



## The Road Forward

A long-term goal envisages the Park growing to 236 000ha with an additional proposed Marine Protected Area of 120 000ha. With the inclusion of a marine zone, species such as the southern right whale and great white shark, are incorporated, ultimately making the Park an exciting Big 7 destination. With the emphasis on the conservation of biodiversity, the complete wildlife experience is possible across a series of landscapes unrivaled in beauty, all within a single conservation area, at the beginning of the world famous Garden Route. The expanded area will also provide

habitat for the growing elephant population. The Park has shifted from being focused on a single species to a more holistic outlook to meet conservation objectives and socio-economic development. Expansion has been effected by means of a uniquely developed land acquisition policy with an incentive framework. Farmers in the area are increasingly turning away from livestock farming to more profitable game farming and eco-tourism. The acquisition policy increases and diversifies public/private partnerships and softens boundary affects

around the Park. Over 76% of the land has been acquired making the Park more than 180 000ha by April 2012. Priority areas have been included by means of direct purchase, contractual agreements, and conservancies. Three contractual agreements have been signed: Kuzuko in the North, in the River Bend area and Langvliakte in Woody Cape. The Park boasts three concession sites, affording luxurious accommodation (see page 18). There is potential for an additional three concession lodges to be developed.

## Socio-economics

As part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment, specialist studies identified areas where SANParks could improve or initiate action. The impact of the gAENP, especially in terms of land purchase, resettlement, cultural heritage and the creation of job opportunities in the region was assessed. Findings and subsequent actions include:

- Eco-tourism could create four times as many jobs as currently in agriculture.
- The gAENP could generate as many as 1500 additional contractual jobs.
- Expanded opportunities especially for the farm workers through capacity building.
- Resettlement Action Plan and Policy Framework, regarded by the World Bank as Best Practice, was developed (see next sub-heading).
- The Park plays a major role in the region's economic development. Already B&Bs etc.

- have sprouted in the valley. The University of Potchefstroom has conducted studies showing Addo's impact on the region's economy.
- The Park plays a major role in development projects in accordance with the affected municipalities' Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).
- Continued communication through the Addo Planning Forum with relevant stakeholders.



Another pioneering success is the Resettlement Policy. This policy ensures the future of the farm workers affected by the expansion process. Many workers have been made permanent SANParks employees whilst the rest of the workers are currently employed on a contractual basis through Poverty Relief and Working for Water projects. All undergo training sessions to enable them to be absorbed into the larger workforce. A Resettlement Working Group has been established to monitor the process. SANParks, in consultation with the Department of Land Affairs and Housing, also makes alternative accommodation available to all workers to be resettled.

## Implementation

Due to the extensive planning process, coupled with ground-breaking successes, the World Bank Board approved a further grant of US\$5.5 million from the Global Environment Facility to assist with the expansion programme. To date the total overall investment in the Park amounts to a whopping US\$40 million including private sector and government investment. To complement this project, the French Global Environmental facility invested a further 980 000 euros in 2008 in Addo's development. These institutions recognize South Africa's remarkable array of biodiversity and cultural heritage, which is of global value.

## Poverty Relief & Working for Water

Over R179 million has been spent in Addo alone since 2001 on these programmes, providing for about 8400 contractual jobs. Current projects include removal of alien vegetation, cleaning the coastline, fencing, new roads, building tourism infrastructure, restoring thicket vegetation by planting, rehabilitation of degraded areas and harvesting of alien fish species. Over 1 053 hectares of land have been cleared of alien invasive plants. The object has also been to empower communities through tourism development in National Parks, looking specifically at employment creation, especially developing SMMEs. Jobs and training have been targeted at women, single-headed households and the young and disabled. Training, including environmental issues, plant identification, chainsaw operating, fire fighting, first aid, HIV & Aids awareness and business skills, aims to equip local communities with the skills necessary to secure their own employment when they exit the programmes.

## Tourism Opportunities

The Park currently attracts over 130 000 visitors per annum, half of which are international. This is coupled with many opportunities for partnerships to be forged and jobs to be created among the wide range of stakeholders such as local communities, provincial conservation authorities, regional tour operators and investors. Already with the introduction of lion, tarring of internal roads, exciting concession sites, new entrance gate at Colchester and with five biomes to explore, the Park offers the tourist a hugely diversified product.



# CONSERVATION ETHICS

## *Mission Statement*

Conserve the faunal and floral assemblages and ecological processes that characterise the unique Eastern Cape region, and actively present this for appreciation by visitors.

## *SANParks Mission*


To develop, manage and promote a system of national parks that represents the biodiversity and heritage assets by applying best practice, environmental justice, benefit sharing and sustainable use.

## *SANParks Vision*

South African National Parks connecting to society.

## *Conservation Priorities*

The Park was originally established to protect the last remaining African elephants in the Addo area. In later years, the priority shifted to include the elephant, black rhino, disease-free Cape buffalo, flightless dungbeetle and thicket vegetation. Now, as with all National Parks, the protection of biological diversity is the core function of the Park. SANParks only introduces animals into a National Park that would have occurred historically in the area. This is why species such as white rhino, giraffe, impala, waterbuck, red lechwe, blue wildebeest, nyala and sable antelope are not present in Addo.



*Developing for Water*



*Refuge for Red Blood*

## *Invasive Alien Plant Control*

Invasive alien plants are a major threat to both biodiversity and water resources. Having no natural control mechanisms, these plants can outcompete and replace indigenous plants. Control of alien invasive plants takes place by using herbicides and biological control agents. Prickly pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica*), native to Mexico, was brought into the Eastern Cape by the government in the 1950s as a fodder in an effort to relieve the effects of drought. It later became invasive and today covers large areas of the Eastern Cape. Elsewhere it is eradicated using herbicides, cochineal insects or cactoblastis moths. In Addo, the elephants function as a unique control mechanism. By feeding on the fruit and leaves, they effectively rid the area of this plant.

