



RESERVE REPORT

July 2018

Introduction

With the numerous recorded sightings in recent months of Springhare on Buffelsbed, I thought it may be worth investigating these fascinating little creatures in more detail.

Description

The name itself is quite misleading, as it is not a true 'hare' as such, but rather falls under a species of its own namely *Pedetes*, which is closer to the Rodentia family than it is to the hares themselves. This is a recent classification development as it had in earlier times been grouped together with jumping rodents, squirrels, and porcupine. It is the only species in the *Pedetidae* family.

Initial appearances will have you scratching your heads and reaching for the mammal books for identification. It could quite easily be confused for a rabbit or small kangaroo with its long powerful legs, small ears and long tail.

SPRINGHARE



Their coats are a rusty colour throughout, the exception being the end of the tail, which is black. They will most times be found resting on their hind legs with their forelegs suspended underneath the head. The springhare has large well-developed hind legs which enables it to jump large distances when in flight. The long tail used for assisting with balance, the forelegs are equipped with sharp claws used for the digging for roots and other food sources, as well as utilised for the digging of burrows. The Springhare possesses a small flap of skin below the ear which closes off the inner ear while digging and offers protection from sand and soil.

Distribution

From Southern Democratic Republic of Congo (extreme Northern range) through to the Eastern Cape in South Africa, this incorporates all the countries in between, namely, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana to name a few.

Status

Although listed as 'least concern' there is very little data available regarding population numbers to substantiate the fact. They are considered a vital source of food and protein for many tribes of South Africa and Botswana in particular and are actively hunted. This includes the famous San tribes on the fringes of the Kalahari.

Habitat

A preference for soft sandy soils in which digging is easier for the construction of burrows to house young and security.

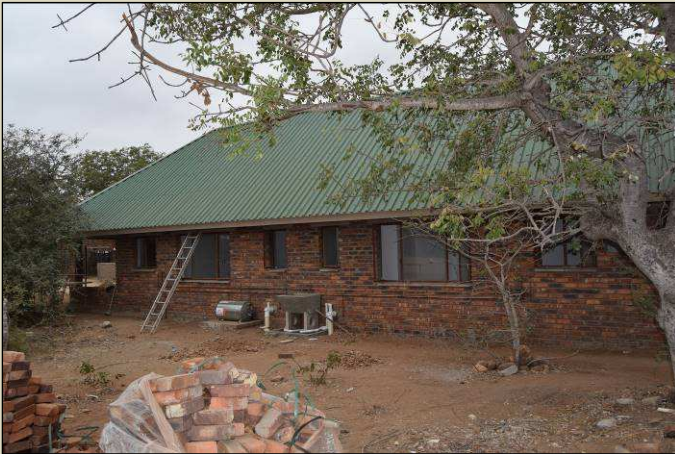
Interesting facts

- It is the only mammal to have a septum in the lower trachea. This is otherwise only found in birds.
- The springhare falls prey to a wide range of predators, including Jackal, Lion, snakes, mongoose, owls and eagles.
- Springhares are often referred to as “mini-kangaroos” as the distance obtained in a single jump can often surpass 3m
- The female springhare has a gestation period of approximately 78-82 days. One young is born. They are non-seasonal breeders and one female will give birth on average to three individual young per year.
- The young springhare is fully independent from about 7 weeks of age. Sexual maturity is reached at 1 year.
- A pair of Springhares will have a number of burrows with multiple entrance. When exiting the burrow, they will often take one large leap to the outside. This is thought to evade any predators that may be lying in wait.
- Springhares are mostly herbivorous but will feed on insects as well.
- During times of drought they have been known to forage up to 20km from the burrows.
- Water needs are obtained through dew, rain and moisture content obtained from plant material, they do not physically drink.
- They possess an advanced sense of sight, hearing and smell. Their large feet assist in detecting vibration.
- Life span in captivity is between 8 and 14 years, life span in the wild is unknown.

Facts researched on the Internet. Words by Chris Mayes.

Vuka Ingwe

Single Staff Quarters Accommodation



Progress on the Single Staff Quarters to date

Pool deck

Tshukudu Decking commenced work on the composite wooden deck installation around the swimming pool. The pictures below show the work progress. Completion date is anticipated to be mid-September. The sub frame is treated timber, and the deck is a composite material.



Save the Date

The next Members information sharing evening is scheduled for 23 August at the Bryanston Country Club for an 18H00 start.

The guest speaker is Dr Michelle Henley from Elephants Alive, (formerly Save The Elephants), who will talk about the long-standing elephant research carried out in the Greater Kruger, including all the facts gathered from monitoring the movements and behaviour of the collared elephants. A massive amount of research work has been done by Michelle and her team. The Elephants Alive research programmes cover many areas in Africa and information sharing is significant. The presentation will not disappoint so don't miss out!

