



RESERVE REPORT

April 2018

Introduction

The African lion, *Panthera leo*, is an iconic animal, symbolising power and strength, and endearingly branded as the “King of Beasts”.



Male lion

Through the eons of time, several species and sub species of lions have been identified, having once survived on several continents. Today wild populations are restricted to Sub-Saharan Africa and west India. The IUCN lists lions as *Endangered* in the categories of the IUCN Red List.

Lions belong to the Felidae family. There is marked sexual dimorphism, where adult males and females are distinctly different in appearances. Apart from males being much larger than females, males have an impressive mane, which can vary in colour, ranging from blonde to black. The tails of both genders have dark hairy tufts which conceal a hard claw-like nail called a *spur*. It is uncertain what the spur is used for.



Lioness

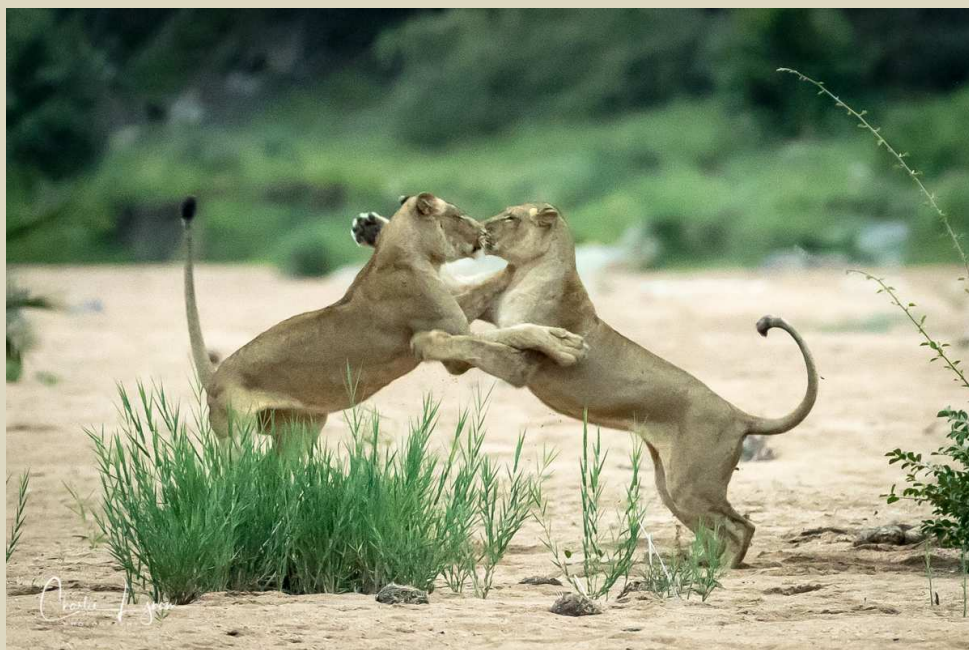
Lions are classed as top predators or apex predators meaning they are at the top of their respective food chain. Successful hunting is aided by the fact that they are social, forming prides made up of related males and females or male only coalitions. Hunting is a cooperative affair, where often the targeted meal is an injured or weak individual. Diet range is massive for these carnivores, ranging from small mammals to large mammals like buffalo and giraffe. There is documented proof of some lion prides even specialising in hunting elephants. Lions spend most of their time inactive, laying up, and are therefore more active during the cooler night hours.



Lionesses in day time action

Territories are fiercely defended against any lion intrusions. Fights between male lions are extremely vicious and often lead to serious injury or death. Male lions competing for and taking over a territorial pride are known to kill any cubs in the pride sired by the ousted male. There is little tolerance towards other predator species which may be opportunistically killed if favourable conditions prevail. It is well known that there is especially no love lost between lions and hyenas.

On a social level, pride members and male coalitions develop very close bonds. Greetings are met with affectionate head and neck rubbing and flopping down close to one another. Lionesses and cubs regularly display playful behaviour, the long, tufted tails becoming a frequent target of mock hunting. Paw slapping with claws retracted in efforts to trip each other up is another play tactic. Ear position and tail twitching are visual clues that distinguish play versus aggression. Rapid tail twitching, ears flattened and back together with deep growling signal threat and aggression.



Lionesses in playful mode

Lionesses have an average gestation period of 110 days. Two to four cubs are usually born, there is a high mortality rate in lion cubs. In the wild lions usually live for up to 15 years, females living longer than males. In captivity lions can live to 30 years.

Outside of Protected Areas, lions are rarely tolerated by human settlements in rural areas because lions resort to killing livestock and can pose a serious threat to human life. Where *man-eating* lions are known and identified, these are obviously hunted and destroyed.



