



# **EZEMVELO KWAZULU-NATAL WILDLIFE**

## **2021 LOCAL HUNTING PACKAGES** *(for South African citizens only – Not for resale)*



**FOR ITHALA GAME RESERVE'S  
CONTROLLED HUNTING AREA**



## NATURAL RESOURCE TRADE DIVISION

### 2021 LOCAL HUNTING PACKAGES FOR ITHALA GAME RESERVE'S CONTROLLED HUNTING AREA

NB: PLEASE FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH THE FOLLOWING ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

- i) APPLICATION PROCEDURES
- ii) CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND CODE OF CONDUCT
- iii) MAP OF HUNTING AREA

#### Please note for all hunts:

- a. Maximum of **Three** hunters and **three** non-hunters per package.
- b. All hunts are five nights – leave on morning of the sixth day.
- c. Cost per application: **R50,00** each (Non – refundable).
- d. All hunts are available for local amateur hunters who are paid up members of an amateur hunting association and have been **proficiency graded**, (not “bona fide” hunting status) both in theory and practical aspects. Copies of certificates to this effect must be attached to the applications.
- e. These hunts are not for re-sale, and should the applicant not take up the hunt, it will be offered to the next person on the waiting list.
- f. These are non-trophy hunts.
- g. No Quad Bikes, Recreational Vehicles or SUV's will be allowed in the hunting area.
- h. Hunters must provide their own vehicles during the hunt. Only 4 X 4 LDV's will be allowed in the hunting area.
- i. All hunters must report to Ntshondwe Camp on the first day of arrival before proceeding to the hunting camp.

#### DETAILS OF HUNTING PACKAGES

##### Mixed Hunts Number iGRA1

Number	Species	Sex	Each	Total
3	Impala	Male	R 1 800	R 5 400

3	Impala	Female	R 1 400	R 4 200
1	Kudu	Male	R 6 000	R 6 000
1	Kudu	Female	R 4 500	R 4 500
1	Zebra	Male/Female	R 3 000	R 3 000
1	Blue Wildebeest	Male	R 4 000	R 4 000
1	Blue Wildebeest	Female	R 3 500	R 3 500
Sub Total				<b>R 30 600</b>
Accommodation				<b>R 11 550</b>
Guiding Fee				<b>R 1 500</b>
Total				<b>R 43 650</b>
50% Deposit of above total is payable on confirmation of the hunt.				

**NB:** Accommodation is charged at R2 310.00 per night for 7 people thereafter R330.00 per person per night up to 10 people, at the exclusive private Mhlangeni Rustic Bush Camp which is close to the hunting area. A guiding fee is charged at R300, 00 per day for 2 hunters.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This is a rustic camp and no linen, towels or toiletries are provided.

#### Mixed Hunts Number iGRA2

Number	Species	Sex	Each	Total
3	Impala	Male	R 1 800	R 5 400
3	Impala	Female	R 1 400	R 4 200
1	Kudu	Male	R 6 000	R 6 000
1	Kudu	Female	R 4 500	R 4 500
1	Zebra	Male/Female	R 3 000	R 3 000
1	Blue Wildebeest	Male	R 4 000	R 4 000
1	Blue Wildebeest	Female	R 3 500	R 3 500
Sub Total				<b>R 30 600</b>
Accommodation				<b>R 11 550</b>

Guiding Fee	<b>R 1 500</b>
Total	<b>R 43 650</b>
50% Deposit of above total is payable on confirmation of the hunt.	

**NB:** Accommodation is charged at R2 310.00 per night for 7 people thereafter R330.00 per person per night up to 10 people, at the exclusive private Mhlangeni Rustic Bush Camp which is close to the hunting area. A guiding fee is charged at R300, 00 per day for 2 hunters.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a rustic camp and no linen, towels or toiletries are provided.**

#### Mixed Hunts Number iGRA3

Number	Species	Sex	Each	Total
3	Impala	Male	R 1 800	R 5 400
3	Impala	Female	R 1 400	R 4 200
1	Kudu	Male	R 6 000	R 6 000
1	Kudu	Female	R 4 500	R 4 500
1	Zebra	Male/Female	R 3 000	R 3 000
1	Blue Wildebeest	Male	R 4 000	R 4 000
1	Blue Wildebeest	Female	R 3 500	R 3 500
Sub Total				<b>R 30 600</b>
Accommodation				<b>R 11 550</b>
Guiding Fee				<b>R 1 500</b>
Total				<b>R 43 650</b>
50% Deposit of above total is payable on confirmation of the hunt.				