Jointed cactus (*Opuntia aurantiaca*) is more difficult to control, with its many 'joints' that can break off to start a new plant. The plant spreads by sticking into passing animals (or humans) with very effective and painful thorns. The victim then brushes the 'joint' off in another location. Chemical control is the most effective control method.

Other invasive alien plants that are found in the area are black wattle, Eucalyptus species, Pine species, Scotch Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), bugweed (*Solanum mauritanium*), Port Jackson (*Acacia saligna*), castor oil plant (*Ricinus communis*), torch cactus (*Echinopsis spachiana*), Queen of the Night (*Cereus jama-caru*), mesquite (*Prosopis* species), mexican poppy (*Argemone mexicana*) and Sisal (*Agave sisalana*).





# PARK MANAGEMENT

## *Rules & Regulations*

As this is a National Park, all visitors are governed by the National Parks Act, 57 of 1976. Apart from being law, the regulations set out by this Act are there to protect both the animals and plants of the Park as well as for the safety of visitors. Please note the following rules and regulations as you may be fined if you disobey them.

## *Roads and Speed Limit*

The speed limit in the Park is strictly 40km per hour. Animals may be killed by speeding vehicles, gravel roads deteriorate from speeding and the dust obscures everyone's view. Speed kills. Please stick to the designated tourist roads. Many areas of the Park are sensitive to disturbance, both biologically and aesthetically.

## *Stay in your Vehicle*

You may not exit your vehicle, except at designated points in the game area. This means you may also not sit on the roof or window sill of your vehicle. There are potentially dangerous animals in the Park that could harm you. If you exit your vehicle, you may disturb all the animals in the area, causing them to run away and spoil everyone's viewing. The animals in the Park have become accustomed to vehicles and do not feel threatened by them, provided the vehicles do not disturb them. If you break the shape of a vehicle by exiting or sitting exposed at a window, the animals may feel you are threatening them, causing them to flee.

## *Littering*

Please follow the wilderness ethic of taking only photos and memories and leaving only footprints. Materials like plastic, papers, tins etc. do not belong in natural systems. You will notice that there are not many rubbish bins in the public area, this is because we would like you to take out what you take in. Please take out all your waste.

## *Feeding Animals*

The animals in the Park are wild and live in a natural system. If you feed them, they will become dependent on humans, lose their natural instincts and eventually become a nuisance. This will lead to them being shot. Do not be responsible for this.

## *Disturbing Animals*

Animals have a comfort zone in the space around them. If you get too close to them, they will feel threatened and flee. This will affect viewing for all tourists. If you disturb them in this way, you may also prevent them from carrying on with their natural lives. Animals often use easily distinguishable paths to travel to and from water. Take care not to block these paths when near a waterhole, as you may cause distress and aggression in animals such as elephants. Watch out for elephant bulls that are in musth and steer well clear of them – give them lots of room. Musth is when a bull is in breeding condition and is looking for females to mate with. You will recognize this by the dark secretion streaming out of his temporal gland (between eye and ear), constant dribbling of urine which leads to a strong smell and aggressive or restless behaviour.

## *Pets*

No pets are allowed in the Park.





# GENERAL INFORMATION

## *Climate*

The main game area is semi-arid, receiving an average rainfall of less than 445mm per year. Annual rainfall is relatively evenly distributed, with two peaks, February to March and October to November. Temperatures vary from 15-45°C in January and 5-18°C in July. There is no natural water in this section of the Park and waterholes are fed by boreholes. Pans are dry except in years of exceptional rainfall.

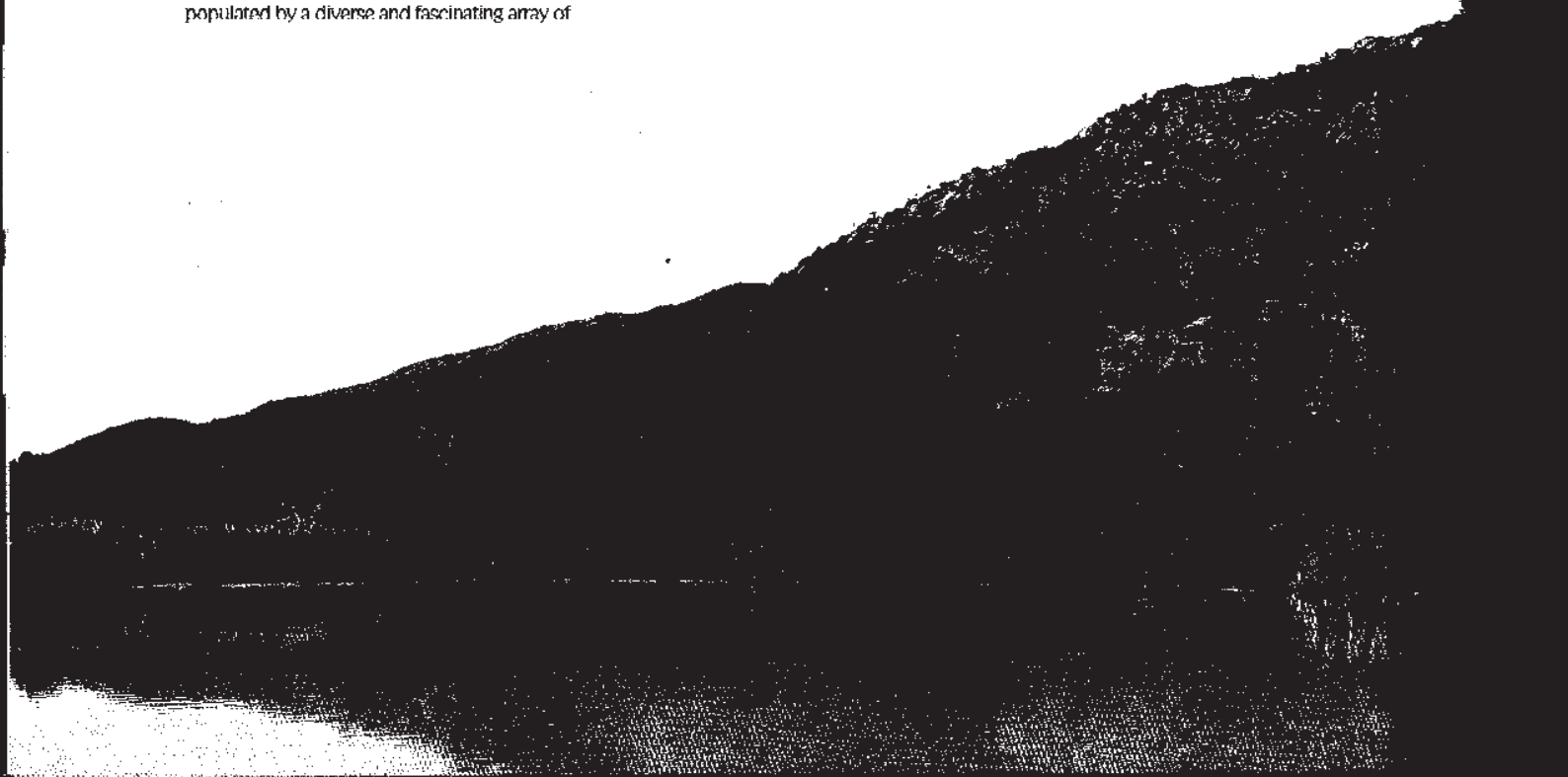
The Zuurberg Mountain area, 250 to 970m above sea level, has most of its rainfall in Spring and Autumn with an annual rainfall of  $\pm 722$ mm. Unlike other fynbos areas, the Winter months are the driest. Thunderstorms occur in Summer months when lightning can cause fires. The average annual rainfall in Darlington is 255mm. Summer temperatures can reach 48°C with Winter minimum just above 0°C. Rainfall is mostly in the form of

