

MOHOLOHOLO REHAB CENTRE

October 2011



Staff and Volunteers sharing this special moment with the leopards that were sent to Majete Wildlife Reserve in Malawi.



Congratulations!!!
To Jan Last one of our rangers and student coordinators for officially being a FGASA Level 3 guide..

Greetings friends worldwide!

This month for the first time and with the combined efforts of African Parks, Dr. Anthony Hall Martin, Environmental Affairs, Moholoholo and many more, 2 of our leopards were released back into the wild in Malawi, as part of a repopulation project in Majete's Wildlife Reserve. A wonderful success!

Baby season is starting already and many babies have found a new home and new parents within our staff and student members. They have taken our hearts and they seem to be doing just great.

Our blog has come back to life and we have a new logo to keep it company!

Make sure you follow it to keep up with our latest news and stories! Just type <http://moholoholo.blogspot.com/>

You can also subscribe (right column) to receive our posts by email, that way you will always know what's going on!.

Should you have any suggestions about what you would like to know about this, please contact us!. Our intention is to add value to you by way of informative, entertaining and uplifting contents.

Ecologically yours,

The Moholoholo Team.

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Latest News

October 2011

MALAWI HERE WE COME!

We are very proud to say that on the 6th of October we made a small yet successful step into wildlife conservation around the globe. For the first time wild leopards were sent to another country – Malawi- to be released back into the wild.

A few months ago Dr. Anthony Hall Martin from African Parks, contacted us: he needed predators. He had heard that Moholo is constantly rescuing and relocating “problem” animals such as lions, and especially leopards.

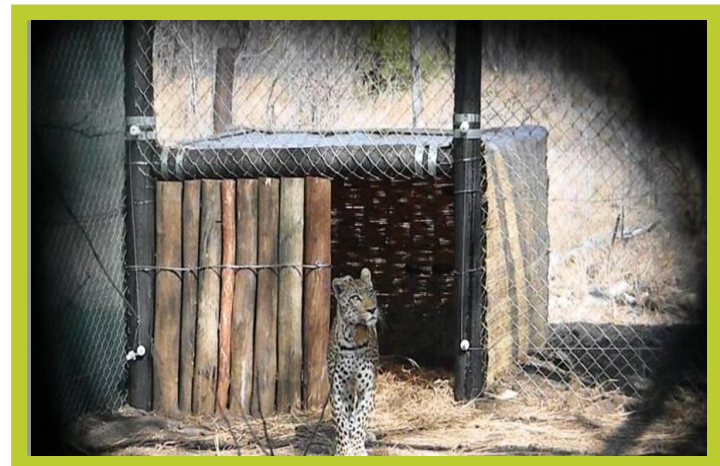
His task was to find Leopards for The Majete’s Wildlife Reserve in Malawi. Wildlife had been wiped out by local communities, and in 2003 he began a repopulation initiative to successfully reintroduce wildlife into this country. With overseas sponsorship, community work and with a lot of effort, the 75000 hectares of the Majete Wildlife Reserve was fenced. So far the first animals introduced have successfully bred and increased in their numbers. Initially they introduced 250 elephants, 450 buffalo, 250 sable antelope, 12 black rhinos, 35 Lichtenstein hartebeest, waterbuck, eland, impala, etc. 7 years later the park is now ready to take in lions and leopards.

Fortunately at the time we had 3 “problem” leopards which were being held here in our quarantine enclosures waiting to be relocated to someplace that they would be welcomed! It was decided to first send the female and male and with the help of many dedicated people, especially Environmental Affairs they were successfully transferred by plane to Malawi. The second male will be sent later on when we find a female to send with him.

The leopards are now doing well and everything seems to be going great for them!. For 2 weeks they will be kept in a pen and then released into their new 75000 hectare home. We feel proud to be a part of this project and to give Malawi a second chance and help us in our wildlife conservation pledge.



Our volunteers transferring the leopards into the plane



Surveying their new surroundings where they will be held for a time.