Board Members will also provide feedback and updates on current projects and top priority work in progress amongst the various Board port folios. This extends beyond Ingwelala to the Umbabat and Greater Kruger. Please support the evening by attending.



Collared elephant on Ingwelala

Staff complement



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Staff Movement

Nil.

Staff profile



Delicious Mdhuli, also known as Dollar, joined the Ingwelala team in September 2016. Delicious assists Judy and Joyful in the Shop. Many of you may know that Delicious is the sister in law to the late Merriam Mlambo, who served Ingwelala loyally for many years, also in the Shop.

Delicious has two sons with her partner, Patrick Mlambo, who reside in the community of Justicia, close to the Sabi Sands. Their oldest son is Akani, aged 14 and in Grade 9, and the youngest son is Mpilo, aged 2, and are looked after by Delicious's mother when Delicious is at work. The late Mr Mdhuli, father of Delicious, worked in the Sabi Sands as a Field Guide. Delicious has two sisters and two brothers.

At school, Delicious passed Grade 12, her favourite subject was Agriculture, because it included a practical aspect to it. Post school, Delicious studied IT for two years at Mopani College in Phalaborwa, assisting her with point of sale in the Shop.

Delicious loves living in the natural environment of Ingwelala. Her favourite animal is a vervet monkey because of their mischievousness around human settlements. The Jackalberry tree is another favourite because the fruit/berries are great to eat.

In her past time, Delicious enjoys playing football and is a keen Kaiser Chiefs supporter. Other interests and hobbies include reading and knitting.

Bungalows for sale

Nil.

Long term weather forecast

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

“Seasonal Climate Watch

August to December 2018

Date issued: Jul 24, 2018

1. Overview

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is still in a neutral phase and is expected to rise towards an El Niño phase through the spring period. The likelihood of an El Niño event occurring is increasing as we move towards spring, when confidence in ENSO forecasts also starts increasing.

It is still too early to determine the potential impact of the predicted El Niño event; however, the typical effects are drier and warmer conditions for the summer rainfall areas during summer.

The forecasting system indicates confident forecasts for above-normal rainfall over the western coastal regions during early spring (Aug-Sep-Oct). Rainfall totals for these regions are however substantially lower than the mid-winter (Jun-Jul-Aug) seasons. There is some concern for the southern coastal regions as there has been below-normal forecasts with confidence since last month for spring (Sep-Oct-Nov). This area usually still receives significant rainfall during spring and has also been affected by a drought the past few years.

Late spring (Oct-Nov-Dec) forecasts show confident forecasts for above-normal rainfall over the eastern coastal areas, which is also supported by the forecast for an increased number of rainfall days in the area.

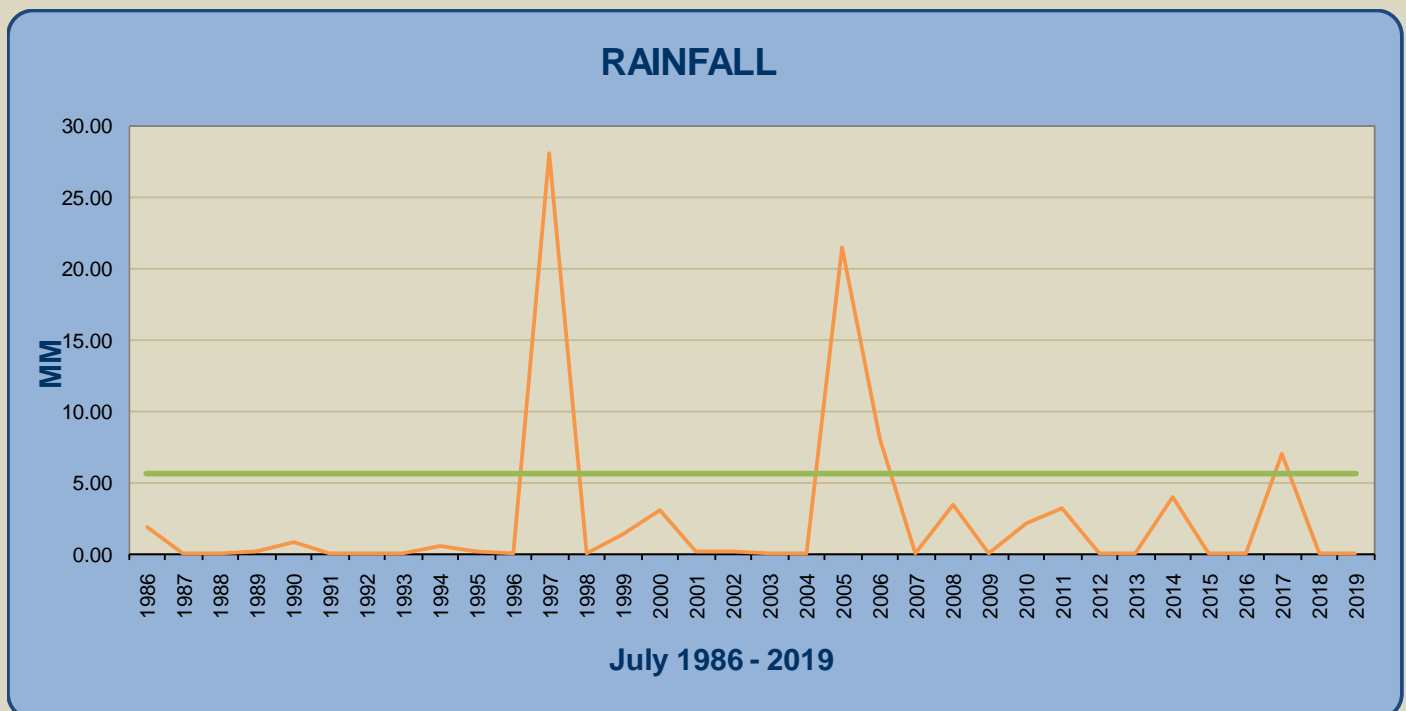
Overall higher temperatures are still expected moving towards the spring period. There is a particularly confident forecast for above-normal temperatures over the northern parts of the country.