thundershowers and an occasional cold front. The coastal annual rainfall varies from 302mm at Sundays River Mouth to 700mm near Woody Cape. Boknes to Bushmans River Mouth is the transition zone from all year rainfall to Summer rainfall. The duneveld occurs in a rain shadow which receives lower rainfall than both Port Elizabeth and Alexandria.

## *Rivers*

Riverine thicket, dominated by the sweet thorn, grows along the riverbanks, while afro-montane forest covers the kloofs through which rivers flow. Control of invasive alien plants is important along river systems, as often these destructive plants, such as black wattle, castor oil plant and water hyacinth, spread on the waters. Stream flow can be markedly reduced by infestation of alien plants. Rivers are populated by a diverse and fascinating array of

organisms. The Cape clawless otter hunts along the riverbanks. Indigenous fish species include the rare red-fin minnow and the small-mouthed yellowfish. The elusive Narina Trogon flits through the forest along the banks. Hippos were released into the Park section of the Sundays River in 1992 and the current population is estimated at between 15 and 20.



## Geology

The oldest rocks encountered in the Park occur as small islands in Algoa Bay and are made up of quartzitic sandstone of the Peninsula Formation. This was formed about 500 million years ago in a shallow marine beach environment.

The Witteberg Group of rocks comprise quartzitic sandstone and were deposited about 400 million years ago during the Devonian Period. These rock types make up the Zuurberg mountain range. The Dwyka Group, tillite deposits, occurs as a horizontal band along the northern edges of the Zuurberg mountain range and along the southern shores of Darlington Lake. Tillite is rock formed from retreating glaciers during periods of global warming. This lithological horizon is an indicator horizon, which separates the Cape Supergroup rocks to the

south and the Karoo Supergroup rocks to the north. Dwyka Group rocks are fairly easy to spot in the veld, as they weather to form an irregular landscape where rocks look like tombstones.

The Ecca and Beaufort Group rocks, of the Karoo Supergroup, overlay the Dwyka group in the Darlington Dam area representing the Permian Period of between about 250 and 300 million years. The Ecca coincides with the evolution of large forests and the first reptiles.

Sediments of the Sundays River Formation underlie the northern part of the Addo section of the Park. These formations comprise reddish and greenish-grey coloured mudstone, which weathers to reveal a

slippery, clayey material when wet. The Sundays River Formation is generally rich in invertebrate fossils.

When sea levels rose some two million years ago, the marine Alexandria Formation was formed and is easily discernable within the Park, standing out as a white coloured band near the upper portions of the hills, such as the Zuurkop Lookout. This period coincides with the rise of the mammals when dinosaurs became extinct and small quadrupeds and flowering plants dominated the landscape. The most recent of all geological formations in the Park is the wind-blown sand of the Alexandria dunefield. This formation includes an older generation vegetated dune and a younger generation, non-vegetated sand dune.

## Research

Ongoing research is an important part of conservation at Addo, with the Addo elephants probably being the world's most comprehensively recorded elephant population. Research was first started in 1976 by Dr Anthony Hall-Martin who built up a photographic identification file for the then population of 96 elephants. Sex, estimated age, and developmental status of all individuals' records of births, deaths and social behavior were all recorded.

Anna Whitehouse who identified, named and compiled photographic identification files of all the elephants, continued this research in 1996. Association patterns were also observed to determine elephant family groupings and at the completion of this work in 2001, 325 individuals had been identified. Identification work is continuing at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University by the Terrestrial Ecology Research Unit where maternal family trees dating back to the creation of

the Park in 1931 have been reconstructed. Ranging behavior, impact on vegetation and population genetics and paternity were also investigated.

Further research, funded by the National Science Foundation in the USA, determines how elephants use chemical signals to communicate and adult male elephants discern between receptive and non-receptive urine from cycling female elephants.

