



RESERVE REPORT

February 2017

Introduction

The African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*), is a frequent visitor to Ingwelala, and once again have been active in the Umbabat during the summer. It is thought that their increased activity in the summer months has some association with the impala herds lambing, providing a relatively easy food source. Other names for the wild dog include Cape Hunting Dog and African Painted Dog. In Greek, the word “*Lycaon*” means “wolf like” and in Latin the word “*pictus*” means “painted”. The IUCN status for wild dogs is **endangered** because of severely declining population numbers due to human conflict, habitat loss and disease.



It is interesting that no two wild dogs have the same coat markings or patterns, each dog has a unique pattern and colour variation, which allows individual identification and recognition between dogs. The average height of an adult wild dog is 60-75 centimetres at the shoulder, with an average body mass of 25 kilogrammes. Larger dogs may weigh up to 30 kilogrammes. Male dogs are slightly larger than female dogs. Wild dogs have no dewclaws. Ears are large and round-like, the tips of their tails are usually white, providing additional distinguishing characteristics.



Wild dogs are extremely social by nature, living in packs which are necessary for survival. Their social nature defines a strict order of dominance which allows them to be highly organised when hunting, working together as a team to form a lethal killing machine. Hunting success rates are well over 80 %. Within a pack there is a dominant female dog and a dominant male dog. Home ranges are as large as 250 square kilometres.

The dominant male dog and dominant female dog provide for the breeding, the male dog keeping other interested suitors at bay, the female dog then producing a litter every 12-14 months. Gestation is between 69–73 days, with average litter sizes of 10 pups. Pups are “denned” for up to 10 weeks, lesser dominant dogs help care for and protect the pups. After the pups are weaned they enjoy meals of solid meat which is regurgitated for them by the care takers. When older, and able to join adult dogs on hunts, the youngsters are permitted to eat first from the kills, this privilege is tolerated until the dogs are about one year old.



Hunting is a much organised activity, and mostly diurnal. Each dog has a specific job to do as they work closely together to run down their prey. Top sprint speeds of 65 KPH have been recorded, but generally they endure a chase at around 45 KPH, having significant endurance ability. Prey (antelope) is bitten repeatedly on the legs and under belly, while on the move. When fatigue sets in the antelope comes to a stand-still, it is here where the unique design of the dogs’ teeth

comes to the fore, permitting efficient meat cutting and shearing to take place for expedient consumption. The prey essentially dies of a loss of blood.

More interesting facts about wild dogs:

- In the wild, the longevity is 11 years.
- A chase (to kill) can last anything between 10 and 60 minutes.
- Female dogs leave the natal pack after reaching sexual maturity, to prevent inbreeding and ensure gene dispersal.
- Lions and spotted hyenas are responsible for a high number of wild dog natural mortalities (predator competition).
- Wild dogs have only four toes on the front paws, the middle toes are semi webbed.

Facts researched on the Internet, words by John Llewellyn. Pictures courtesy Maureen Kirk.

Staff profile:



Moses Mzimba joined the conservation team at Ingwelala in January 1992, his first task was to drive a tractor and trailer in the camp to collect domestic refuse. Subsequently Moses was tasked with the responsibility of cleaning and maintaining the swimming pool and surrounding grounds.

Moses was born at Ndlopfu in 1967, his home is now in Acornhoek. He and his wife have five children, two boys and three girls. The children birth years are 1988, 1992, 2001, 2005 and 2008. Moses completed Sub B schooling.

When asking Moses what he likes most about Ingwelala, he replied he loves his job, and he enjoys the new swimming pool that was built after the 2012 floods. Moses takes tremendous pride in keeping the swimming pool sparkling with the assistance of work colleague Timothy.

Moses shared that his favourite wild animal is a lion, because when the lions are on Ingwelala, people rush to see the lions, therefore a lion is a special draw card with plenty influence.

Moses holds the opinion that the base salary for General Assistants is too low, and wishes this will improve in future.