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.”

Climate and rainfall (summary for Ingwelala)

Rainfall: Nil.
Minimum temperature: 6 degrees Celsius.
Maximum temperature: 30 degrees Celsius.

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



(Note: July 2018: Nil rainfall is below the monthly average of 5.6mm)

Conservation

Alien plant eradication

Various individual stands of prickly pear (*Opuntia spp.*) were treated during the reporting period in the following areas:

Elephant Pan Hide – 5 plants
Bird Hide Road – 1 plant
Argyle Lookout – 1 plant
Fence Road – 2 plants
Camp Area – 2 plants

Monitoring on follow up treatment on previously treated plants has shown a 100% success rate.

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

Veld Rehabilitation

The initial follow up treatment on the Grewia and Mopane coppice on the trail site adjacent to Eastern River Road was completed in late July. The trail site will continue to be monitored for any further signs of coppice during the upcoming growth season.

Erosion Control

Nil.

Roads and Tracks

Repairs were done to the exit on the western side of Farmhouse Crossing.

All river crossings on Buffelsbed dragged with heavy tyre.

Trees pulled by elephants onto the roads is ongoing and cleared.

Maintenance work was carried out on the following roads:

Camp roads mitre drains as and where necessary.

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

This month the fence was breached on 23 separate occasions. Fence repairs are ongoing. It is clear there are two bulls responsible for most of these incursions into the camp area. This excludes our "resident" elephant.

The challenges with the elephants in camp continues and has escalated during the month of July. Daily there are incidents of broken waterlines, stripped vegetation and large trees uprooted or trunks snapped. The conservation team has worked endlessly on fence repairs as well as trying to chase the elephants out of Camp. 80% of total available man power time is spent on elephant management.

Hides, Bomas & Picnic Sites

Repairs were completed on the damage to the Elephant Pan Hide walkway.

Game & Bird Sightings

Through the previous month there were numerous contributions in the Reception sightings register. This is always pleasing to read through, so a big thank you to everyone taking the trouble to list what you see. There were numerous lion and leopard sightings, both species seen with young cubs in tow. At Old Farmhouse two leopards were seen together on three different occasions, interacting at the natural water point in the Nhlalumi River. Breeding herds of elephant were surprisingly numerous at mid-year when traditionally these herds range far and wide along the riparian areas. It could be an influence from the late April rains that kept the trees in leaf much later than usual. Buffalo remain

scarce, the drought having taken serious toll on their numbers. Grass cover is sparse, and it is unlikely the larger herds will return before we receive good meaningful rainfall that produces a healthy grass sward.

There were several sightings of wild dogs on all four properties, including 16 pups which is simply awesome to see!

An aardvark was spotted between Zebra Pan and Deadwood Pan.

General game sightings included waterbuck, giraffe, zebra, impala, nyala, kudu, grey duiker, steenbok, klipspringer, Sharpe's grysbok, baboon, monkey, serval, side-striped jackal, African wild cat, honey badger, genet, grey mongoose, porcupine, spring hare and hippo.

