



Welcome to Siyafunda Research Camp!

We are looking forward to having you join our Field Ranger team soon. This guide contains some helpful material containing camp details, research aims, history of the area and safety protocols and information.

Siyafunda is Zulu for 'we are learning' and this is what we anticipate you will do whilst you are here – learn all about the African bush and the importance of conservation. Hopefully you will find this guide helpful but if you have any questions left unanswered please feel free to ask a member of staff!

We hope you enjoy your time with us! Kind regards, The Siyafunda Team



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What is a Field Ranger?



"In Africa, the Game Ranger goes by many different titles - Field Ranger, Game Warden, Conservation Officer, and many more, yet all are essentially the wildlife managers and the field force in Africa, working at the "coal face" of conservation. In Africa the prime responsibility of the Game Ranger is to ensure the territorial and biological integrity of the conservation area under his/her management. Their tasks are multi-faceted and include; ensuring the day to day health and well-being of the wildlife, research and monitoring, game capture and introductions, population management, burning programs, infrastructure and equipment maintenance, public relations, environmental

education, and, crucially, local community relations, liaison and involvement. Added to these are the normal day to day financial controls, human resource planning and administration, which must also be carried out." - GAME RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA, <https://www.gameranger.org/>

When you join our Field Ranger Experience at Siyafunda you are joining us at the "coal face" on Makalali Nature Reserve, helping meet all the challenges we face daily managing our reserve and the animals that call it home, while helping us meet the financial burden that comes with keeping them all safe.

Makalali History

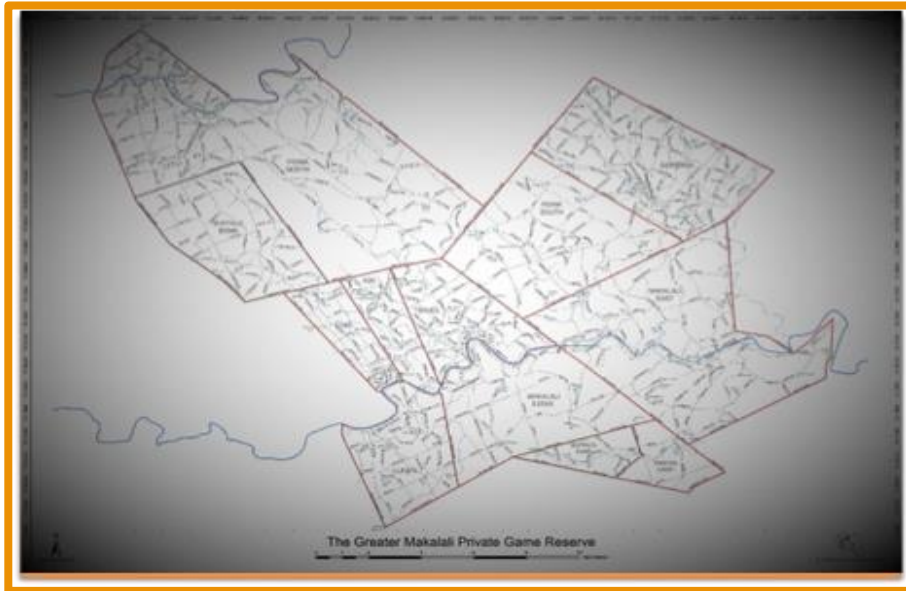
The Greater Makalali Private Game Reserve is situated in an area rich with a history of mining and cattle farming. The area was surveyed by the Royal Geographical Society on behalf of The Harmony Mining Company in 1893 when gold was discovered.

At this point, permanent agricultural activities were prevented due to the presence of Tsetse flies and Malaria, so it was mainly used in the winter months when risks were low. In the late 1940s, DDT was sprayed all over the area to control mosquitoes and the land was handed over to soldiers returning from World War II.

The area was then predominantly used for cattle farming, but there was also an influx of mining for mica and feldspar from 1950 to 1980, resulting in 27 abandoned mines on the reserve.

In the early 1990s the first Makalali properties were purchased. The cattle were removed and work started on erosion control and bush clearing initiatives in order to return the land to what it once was. Additional

properties joined the conservancy until 2004, when it became the 25,000-hectare reserve we know today.



Our project offers you a unique experience in the African bush and gives you the opportunity to observe and be a part of the research and monitoring teams on the reserve.

The focus of the project revolves around some of our key species; elephants, lions, hyenas and leopards as well as endangered species like cheetah, black rhino and wild dogs. Habitat work also plays an important part of the monitoring process.

The Greater Makalali Reserve is a vast Big 5 nature reserve covering an area of 25000 hectares. Situated in the Lowveld area, the home of nature conservation in South Africa, your work is vital for accurate management of the animals within the reserve. The data collected is also made available to students and researchers that we host, as well as several national conservation projects, including the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT).