In other projects researchers from the University of Oldenburgh in Germany have studied the breeding colony of the Southern Red Bishop bird since 1993 in terms of the environmental factors that influence the breeding success of the population. Reproductive behavior and sexual selection of breeding males are key focal areas in this research. Black rhino research, funded by the San Diego Zoological Society, determine how black rhino use chemical signals to

communicate, specifically by means of olfactory reception. They hope to shed light on how this species adapts to new environments after translocation into areas with or without resident rhino. Another project focuses on the different browse strata used by black rhino, the effect that elephants have on rhino habitats and the competition between elephant and black rhino in terms of feeding.

Most recently, research is being conducted on the newly introduced lion and spotted hyena where the behaviour, diet, social interactions and habitat of these large predators are studied. Since 1978, an aerial helicopter survey of all large mammal species has been carried out in Addo annually. There are also a number of projects that monitor the populations of seabirds and marine fish and mammals in Algoa Bay.




# THE PARK CAMPS



## Guest Houses (1)

Two guest houses, Hapoor and Domkrag, have a view of the waterhole and two bedrooms with bathroom en suite, air conditioning, living room and fully equipped kitchen, with a fan in the lounge. They sleep up to six persons.



## Rondawels (2)

The six airconditioned rondawels overlook a floodlit waterhole and sleep two persons. The hut has two single beds, a shower, toilet, hand basin and fridge. A communal kitchen with a four plate electric stove, (no oven) cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils are shared with the other huts.



## Chalets (3)

The twenty two chalets can sleep either two adults and two children or three adults. Each chalet is a bedsitter with two single beds and a sleeper couch, has airconditioning, a fully equipped kitchen and bathroom with bath and shower. Two chalets are adapted to accommodate physically disabled persons. The six airconditioned semi-detached chalets sleep two persons and have two single beds, a bathroom and a well equipped kitchenette.



## Family Chalet no. 16

This airconditioned chalet can sleep a maximum of six persons and consists of one bedroom with a double bed and a bedsitter area with two single beds and a sleeper couch, a bathroom and equipped kitchen.



## Chalet 15

An airconditioned chalet with two single beds in an open plan area with mini kitchen, shower, toilet and hand basin.

## Cottages (4)

The thirteen cottages each sleep two persons. It consists of two single beds with bathroom and a well equipped kitchenette with a bar-fridge, microwave oven and a fan.

## Forest Cabins (5)

The 10 units sleep a maximum of 4 persons. The airconditioned wooden cabin is an open area with four single beds, a table and chairs, shower, toilet and hand basin. Braai facilities, cutlery, crockery, cooking utensils and a fridge.

## Safari Tents (6)

There are five tents, each with two single beds, bedding, towels, fan, fridge, braai and separate communal ablution facilities. A communal kitchen with two plate stoves, cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils can be used. These tents are situated inside the existing camping site area of the Park next to the perimeter.



### Camping & Caravanning (7)

30 sites with a maximum of six per site. Ablution facility and camp kitchen with stove tops. No 'black water' (sewerage) disposal point for 'Porta-potti'.

### Kabouga Cottage (8)

This old farm house in the mountains of the Kabouga area is on the 4x4 route and has two bedrooms with bedding and towels, a lounge with open plan kitchen (all gas equipment), a bathroom and can sleep a maximum of six persons.

### Mvubu Campsite (9)

Mvubu Campsite is situated on the banks of the Sundays River in the Kabouga section of the Park. Camping is allowed in an open area with braai facilities and basic toilet and shower. Fishing is allowed at the camp but not elsewhere on the river. This spot is ideal for guests using the 4x4 trail or wanting a quiet camping experience.

### Matyholweni (10)

This camp is situated south of the main camp, and has its own entrance near the town of Colchester or can be accessed through the game area. Nine chalets sleeping two people and three family chalets (two adults and one child) are available. Facilities include a shower, toilet, hand basin, a kitchenette with bar-fridge, two-plate stove, microwave oven, cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils.

### Narina Bushcamp (11)

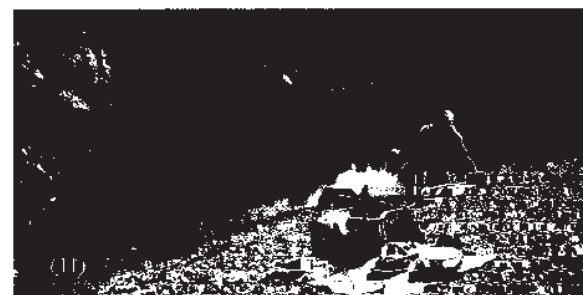
A totally secluded tented camp for nature lovers situated next to the Wit River in the Zuurberg Mountains. It is a 40 minute drive from the main restcamp ( $\pm 25$ km of gravel road) and must be booked as one unit. It has four tents, each with two single beds, bedding and towels, an open lapa/braai area, kitchen with gas stove, fridge, paraffin lamps, cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils, a shower with hot and cold water and a flush toilet. Because there is no electricity, guests have to arrive at the camp before 18h00 as they still have to carry their food and clothing to the camp, crossing a river and walking 400-500m through the forest. Bring own torch. No shops or restaurants. You can reach this camp by car or down the mountain on horseback. The horses can be booked at the game drive office at main camp. If you want to go on horseback departure time is no later than 11:00 from the Zuurberg office.

### Spekboom Tented Camp (12)

Located inside the game area in the Spekboom Hide, 12 km from Addo Main Camp, this rustic camp is an ideal way to get close to nature and experience the sounds of Addo after dark. Five tents are available with two beds each, braai unit, communal ablutions & camp kitchen (gas fridge & stove tops, no electricity). A utility box with cooking utensils is provided. Guests have access to the hide overlooking a waterhole. Flashlight essential.

### Nguni Restcamp (13)

This new four-star self-catering facility will open in 2013. Located in a scenically stunning area of the Nyathi section, this secluded camp offers comfortable accommodation in units with an African flavour.



