



# ZOO PROFESSIONALS' PROJECT PRESENTATION



## Waterberg Wildlife Course



**GLOBAL** reach. **ADVENTURE** for all. **PROJECTS** to inspire.

A rhinoceros is the central focus, shown in profile facing left. It is standing in a savanna with tall grass and some trees. The background is a sunset or sunrise, with a warm orange and purple glow. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent circular graphic on the left side.

**AFRICA**

# **ABOUT WELGEVONDEN GAME RESERVE**

Project overview and  
location

## Your conservation field trip explained

- A unique conservation experience based in South Africa
- Live in a research camp on a wild African game reserve
- 12 night programme specifically tailored for zoo professionals
  - All inclusive experience
- Learn about conservation management
- Project activities include:
  - Pioneering conservation research
  - Conservation activities
- Dedicated vehicles and conservation staff

## What is a game reserve?

- A large area of protected land with physical boundaries
- Wildlife is free roaming throughout the reserve allowing them to thrive in their natural habitat
- Reserves are either government owned (National Parks) or privately owned/managed
- Wildlife must be managed due to restraints on population growth, migration and resources
- Utilised as a tourist attraction (ecotourism) which creates funding for conservation efforts and research

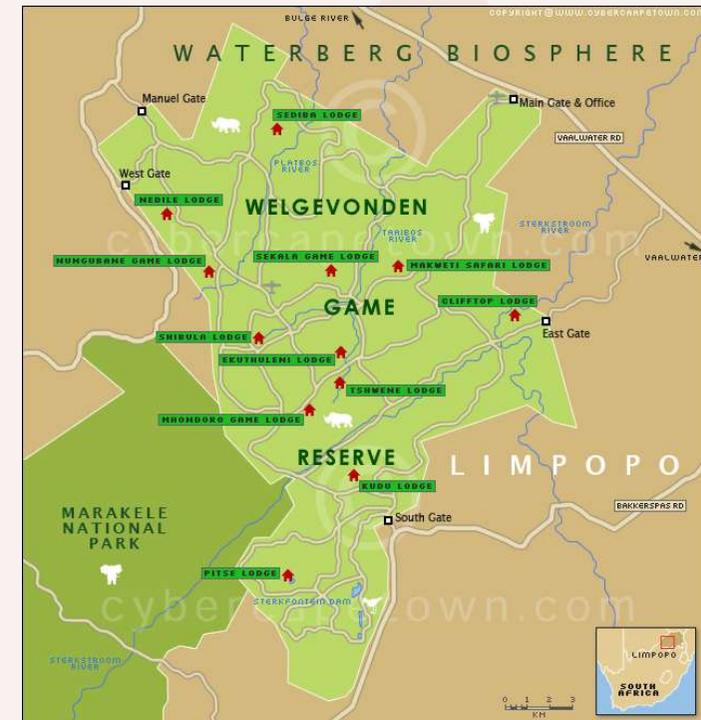


# ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

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## Welgevonden Game Reserve

- >36,000 Ha privately managed game reserve
- Forming part of the Waterberg Biosphere (4,000 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Proclaimed 'Protected Conservation Area'
- Savannah biome
- Work alongside the conservation team including:
  - Wildlife vets
  - Conservation researchers
  - Ecologists
  - Anti Poaching Unit (APU)
- Research Camp accommodation

