

GREATER KRUGER PROJECTS

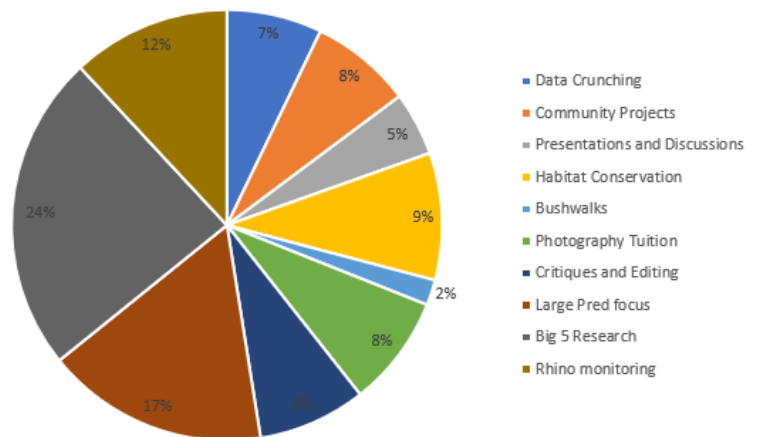
JANUARY – MARCH 2019



51 VOLUNTEERS
15 NATIONALITIES
5008 HOURS VOLUNTEERED



HOURS SPENT VOLUNTEERING ON EACH ACTIVITY



AVG TEMP:



HIGH: 28 °C

LANGUAGE LESSON:

“SEEKOEI”

“Hippo” in Afrikaans

WHAT'S NEW ON THE GROUND?

1. We commenced the construction of our tented camp site with the grand opening planned for May. We are very excited to welcome even more volunteers to our family, living and experiencing African Impact in one of our 7 majestic tents.
2. Nici Baumann has joined our family as Operations Manager. She is very organized and a little bit nuts – the perfect combination.

BIG 5 RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- This quarter provided epic ‘Big Five’ encounters! Our very own local female leopard (who lives on our land) has been spotted moving into her mother’s territory. Seeing her on our camera traps and having two encounters with her has ensured us that she is here to stay and remains healthy.
- During our overnight stays, we have seen many elephants including multiple breeding herds and lone bulls roaming around the tents.
- It is always a pleasure to see rhinos in the reserve. We spotted a mum and her calf in one of the nearby reserves – healthy and happy!
- It’s been buffalo-galore this quarter, ranging from lone males to large herds. With their seemingly relaxed nature, it’s easy to forget that these animals are equally as deserving of their spot on the ‘Big Five’.
- We encountered a pride of nine lions, showing their strength and majestic nature patrolling their perimeter of their territory.

PREDATOR RESEARCH PROJECT - FINDINGS

The trends from our collected data show that female leopards hold down smaller territories than males who seem to be more transient. Because of this territorial behavior it is much easier for our team to get to know the female individuals than the males. FBL1, which stands for Female Buffalo Land Leopard 1, was the first dominant female that African Impact started to collect data on when we first arrived in the greater Kruger in 2015. Though she was often the star of the show, we have seen many leopards come and go as this intriguing drama has unfolded over the course of several years. FBL1 one had at least two cubs during the course of our research, however they seemed to have moved off away from their mother's territory. In the meantime a new female (FBL3) had entered the territory and FBL1 was pushed out. FBL3 was very distinguishable due to her scarred face and pointy ears. She soon had cubs of her own and it was around that time that we stopped seeing FBL1, likely being pushed out of her territory. Death is also a probable outcome for any wild animal but we cannot be completely certain. Shortly after FBL1 disappearance, FBL3 seemed to drop off the radar. Her fate too remains uncertain. However, we are now regularly seeing her daughter (FBL7) who has reached the age of independence. She has either inherited or pushed her mother out of the territory. FBL7 has become the new favorite around the lodge as she often pops up on our camera traps and is getting used to us watch her from the game viewers, including on our own property at Dumela!



COMMUNITY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- In order to ensure each child is given the attention and reading material appropriate for their skills at Reading Club we conducted an assessment, ranking each child into different reading levels. Quite a task when you have over 60 curious souls eager to start reading.
- With 111 books read this quarter alone, we are excitedly looking forward to this coming year, confident that these children will grow and progress in their reading skills and understanding of the English language. One that is so paramount for a brighter future, enabling each and every one of them to follow their dreams.
- Not only did we finish the renovation of our Farmers of the Future classroom, thanks to the committed and hardworking enthusiasm of our volunteers, who weren't afraid of dirt, dust, heavy lifting and even heavier cleaning. The class room now is ready to be used for our farmers. A space where they can interact, exchange knowledge and learn all important business and soft skills.
- Another one of our greatest highlights this quarter was the installation of a brand new water irrigation system. Finally our farmers won't have to use buckets to collect water for their precious vegetables. What a big achievement, easing up time for Taelo, one of our rising farmers, to create and make his own pesticide



PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

- In March we launched our newly updated two-week project, aimed at further developing semi-professional photographers with a focus purely on nature photography.
- The two weeks were action packed, totaling over 100 hours in the field and seeing 6 of the magnificent seven (just missing that sneaky cheetah!) But more importantly it put the photographers in a new direction to continue their photography.
- During our activities at Reading Club in the community, the photographers used their skills and creativity to take new school portraits of the individual children, as well as group class photos.
- This is a big deal for those children, who would never normally get a school photo and is something they can take home for their families.
- Over this quarter we've counted exactly how many photos have been taken. Across 275 hours in the field and 19 photographers, the number amasses to 95,434.
- That's over 402GB worth of storage and equaled 81 hours spent in project work to meet submission deadlines.



"Where to start! This is an entirely different way of traveling and I couldn't recommend it enough. I have been thrilled to be part of the research and conversation project and see the amazing work African Impact does. You end up making a little family at Dumela, the staff and the other volunteers help to make it what it is. It's impossible not to have an amazing time out here in the African bush, with the awesome African wildlife and the beautiful people you meet along the way. It's the best feeling knowing you've helped make a difference. I've made memories that will last a life time.

Clarissa Price, 23, United Kingdom

Until next time... THE KRUGER TEAM