Bird sightings noted were Fish Eagle, African Hawk Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle- Owl, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Southern White-faced Owlet, African Barred Owlet, White-headed Vulture, Cape Vulture, White-backed Vultures, Lappet-faced Vultures, Brown-headed Parrot, Kori Bustard, Woolly-necked Stork, Black Stork, Saddle-billed Stork, Red billed Firefinch, Striped Kingfisher, Wire-tailed Swallow, Lesser striped Swallow, Yellow-bellied Eromomela and Yellow-bellied Greenbul.

Security

On Saturday 28th July reports were received of an incursion of poachers from the south into the Umbabat, these tracks were later identified moving back into KNP from the Timbavati cutline.

No incidents on Ingwelala during the reporting period.

Road Kills

1 x Scrub hare

General Fire Risk Management

The firebreaks around the Members bungalows, staff housing, office complex, all hides and bomas were completed mid-July.

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

Nil.

Water reticulation

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

BOREHOLE	JULY 18	JUN 18	MAY 18	APR 18	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17
BH NO 1	0	0	1	1	1	0	189	149	0	150	277	428	0
BH NO 2	901	1063	1506	1133	1103	877	1247	1603	1274	992	1082	959	1113
BH NO 3	716	633	1420	654	654	627	500	425	682	534	653	531	1176
BH NO 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	768	0	0	0	78
BH NO 5	413	401	1040	487	523	468	506	534	517	293	159	151	158
BH NO 6	429	410	788	347	347	234	481	565	1055	1218	1082	1018	769
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	0	58	350	1282
GOEDEHOOP	633	850	1372	1017	1317	721	842	1297	774	1119	480	664	290

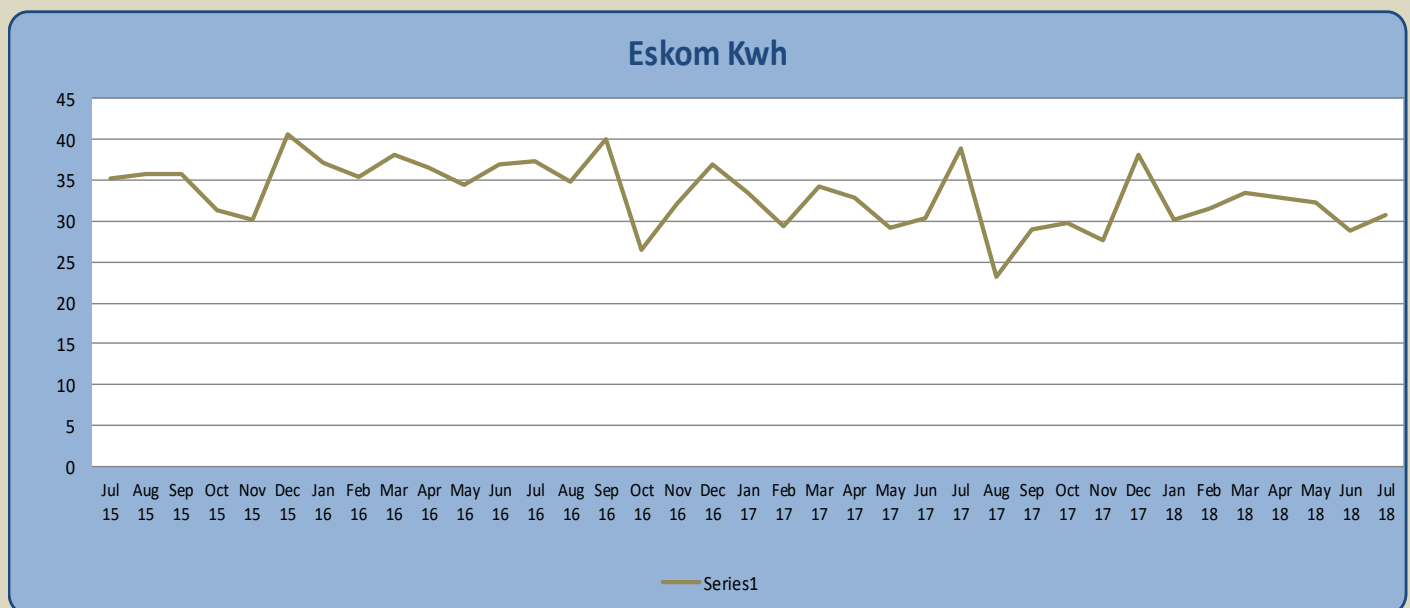
Vehicles and Workshop

WORKSHOP	JULY 18	JUN 18	MAY 18	APR 18	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17
JOB CARDS OPENED	62	68	51	61	60	23	51	64	36	54	36	75
JOB CARDS CLOSED	36	89	72	49	46	23	49	66	37	50	38	54
GENERATOR HOURS	17	0	7.1	0	1.4	18.9	1.8	22	1.1	9.3	0	1
DIESEL TANK (L)	750	900	900	970	970	990	530	80	345	380	430	430