**NB:** Accommodation is charged at R2 310.00 per night for 7 people thereafter R330.00 per person per night up to 10 people, at the exclusive private Mhlangeni Rustic Bush Camp which is close to the hunting area. A guiding fee is charged at R300, 00 per day for 2 hunters.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a rustic camp and no linen, towels or toiletries are provided.**

**Mixed Hunts Number iGRA4**

Number	Species	Sex	Each	Total
3	Impala	Male	R 1 800	R 5 400
3	Impala	Female	R 1 400	R 4 200
1	Kudu	Male	R 6 000	R 6 000
1	Kudu	Female	R 4 500	R 4 500
1	Zebra	Male/Female	R 3 000	R 3 000
1	Blue Wildebeest	Male	R 4 000	R 4 000
1	Blue Wildebeest	Female	R 3 500	R 3 500
Sub Total				<b>R 30 600</b>
Accommodation				<b>R 11 550</b>
Guiding Fee				<b>R 1 500</b>
Total				<b>R 43 650</b>
50% Deposit of above total is payable on confirmation of the hunt.				

**NB:** Accommodation is charged at R2 310.00 per night for 7 people thereafter R330.00 per person per night up to 10 people, at the exclusive private Mhlangeni Rustic Bush Camp which is close to the hunting area. A guiding fee is charged at R300, 00 per day for 2 hunters.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a rustic camp and no linen, towels or toiletries are provided.**

**Mixed Hunts Number iGRA5**

Number	Species	Sex	Each	Total
3	Impala	Male	R 1 800	R 5 400
3	Impala	Female	R 1 400	R 4 200
1	Kudu	Male	R 6 000	R 6 000
1	Kudu	Female	R 4 500	R 4 500

1	Zebra	Male/Female	R 3 000	R 3 000
1	Blue Wildebeest	Male	R 4 000	R 4 000
1	Blue Wildebeest	Female	R 3 500	R 3 500
Sub Total				<b>R 30 600</b>
Accommodation				<b>R 11 550</b>
Guiding Fee				<b>R 1 500</b>
Total				<b>R 43 650</b>
50% Deposit of above total is payable on confirmation of the hunt.				

**NB:** Accommodation is charged at R2 310.00 per night for 7 people thereafter R330.00 per person per night up to 10 people, at the exclusive private Mhlangeni Rustic Bush Camp which is close to the hunting area. A guiding fee is charged at R300, 00 per day for 2 hunters.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a rustic camp and no linen, towels or toiletries are provided.**

#### **Mixed Hunts Number iGRA6**

Number	Species	Sex	Each	Total
3	Impala	Male	R 1 800	R 5 400
3	Impala	Female	R 1 400	R 4 200
1	Kudu	Male	R 6 000	R 6 000
1	Kudu	Female	R 4 500	R 4 500
1	Zebra	Male/Female	R 3 000	R 3 000
1	Blue Wildebeest	Male	R 4 000	R 4 000
1	Blue Wildebeest	Female	R 3 500	R 3 500
Sub Total				<b>R 30 600</b>
Accommodation				<b>R 11 550</b>
Guiding Fee				<b>R 1 500</b>
Total				<b>R 43 650</b>

50% Deposit of above total is payable on confirmation of the hunt.

**NB:** Accommodation is charged at R2 310.00 per night for 7 people thereafter R330.00 per person per night up to 10 people, at the exclusive private Mhlangeni Rustic Bush Camp which is close to the hunting area. A guiding fee is charged at R300, 00 per day for 2 hunters.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a rustic camp and no linen, towels or toiletries are provided.**

**Mixed Hunts Number iGRA7**

Number	Species	Sex	Each	Total
3	Impala	Male	R 1 800	R 5 400
3	Impala	Female	R 1 400	R 4 200
1	Kudu	Male	R 6 000	R 6 000
1	Kudu	Female	R 4 500	R 4 500
1	Zebra	Male/Female	R 3 000	R 3 000
1	Blue Wildebeest	Male	R 4 000	R 4 000
1	Blue Wildebeest	Female	R 3 500	R 3 500
Sub Total				<b>R 30 600</b>
Accommodation				<b>R 11 550</b>
Guiding Fee				<b>R 1 500</b>
Total				<b>R 43 650</b>
50% Deposit of above total is payable on confirmation of the hunt.				