Whether on a monitoring drive, on foot, or observing the wildlife at a waterhole, all your work will be done under the guidance of our qualified rangers. As each activity has a pre-determined objective, you don't just get to view the animals, you get to live with them for a little while. There's nothing quite like sitting in the dark next to a lazing lion waiting for it to start its nightly call or being surrounded by a herd of elephants and being able to spend time observing their individual traits and family dynamics.

At the end of the day, you return to the camp to share your experiences over dinner around the open fire and then fall asleep to the sounds of the bush. Join us for the experience of a lifetime!

In 2014, the reserve was officially classified as a Nature Reserve. This means that the land is protected as a conservation area, securing a safe haven for the wildlife for all future generations. Another landmark for 2015 is the reintroduction of black rhino, the first to roam this land in decades.

Siyafunda History

Siyafunda was founded on Makalali in 2004 in order to help the reserve with monitoring the elephants as part of the contraception program. It started as a partnership between the Rogers, Jobs and Kettles and also involved the purchase of the Harmony 26 property and its inclusion in the reserve. The initiative also evolved to include the monitoring of all Big 5 animals as well as other predators.



In 2005 the Bush Camp was established on Harmony 26, providing volunteers with the opportunity to really experience life in the bush, learning important survival skills while also assisting with the monitoring process.

In 2009, the partnership ended and the Jobs took sole control of the Siyafunda operation.

In late 2014, due to the change in monitoring requirements on Makalali, Bush Camp was changed to the Endangered Species Project. It became a full research camp, providing dedicated monitoring requirements for rhino, cheetah and ground hornbill.

Siyafunda Aims

Siyafunda is a conservation initiative committed to the conservation of habitats, cultures and wildlife. Our main objectives are as follows:



- - Give volunteers an opportunity to learn about and experience the African bush whilst making a personal contribution.
- - Provide up to date and valid data for management, students and researchers.
- - Develop a conservation business, where land can be bought and kept under conservation, without having to over develop the land.
- - To provide employment opportunities and give assistance to community projects in the region.

At Siyafunda the conservation initiative is separated into two key components:

Monitoring:

Data collection for long term analysis pertaining to animal movement patterns, reproductive behaviour, grouping/association patterns and predator/prey interaction of all big game daily.

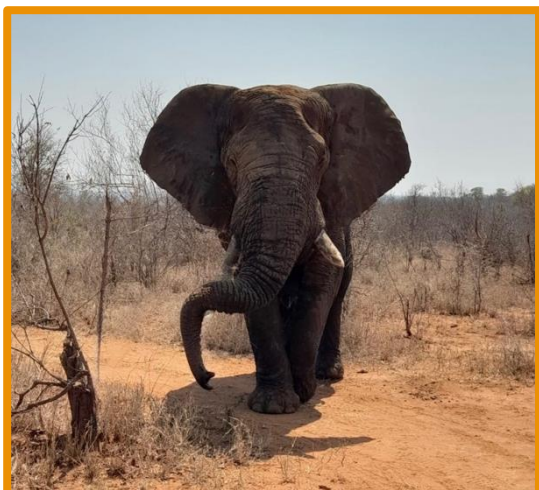
Research:

The analysis of data collected during monitoring episodes over the long term to assist in the decision-making processes and challenged associated with management of enclosed game reserves.

With the data that volunteers help to collect we hope to create a management model which can be applied to other conservation areas, in order to prove there is indeed a future for long term private conservation development. Because of fragmented habitats, small reserves and conservancies retain a central role in the conservation of animal and plant populations, particularly through metapopulation management.

Monitoring at Siyafunda

Elephant Monitoring



Makalali introduced elephants in 1994 and 1996 and was the first reserve to have intact family groups relocated to it. The reserve was also the first to take part in the Elephant Contraception Program, headed by Audrey Delsink, to regulate its total elephant population. Makalali understands the importance of alternative population controls other than culling and translocation.

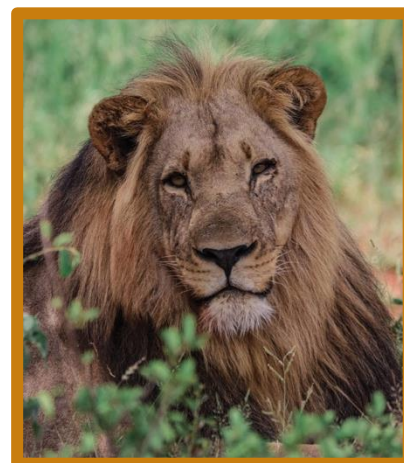
The program started in 2000 and is the longest running of its kind; it is the benchmark on which all other similar projects are based. This is a pioneering study and it is important that we continue to monitor the elephant herds as Makalali has the most extensive and longest continuing database of elephants on contraception in the world.