Male lion (with dark mane)

A dozen more interesting lion facts:

- Lions do not have great stamina, despite reaching speeds of 80 KPH, this dash is short lived.
- Lions are very vocal, using roaring as a communicative tool, but sub adult lions are unable to roar.
- When ambient conditions are right, a lion's roar can travel up to 8 kms.
- Males dominate at kills, even if they don't participate in the hunt, they will feed first.
- Males reach sexual maturity before females.
- Lions have the same genus as leopard, snow leopard, jaguar and tiger.
- Lions scavenge readily and will rob other predators of their prey.
- Cubs are born with dark spots which continually fade to maturity.
- White lions have a colour variation caused by a double recessive allele.
- Prey is usually killed by suffocation, either through strangulation of the throat or a clamping type bite to the mouth and nostrils.
- Lions keep a vigilant look out for vultures going to ground, signalling a potential meal to scavenge.
- Large male lions weigh up to 250 kilogrammes.

Facts researched on the Internet. Words by John Llewellyn. Pictures kind courtesy of Charlie Lynam.

Save the Date

The next Member Information Evening is scheduled for Thursday 14 June, for 18h00, at the Bryanston Country Club.

David Marneweck from EWT (Endangered Wildlife Trust) will be the guest speaker. David is the Programme Manager for the EWT Carnivore Conservation Programme. It will be a very interesting presentation, so please try and attend it.

Staff complement



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Staff Movement

We welcome Chris and Janet Mayes to the management team.

Staff profile (meet the team):



Chris and Janet Mayes need little introduction as they previously worked at Ingwelala from 1998 to 2003. After leaving Ingwelala, they managed Makumu, then a private lodge in the Klaserie Private Nature Reserve. More recently Chris and Janet assisted in managing Motswari for a fixed term period.

Chris will once again manage the Conservation Team, as he did in his previous tenure, and Janet will team up with Adél in Reception. A warm welcome back to Chris and Janet, and their two children. Jessica is based in Johannesburg, employed in the hotel industry. Tom is in Grade 11 at Stanford College near Tzaneen.

In their spare time Chris enjoys following cricket and rugby, while Janet actively enjoys golf, swimming, nature walks and watching cooking programmes.

Bungalows for sale

Nil.

Long term weather update

The following text is an extract from the latest report from South African Weather Service:

Seasonal Climate Watch
May to September 2018
Date issued: May 04, 2018

1. Overview

“The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is expected to weaken from a moderate La Niña phase to a neutral phase through to early spring (Aug-Sep-Oct). Forecasts currently suggest that there is a high likelihood of an El Niño developing for early summer (Nov-Dec-Jan), however these forecasts tend to be less accurate during periods leading up to summer and it is advised that no drastic planning be made for the summer rainfall areas until such a time as there is more certainty in the forecast (usually during Sep/Oct).

There are still indications for above-normal rainfall during early winter (May-Jun-Jul) through to late winter (Jul-Aug-Sep), however late winter does not indicate sufficient confidence in the forecasting system and thus remains very uncertain.

Number of rainfall days are expected to be higher than normal for the winter rainfall areas. This increase in rainfall days are only expected to be more frequent rather than extremely high rainfall amounts. It should be noted however

that there is not sufficient confidence in the forecasting system for these forecasts, thus there is very high uncertainty in the rainfall intensity for the winter rainfall areas.

