



GLOBAL WHITE LION PROTECTION TRUST (WLT)

April 2009 **NEWSLETTER**

"Our Pride is Returning!"

A roar of greetings and well wishes from all at TSAU!

In this issue:

- **New Website Design Enhances Online Donation Capability**
- **Generous Donors enable WLT Farm Labourers to Construct their own Eco-Village**
- **Donations Helps to Ensure the Royal Family Receives Radio Collars**

New Website Design Enhances Online Donation Capability

Please sponsor a "Day of Freedom"



Through our Days of Freedom Campaign we aim to secure "365 Days of Freedom" in the wild for each of the Lions in the Reintroduction Program. One Day of Freedom is calculated according to actual predation and veterinary costs, anti-poaching activities, fence maintenance, re-stocking of prey-animals, essential habitat management and the cost of monitoring around the clock. One Day of Freedom amounts to **R350 (\$50 or £30)**.

Donate online:

www.whitelions.org

Manual Payments:

Our Banking Details:

Bank Acc:420070176

Standard Bank,

Branch: Rivonia 001255

International Swift Code: SBZ

AZAJJ

Please Sponsor ONE DAY OF FREEDOM for ONE WHITE LION Today










Click on a date to see if one of the lions needs a Day of Freedom

■ No lions sponsored
 ■ Some lions sponsored
 ■ Half of the lions sponsored
 ■ Almost all lions sponsored
 ■ All lions sponsored

April 2009							May 2009							June 2009									
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa			
			1	2	3	4						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30									
							31																
July 2009							August 2009							September 2009									
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa			
			1	2	3	4						1			1	2	3	4	5				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30							
							30	31															

Days of Freedom online calendar for electronic donations – www.whitelions.org

Following numerous requests from our friends and members to simplify our online donation capability, we have refined our website significantly. Our online **Days of Freedom** section is now easily available from a "quick-link" button on our Home page and the back-end credit card facility has been refined and thoroughly tested. The Days of Freedom electronic facility enables web visitors to select and sponsor one or more days of freedom for a **specific lion(s)** in the Reintroduction Project by clicking on a day on the **online calendar**. The calendar records the selection and automatically calculates the donation amount.

	Name	Availability
	Mandla	Availability
	Zirha	Availability
	Nebu	Availability
	Matsieng	Availability
	Zukhara	Availability
	Letaba	Availability
	Regeus	Availability
	Khanyisa	Availability
	Nyeleti	Availability

Online Days of Freedom Lion Selection Bar

Ensuring the White Lions' survival at this stage of their reintroduction means we have to restock the lions' habitat with herds of wildebeest, zebra and kudu (a male lion consumes on average one wildebeest/kudu every five days at approx. \$200 to \$380 a time); we have to maintain approx. 40 kilometres of electrified fencing (perimeter and internal); we have anti-poaching border patrols by trained field security guards ensuring the lions' safety from hunters and poachers; and we also have a dedicated monitoring vehicle and a scientific team lead by lion ecologist Jason Turner, monitoring the lions twice daily.

Many people still prefer to "adopt" animals in zoos and rehabilitation programmes but lose sight of the plight of those animals in the wild, where their existence in their natural distribution range remains at risk.

Our Days of Freedom campaign ensures that the White Lions in the Reintroduction Project remain free-roaming in their endemic habitat in the Greater Timbavati Region.

With our project being entirely dependent on the generosity of the public and private donors, we ask each of our members to please donate at least one Day of Freedom for one lion at R350 (\$50 or £30).

Please visit www.whitelions.org

Generous Donors enable WLT Farm Labourers to Construct their own

Did you know...?



The Timbavati Nature Reserve itself made two attempts to reintroduce White Lions into the wild: the first was in the late 1980s and the second took place in 1993. Sadly, reintroduction techniques were not as sophisticated as they are today and the attempts failed. Since then, reintroductions have been increasingly proposed and practiced as a conservation strategy and method to return 'extirpated' populations to their former range.

In 2002, when the WLT was first established, there were no known White Lion individuals remaining in the wild in the Greater Timbavati and this had been the status for the past decade. With a critical need to supplement the White Lion gene in the wild, the WLT launched its world-first White Lion Reintroduction Program. Today the Reintroduction Program can be considered successful as the founding pride hunts self-sufficiently and is reproducing without human intervention.

Six years after its establishment, the WLT is gratified to receive occasional reports of the births of White Lion cubs in the Timbavati region (in addition to the WLT's own three cubs). This is highly significant as it confirms the conservation value of this rare phenotype in this specific region.