Our monitoring of the elephants involves recording their movements to determine daily and seasonal ranging patterns. We also observe and record long term behavioural aspects, focusing primarily on herd/bull associations and sexual behaviours. Elephants are a key-stone species and require constant information collection for effective management decision making.

Lion Monitoring

The monitoring of our lion population is done to assess their movements, behaviour and predator-prey interactions. Lions, like elephants, are key-stone species and, within restricted wild environments, require constant monitoring to assist with management interventions when required.

Interventions are done to vary genetic diversity within the population and to control population size. Makalali has participated with various population control methods and research. Contraception of lions has been used and studied within this reserve. Lions are prolific breeders and between 1995 and 2007, 89 lions were born at Makalali. Numbers however need to be kept between 20 and 30.



Buffalo Monitoring



We have had our buffalo in a 400-hectare breeding camp since 2009. We started with 8 individuals and the population has grown to 53 by 2019. Those 53 individuals were June 2019 once we had completed all the testing for bovine diseases. Once they were released a new breeding herd was brought into the boma and after monitoring and testing was done again we released this herd June of 2023. Another 70+ buffalo were released in October 2023. We are now standing with +150 free roaming buffalo on the reserve. This is the first time in over 100 years that buffalo are free roaming in this area.



Hyena Monitoring

Makalali reserve is host to both species of Hyena; brown and spotted, they are a very important species for the effective functioning of this eco-system. They provide the cleaning up of carcasses, as well as spotted hyena being effective hunters. We monitor den sites, movement and behaviour. We also monitor the ratio of scavenging to hunting and how these impacts on the prey species.

The brown hyena is very rare and sightings of them are met with great excitement.

Habitat Conservation

Alien Vegetation Control: Under the guidance of Working for Water (WFW), volunteers will assist with identifying and monitoring stands of alien and invasive vegetation within the river and across the reserve. Volunteers will participate in the mechanical removal and chemical control of these species as well as the follow-up monitoring of problem areas. This is an important project as alien invasive plants can encroach on areas and prevent other indigenous plants from growing, as well as using up large amounts of moisture from the soil. This has a detrimental effect on your ecosystem and therefore requires constant monitoring and removal.



Habitat Rehabilitation: Volunteers will have the opportunity to assist in ongoing habitat rehabilitation initiatives in the reserve, including erosion control, the construction of rock gabions, brush-packing and re-seeding.



Rhino Monitoring

With the ever-present threat from poaching, close monitoring of these animals is crucial for the future of the species. The rhinos are monitored to ascertain their movement around the reserve and interaction with each other.

This forms part of the anti-poaching measures in place, working closely with reserve management and anti-poaching teams on the reserve to ensure 100% sighting and safeguarding of our rhino. Our Siyafunda projects

also work closely with The Rhino Protection Trust www.rhinoprotectiontrust.com to raise awareness and funds to support our efforts to save these magnificent but vulnerable animals.

Leopard Monitoring

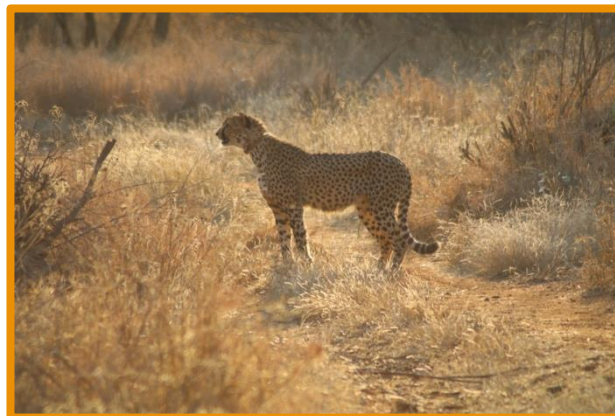


We closely monitor the locations of leopards to determine territory extent as well as creating and updating ID kits to monitor individuals and determine total population size. As with all predators, we also monitor prey selection and reproductive behaviour to effectively assist the reserve management.

In 2014, Siyafunda teamed up with the Panthera Leopard Research Project, who are monitoring and determining the leopard population in the area. We are now also teaming up with Ingwe research who are planning on working in conjunction with Panthera to share and exchange data therefor allowing us to achieve more in depth, accurate and up to date Data. You will assist with the setting and monitoring of camera traps during the key months of November to December.

Cheetah Monitoring

As cheetah are one of Africa's most endangered large predators, the entire population is monitored on the reserve. By monitoring the cheetah, we can observe their utilisation of the area, prey selection and reproductive behaviour. By combining this with data collected on other predators we can track the effects on distribution patterns of the cheetah by the presence of lions, hyena and leopards. With dedicated, long term monitoring we can be sure to effectively understand their lives and better protect them for future generations. Makalali is in the middle of processing a plan to start a breeding program with Khinga (A male cheetah born on Makalali). These cubs will be released onto soft reserves when they are of age. Breeding programs are important to keep this species alive as there genetic pool has become quite small.