**NB:** Accommodation is charged at R2 310.00 per night for 7 people thereafter R330.00 per person per night up to 10 people, at the exclusive private Mhlangeni Rustic Bush Camp which is close to the hunting area. A guiding fee is charged at R300, 00 per day for 2 hunters.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a rustic camp and no linen, towels or toiletries are provided.**

## **IMPORTANT NOTES**

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation is charged at R2 310.00 per night for 7 people thereafter R330.00 per person per night up to 10 people, at the exclusive private Mhlangeni Rustic Bush Camp which is close to the hunting area.

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a rustic camp and no linen, towels or toiletries are provided.** The camp is powered by solar energy for lighting and gas is used for cooking and geysers. No other electricity is available.

### **COVID – 19 Rules**

Prevailing rules apply. Hunters and guests must ensure that they always maintain social distancing. Hunters and guests must wear masks when in contact with Ezemvelo staff. Appropriate hand sanitisers must be supplied by the hunting parties.

### **Licence Fees**

Provincial Game Licence fees are not included in the packages. These are to be paid for each animal prior to hunting and are obtained at any Receiver of Revenue Office in KwaZulu-Natal. Selected sports shops and hunting associations in KwaZulu-Natal also sell these licences.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Licence Fee</b>
Blue wildebeest	R12.00
Common Reedbuck	R7.00
Impala	R8.00
Kudu	R18.00
Nyala	R18.00
Warthog	R7.00
Zebra	R12.00
Grey Duiker	R8.00
Red Duiker	R24.00
Buffalo	TBA



**Timetable of hunts for 2021**

Hunt Number	Dates (Five nights, leave on morning of 6 <sup>th</sup> day)
iGRA1	11 – 16 June 2021
iGRA2	2 – 7 July 2021
iGRA3	16 - 21 July 2021
iGRA4	6 – 11 August 2021
iGRA 5	20 - 25 August 2021
iGRA6	03 – 08 September 2021
iGRA7	17 – 22 September 2021

**NB:**

***In the event of the above dates changing, successful applicants will be notified at least twenty-one (21) days prior to commencement of the hunt.***

***The KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board will not be held responsible for any losses or damages occurring in the event that any date is changed as contemplated in this paragraph.***

***Additional dates, if available may be booked at the prevailing accommodation rates. This must be done prior to the hunts.***

**ADDITIONAL ANIMALS AVAILABLE:**

Nyala Adult Males (Trophy) -	R 4 500.00
Nyala Adult Males -	R 1 500,00
Nyala Adult Female -	R 1 500.00
Buffalo Adult Males (Trophy) -	R 30 000.00
Buffalo Adult Male/Females -	R 15 000.00

These animals may not necessarily be in the hunting area, however if hunters come across them during the hunt, they may hunt these animals on condition the full amount as per above is paid for before leaving the reserve.

**Hunters are also advised that if they intend hunting buffalo, they must ensure that they have the correct firearm and ammunition available during the actual hunt.**



**EZEMVELO KZN WILDLIFE: 2021 LOCAL HUNTING APPLICATIONS  
iTHALA GAME RESERVE: CONTROLLED HUNTING AREA**

*NB : Please read the accompanying instructions before completing the form*

**GROUP LEADER**

Surname:	
Initials:	
ID Number:	
Postal Address & Code:	
Telephone No:	
Cell No:	
Fax No:	
E-mail Address:	

**COMPOSITION OF GROUP**

	Surname	Initials	ID	Hunters Association	Date of Proficiency Grading	Certificate Attached
Leader						
Member 1						
Member 2						

**PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CHOICE OF HUNTS (NO MORE THAN 3 PER LEADER)**

Application 1	iGRA ____	R50
Application 2	iGRA ____	R50
Application 3	iGRA ____	R50
Total application fees included:		Nil
Method of payment:		_____

I declare the above information to be true and correct:

Signature of group leader:

Date:

***Please note:***

1. *Cheques to be crossed and made payable to KZN Wildlife. Postal orders are NOT accepted.*
2. *Banking details for direct deposits:*
3. *Bank: First National Bank*
4. *Account Name: KZN Wildlife*  
*Branch code: 257355, Midlands Mall Branch, Pietermaritzburg*  
*Account No: 5093 5587 433*
5. *If paying by direct/internet deposit, please ensure that you attach a copy of your deposit slip as proof of payment. Should this not be enclosed, your application will NOT be considered.*
6. *Applications can be posted or hand delivered. No faxed or e-mailed applications will be considered.*
7. *Closing date for applications is **Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.***
8. *Post applications to Natural Resources Trade Division, EKZN Wildlife, PO Box 13053, Cascades 3202 or hand deliver to Queen Elizabeth Park, Peter Brown Drive, Pietermaritzburg.*



### EZEMVELO KZN WILDLIFE APPLICATION PROCEDURES: 2021 LOCAL HUNTS

- a. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife is offering hunting packages to South African citizens or permanent residents only.
- b. **Only hunters who are members of a recognised amateur hunting association and have been proficiency graded are entitled to apply for the hunts and proof of this grading will be required for all members of the hunting party upon confirmation of the hunt.**
- c. Only applications on the prescribed Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Application Form, or exact Photostat copies of original size, will be accepted.
- d. **No faxed forms will be accepted or sent.**
- e. No correspondence will be entered into regarding receipt of applications.
- f. Only cash, cheques and direct deposits will be accepted. Should you pay by means of a direct deposit, a copy of the deposit must be attached to the application form as proof of payment.
- g. A single payment can be made for multiple applications, and all applications together with the single proof of payment must be sent in the same envelope.
- h. Application fees are non-refundable. The money received will be used to defray administrative costs and the remainder will be allocated to the running expenses of the controlled hunting areas.
- i. Application fees are R50.00 per application, **with a maximum of three applications per controlled hunting area per hunt leader.** One application form is enclosed. A maximum of three applications may be entered on this form. Each application will be treated separately, ie you may enter three applications for the same hunt, or three applications for three different hunts.
- j. Successful applicants will be determined by a simple draw system, whereby a successful applicant and five alternates are drawn. The hunt is offered to the successful applicant and if

- for some reason he/she is unable to take up the hunt, it will be offered to the first alternate and so on until taken.
- k. No group shall be allowed to participate in more than **one** hunt in each controlled hunting area.
  - l. The substitution or addition of hunters **may** be allowed, subject to your **written application**, and if approval from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife is obtained **prior to the commencement of the hunt**.
  - m. Please note that should your application be successful, and you fail to pay for your hunt within the prescribed period, the package will be reallocated. The onus lies with the **team leader** to ensure that all payments are received by due date.
  - n. Application fees received after the closing date will be returned to the applicant.
  - o. The closing date for applications are **Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021**. is final.
  - p. All applicants will be notified of the result of the draw which will be held at a date still to be determined.
  - q. The draw will be held in the Theatre, Queen Elizabeth Park, by the Internal Audit Division of Ezemvelo.
  - r. Successful applicants will be notified per facsimile/e-mail within fourteen (14) days of the draw, and a registered letter will be posted within (14) days of the draw. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified per letter within twenty-one (21) days of the draw.
  - s. Each package is available to a maximum of three hunters, **one of which is the leader** and the others are co-hunters.
  - t. Successful applicants will be required to pay 50% of the cost of the hunt including accommodation, within fourteen (14) days of notification to confirm their acceptance. Should this payment not be received, the hunt will be offered to the next applicant drawn.
  - u. Your attention is also drawn to the fact that should you not be able to take your full quota of animals as specified in your package, within the prescribed period, you will forfeit all rights to those animals as well as any monetary repayment. All hunts must be completed within the allocated hunting period.



## **EZEMVELO KWAZULU-NATAL WILDLIFE**

### **CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALL CONTROLLED HUNTING AREAS**

#### **LOCAL HUNTERS**

##### **On arrival:**

On arrival the Hunting Party Leader will:

1. Report to Ntshondwe Camp and book in to Mhlangeni Bush Camp.
2. Once booked in, proceed to the Mhlangeni Bush Camp
3. Advise the gate staff at the entrance gate that they are hunters and are proceeding to the Reserve Manager's office.
4. Report to the Reserve Manager/Section Ranger on the first day of the hunt, who will then arrange for the party to be accompanied by a Field Ranger.