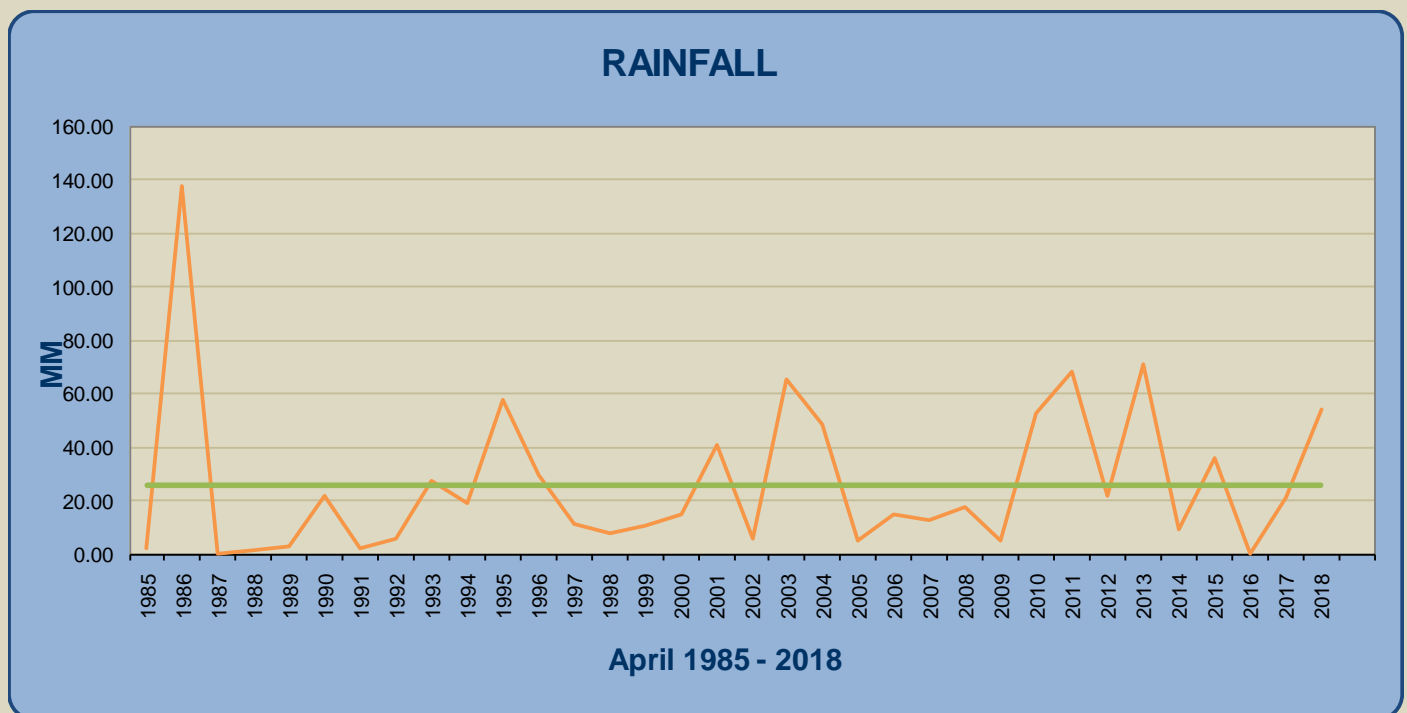
Temperatures generally still indicate lower temperatures during early-, mid- and late-winter for the north-eastern parts of the country, and higher temperatures for the south-western parts of the country during the same period.

The South African Weather Service will continue to monitor and provide updates of any future assessments that may provide more clarity on the current expectations for the coming seasons.”

Climate and rainfall (summary)

Rainfall: 54 mm
Minimum temperature: 13 degrees Celsius.
Maximum temperature: 35 degrees Celsius.

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



(Note: April 2018: 54 mm rainfall is well above the monthly average of 26 mm)

Conservation

Alien plant eradication

Nil.

Veld Rehabilitation

Veld conditions this season have not aided further work on removing *Grewia spp.*

Erosion Control

Nil.

Roads and Tracks

River crossings were graded ahead of the busy holiday period.

Ruts in Kudu Road were levelled where required.

The mitre drains along Fence Road were serviced.

Airstrip

The airstrip surface was inspected on a regular basis and the general condition recorded in a register.

The apron was graded and compacted using heavy steel “railway line” material. This was very effective in removing the hardy weeds and thorns on the apron.

A reminder please that all airstrip users must 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

Elephants breached the fence on nine occasions.

Bomas, Hides and Picnic Sites

All checked and serviced on a regular basis.

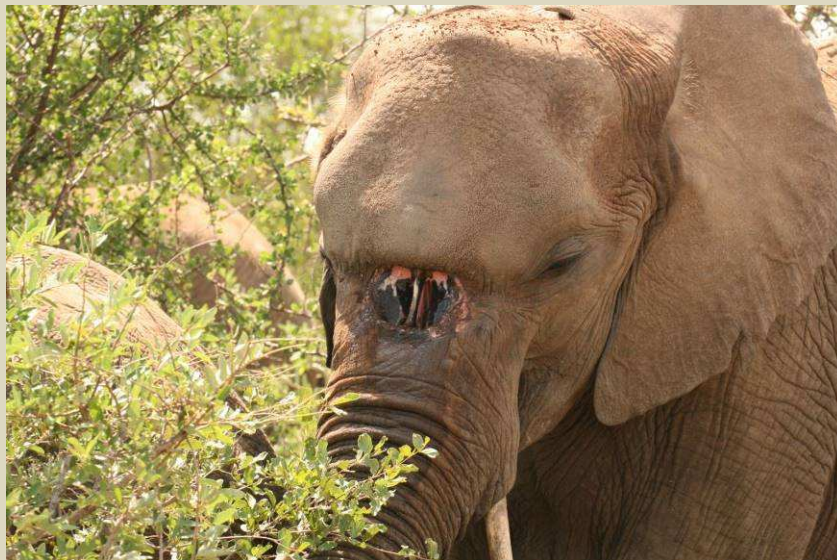
Game sightings

Except for buffalo, there have been lots of rewarding Big 5 sightings, especially lions and elephants. Feedback from Members at lion sightings over the recent long weekend was appreciation for the consideration people showed each other. With 100 bungalows occupied sightings were well attended, with due consideration adopted in taking turns for all to have an opportunity to observe and take pictures. This is excellent feedback.

