Karoo and Wilderness National Parks were the big winners from the Frontier Region at this year’s annual SANParks Kudu Awards. The event was hosted at the Gallagher Convention Centre in Midrand in Gauteng on Friday 29 November. The awards are made possible thanks to our forward-thinking and progressive partners, First National Bank (FNB) and Total South Africa. At this event, both internal and external stakeholders are recognised who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to sustainability, improving livelihoods and achieving real change on the ground in our national parks.

The Kudu Awards and the Chief Executive Awards recognise multiple stakeholders as well as SANParks employees and disciplines who play a pivotal role in strengthening conservation in South Africa. According to Fundisile Mketeni, SANParks CEO, “Awareness of conservation issues is of vital importance and if we want to better protect our national parks either through anti-poaching efforts or finding solutions to climate change we need to educate and inform the public.”

The Awards evening also included the Chief Executive Awards, which recognises dedication and selfless efforts of SANParks employees towards achieving the goals of SANParks’ mandate. A total of 29 Chief Executive Awards were given out this year.

The following were brought back to the Frontier Region:

- **Best Constituency Builder** – Karoo National Park’s People and Conservation Department, made up of Esna van Zyl and Jan Jacobs

- **Best Performing Gate and Reception** – Karoo National Park, accepted by Patricia Sazela and Markus Louw

- **Shield Award for Bravery** – Jonathan Britton

- **Best Performing Park of the Year** – Wilderness National Park, accepted by Park Manager, Sandra Taljaard.

Congratulations to all the winners.
South African National Parks (SANParks) is offering the public a discount of 50% on camp sites in several National Parks for stays of 30 consecutive nights or longer.

SANParks already offers senior South Africa citizens (60 years and older) up to 40% discounted tariffs on accommodation and camping at various times throughout the year. SANParks Acting Head of Communications Reynold Thakhuli says, “This discount will be available to all long-stay campers at the selected camps during 2020”.

“SANParks wants to encourage South Africans to explore their national parks and get to know the natural and cultural heritage of the country.” Guests who would like to make use of these tariffs are advised to e-mail longstaycamping@sanparks.org with their booking request. All reservations will be subject to deposit, modification and cancellation terms that will be communicated at the time the booking is made.

The discounts are available at the following Parks and Camps in the Frontier Region:

Camdeboo National Park:
- 01/01/2020 to 31/03/2020
- 01/05/2020 to 31/08/2020
- 01/10/2020 to 30/11/2020

Garden Route National Park (all camps):
- 01/02/2020 to 30/11/2020

Karoo National Park:
- 01/06/2020 to 31/08/2020

Mountain Zebra National Park:
- 01/06/2020 to 31/08/2020

The offer is available on a single campsite per night per individual booking and is not available to the Travel Trade. Dates and destinations for 2021 long-staying campers will be communicated on the SANParks website early in the New Year.
Addo Elephant National Park celebrated National Marine Week at the Woody Cape Section. The People and Conservation staff partnered with the Conservation department to create a programme for 20 Grade 11 students from the Ukhanyo Secondary School, from the neighbouring community of Alexandria. These students initiated an environmental club for their school which shows their interest in environmental conservation.

The programme of the day included a brief history of Addo Elephant National Park and also the importance of keeping our oceans clean for the benefit of both the marine biome and surrounding communities. Marine Rangers spoke about the Marine Protected Area and their duties as marine rangers. The group also had a beach clean-up which covered a 4km stretch of coastline.

The day was a success as students gained more knowledge about marine conservation with the majority visiting the Park for the first time.
Hardworking staff were not only recognised at the prestigious Kudu awards but also at Parks level. Both Mountain Zebra National Park and Addo Elephant National Park celebrated staff achievement awards. Long service staff were also celebrated ranging from five years to 25 years in the parks.
The function of SANParks is to protect, conserve and control the national parks and other protected areas assigned to it and that all guests are subject to the conditions set in terms of Section 86 of the National Environmental Management Act (107 of 1998) and the National Environmental Act: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003) for the duration of your stay in the National Park. Visitors’ attention is specifically drawn to section 64(1) (a), (b) & (c) which refers to penalties in terms of the Act.

To ensure a safe and joyful trip through our parks, kindly adhere to the rules and regulations under the Protected Areas Act. Transgression of the rules and regulations as summarised below may result in prosecution and or penalties.

1. **INDEMNITY:** Guests entering national parks will be required to sign a document indemnifying SANParks against any claim, action, judgment, costs and/or expenses which may be made against SANParks.