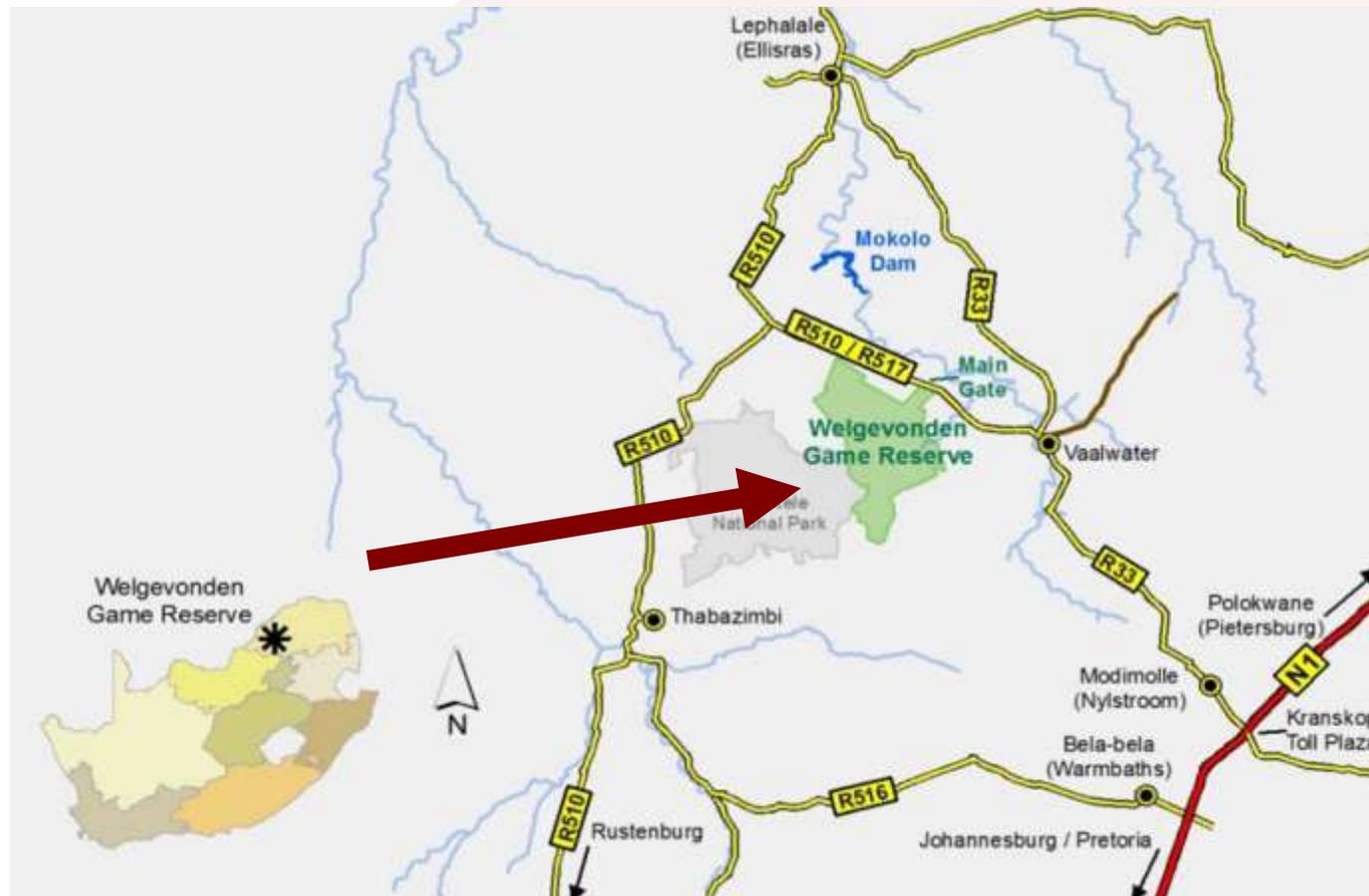


# ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

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## Welgevonden Game Reserve - Location

