



KHAYA is causing a stir with the ladies in the Wild Cats enclosure

AFRICAN WILDCATS

The African Wild Cats are enjoying the extra greenery and grenadilla fruit that grows in their enclosure during summer. If you have been on a tour recently, you will know that they eat fruit as part of their natural diet.

MICHEAL, the older male, is shocked since the young male (Khaya) is spending most of his time playing with the girls as he is the new boy in town.

GRUMPY - is not very happy with young Khaya who always steals the food at feeding time...but let's face it, it doesn't take a lot for grumpy to be unhappy.

GRUMPY - I don't know who he thinks he is, but it is sure making me mad...



HOUDINI - the magician has changed his ways and is being a good cat, having stopped all the escaping tricks!

KYLEE - our old 'Goggo' is very healthy but her age is slowly taking its toll and we are thinking of moving her to the old age home...

FULL BLOWN SUMMER

Emdoneni is enjoying a typically hot summer in the sub-tropical region of Zululand, which is a complete contrast to the bitterly cold weather of the winter in Europe, from where many of our guests come from.

Recently the temperature reached 38 °C with extremely high humidity, taking the 'felt' temperature even higher and most uncomfortable. Thankfully, we have good air-conditioning at the Lodge which provides relief, plus a stunning new pool area where visitors can cool off...

Enjoy a welcome back soon! Until then, warm regards from Louis & Cecillie Nel.



A giraffe at our neighbouring Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve is groomed by a red-billed oxpecker, which almost seems to be whispering into its ear.
Photo: Anton Kieck



WELCOME BACK DUMI!



We have great pleasure in welcoming our guide Dumi (Dumisane) back to the project. He is surely back due to public demand! Dumi left us a short while ago to try a different venture, but missed life (and the cats) at Emdoneni, so he is back and everyone is delighted at his return.

WILDCATS TO STAR IN US TV FEATURE!

The African Wildcats are currently being filmed by an American TV production company, and will soon be seen on television in the States in an advert and documentary. Watch this space for a full feature in our next edition.



GIVE THE GIFT OF GIVING
Adopt a Cat in your name or
in the name of a loved one and
help us save these magnificent
endangered creatures. Contact
details below, or visit website.



Mmmh, that was good, may I have more?

CARACAL

The Caracals are well but we need to get more females as companions for Tyson and Bar-One.

LULU & LYNXI are always content and are definite soul mates. They constantly remind us that they have mastered the trick of "living happily ever after". One can actually feel the respect and love they have for each other. Lynxi has become a 'one man' woman in the project and seems to love every minute of it. So hopefully more babies from them soon to be released back in to the wild!

BAR-ONE - has become fat, so we decided that we need to put him on a good diet to allow him to jump for his food again.

TYSON is healthy but has become very clever and does not want to jump for his food anymore! He discovered that whatever we throw up in the air always comes down, so why jump? Now he simply waits patiently for it to come back down to him!

MAX - is not happy because he is battling with a wife (Popeye) that visits the village!



Dumisane, can you hurry it up a bit with the food please?



Peaches and Katz playing in their "bed" (rear car seat).

PEACHES is so happy with her new friend and playmate - KATZ, who is also female. They are still kept in their own secluded pen outside the rehab centre because they are still very young but hopefully, at the speed they are growing, we might be able to move them sooner than we think.

The 3 wild caracals, (Bar-One and Pippa's offspring), are almost ready to be released. We are in the process of looking for a suitable home where they can be released back into the wild. They would be most welcome at nearby reserves, but unfortunately the process to have them accepted is a long, drawn-out one which frustrates us all. If anyone reading this has any suggestions to help, please call the team.



Impala Racking (clashing their horns together) is a common sight at Emdoneni as they compete for territory at the start of the breeding season.

INTERESTING FACT

It is marula season and the smell of the sweet fruit is hanging heavy in the air! The impala enjoy eating the fruit which looks like they are chewing on gum. Impala are naturally attracted to the fruit as it has many vitamins essential to their diet.



CHEETAH

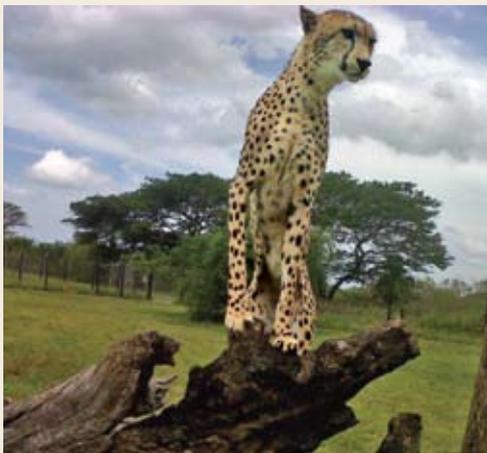
THE CHEETAH FAMILY is promising to increase their numbers! Last week the two boys were calling the whole day, wanting to go to the girls' pen. We finally acted on their call and let them through. Moya, who is the dominant male, went straight to Autumn, trying to show off. Juba, on the other hand, was more interested in the tree in the enclosure than in the girls themselves! Maybe he prefers watching from a distance for now.

