

Raptor's View HOA

Estate Management Report – AGM 2013

March 2012 to February 2013



ESTATE MANAGEMENT REPORT – AGM 2013

1. Road Infrastructure

1.1 Road maintenance and repairs

During the course of the year maintenance and repairs are done on the road surfaces, this includes:

- Dragging of tyres behind the tractor to smoothen the road surface and counter the effect of corrugation.
- Repairing of drainage line crossings after heavy rainstorm.
- Removal of debris from mitre drains and grading of the roads.
- Filling of pot holes or ruts with gravel.
- Trimming of trees overhanging the road verges.
- Clearing of vegetation on blind corners to improve visibility.
- Treatment of road signage.

1.2 Construction of new roads

New roads are constructed every time a new stand is developed. Roads constructed in the last financial year were the driveways to RV101, RV299, RV296, RV48, RV222, RV167 and RV173.

1.3 Walking trails

Bolster Humps were constructed on the Aardvark trail to prevent erosion of the trail. New route markers were constructed and installed along the Aardvark trail to match the route markers on other walking trails on the estate. The benches on the Aardvark trail have also been retreated with varnish.

The Bird hide at Guineafowl dam has been retreated with varnish and the ridge cap has been repainted. Bolster humps have been constructed on the Buffalo trail to combat erosion of the foot path. The bolster humps across the Lion trail has been reinstated. New tree markers have been placed on the walking trails by members of the Eco-Committee. The position of the tree markers on the Aardvark trail has been logged on GPS in order to upgrade the trail map.

1.4 Private access roads

Private access roads are repaired and maintained throughout the year. When repairing driveways, attention is paid to improving the road surface, placing of bolsterhumps (to divert water runoff) and construction of mitre drains (to channel water off the road surface). We have worked on 44 driveways in the last financial year.

2. Fencing

2.1 Fence line Maintenance

There is continuous maintenance and repairs being done to the fenceline. Before the summer rains the fence line is sprayed with a herbicide to prevent growth of vegetation, this is to limit interference with the fence electrics. Washed debris is removed from the fence after rain, especially on drainage line crossings. Inspections are done throughout the month and minor repairs are dealt with. This will include straightening of Y-standards, droppers, offset brackets and tensioning of wire strands and closing up of warthog holes.

The northern fence boundary has been strengthened by installing additional 2.4m droppers in the fence line. This was to limit the flexibility of wire strands in the fence.

The common northern fence between the Jordan storage facility and SCS had historically been erected in the incorrect position. RV staff members have moved this fence to the correct position and have reinstated a fence line road along the new position for security purposes. The waste skip facility, which is now on RV property, has been enclosed.

The y-standard posts have been repainted along zone 10 and partially along zone 5.

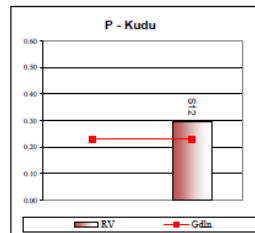
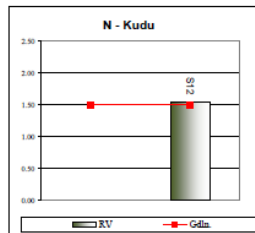
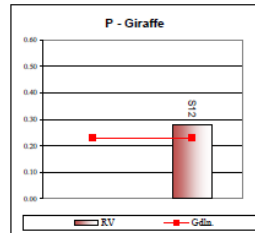
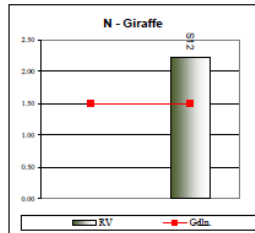
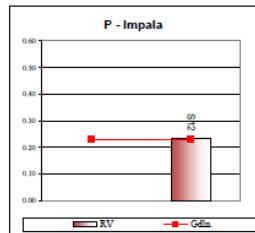
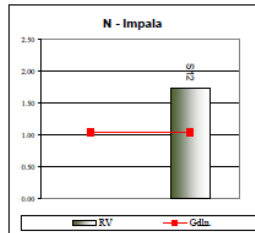
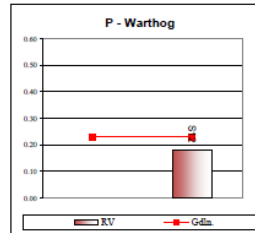
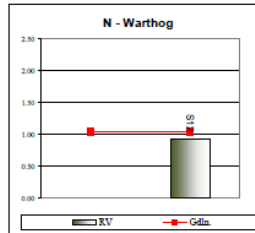
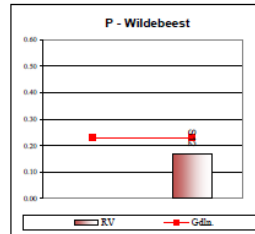
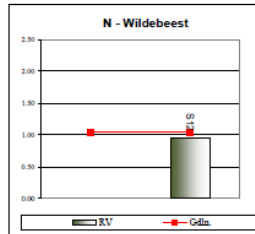
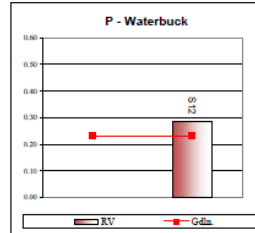
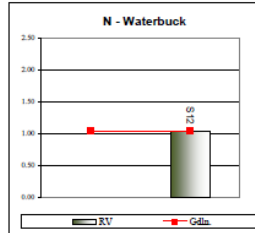
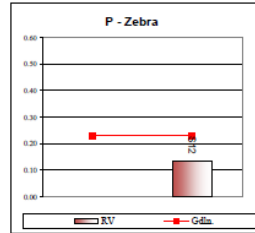
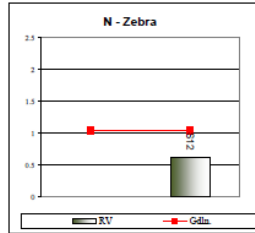
3. Veld Management