Wild dogs were seen on two occasions near Beacon Boma.

African wild cat, blue wildebeest, zebra, waterbuck, giraffe, spotted genet, spotted hyena and spring hare were other sightings recorded in the register.

Bird wise only Fish Eagle, Ground Hornbill, Black Stork, Woolley-necked Stork and Temminck’s Courser were made mention of.



Elephant cow Picture courtesy of Paul Marsh

This elephant cow was first spotted in the APNR about 8 years ago. The cause of her injury/condition is uncertain, she was spotted on Argyle in April and continues to go about her business. Her calf is doing well.

Security

No incidents on Ingwelala during the reporting period.

Road Kills

X 2 Squirrels.

General Fire Risk Management

Veld fire and general fire risk in the veld is low given the sparse ground cover.

Fire-fighting equipment is checked on a weekly basis.

X 1 tractor available to assist with fire-fighting (x2 water drawn carts).

X 1 “Bakkie-Sakkie” serviceable and responsive on a “first call” basis.

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

Umbabat

The vehicle pictured below was generously sponsored by Lydenburg Toyota for the Umbabat Warden, Bryan Havemann, to use in the execution of his duties. In particular it will assist Bryan enormously in the execution of his counter poaching responsibilities. A sincere thank you to Lydenburg Toyota for their commitment and support in the fight against poaching.



Toyota Hilux 4x4



Not only is the vehicle brand new, but it has after market fitment of specialised off-road gear generously sponsored by Lydenburg 4x4 Mega World. This includes Old Man Emu raised suspension, high quality off-road tyres, additional driving spot lights, load bin rails and load bin rubberising.

Water reticulation

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

BOREHOLE	APR 18	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17	JUN 17	MAY 17	APR 17
BH NO 1	1	1	0	189	149	0	150	277	428	0	34	298	188
BH NO 2	1133	1103	877	1247	1603	1274	992	1082	959	1113	1043	1000	1141
BH NO 3	654	654	627	500	425	682	534	653	531	1176	151	557	681
BH NO 4	0	0	0	0	0	768	0	0	0	78	181	483	425
BH NO 5	487	523	468	506	534	517	293	159	151	158	238	467	445
BH NO 6	347	347	234	481	565	1055	1218	1082	1018	769	367	675	622
BH NO 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BH NO 9	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar
JB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	350	1282	491	278	43
GOEDEHOOP	1017	1317	721	842	1297	774	1119	480	664	290	1312	1395	780

