

# GREATER KRUGER PROJECTS

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2019



AfricanImpact

96 VOLUNTEERS  
12,107 HOURS  
21 NATIONALITIES

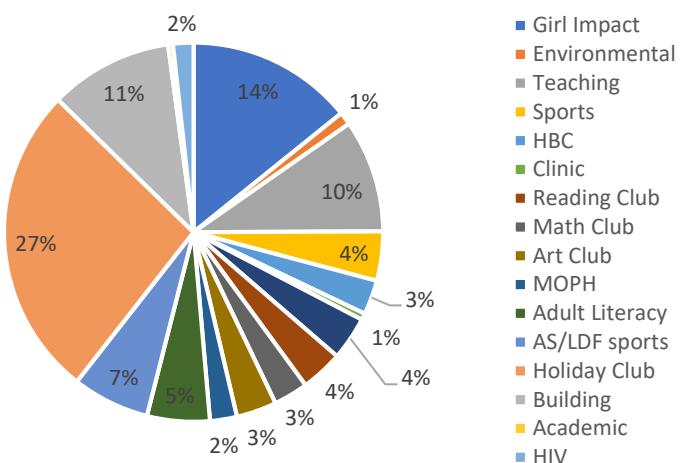


AVG TEMP:  
24 °C



LANGUAGE LESSON:  
"Die wereld is beter met shokolade en roomys"  
"The world is better with chocolate and ice cream" in AFRIKAANS

## HOURS SPENT VOLUNTEERING ON EACH ACTIVITY



## What's New on the Ground?

Our new tented camp has been highly praised by our guests. Children and adults alike enjoy the camping spirit with a touch of glamor.

Busy season was upon us in July and August, with weekly arrivals of up to 28 new volunteers/interns. Our home was booming with energy and excitement.

In September we welcomed Robyn, Cat, and Max, our newest Research and Photography assistants, to the Dumela family,

## RESEARCH CONSERVATION PROJECT

VIEW PROJECT

We've had an abundance of elephant sightings at our overnight camp, allowing us to collect almost 13 hours of data on their locations, herd structure, and dynamics, as well as habituation to human presence. 3 years ago, a female white rhino with a calf was sadly poached and killed in one of our reserves. This calf was rescued and rehabilitated, and during this quarter, was successfully reintroduced back into the reserve. This is an amazing success story and we are now looking forward to continuing to monitor her as she settles into her new home.

It has been an incredible quarter for leopard sightings. In total, we have spent over 8 hours monitoring leopards, which is an incredible number! Through these monitoring sessions, we managed to identify 2 new leopards in the area.

We also obtained over 80 leopard pictures on our camera traps - a huge increase from the 18 taken in the previous quarter! A pack of 13 wild dogs have moved into our area. These animals are not constrained by fences and have been moving through the nearby reserves, including Dumela. They enjoy dining on antelopes such as Bushbucks and Impala. A smorgasbord available in abundance.

# RESEARCH INTERNSHIP PROJECTS

Our research program has seen amazing outcomes thanks to a busy and effective quarter in terms of internships. Indeed, Q3 has seen 6 interns completing their respective projects and 1 intern starting hers.

The majority of interns were university students conducting their own research, producing high quality reports and posters. Figures, graphs, and specific conclusions were used to report back to reserve management.

Launching the new "Design Your Own Internship" was very successful and greatly opened up our research opportunities. This quarter showed us there is a real demand for topics such as Elephant Feeding Preferences in the Greater Kruger Area, Giraffe Group Dynamics, Seasonal Changes in a Small Fenced Reserve, and Reintroduction Success of a Pride of Lions in Rietspruit Game Reserve.

Based on excellent recommendations provided by the interns to improve our data collection methods, we are now in the process of creating a Tree Identification Guide that will be used to teach volunteers about the common species found in the area. This will greatly increase the quality of our data when it comes to recording what a particular species is feeding on or standing close to.



## PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

This third quarter of 2019 has been a busy and very successful one for our photography project. We've introduced new modules and exercises that cover story telling and subject representation to our workshops. This approach is applied further in the field to better represent sightings as a whole, rather than individual moments via a singular photograph. The greatest benefit of it is that they're better equipped, creatively, to document and report on the events of our Community and Habitat Conservation projects, and as such, we've seen a radical spike in the quality and quantity of photographs submitted for those projects.

