



## VETERINARY STUDENTS ELECTIVE CLINIC IN SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PARKS (SANParks), 2013

### CONDITIONS

SANParks has agreed to South African and international final year veterinary students being given the opportunity to obtain practical experience in immobilization and capture of free-range wildlife and other aspects of wildlife management with Veterinary Wildlife Services (VWS), Kruger National Park (KNP). The time spent by students in KNP will comprise part of the practical component/elective clinic of their undergraduate degree. The following conditions apply.

- ◆ Time-slots will only be available during the capture season (from March to September) to increase the chances of students experiencing some of the routine activities undertaken by the veterinarians and game capture team. There is, however, **no guarantee that clinical or other veterinary procedures will take place during the weeks a student is placed with VWS.** Field work varies seasonally and the implementation of planned procedures can change at short notice.
- ◆ All students will go through a selection process and preference will be given to those individuals that **display an active interest in game immobilization and translocation, ecology or wildlife management.** Students studying at overseas faculties will be selected on the basis of a resume, and a letter of recommendation from the Dean, or another senior member of staff, of their faculty.
- ◆ To increase the number of students getting a placement, all students will be allocated a time-slot of a **maximum two weeks.** KNP will only accommodate 2 to 3 students at a time, to maximize the benefit of the experience.
- ◆ On application, a student is required to supply the dates of three periods, in order of preference from highest to lowest, during which they would prefer to spend time with VWS. These dates will be considered and the most appropriate period selected.
- ◆ Once this date is confirmed the student must **confirm their arrival two weeks before the time** with Veterinary Wildlife Services office administrator, Wisani Phoku. If for any reason they are unable to attend on this date, students should notify Ms. Phoku at the latest one month before their allocated time slot to allow for a replacement from the waiting list to be arranged. **It is essential that students confirm their intended date of arrival so that the necessary permits can be arranged for their entry into KNP.**



- ◆ Students from overseas faculties will be **charged R1000.00 per week**, payable upon arrival to Wisani Phoku, this includes accommodation, administration fees and gate entry into the park. Food and drinks will be the responsibility of the student.
- ◆ South African and international students will be required to **organize their own transport to and from KNP and for the duration of their stay in the Park. In the case of international students this will necessitate the hire of a rental vehicle.** A normal sedan (a 4X4 is not required) is suitable; Kruger National Park has very good roads. In most instances, transport to and from field work will be provided by VWS.
- ◆ Students are to report to the offices of Veterinary Wildlife Services (see map), on the Monday morning at 7h00 for introductions and instructions for the week ahead.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### 1. Transport/ Arrival

It is the students own responsibility to get to the national park in which they are to do their two week elective clinic, i.e. Skukuza for the Kruger National Park. **The most convenient and safe option is to hire a rental car.**

- Avis car hire is available at both OR Tambo (Johannesburg) International Airport (JHB/JNB) and Kruger/ Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA/MQP). Avis is the only car hire company with a branch in Skukuza, therefore allowing drop-off in Skukuza.

AVIS Contact/ Booking Information:

- webpage [www.avis.co.za/](http://www.avis.co.za/)
- online support [info@avis.co.za](mailto:info@avis.co.za)
- Central Reservations + 27 11 923 3660/  
+ 27 861 02 1111
- OR Tambo Airport (JHB) +27 11 394 5433
- Kruger/Mpumalanga Airport (KMIA) +27 13 750 1015
- Skukuza (8:00 to 17:00) +27 13 735 5651
- Skukuza (after hours, Dumisani) +27 76 688 5858

AVIS Approximate Rates (please confirm):

Class A	per 1 day	R 260.00	(200 free km, R 1.85 per excess km)
	per 2 days	R 470.00	
	per 14 days	R 2700.00	(2800 free km, R 1.85 per excess km)
drop-off fee in Skukuza (additional to daily fee)		from JNB	R 600.00
		from KMIA	R 145.00

- Please enter the Kruger National Park at the **Kruger Gate**, at the latest 30 min before gate closing time and ensure that you **arrive at Skukuza between opening and closing times** (refer to table 1 below).