- South Africa a world leader in conservation
- Malaria free Waterberg Plateau

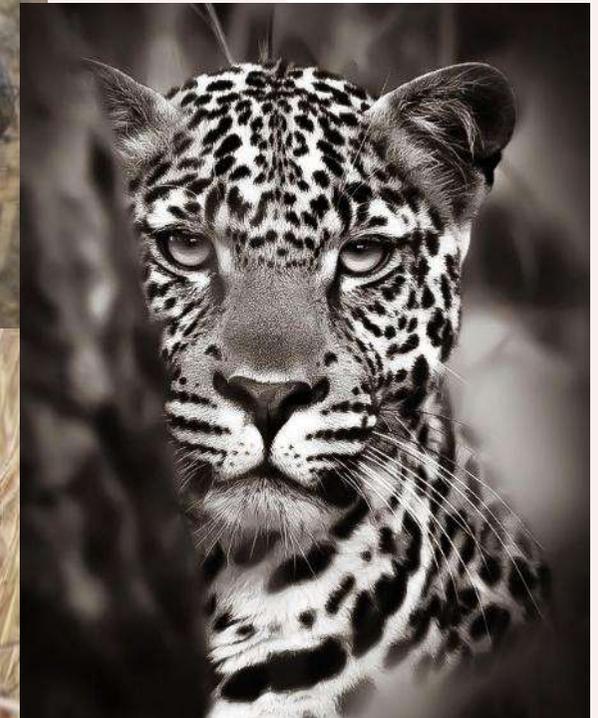


# ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

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Home to the **BIG 5**



[@belladuplessis](https://www.instagram.com/belladuplessis)

ANY QUESTIONS?

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# ABOUT WELGEVONDEN

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Home to over 100 species of mammal





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# **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

Our conservation work  
in more detail

## Course Fundamentals & Structure

- Gain an understanding of wildlife research & management that govern wildlife practices on a reserve
- Expose participants to behind the scenes wildlife conservation
- Day-to-day field work conducted by the biomonitoring team
- Learn about immobilisation & capture techniques used for various wildlife species
- APU activities & rhino protection through veterinary management
- Conservation research
- Appreciate the importance of herd health & intensive wildlife breeding
- Vegetation types suitable for wildlife & ecological assessments
- Birding, bush tracking & monitoring of the 'Big five'
- Learn about local conservation initiatives including the 'Waterberg Wild Dog Project'

## Your Conservation Programme – Biomonitoring Project

As part of your project, you will be heavily involved with the day-to-day field work conducted by the biomonitoring team. Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Game transects – estimates of numbers, body condition and herd structure
- Telemetry tracking of collared animals
- White Rhino monitoring and condition scoring
- Camera Trap Surveys (Black Rhino and other cryptic animals)
- Nocturnal species ID and night game drive
- Wildlife breeding management (buffalo, rhino & big cats)
- Mortality/kill recording
- Visit temporary holding bomas (enclosures)
- Animal tracking
- Waterberg Wild Dog Project
- Collecting fecal samples for research
- Alien plant species eradication
- Vegetation Condition and biomass Assessments
- Waterberg Biodiversity Project Data Collection with experts in their fields

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Course fundamentals and structure – Example itinerary

### WEEK 1

Introduction to Welgevonden Game Reserve and research projects

Game count transects - daily

Vegetation surveys - weekly

Time spent with research team conducting conservation activities – 4 Days

### Week 2

White rhino feeding session in winter

Time spent with research team conducting conservation activities – 3 Days



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Bush Skills – Bush walks & tracking wildlife



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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**Monitoring herd structure, herbivore body condition & health – daily transects**



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Learn about a wildlife leaders (ecologist, wildlife managers....) role in the field



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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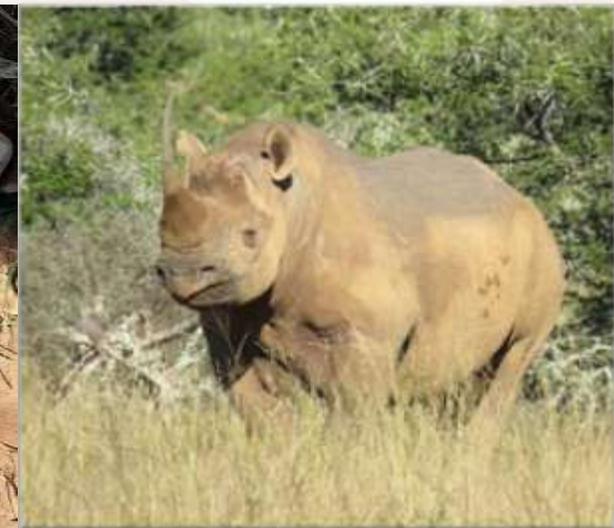
## Monitoring the Welgevonden white & black rhino populations