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
44	Cecil Bodenstein	New patio & gazebo and internal changes	June 2017	Owner Builder	90%
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	25%
106	Georg Schwaeble	Rethatch & gazebo changes	June 2018	Dukes Construction	20%
143	Kevin Shaw	Re-thatch, internal changes & patio changes. New solar.	May 2018	Dukes Construction	70%

Reception Statistics

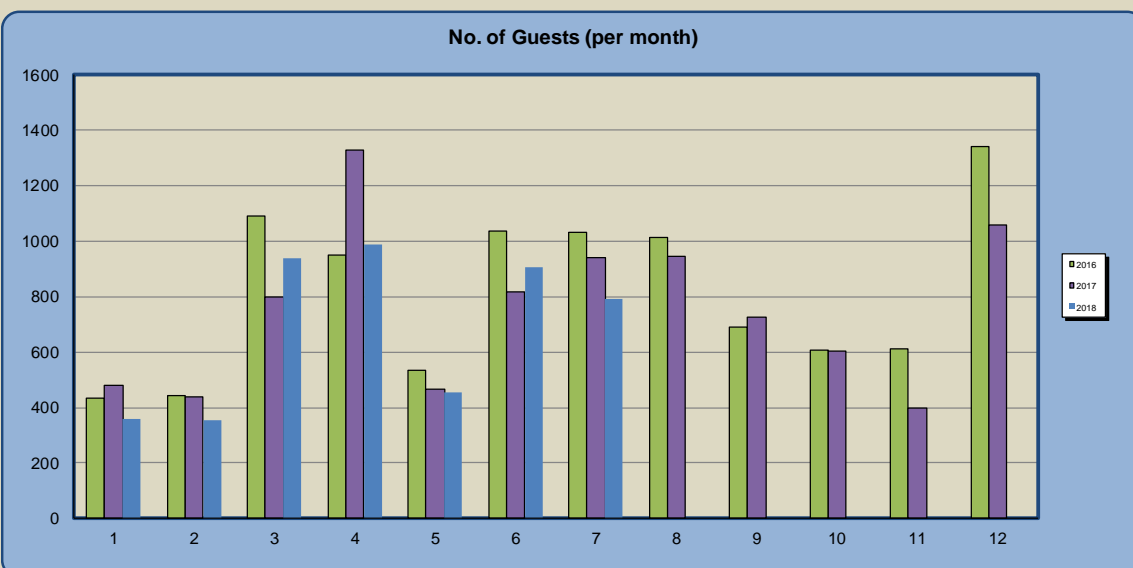
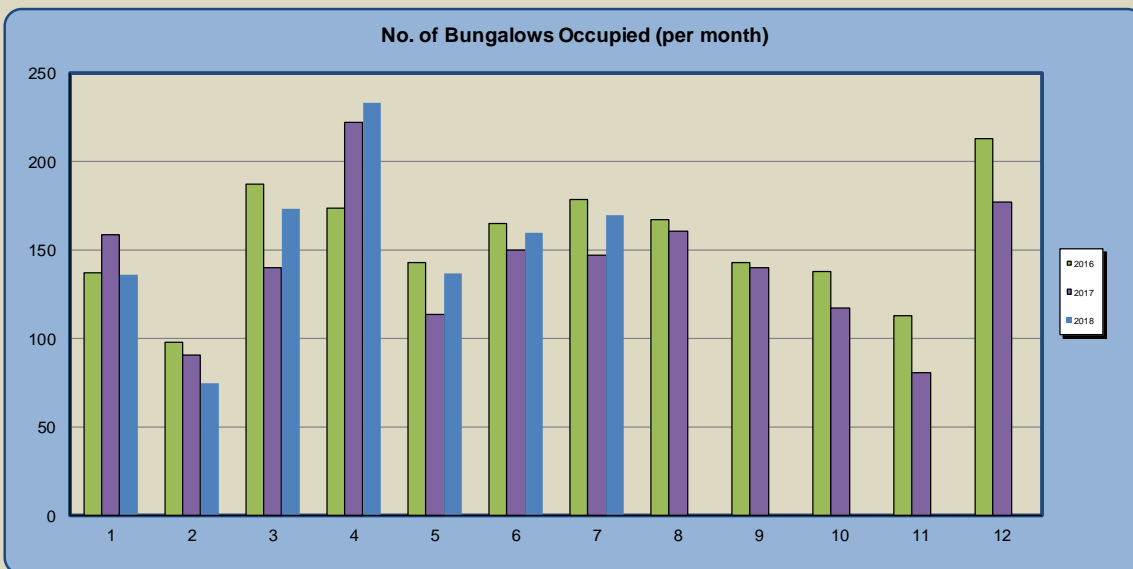