**Approximate travelling time: JHB to Kruger gate ca. 5.5 h**  
**KMIA to Kruger ca. 2h**

**Table 1**  
**Opening and closing for Kruger Gate**

• <i>MONTH</i>	• <i>OPEN TIME</i>	• <i>CLOSE TIME</i>
• <i>JANUARY – FEBRUARY</i>	• <b>05H30</b>	• <b>18H30</b>
• <i>MARCH – APRIL</i>	• <b>05H30</b>	• <b>18H00</b>
• <i>MAY – JULY</i>	• <b>06H00</b>	• <b>17H30</b>
• <i>AUGUST – SEPTEMBER</i>	• <b>06H00</b>	• <b>18H00</b>
• <i>OCTOBER</i>	• <b>05H30</b>	• <b>18H00</b>
• <i>NOVEMBER – DECEMBER</i>	• <b>05H30</b>	• <b>18H30</b>

- On arrival at Kruger Gate, KNP, the student must report at the reception office and give his/her name indicating that a free entry permit has been organized for him.
- From the gate proceed towards the Skukuza Rest/ Tourist Camp. You will find your accommodation at the Veterinary Camp, outside the tourist camp (see map attached). On arrival the student must please contact Dr Peter Buss to confirm his/her arrival, to make arrangements for the first working day and should further assistance be required.

## **2. Accommodation And Food**

- Accommodation will be provided at the Veterinary Camp at Skukuza. It consists of a fully furnished room with bedding provided, communal bathrooms and the use of a fully equipped communal kitchen.
- Accommodation will be booked on your behalf. For international students accommodation is included in the weekly fee.
- There is a tourist shop available nearby in the Skukuza Tourist Camp, where food/drinks can be purchased. However, the **selection is limited** and it is **advisable to purchase your food supply outside the park**, e.g. in Hazyview/ Nelspruit.
- There is also a swimming pool at the staff village, which can be used.

### **3. Dress Code**

In summer, it is extremely hot and in winter moderate, but cold in the mornings and evenings. Please take note:

- Clothing should be comfortable and casual; no bright colors and suitable for veterinary work in the bush e.g. (khaki/brown/beige/green).
- Trousers or shorts with a T-shirt or top are recommended and a pair of comfortable hiking boots is essential.
- Warm clothes are required for the morning and evening, especially in the winter (April to August).
- Good sunscreen with a high SPF and a hat are essential, sunglasses are recommended.

### **4. Malaria**

KNP is in a malaria area and it is strongly recommended that prophylactic treatment be taken. Please contact your doctor for suitable anti-malarial drugs before leaving for the Kruger National Park. A mosquito repellent is recommended for the evenings.

There are two medical doctors at Skukuza, available for emergency treatments.

### **5. Important Information**

- There will not be a formal teaching component; therefore the onus will fall on the student to demonstrate an active interest and enthusiasm towards the subject matter.
- Students are encouraged to read up and become familiar with diseases and management issues in a South African wildlife context, as well as have a background understanding of immobilization of different game species. Further reading is available at the offices on request.
- Students should take full advantage of the wealth of conservation knowledge and clinical information present at these national parks and use their time here to benefit meaningfully from the experience.
- It must be stressed that students, both South African and international, act as ambassadors for their faculty and a level of professionalism and responsibility is expected.

**6. Contact Details:**

**Kruger National Park**

**Ms Wisani Sedibe**

Administrator: Veterinary Wildlife Services

Tel: +27+13 735-4410

Fax: +27+13 735-4057

E-Mail: [Wisani.sedibe@Sanparks.org](mailto:Wisani.sedibe@Sanparks.org)

**Dr Peter Buss**

Senior Manager: Veterinary Unit, KNP

Veterinary Wildlife Services

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