General travel information:

When traveling to Ingwelala please note that SANRAL e-tags now work for:

Below are the names of the Toll Plazas on the N4:

- Diamond Hill Mainline Plaza
- Middelburg Mainline Plaza

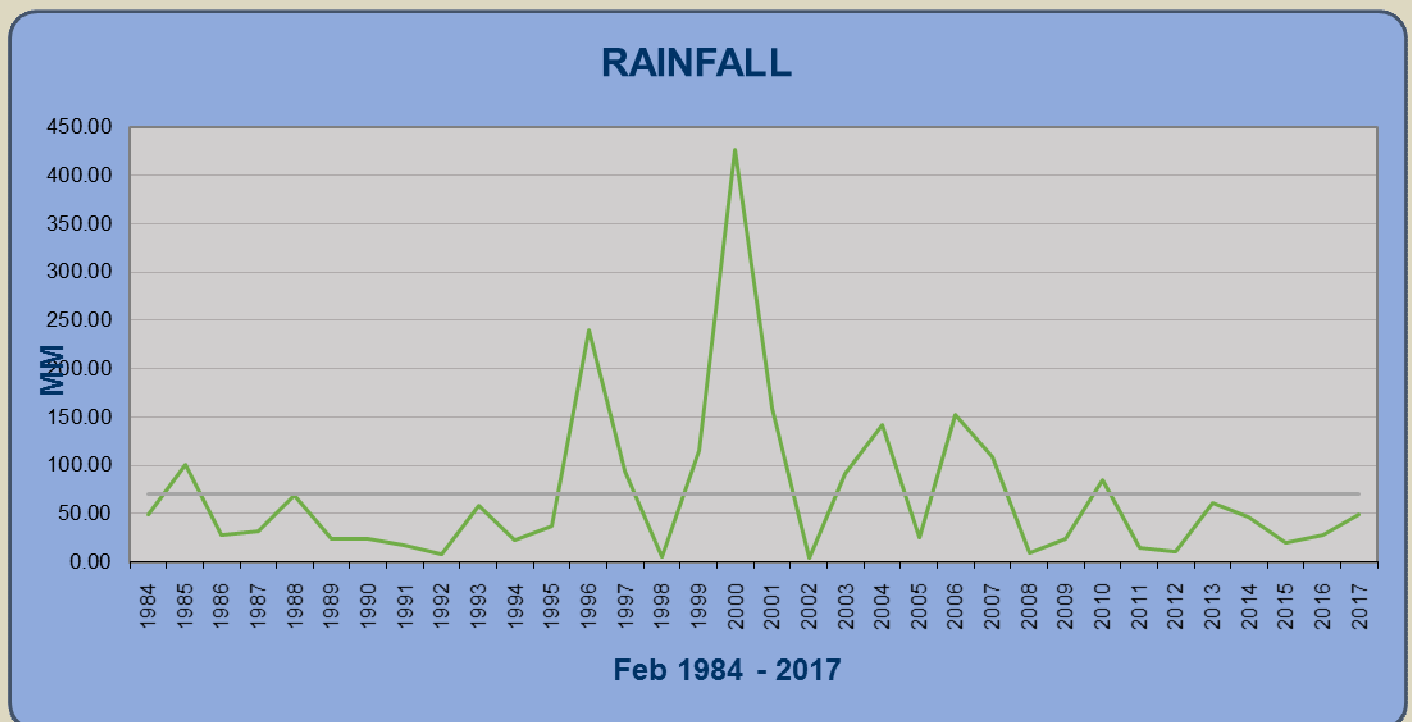
- * Machado Mainline Plaza
- * Nkomazi Mainline Plaza
- * Donkerhoek Ramp
- * Cullinan Ramp
- * Valtaki Ramp
- * Ekandustria Ramp

All lanes now accept your tag as a toll payment method on the TRAC N4 toll route.

Climate and rainfall (summary)

Rainfall: 49.2 mm: Season Total = 345.6 mm.
 Minimum temperature: 19 degrees Celsius.
 Maximum temperature: 38 degrees Celsius.

The following graph summarises total rainfall recorded at Ingwelala for the month of February over the past 33 years.



(Note: February 2017: 49.2 mm rainfall is well below the February monthly average of 70 mm!)

Staff complement

- Reserve Manager (1)
- Conservation Manager and 2iC (1)
- Camp and Systems Manageress (1)
- Front Desk Manageress (1)
- Accounts Manageress (1)
- Workshop Manager (1)
- Maintenance Manager (1)
- Reception and Housekeeping (1)
- Field Assistants (6)
- Grounds staff (2)
- Domestics (14)
- Maintenance Assistants (4)
- Workshop Assistants (4)
- Petrol and Stores Attendant (1)
- Shop assistants (2)
- Sibon (2)

Staff Movement

One staff dismissal for moonlighting (for private gain) during work hours.

Bungalows for sale

Bungalow # 38, a 50% share of six shares for R 1.50 million.

Bungalow # 18, a full (100%) share of seven shares for R4.90 million.

