

## **GAME VIEWING REGULATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

The purpose of this document is to:

- Encourage conduct that promotes the enjoyment and safety of all visitors to the reserve
- Protect the fauna, flora and landscape of the reserve
- Reduce the risks associated with operating in and/or visiting a dangerous game environment
- Promote good and harmonious relations between all stakeholders on the reserve

Members are ultimately responsible for the compliance with regulations and their guests and should make certain that the appropriate procedures are in place at their units to ensure awareness of and compliance with the rules and regulations of our reserves.

1. Driving a private vehicle into the reserve is strictly subject to prior permission from reserve management.
2. The site number must be displayed on the rear and on the sides of vehicles.
3. The reserve speed limit is 30 km/hr.
4. Road closure and no entry signs must be respected and driving off roads is not permitted.
5. When approaching another vehicle after dark, slow down, turn off spot lights and switch lights to parking.

### **Radios**

1. The office frequency on Olifants North is not to be used by members
2. When contacting the office and/ or management please respect office hours.
3. The radio infrastructure should not be used for long conversations or private conversations - respect the right of others to privacy and use of the facility.
4. During emergencies, management may request that all radio channels be kept free.
5. The use of radios by children must be restricted to appropriate use.
6. The different channels are designated as follows:
  - a. Channel 1: Olifants North
  - b. Channel 9: Olifants South

### **Game Drives**

1. Drivers may not speed to sightings.
2. A map of the reserve should be carried in the game drive vehicle for reference purposes.
3. A vehicle used for game viewing may never carry more than 8 passengers (an infant is a passenger).
4. The behaviour of children must be monitored. In the event of a child crying or becoming restless at a sighting, the vehicle must leave the sighting.
5. Rowdy behaviour is not permitted.
6. Do not stand up in the vehicle while it is moving or at a sighting.
7. Do not hang onto the outside of the vehicle.
8. Maintain a safe distance (i.e. where your presence is not influencing the animal's behaviour) from dangerous animals and exercise caution whilst on drive.
9. Roads to units are private.
10. Driving off road is not permitted
11. Use of two spotlights on a single vehicle is permissible when "looking" for game, but only one spotlight should be used at a sighting. When multiple vehicles are at a sighting, use of more than one spotlight is at the discretion of the person in control of the sighting.
12. Do not shine spotlights at other vehicles, people or lodges.
13. While at a sighting, the use of red filters is encouraged. Do not shine the spotlight into the eyes of the animals. Rather, to view animals at night, shine the spotlight slightly away from the animal/s and view the animal/s in the peripheral and thus less harsh light.
14. Neither predators nor their intended prey may be disturbed by a spotlight while predators are hunting or stalking.

## **Sightings**

1. The driver of the first vehicle at a sighting takes control of the sighting and should call the sighting on the radio.
2. It is desirable that not more than four vehicles be at a sighting. While no rules are established to govern this behaviour, sensible management of numbers should be left at the discretion of the control vehicle.
3. Permission to enter the sighting should be requested when approaching the sighting.
4. Except in unique circumstances such as a safety risk, or when the number of vehicles are already at the sighting, permission should not be refused. The person controlling the sighting may advise the route to be taken and the position to stop in.
5. If the person controlling the sighting refuses an approach to a sighting, the requesting vehicle should stay out of sight until invited to join.
6. Vehicles should not be parked in, and a clear escape route must always be available to all vehicles.
7. When vehicles are standing by to join a sighting, vehicles at the sighting should depart after a reasonable time (say 15 – 20 minutes) to allow others to enjoy the sighting.
8. Do not leave the engine running at a sighting.
9. Noise should be kept to a minimum and conversation should be in whispers. Radio volume should be turned down.
10. When the controlling vehicle wishes to depart, the driver of another vehicle at the sighting should be requested to take over control.
11. Research suggests that viewing game from a distance of 30m to 50m generally does not influence their normal behaviour. Consequently, animals, particularly potentially dangerous game, should therefore not be approached to within 30m.

## **Emergency Procedures**

1. In the event of an emergency, reserve management should be contacted on the radio, channel 1 North; channel 9 South.
2. Reserve staff (North and South) are expected to assist each other, where necessary, in the event of an emergency.
3. Members are encouraged to obtain insurance cover for the evacuation in the event of an emergency.