



### Johan 'Masasana' Mogodjo Sithole:

Johan Sithole was born in 1948 at Corumana in Mozambique. He started his career in the mines of South Africa in 1963 and was finally convinced by his friend Amos Mhlongo to join the South African National Parks in February 1973. Johan started as a general worker in the Crocodile Bridge Section of the Kruger National Park and was later transferred with Bruce Bryden (see Ntombazana) as a field ranger to start up the new ranger section Mooiplaas site of the present day Mopani Rest Camp.

Johan has had many notable moments in his career, some of the standout moments include saving his friend Amos from the flooded Letaba River. The wheels of truck in which they had been travelling had washed off the low water bridge during flood conditions and Amos was washed off the bridge while they were trying to save the vehicle. Johan managed to pull Amos to safety before he was attacked by a crocodile or washed away. In November 1974 Johan returned to Crocodile Bridge, and it was in 1975 that Johan had another brush with death. While rushing with ranger Johan Steyn to fight a veld fire, the vehicle in which they were travelling hit deep elephant spoor and Johan was thrown from the vehicle landing on his neck. Doctors felt Johan should have been dead were he not so tough.

In 1974 Johan was transferred rather reluctantly to Skukuza (as he liked being a field ranger) to work for scientific services as a laboratory assistant. In 1980 he was promoted to laboratory supervisor, and during this time Johan did not only work in the laboratories but also assisted with game capture operations as well as managing the maintenance of the N'waswitshaka Research camp and assisting in the Scientific Reference Museum with Guin Zambatis. It was here that he gained his reputation as someone who could always make a plan to get things done, no matter what the circumstances.

Johan is considered a stalwart of Scientific Services and was well known for his commendable work ethic, friendly nature and willingness to assist those around him. He was honoured for his contribution to conservation at a ceremony held at Golden Gate where he received a Kudu Award for long service from Dr David Mabunda, CEO SANParks.

addo elephant

agulhas

augrabies falls

bontebok

camdeboo

garden route

golden gate highlands

karoo

kgalagadi transfrontier

kruger

mapungubwe

marakele

mokala

mountain zebra

namaqua

table mountain

tankwa karoo

west coast

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