



Enjoying the completed waterhole and all their hard work - 23/04/2009

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## Mammal Species List Update

During the past 8 months we have been going out on regular research drives and a few night drives to build up a comprehensive mammal species list of the reserve. This is also gradually giving us a good idea of the numbers of the different species frequenting Legodimo and, once continued over a period of a few years, will start to show us their seasonal movements. As I have recently spent time updating our developing list I thought it a good time to update you all on the species you are likely to see during your stay at Legodimo. You will also see the Afrikaans and Tswana names for each animal if any of you are keen on learning some of the local lingo!

Scientific Name	English Name	Afrikaans Name	Tswana Name
<b>Order ARTIODACTYLA</b>			
<b>Family BOVIDAE</b>			
<b>Tribe CEPHALOPHINI</b>			
<i>1. Sylvicapra Grimmia</i>	Common/Grey Duiker	Duiker	Phuti
<b>Tribe NEOTRAGINI</b>			
<i>2. Raphicerus Campestris</i>	Steenbok	Steenbok	Phuduhudu
<i>3. Oreotragus Oreotragus</i>	Klipspringer	Klipspringer	Kololo
<b>Tribe REDUNCINI</b>			
<i>4. Kobus Ellipsiprymnus</i>	Waterbuck	Waterbok	Pitlhwa
<b>Tribe HIPPOTRAGINI</b>			
<i>5. Oryx Gazella</i>	Gemsbok	Gemsbok	Kukama
<b>Tribe ALCELAPHINI</b>			
<i>6. Alcelaphus Buselaphus</i>	Red Hartebeest	Rooihartbees	Kgama
<i>7. Connochaetes Taurinus</i>	Blue Wildebeest	Blouwildebees	Kgokong
<b>Tribe AEPYCEROTINI</b>			
<i>8. Aepyceros Melampus</i>	Impala	Rooibok	Phala
<b>Tribe TRAGELAPHINI</b>			
<i>9. Tragelaphus Scriptus</i>	Bushbuck	Bosbok	Serolobothhoko
<i>10. Tragelaphus Strepsiceros</i>	Greater Kudu	Koedoe	Tholo
<i>11. Taurotragus Oryx</i>	Common Eland	Eland	Phofu
<b>Family GIRAFFIDAE</b>			
<i>12. Giraffa Camelopardalis</i>	Southern Giraffe	Kameelperd	Thutlwa
<b>Family SUIDAE</b>			
<i>13. Potamochoerus Larvatus</i>	Bushpig	Bosvark	Kolobe ya naga
<i>14. Phacochoerus Africanus</i>	Warthog	Vlakvark	Kolobe
<b>Family HIPPOPOTAMIDAE</b>			
<i>15. Hippopotamus Amphibius</i>	Hippopotamus	Seekoei	Kubu
<b>Order PERISSODACTYLA</b>			
<b>Family EQUIDAE</b>			
<i>16. Equus Quagga</i>	Plains Zebra	Bontsebra	Pitse ya naga
<b>Order HYRACOIDEA</b>			

<b>Family PROCAVIIDAE</b>			
<i>17. Procavia Capensis</i>	Rock Hyrax/Dassie	Klipdassie	Pela
<b>Order PROBOSCIDEA</b>			
<b>Family ELEPHANTIDAE</b>			
<i>18. Loxodonta Africana</i>	African Elephant	Olifant	Tlou
<b>Order CARNIVORA</b>			
<b>Family VIVERRIDAE</b>			
<i>19. Genetta Genetta</i>	Small-Spotted Genet	Grootkolmuskeljaakat	Tshipa
<i>20. Civettictis Civetta</i>	African Civet	Siwetkat	Tshipalore
<i>21. Mungos Mungo</i>	Banded Mongoose	Gebande Muishond	Letototo
<i>22. Helogale Parvula</i>	Dwarf Mongoose	Dwergmuishond	
<b>Family HYAENIDAE</b>			
<i>23. Hyaena Brunnea</i>	Brown Hyena	Strandjut	Tlonkana
<i>24. Crocuta Crocuta</i>	Spotted Hyena	Gevlekte Hiena	Phiri
<b>Family FELIDAE</b>			
<i>25. Felis Sylvestris</i>	African Wildcat	Vaalboskat	Phage
<i>26. Panthera Pardus</i>	Leopard	Luiperd	Nkwe
<b>Family CANIDAE</b>			
<i>27. Otocyon Megalotis</i>	Bat-eared Fox	Bakoovos	Thlose
<i>28. Canis Mesomelas</i>	Black-Backed Jackal	Rooijakkals	Phokojwe
<b>Family MUSTELIDAE</b>			
<i>29. Mellivora Capensis</i>	Honey Badger	Ratel	Matswani
<b>Order PRIMATES</b>			
<b>Family GALAGONIDAE</b>			
<i>30. Galago Mohoii</i>	Lesser/Southern Bushbaby	Nagapie	Mogwele
<b>Family CERCOPITHECIDAE</b>			
<i>31. Cercopithecus Aethiops</i>	Vervet Monkey	Blou-aap	Kgabo
<i>32. Papio Hamadryas Ursinus</i>	Chacma Baboon	Bobbejaan	Tshwene
<b>Order RODENTIA</b>			
<b>Family HYSTRICIDAE</b>			
<i>33. Hystrix Africae australis</i>	Porcupine	Ystervark	Noko
<b>Family THRYONOMYIDAE</b>			
<i>37. Thryonomys Swinderianus</i>	Greater Cane Rat	Groot Rietrot	Bodi
<b>Family SCIURIDAE</b>			
<i>36. Paraxerus Cepapi</i>	Tree Squirrel	Boomeekhoring	Setlhora
<b>Order LEGOMORPH</b>			
<b>Family LEPORIDAE</b>			
<i>34. Lepus Saxatilis</i>	Scrub Hare	Kolhaas	Mmutlwa
<b>Family PEDETIDAE</b>			
<i>35. Pedetes Capensis</i>	Spring Hare	Springhaas	Tshipo