Individual monitoring – not APU / Guides like usual

Stronghold of white rhino (winter - suppl. fed)

Daily recording of individuals/group...:

- Behavioural observations
- Body condition
- Photo ID
- GPS locations



ANY QUESTIONS?

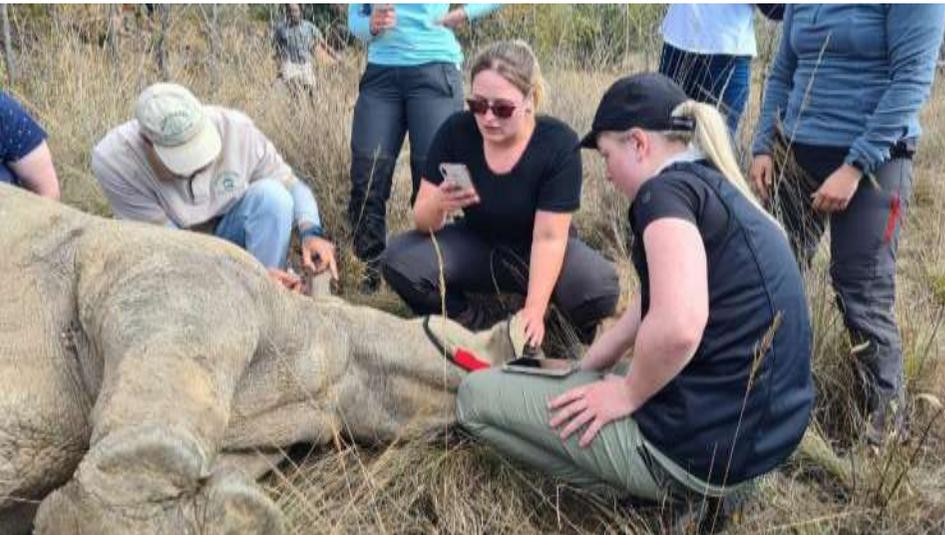
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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Intervention possibility – Rhino: DNA collection, ID & ear notching



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Intervention possibility - Elephant immobilisation & collar change