# THE CONCESSIONS

Addo Elephant National Park has added a welcome new upmarket dimension to the facilities of the Park by including private sector owned and operated lodges. This, when combined with the Park's own facilities, gives the visitor a multitude of choices, both in type of accommodation and price range. Presently there are three lodges with another two to be opened in the near future.

## Gorah Elephant Camp

The thrill of quietly observing a passing herd of elephant while being served tea on the veranda of a stately Colonial manor house is the stuff of dreams and legends - at Gorah it's an everyday occurrence. Reminiscent of the romance and excitement of African safari centuries past, Gorah offers an unforgettable, exclusive adventure in the heart of the malaria-free Addo Elephant National Park, home to the Big Five and with the highest density of elephants on earth. Sheltered beneath thatched canopies, Gorah's 11 tented suites are luxurious, spacious, and enhanced with the finest comforts. The fully restored Gorah House reflects the gracious elegance of the colonial era with delicious gourmet cuisine served in the stately candle-lit dining room or on the old-style verandah overlooking the waterhole. A Hunter Hotels property and member of Relais & Chateaux. Winner of the 2011 Relais & Chateaux International Welcome Award.

Central reservations +27 (0)44 501 1111 | [www.hunterhotels.com](http://www.hunterhotels.com)

## River Bend Lodge

River Bend Lodge is situated on the 14000ha private Nyathi Concession within the Addo Elephant National Park and is the perfect balance between the Eastern Cape bush and fine country life. The lodge has eight stand alone luxurious double suites with private patios which open onto the bushveld. Culinary excellence is paramount at River Bend. Cuisine is described as classic French with a modern contemporary twist. Game drives are tailored to suit guest's interests and schedules and other activities include walking with giraffes, wine tasting and photography lessons with our on-site photographer. Children are welcome and special care is taken to ensure that all ages have a truly memorable experience. For families or small groups there is Long Hope Villa. Long Hope is an exclusive use villa and accommodates up to six guests in three ensuite rooms and comes complete with a private chef and personal guide. [www.riverbendlodge.co.za](http://www.riverbendlodge.co.za) | [www.longhopevilla.co.za](http://www.longhopevilla.co.za) | Tel +27 (0)42 233 8000

## Kuzuko Lodge

Also known as the "Place of Glory", Kuzuko Lodge is built high upon a hill in a private section of the northernmost part of the Addo Elephant National Park. It is here where breathtaking views from a private deck are complimented by luxurious interiors and warm, attentive service. Game drives, walks and time spent in our wellness centre are but a few of the ways in which you can truly experience this glorious place. Guests are housed in 24 stand alone chalets, each offering spectacular views of the malaria free, big five park below. All chalets, three of which are wheelchair accessible, feature an en-suite bathroom with bath and shower, minibar, tea/coffee making facilities, television, direct dialling telephones and free WiFi. Children of all ages are welcome and may accompany their parents on game drives. For information visit: [www.kuzuko.com](http://www.kuzuko.com) | e-mail [kuzuko@legacyhotels.co.za](mailto:kuzuko@legacyhotels.co.za) or phone +27 (0) 42 235 1037 or +27 (0) 79 521 7490/1



River Bend Lodge



Kuzuko Lodge

# ACTIVITIES

The majority of visitors to National Parks come just to view the 'main attraction', and Addo is no exception. The large concentration of elephants in the main game viewing area is so magnificent it will no doubt, justifiably, always remain centre stage. But there is much more to do and see, especially with the massive expansion of the Park and the inclusion of five biomes. Here is an insight into some of the activities that will make your visit to Addo absolutely unique.

## Guided Game Drives

The most informed and relaxed way to view both the fauna and flora is in our open vehicles on a guided game drive. Whilst you take in all the sights and sounds of the veld the trained guides will seek out the best viewing opportunities and let you into the secrets of the bush and the animals, birds and insects that live in it. There are sunrise, morning, midday, afternoon, sundowner and night drives. Booking is essential. Each game drive lasts approximately two hours. Times of departure vary according to season – please check with the game drive office beforehand. Children 6-12 years pay half price. No children under the age of six years are allowed.

Enquiries and bookings:  
tel: +27 (0)42 233 8657,  
email: [addogamedrives@sanparks.org](mailto:addogamedrives@sanparks.org)

## The Discovery Trail

Within the main accommodation camp, on the way out to the game area, you will find this information trail. These facilities are accessible to wheelchair users. Boardwalks lead into the bush where, in clearings, large full-colour billboards have detailed information covering a multitude of Park related subjects. The trail is the ongoing responsibility of the honorary rangers and is sponsored by PPC cement.

## The Waterhole & Birdhide

Both a waterhole and a birdhide are within walking distance of the reception area and are accessible to wheelchair users. The floodlit waterhole can be easily viewed from both the grassed picnic site and the special seating area. There is also an underground hide which brings you closer to the waterhole. The large birdhide overlooks a reeded wetland where a plethora of waterbirds are always present.

## Hiking Trails

The Alexandria Hiking Trail, which caters for a maximum of 12 and a minimum of three people, takes you through dense verdant indigenous forests and over the largest and least degraded coastal dune field in the southern hemisphere (see pgs 40-44 for more information on these two biomes). This diverse hike is a 32km overnight trail of which the first day is 19.5km and the second 12.5km. Hikers overnight at the Langebos huts (base huts) and the Woody Cape hut. The trail starts at the Woody Cape offices of the Park (turn off from the R72). For bookings contact Camp Matyhoiwani, tel: +27 (0)41 468 0916/18; email: [matyhoiwani@sanparks.org](mailto:matyhoiwani@sanparks.org). For those who prefer shorter walks, choose between the 7km Tree Dassie Trail in the Woody Cape forest or visit the Zuurberg Area for the 2.4km Cycad Trail and 8km Doringnek Trail.