##### **Please note :**

**No dogs are allowed in the Controlled Hunting Area or in the Reserve.  
Entrance fees to the park is applicable.**

##### **Shooting test:**

After reporting to the Reserve Manager/Section Ranger, hunters will be taken to the rifle range where:

1. They will be offered the opportunity to test and zero their rifles at 25, 50 or 100 metres.
2. They will then be required to place 3 out of 4 shots in a 150 mm square target from 100 metres, using a bench rest.
3. Hunters failing this test will NOT be allowed to hunt in the Controlled Hunting Area

**IMPORTANT : PLEASE NOTE THAT  
HUNTERS FAILING THIS TEST WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO  
HUNT IN THE CONTROLLED HUNTING AREA.**

### **Administration:**

On successful completion of the shooting test, hunters will be required to:

1. Sign a copy of these “Conditions of Entry and Code of Conduct” signifying that they will abide by them.
2. Sign a KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board Indemnity form.
3. Produce all hunting permits, professional hunting licences and any other documentation as required by relevant legislation.

### **Controlled Hunting Area: Conditions Applicable to all Hunters:**

1.
  - (a) A Field Ranger will be provided. The Field Ranger will act as an observer and guide to the area and will have the authority to enforce the rules and regulations of the park. The Field Rangers are not trackers, judges of trophy horns, or skinners. Although they may volunteer help during the hunt, it cannot be demanded.
  - (b) No other staff will be provided to the hunting party, and they are therefore responsible for their own skinning, general labour and all transport and catering requirements.
  - (c) **A maximum of two hunters are to hunt at any one time, and they must be in the presence of a Field Ranger when hunting.**
2. When hunters enter the CHA, whether by vehicle or on foot, they **MUST** be accompanied by the Field Ranger.
3. Hunting is only permitted in the areas demarcated on the map.
4. No hunting is permitted within 200 metres of a vehicle.
5.
  - (a) The word of the Field Ranger, or physical evidence of blood, will be taken as proof that an animal has been shot. Should the animal not be recovered within the hunting party's allocated days, it will be classified as “wounded” and will be taken off the hunter's allocation and considered forfeited.
  - (b) In the event of a wounded animal leaving the Controlled Hunting Area, and entering the reserve, hunters will **NOT** be allowed to follow up the animal. The accompanying Field Ranger will immediately notify the Reserve Manager/Section Ranger who will arrange for reserve staff to follow up and locate the animal. The animal may then be destroyed if the wound is considered life threatening. Only if the animal is destroyed, will the trophy be made available to the hunter. If the wounded animal is not located within the hunting party's allocated days, it will be considered forfeited.
6. Hunters' vehicles will be confined to roads/tracks designated by KZN Nature Conservation Service staff. Vehicles will only be allowed off these designated roads/tracks to recover carcasses. The most direct route from the track to the carcass and back will be used and destruction of vegetation is to be avoided when driving off the tracks.
7. No hunting will be allowed from half-an-hour after sunset and half-an-hour before sunrise.

8. The Reserve Manager/Section Ranger may, if he is satisfied that any member of a hunting party has

- (a) contravened any of the provisions of the Nature Conservation Ordinance No 15 of 1974, or
- (b) breached any of the terms or conditions of this undertaking, or
- (c) contravened the local rules and regulations of the Reserve

order such person to immediately leave the reserve.

9. Any person ordered to leave the reserve shall not be entitled to take possession of any animal shot by him, nor shall he have any claim against the KZN Nature Conservation Board in respect of such animals.

10. A hunter, shooting an animal other than one on his allocation, is liable to:

- (a) a surcharge for the animal amounting to twice the "live market value" of that particular species shot (the "live market value" of the species shot will be determined solely by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife),
- (b) forfeiture of the carcass including all related by-products as well as trophy,
- (c) be charged for contravening Nature Conservation Ordinance No 15 of 1974.

11. The hunt is to be completed during the period allocated.

12. No refunds will be made if the hunting package is not hunted in full.

13. No firewood is provided. Hunters must bring in their own firewood. The collection of firewood within the Protected Area is an offence.

14. No quad bikes or other recreational vehicles may be used in the hunting area or reserve. Only suitable 4 x 4 LDV's will be allowed in the hunting area.