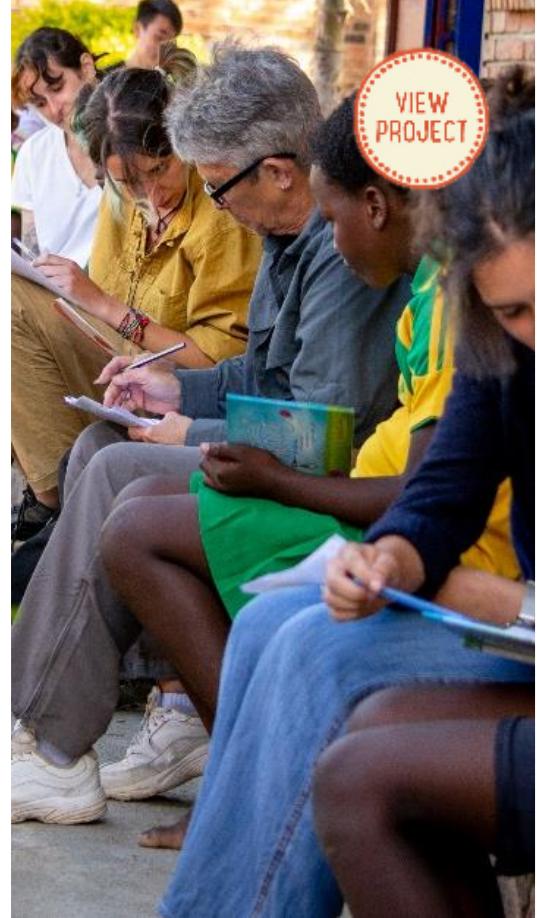
One of the biggest focuses for our project is wildlife, and we've been exceptionally lucky this quarter. We've spent 296 hours out in the field across diverse activities such as game drives, bush walks, habitat conservation, and aiding our community project in reading club, community outreach, and Farmers of the Future. Out of the 296 hours, we spent 127 in the company of members of the Big Five, plus an undocumented, but large amount of time with Painted Wolves (African Wild Dogs) and rare nocturnal species such as Aardvarks. We've been lucky to catalogue exciting and fantastic new images of these beautiful animals to our database and have handed over 5,701 individual photos to our Research project for them to identify and further monitor the wellbeing of specific species (e.g. elephants, leopard, hyenas, painted wolves, and rhino). We've also been successful in integrating our Assignment Week, in which our photography volunteers join forces with Research volunteers to take on a specific focus. As an example, volunteers are evenly split amongst vehicles and head out to gather data on giraffes. With each project represented on the vehicles, both high quality data and corresponding photographs can be taken and matched together. Not only has this been hugely beneficial for our Research project, but it's also a fair representation of conservation wildlife photography for our volunteers to experience – plus everyone enjoys being together and getting more information about the other projects. In October we teamed up with a new organization that empowers young initiatives to hold a tree planting ceremony to highlight the importance of trees. There were 30 community members who partook in the event.



# COMMUNITY PROJECT

As we approach the summer and plan for the rainy season, it is rewarding to look back on the last 3 months and the hills we've climbed in our projects. We are 1 month away from completing the pilot run of our Farmers of the Future Business Training Program. We are expanding the scope of Farmers of the Future to support more avenues through our conservation farming and have begun a High School focused Agriculture Exposure Program to inspire young minds around the possibilities of agriculture related start-ups. We've already had an amazing response to our work with the students and hope that some of these young learners will join our Business Training Program after high school.

Our community engagement has expanded to include outreach volunteering using our best resource – people – to support smaller engagement projects in the communities. Within our English Literacy program, we have had almost half the students progress in their reading levels and are happy to announce all the kids have read almost 10 full books each throughout our sessions. We look forward to the summer; to the new lessons we will learn and to get the ball rolling on some of these new exciting initiatives



## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

I came to African Impact without any knowledge about the wildlife here in South Africa. I didn't even know what an impala was. I came here alone, without any friends, but the staff and the other volunteers welcomed me like I had known them forever. It was so nice. My feelings for the project were immediately good! The program itself is the most interesting program I have done since the beginning of my trip 10 months ago. As a member of the research program, our aim is to collect data on a number of species, including lions, buffalos, rhinos, leopards, elephants, giraffes, and cheetah. I love searching for them, taking the data, and feeling like I am making a big Impact! The goal is to record their location, their behavior, and their numbers to know how many there are and to research ways in which we can conserve them. Once a month, the staff put together a presentation of everything we have achieved over that period. It makes me so proud to see what a difference our contributions have made to the project. I have loved every minute here, in fact, I loved it so much I came back for more!

- Tom, Returned Research Volunteer, Belgium



Until next time, The Kruger Team