In their new surroundings before being released into the park

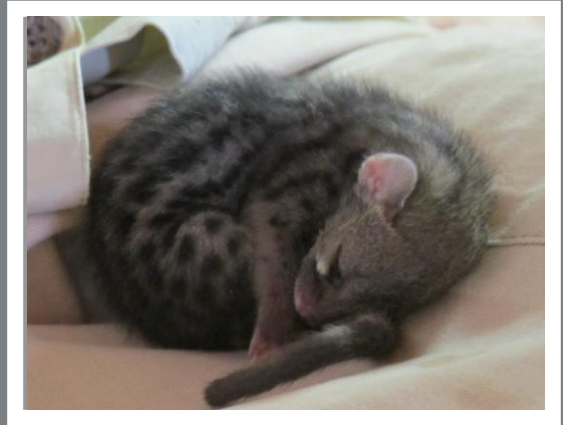
Queen.

As you may have realized our new logo has changed. Even if our image has changed, the star of it remains the same. Who is this bird in Moholo's logo? Why is it so special you may ask? This bird is Queen our magnificent crowned eagle. When the Rehab began back in 1990 she was one of the "founding" animals that came along with Brian and Jenny from Natal.

Queen was hand raised and trained as a falconry bird for 8 years after which she turned very aggressive. She killed 3 dogs and injured the falconer's wife and 2 other falconers. After this she was confined into a small cage. She was rescued and brought to us around 26 years ago. Brian's son took her over and he had such a knack with birds she followed him around even chirping like a chicken. Charles soon left for the army for a year and so Queen very offended turned to Brian who was now bringing her food every day and now took comfort in his company.

As part of our awareness program we enhanced her choice and with the right permits and using the birds cainisim (killing of a nesting bird by a nest mate), we supplied her with fertile eggs taken from the wild, for her to incubate. She then raised 7 chicks; 6 of them were released into the wild and one of them was sent to a bird show in Cape Town. After this we decided to stop giving her fertile eggs as there is nowhere to put them back as their habitat is disappearing fast and there was the question of "will they survive". After this she has laid another 7 infertile eggs and she's currently on her 8th time. Since her eggs are infertile they rot and pop after 60 days of incubation.

She is not only our logo, but also our species' ambassador as she's part of our awareness and educational program, travelling with us to many educational venues.



Baby Season!

As November and the baby season approaches we've had a couple of orphaned babies that have already found their way into the rehab.

First we were brought in 2 lesser bush-babies, who we named Smeagol and Yoda. The bush-babies have grown stronger and vigorously jumping around and the meal worms are their favorite dish. They have been passed onto our volunteers to care for now that they have passed the critical stage and getting along just fine.

A tiny leopard tortoise was also brought in and conquered the heart of some of our volunteers with a Spotted Eagle Owl who we have named Frank Jr. They are both doing great under the care of their volunteer "mommies"

The latest arrival is a large spotted genet baby. We are not surprised he fell out of his nest as he is quite active throughout the day!. He's only beginning to open he's eyes now and we are all very excited to finally be able to "properly" meet him.

Besides these babies our Yellow-billed kites' eggs have hatched and we now have 2 very small bundles of white fluff to enlarge our family.

Sponsorship and Donations

October 2011

We would like to thank those who help us keep our centre going by their donations. The donations do not go unnoticed; they make a difference to each and every animal that enters our premises.

- Rotary Club
- PP More Boerdery
- Singapore Group

We would also like to thank:

- Gerrie Kruger from Soleil Packers – Monthly donations of oranges and grapefruits
- Justin Sellers – Monthly donations for the upkeep of our cages

To everyone who has donated anonymously, we THANK you as well. You've made a difference!!

We would like to extend our thank you to our sponsors:

- Alzu Feeds
- Avi-Plus Products

If you would like to make a donation towards the Rehab Centre to help us to meet the costs of feeding, medical aid and the building of cages, please email us at moholorehab@wol.co.za. Donations need not only come in money but blankets, old towels, and heating pads and so on, will be most welcome.