Discovery Trail | By Johannes van Niekerk

Van Niekerk



Addo Horse Trails



4x4 Trail



Jack's Picnic Site

## Horse Trails

The usual thrill of horse riding is greatly enhanced by riding in the Nyathi game area and being out in the open with wildlife. This unique experience (Addo is the only National Park to offer horse riding in a big game area) is one that will be greatly treasured. From the main camp the morning and afternoon trails, which start at 08:30 and 14:00, last two hours. Since the introduction of lions into the Nyathi area, Big 5 movements are monitored and if necessary, trails are rerouted to a botanical area. In the Zuurberg Mountain area of the Park, there are one-hour, three-hour and five-hour trails as well as an overnight trail which ends for the night at the secluded Nanna Bushcamp overlooking the Wit River (see page 19 for more information on the camp). After booking, riders are to report to stables at least 15 minutes before departure. Enquiries, bookings and payment for horse trails can be done through the game drive office, tel: +27 (0)42 233 8657. Children must be 16 years or older to ride on the Addo trail and 10 years or older for the Zuurberg trails.

## 4x4 Trails

The 4x4 trail takes you from north of Kirkwood in the Kabouga area through the Zuurberg Mountain range to Darlington Lake or visa versa. The trail transverses four stunningly different biomes each with its own unique fauna and flora. The trails can only be tackled in a 4x4 vehicle, and takes you over passes and through rivers with possible viewing of hippos, black rhino, various antelope species and, if you are fortunate, leopard. Follow historically significant routes that saw numerous skirmishes during the Boer War and along wagon routes used by the early settlers. Overnight options on the Kabouga side of the trail include Kabouga Cottage within the mountains and Mvubu Campsite on the Sundays River (see page 19). Rustic cottages and camping are available on the Darlington side. The trail takes six hours and has a moderate 2-3 rating whilst the river crossing is rated at 5. Bookings must be done through Addo reception.

## Jack's Picnic Site

Named after a rhino who spent his last days in this spot, this is an ideal place to stop for a breakfast, lunch or restroom break. Don't forget to have a look at the sightings board for tips and record your own sightings when you stop. Picnic tables and braai units are provided.

**Ulwazi Interpretive Centre**  
It's worth a visit (or two) to this one-stop information centre which details the history, biological diversity and management record of the Park. Indoor and outdoor interactive displays are sure to engage both children and adults.







Addo Horse Trails



4x4 Trail



Jack's Picnic Site

## Horse Trails

The usual thrill of horse riding is greatly enhanced by riding in the Nyathi game area and being out in the open with wildlife. This unique experience (Addo is the only National Park to offer horse riding in a big game area) is one that will be greatly treasured. From the main camp the morning and afternoon trails, which start at 08:30 and 14:00, last two hours. Since the introduction of lions into the Nyathi area, Big 5 movements are monitored and if necessary, trails are rerouted to a botanical area. In the Zuurberg Mountain area of the Park, there are one-hour, three-hour and five-hour trails as well as an overnight trail which ends for the night at the secluded Nanna Bushcamp overlooking the Wit River (see page 19 for more information on the camp). After booking, riders are to report to stables at least 15 minutes before departure. Enquiries, bookings and payment for horse trails can be done through the game drive office, tel: +27 (0)42 233 8657. Children must be 16 years or older to ride on the Addo trail and 10 years or older for the Zuurberg trails.

## 4x4 Trails

The 4x4 trail takes you from north of Kirkwood in the Kabouga area through the Zuurberg Mountain range to Darlington Lake or visa versa. The trail transverses four stunningly different biomes each with its own unique fauna and flora. The trails can only be tackled in a 4x4 vehicle, and takes you over passes and through rivers with possible viewing of hippos, black rhino, various antelope species and, if you are fortunate, leopard. Follow historically significant routes that saw numerous skirmishes during the Boer War and along wagon routes used by the early settlers. Overnight options on the Kabouga side of the trail include Kabouga Cottage within the mountains and Mvubu Campsite on the Sundays River (see page 19). Rustic cottages and camping are available on the Darlington side. The trail takes six hours and has a moderate 2-3 rating whilst the river crossing is rated at 5. Bookings must be done through Addo reception.

## Jack's Picnic Site

Named after a rhino who spent his last days in this spot, this is an ideal place to stop for a breakfast, lunch or restroom break. Don't forget to have a look at the sightings board for tips and record your own sightings when you stop. Picnic tables and braai units are provided.

**Ulwazi Interpretive Centre**  
It's worth a visit (or two) to this one-stop information centre which details the history, biological diversity and management record of the Park. Indoor and outdoor interactive displays are sure to engage both children and adults.





## Spekboom

*Portulacaria afra*

Also known as pork bush, it is the wonder plant of the thicket. Not only is it a sought-after food plant, but it has many cultural uses. It is browsed by all the herbivorous animals that occur in thicket. With its succulent leaves and stem, it provides much-needed water, as well as having a nutritious high protein content. Trees can grow up to 4m tall when not browsed by elephants and produce pink flowers after the first rains. Spekboom is very well adapted to the heavy browsing pressure to which it is subjected. It can regenerate quickly from pieces that fall on the ground and is actually stimulated to spread by elephant trampling. The succulent leaves are edible, with an acidic sour taste that decreases in sourness towards the late afternoon. Traditionally among the Xhosas, dry stems are beaten flat and used to thatch roofs of houses. The larvae of one of the cicada species lives only on spekboom. Various research studies have shown that, although spekboom is well adapted to heavy browsing pressure by naturally occurring herbivores, it is decimated by the impact of goats. As goats feed from the bottom of the bush up, unlike other herbivores which feed from the lower middle or middle bush upwards (or from the top down as in elephants), they destroy the plant's natural ability to regrow from trampled lower sections or from fallen pieces. Therefore spekboom has all but disappeared from farming areas surrounding the Park where goats have been kept.

