



RESERVE REPORT

June 2018

Introduction

The cheetah, *Acinonyx jubatus*, is a rarity on Ingwelala. Researching cheetah facts on the Internet allowed me to discover many interesting facts about a species so seldom seen in our neck of the woods. Cheetahs are part of the Puma lineage which falls under the cat family, Felidae. Another name for a cheetah is a hunting leopard. Apart from the routine coat markings of a normal cheetah, there exists the King Cheetah, which is defined by larger spots and three dark broad bands that run down the centre of its back.

The physical characteristics of a cheetah are a sleekly overall shape, smallish rounded head, long tail and longish legs. The coat has numerous dark spots, giving the cheetah its “spotty” appearance. The face has two distinct dark stripes under each eye, commonly described as tear-like in appearance, clearly visible in the picture below. Size wise, adult shoulder height averages 80 centimetres and maximum weight can be as much as 70 kilogrammes.



Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) – note tear-like facial stripes and circular pattern on tail tip.

In Africa, cheetahs occur mostly in the southern and eastern parts of the continent. Historic ranges have been reduced by as much as 90 %, mainly due to habitat loss. Habitat can be semi-arid areas, open savannahs and scrub forests. The cheetah IUCN conservation status is *Vulnerable*. Population estimates in the wild are 7000, with a recognised decreasing population. The wild population in South Africa is estimated at 1000.

Speed is the name of the game that has awarded the cheetah first prize for being the fastest land animal on earth. It has many physiological adaptations to help it achieve enormous speeds, short burst sprints of up to 120 km/h. This is an incredible tool for hunting. Physiological adaptations include enlarged nasal passages to ensure unrestricted air flow at high speed. It keeps the blood sufficiently oxygenated while simultaneously the respiratory rate increases exponentially. Its streamlined shape is aerodynamic. Hunting success rate is less than 50%.

Reproduction commences when sexually mature females experience an oestrus cycle. Males will compete for mating rights ensuring the dominant male’s genes are passed on. Gestation is approximately 90 days. On average 3- 5 cubs are born. The cubs’ eyes are shut at birth and only open several days later. The newly born cubs are kept in thick vegetation to avoid detection from other predators. Cub mortality is high, as high as 75%. Inter birthing intervals is between 17 to 20 months. Cubs wean by 6 months and may accompany their mother for up to 20 months, learning the fine art of hunting during this family time.



Cheetah cub

Threats to cheetahs include conflict with livestock farmers, snaring (illegal hunting), inter- species competition with other predators and general habitat loss from human development and settlements.

More interesting facts about cheetahs:

- The claws are only semi-retractable, assisting with traction when running at high speeds.
- Foot pads are developed for toughness.
- Vision is excellent, relied on when hunting.
- Females are usually solitary.
- Males are more gregarious than females, often forming coalitions.
- There is a wide range of vocalisations.
- Being carnivores, the diet is highly varied, including smaller predators such as bat-eared foxes.
- Elevated posts such as termite mounds are used for prey detection.
- Kills are often forfeited to larger predators such as lions, hyenas, wild dogs and leopards.
- Breeding is non-seasonal.
- Tails are used as steering rudders during high speed chases.
- A rare mutation results in the King Cheetah colouration and coat marking.
- Longevity in the wild averages around 12 years.
- Killing is by means of suffocating its prey, a bite to the throat.
- In full stride, at full speed, the extended stride is 20 to 25 feet.
- Male cheetahs are slightly larger than female cheetahs.
- Tails have a spot pattern near the base and a circled pattern towards the tip.



Modest tree climbing ability in search of a high spot

Injured Elephant



This young elephant is part of a breeding herd that was recently seen on Ingwelala. (Picture courtesy of Ian Van der Merwe). It somehow managed to get its left hind leg snagged in some cable which needed to be removed. The herd then moved into the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve where field staff were assisted by a Veterinarian to remove the cable.



The elephant should make a full recovery. (These two pictures courtesy of Almera Bosch).

Vuka Ingwe

Progress pictures of the accommodation unit currently being constructed by Chameleon Builders in the Staff Village, Vuka Ingwe.



There are four identical rooms. Each room has a veranda (left picture) that leads into a kitchenette, bedroom and ensuite bathroom (right picture).

Save the Date

The Board accordingly convenes a Meeting of Members to discuss these challenges. The meeting will be held on Thursday, 19 July 2018 at the Country Club Johannesburg, Woodmead, commencing at 18h30.