Wild-dog Monitoring

Makalali currently has a small pack of 3 wild dogs , all three have been fitted with tracking collars and Siyafunda is tasked with monitoring them. It is a very exciting development as it is the second most endangered predator in Africa. We also have packs of wild dogs that travel in and out of Makalali from neighbouring reserves



Game Drives & Walks

Game drives are a great way of covering distance within the reserve to see the larger African wildlife, observing their behaviour, movements and habits along the way. After dark, they also enable the possibility of sighting the nocturnal animals such as African civet, black-backed jackal, large spotted genet, porcupine and armadillo to name but a few.

Monitoring walks also allow you to walk, quite literally, in the footsteps of the animals you are tracking. You will learn how to identify the tracks of the animals you are monitoring, as well as any others they may have been following, or following them! By determining age and direction of the tracks you will be able to help determine territory and, with any luck, current location.



Camp Information Siyafunda Main Camp



Your home during your stay will be the Siyafunda Main Camp, in the heart of the reserve with all the wildlife on your doorstep, quite literally! There are twin share rooms with shared bathrooms and all meals are prepared by the group. In the evenings, while sitting around the open fire, you can listen to the nightly calls of the lions and sounds of the bush while doing some star gazing and sharing stories of your day. The Siyafunda Main Camp

has electricity and hot running water (solar panels: on overcast days it can sometimes run out)

Internet / WIFI at the base: R100 per week is charged to connect using your own computer, smartphone or tablet

Reasonable cell reception at camp. You can easily buy a south-African SIM card (MTN is best) at the airport or in Hoedspruit.

Comfortable lounge area: library with books and magazines, TV, DVD and VCR players, Swimming Pool, volleyball, Braai / BBQ area



Siyafunda Endangered Species Camp



Your home during your stay will be in our eco-friendly tented camp set amongst the trees which overlooks a water course. There are large, comfortable twin share tents set on raised platforms, ensuring each has its own unique view of the African bush!

There are shared ablution facilities with flushing toilets and bush showers. All meals are cooked by the group. Your evenings will be spent hearing tales from your experienced ranger, listening to the sounds of the bush, before you fall asleep under the African sky.



Camp Safety

- Camp boundary is the long grass. No one is to walk past this point without a ranger.
- Do not run. You can't outrun anything here. If you encounter an animal walk slowly back into the room you just came out of if you are near one. If not stand your ground, wave your arms to make yourself look bigger and shout!
- Snakes, scorpions or spiders are not to be handled under any circumstances. If found please calmly leave the room, shut the door and find a ranger immediately.
- At night when walking back to your rooms use a flashlight to shine around the area. If you see eye shine of something you cannot identify go back into the room you just came from and call for a staff member.
- No smoking allowed in any building. All smoking to be done outside and cigarette butts placed in the outside bin near the kitchen table.
- No open flames are to be left unattended. If you are the last one by the fire at night please extinguish it using the yellow watering can next to the braai place. Fire beaters can be found hanging on the wall near the kitchen.
- First aid kits and first aid information can be found in the kitchen above the private fridge, in the office or in any vehicle.

Water

- Perfectly safe to drink from any tap in the camp – it is pumped from our own bore hole.
- Only toilet paper can be flushed down the toilet – there are bins for all other waste.
- Hot water is provided by solar panels; be considerate of other volunteers when showering, especially on a cloudy day!
- Laundry facilities are available next to the kitchen. Please do not run both machines at the same time as this causes flooding.

Kitchen

- Please keep doors closed at all times to keep monkeys, baboons and other wildlife out.
- Breakfast is help yourself; cereals, rusks, fruit, yoghurt, toast, butter and jams available.
- Lunch and dinner is operated from a set menu, the cooking rota can be found on the fridge. - Food is restocked once a week on Monday; once it's gone it's gone!
- The private fridge is available to keep personal food and drinks in – please put your name on anything that belongs to you and don't take what's not yours! Please do not leave food in your rooms; food attracts mice and mice attract snakes!

Rhino and Elephant Poaching

- Please do not post any photos of rhino or big tusked elephants on social media. Poaching is a big problem in South Africa; we don't want to promote the animals we have. Please turn geotagging off if it's a setting on your camera.

Siyafunda support the Rhino Protection Trust whose mission is to combat rhino poaching within the independent game reserves of South Africa.

For more information visit www.rhinoprotectiontrust.com

Typical Project Schedule

Monday: Project start day. Town trip to pick up volunteers and restock supplies.