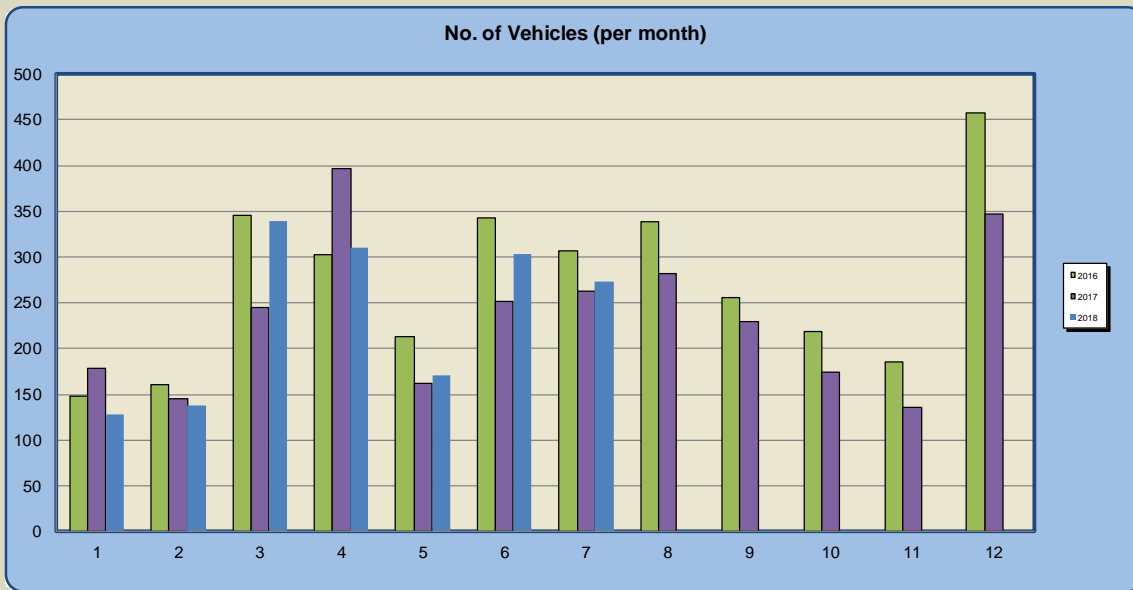
GATE STATISTICS	JULY 18	JUN 18	MAY 18	APR 18	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17
VEHICLES	273	304	171	311	340	138	128	347	135	174	230	282
MEMBERS GUESTS	793	907	453	988	956	356	357	1060	399	601	727	945
UNACCOMP GUESTS	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	7	2	9	7	4
UNITS OCCUPIED	170	160	135	233	173	75	136	177	81	117	140	161
AIRBORNE VISITORS	5	3	8	4	3	3	9	1	6	9	4	5