The Board urges all members, if possible, to be present at the meeting. The following topics are tabled for discussion:

1. Ingwelala's present status as a Member of the Umbabat in the context of the recent lion hunt.
2. Ingwelala's future as a Member of the Umbabat and as a Protected Nature Reserve.

Staff complement



HT_OrganisationalC
hart_160518.pptx

Staff Movement

Nil.

Staff profile.



Olivia Bango, daughter of the late Christina Bango (previous employee), joined the Housekeeping team in November 2016.

Olivia is from Acornhoek, she attended school at Mawvane School, passing Grade 11, her favourite subject at school was English, as Olivia feels it is the widest and most common spoken language in South Africa. Unfortunately, the responsibilities of single parenting at the age of 18, prevented Olivia from continuing to Grade 12. Olivia has three children, a 14-year old daughter named Thoena, a 12-year old son named Vision, and a 5-year daughter named Enough. The children are looked after by Sidney, Olivia's younger brother. Olivia enjoyed singing in the Mawvane School Choir.

A certain highlight for Olivia is being able to see animals in the work environment. No particular animal is top of the pops for Olivia, but elephants, leopards and zebras got special mention. Olivia enjoys Mopane and Marula trees because they provide an important food source for humans and wildlife (mopane worms and marula fruit).

Olivia's sporting interest is supporting Kaiser Chiefs, and, in her leisure, time enjoys watching television.

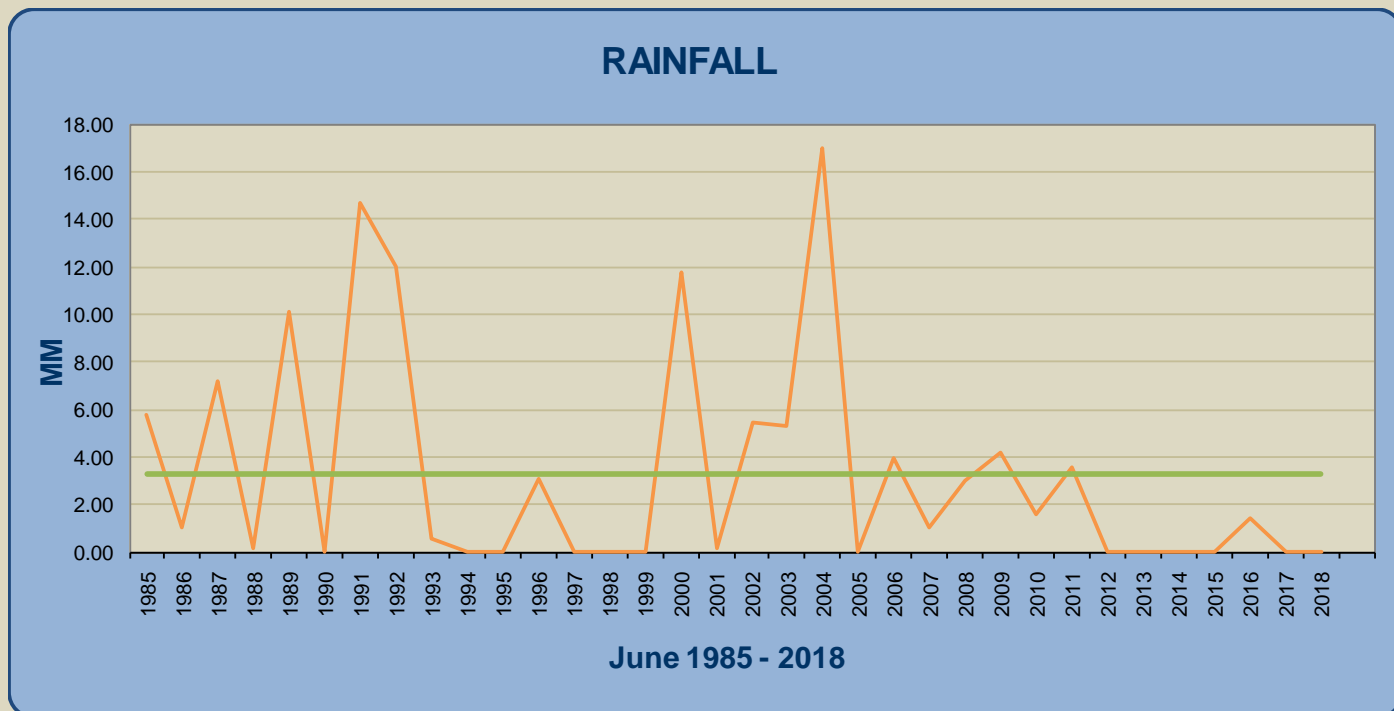
Bungalows for sale

Nil.

