



Kudu Believe It?



Amakhala Conservation Centre is delighted to announce that on Thursday 26th June at the Kudu Award Ceremony, the ACC was presented with: "**Environmental Education/Capacity Building Merit Award**" for its commitment to conservation, through educational programmes which are aimed at imparting knowledge and skills to enhance the understanding of the environment. This included a prize of R5000.

The Kudu Awards is an annual event that launched in June 2005 by South African National Parks. It is one of the highlights of the social calendar in conservation circles. It is an initiative that aims to reward stakeholders for their contributions and efforts in making

South African National Parks the custodian of choice for protected areas. A select number of persons and organisations who have made



significant contributions to conservation outside of SANParks receive Kudu Awards in the form of a bronze sculpture of a Kudu head. The award is a thing of pride, just as the Kudu itself is often feted for having a proud and majestic bearing. The Kudu Awards is fundamental to the practice of recognising, acknowledging and praising the

people who have, over the years, given financial and other resources to SANParks and other conservation agencies, while also recognising those people that have made it possible for conservation agencies to operate in a conducive and enabling environment.

The framed Kudu Award Certificate has been proudly placed on the wall in the Conservation Centre's display area.

Thanks must go to everyone who has assisted ACC over the years and thus helped in achieving this award.

Love Is In The Air...Again

Ooops they did it again! Only 5 months after giving birth to her last calf, Nomabongo, one of the white rhino cows was caught in the act again! She was seen by one of the Ulovane students on Tuesday 24th June mating with the dominant bull, Nkosi.



Nomabongo's young calf, Inkululeko, attended his first biology lesson by standing right behind the couple, watching and wondering what his mum and dad were up to. Then, they all went back to normal business: eating grass, and ... eating more grass! Assuming the mating was successful; Amakhala should expect a new baby rhino in about 16 months¹.

Nomabongo's previous male calf, Geza, now categorised as a sub-adult is still happily moving around with Nomvula and her female calf, Ikroti. Both Geza and Ikroti may separate from Nomvula

as she is expected to give birth to her next calf in the very near future. So, watch this space as more rhino stories unravel.



¹ Skinner, JD and Chimimba, CT. The Mammals of the Southern African Subregion, Third Edition, 2005.

Interesting Facts About Kudus

Each turn in a set of male Kudu horns represents roughly 2 years of life.

Kudu is one of the species which practices "Osteophagia". This literally means bone eating. Kudus will find bones lying on the ground and chew on them, primarily during the winter months when trace elements such as calcium and phosphorus that they get from the bones are not readily available in their normal plant fibre diet.

Winter Is Here!

The Conservation Centre hosted two winter schools from the 20th to the 26th of June. The first school was from the USA and the second from Milan, Italy. The students in conjunction with Rhodes University, Grahamstown came to South Africa to learn more about the history of the country. On their way to Grahamstown, where they spent a month, the students stopped at Amakhala Game Reserve for a

few days. The USA student group spent a day playing a strategy game known as "African Catchment Game". This game requires 23 players and simulates the economy of a country. Other days were spent attending lectures at the Conservation Centre ran by Rhodes University Geography Department lecturers and by night they enjoyed a more luxurious setting at Woodbury Lodge and Carnarvon Dale

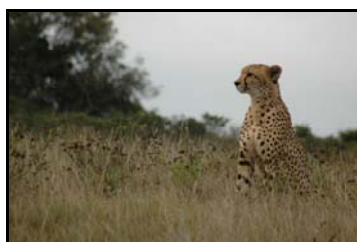
Lodge. Both lecturers and students were treated to several game drives, enjoying the unique geology and history of Amakhala as well as the wildlife.

Thank you to everybody for their help hosting these groups and special thanks to Woodbury and Carnarvon Dale rangers for their commitment.

In Brief

European Science Expo.

In early 2007, Wesley Gush joined the ACC team on the cheetah monitoring programme to collect data for his project entitled "Cheetah Adaptation". He presented it at the Regional Science Expo at Rhodes University, Grahamstown where he won a silver medal and was



selected to present his work at the National Eskom Science Expo in Pretoria. Wesley obtained another silver medal, and was one of only 25 participants from 400 that was then chosen to go to the European Expo for Young Scientists in Budapest, Hungary. All will be revealed about his overseas trip in next month issue.

Fledging Pre-School

A new pre-school has opened in Paterson, the closest town to the ACC, where unemployment is set at about 90%. A young woman, named Vicki started the pre-school under her own initiative after completing her schooling in 2007.



The local Sidbury Methodist church has committed to assist Vicki with her training in Early Childhood Development, through the Centre for Social Development, at Rhodes University, Grahamstown. However, the pre-school is still in need of basic resources such as paints, balls, crayons, puzzles and a carpet for the children to sit on in the cold weather.

The ACC did some fundraising through a Tuck Shop during the winter schools visits. For every item sold, R1 was donated to the pre-school. A total of R150 was raised. Anyone wishing to add to this donation should please contact the ACC at conservation@amakhala.co.za.

Electric Poles Study

In February 2007, Amakhala saw the sad loss of one elephant bull called "George" who electrocuted himself on one of Eskom's electric poles running through the reserve.



Scratch mark on electric pole most probably caused by a rhino rubbing its horn.

Eskom has now initiated a study across several reserves collecting data about the location of the poles, type of poles, and evidence of poles damaged by animals and a lot more information, in order to implement a plan to resolve the issue.

Big Thank You!

Amakhala Conservation Centre would like to say a big thank you to Canon South Africa for donating a video camera to the centre. Special thanks to Nicola van Straaten, National Retail Channel Manager for making it happen. A video camera will be extremely useful in many ways; including capturing rare and/or unusual behaviour during monitoring, identifying individual animals and producing ID kits and documenting ACC events and school days.