



**MABALINGWE COMMON
PROPERTY ASSOCIATION
(MCPA)**

**WINTER
NEWSLETTER**

7 JULY 2015

MABALINGWE

**Game and Veld
Management**

Elephants

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Fire Protection

**Important Contact
Numbers**

**MABALINGWE
NATURE RESERVE**

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With Mabalingwe now being fully in the fold of winter we have passed the 21st of June, which is the day with the least hours of daylight. We can now fortunately look forward to Spring being just a few months away and soon thereafter the arrival of the first Impala fawns and other young ones.

Since the beginning of autumn this year, there has been a dramatic decline in the number of security instances and excellent progress has been made on reaching an agreement on future game management in Mabalingwe. Even though load shedding has become an unfortunate part of life in South Africa, the country as a whole sighed with relief when NERSA turned down the request from ESKOM for an additional increase in electricity tariffs.

Read more about all of this as well as the preparation done by Matie Barnard and his team for fire protection during the winter months in this document, the 2015 MCPA Winter Newsletter.

We have also included a leaflet with some interesting information on the Impala to whet your appetite for Spring.



GAME AND VELD MANAGEMENT

A committee of the MCPA has been in discussion with the game owners of Mabalingwe - Mabalingwe Wild – since November 2014 with a view to enter into a formal agreement on the relationship between the MCPA - representing their members and other land owners (comprising non-affiliated Bodies Corporate and Serapa) - and the game owners.

Negotiations have reached an advanced stage and will shortly be discussed with the BC and Shareblock representatives with the objective of the implementation of a formal game and veld management plan within the next few months, but by end October 2015 at the latest.

More details on the agreement as well as the game and veld management plan will be made available in future newsletters.

ELEPHANTS

In line with the negotiations between the MCPA and Mabalingwe Wild – as the owners of the game and the elephants - special attention has been devoted to sensitivities and disparate views regarding the elephants.

The MCPA requested Mabalingwe Wild to prepare a management plan dealing specifically with the elephants, focusing on the impact, control management and carrying capacity of Mabalingwe in relation to the number of elephants. Mabalingwe Wild sourced Dr. Yolanda Pretorius, who is involved with the University of Pretoria Department for Wildlife Management and the Vice-Chair of the Elephant Advisory Group to assist in monitoring and proposing possible solutions with regard to the Mabalingwe elephants. Her report is expected before the end of August 2015.

Over the past few months, the elephant bull has become more aggressive and even tipped the security vehicle over. In a number of instances, game viewers had narrow escapes when they were in the proximity of the elephant herd, with the bull charging at vehicles. The game owners were requested to obtain specialist advice on the handling of the situation and once more consulted with Dr. Pretorius as well as other specialists.

Consistent with the recommendations, the game owners treated the elephant with medication preventing it from remaining in musth, which was intended to prevent the elephant from acting in an aggressive manner. Unfortunately this was not successful, which led to the game owners being compelled to consider alternative options, including putting the elephant bull down rather than face a situation where our members, owners or guests could be fatally injured.

As part of the legal procedure, a permit to cull the elephant bull was applied for and granted by the relevant state department, with the intention of introducing another bull or bulls to stabilize the herd, once the cull has taken place. The culling of the bull was planned for the first week in July. During the procedure a life threatening situation developed and another elephant had to be put down to avert disaster. The culling of the dominant bull has now been postponed.

The MCPA supports a responsible, informed and sustainable game management plan that can be measured and managed. We trust that, with the finalization of the game and veld management plan, that this will be achieved under the watchful control of the representative game committee.

NO FURTHER INCREASE IN THE COST OF ELECTRICITY FOR THIS YEAR

Electricity costs in Mabalingwe were increased on 1 April this year following the Eskom increase.

Thereafter, Eskom lodged an application to The National Energy Regulator (NERSA) on 30 April for reconsideration of its price increase for 2015 / 2016 that would result in a total price increase of 25.30% for 2015 / 2016. This would have consisted of the 12.69% already approved by NERSA plus an additional 12.61% added as a result of the application.

NERSA announced at its meeting on 29 June 2015, that it decided against Eskom's application for the selective re-opening of the third Multi-Year Price Determination (MYPD3) application for its Open Cycle Gas Turbines (OCGTs), the Short-Term Power Purchase Programmes (STPPPs) and the impact of the increase in Environmental Levy.