Tuesday: Early start setting out on a morning introduction to monitoring drive. In the afternoon we depart for a monitoring drive to follow up on our collared elephant herd

Wednesday: monitoring drive or walk in the morning to locate hyeana dens . We set off for a drive in the afternoon complete find the Tembe Lion Pride so that we can get ID photos to update ID kits

Thursday: Habitat work; we could be busy with exotic plant removal, erosion control or bush clearing. In the afternoon or evening, we head out on drive to locate the makalali Buffalo herd to get accurate counts of new calves

Friday: Early morning start and we will be out locating the elephants as part of the ongoing research into the elephant contraception program. The afternoon we will set out to do a stake out drive (sit at a waterhole during sunset for roughly 2 hours monitoring animals that come in and out of the waterhole)

Saturday: Habitat work in the morning, followed by vehicle cleaning and maintainance . Once done we may head out to the local pub or we will prepare to have a typical South African braai (BBQ).

Sunday: Either an outing will be planned, or it will be a free day for volunteers to relax or head out on their own tour.

In between activities, volunteers will receive a series of presentations on the work of Siyafunda, or how to approach dangerous game on foot, or possibly history lecture. This time will also be used to transfer all data collected onto the computers and compile the weekly research report.

Spare Time



In between the morning and afternoon activities' you have free time. This time should be dedicated to food preparation and making sure all the data collected that day is inputted onto the computer and checked by a second person.

Once these tasks are done you could...

- See if there is any camp work that could be done; maintenance, cleaning etc. - Watch a documentary or movie in the lounge.

- Read a book. Field guides are available to read but they must be returned once finished. - Soak in the swimming pool.

- Take a nap!



Indemnity

Welcome to the OTJ Consultants' (Pty) Ltd Siyafunda Conservation Experience. On your arrival you will be required to sign the below Indemnity form.

INDEMNITY

I, _____ a)

Acknowledge that I am well acquainted and fully aware of and appreciate the real dangers and risks that

are associated with game reserves and/or the student program arising from the presence of wild and dangerous animals, reptiles, birds and insects and the real risks of suffering bodily harm, injury, death, and/or loss to property which may arise as a result of an encounter with and/or the presence of wild animals and/or reptiles and/or birds whilst on the premises or property of the reserve/student program.

b) Waive all claim or claims of whatsoever cause or nature howsoever arising against the owners and directors of the reserve/OTJ Consultants (Pty) Ltd, their associates, employees, and/or any other person connected whether directly or indirectly with the running of the reserve/student program and fellow students/invitees which I might have arising out of harm, injury, death or loss suffered whilst on the premises or property of the reserve/student program and whether arising from an act of commission or omission of those hereby indemnified or anyone of them.

c) Indemnify and hold harmless and free, the owners/directors of the reserve/student program, their associates, employees and/or any person connected whether directly or indirectly with the running of the reserve/student program and fellow students/invitees from any and all claims of whatsoever cause or nature which may arise on behalf of my spouse, common law wife/husband, my children, whether minor or adult, or relatives and/or relatives and/or persons accompanying me to the reserve/student program whether as my invitee otherwise or at all who suffer injury or loss whilst on the premises or property of the reserve/student program and whether arising from an act of commission or omission on the part of those hereby indemnified or anyone of them.

In the event of injury, the reserve/student program may at its discretion and without prejudice and without admission of liability arrange for emergency medical treatment for and on behalf of any student/person within the student program.

I, _____ have read and understood the conditions appearing immediately above my signature and that I am bound hereby.

Date _____ Signature _____

Terms & Conditions

- - Volunteers must be in good physical health whilst attending Siyafunda and be willing to carry out physical activities when necessary.
- - Volunteers must have a good understanding of the English language to follow safety instructions and benefit from activities.
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- - The minimum age limit for volunteers to join on a research drive in the area is 12 years of age. However, this is up to the discretion of Siyafunda management and children under the age of 12 may be allowed to join on the research drives if it is deemed suitable without it disrupting the research duties conducted by Siyafunda.
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- - The minimum age limit for volunteers to join on a guided walk in the area is 16 years of age. However, this is up to the discretion of the guide leading the walk and children under the age of 16 may be allowed to join the walk if deemed mature enough.
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- - Volunteers must sign and agree to the Siyafunda indemnity to be allowed to stay at the programme.
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- - Volunteers must always act within the rules of the Health & Safety policy as set out by Siyafunda Wildlife and Conservation. Failure to do so may result in immediate dismissal from the Siyafunda programme.
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- - Volunteers are responsible for bringing any medical conditions to the attention of the Siyafunda management. In the event of this information not being disclosed Siyafunda reserves the right to remove volunteers from the programme if deemed necessary.
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- - Volunteers are responsible for carrying and administering the appropriate medication for any conditions declared. Siyafunda staff are unable to take responsibility for or to administer any medications.
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- - Upon arrival at Siyafunda volunteers will be shown a copy of the Terms & Conditions, Health & Safety policy, Procedures Regarding a Breach of Safety Policy and a Risk Assessment. These documents will be available to read throughout the volunteer's time at Siyafunda and each volunteer will be asked to sign that they understand and agree to all these terms.
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- - Volunteers are responsible for ensuring they hold the adequate health and medical insurance for their trip. A standard cover may not cover the nature of all the activities the volunteer may be involved in and the exact policy should be checked carefully.
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Volunteers are responsible for all the travel arrangements to the designated pick up point and for informing the Siyafunda team of any last-minute changes. Siyafunda will not cover any extra travel costs outside of the transfer from Hoedspruit to the Siyafunda base