Climate and rainfall (summary)

Rainfall:	Nil.
Minimum temperature:	05 degrees Celsius.
Maximum temperature:	33 degrees Celsius.

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



(Note: June 2018: Nil rainfall is below the monthly average of 3.3mm)

The South African Weather Service has published the latest long-term forecast:

July to November 2018

Date issued: Jun 25, 2018

“The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is now in a neutral phase and is expected to rise towards an El Niño phase through late winter to spring. At this stage there is a high likelihood of an El Niño developing, however it is still too early to predict its exact outcome during the next summer season. It is advised that this system be monitored in the next few months leading up to spring and summer to determine its impact on the summer-rainfall areas.

The forecasting system persists with indications of above-normal rainfall over the south-western parts of the country during late winter (Jul-Aug-Sep), however there is still no confidence for this period. There are however indications of drier conditions over parts of the south coast, with confidence, during the early-spring (Aug-Sep-Oct) and spring (Sep-Oct-Nov) seasons.

Even though the total rainfall forecasts for the spring season do not detect any confident deviation from the normal rainfall over the eastern coastal areas (traditional spring rainfall areas), the rainfall days are confidently predicted to be more frequent but possibly less intense.

Overall higher temperatures are still expected moving towards the spring period, however it is not uncommon for cold spells to occur throughout the winter season. There is a particularly confident forecast for above-normal temperatures over the northern parts of the country.

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.”

Conservation

Alien plant eradication

Opunita spp were treated in the following areas:

Elephant Pan road – 3 plants
Bird Hide road – 6 plants
Argyle Lookout – 2 plants.
Follow up inspections on the effectiveness of herbicide sprayed is 14 days.

Members contribution by recording occurrences (location) of prickly pear in the Reception sightings register is much appreciated.

Veld Rehabilitation

The follow up on the Grewia and Mopane coppice on the Buffelsbed Eastern River Road (trial plot) progressed well during the reporting period. Approximately 31 of the estimated 40 hectares is completed. The quality of work is very pleasing.

Erosion Control

Nil.

Roads and Tracks

Work as carried out on the following roads:

Camp roads drainage work done (various).
Various roads cleared of branches (from elephant feeding) on Argyle.
Road verges along the main tar road from Argyle Southern boundary through to airstrip have been cleared to negate road kills and assist with water drainage (for the summer months.) It also reduces the fuel load and fire risk adjacent to the road.

Airstrip

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

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

The greatest challenge for the Conservation Team through the month of June was related to 23 elephant breaches to the Camp fence.

One identified bull has been visiting the Camp for the past 4 months. Other elephants also come and go from the Camp. The water losses from piping infrastructure damage is reaching frustrating levels. Labour hours spent on fence and water pipe repairs amounts to between 50-60% of the Conservation Team's available time.

A helicopter was deployed to drive these elephant bulls well away from the Camp area. However, there is one bull that will simply not leave, despite dropping the fence in selected areas.

The Sibon main supply pipeline from Number 3 borehole was unearthed by elephants on 4 separate occasions.

Hides, Bomas & Picnic Sites

The following work was completed during the reporting period:

Two benches and table removed and repaired from the Argyle Lookout Tower.
The decking was replaced and sealed at Beacon Boma.
Elephant damage to the walkway at Elephant Pan Hide is 60% complete.
The solar pump at the Platform was repaired and reinstalled.

Game & Bird Sightings

Except for plentiful leopard and elephant sightings, the frequency of other Big Five sightings have been far less than anticipated. June was a relatively busy month with high bed occupancy, and yet there were 18 days in the month when not a single sighting was recorded in the sightings register in Reception. The staff encourage you to use the sightings register, for all sightings, as it does provide a very useful inventory and history of wildlife sightings on Ingwelala. Even recording what you saw during your visit at the time of checking out is always appreciated.

There were two sightings of wild dogs on different occasions, numbering 2 and 12 respectively.

General game sightings included waterbuck, giraffe, zebra, impala, nyala, kudu, baboon, monkey, honey badger, porcupine and hippo.

Birds recorded were Fish Eagle, White-backed Vultures, Lappet-faced Vultures and White-fronted Bea eaters. There was a report of a pair of Cape Shovelers seen at Elephant Pan Hide.



Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

Security

No incidents on Ingwelala during the reporting period.

Road Kills

- x 1 Olive grass snake.
- x 1 Tree squirrel.

General Fire Risk Management

Veld fire and general fire risk in the veld is on the increase as the veld dries out.