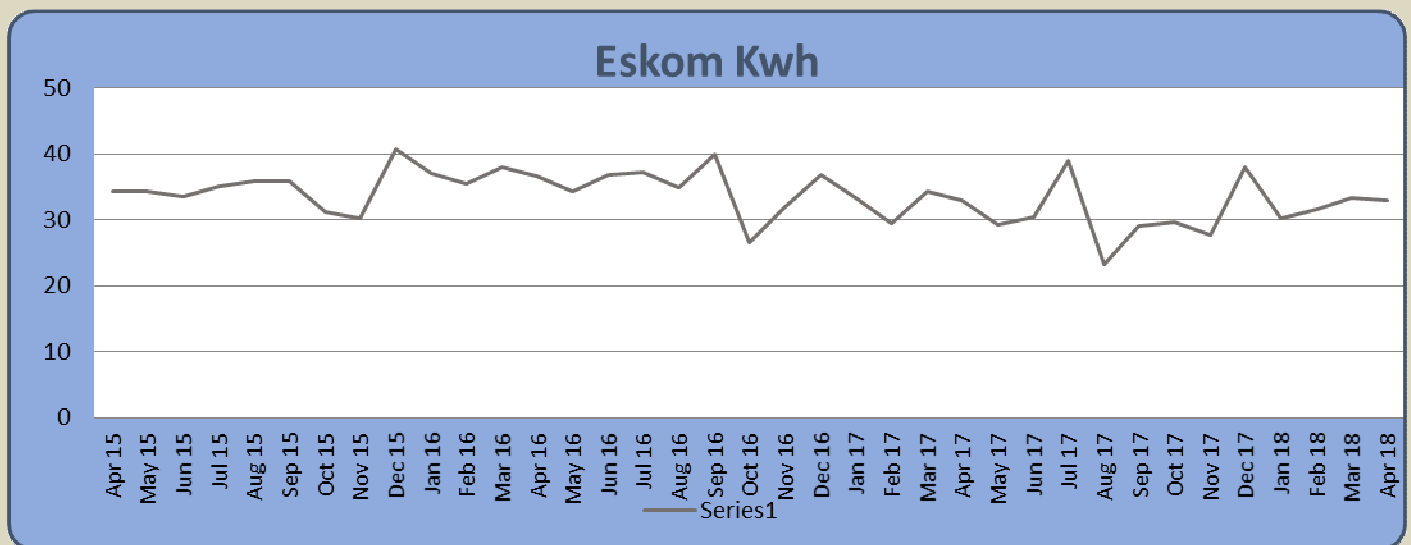
Vehicles and Workshop

WORKSHOP	APR 18	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17	JUN 17	MAY 17
JOB CARDS OPENED	61	60	23	51	64	36	54	36	75	68	48	67
JOB CARDS CLOSED	49	46	23	49	66	37	50	38	54	53	58	63
GENERATOR HOURS	0	1.4	18.9	1.8	22	1.1	9.3	0	1	2.6	0	6.6
DIESEL TANK (L)	970	970	990	530	80	345	380	430	430	500	575	575

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

Eskom Usage

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



Building projects

Current (major) building projects are listed below:

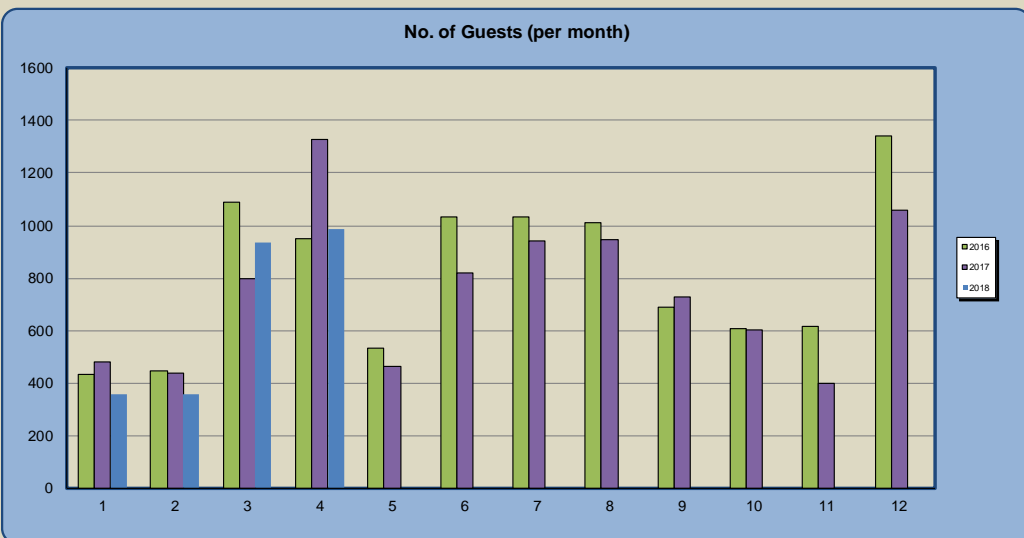
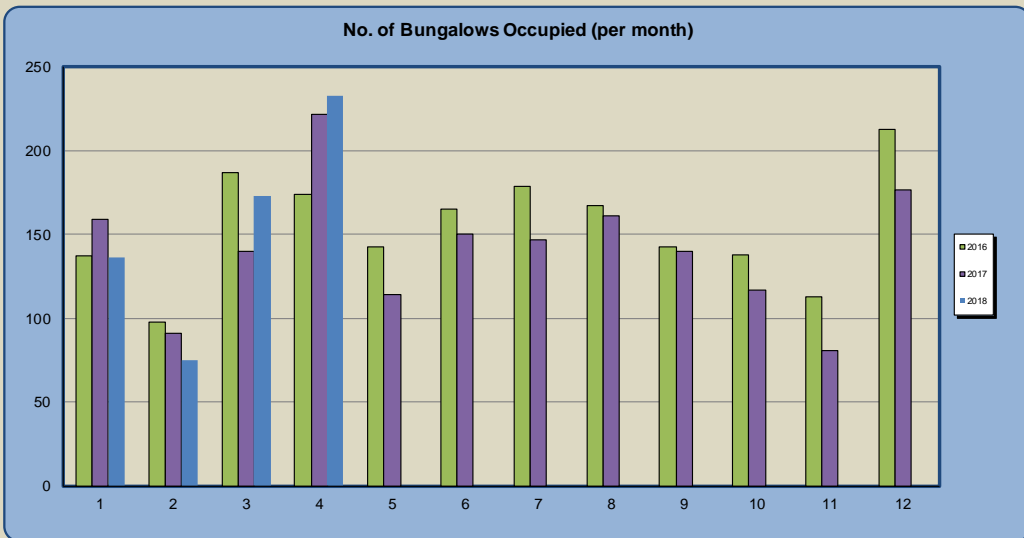
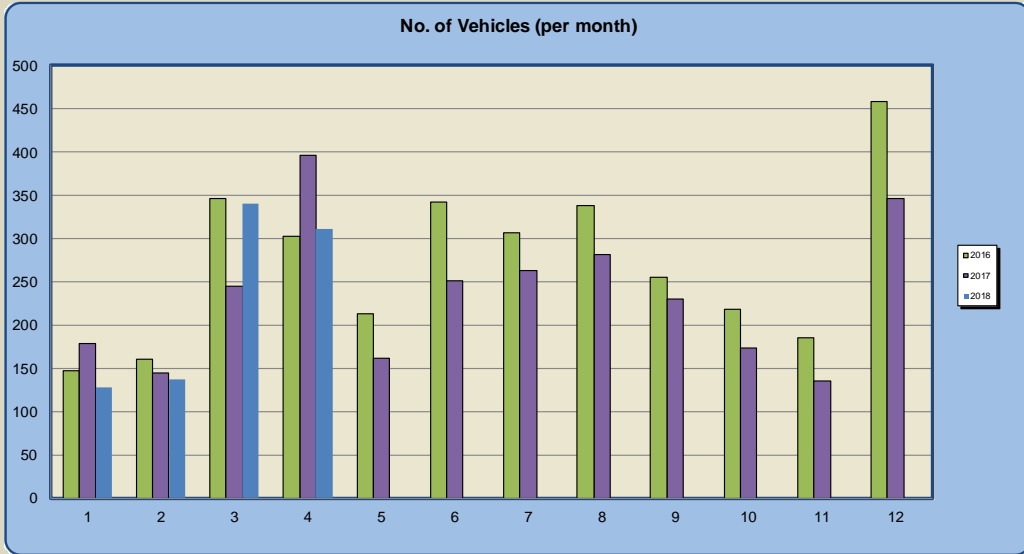
Bung No	Name	Work requested	Approval	Builder	% Complete
16	Peter Wirsam	New Windows/Gazebo & Rethatch	March 2018	Dukes Construction	10%
38	Gordon Pascoe	Demolish & rebuild	July 2017	Dukes Construction	75%
44	Cecil Bodenstein	New patio & gazebo & internal upgrades	June 2017	Owner builder	75%
86	Martinus vd Reyden	New patio & gazebo & internal upgrades	July 2017	Chameleon	95%
181	Shayne Holt	Rethatch & internal changes	January 2018	Chameleon	40%
185	Weston Dickson	Demolish and rebuild	January 2017	Chameleon	90%