## Volunteer's Corner

The following article was sent by a past volunteer who spent a month here in September 2008 when asked to look back at her month here and give us an insight into what her next trip may be!

A reflection of my time at Legodimo Nature Reserve.....

Karen 'Indy' Friedman – 05/09/08-02/10/08



I would be hard pushed to say what the best thing about this trip was. There are, to be honest, too many! Of course, the wildlife and scenery are all great to see, but sometimes it is the little things, the 'day-to-day' happenings, that make the experience...

Like sitting in the back of the cruiser, driving through the bush or on the long straight road to Alldays; wind in our hair and Johnny Clegg at full volume. And, of course, our 'Legodimo camp song' was written in the back of the Cruiser in just a few minutes. Then there were the trips to Alldays or Polokwane, always a good day out! And I still think the Savannah Centre has the best Cappuccino ever! And of course, it was on

days out like these when I could buy my all-time favourite drink....Amarula! Also, reunited once again with 'old friends' like Windhoek beer and Ouma Rusks, and at last I got to try Mopani worms - what more could you want!

Building the elephant hide was great and later to be able to use the hide, and get some great photos made our efforts all the more worthwhile. (Even if it did mean fighting to stay awake some times...just too relaxed you see!)



Working on the Elephant Hide

Not knowing what was taking place in the 'outside world' is always a highlight for me. Or maybe it was something to do with the impromptu trips to a kopi or the river to watch the sun set! Then again, maybe it was lighting the camp fire, collecting Mopani wood for the fire. I mean, where else can I just jump in a truck, drive out a short way, and then start wielding a panga and chop up any

dead tree I want?

Sleeping out for one night (why only one night I ask?) without tents, just a mat and sleeping bag has to be a highlight. I have always wanted to do that but never quite had the chance. Brilliant! Wouldn't have missed that for anything. And the view from 'The Office' will stay with me for a long time, but more so the text from my Dad when I was there. "Where is 'The Office'? I can't find it on Google!!!" Oh dear!

As for future travel? I could write a list of places that I would love to visit! The more remote, the less visited, the better. Thanks to some inheritance money, I will go away this year too. Somewhere a little more adventurous, somewhere that gets interesting reactions from people when they ask! My next trip is going to be special. Yes, I am going back to Africa, but this time travelling against Foreign Office advice. (Sounds good that does...) My next trip is to the Democratic Republic of the Congo!



Visit to the Bushman Paintings

### Fun Bush Facts!

A breeding pair of Hornbills will find a hollow in a tree. The female will enter the hollow and shed her flight feathers. The male then seals up the hole leaving a small gap through which to feed her. The female will remain in the hollow until after the eggs hatch and the young are almost fully grown!

The fruit of a Baobob tree has the highest concentration of vitamin C than any other fruit, containing on average 6-10 times more than an orange!

A Mozambique Spitting Cobra can spit its venom a distance of up to 4 metres!

### Fact or Fiction.....

A Porcupine can shoot its quills at an opponent??

**Fiction!**

When defending themselves they run backwards into their opponent embedding the quills in its skin.

The collective noun for a group of Rhino is a 'Crash' of Rhino!

## New Waterhole Construction

Over the past month and a half the volunteers have been working very hard on the new waterhole at the elephant hide dam. Before Legodimo became the Nature Reserve it is today the area was set up and run as a cattle farm. Therefore, all the current reservoirs and drinking troughs on the reserve stick out like a sore thumb and are also not very user friendly for game. One of our aims over the coming months and years is to dig and build new waterholes next to the current ones, designed to fit in with the natural environment. These new waterholes will still be filled via overflow from the large reservoirs close by, as the current ones are, and once up and running the old troughs will be destroyed.



Zebra drinking from current cattle trough



After site selection digging commenced!