Terms & Conditions General Risk Assessment

Ref. Activity	Issue Potential Hazard	Likelihood Rating	Severity Rating	Risk Evaluation	Control Measures
Exposure to sun / heat	Dehydration, heat exhaustion, sunburn, heatstroke	Possible	Major	Moderate	Drink at least 2 litres of water a day. More if doing physical outside work or walking in hot weather.
Cuts & small injuries	Personal injury, cuts, thorns	Possible	Minor	Moderate	Appropriate clothing and footwear to be worn whilst working/on activities. Watch for overhanging branches whilst driving – don't move out of the way with your hands. Report any injury to staff for first aid. In a tropical climate minor injury could become more severe – report any infections or other symptoms to staff.
Emergency procedure	Failing to respond correctly	Unlikely	Severe	Moderate	Emergency procedures are available in booklets found in the kitchen and in the office. Follow all procedures as stated and listen to any staff instruction.
First Aid kits	Non - availability	Unlikely	Major	Minor	Can be found in every vehicle, the kitchen and the office. All first aid kits checked regularly and any used or out of date items replaced.
Exposure to lightening / thunderstorms	Lightning strikes, falling vegetation / debris, personal injury	Possible	Major	Moderate	Thunderstorms in the bush can be sudden and violent. Some activities may be postponed or cancelled. Follow all staff's instructions. Carry items for variable weather.
Snakes, Scorpions & Spiders	Venomous bite or sting	Possible	Severe	Significant	DO NOT HANDLE SNAKES. If seen, avoid and do not aggravate. Alert a member of staff immediately. If bitten/stung alert a member of staff IMMEDIATELY who will then seek emergency help and take the appropriate actions.
Fire	Personal injury or death	Possible	Major	Moderate	Leave building immediately if fire alarm sounds. Do not attempt to fight the fire. All vehicles carry fire extinguishers as well in the garages, kitchen, outside the volunteer house and outside the staff house.
Dangerous animals	Attack, personal injury or death	Possible	Major	Moderate	Always carry a torch at when dark. If encountered, do not approach. If animal approaches shout loudly whilst facing the animal and backing away slowly. If seen coming out of a building back away into the building and call for a staff member. Listen to a staff member for instructions.

Communications	Ineffective use	Unlikely	Severe	Moderate	There are instructions next to the twines radios and the base station. Continual radio communication is kept on the reserve on channel 1.
Lifting objects	Personal injury	Possible	Major	Moderate	When lifting from the ground beware of snakes/scorpions and always lift objects facing away from you. Always wear appropriate footwear and protective gloves. Lift with your knees and keeping your back straight. Do not lift anything

Behaviour & Actions	Responsibility	Possible	Major	Moderate	Everyone is responsible for their own actions, behaviour and safety when not under direct supervision of a staff member. Respect for local communities and cultures should be practiced.
Walking	Personal injury or death	Possible	Major	Moderate	No walking is allowed unsupervised on the reserve and all volunteers are shown the camp boundaries. Walking in the bush must be led by a qualified staff member in possession of a rifle. All instructions must be followed. In no circumstances should a volunteer touch the rifle. Walking in camps and corridors is only allowed in specified areas.
Vehicle Accident	Personal injury or death	Possible	Severe	Significant	Staff are experienced and qualified to drive vehicles in difficult, dangerous off-road conditions. All vehicles are maintained regularly through daily, weekly and monthly checklists to make sure they are road worthy. If an accident occurs, follow emergency procedure and listen to all instructions given by a staff member.
Vehicle Breakdown	Personal injury	Possible	Minor	Minor	The relevant equipment is always carried in the vehicles and staff are trained in its use. All instructions given by a staff member are to be followed. Further help is on call via the radio or via cell phone.
Public Roads	Personal injury	Possible	Major	Moderate	Staff are experienced and qualified to drive all vehicles and have the appropriate knowledge of the local area. All vehicles are regularly serviced and road worthy. If an accident occurs, follow emergency procedure and the instructions of a staff member.
Smoking	Fire, personal injury or death	Possible	Major	Moderate	No smoking allowed inside any building or on any vehicles. Cigarette butts must be extinguished properly and disposed of in the designated camp ash trays or in your pocket/bag if on an activity.