Reception Statistics

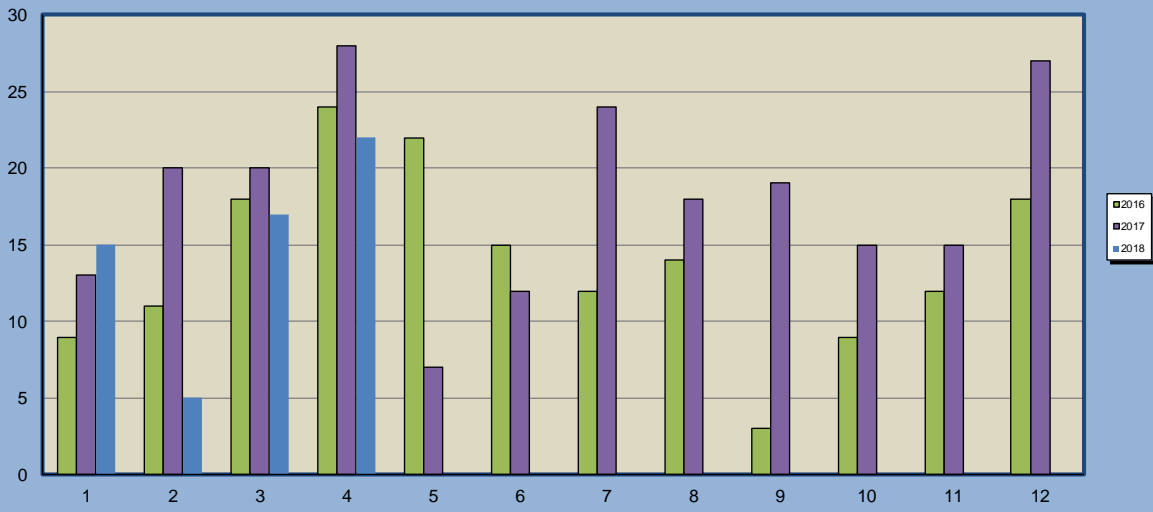
GATE STATISTICS	APR 18	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17	JUN 17	MAY 17
VEHICLES	311	340	138	128	347	135	174	230	282	263	251	162
MEMBERS GUESTS	988	956	356	357	1060	399	601	727	945	940	818	465
UNACCOMP GUESTS	0	0	0	0	7	2	9	7	4	4	3	0
UNITS OCCUPIED	233	173	75	136	177	81	117	140	161	147	150	114
AIRBORNE VISITORS	4	3	3	9	1	6	9	4	5	17	16	2