For Mabalingwe this will mean that, at this stage, there will be no increase in the price of electricity until April 2016.

ELECTRICITY METERS ARE BEING CHECKED AND REPLACED

With the MCPA being responsible for the payment of the Eskom accounts and then recovering the costs from owners, it is important to balance both financially as well as on the kWh-units that were consumed by the owners. It has been found in a number of instances that meters that were originally installed had malfunctioned. Meters are thus checked continuously and replaced when and where required. This will lead to the correct charges being raised for the kWh-units measured, and a balancing of the consumption and payment.



SECURITY IS IMPROVING

The tide on the security situation has turned dramatically with a number of arrests made and a reduction in the number of burglaries that have taken place.

From 7 May up to 5 July 2015, fourteen suspects were arrested in and around Mabalingwe. Unfortunately, in many instances the cases were withdrawn by the prosecutor or the suspects released on bail, but the message to possible perpetrators is clear that every attempt will be made to arrest and convict them.

The table below on all occurrences during 2015 provides an overview of the improved situation:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Northern Reserve – Includes Elandsfontein, Kukama, Idwala, Serapa	1	1	1	0	5	2	0
Central Reserve – Includes Itaga, Ingwe, Phiri	6	2	1	8	1	0	2*
Southern / Eastern Reserve – Includes Olievenfontein, Kwalata, staff housing	0	5	0	11	0	0	0

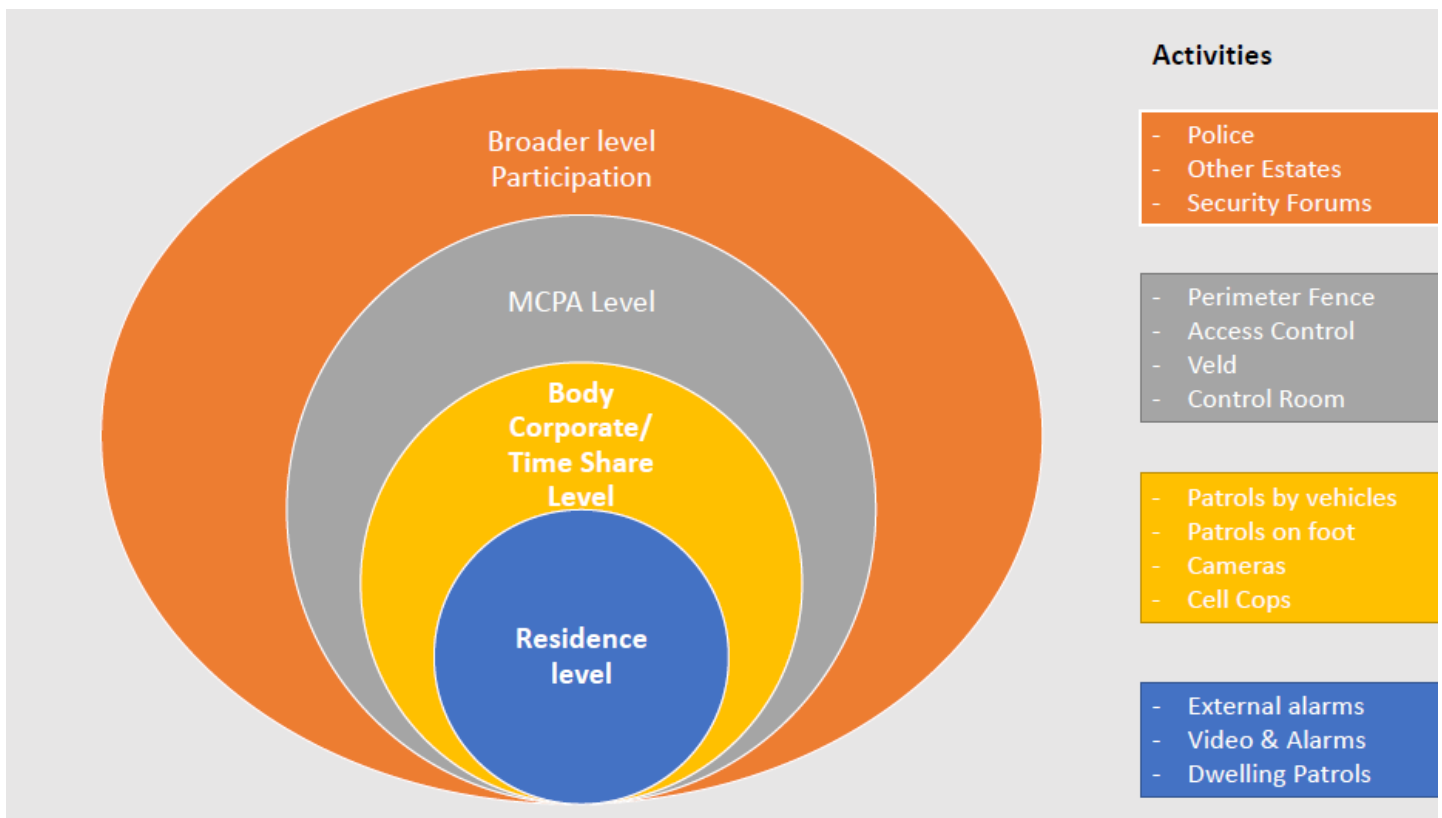
** The perpetrators were tracked within Mabalingwe and arrested with the stolen goods in their possession the next morning. A conviction should therefore follow.*