## Common Gwarrie

*Euclea undulata*

The common gwarrie bush is noticeable with its crinkle-edged leathery leaves. For dental hygiene, this is the ultimate plant, twigs with chewed ends were used as primitive toothbrushes in former times and a toothpaste can be made from the powdered bark while the powdered root can be used to ease toothache. Other medicinal uses include bark being used to cure headaches. Branches are used in traditional Xhosa ceremonies with meat being carried on a platter of these leaves.

Wood is used for fence posts by local farmers and the leaves as a fodder for stock. For several months of the year, this particular species is plagued by moths. The larvae (caterpillars) of moths of the Pyralidae family spin communal nests of leaves and silk. They then feed inside these nests, thus protecting themselves from predators such as birds. Visitors will easily notice the bulky nests in the gwarrie bush. Flowers are small and whitish (Dec–Apr). Fruit is berry-like, green turning reddish-brown, then black (Apr–Oct).



Spekboom / By Ingrid Kruger



Spekboom



Common Gwarrie



By Johannes van Wierik

## Lion

*Panthera leo*

Six lions (Africa's largest carnivores) from the Kalahari were translocated to Addo in 2003. The last of the original lion in the Eastern Cape was shot in 1879. Lions were chosen from the Kalahari in particular as it is believed that they are genetically most similar to the extinct Cape black-maned lions, which would have occurred in the Addo area. They have been tracked since release, having been fitted with satellite and cell phone collars which transmit co-ordinates.

Lions are most active at night in order to avoid the heat of the day. They spend many hours sleeping or resting but will become aggressive if disturbed. They hunt together by stalking their prey. Lions cannot reach speeds higher than 56km/h – most antelope run faster than this – and therefore rely on ambush of their prey. The disadvantage of a larger size and a mane result in male lions not usually taking part in the hunt unless the prey is very large. The function of the characteristic mane of the male lion is twofold: as a sexual signal to the female and as a protection for the head and neck during fighting with other males. Male cubs leave their birth pride at the age of two to three years – of their own accord or driven out by the pride males. Females remain with their birth pride.

## Spotted Hyena

*Crocuta crocuta*

Eight spotted hyena were introduced into the Park in 2003 & 2004. It is a common misconception that spotted hyenas only scavenge off other predator's kills. In fact, they make most of their own kills and will only scavenge or steal other predators' fresh kills if the opportunity arises. Lions and spotted hyenas will harass and even kill each other in certain situations, all depending on the relative numbers of each species. Hyenas have very strong jaws and are able to crush and eat bone, making them very efficient recyclers of nutrients in the ecosystem. Spotted hyenas live in a matriarchal system, with females being larger and more dominant than males. The females actually have false male genitals – the female has an erectile clitoris that is as large as the male penis and a false scrotum filled with fat – which function visually to proclaim their dominance.

## Plumbago

*Plumbago auriculata*

The landscaper's favourite bush for its quick growth, hedge-forming ability and copious blue flowers – grows wild and large in the Eastern Cape. This shrub spreads quickly over large areas by virtue of new shoots sprouting from large underground rootstock. The light blue flowers are pollinated by butterflies and the plant hosts the larvae of the common blue butterfly. Elephant, rhino and antelope browse on it. Birds and mammals disperse sticky seed. Widely used as an ornamental garden plant, even in Europe. Traditional healers use leaves and stems as remedies and lucky charms to protect against evil and lightning.

## Grasslands

Most of the grassy open plain areas that can be seen in the main game and Colchester areas of the park are a result of clearing for farming activities before the land was incorporated into the park. The action of grazers such as buffalo, zebra and red hartebeest now perpetuates these grassland areas. In certain areas of the park, grassland is being rehabilitated back to thicket by active planting programmes.



Lion / By Matt Hayward



Spotted Hyena / By Matt Hayward



Plumbago / By Johannes van Niekerk



# FYNBOS BIOME

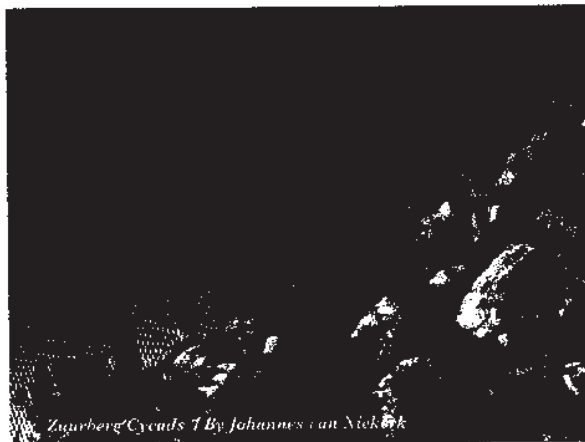
Fynbos occupies 5.3% of South Africa with its complement of at least 8 578 species of flowering plants. It is recognised as one of the most diverse and distinctive floras in the world. All in all, 68% of the plant species are endemic. Many of the fynbos plant species are restricted to extremely small distribution ranges which has rendered them dangerously susceptible to extinction. Fynbos consists of evergreen heathlands and shrublands in which fine-leaved low shrubs and leafless tufted grasslike plants are typical. Proteas, ericas and restios are typical components of fynbos. Trees are rare and grasses comprise a relatively small part of the biomass. The floristic diversity of the fynbos is not paralleled by an equally rich fauna due to the absence of grass and berry-producing plants. Fire is a very important component in fynbos. Most fynbos is highly flammable due to the common presence of flammable oils. Finely wooded fynbos plants are obligate seeders, which means that the whole plant dies after fire and can only reproduce through seed. This distinguishes fynbos from the other ecosystems where fire is common. Many plant species are dependent for pollination on small mammals or birds such as the Cape sugarbird.