COTTAGE NIGHTS	APR 18	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17	JUN 17	MAY 17	APR 17
HORNBILL	22	17	5	15	27	15	15	19	18	24	12	7	28
FRANCOLIN	15	12	4	10	18	7	12	12	11	26	17	0	19
GUINEAFOWL	15	16	7	5	15	3	11	11	20	26	12	6	17

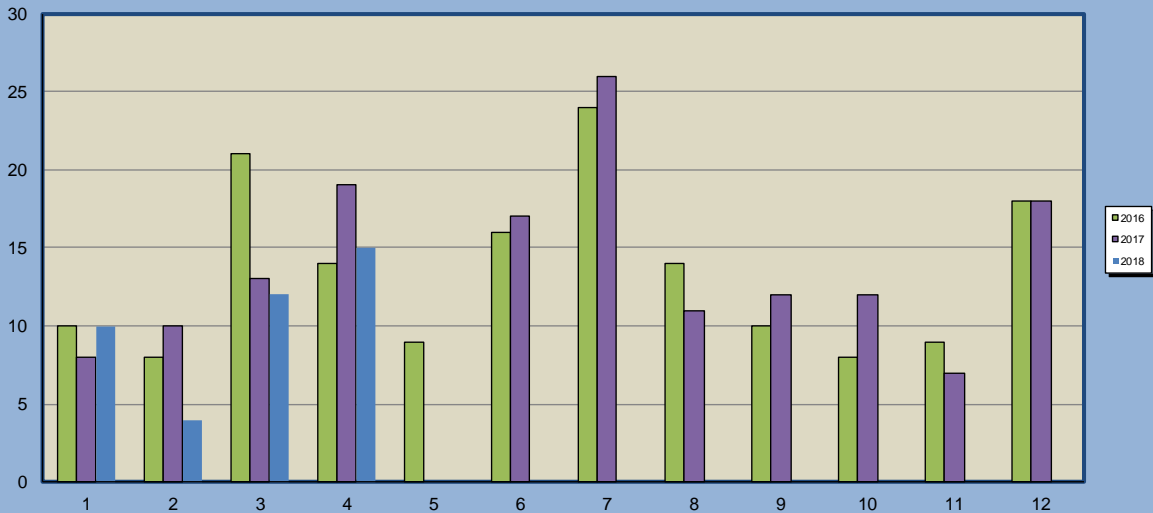
Annexure 1: Graphs



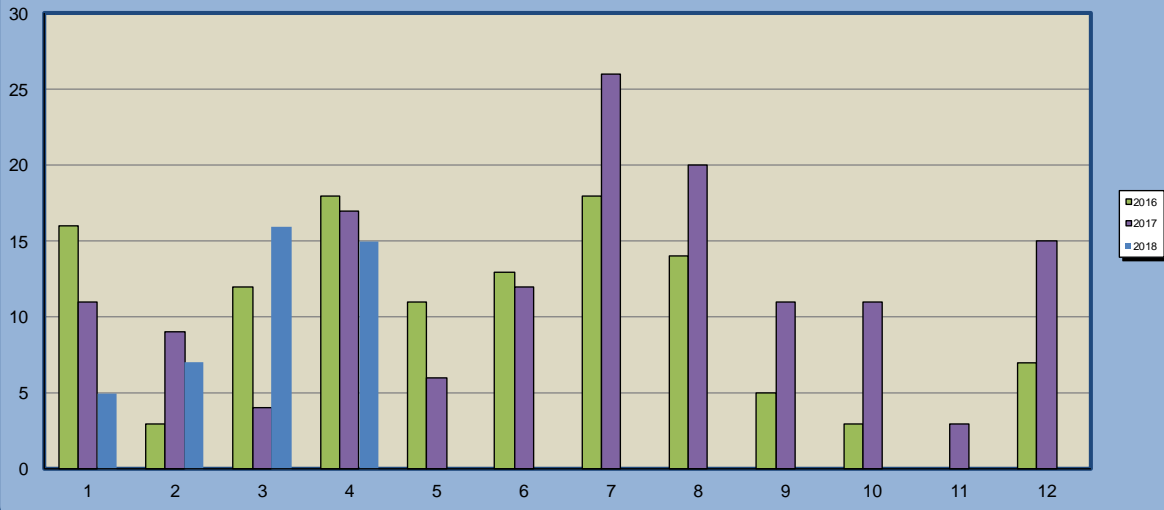
Hornbill Occupancy (nights per month)