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. A new housing structure was constructed for this equipment.

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

Umbabat

Three trophy hunts took place in the Umbabat; buffalo, elephant and lion.

Water reticulation

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

BOREHOLE	JUN 18	MAY 18	APR 18	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17	JUN 17
BH NO 1	0	1	1	1	0	189	149	0	150	277	428	0	34
BH NO 2	1063	1506	1133	1103	877	1247	1603	1274	992	1082	959	1113	1043
BH NO 3	633	1420	654	654	627	500	425	682	534	653	531	1176	151
BH NO 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	768	0	0	0	78	181
BH NO 5	401	1040	487	523	468	506	534	517	293	159	151	158	238
BH NO 6	410	788	347	347	234	481	565	1055	1218	1082	1018	769	367
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	0	0	58	350	1282	491
GOEDEHOOP	850	1372	1017	1317	721	842	1297	774	1119	480	664	290	1312

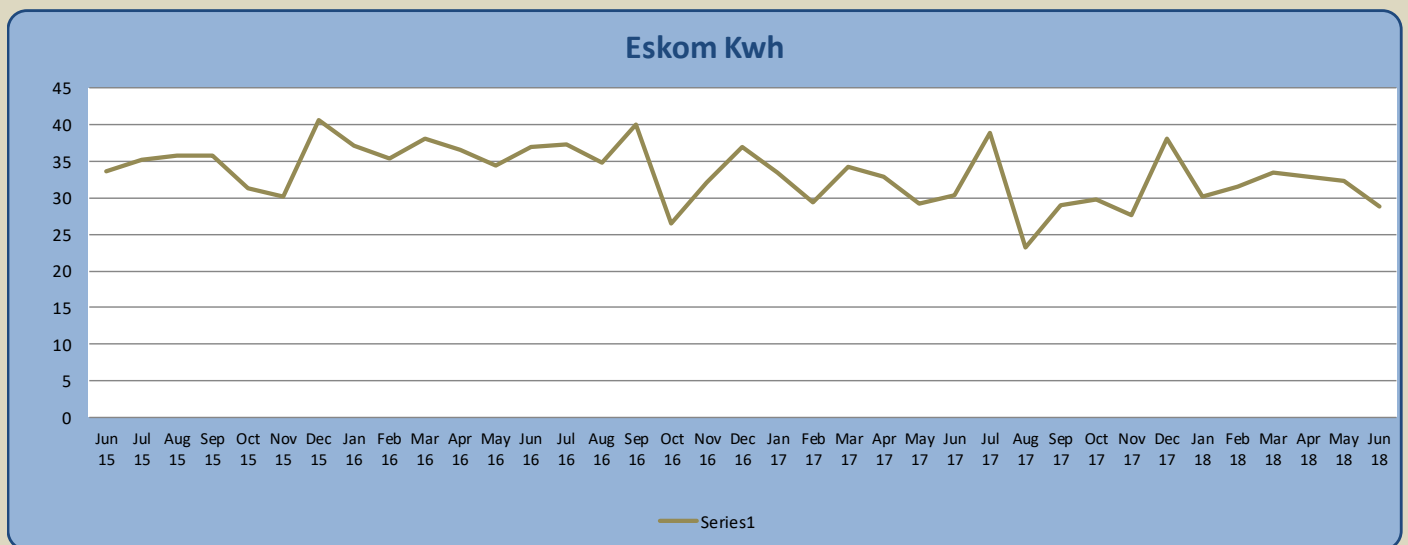
Vehicles and Workshop

WORKSHOP	JUN 18	MAY 18	APR 18	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17
JOB CARDS OPENED	68	51	61	60	23	51	64	36	54	36	75	68
JOB CARDS CLOSED	89	72	49	46	23	49	66	37	50	38	54	53
GENERATOR HOURS	0	7.1	0	1.4	18.9	1.8	22	1.1	9.3	0	1	2.6
DIESEL TANK (L)	900	900	970	970	990	530	80	345	380	430	430	500

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 & Re-thatch	March 2018	Dukes Construction	65%
44	Cecil Bodenstein	New patio & gazebo and internal changes	June 2017	Owner Builder	85%
58	Wayne Bartholomew	New built-in-braai and storage cupboard	May 2018	Owner builder	0%
93	Deidre Penfold	Internal changes & patio changes	June 2018	Dukes Construction	15%
106	Georg Schwaeble	Rethatch & gazebo changes	June 2018	Dukes Construction	10%
143	Kevin Shaw	Re-thatch, internal changes & patio changes. New solar.	May 2018	Dukes Construction	30%
174	John Backman	Outside shower and soak away	May 2018	Chameleon Builders	60%
181	Shayne Holt	Rethatch & internal changes	January 2018	Chameleon Builders	90%

