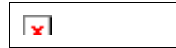


MEDIA RELEASE - 9 May 2004**NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ADDO ELEPHANT NATIONAL PARK**

The recent expansion of the Addo Elephant National Park has elevated this Eastern Cape park to one of the most exciting destinations in Africa.

Now covering a total of 145 000 hectares, the park boasts the Big Seven and conserves five of South Africa's seven biomes.

With the addition of a coastal zone in 2002, the park offers visitors an opportunity to spot the great white shark and southern right whale from the largest coastal dune field in the southern hemisphere. The proclamation of a marine protected area around Bird Island is imminent, enabling the conservation of vital marine resources, as well as the protection of the largest gannet and second largest African penguin breeding colonies in the world.

In the future, this marine protected area will be extended to cover 120 000 hectares of marine environment, incorporating seven islands. Future tourist attractions in this area will include boat trips to Bird Island, a must for bird enthusiasts.

The latest development on the accommodation front is the construction of a second rest camp in the new southern block of the park. Matyholweni Rest Camp, named for its secluded location in the thick Addo bush, is due to open in August this year. Local community involvement is an exciting aspect of this new development, with the community receiving a share of the turnover of the camp. A new access road will link this rest camp, near Colchester on the N2 highway, to the existing tourist road network in the park.

Both the new rest camp and the established Addo rest camp cater for disabled visitors with specially-adapted accommodation units, a bird hide and short interpretive trail.

The end of 2003 saw the introduction of large predators to the park, namely lions and spotted hyenas. Although the park's 400-strong elephant herd has been little affected by these additions, life for the antelope species has certainly changed.

Several loops of the tourist road network in the park have recently been tarred, ensuring that roads will continue to be accessible to visitors after rain.

The north-western block of the park around Lake Darlington has been the site of the most recent land addition. This nama-karoo landscape recently saw the addition of buffalo and black wildebeest to the existing herds of springbok and gemsbok. Once fencing around this new area has been completed, introduction of cheetah and wild dog is planned. Game viewing by vehicle or boat will become attractions in this area in the future.

Canoe trails on the Sundays River are soon to be introduced, with the promise of plenty of adventure for participants, thanks to the presence of hippo. These trails will be run by an operator between the Darlington and Kirkwood areas.

In short, the Addo Elephant National Park now offers visitors a wealth of experiences and activities in a malaria-free environment.

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