3.1 Vegetation monitoring

The ARC team has been back to do another veld monitoring assessment on Raptor's View. Grass and tree composition is monitored at 10 pre-determined locations. This data is indicative of the condition of the veld.

3.2 Faecal analysis

"Protein is the most common nutrient that limits animal performance and survival. Faecal protein, measured as faecal Nitrogen (N), gives an idea of what the animal is able to select. The measurement is correlated with forage digestibility, dietary protein, phosphorous concentration and weight change. Phosphorous (P) is commonly limiting during dry periods in particular. P deficiencies generally lead to reduced reproduction rates. The higher the palatability of the plants, the higher the protein and phosphorous concentrations and digestibility. Environmental conditions affect N and P concentrations and rainfall in particular is correlated to their availability" (Dr. Peel, 2010, RV Ecological Report). Droppings of selected animal species have been collected and sent in for analysis and is reflected in the yearly report of Dr. Mike Peel.



3.3 Game count

Raptors View

Sep-12

Row Labels	Calves	Female	Male	Grand Total
Blue Wildebeest	4	17	7	28
Bushbuck		3		3
Duiker		7		7
Giraffe	4	14	7	25
Impala		100	21	121
Jackal		3		3
Kudu	3	15	10	28
Nyala		1	12	13
Steenbuck		1		1
Warthog		73		73
Waterbuck	1	11	9	21
Zebra	2	25		27
Grand Total	14	272	66	352

3.4 Cleared bush coppice control

The two bush cleared sites, BCB1 and BCB2, were treated with a foliage application to treat coppiced vegetation and prevent further encroachment of the cleared areas.

3.5 Supplementary feeding

Lucerne was sourced from Tzaneen as a supplementary feed specifically for the zebra, as per faecal analysis results. This was placed in the western and southern wilderness areas.

3.6 Animal reintroductions

Due to the low nyala females count during the annual game count, it was decided to reintroduce nyala females back onto the estate. 1 Adult bull, 2 adult female and 3 sub-adult females have been brought back onto the estate.

3.7 Bush clearing

A common wilderness area along Snake Eagle has been identified as a suitable area for selective clearing of encroaching plant species. The main species that are selectively being thinned out are *Grewia spp*, *Acacia exuvialis* and *Dichrostachys cinerea*.

3.8 Erosion control

Erosion reclamation and erosion structure maintenance were carried out on identified sites as per the maintenance schedule.

This involved sourcing, collecting and moving rock for the structures, and preparation of the surrounding areas for the gabion boxes, assembling of gabion boxes and filling of boxes and stabilising the down slope of the gullies below said gabions.

The gabion structure at the overflow of Osprey dam was damaged during the January floods of 2012. Priority was given to the repair of this structure before the next raining season. Damaged gabions were dismantled and reassembled after the necessary alterations to the surrounding area were completed. New boxes were assembled and added where it was required.

The gabion structure at the overflow of Guinefowl dam has not been maintained in the last couple of years and the situation was worsened with the January floods. The old structure has been completely dismantled and the surrounding area has been prepared to accommodate a new structure design which has been completed.

Repairs to gabion structures on the southern fence line were repaired and modified. Work included breaking out collapsed concrete structures, assembling new gabion boxes and preparing the surrounding area to accommodate the new boxes

3.9 Animal removal/mortalities

The following animal mortalities/removals have been recorded. Predation by wild dog and leopard has been the major cause of natural deaths. Other mortalities were due to animals getting stuck in the fence, altercations between animals. No culling activities took place in the last financial year.