15. No ice will be provided. Ice maybe purchased from the main camp depending on the availability of stocks.

**On departure:**

The Hunt Leader will:

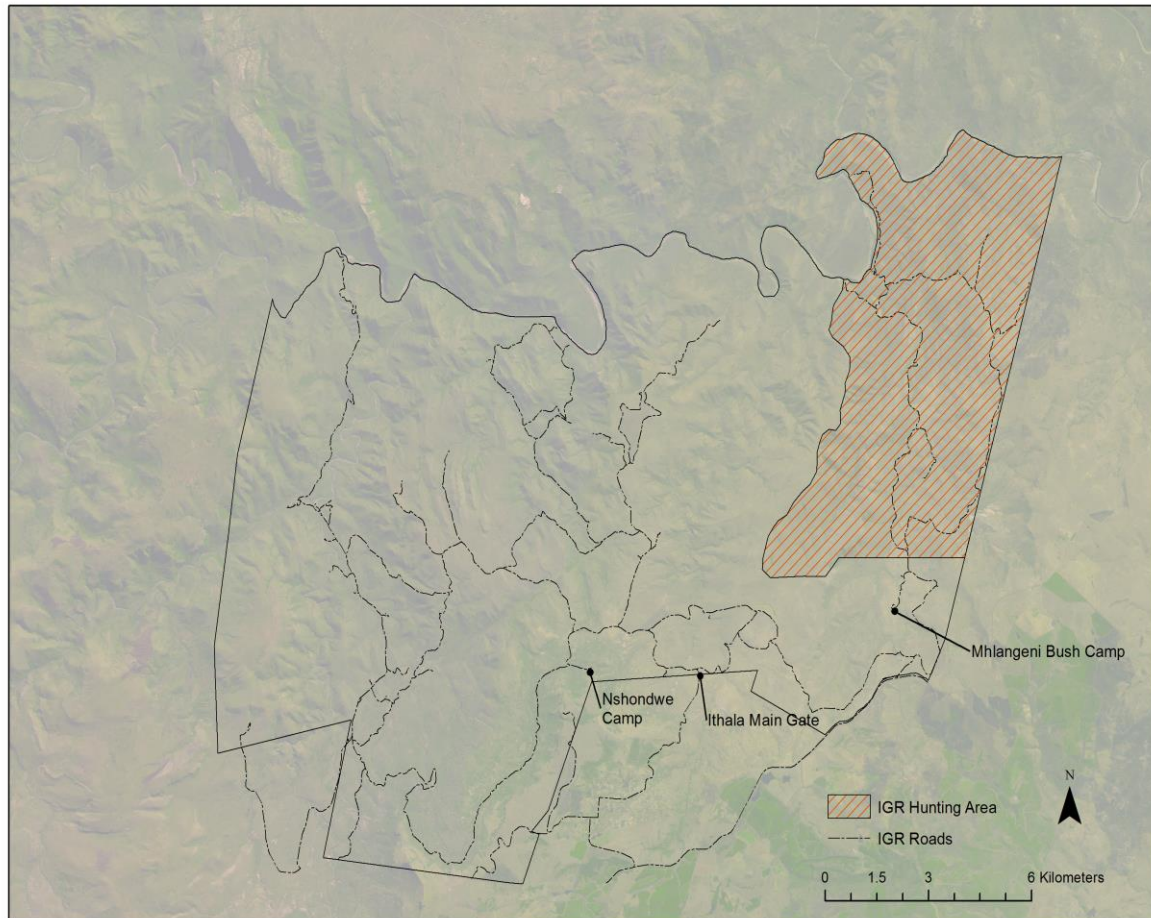
- 1. Before leaving the reserve on the final day of the hunt, in the company of a Field Ranger from the Hunting area, report to the Reserve Manager on the way out of the reserve.
- 2. Ensure that a "Hunters Return" is completed in full and signed by the Professional hunter as proof that he/she agrees with the details and quantities of animals hunted and the period of the hunt/accommodation.

**NB: White Rhino, Black Rhino, Buffalo, Hippo, Elephant and Giraffe amongst other dangerous game frequent the Controlled Hunting Areas.**

**At NO TIME will any shots be fired in the direction of these species (unless specified)**



## The Controlled Hunting Area, within iThala Game Reserve



## **ITHALA GAME RESERVE**



### **INTRODUCTION**

Diversity is the key to Ithala Game Reserve. Proclaimed a nature reserve in 1973, the reserve has grown steadily with the addition of purchased land in adjoining areas.

