



INGWELALA

GATE LETTER

AUGUST 2017

Dear Member,

The staff extend a very warm welcome to you and your guests during August 2017.

Temperatures for the previous month measured between 6 and 34 degrees Celsius. No rain was recorded.

There is a small group of elephant bulls that breach the camp fence most nights. Please be aware that these elephants do pull up water pipes, frequently the main lines, which necessitates closing the water supply at the main reservoir. This is necessary to prevent mass water wastage. It is a good idea therefore to have a pre-planned **back-up supply of water** in your bungalow for odd chores and the flushing of loo's etc. Staff attend to the water leaks as a priority. Either Reception or the Gate will keep you updated on repair progress on radio Channel 1.

As recently as May there were eight known cases of **malaria** contracted at Ingwelala. Please take the necessary precautions after consultation with your medical practitioner.

It was another month of fantastic Big Five sightings. The pride of nine lions were frequently seen, several kills making for excellent game viewing, especially a buffalo kill in the middle of Camp. Social dynamics are always interesting to observe when lions are feeding on a fresh kill. Leopard sightings were plentiful, a mixture of mating leopards, female leopards with cubs, fighting leopards and leopards in trees with kills. Spectacular stuff!

The buffalo in general remain dispersed, the full effect of the recent drought not yet quantified, and the nutritional (winter) bottle neck not yet in full play. There are fewer elephant breeding herds around compared to previous months which is normal for this time of the year.

Wild dogs were seen, the one pack had 11 adults and 10 young pups.

Other sightings included spotted hyena, side-striped jackal, giraffe, blue wildebeest, zebra, impala, kudu, nyala, bushbuck, Sharpe's Grysbok, grey duiker, steenbok, warthog, genet, civet, porcupine, honey badger, banded mongoose, dwarf mongoose, vervet monkey, hippo and crocodile.

Birds recorded were Martial Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Fish Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Hooded Vulture, White-backed Vulture, Black Stork, Saddle-billed Stork, Ground Hornbill, Temminck's Courser, Bronze-winged Courser, Brown-headed Parrot and Yellow-breasted Apalis.

There was a noticeable increase in snake activity, again, a good idea to have a decent torch at hand after dark.

Please remember to keep all food out of sight from baboons and monkeys, and to secure your bungalows before leaving on a game drive.

As the veld conditions continue to dry out, general visibility improves. Please assist conservation staff by noting any prickly pear plants you see from the roads, location can be recorded in the sightings register in Reception.

General:

1. For security measures, please continue to disclose your Bungalow number when requesting a “radio check”. Please continue to assist field staff by reporting any suspicious vehicles/persons that you suspect to be a security risk or any fresh human spoor seen (outside of camp). Your assistance in this regard is highly appreciated.

2. Gate staff are requested to ensure that Gate Indemnity Forms are correctly completed when entering the Reserve.

3. If for any reason, you are using your “town vehicle” for game viewing, please ensure you obtain temporary decals from Reception before traversing on Ingwelala so all vehicles are easily identifiable.

4. General Working hours are:

	Shop	Reception	Fuel	Workshop
Monday – Friday	08h00 - 12h00 14h30 - 17h00	08h00 - 12h00 14h30 - 17h00	07h30 - 12h00 14h30 - 17h00	08h00 - 12h00 14h30 - 17h00
Saturday	08h00 - 13h00	08h00 - 13h00	07h30 - 13h00	08h00 - 13h00
Sunday	08h00 - 12h00	08h00 - 12h00	07h30 - 12h00	08h00 - 12h00

5. A Duty Manager is available to assist you after hours with **emergencies**, contactable via the Gate Staff on radio Channel 1. An after hour **call out fee** of R 570.00 is applicable.

6. Please report any water leaks as well as any trees that may have been pushed over onto the roads by elephants.

7. The Do's and Don'ts and Game Drive Etiquette are attached for your attention.

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