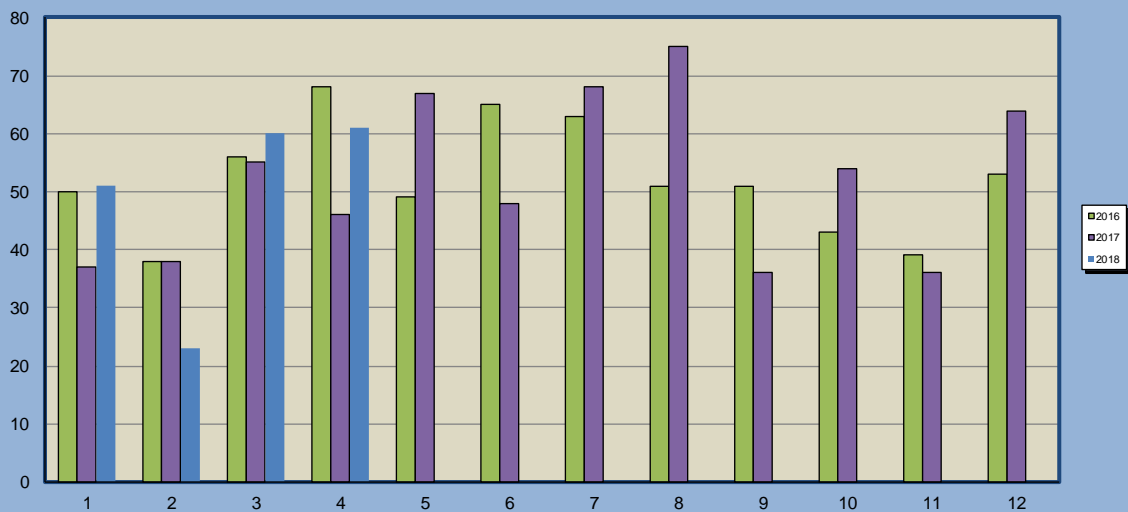
Francolin Occupancy (nights per month)



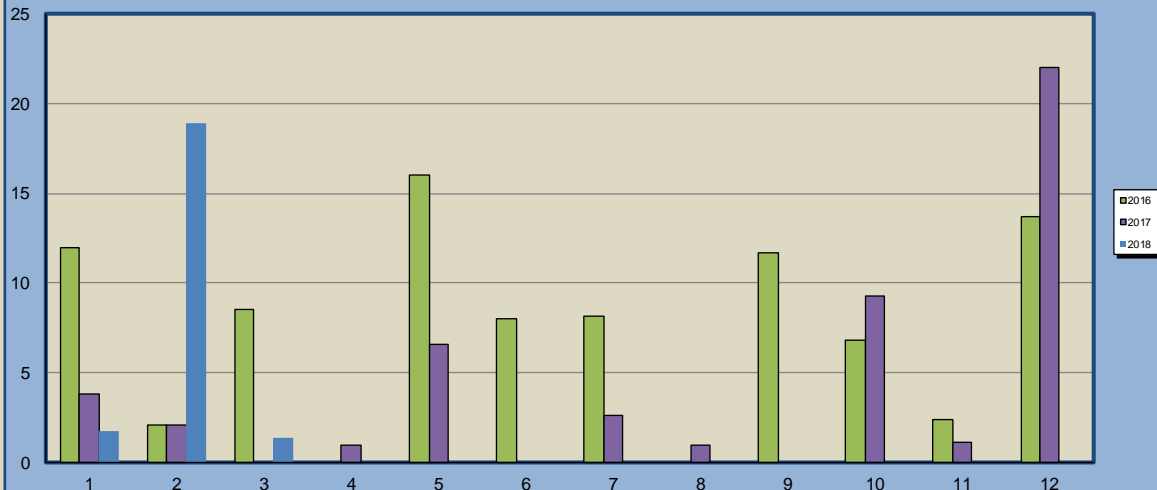
Guineafowl Occupancy (nights per month)



No. of job cards opened (per month)



Generator Hours (per month)



Ground Water Extraction m³
(combined boreholes per month)