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# Kill report

130 kills

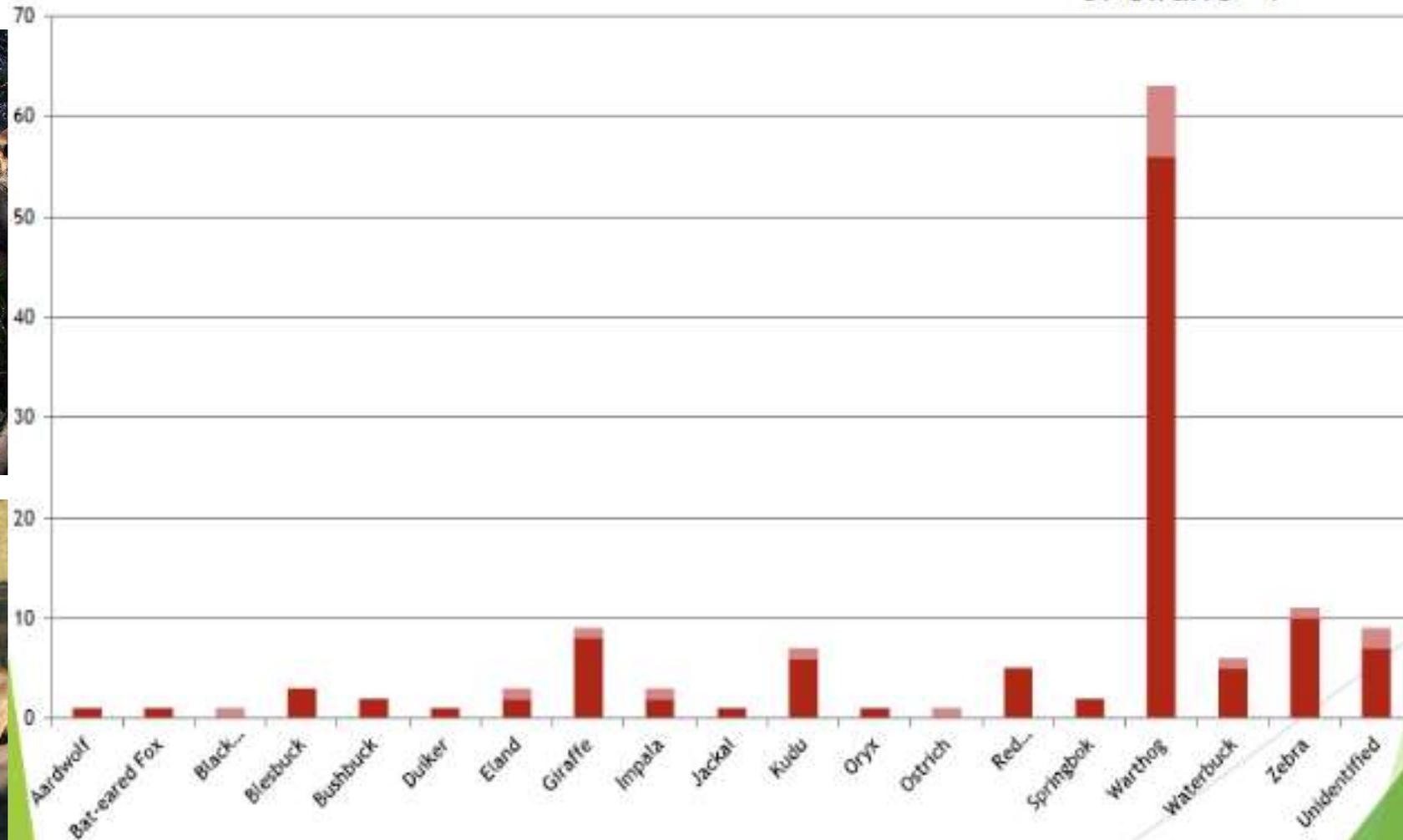
Top 3

1. Warthog - 63

2. Zebra - 11

3. Giraffe - 9

■ Southern Pride ■ Northern Pride



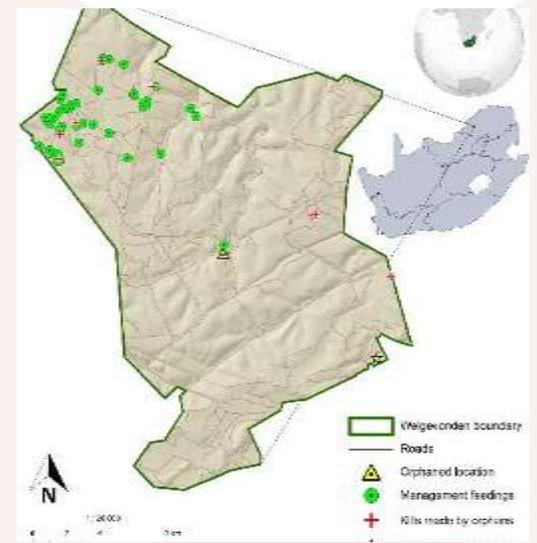
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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

## Population management – Cheetah ID





# ABOUT THE PROJECT

## Intervention possibility – Cheetah Relocation – Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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**Intervention possibility - Lion immobilisation, contraception & collaring / removal**



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## Intervention possibility - Collaring of spotted hyaena