Self-travel	Personal injury, getting lost	Possible	Major	Moderate	All volunteers are responsible for their own actions when leaving the reserve for local travel at the weekends. Ensure you have spoken to a staff member about your plans and have our phone numbers with you, a working cell phone, and a local map and have researched your routes before leaving.
Tools	Personal injury, death	Possible	Major	Moderate	When using tools such as pangas, pick-axes and saws, follow safety instructions given and appropriate clothing and footwear is worn. Check no one is standing behind you whilst swinging.
Braai Fire	Fire, personal injury, death	Possible	Major	Moderate	Do not light a fire in strong wind conditions. Do not leave the fire unattended. Yellow watering can next to fire must be full when lighting
Sleep Outs	Personal injury, death	Possible	Major	Moderate	All sleep out's to be done in the presence of two rangers, one containing their ARH qualification. A two person watch system will be implemented throughout the night; a fire maintained constantly and volunteers sleeping between the vehicle and fire. Staff members to sleep on the outside and to be informed of any possible threat immediately. All rules will be given before the sleep out and repeated whilst there. Staff rules and orders must always be obeyed.
Potters Perch Deck	Personal injury, death	Possible	Major	Moderate	A staff member must be informed if you would like to sleep on Potters Perch and procedures must be fully read and followed. Always make sure there are two or more people and you have a radio with you to contact a staff member.
The Rocks View Point	Personal injury, death	Possible	Major	Moderate	Must be two or more people to go, staff must be informed and is completely out of bounds once it is getting dark.

Health & Safety Policy

This is the general statement of policy and arrangements for: **Siyafunda Wildlife and Conservation**
STATEMENT OF GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY OF ACTION / ARRANGEMENTS POLICY

To prevent accidents and provide adequate control of health and safety risks arising from volunteering activities.	Staff and Volunteers	Relevant risk assessments completed and actions arising from those assessments implemented. Emergency first aid signs on show for volunteers and staff. All staff first aid qualified. Volunteers to follow all instructions given by staff.
To prevent ill-health	Staff and Volunteers	Relevant risk assessments completed. Symptoms of dehydration explained at the beginning of the week. Volunteers must inform staff immediately of illnesses or issues.
To provide adequate training to volunteers	Staff	Volunteers provided with a copy of the health and safety policy and risk assessments. Volunteers advised on appropriate clothing and equipment for activities.
To engage and consult with volunteers on a day to day basis and provide advice when needed.	Staff And Volunteers	Staff members always approachable and available for the needs of volunteers to discuss any issues that may arise.
To implement emergency procedures.	Staff And Volunteers	Emergency procedures explained to volunteers during introductory walk around. Written versions available for reference. Radio and telephone communications provided with instructions.
To maintain safe and healthy living and working conditions and maintain all used equipment.	Staff And Volunteers	Living quarters cleaned every weekday with a full clean on Monday's. All tap water safe to drink. Equipment checked before use and vehicles have a daily, weekly and monthly checklist to work from. Prompt action taken to address any problems that may arise.

All procedures can be found in the procedure file located in the office.

Fire extinguisher locations: - Twines garage
- Garage by workshop
- Kitchen
- Outside staff house
- Two outside volunteer house (Tau and Phiri)

First aid kit locations:
- Kitchen above private fridge
- In all vehicles behind driver seats -
In staff backpacks/rucksacks
- Office

Breach of Health & Safety Policy

Health and safety are always a top priority. We live and work within a potentially dangerous environment where just one instance of a safety lapse could prove fatal. Upon arrival at Siyafunda you will be introduced to the camp you will be staying in and the safety procedures that are set up for the safety of yourself and others. You will be asked to sign that you have understood and agree to these procedures.

Following this, any breach in safety procedures will be dealt with immediately and may involve disciplinary actions or volunteers being asked to leave the programme without any prior warning. Any events which change the safety of an individual or another member of the group will be dealt with following the procedures are set out below. All decisions lie with the Siyafunda management and all decisions will be deemed final.

BREACH OF PROCEDURE

Use of illegal drugs	Asked to leave the programme
Inappropriate consumption of alcohol	Asked to leave the programme
Handling of any animal	Asked to leave the programme
Medical condition rendering you unsafe to remain on the reserve	Asked to leave the programme
Non-compliance with a direct safety instruction given to you	Asked to leave the programme
Theft	Asked to leave the programme

Anti-social behaviour affecting the safety and well-being of yourself or other members of the group	Asked to leave the programme
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If you are asked to leave the programme it will be taken with immediate effect. Siyafunda will arrange transport for you to leave the property, at your own expense, to our local town (Hoedspruit). At this stage all accommodation and further travel plans become your own responsibility and are done at your own cost with no refund given.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get to Siyafunda's projects?

All our projects are accessible either by air, road or bus. Moving around South Africa is very easy.

While Siyafunda cannot make your travel bookings, we are very happy to assist you and give advice

There will be someone from the project to pick you up from the specified places below.

All pickups for Greater Makalali Project and the Endangered Species Project take place every Monday.

Greater Makalali Project and Endangered Species Project: are situated within the Greater Makalali Private Game Reserve, approximately 500 km North East of Johannesburg. The Siyafunda programs are run independently of the Makalali Lodge.

Arrival and departure points are Hoedspruit only.

- By air: You can fly direct to Hoedspruit's Eastgate Airport on South African Airways Airlink. Make your bookings through www.flysaa.com or www.flysax.co.za or enquire at Johannesburg International Airport.

- By shuttle: You can also arrange to be brought on a shuttle through Ashtons Tours, http://www.ashtonstours.com/tR--daily_kruger_shuttle_johanesburg_to_hoedspruit which depart from OR Tambo airport at 06:45 and arrive in Hoedspruit around 13:00 - 13:30. You can arrange to be dropped off at Eastgate Airport Hoedspruit

Should I take precautions against Malaria?

Malaria is endemic throughout the Kruger National Park and surrounding private reserves including the Makalali Private Game Reserve. Note: The projects occur in a Malaria Low

Risk area. Peak transmission occurs between November to May, with little between June to October. Please consult your doctor with regards to a good and suitable malaria prophylactic. Best of all is to minimize your contact with mosquitoes by using repellent lotions, sticks or sprays such as 'Tabard' or 'Peaceful Sleep'. You can find more information about malaria on the internet: www.southafricalogue.com/malaria-guide.

What should I pack?

Siyafunda projects are situated within the Limpopo Province which is characterised by very hot weather in summer (temperatures may exceed 40oC) from September to April so cool clothing (preferably neutral in colour) and footwear is advisable. The cooler months are May to August (lowest temperatures are 5-6 oC, with average day time temperature around 20oC) and it gets cold at night and early in the mornings - especially on the back of the safari vehicle. (Check the actual weather for SA on www.weathersa.co.za.)

In addition, the following items are essential for all projects:

- Hat/Cap
- Sunscreen/Sun-block
- Sunglasses
- Water Bottle/s 1Litre minimum
- Binoculars and Camera
- Insect repellent (DEET)
- Torch/Flashlight
- Working gloves
- Day Backpack (for walks)
- First Aid Kit (if you have one)
- Bath towels
- Raincoat (if you're coming during summer: Nov-March) •Scarf and gloves (if you're coming during winter: June-Aug) •Converter/Adapter
- Batteries and/or charger for cameras

What is the time difference?

The South African Standard Time is 2 hours ahead of the Greenwich Mean Time.

What about electricity?

There is electricity at Siyafunda's Makalali. If you are staying at the Bush Camp you can charge batteries etc. at the Makalali research camp. South African electricity is 220/230 volts AC at 50 cycles a second, plug outlets are 15amp, three-pin (round). There are NO 2- point outlets for shavers.

Laundry:

You can do laundry.

Cell phone reception:

Your cell phone will automatically switch on to the South African Vodacom or MTN-service if you have international roaming activated, before you leave home. Alternatively, you can purchase a South African SIM for your mobile phone or an international calling card.

Will I have internet access during my stay?

If you require internet access at all the projects, you can arrange this for a small cost with the camp-manager. On your weekly or bi-weekly town trip you will also have the opportunities for internet access at the internet café in town to check your emails and do bookings.

Money / Credit Cards:

The South African currency is the Rand. For up to date currency conversions, visit www.xe.com. It is helpful to carry a small amount South African Rand (e.g. ZAR five00) with you; you will find a currency exchange bureau at the international airport or in Hoedspruit. In town you also can access ATMs with your credit card and purchase items with your card.

Security:

There is no concern about safety at Siyafunda, the game reserve is guarded / fenced, and town is also safe during our town trips. But like everywhere in the world security is everybody's responsibility.

Do I need a VISA?

Most visitors to South Africa receive a 90-day tourist/travel visa. However, check with the South African embassy before you leave your country.

Do I need a work permit?

No, as a volunteer you are not taking paid work.

Will I need insurance?

It is always a good idea to have travel and/or medical insurance and we recommend you organise this before your departure. All our projects make this compulsory for all applicants.

Can I join more than one project?

Yes, many people choose to join a mixture of projects over the course of their stay.

Do I need to know another language?

While South Africa has 11 official languages, English is spoken mostly and used all over the country

Contact Details

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