THE SECURITY MODEL FOR MABALINGWE REVISED

Under the guidance of Ian Stevens (Mabalingwe 1) and Matie Barnard, a revised security model for the greater Mabalingwe has been developed in order to be better prepared for future incidences and to be able to react a lot faster than what has been the case over the first few months of this year.

Even though all security aspects will remain under the control of the MCPA, the trustees of the various Body Corporates as well as the management of Timeshare will be more involved in the planning of the patrols within their areas. Where the security model previously focused primarily on gate control with some patrols within Mabalingwe, a more holistic approach will be followed in future. The diagram on the next page provides an overview of the model, depicting the activities at the various levels.

Steps are already underway for the implementation of the first steps of the model. Owners will be advised on the steps they can take at their homes to improve their own security that will be able to tie in with the overall model and so enhance security even further.



FIRE PROTECTION

Every year the MCPA Management Team prepares well in advance to deal with the increased risk of winter veld fires.

In line with the legal requirements, Mabalingwe forms part of the Bela Bela FPA (Fire Protection Association) and has established the Mabalingwe fire sector within the larger FPA. The members within the Mabalingwe sector are all the Body Corporates (Cyferfontein included), the Shareblock, Itaga, Serapa and Ingelozzi.

As required, the Mabalingwe sector has the following in place:

- An operational fire plan for the sector
- A fire management plan relating to:
 - Plan and clear fire breaks
 - Have adequate firefighting equipment and manpower available 24/7 during the winter period.

Fire breaks have already been cut in strategic areas and the fire coordinators and fire team recently attended training courses on fire fighting.

Owners are encouraged to keep a fire backpack at their homes to enable them to quickly extinguish a fire should it start at their unit. Owners are further advised to ensure full compliance with the endorsements contained in the insurance policy of their units which, among others, specify the need for:

- Fire extinguishers (in general, a 4.5kg fire extinguisher in each kitchen and / or cooking area as well as in each storey / loft of the building of not a sing storey).
- Lightning conductors and the need to earth any metal used in thatch construction.
- Bush clearing and cutting of overhanging branches - as specified in the policy.

The basic principle of veld fires is to have it extinguished as quickly as possible – in line with the Bela Bela FPA's motto: **“Here we make short work of every veld fire”**.



Remember to determine what fuels a fire and then use the correct type of fire extinguisher to suppress the fire. In line with SANS 1910 specification of 2009 every extinguisher must clearly display the applicable fire classification for the extinguisher and must also indicate whether the extinguisher may be used (or not) in the presence of live electricity.