Conservation

Alien plant eradication

Conservation staff treated 45 Opuntia (prickly pear) with herbicide along the Nhlalalumi River on Argyle and Buffelsbed. A new method of mist spraying the herbicide onto the established Opuntia stands is being applied.

Veld Rehabilitation

Four hectares of selective bush thinning (*Grewia* spp) cleared between River Road and Route 1 on Argyle.

One hectare of Mopani cleared on an identified trial site on Goedehoop. This selective clearing is a trial site in Mopani Woodland to monitor the effects of woody/grass competition. It is hoped that natural grass swards can be re-established in these woodland areas as part of the long-term veld rehabilitation. Currently the method is labour intensive, with the future objective of contracting a specialist service provider, using specially adapted machinery to clear areas of meaningful volumes.

Erosion Control

The sodic site near Leopard Rock on Goedehoop suffered erosion damage in the main gully after heavy rainfall. Damage to existing rock packings were repaired and two new rock gabions (baskets) fitted in this main channel. It is very interesting to monitor and understand the dynamics of this rehabilitation site.

Roads and Tracks

The soccer ground in Vuka Ingwe was levelled and dragged with tractor and tyre after the rains.

Airstrip

The airstrip surface is inspected on a weekly basis and the general condition recorded in a register.

The apron surface and apron fences were sprayed (follow up treatment) with herbicide. The general apron surface was reshaped and part levelled with tractor blade and tyres to minimise the risk of any prop strike on unlevel ground.

The surface rock bed inside the apron, potentially hazardous to taxing aircraft, is now clearly demarcated with white washed rocks, packed neatly to alert pilots.

The wind sock was replaced.

Light tyres were dragged over the southern end surface to level cross water run-off.

All airstrip users are reminded too complete (once off) an ***Ingwelala Airstrip Indemnity Form*** before landing. Indemnity forms are obtainable from reception@ingwelala.co.za Guest pilots must also complete the form before using the airstrip.

Fencing

All the fences are working within the APNR Protocol and Norms and Standards.

X 4 breaches to the Camp fence during the reporting period, a favourable reduction!

X 4 breaches to the Sibon camp fence, the ripe marula fruit attracting elephants into the camp.

The Sibon camp fence received a follow up treatment of herbicide spray, and all excess grass removed from under the fence.

Bomas, Hides and Picnic Sites

These facilities are checked daily.

The moderate damage to the entrance gate and walkway (screen) at Bird Hide, caused by elephants, is 100% repaired.

Encroaching grasses and shrubs on the (exterior) sides of the screen walkways at Bird Hide and Elephant Pan Hide were slashed and treated with herbicide.

There is work in progress at Beacon Boma where the timber is being treated with UV resistant oil.

Game sightings

Game viewing through February was excellent with frequent sightings of lions and leopards, with numerous kills. Despite low camp occupancy and therefore fewer entries into the sightings register, all the Big Five were seen regularly.

Wild dogs were more active in the general area, perhaps a bit later than usual for the summer, but none the less they were seen every other day.

General game sightings included blue wildebeest, zebra, impala, kudu, nyala, grey duiker, steenbok, hyena, side-striped jackal, spring hare and porcupine.

The birders noted a great mixed bag of Red-crested Korhaan, Temminck's Courser, Long-tailed Paradise Whydah, Ground Hornbill, Saddle-billed Stork, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Eurasian Hobby, Verreaux's Eagle- Owl, and Little Sparrowhawk.

Security

No incidents on Ingwelala during the reporting period.

One (GKEPF) security meeting attended at the South African Wildlife College (SAWC).

Road Kills

Nil.

General Fire Risk Management

Veld fire risk continues to be rated low due to "green" summer conditions.

Fire-fighting equipment is checked on a weekly basis.

Two tractors available to assist with fire-fighting (x2 water drawn carts).

X1 "Bakkie-Sakkie" serviceable and responsive on a "first call" basis.

X1 250-litre water cart and pump available for "fast response", back up to "Bakkie-Sakkie".

X 20 fire beaters and x4 knap-sack sprays in good working order.

Umbabat

No incursion (suspected poachers) into the Umbabat during the reporting period.

