

## **SABIE GAME PARK (SGP) TOURISM**

### **ONLY THREE PARTICIPANTS ALLOWED**

#### **DAY 1**

Morning: Ecology made simple

An easily understandable model illustrating the interactions between the different ecosystem components will be presented and practically illustrated in the veld.

Participants will receive:

- Short notes whereby occurrences in the environment could be analysed during the rest of the time as well as in any environment in southern Africa.
- Notes which can be used to age and sex the different game species that will be seen during your stay at Sabie Game Park (SGP).

Afternoon:

- Estimate elephant utilisation (damage?) of the tree stratum in permanently marked transects using a simple but efficient method whereby tree utilisation is quantified. The lengths of transects vary between 500 -1300 meters. Surveys of these transects had been done during 2016 and results will be compared to determine the impact on the tree stratum. This monitoring of elephant effect on the tree stratum is a long term project.
- Locate and mark the place of observation of an elephant bull.

#### **DAY 2**

Morning:

- Follow the elephant spoor marked the previous day and determine vegetation utilised, classifying it as grass, herbs, trees or shrubs.
- Construct an elephant ecology model followed by a discussion of the role of elephants in the ecosystem.

Afternoon:

Estimate elephant utilisation of the tree stratum by using permanently marked transects the lengths of which varied between 500 and 1500 meters.

#### **DAY 3**

Morning:

- Locate and watch a white rhino.
- Discuss rhino conservation problems and possible solutions.
- Walk along Kurumane dam if time permits.

Afternoon:

Survey elephant tree utilisation.

#### **DAY 4**

Morning and afternoon

- Walk along the Masintsonso River to Kruger border.
- Watch hippo and crocodile.
- Identify game tracks.
- Identify birds.
- Discussion: The role of drinking places in the ecosystem.

#### **DAY 5**

- Locate a buffalo herd.
- Age individuals and discuss population dynamics.
- Identify and age mature bulls.
- Discuss the effect of the 2015 and 2016 droughts on the population dynamics.

Afternoon:

- Fishing in Kurumane dam (Sabie river) or
- Walk along the dam to the Kruger border.

#### **COST**

- R1750 per day - subjected to change.
- Transport from a predetermined venue in South Africa included.

#### **WHAT IS NEEDED**

- Valid passport for Mozambique
- Comfortable boots / shoes
- Comfortable clothes
- Hat
- Rain coat
- Sun burn oil
- Soft and alcoholic drinks not catered for

Email: [pietecoknow@gmail.com](mailto:pietecoknow@gmail.com)

Tel: 083 527 0858

**PRESENTER: Dr Pieter de Villiers**

Pieter completed his BSc agricultural degree majoring in biochemistry and chemistry and was employed in the chemical industry for six years as chemist and biochemist. After completing a course after hours he obtained permission to enrol for the honours degree in conservation management at the University of Pretoria.

He commenced his conservation career working as Professional Officer in Windhoek (Namibia) responsible for conservation development in Kaokoland, Damaraland and Bushman land in the then South West Africa. After 18 months he was transferred to Pretoria for correctional training, his sin being to fight and report illegal hunting by officials. On the advice of a friend in the then Nature Conservation Department in Windhoek he applied for and was offered a post in the Etosha National Park (ENP) responsible to solve the elephant problem. He obtained an MSc from the University of the Orange Free State (UOFS) without solving the elephant problem, however realising that a practical solution to the problem is needed urgently. Consequently he developed an elephant resistant electrical fence the prototype was successfully tested in the ENP and has since been used successfully in Etosha, the Kruger National Park and game farms all over South Africa and elsewhere.

He succeeded his career in the then Transvaal Department of Nature Conservation where he developed a method to manage the relatively small game reserves and game farms. This method considered all the elements in nature and is still widely in use. With this as a basis a management course was developed for conservation personnel. He also introduced the course at the Southern Africa Wildlife College near the Orpen gate of the Kruger National Park during 2003.

During 1995 he obtained a doctoral degree from the UOFS again with elephants as the main concern. During the same year he left the Department and started a consultation practice while simultaneously managing a cattle farm in the Lowveld. During 2013 he got involved with Sabie Game Park (SGP) and has produced several reports concerning the management of SGP.

Pieter has a natural touch for educating people, which together with a practical approach to ecology and conservation management will open a new world to the attendants.