COTTAGE NIGHTS	JULY 18	JUN 18	MAY 18	APR 18	MAR 18	FEB 18	JAN 18	DEC 17	NOV 17	OCT 17	SEP 17	AUG 17	JUL 17
HORNBILL	13	21	5	22	17	5	15	27	15	15	19	18	24
FRANCOLIN	14	26	3	15	12	4	10	18	7	12	12	11	26
GUINEAFOWL	21	19	3	15	16	7	5	15	3	11	11	20	26

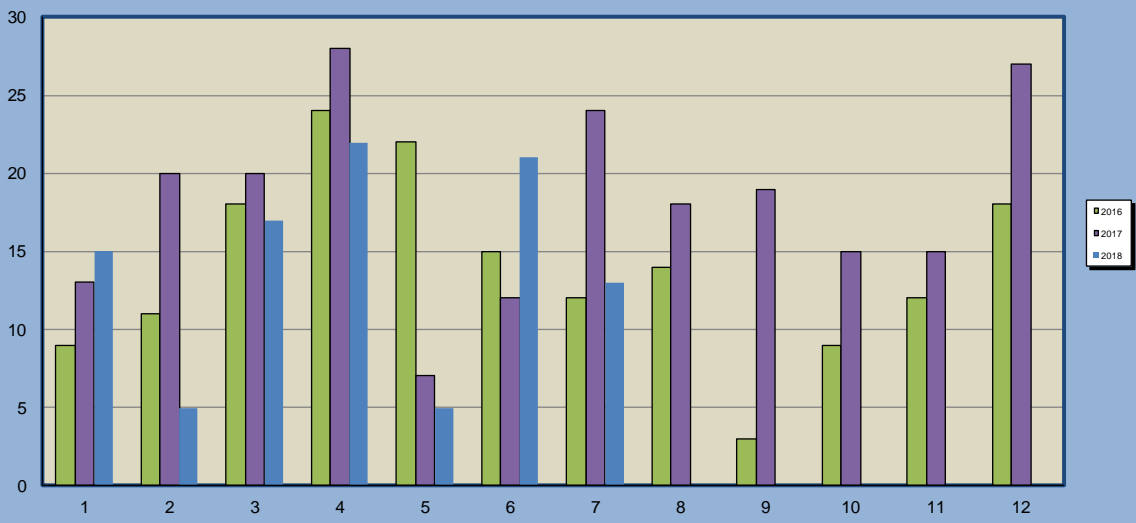
Thank you for your continued support.

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

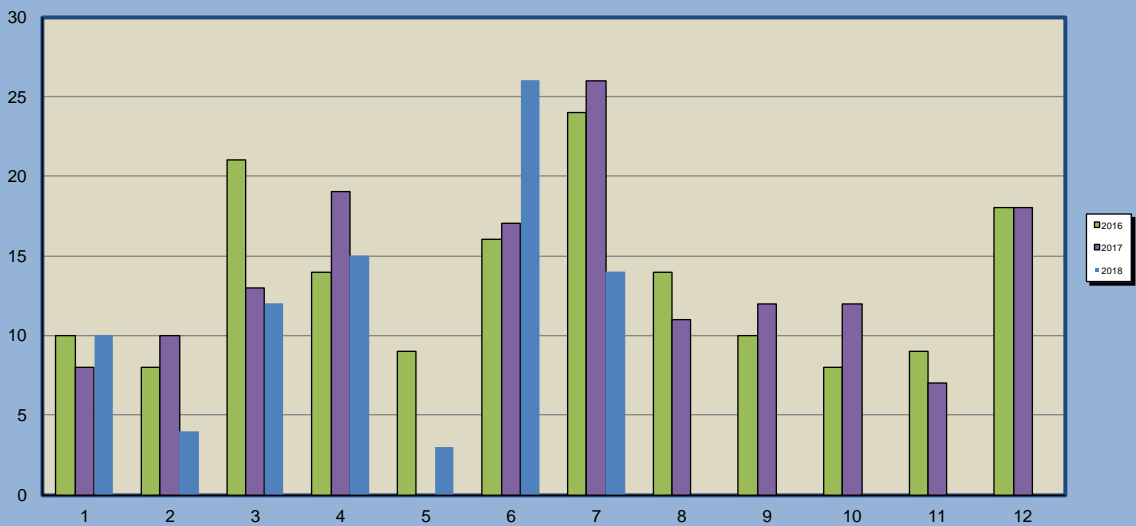
Annexure 1: Graphs



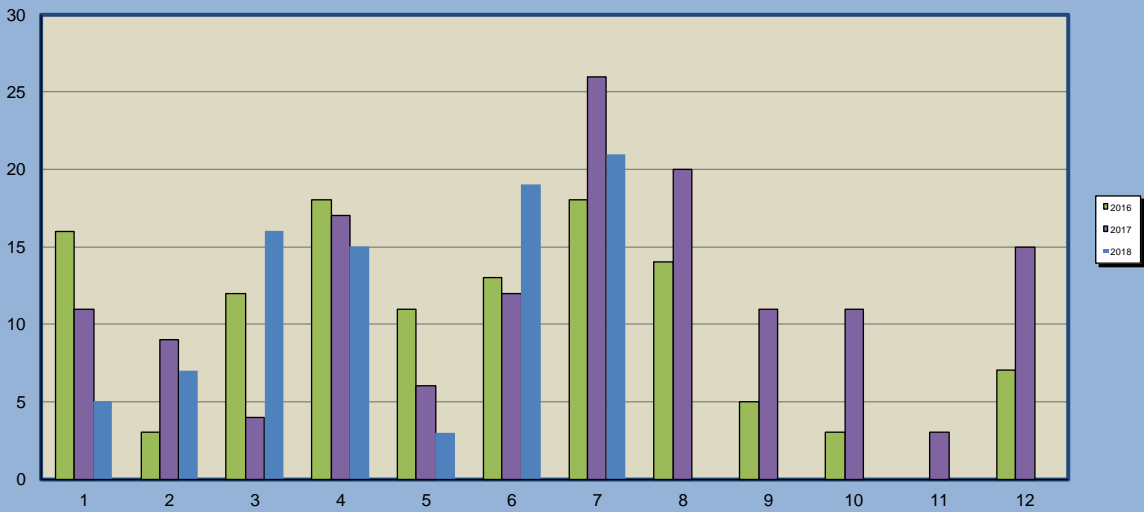
Hornbill Occupancy (nights per month)



