

Johann ‘Mabarule’ Oelofse: *Johann started his career in the Kruger National Park in 1979 as a Trails Ranger on the then newly created Olifants Wilderness Trail. At the end of 1982, he was promoted to Section Ranger of the newly created Woodlands Section in the then Far Northern Region of the Park. Postings that followed were the Tshokwane Section from 1988 to 1993 and the Mooiplaas Section from 1993 to the present. While stationed at Mooiplaas Johann took to the books again to improve on his original National Diploma: Conservation Management and during 1995 obtained a National Higher Diploma: Veld and Game Management. This was followed by a research project that resulted in a dissertation titled “The Effects of System Drivers and Management Intervention on the Vegetation Dynamics of the Tsendze Plains, Kruger National Park” for which Johann was awarded an M.Tech Degree in Veld Management.*

Possessing wide ranging practical skills Johann was in charge of the building of the Sweni Trails Camp during (1990 or 1991?) and during 1992 he was responsible for the complete renovation of the original “pole and cable” elephant holding bomas at Skukuza, replacing them with a concrete, steel and cable structure.

According to the local people, Mabarule was the name of a Shangaan Chief from the old days in Mozambique who had particularly large feet and with his size 14 boots, it was inevitable that Johann’s fellow workers would name him Mabarule.

addo elephant
agulhas
augrabies falls
bontebok
golden gate highlands
karoo
kgalagadi transfrontier
knysna lake area
kruger
mapungubwe
marakele
mountain zebra
namaqua
table mountain
tankwa-karoo
tsitsikamma
|ai-|ais/richtersveld
vaalbos
west coast
wilderness