Reception Statistics

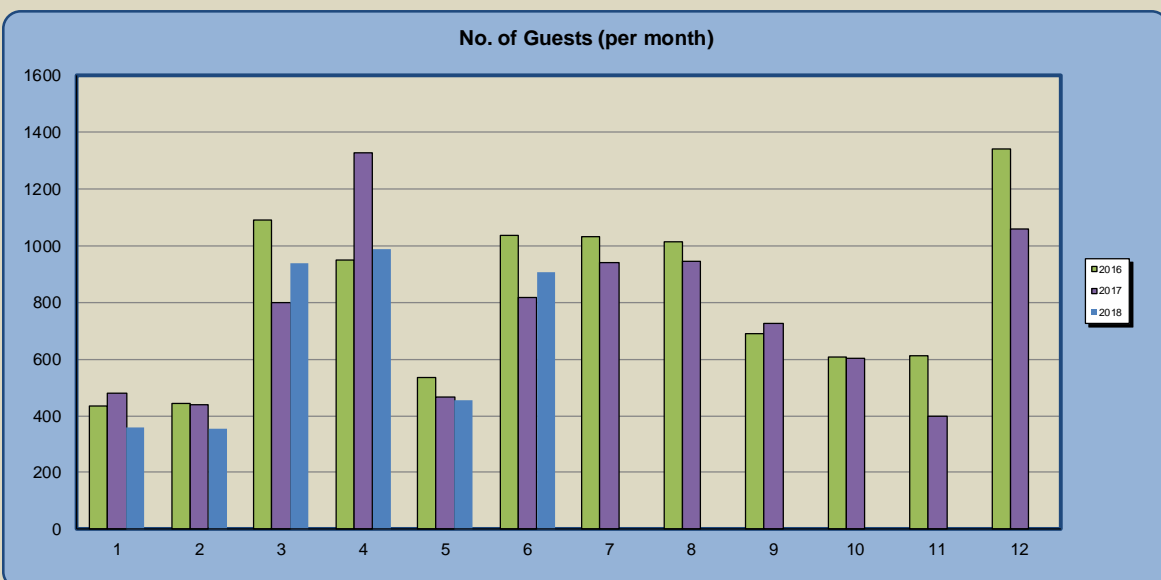
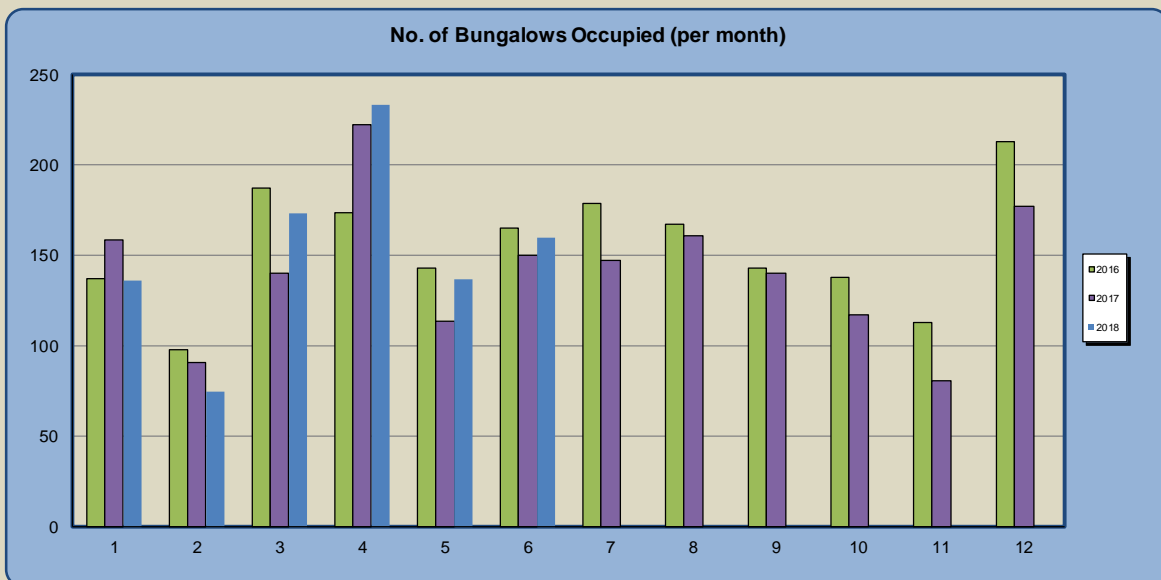
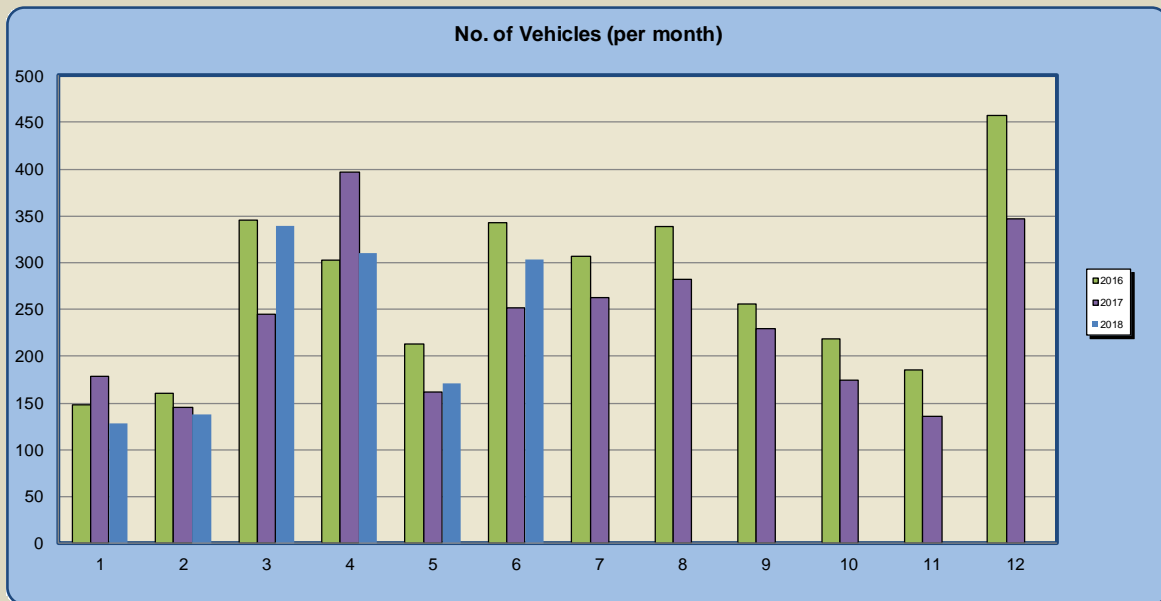
GATE STATISTICS	JUN 18	MAY 18	APR 18	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17
VEHICLES	304	171	311	340	138	128	347	135	174	230	282	263
MEMBERS GUESTS	907	453	988	956	356	357	1060	399	601	727	945	940
UNACCOMP GUESTS	8	2	0	0	0	0	7	2	9	7	4	4
UNITS OCCUPIED	160	135	233	173	75	136	177	81	117	140	161	147
AIRBORNE VISITORS	3	8	4	3	3	9	1	6	9	4	5	17

