIA airport at the Information Desk located inside the International Arrivals Hall by 13h00 on the day of transfer to be transported to the reserve.</p> <p>The return transfer from the reserve to ORTIA is on the 1st and 15th of each month, departing at 10h00 for arrival at ORTIA by 12h00. Flight departures only to be booked for travel after 14h00 to allow for road conditions and delays.</p> <p>Please check your local embassy for visa requirements. (Most western countries are issued tourist visas on arrival). On arrival at the airport volunteers have to declare they are visiting South Africa as <u>tourists</u> and state the period of their stay. Volunteers will be issued a standard 90 day tourist visa, which may be extended at a local Dept of Home Affairs office (subject to certain conditions) for a further 90 days up to a maximum stay of 6 months. Check the validity of your passport as some countries are required to have a passport valid for at least 6 months <u>after</u> the end of your stay in SA.</p>				
Distances:					
Airport (ORTIA) and Reserve:	+ - 100	km	Time required (one way):	2 hours (slow drive on reserve roads)	Hrs/min
Other important information: (Communications)	<p>It is highly recommended that volunteers bring their own mobile phones and then purchase a "pay as you go" SIM card and air time vouchers (available from local stores at the airport) as a means to stay in touch. (MTN is the preferred network supplier in this region). There is good cell phone signal at the camp and around the reserve. Volunteers can thus stay connected with family and friends as data charges are very reasonable.</p> <p>WTSA has desktop computers and laptops in the onsite office which is used for data entry onto the research data base. This desktop also has basic internet connection for email contact. The connection is slow but sufficient for basic emails. Volunteers may only use this facility for sending short emails to their family and only by arrangement with the Camp Manager.</p>				
Type of Accommodation: (on the reserve)	Volunteers stay at the WEI Tambuki Research House located inside the reserve and secured with an elephant proof 2.4m electrified fence to protect against dangerous animals. The comfortable and spacious farm house has a large dining, lounge and kitchen area, as well as 4 bathrooms and 7 large bedrooms. The bedrooms are fitted with 2-3 double bunks in each and ample storage space. The bathrooms have warm and cold running water and standard flush toilets. There is a large dining area with a computer desk, outside verandah and 'braai pit' for barbeques. The fully-equipped kitchen has a stove, oven, microwave, fridge and freezer.				

	<p>Volunteers prepare their own meals and are responsible for daily cleaning of the camp. There is electricity throughout the house and mobile phones, cameras, iPods and laptops can be charged.</p> <p>WEI staff stays on site in a nearby staff house inside the camp and this is an ideal opportunity for volunteers to gain firsthand knowledge from experienced staff about the challenges and rewards of living and working in the African bush. Volunteers are required to share the accommodation with each other (same sex sharing cannot be guaranteed). Comfortable beds, bed sheets, pillows and pillow cases are provided but volunteers must bring their own sleeping bags and/or duvets. Volunteers live in a group environment and are expected to be able to maintain cordial relationships with fellow volunteers and staff.</p> <p>The reserve is located in a rural area with Pretoria about 1 hour away. There are limited social activities and attractions in the area and it is not ideal for volunteers who feel the need to be in or near a big city! It is recommended that volunteers take ample reading material, card / board games, iPods, and similar personal entertainment items.</p> <p>The nearby town of Pretoria has many restaurants, pubs, shops and supermarkets. Volunteers will be allowed the opportunity over weekends, and by arrangement with the Camp Manager, to spend 1-2 nights at a backpackers lodge in the city. There are a number of adventure activities offered by tourist suppliers on the reserve which may interest volunteers. The Camp Manager can assist with such accommodation, tour arrangements or adventure activities, but volunteers will sign off the project and have to pay for such tour services at an additional cost.</p>
<p>Health Issues:</p>	<p>Volunteers are required to have a comprehensive medical and travel insurance policy (including emergency evacuation) before arrival at the reserve. A copy of the policy will be required upon arrival. The medical facilities on the reserve are basic and not capable of dealing with serious trauma or illness. In the unlikely event of either of the above you will be evacuated to The Willows Medi Clinic in Pretoria where suitable medical facilities are available.</p> <p>We recommend that volunteers protect themselves (through vaccinations, over-the-counter medicine and appropriate preventative behavior) from the following potential diseases: Typhoid; Hepatitis A & B; Diphtheria – Tetanus – Polio; Measles-Mumps-Rubella; Varicella (chicken pox); HIV/AIDS; Traveler's Diarrhea. A good website for up-to-date travel health information is www.mdtravelhealth.com.</p> <p>During the wet season, it is strongly recommended that volunteers protect themselves against ticks as some tick-borne diseases can be serious. Preventative behavior is recommended, i.e. wear long sleeves, long pants, hats and shoes (rather than sandals); and apply appropriate insect repellents. .</p> <p>The Dinokeng Game Reserve and Gauteng region is a malaria free area. HIV is a serious health risk. Preventative behavior is the best protection against HIV, use condoms and inform yourself about the risks associated with HIV.</p> <p>Additionally, it is advisable that you bring a sufficient supply of any personal medication. Although most of the towns have pharmacies, it is still a good idea to bring medicine that you may struggle to locate in rural towns. A basic supply of other emergency drugs for things such as diarrhea and vomiting is also recommended.</p> <p>On a final note, volunteers must be conscious of water use. Tap water originates from an on site borehole, local water quality is good and no health problems have been recorded.</p> <p>Volunteers are required to sign an Indemnity Form with the Reserve Management upon arrival at the camp.</p>
<p>Meal Arrangements & Camp Cleaning:</p>	<p>All meals are prepared by volunteers themselves from groceries and food provided by WTSA. Volunteers will be scheduled to assist with cooking and cleaning duties as a group effort during their stay. Vegetarian and other dietary requirements must be communicated in advance to WTSA in order to cater for special meals.</p>