Species	Total
Impala	9
Warthog	3
Waterbuck	3
Kudu	3
Nyala	5
Giraffe	1
Wildebeest	3

3.10 Rain

Season 2011/2012 vs. 2012/2013

Year.	Month.	Rainfall.
2011	July	3.0
	August	5.0
	September	0.0
	October	48.0
	November	61.0
	December	70.0
2012	January	450.0
	February	5.0
	March	36.0
	April	23.0
	May	0.0
	June	0.0
	Total:	701.0

Year.	Month.	Rainfall.
2012	July	0.0
	August	0.0
	September	28.0
	October	70.0
	November	49.0
	December	88
2013	January	253.0
	February	32.0
	March	44.0
	April	90.0
	May	0.0
	June	1.0
	Total:	655.0

4. Waste Management

Every Thursday waste is collected from various houses. After collection, all the recycling bags are separated and waste items are sorted into 210 litre drums according to plastic, glass, tins and paper. The recyclables are then moved to the recycle depot for further processing by the waste recycling company

5. Speed checks

Speed checks were done on a ad hoc basis on the estate and are done in both directions (to and from the radar gun). The radar equipment is calibrated and both the operator and radar gun have the required certificates. It was also agreed during the last AGM that a radar gun could be purchased and used on the estate.

Statistics from March 2012 to February 2013

Number of fines issued: 37

Total value of fines issued: R 6 610-00

6. Water reticulation, dams and electrical infrastructure

The water and electricity usage of each developed stand is read on a monthly basis. The average usage of each house is monitored. Where problems were identified the home owners were notified by the office.

The main water pipeline across the causeway was reinstated in its original position.

The silt material in the cofferdam to Osprey dam has been removed and the spill walls raised in order to retain more water.

A strainer was installed in the main water reticulation system to prevent small particles from entering the water reticulation system and blocking up water meters.

A transformer in phase 3 has become defective and a temporary one has been installed by Eljon until such time as the original one had been repaired. The transformer has since been repaired and re connected to the electrical grid. An additional transformer has been purchased as a back up transformer due to the long repair time.

Various water leaks have been repaired during the course of the financial year.

7. Gatehouse/Pump house/Workshop

Raptor's staff members clean and maintain the main entrance and contractor's gate once a week. The workshop is also cleaned up on a Friday afternoon. During this time all the vehicles and equipment are cleaned and checked for any faults. Both the Raptor's View booster pump stations have been repainted. A new housing structure for the bakkie fire fighting unit is being constructed. The garden light at the main gate has been repaired.

8. Staff related

Sadly, two staff members, Thomas Maile and Owen Mathonsi, passed away and their funerals were attended by staff members.

A Hlokomela clinic educational session was held with the employees to inform them about the risks involved with sexually transmitted diseases and how to prevent the spread of such diseases.

9. Consultants

Tim Parker was consulted during the course of the year regarding many aspects relating to the management of the reserve and its animals. He provided invaluable advice during field trips with regards to all of our projects throughout the year.

10. Security

Security related incidents from March 2012 to Feb 2013 consisted of:

- On the 13th of March 2012 a broken window was discovered at RV073 and a possible break in was reported, Farm management and Quemic investigated the incident. The surrounding area was swept for spoor. No items were reported missing from the house. It was concluded that a bird (possibly a Hornbill) was responsible for the broken window.
- A person was reported fishing from one of the many pools in the Sandspruit River. Farm management investigated the incident and found the gardener of RV090 being the culprit. The owner removed the individual from Raptor's View and requested the person not be allowed back onto the Estate.
- A chain barrier has been erected at the Buffalo camp to prevent vehicle access from SC Schools and from RV, when the contractor's gate is not manned.

- On Sunday 14 October 2012, a Security breach was discovered by the mobile unit. A disturbance was picked up 150m north of the southern traverse gate where a person had lifted the fence high enough with stumps to crawl underneath the fence into Welverdiend. Tracks indicated a single male of medium build. A quick perimeter check was done and the point of entry was found on the Leadwood/ Raptors View boundary fence. About 30 known empty houses between points of entry and exit were checked. Nothing unusual was noticed. The next day trackers followed the spoor from the point of entry where it went through the bush, intercepting the Lion trail. It followed the Lion trail onto the Buffalo trail and end ended up at the fence, whereby the spoor moved up to the exit point.No alarm was triggered as the individual kept the electrified strands away from the earth strands, thus not creating a short. No wire strands were cut. The spoor also did not go close to any houses.
- A security blitz was held on the16th November. All residents, domestic workers and contractors were searched for pets, fauna and flora.
- The possibility of upgrading the access control to the estate by means of electronic access control and video recording was investigated and implemented.
- From December 2012 to February 2013 various houses on the estate have been broken in to. This caused a panic on the estate and a security information evening was hosted by Quemic and RV with RV residents to discuss security related incidents on RV. A security sub committee was then formed.