COTTAGE NIGHTS	JUN 18	MAY 18	APR 18	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17	JUN 17
HORNBILL	21	5	22	17	5	15	27	15	15	19	18	24	12
FRANCOLIN	26	3	15	12	4	10	18	7	12	12	11	26	17
GUINEAFOWL	19	3	15	16	7	5	15	3	11	11	20	26	12

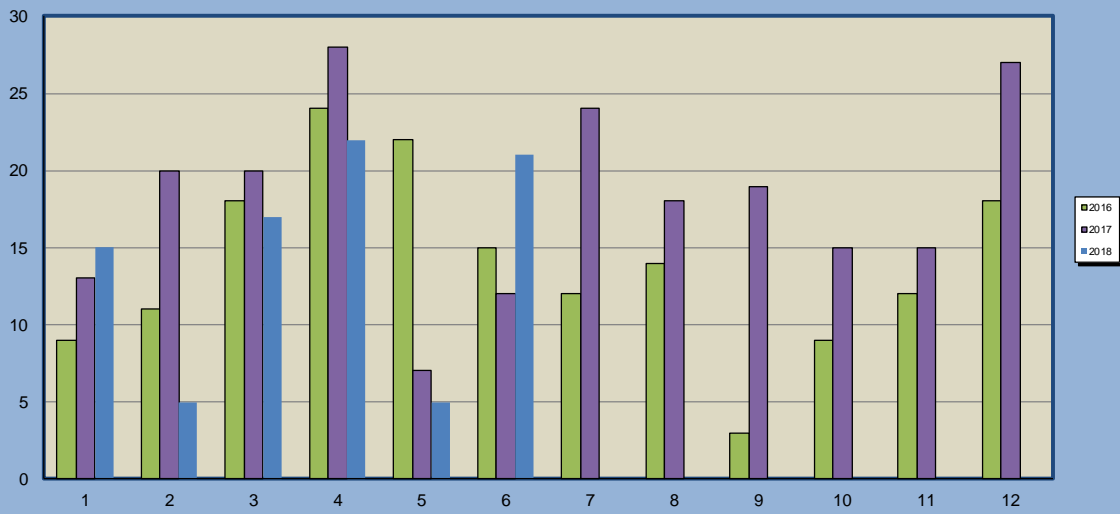
Thank you for your continued support.