The reserve measures 29 653 ha in extent and is situated on the south bank of the Pongola River, about 70 km east of Vryheid. It is some 400 km north of Durban and 500 km from Johannesburg.

Apart from a wide selection of tourist facilities, Ithala Game Reserve offers a fascinating variety of terrain, habitats, mammals, birds and trees.

The reserve is also rich in history, having been continually occupied during major events of the 19th and 20th century, such as the reigns of Shaka and other Zulu kings, the arrival of the Voortrekkers in Natal,

the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879, the Anglo-Boer wars (1880 - 1902) and the anti-nagana campaign of the 1920s.

Evidence of earlier occupation by middle stone age and iron age people can be seen.

The terrain is extremely rugged, rising from 400 m above sea level in the north to 1400 m above sea level in the south, near Louwsburg. Several rivers rise in or near the reserve, winding down steep river valleys to the Pongola River which forms the northern boundary.

The steep terrain made geological exploration easy and resulted in the establishment of two gold mines (now obsolete) in the early 1900s. The geological diversity which is a feature of the reserve has resulted in the production of a variety of soils and a rich diversity of vegetation.

In turn, each plant community hosts a wide selection of insects, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. We have compiled this booklet in order to enhance your visit and experience to Ithala.

It is by no means comprehensive but should provide sufficient information to whet your appetite.

## **HISTORY**

Ithala Game Reserve has a rich history of human habitation as evidenced by archaeological sites which date from as far back as the middle stone age. The reserve provided iron ore and wild olive wood which was used in local iron smelting operations. San hunter-gatherers, sometimes known as Bushmen, also used the area, leaving their precious rock art in a shelter in the eastern part of the reserve.

The Zulu wars and the reign of Shaka saw many people seeking refuge in the caves found along the cliff faces of Ithala. Traces of this early refugee occupation in some of these caves can still be found. Prior to the area becoming a game reserve, Ithala had been under the ownership of farmers since 1884.

In that year the Zulu king, Dinizulu, in recognition of the fighting services of 115 volunteers, granted 800 boers more than 1.1 million ha of land in northern KwaZulu-Natal. This area became known as the Nieuwe Republiek. Prior to the arrival of the settlers, game was abundant.

Intense hunting by the settlers, coupled with the rinderpest epidemic of 1896, severely depleted the game populations in the area. Under white ownership, most of the land in the Ithala area continued to be occupied by Zulus as labour or tenant farms with only five dwellings being built by whites.

These white occupied farms were Doornkraal, Doornpan, Potwe Halt, Langverwacht and Craig Adam. Gold was discovered in the area in the early 1900s and was mined at the Wonder and Ngotshe mines, both of which are now totally abandoned.

By the time the then Natal Parks Board, now known as Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, took control of Ithala in 1973, soil erosion and overgrazing by livestock were widespread. Very little game existed, with 25 mammal species being extinct locally. An extensive programme of land reclamation was initiated with signs of former habitation being removed where possible. The original 8 000 ha reserve has been enlarged to nearly 30 000 ha.

Traces of old fields and homesteads still remain in some parts of the reserve. Since 1973 some 20 mammal species have been re-introduced into the reserve. These include buffalo, white rhino, black rhino,

kudu, tsessebe, red hartebeest, eland, giraffe, and brown hyaena. A small herd of young elephants was introduced to the reserve in 1990 and have become a well established breeding herd.

## **ANIMALS YOU MAY ENCOUNTER AT ITHALA**

There are 80 species of mammals in the Ithala Game Reserve. The following animals are most likely to be seen in the reserve:

White rhino	Giraffe	Blue wildebeest
Eland	Kudu	Tsessebe
Red hartebeest	Warthog	Zebra
Impala	Common reedbuck	Vervet monkey
Dassie	Mountain Reedbuck	Common duiker
Baboon		

The following are animals less likely to be seen but should be considered a bonus if you do see them:

Nyala	Buffalo	Waterbuck
Black-backed jackal	Klipspringer	Black Rhino
Elephant	Bushbuck	Steenbok
Clawless Otter	Honey badger	Spotted hyena
Brown hyena	Caracal	Leopard
Oribi	Red duiker	Serval

Please remember that you might not see every species in the reserve. The success of your game viewing often depends on your patience and ability to spot the animals. Try to look into or through the bush instead of looking at it, as animals are frequently to be seen in the shelter of a patch of scrub.



### GETTING THERE:

