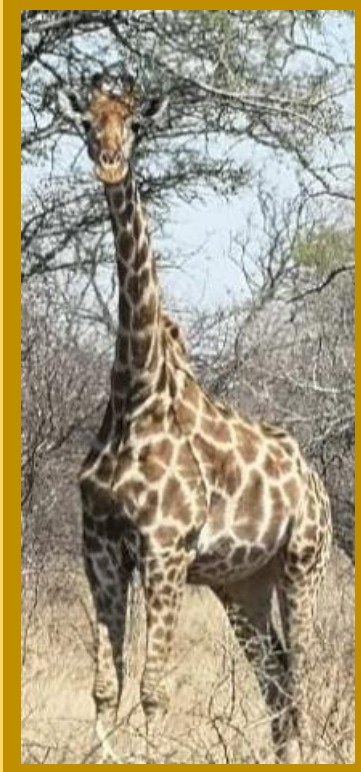
DITHOLO
WILDLIFE ESTATE

Restore your spirit!

January 2019

Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. (Albert Einstein).



It has been a busy year. From the introduction of Eland, Red Hartbees and a new Sable bull to the new born golden Wildebeest, Hippo and Gemsbuck; from the changes in our game management model to the changes in the breeding camps. Ditholo was surely blessed in 2018.

We have had our fair share of challenges. One of the most significant ones being the standard of security to ensure both the safety of our owners and that of our game. We also had to ensure that the high standard of our infrastructure was maintained and in good working order.

We look forward to 2019 and believe that Ditholo will grow from strength to strength. We have set several goals to ensure that the high standards are kept. Those include, upgrading of roads and fences, bush clearance and erosion control to name a few.

This cannot be done without a dedicated staff contingent on the ground. We would like to thank Dawid and his team for their positive attitude and willingness to go the extra mile.

May 2019 be a year that will be remembered for the abundance of blessings over Ditholo.

News about the weather

Month	High	Low	Rainfall
September	37.6	9	22.9mm
October	37.9	10.1	13.7mm
November	37.9	10.1	54.6mm
December	39.4	13.4	245.9mm
January	38.5	11.5	29mm

FROM PIETER ENGELBRECHT

We have wonderful news for the newsletter. I have seen 7 golden wildebeest babies in one herd. I also saw the eland with the two babies and they are looking strong and growing fast with the new grass after the rain.

The bush is looking exceptional and the baby antelope are scattered all over the farm it really is a lovely time of year to visit Ditholo.

The sable cow will drop her calf any day now as she is very healthy pregnant and we are looking forward to that and will keep everyone posted

Interesting facts on baby hippos

We are very glad to announce the sighting of a new arrival to the hippo family at Ditholo. Did you know?

1. Hippos weigh just about 45 kilograms when they're born. Considering adult hippos are the second-largest land mammal after elephants and weigh about 1360 kilograms, this doesn't really seem like all that much.
2. Hippos spend a total of 16 hours a day underwater, so the babies have to be able to suckle submerged. Luckily, they can close their ears and their nostrils and get food from mama without breathing in water! Baby hippos will suckle for about a year.
3. Hippos, baby or full grown adult, can't really swim in the traditional sense of the word. Rather, they just kind of push off of the bottom and "float" around in the water, although they are too heavy to *actually* float. They also walk along the bottom in shallower areas.
4. Mother hippos have to protect their young from male hippos. Grown males don't attack on land, but they will attack and often kill baby hippos under water.
5. Mamas Are Pregnant For Eight Months. Compared to, say, an elephant's gestation period of 22 months, eight months is basically a blink of an eye. Heck, us humans carry our babies for longer!
6. Female Babies Grow To Maturity Faster Than Males. As the babies turn to adults, the females are ready to mate as early as three or four years old, but normally closer to five or six. Males take longer to mature, and are ready to reproduce at about 7.5 years old.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ACCOUNT PAYMENTS

Clause 7.6 in the articles of association refers:

Any amount due by a member by way of a levy shall be a debt due by him to the Association payable on such time or times as determined by the board of directors. The board may determine that a levy is payable in advance in respect of a year for which it is calculated or in such monthly installments as it may determine.

Clause 7.11 in the articles of association refers:

A member shall be obliged to pay interest on any levy not paid on the due date at the Prime Rate plus 3 percentage points per annum calculated on the levies due from time to time from the due date until the date that the arear levies have been paid in full to the Association.

In the light of the above, I would like to bring the following to your attention:

- Levies are payable in advance and therefore invoiced on the 20th day of each month.
- The levy invoice is payable within 15 days of the date of the invoice.
- The owner is liable to pay the HOA interest should any sum be paid late.
- Such interest (Prime plus 3 percentage points) is raised on the outstanding balance of an account on the 7th day of each month for all balances from 60 days.

Need assistance during your stay?

We would like to remind you of the new contact numbers in case of any emergency or need of assistance. Free key holders with the numbers are available at the entrance gate.

Vodacom: 064 838 6916 (voice calls only)
MTN: 078 171 2210 (voice calls and WhatsApp messages).

The staff member at the entrance gate will attend to the phone during the day and contact the correct person to attend to your request. After hours the phone will be attended to by the designated staff member on duty.

Estate Rules:

At the AGM the need was identified to make visitors to Ditholo more aware of the Estate's rules.

Earlier in 2018 we have already started by changing the entrance procedures for all visitors to sign an indemnity whereby confirming that they will abide by all the rules and regulations of the Estate.

At the start of the festive season the staff at the entrance also started handing out flyers to all visitors containing the most important rules and regulations.

We have proceeded with the ordering of fridge magnets and laminated copies of the most important rules of the Estate. It is our request that all home owners place the magnet on the refrigerator door in the house where it will be visible. Furthermore it will be a requirement for all houses to have an A4 laminated copy visible on the back of the main entrance door of the house.

Please make sure to collect the items from the gate.

AMAZING AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ELAND

They have large antlers and are the biggest species of antelope found in Africa. They're known to grow to heights of 2 meters, when measured at the shoulder, and can weigh up to 700 kilograms.

Despite their large size, they're able to jump long distances and to big heights. A fully grown eland can jump up to 8 feet from a complete standstill.

Female elands are much smaller than the males. This makes them much more vulnerable to predators.

Elands have big hoofs, which is what gives them their peculiar walk.

Fully grown male elands have thick hair on their forehead which distinguishes them from the females. The hair grows thicker the older they get.

Their coat changes color with time and age. When they're young, it's tan in color. As they age it turns into a bluish-grey color. It's also known to turn dark black in color when they get to late stages in their life.

Male elands have a unique feature called a "dewlap." A dewlap is a continuous piece of loose skin that hangs from their neck and has a tuft of black hair that grows from it.

An elands horns can grow up to 3 feet in length. Female elands have longer horns, however, they're much more delicate than the males.

They're usually active in the morning and early evenings. This is because their habitat, Africa, can get extremely hot during the middle of the day.

Even though they belong to a family of sprinters, elands are a lot slower when it comes to other species of antelopes. However, they can still maintain a relatively fast trot for a long time.

Female elands reach sexual maturity when they turn 3 and start mating immediately. Male elands reach sexual maturity between the ages of 4 and 5.

They have no particular mating season but they prefer to give birth before or after a rainy season. This is because rain makes it extremely difficult for newborn elands to survive.

Calves survive entirely on their mother's milk for 3 months, after which they are weaned.

The average lifespan of a wild eland in 15 to 20 years. In captivity, they're known to live up to 25 years.

They have a low need for water because they produce urine with high-urea content.

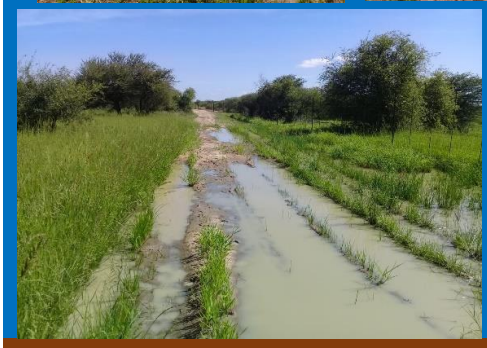
GENERAL:

Servicing of firefighting equipment is due. Approved Fire Services will be able to do the servicing on 12 March 2019. The cost will be around R98.00 per unit. Please confirm via email to gerda@wbpm.co.za as soon as possible.

Grass cutting is under way. If you have not yet confirmed the service at your unit, please send an email to gerda@wbpm.co.za

Thabazimbi Municipality Rates & Taxes

Unfortunately our communications with the Municipality ran into a wall!
We have established that the new valuation roll was published in June 2018. Property owners now have 4 years to lodge disputes against the valuation value of the property and the category of the property.
It is in your best interest to keep your account up to date and to make sure your property value and category is correct.
If you are not receiving an account for rates and taxes, it is strongly advised that you contact the Municipality as soon as possible.
Should you wish to acquire professional services to assist you in this regard, please send an email to bellindacoetzer@gmail.com.



Damaged Roads

The much anticipated rain unfortunately caused great damage to the roads. Repairs are in progress.

We would like to remind you that the Estate's staff will be more than happy to assist you with any of the following. :

- **General Maintenance R80 (Include first hour, additional hours will be charged at R60 per hour)**
- **Additional Bush Clearance R450**
  (The HOA will do one Bush Clearance once a year as part of fire prevention. It will consist of 20 meter perimeter clearance around houses as required by the insurance)
- **Grass Cutting R300 (Immediate area around the house and lapa.)**

Please email your request to gerda@wbpm.co.za.