John Llewellyn
Reserve Manager
Ingwelala Share Block (Pty) Ltd.
June 2018.

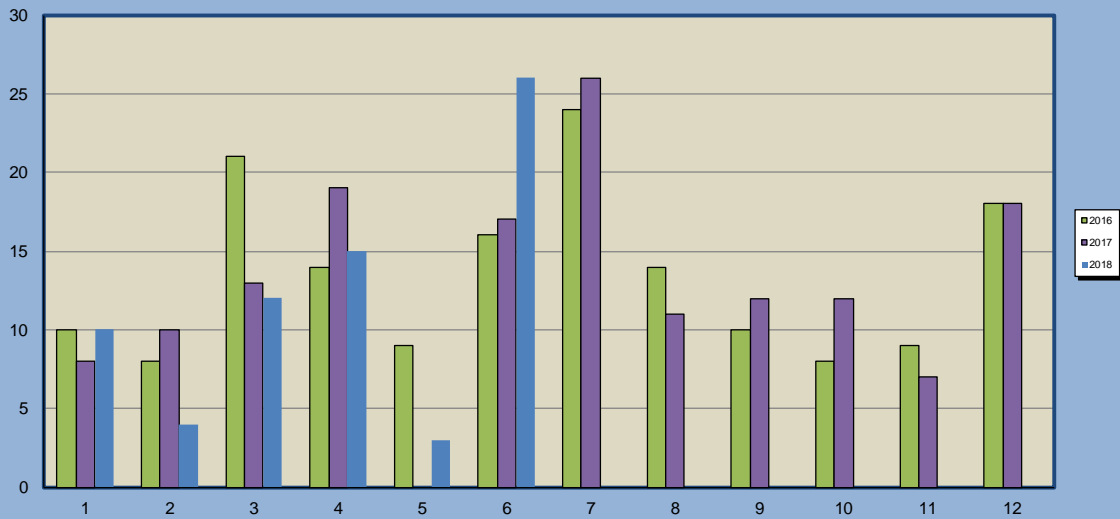
Annexure 1: Graphs



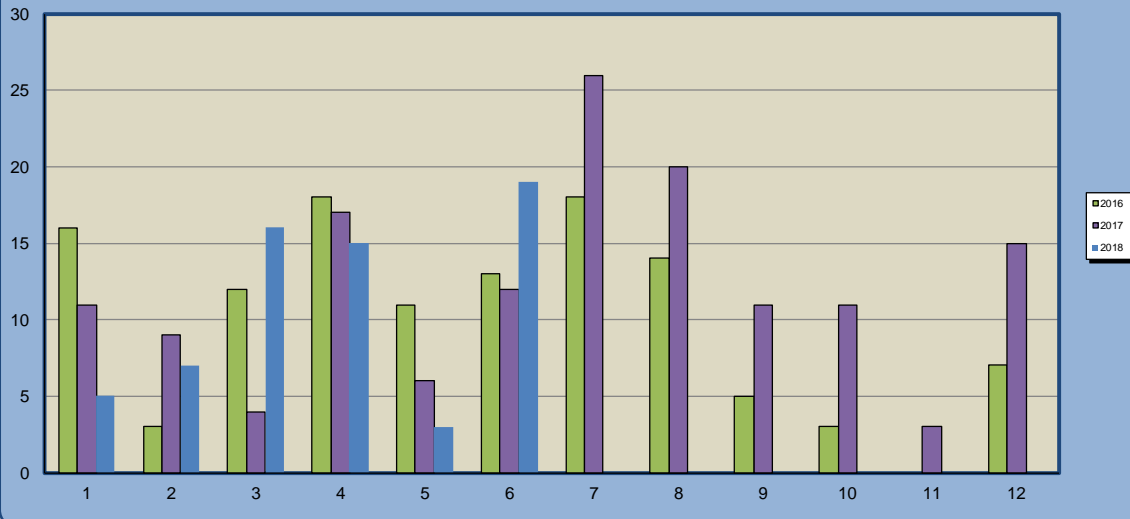
Hornbill Occupancy (nights per month)



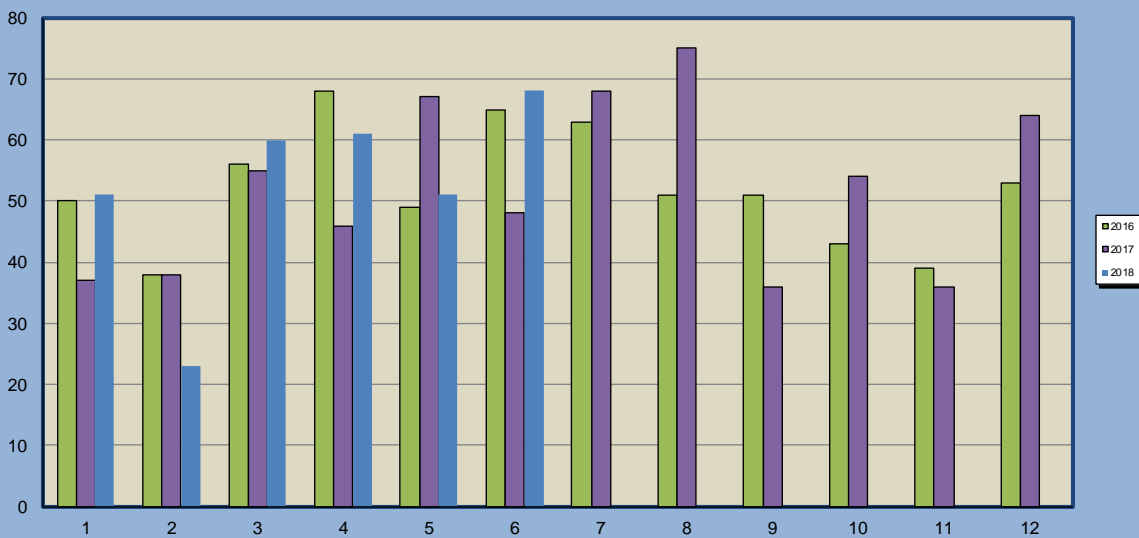
Francolin Occupancy (nights per month)



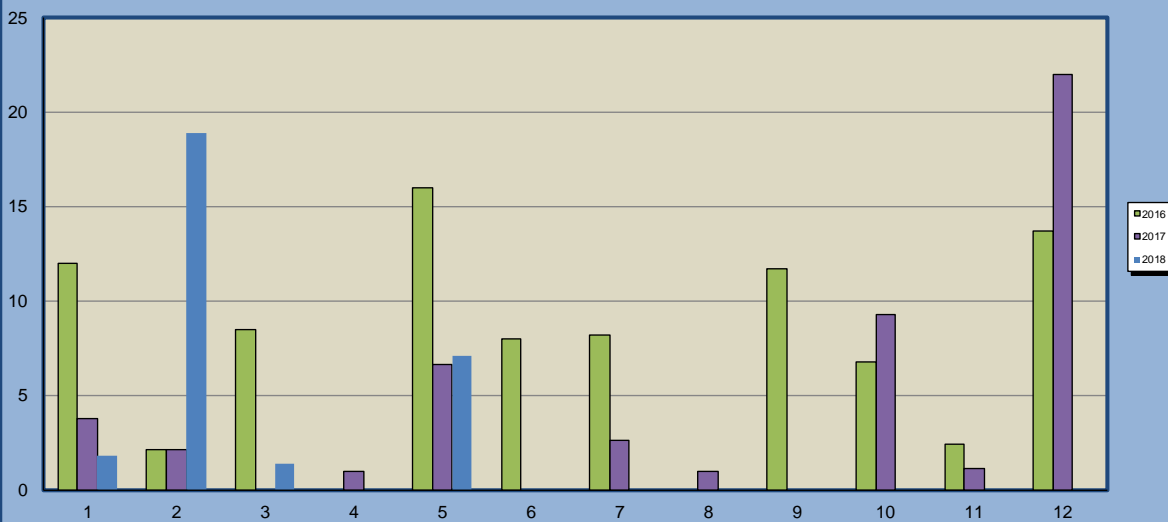
Guineafowl Occupancy (nights per month)



No. of job cards opened (per month)



Generator Hours (per month)



Ground Water Extraction m³
(combined boreholes per month)