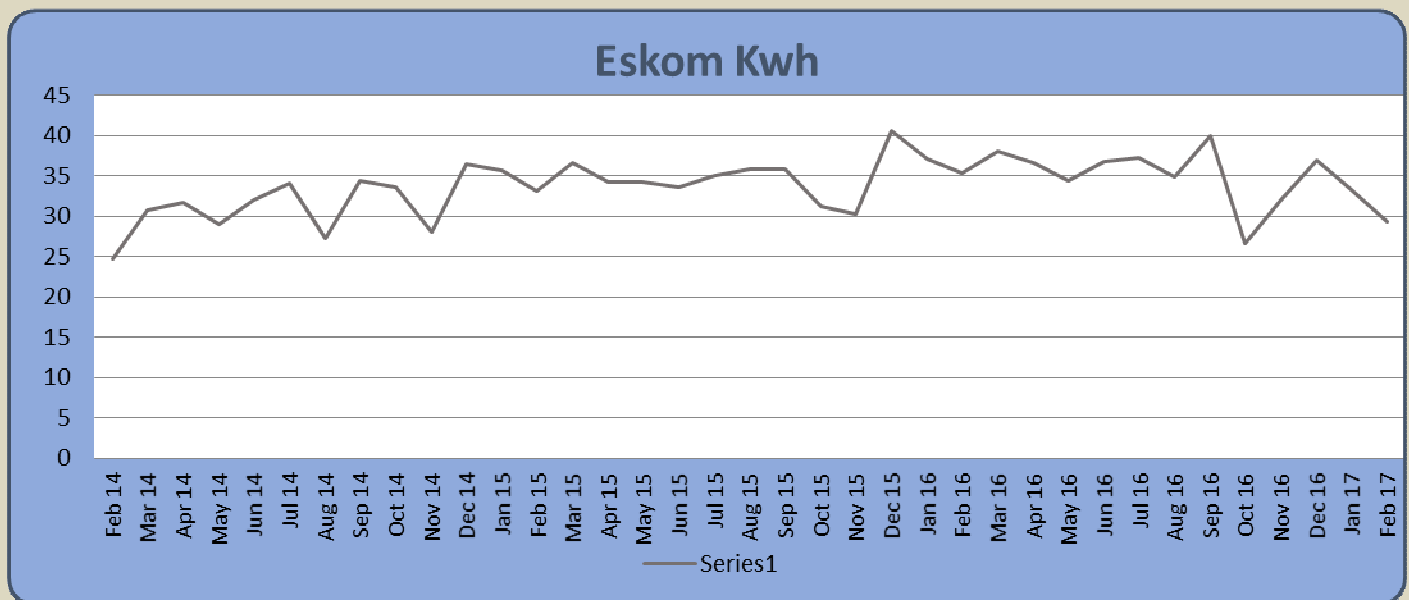
Water reticulation

Yield data for the boreholes is reflected in the following table, comparative with previous months.

BOREHOLE	FEB 17	JAN 17	DEC 16	NOV 16	OCT 16	SEP 16	AUG 16	JUL 16	JUN 16	MAY 16	APR 16
BH NO 1	97	1095	175	53	106	283	153	165	0	0	91
BH NO 2	669	949	883	814	642	921	590	603	382	517	440
BH NO 3	683	193	320	473	518	834	575	721	343	1129	314
BH NO 4	753	812	884	911	894	855	832	772	801	742	831
BH NO 5	245	345	392	470	446	473	462	320	477	324	435
BH NO 6	107	650	690	394	586	593	709	553	662	548	823
BH NO 7	2	288	207	455	565	425	232	165	434	295	396
BH NO 9	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar
JB	0	0	0	0	0	111	329	285	345	265	343
GOEDEHOOP	0	0	507	870	762	753	1018	825	774	787	1132

Eskom Usage

The following graph shows the monthly Eskom Usage (Kwh) for Ingwelala.



Vehicles and Workshop

WORKSHOP	FEB 17	JAN 17	DEC 16	NOV 16	OCT 16	SEP 16	AUG 16	JUL 16	JUN 16	MAY 16
JOB CARDS OPENED	38	37	53	39	43	51	51	63	65	49
JOB CARDS CLOSED	30	19	56	42	45	49	55	56	57	49
GENERATOR HOURS	2.1	3.8	13.7	2.4	6.8	11.7	0	8.2	8	16
DIESEL TANK (L)	850	100	205	425	475	550	700	700	350	500

The general fleet and static plant maintenance is 100% compliant with the servicing schedule.

The Dyna Truck is serviceable after the water pump and thermostat housing were replaced. This vehicle is due for imminent replacement.

Hilux Double-Cab air conditioner radiator was replaced.

Building projects

Current (major) building projects are listed below:

Bung No	Name	Work requested	Approval	Builder	% Complete
69	John Segeren	Demolish & rebuild	October 2016	Chameleon	50%
115	Phil Raymond	Internal modifications	November 2016	Not yet selected	0%
116	Geoff Watson	Demolish and rebuild	Approved February 2017	Chameleon	5%
185	Weston Dickson	Demolish and rebuild	Approved January 2017	Chameleon	5%

Reception Statistics

GATE STATISTICS	FEB 17	JAN 17	DEC 16	NOV 16	OCT 16	SEP 16	AUG 16	JUL 16	JUN 16	MAY 16
VEHICLES	145	179	458	185	218	256	338	307	343	213
MEMBERS GUESTS	437	481	1341	614	609	689	1013	1033	1034	534
UNACCOMP GUESTS	8	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	20	20
UNITS OCCUPIED	91	159	213	113	138	143	167	179	165	143
AIRBORNE VISITORS	7	8	2	7	11	8	3	19	18	4

COTTAGE NIGHTS	FEB 17	JAN 17	DEC 16	NOV 16	OCT 16	SEP 16	AUG 16	JUL 16	JUN 16	MAY 16
HORNBILL	20	13	18	12	9	3	14	12	15	22
FRANCOLIN	10	8	18	9	8	10	14	24	16	9
GUINEAFOWL	9	11	7*	0	3	5	14	18	13	11

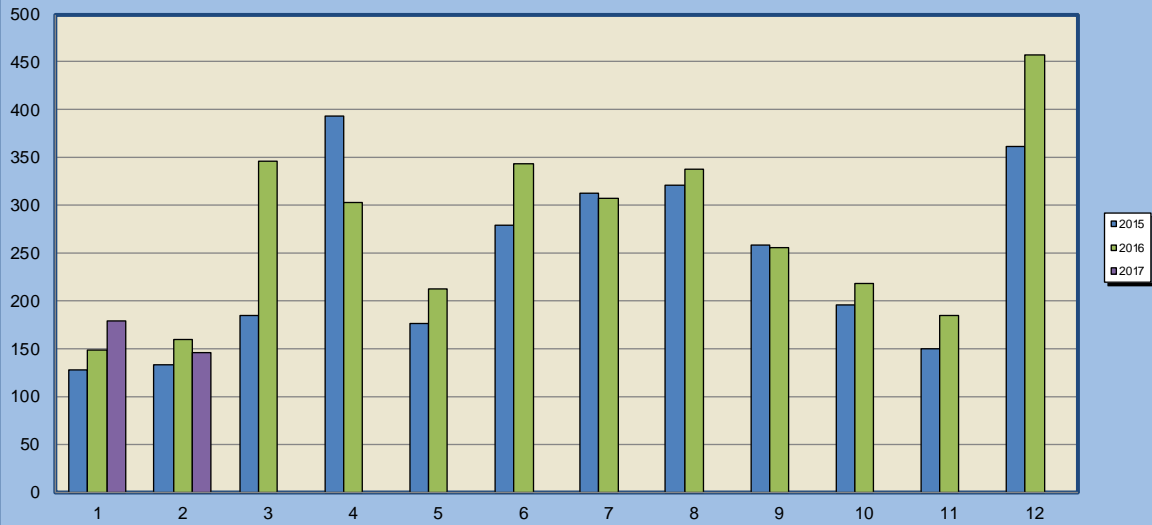
General:

Thank you for your continued support.

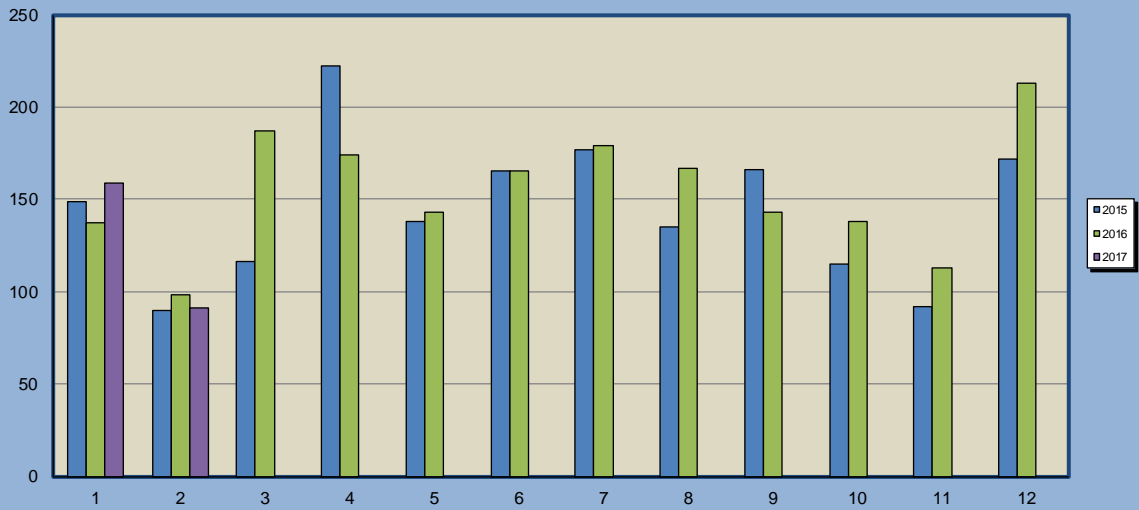
John Llewellyn
Reserve Manager

ANNEXURE1: Graphs

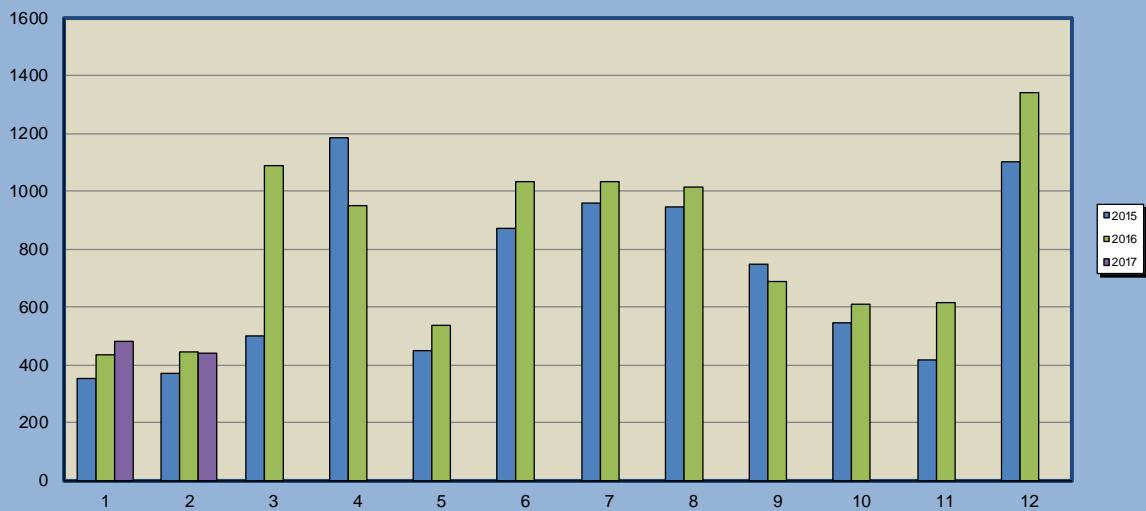
No. of Vehicles (per month)



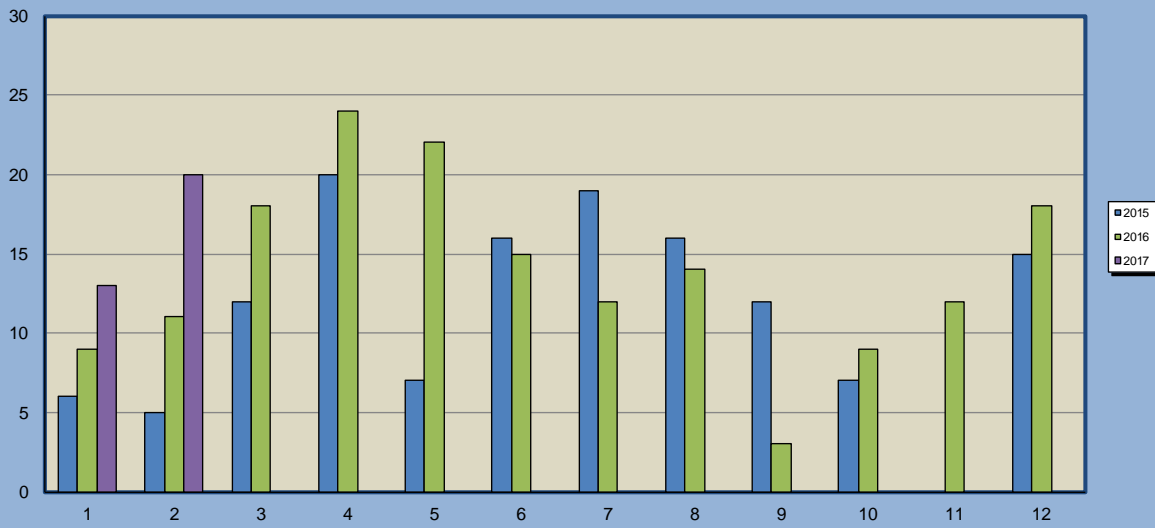
No. of Bungalows Occupied (per month)



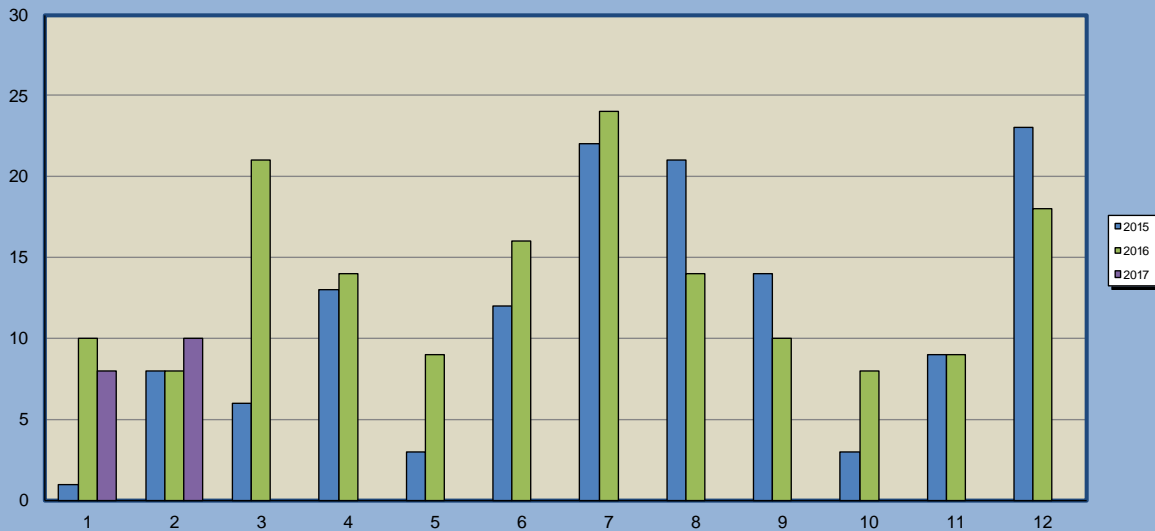
No. of Guests (per month)



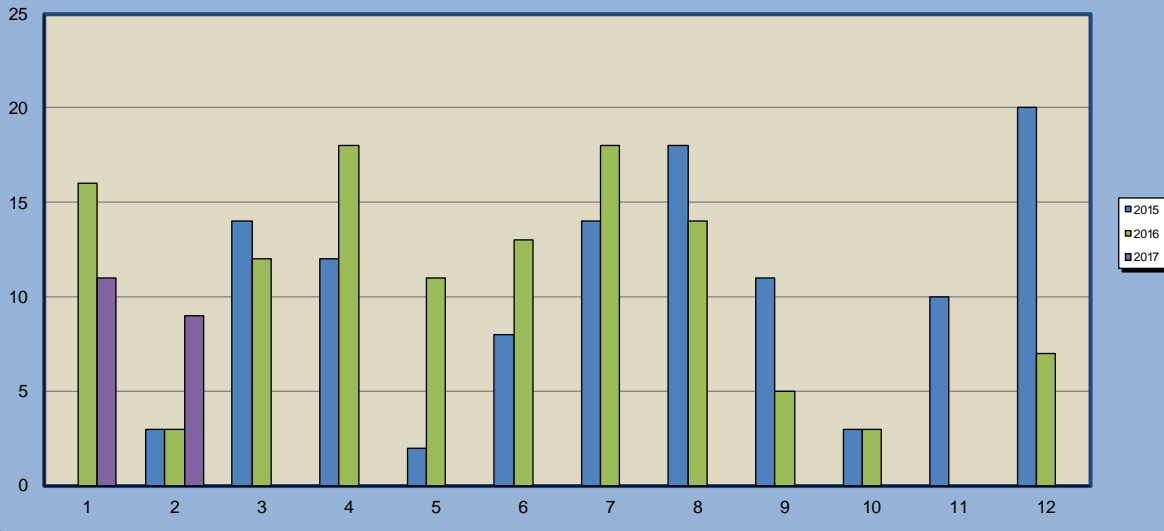
Hornbill Occupancy (nights per month)