ZERA - is currently on medication for liver and kidney support and she is doing very well!

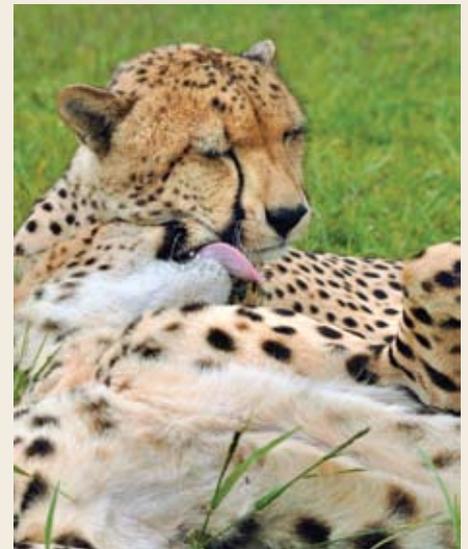


THE SIMPLE THRILL OF SPEED

One of the cheetah in typical food protection stance - crouched low and poised to move quickly.



A cheetah needs to climb approximately 2,5m up a tree to have proper visibility of their territory. Verifying that this is a natural act, you will find Juba looking out on his territory from the tree stump in the enclosure - not quite high enough, but getting there!



BROTHERS IN ARMS

Who says brothers cannot love one another? Moya and Juba grooming each other - what they call "bonding" in nature.

**A DAY IN THE LIFE...
OF THE EVER-PATIENT BERNIE**



Just one more picture please?



Hold still - let me just check your teeth...

VISITOR FROM HONG KONG



Exchange student, Manton Woo, from St Paul's Co-Ed College in Hong Kong, enjoying interaction with the cheetah at a recent visit to the Cat Project.



We were fortunate at Emdoneni to witness this very special action - a praying mantis caught a rodent! This is a natural thing for a praying mantis to do.



MUHLE - where else, but up in a tree!

MUHLE - will never change, she is always up in the tree which makes our life very difficult when it comes to feeding. Maybe she thinks we need arm exercise, because the only way to get the food to her is by throwing it up in the tree!

A distinctive feature of the serval is the large ears, indicating a particularly acute sense of hearing.



That is what you call team work!

SERVAL

LORKEN - There is joy in the Serval family, as Lorken is growing into a pretty girl and we thought she was a boy!

NOAH - the young male is growing into a big strong boy and hopefully will show interest in our new girl and bring some new kittens into the camp.

SHENDON - is the older male and he is something else! He doesn't like females and can be aggressive to them, so we are keeping him by himself. It still confuses our minds why he acts like that? Bad personality perhaps...

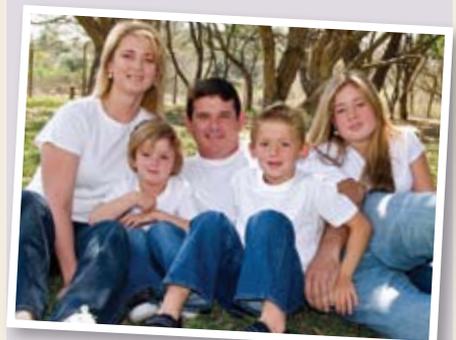
BRUCE & SHEILA - are currently in one enclosure so that they can start breeding but Bruce needs to lose some weight to get the ladies to look towards him! He looks like a typical South African businessman!

JANE & MANDLA - The 2 sisters are doing well. They are big enough to start breeding and very soon we will be putting them in with a male.

SPOTTY - is well and she is getting friendlier each day. At feeding time she comes and drinks the meat juice out of the feeding bucket - her treat of the day!

STUDENT VOLUNTEER GROUP

Another special thank you to volunteer eco students abroad for the good work you continue to do for the project, and in creating more awareness.



MEET THE NEL'S

The Nel Family, owners of Emdoneni, are the inspiration behind the Cat Project.
L to R, back: Cecillie, Louis, Amonè
Front: Jacques, Louis jnr.

CREATURES GREAT & SMALL...

A stunning butterfly photographed at the lodge recently - the warm climate at Emdoneni attracts many interesting insects and birds.



Photo: Anton Kieck



To all adoptive parents: thank you so much for taking care of the cats and supporting our Project.

Welcome to the following new Adoptive Parents and thank you for your vision in helping to conserve our wild cats:

Robyn & Phillipa Austin - Wildcat adoption