Both Grassland and Fynbos are fire-dependent and fire-adapted. Research has shown that isolated patches of fire-prone vegetation can lose up to 75% of their species when fires are prevented from spreading to them for long periods. This has implications on management actions since Fynbos in Addo is surrounded by relatively non-flammable Albany Thicket, Forest and Nama Karoo. The Zuurberg Mountain section of the Park comprises Fynbos, Forest and Albany Thicket. A total of 1 100 species recorded (540 genera and 129 families). Largest families are the Asteraceae (148 species) and the Poaceae (90 species). There are three species of endangered cycads: *Encephalartos longifolia*, *E. lehmannii* and *E. caffer* and

several endemic succulents. Shale Fynbos: Occurs on the tops of the Zuurberg Mountains in leached soils derived from shale. A prominent feature of shale fynbos is the abundance of grasses and herbs in the early stages. Frequent burning can convert shale fynbos to grassland (and is often used for pasture). Asteraceous fynbos with daisy type shrubs such as *Blombos (Metalasia massonii)*, the Zuurberg hunchback (*Oldenburgia grandis*), several types of daisy as well as tall ericas and grasses occurs. Quartzite Fynbos: Occurs on the wet southern slopes on sandy soils and has a low grass component and high proportion of *Restios*, *Protea repens* and *Protea longifolia*.



Zuurberg Horse Trails



Zuurberg Cycads 1 By Johannes van Niekerk



Common Pincushion



# NAMA-KAROO BIOME

## & Sundays Noorsveld Thicket

The Nama Karoo biome and the Sundays Noorsveld variety of Albany Thicket occur in the arid northern areas of the Park. Nama Karoo covers most of the vast central plateau region of the Western and Northern Cape Provinces. The area forms an ecotone or transition between the Cape flora to the south, and the tropical savanna in the north. Many of the plant species of the Nama-Karoo also occur in the savanna, grassland, succulent Karoo and fynbos biomes. In Addo, the Nama Karoo is found in the Kuzuko area of the Park adjacent to Darlington Dam in the rain shadow of the Zuurberg mountains. It is a complex mix of grass- and shrub-dominated vegetation types growing on shale, quartzite and sandstone. Species that occur in the Nama-Karoo include the sweet-thorn (*Acacia karoo*), stone plant (*Lithops ruschiorum*), anchor karoo (*Pentzia incana*) and blue Karoo daisy (*Felicia australis*). A rich variety of rodents and reptiles occur in the Nama-Karoo. Sundays Noorsveld occurs around Darlington Dam and is easily recognised by the dominance of Noors (*Euphorbia coerulescens*) and low karoo shrubs (especially *Pentzia incana*, wild pomegranate *Rhigozum obovatum* and hedge spike-thorn *Gymnosporia polyacantha*).



*Noors (Euphorbia Coerulescens) at Darlington Dam*



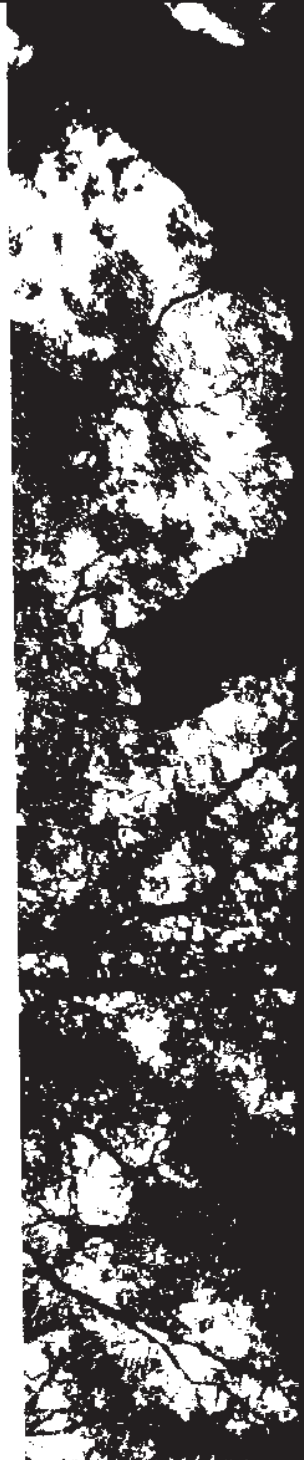
# FOREST BIOME

With the total area of indigenous forests in South Africa probably less than 2 000km<sup>2</sup>, the Alexandria forest and Zuurbeg forests carry high conservation status. Forest is highly threatened with only about 5% of the original extent under formal conservation. In 1896 these areas were proclaimed State Forest and so have been conserved for many years. The two types of forests found in the Park are the Southern Coastal Forest in Woody Cape (often called the Alexandria forest) and the Southern Mistbelt Forest in the Zuurberg Mountains. Despite the small land surface area that they occupy, forests have relatively high species richness with only fynbos exceeding this.

Alexandria Forest can be distinguished from other forest types by the relatively low percentage of shade-loving trees in the species composition, and is thus phytogeographically distinct from forests in other regions. This structure results in reduced light levels in the area beneath the canopy where species such as tree ferns are common. Typical mammals include the bushbuck

(*Tragelaphus scriptus*) and bushpig (*Potamochoerus porcus*) and various smaller antelope. Much prized sightings are of the rare tree classie (*Dendrohyrax arboreus*) and although more common, the striking Knysna Turaco, previously *Knysna lourie*, (*Tauraco corythaix*) and the crowned eagle. The Alexandria Forest receives the highest rainfall in the AENP, about 600-700mm per year. Between the

non-vegetated dunes and the hills, there is a transition from Dune Forest to Alexandria Forest. Forest in the valleys of the Zuurberg Mountains consists of evergreen trees with canopy heights of 10-14m on south-facing slopes and valley bottoms. Trees with canopy heights of 2-9m on northern slopes and valley bottoms are grouped with thicket.



Bushbuck / By Joel Bird



Knysna Turaco