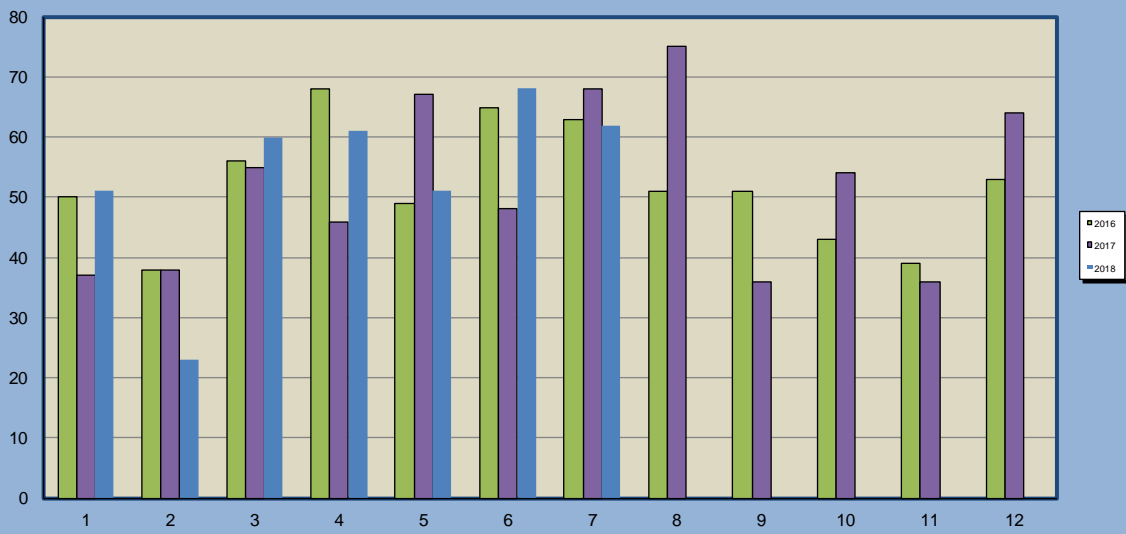
Francolin Occupancy (nights per month)



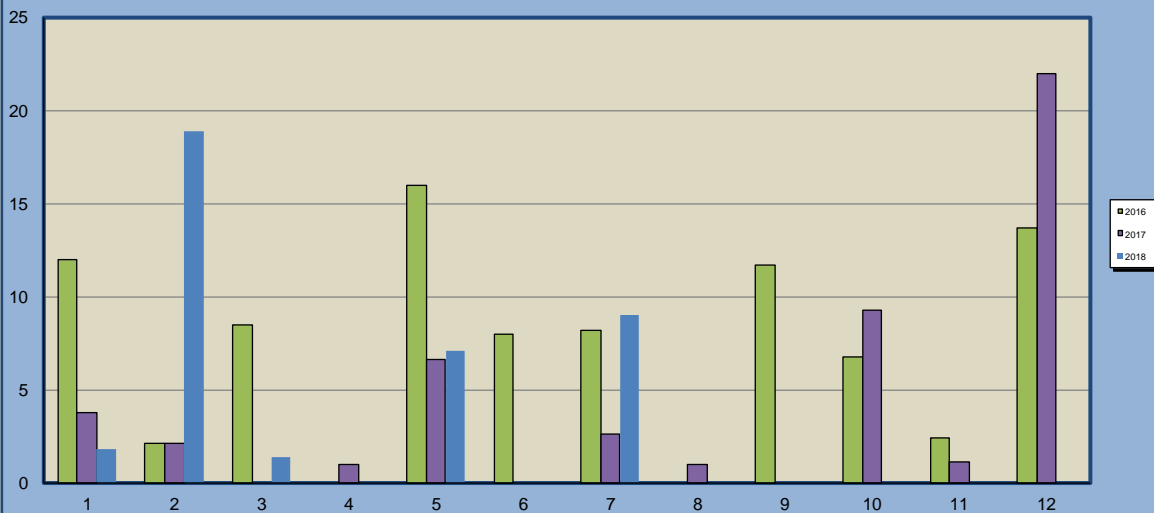
Guineafowl Occupancy (nights per month)



No. of job cards opened (per month)



Generator Hours (per month)



Ground Water Extraction m³ (combined boreholes per month)