Eco-Village



Above left: Staff use orange bags filled with soil in place of bricks. **Above right:** the completed eco-village. **Below left:** Tree planting ceremony at the opening of the village. **Below right:** the WLT's CEO Linda Tucker, Wendy Strauss and Group Five Building Financial Director, Mike Kelly

We recently celebrated the unveiling of our newly built staff eco-village with employees, surrounding communities and representatives from construction company, **Group Five Building**, who contributed R100 000.00 to the project. This project would not have been possible without the generosity of USA based **Ms Sheryl Leach**, valued friend and White Lion "matriarch", who was part of the founding vision of this ecological showcase. Ms Leach not only provided the loan for the project but contributed a further R250 000.00 for its construction. The remainder of the project loan has been funded by our White Lion conservation funds, which we hope to recoup.

The eco-village is constructed from environmentally sensitive and recyclable materials, using "green" building techniques. It was conceptualised and designed by Theuns Naude, owner of a Nelspruit based SME construction company, Umnumzane Builders, trading as Solar Green Projects. Solar Green Projects staff completed the first phase of the building to ensure structure integrity, after which they transferred construction skills to WLT staff who completed the village. The village is based on self-sustainable principles in terms of energy consumption; waste management and re-use; water requirements; food production; and thermal insulation. Hundreds of orange bags were packed with soil and stacked to form walls. All timber for the village was sourced from sustainable FSC certified plantations. The steel roofs were comparatively low in cost and will enable easy rain water collection for re-use for organic vegetable gardens. A refuse area with multiple bins encourage staff to separate refuse, with organic waste being used as compost for the vegetable gardens and other refuse, such as glass bottles, aluminium cans and recyclable plastic, being recycled. Non-returnable glass bottles have been incorporated in the window designs. The design orientation, roof overhangs, ceiling insulation and cross ventilation minimise the need for

Acknowledging our
pride and joy:



Odile Lurton

The Global White Lion Protection Trust wishes to thank Odile Lurton for her magnificent artistic contribution entitled: "The Return Among Life – Sekhmet The Mighty - Lady of Maat."

The beautiful life-size painted image has been printed into poster-size format and cards for sale to the public.

All proceeds go towards White Lion Conservation. Should you wish to acquire either the poster or cards, kindly email info@whitelions.org.



artificial heating or cooling in the village.

The village will centralise farm labourers on the reserve ahead of the next phase in our White Lion reintroduction program. After a year of acclimatizing in a protected sub-habitat, the pride of two adult lions and three cubs are ready for their release into the greater part of the reserve. We are extremely proud of our farm labourers and we are grateful to Mr Naude and his staff for their dedication in transferring quality skills to our people. With our donors' contributions and the dedication of the entire construction team, we were able to complete the village in under six months. Now that our people are safely centralised, we look forward to the next phase in our scientific White Lion reintroduction program.

Donations Helps to Ensure the Royal Family Receives Radio



A roaring thank you to all Friends of the Trust – in particular the **Kodiak Foundation** – for generously sponsoring the Royal Family's radio collars, and **Odile Lurton** and others for their contribution towards the additional costs of the pride's release. The collars will enable our scientific monitoring team to track the lions – Marah's royal lineage – in their endemic habitat. This will help to ensure the lions' safety at all times and to record their progress in the next phase of the scientific reintroduction program.

Public Caution:

- Please be aware of websites that claim to align with the Global White Lion Protection Trust. Many 'piggy-back' off our market profile and reputation. Please be aware that www.whitelions.org.za is in **NO WAY** affiliated to the Global White Lion Protection Trust.
- The Global White Lion Protection Trust publicly disassociates itself from the following organisations and wildlife reserves:
 - **Inkwenkwezi**
 - **Lion and Rhino Park**
 - **Seaview Game and Lion Park**
 - **Sanbona Reserve**
 - **Thornybush Reserve**

Alert us! If you have good reason to believe an organisation or reserve is making false claims about white lion conservation or that they are promoting cub-handling or operating without legal permits, please provide us with information at info@whitelions.org.

Send an "E-Gift" on behalf of a loved-one



Make a donation to the White Lions or sign up membership in honour of a loved-one and add a personal message. Or, ask friends and family to make a donation to the White Lions on your behalf as a birthday gift. We will confirm your payment and acknowledge your **"e-gift" via email** to your email address and ensure your loved-one receives their personalized "e-gift".

How?

Email your payment confirmation and the gift recipient's name and personalized message to: nikkie@whitelions.org

Our Banking Details:

Bank account::420070176
Standard Bank,
Branch: Rivonia 001255
International Swift Code: SBZ AZAJJ
Banking reference: "gift+surname"

Public Apologies



All is forgiven! Thank you for owning up.

See Public Apologies on: www.whitelions.org