

THE SHARED UNIVERSE VENTURES NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016



“BE PART OF THE
JOURNEY,
BE PART OF THE
SOLUTION”

THE METAMORPHOSES CONTINUES

As promised since our last newsletter, here is an update on the developments at the building site of the new Luxury units.

With only 24 days to go for the first occupants in the new units, we are extremely excited to see the whole puzzle coming together. We can't contain ourselves to see the finished product. The Building team and contractors are all doing their bit to

ensure that these magnificent units will be finished in time on a very tight deadline that has been set. Long days and sometimes nights are spent working and perfecting every aspect of these units, to make them as comfortable as possible and to set a new standard at the lodge. We believe that once they are complete they will be the most sought after accommodation available at the lodge.



| *The Mopane Team*

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THE FAMOUS POTJIE AT MOPANE

Our very famous potjie pot, is extremely traditional in the South African Region. A get together is not complete without a Pot on the open coal fire. This pot is usually made with meat and vegetables, but with time it has become so versatile that almost anything can be cooked in the pot.

The pot is made from cast iron to keep in the heat, and to cook the content to perfection. The ingredients for a traditional pot is usually meat and vegetables, Minimal amount of water is used due to the vegetables and meat providing most of the liquid in the pot. This pot is not stirred until the last 10 minutes, reason for this is it prevents all the liquid from mixing, which makes all the ingredients stand out and tasting each component of the pot. Because no stirring occurs the coals need to be at a perfect low to medium temperature. Potjiekos originated with the Voortrekkers, evolving as a stew made of venison and vegetables (if available), cooked in the potjie. As trekkers (pioneers) shot wild game, it was added to the pot. The large bones were included to thicken the stew.

Each day when the wagons stopped, the pot was placed over a fire to simmer. New bones replaced old and fresh meat replaced meat eaten. Game included venison, poultry such as guinea fowl, warthog, bushpig, rabbit and hare. And other meat such as pork, beef, chicken and sometimes Afvall is used. The Pot is served with Rice, mealies (Samp) or maize meal. A delicious Beetroot salad or a lovely creamy pot bread.

When visiting South Africa, or when you are hosting in South Africa, Potjie Kos is definitely the supreme!



BABIES GALORE

The rains have returned to the parched Limpopo Valley bringing forth an eruption of new life on Mapesu. Many of the antelope species have begun lambing and calving. Huge nursery herds of impala can be seen in the North-western as well as South-eastern section of the Reserve.





A game count was conducted on September 2nd, 2014 and the following species occurred in these numbers:

Species	Individuals
Zebra	18
Waterbuck	12
Blue Wildebeest	22
Oryx	53
Impala	196
Eland	15
Kudu	154
Giraffe	13
Total	483

Also seen on the game count were bushbuck, warthog, jackals, bat-eared foxes and so forth but these were not counted.

Since that date we have introduced an additional 27 Waterbuck in 2014 and 7 Eland and 16 Zebras in 2015. With more additions planned for 2016 including a number of new species.

Using the natural population growth rate of these animals as found in the Kruger National Park an area with many predators we can extrapolate that by September 2nd, 2016 the above mentioned animals should occur in these numbers on Mapesu:

Species	Individuals
Zebra	48
Waterbuck	63
Blue Wildebeest	39
Oryx	82
Impala	357
Eland	30
Kudu	200
Giraffe	15
Total	834

An increase of 351 animals. In reality these numbers may fluctuate but for now the baby boom continues and will do so well into the new year.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GUIDE AT MOPANE BUSH LODGE

“Never a dull moment” it’s a phrase that’s been used repeatedly by anyone who has dedicated their life to being in the bushveld. Yet still that one line holds so much truth.

Almost every month, sometimes more, we receive a big group of about sixteen guests from Titan Travel. They stay at Mopane Bush Lodge for three nights where they basically have the whole lodge to themselves. During their stay we take them on as many activities as possible. One of the essential activities is the San Rock Art Shelter, where I arrange a private tour on Kaoxa property which unveils the ancient drawings and motifs of the bushman. It is an area where one can experience the atmosphere of this mystic land and feel the aura of the peoples of the past.

Although it’s a ten-minute walk from the vehicle to where the shelter is, it is undoubtedly one of the most exciting ten minutes of walking that you’ll ever experience. Why? Because



the Kaoxa area is on the edge of the Mapungubwe National Park, which is a park that is nestled between the borders of three countries, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South African. It is home to most of the big 5 (buffalo and black rhino being the only ones excluded). Being abundant in wildlife, there are elephants converging from all three corners flattening most of the fences around Kaoxa and allows all sorts of animals to enter unrestricted. Thus, during the 10 minute walk to the artwork one will have to be on the lookout for anything ranging from a lion to an elephant without the help of a rifle, just the confidence in your guide to be able to handle any dangerous situation that arises. And this is exactly what the Titan group did.

When we arrived at Kaoxa, I started off with my routine safety briefing, and as per usual there was a mixture of both excitement and nervousness in the air. When we started walking toward the rocks there were signs of the fabled big 5 everywhere, but nothing to be of concern just yet. At a certain point we stopped so I could tell them about the giant red sand stone structures surrounding us like an arena. Suddenly the morning sounds of birds chirping and squirrels scurrying around was pierced by the sound of a mighty roar. A roar so loud that every person standing there knew, before I even had to mouth the word, that this was indeed a lion. Every part of you goes cold, every instinct telling you to run, but as a guide you try to forget your natural instincts and instead remember what you've been taught to do.

Getting the groups attention, and looking as calm as possible, I tell them that even though we can hear the lion close by, we won't be able to see it, so instead of walking into a dangerous situation with them, I suggest we walk back to the vehicle and leave them there safely while I come back to try and get some eyes on the culprit of all this roaring.

But while I'm trying to implement some sense of calm into the group, the baboons that were around the area decided that they're not having it, and all hell breaks loose. The baboon

troop start barking out calls of alarm all around us, and starts running around in hopes of scaring off the predator. Getting the guests attention again we head back to the vehicle where I turn back on my own in search of the intruder.

Satisfied after some time of scouting the area, I decide that the lion must have moved off into a different direction after all the commotion of the baboon troop. Finding the group again, I can feel the heightened sense of excitement as I ask them if they want to continue with the activity, and get quick yes all around. During the evening as they sit around the fire they talked about their close encounter with natures most feared and respected predator. It's a story that, I'm sure, will be passed on for many more years to come!

Brigitte, Senior Field Guide



INVITATION TO JOIN THE ADVENTURE

Come be part of this important project of conserving the amazing South African Wilderness! We invite you to join us on our journey and become an investor in Shared Universe.

Our vision is to become one of the largest wildlife conservancies in all of Africa, offering a hands-on, up-close and personal experience to our investors while being a commercial success.

- Enjoy a game reserve without the complexities and cost of personally managing one
- Contribute to the preservation of the great South African landscape and wildlife including the endangered rhino
- No timeshare, you are a co-owner
- Realize your own dream lodge
- Enjoy the rights to use the Mopane Bush Lodge and other communal facilities
- Leave a legacy for future generations

**For more information come visit our website: www.shareduniverseafrica.com/our-investments
or contact us: contact@shareduniverseafrica.com**