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Intervention possibility – Free-roaming Waterberg wild dog – Boma visit



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Camera trap – Research studies



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Camera trap – Research studies



# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## Night game drives



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

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## San rock art paintings & reserve history



## Possible lectures & debates

- Drugs used in wildlife medicine
- Calculating doses in wildlife
- Darting wildlife
- Game capture systems
- Boma management & rehabilitation
- Logistics of wildlife transportation: customised vehicles, crates & equipment
- The 'Game Trade' – game auctions & value of livestock
- Managing game reserves and 'Land Capacity Model'
- Species control – predator pits
- State veterinary disease control in practice
- Documentation required: Red Cross Permits
- Notifiable disease sampling and control:
  - Tuberculosis
  - Foot & Mouth
  - Brucellosis
  - Corridor Disease



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# **ACCOMODATION & LIFESTYLE**

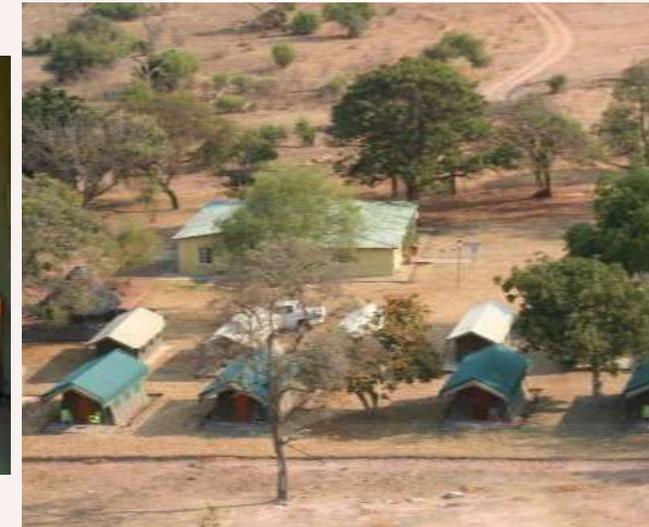
Living in the African Bush

# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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## Welgevonden accommodation

- The student centre and camp is based on the reserve
- Tents that sleep 2-3 people per tent in single beds
- Lighting & electricity supply
- Communal hot & cold showers and regular flushing toilets
- Facilities including a lecture room, eating area, lounge, entertainment area & storage fridge
- Wi-Fi access on site
- The camp is fenced off inside the boundaries of the reserve – you can wake up & find an elephant 10 m from your door!



## Welgevonden

All meals are consumed in the communal dining room/outside area

Three meals are provided to self-cook daily, prepared communally by the group. Students will take part in communal cooking and keeping the kitchen tidy.

Meals will either be served at the facility or as picnics (self-prepared AM) h- depends on activities either planned or unscheduled

The Biomonitoring Research team often work 6 days a week so time off is often limited to Sundays only

Most evenings are spent at leisure around the camp



## Weekends – Sunday only

### Vaalwater Town and Township Tour

10h00 – 13h00: Visit local art gallery, curio shop, craft market, cultural heritage museum.

13h00: Lunch included

14h00 – 16h30: Traditional beer brewery and visit to Lapa for traditional dancing and music.

