



INGWELALA

GATE LETTER

MARCH 2018

Dear Member,

On behalf of the staff, welcome back to Ingwelala. We wish you and your guests an enjoyable stay.

Please be reminded that Ingwelala falls within a **malaria area**. Please take the necessary precautions after consultation with your medical practitioner. Local Health Departments are currently issuing cautionary notices for (anticipated) increasing malaria cases/outbreaks in the region from this month going forward.

The **scorpions are plentiful this summer**, take care to use a torch at night and wear closed shoes.

The maximum ambient temperature for the previous month was 37 degrees Celsius with a minimum temperature of 20 degrees Celsius recorded. A highlight was a most welcome 90.2 mm of desperately needed rain. The long-term average for February is 70mm. The rain can be termed “effective rain” as it fell over relatively long periods, ensuring good soil saturation, as apposed to “ineffective rain” where downpours occur over short periods of time causing massive run off into drainage lines and rivers. However, a lot more follow up rain is needed to assist the grasses to recover.

Despite some overcast days, the high summer temperatures continue to support high evaporation rates. This in turn places high demands on the boreholes to supply sufficient water to the artificial watering points/dams. These water resources need to be managed carefully to ensure long term sustainability. With sparse grass cover the grazers have dispersed. There is little sense in supplying artificial water to watering holes when there are so few animals around. The Nhlalalumi River has natural water along most of its course, which will hopefully assist with attracting the few animals that are around to utilise this natural water source. This means that water availability can be used to rotate grazing, allowing the stressed areas to recover easier. Together with equipment failure, this is the reason no water is currently being pumped to Goedehoop Dam, and monitoring the situation closely, it is likely that soon we will stop pumping water to Sibon Dam as well. There is collaboration with Umbabat neighbours to achieve temporary closure of water points on a rotational basis.

Kindly be reminded that elephants breach the camp fence on an ad hoc basis. It is common for these elephants to pull up water pipes in search of fresh water. The main water supply is then closed until staff can locate and repair the leaks. It is recommended you store a **back-up supply of water** in your bungalow for the odd chores and for 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.

Sightings recorded in the register can be described as “few and far between” because of the predominantly dry conditions and animal dispersal. For example, a recording of a single buffalo for the entire month speaks for itself. Towards month end, numbers of lion and leopard sightings improved significantly, as did the activities of a pack of 30 wild dogs! There were only four recordings of elephant sightings, a mix of breeding herds and bulls.

General game sightings included giraffe, zebra and blue wildebeest.

Birds recorded were Ground Hornbill, Levillant's Cuckoo, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Woolley-necked Stork, Pennant-winged Nightjar and Kori Bustard.

There is a troop of **baboons** that are foraging and roosting in camp. All food should be kept out of sight to prevent break-ins to bungalows for the food. The **vervet monkeys** that frequent the car park and swimming pool area have learnt to open cooler boxes and picnic baskets left unattended on vehicles. They do not back away from women and children, so please keep a close eye on small children.

General:

1. For security measures, please continue to disclose your Bungalow number when requesting a “radio check”. Please report 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.