The volunteers started by selecting the site for the new waterhole and the tedious job of digging commenced taking the better part of 2 weeks! The hole was dug with sloping edges in a kidney bean shape. Digging completed it was then time for the brick work as a line of bricks was built around the edge, levelling off the new hole. A single layer of rocks was then packed into the hole to form a solid base for our cement floor. Wire re-enforcing was added above the rocks and we were then ready for the cement. After one cement mixing session the volunteers grouped together and decided that sponsoring the purchase of a cement mixer would be worth their while as there was still lots to do! The mixer was a fantastic help and we managed to throw the final slab in 3 days. The slab has subsequently been painted with a cement salt mix to seal off any small holes and cracks. The next step was laying the water pipes from the main reservoir by digging two small trenches to intersect the old pipe, diverting the water to the new waterhole. The ball valve had to be put in place and heavily protected from mischievous elephants with packed rocks and steel.



A triumphant digging team!



Packing the rocks



Cementing...



Nearly ready for water

The volunteers spent many hours at the waterhole with lots of sweat and effort poured in to its construction! So a big thanks to all who worked on it and an even bigger thank you to the sponsors of the cement mixer. It will be put to good use many times in the future!

**Sighting of the Month.....**

15/04/2009 - On a drive back to camp after working on the above mentioned waterhole the group were very lucky to see a Leopard relaxing in the shade on a branch of a tree. The leopard didn't seem to mind the spectators in the least until myself and Mieké arrived some 30 minutes later from the other direction having been informed of the sighting over the radio. Unfortunate for us but great for the volunteers!



[www.projects-abroad.net](http://www.projects-abroad.net)  
[www.volunteer-conservation-south-africa.org](http://www.volunteer-conservation-south-africa.org)

## Local News & Updates

### Mammal Profile.....

#### Hippopotamus – *Hippopotamus Amphibius*

♂ wt ± 970-2000Kg

♀ wt ± 995-1675Kg

Age - ± 39 years



- **Appearance** – an enormous, amphibious mammal with a large, barrel-shaped body & short legs. Predominantly greyish-brown with pink under parts and creases. Their skin is very thin & naked. Mucous glands secrete an oily red fluid that protects the skin from sunburn and drying.
- **Social/Mating System** – during the day hippos are highly gregarious but on emerging from the water at dusk, all except mothers and dependent offspring, disperse singly. Herds typically number 10-15 individuals but can vary from 2-50. Mature bulls (over 20 years) actively defend stretches of water and nearby shores. Territories are marked by the scattering of dung, both in the water and over trailside bushes. Non-breeding males are tolerated in the territories but frequent savage attacks often cause some males to live in bachelor herds or alone. Cows and calves associate in nursery schools for protection against crocodiles and intruding bulls.
- **Feeding** – Hippos graze at night & consume up to 40kg of grass a night. Good grazing ground is important & they will travel far from water, especially during the dry season. When emerging from the water they follow regular paths, bulldozing tunnels through waterside vegetation creating distinctive broad highways. At a point these paths branch off as Hippos split up to graze singly. They are largely immune to predators so can afford to forage on their own.
- **Reproduction** - 1 calf, usually born in the rainy season after a gestation period of 7-8 months. Cows isolate before calving on land or sometimes in water. They stay alone with the calf for 10-44 days before re-joining the herd. Babies nurse underwater, popping to the surface every few seconds to breathe. Their ears fold and nostrils close while suckling. Grazing begins at 5 months and weaning at 8 months. Small calves are often left in crèches guarded by 1 or several cows while mothers go off to graze.
- **Facts** – They can stay underwater for up to 6 minutes. Despite their bulk they can gallop at speeds of 30km/h in an emergency. A Hippo is the cause of more human deaths in Africa than any other mammal.

### New Volunteers this month.....

Graham Leather, Achille Mancini, Bart De Beer, Averil Parent, Stella Groenhof, Kristian Lisbjerg & Yukari Takeuchi.

**See you all soon! We hope you'll have a fantastic experience with us!!**

### Volunteers Leaving this month...

Thor Melbye, Emily Edwards, Rachel Inman and Ester De Groot  
**Thankyou for all your hard work at the reserve, we really couldn't do a lot of the work we do here without your help!**

*If you have any ideas of how Projects Abroad Volunteers can be put to good use in the local community, please contact either Nicole Pinnington or Gerrit Prinsloo. We are always looking for your suggestions.*

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## And Finally...

As always I hope you all enjoyed hearing some news from Legodimo! And as usual we always enjoy hearing from you all, its been ages since some of you got in touch with us and some of you that have only just left still haven't let us know you are safe, how are you getting on and where are you all now? Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or queries, anything you want to know about the bush that you didn't learn while you were here or anything you have forgotten! If anyone has some time to spare and you find your mind wondering back to your time at Legodimo we would love to hear some of your stories and experiences. We are in the process of updating the conservation website and any volunteer stories or quotes would be very gratefully welcomed!

Also, please can past volunteers send me any photo's of predators that they may have, especially, Leopard and Hyena, to help with identification of individuals.

Thank you!

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