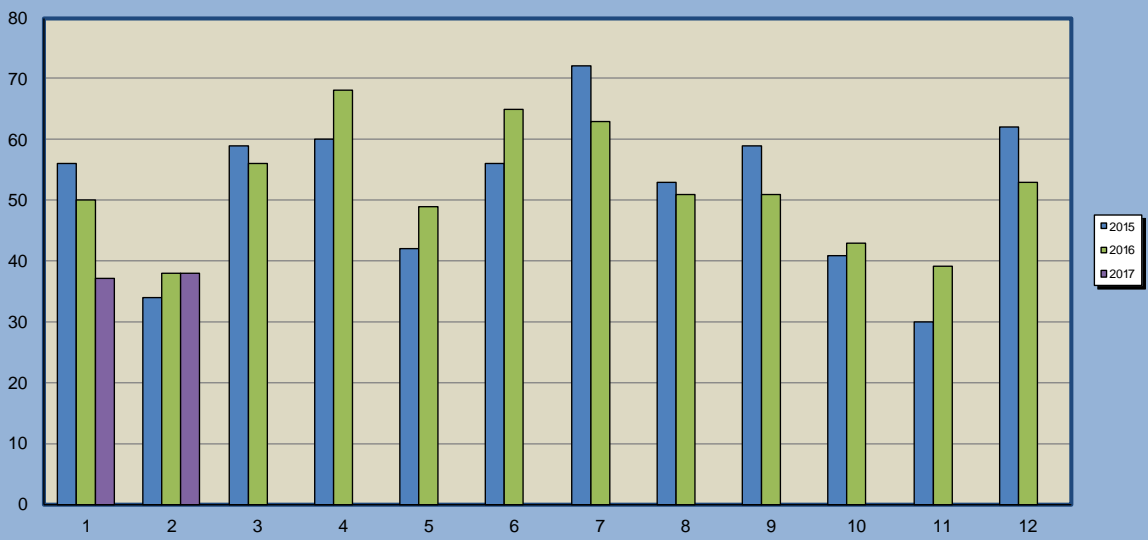
Francolin Occupancy (nights per month)



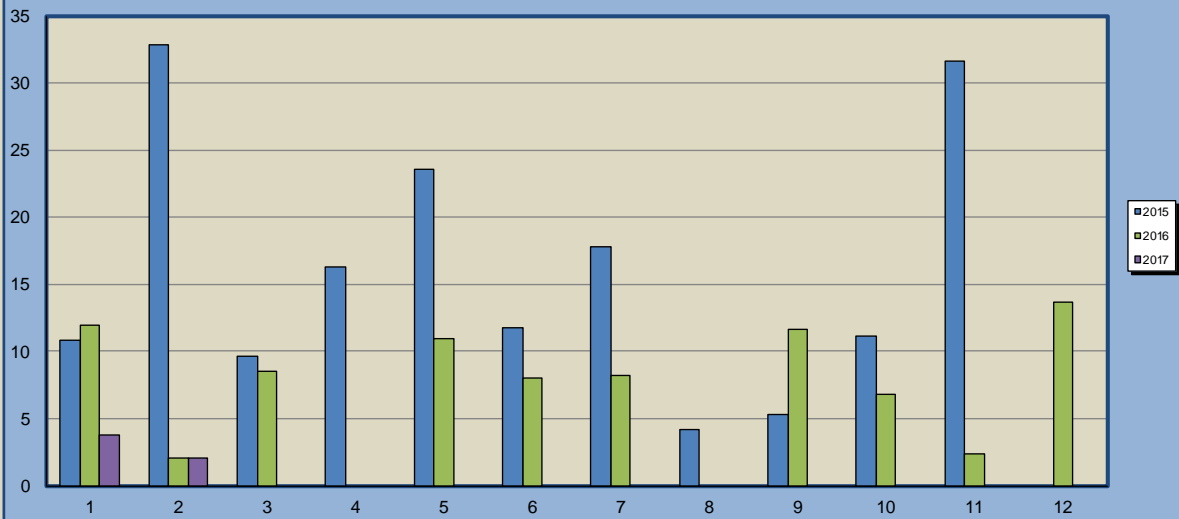
Guineafowl Occupancy (nights per month)



No. of job cards opened (per month)



Generator Hours (per month)



Ground Water Extraction m³
(combined boreholes per month)