2. **IDENTIFICATION:** Please ensure that acceptable means of identification are taken along when visiting parks. This does not only apply only to the drivers of vehicles but all adults that enter or visit parks.

3. **CONSERVATION FEES:** Daily conservation fees are payable for every day/night stayed in national parks.

4. **STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE:** In most of the national parks there is a possible threat from dangerous animals. In such parks guests may only alight from vehicles in designated areas. No part of your body may protrude from a window or sunroof and doors should remain closed at all times.

5. **THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT:** Please take careful note of the speed limits applicable in the various areas of the parks. Note that not all roads are accessible to caravans and/or vehicles exceeding a certain mass, type or size.

6. **DRIVE SAFELY:** General rules of the road apply within the parks. It is an offence to drive on South African roads without a recognised driver’s license or under the influence of alcohol. Driving or operating any vehicle in a reckless or negligent manner or in a deliberate disregard for the safety of a person, animal or property is a serious offence and can result in a summons being issued. Driving a vehicle in a manner that constitutes a nuisance, disturbance, inconvenience or danger to any other person may also be subject to a summons being issued.

7. **ADHERE TO GATE TIMES:** Gate times must be strictly adhered to. Please take note of the different times that apply at gates and also camps and lodges within the parks. Guests must plan their travelling thoroughly and make adequate provision for contingencies. After hours driving is not allowed and could result in a summons being issued.

8. **AGE RESTRICTIONS:** For safety reasons some activities conducted in parks have age restrictions. Please take cognizance of these in order to prevent disappointments.

9. **DRIVING AREAS:** Vehicles must remain on the designated roads at all times and off-road driving or driving on closed or no-entry roads is a serious offence. In many areas, overnight facilities are to be accessed only by booked overnight guests.

10. **FEEDING OF WILDLIFE IS PROHIBITED:** The feeding or intentional disturbance of wildlife is a serious offence. By feeding any wildlife you are potentially SIGNING THEIR DEATH WARRANT, AS THEY MAY BECOME DEPENDENT AND OFTEN BECOME AGGRESSIVE AND DANGEROUS AND THUS HAVE TO BE EXTERMINATED.

11. **FLORA & FAUNA:** No plant, animal, wildlife or any natural or cultural items may be removed from the park without permission. To cut, damage, destroy or be in possession of any plant or part thereof, including dry wood or firewood is a serious offence. Importing of any specimen of an alien or listed invasive species into a national park is prohibited.

12. **VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS:** There are restrictions to the type of vehicle that may enter national parks. Please take careful note of vehicle restrictions applicable to the different roads and areas of the parks.

13. **PETS:** No pets (dogs, cats, birds or any other) may be brought into a park. Transgressors will be dealt with firmly, issued with a summons and the pets will be destroyed. Guide dogs for visually impaired guests are one exception, but only in consultation with park management and if the owner has the necessary inoculations and permits as ordained by the state veterinary department.

14. **LITTER-FREE ZONE:** Littering is prohibited. Depositing or leaving of any litter except in receptacles for that purpose will result in a fine.

15. **DECLARE FIREARMS AT GATE:** All firearms/dangerous weapons of any sort, any explosive, trap or poison must be declared upon entry and firearms will be sealed.

16. **NO KILLING OF ANIMALS:** Poaching and killing or injuring of animals is strictly prohibited.

17. **FIRE HAZARD:** Starting or causing of any fire, whether it be intentional or unintentional other than in a fireplace or container purposely made available is strictly prohibited and will result in a summons being issued.

18. **BEHAVIOUR:** Behaving in an offensive, improper, indecent or disorderly manner including the playing of any radio, music system, musical system or instrument, or in any way to cause any noise in any manner likely to disturb any species or specimen or other person is strictly prohibited and will be fined if not adhered to. The hindering, intimidating or obstructing of an authorised official in the execution of his/her duties or the performance of his/her functions will not be tolerated and is subject to a penalty. Violation, refusal or failure to obey or comply with any prohibition, request or instruction imposed by these regulations or by the management authority or authorised official will result in prosecution.

19. **BICYCLES:** Please enlighten yourself with the rules and regulations applicable to the use of roller skates, skateboards, bicycles and motorbikes for the park/s that you will be visiting as there are restrictions in some of the parks.

20. **DRONES:** The use of drones inside (and over) national parks is strictly prohibited.

Yours in conservation
South African National Parks