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS



Security		
Mabalingwe Control Room	24/7 security service, alarm monitoring	014 736 6933/4
Police	SAPS Bela Bela	014 736 9700
Medical (Emergencies)		
Ambulance	Provincial ambulance Bela Bela	014 736 2121
Provincial Hospital	Bela Bela Provincial Hospital	014 736 2121
St Vincent Private Hospital	Private hospital in Bela Bela	014 736 2310
Trauma	Private ambulance service	014 736 2831
Medical (General)		
Medlin Pharmacy	Weekdays 08:30 – 18:00 Saturdays 08:30 – 13:30 Sundays and Holidays 10:30 – 12:00	014 736 2285
Van Heerden Pharmacy	Weekdays 08:00 – 19:00 Saturdays 08:00 – 12:00 & 17:00 – 19:00 Sundays and Holidays 10:00 – 12:00 & 17:00 – 19:00	014 736 2301
Drs Bergh & Coertze	Local doctors based in Bela Bela	014 736 2290
Drs Emslie & De Jonge	Local doctors based in Bela Bela	014 736 2032
Drs Grobler & De Villiers	Local doctors based in Bela Bela	014 736 2220
Water and Electricity Problems		
Control Room	24/7 Electrical or Water problems	014 736 6933/4
Resort Facilities		
Game drives and activities	Information and bookings at Mabalingwe	014 736 9055
Reception	Office hours 07:00 – 22:00	014 736 9000
Restaurant	Breakfast: 07:00 – 11:00 Lunch: 11:00 – 15:30 Dinner: 18:30 – 21:30	014 736 9019
Farm Shop	Mondays to Thursdays 09:00 – 17:00 Fridays 09:00 – 19:00 Saturdays 09:00 – 17:00 Sundays 08:00 – 16:00	014 736 9025
Ladies Bar	Mondays to Sundays 10:00 – 20:00	014 736 9060

UNTIL NEXT TIME

Having now shared the news relating to the last few months, it is time to look forward to the final months of 2015, which will be a busy period for the MCPA. An information will take place with representatives from all the Bodies Corporate as well as the Management Team of Shareblock towards the end of August, with some of the items for discussion including the following:

- The budget for 2016;
- The implementation of the new security model;
- The game management agreement and the game management plan;
- Nominations for the Board of Directors for 2016.



Thanks again to my co-directors of the MCPA and other members from participating body corporates that have spent many hours in improving conditions for the owners. Also thanks to Matie Barnard and his team that are looking after Mabalingwe whilst we are all occupied elsewhere.

Best regards,

Jan Zeederberg

Chairman: MCPA

Impala



Quick Facts

Type: Mammal

Diet: Herbivore

Lifespan: Around 12 years

Size: 75-100 cm high

Weight: 40-80 kg

Habitat: Wooded savannah and bush-land

Range: Southern and Eastern Africa

Scientific name: *Aepyceros melampus*

Most young impala are born around mid-day with that being the safest time of day to give birth as most of their natural enemies are resting. In the wild, half of the new-born are killed by predators within the first few weeks.

Facts about impalas

- The impala is one of the most common and most graceful of all Africa's antelopes. A slender, agile creature, it can clear formidable obstacles and run at speeds faster than 60km/h. They use their tremendous speed and agility to avoid predation, and seemingly for pure enjoyment.
- Males are known as rams, while females are referred to as ewes and have no horns. The male's horns can take many years to reach full length, which is why young animals are unlikely to establish a dominant position and breeding territory.
- Male impalas produce a scent from a gland on their foreheads to advertise their status to rivals. When he loses his rank, a male produces less scent. Males will fight for status and territory throughout the mating season, using their antlers as weapons.
- Though males are sexually mature by the time they are a year old, they actually mate only after four years. At this time they establish their own territories. Females can conceive after they are a year and a half old. The annual three-week-long breeding season of the impala, also called the rut, begins toward the end of the wet season in May.
- The gestational period is six to seven months, with mothers able to delay giving birth for a month if the weather conditions are harsh, such as during a very wet season. The sex ratio among impala is weighed in favour of the female, with twice as many females born each year.
- After birth, the female will keep the fawn hidden in an isolated spot for a few days, weeks, or sometimes more, before returning to the herd. There, the fawn will join a nursery group and will go to its mother only to nurse or when endangered.
- The impala is rarely seen on its own. Females and young animals form herds of up to 100 individuals, while males live in a bachelor group of about 60 animals. They occupy a large range and make seasonal migrations from high to lower ground according to the availability of suitable food.
- The name 'Impala' dates back to 1870 -75 and comes from the Zulu language meaning 'gazelle'.

(with recognition to Wikipedia and www.onekind.org)