**Weekend activities can be booked and paid for locally. Or pre-booked with GAP Africa and paid locally.**



# ACCOMMODATION & LIFESTYLE

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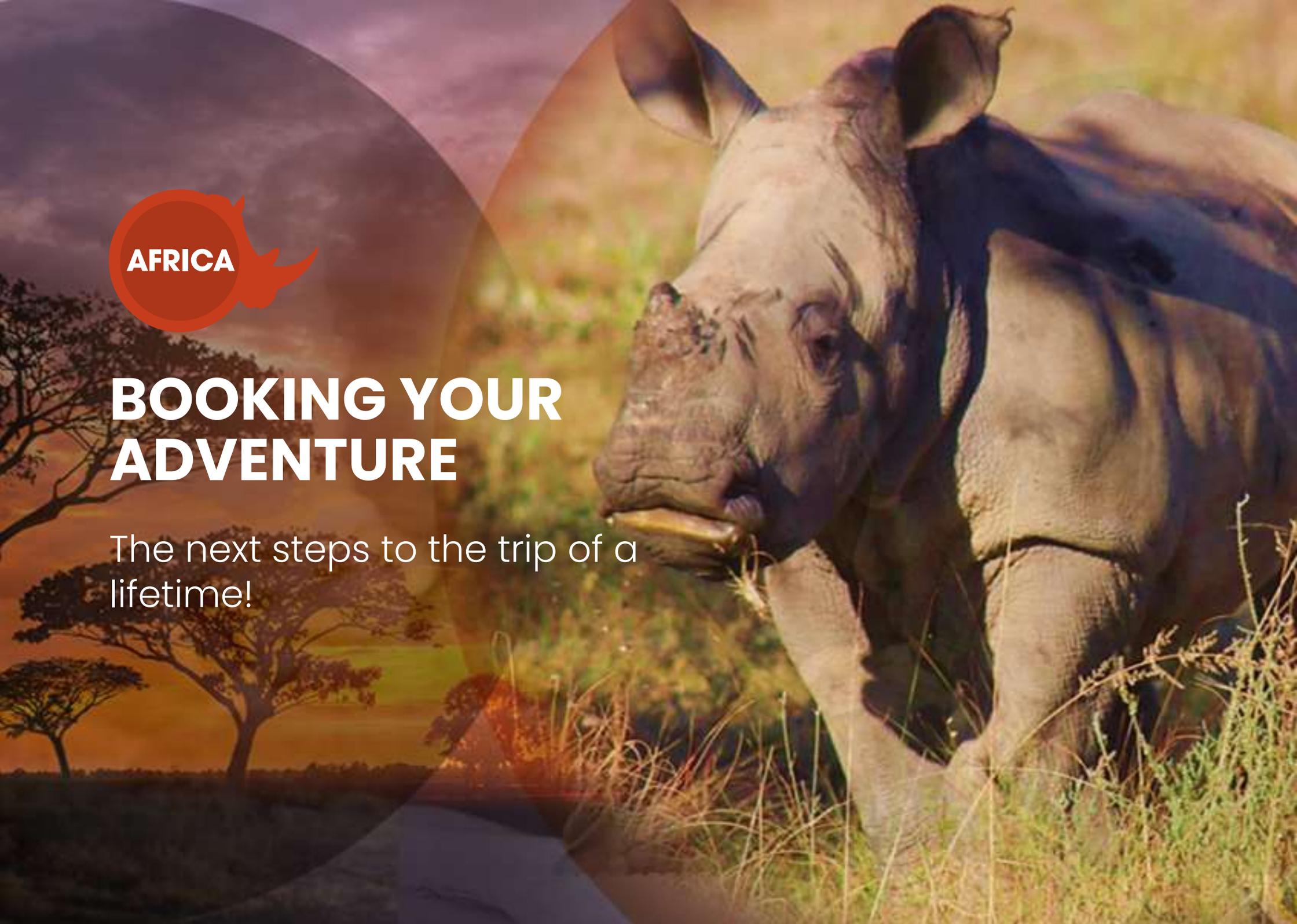
## Life on the reserve



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# **BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE**

The next steps to the trip of a  
lifetime!

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

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## What is included?

- Flights
- Transfers to/from project
- Accommodation
- Three meals per day
- All activities as part of the project
- Airport meet/greet
- 24/7 In country support

## NOT included

- Personal travel insurance \*
- Meals on travel days – before arriving & after departing from project
- Any activities not specified as part of the project
- Visa's/travel documents

*\* We recommend that you take out personal travel insurance as soon as your booking is confirmed*



# BOOKING YOUR ADVENTURE

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Group webpage



Scan me!

Booking form



Scan me!



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