



Game Removal Project 2015

A meeting was held in March 2015 at the municipal building in Marloth Park to discuss the 2015 game removal Program. Consensus was reached by all members present (NKLM, MTPA, Honorary Rangers, Conservancy, Marloth Wildlife Fund, Care 4 Marloth, MPPOA and a State Vet) on the need for drastic game reduction this year. Not only to prevent huge loss of game by starvation but also to give the veld in Marloth Park a chance to recover and rehabilitate.

Census results of 2012 and July 2014 in conjunction with historical game stocking data was used. The recent mortalities of some species were noted. The agreed 2014 totals per species were used to calculate the 2015 projected totals following the same increment rates as used by the MTPA. The current stocking rate is 3.9ha/Animal Unit while the recommended stocking rate is 8ha/Au assuming a reasonable veld condition. Due to the lack of rain this season and the already disastrous state of Marloth Park's veld, it was agreed to take the stocking rate down to 11ha/Au. These removals will reduce the stocking rate to an extent that some recovery of the graze and browse resources would be possible. NKLM and MTPA confirmed that moving animals to Lionspruit, would ultimately only move the problem, hence the decision not to move any animals to Lionspruit.

NKLM is, by recommendation, considering the services of Wildlife Pharmaceuticals headed by Dr Kobus Raath, to carry out the game removal and this was sanctioned by MTPA, as well as all parties present. The NKLM in discussions with the MTPA and Wildlife Pharmaceuticals will address the contractual and financial implications of this exercise.

Consensus was reached that if possible the passive capture and removal would be preferential. This would not guarantee that no shooting would take place, as this would still have to happen if numbers were not reached at the end of the game capture process. Property owners and public are requested to cooperate with the relevant authorities involved and allow the capture to take place without interference to ensure as little stress to the animals as possible. Nkomazi Municipal Officials supported by MTPA emphasized the point that **NO SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING** should be done, as this will jeopardize the passive capture process in which feeding is generally used to encourage the animals to specific areas, enabling the capture.

All parties look forward to working together towards rehabilitating the veld in Marloth Park.

MARLOTH PARK: 2015 Game management recommendations

Species	Agreed totals – end 2014	Projected totals 2015	Recommended removals
Giraffe	36	40	20
Kudu	58	67	30
Zebra	42	48	25
Warthog	150	195	150
Wildebeest	40	47	25
Impala	520	624	550

NKLM (Nkomazi Local Municipality)

MTPA (Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Association)