	Volunteers are required to keep the camp clean at all times, and will be required to ensure high standards of cleanliness and hygiene are adhered to at all times.
Additional Cost:	Travel Arrangements to Johannesburg International Airport, Medical Evacuation Insurance (compulsory), Personal Items, Personal Travel Excursions & Adventure Activities (recommend approx R1500 – R2500 for a 2 night stay at a Backpacker Lodge and weekend activities such as restaurant meals, evening entertainment, micro light flights etc), Baggage Insurance (optional).
Project Cost Includes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project Placement and Management Fee, 24/7 On Site Supervision, Support Services of WTSA. 2. Return Airport Transfers at the Start and End of project to ORTIA Airport. 3. Accommodation in camp in safari style tents. 4. Food and cooking facilities for All Meals (3 x daily) catered by volunteers. 5. Full Time Staff Members to supervise volunteers – Volunteer Coordinator / Camp Manager, Asst Volunteer Coordinator (Senior qualified Field Guides), Research Manager (not on site but regular visits), Reserve Manager and Safety/Security Officers. 6. All Project Components (Orientation, Training, Research and Practical Modules). 7. All Activities, On-site Transport, Game Drives and Game Walks. 8. Field Supervision, Project Management and Academic Support (if needed). 9. Training Manuals, PDA's, GIS Software, Text Books, Survey Equipment.



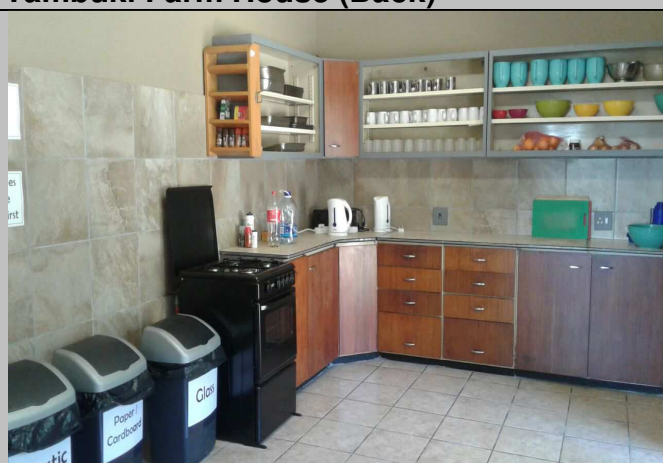
Tambuki Farm House (Front)



Tambuki Farm House (Back)



Project Vehicle



Tambuki Kitchen Area with electric stove



Tambuki Dining Area and Computer Desk



Tambuki Seating Corner



Tambuki Bedroom 6 bunks



Tambuki Front Gate and Fence



Using disk pasture meters grass volume



Grass assessments in vegetation plots



Measuring alien invasive species



Cutting away branches for road access



Setting up drift fences for traps



Clearing pit line traps



Lions and rhino on plains



Cheetah feeding on impala



Male and Female Lions



Family herd of elephant