

# KWANDWE

Our ultimate purpose as a tourism-conservation entity is to contribute sustainably to the environment, protect biodiversity, and positively impact our surrounding communities.

It is our aim that every guest at Kwandwe understands our ethos and leaves knowing that they have actively participated in what we hope has become a shared vision.

## OUR **FIVE** PILLARS OF CONSERVATION & HOW YOU CAN **CONTRIBUTE**



**1 GROW**

Conserving biodiversity and the ecology of the area.

Replant spekboom, a wonder plant that is endemic to the Eastern Cape, on game drives and walking safaris. Observe flora rehabilitation in action.

**2 PROTECT**

Safeguarding vulnerable species.

Take part in a rhino conservation drive and track the endangered animals on foot. Join a specialist Rhino Conservation Safari.

**3 ENGAGE**

Supporting and developing our local community.

Visit the Mgcamabele Centre and the Ubunye pre-school located on Kwandwe, and learn more about out community projects in the Eastern Cape.

**4 COLLABORATE**

Expanding wildlife populations beyond the borders of Kwandwe.

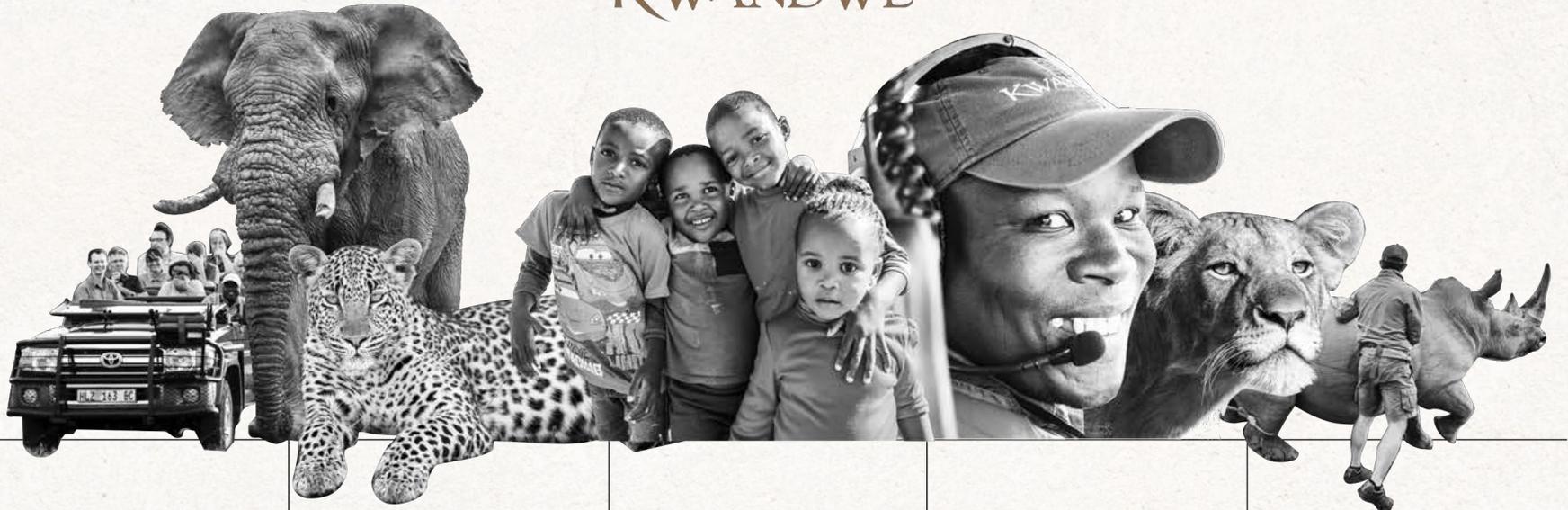
Request to be added to our conservation mailing list and keep up to date with planned projects and how to get involved.

**5 RESEARCH**

Partnering with academic institutions to conduct biodiversity research

Set up a camera trap and inspect other footage to understand how we use motion detection cameras to survey moments and territories and understand more about certain species.

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## GROW

Kwandwe is classified as a Government Gazetted Private Protected Environment. Through focused land rehabilitation of its 22,000 hectares of private wilderness, the area is a biodiversity hotspot where six of South Africa's eight biomes meet.

Kwandwe is host to a variety of endemic and near-endemic birds, plants and mammals. Protecting biodiversity with restricted geographical distributions is essential, as habitats continue to shrink.

Kwandwe is also home to an abundance of spekboom, a 'wonder' plant which is able to sequester large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere.

## PROTECT

Kwandwe provides much-needed protection for endangered species. Through partnerships with guests, anti-poaching teams, wildlife veterinarians, biologists and esteemed conservationists,

Kwandwe successfully protects the continued growth of vulnerable populations of black and white rhino, cheetah, black wildebeest, mountain reedbuck, black footed cat, hippo, elephant, lion, leopard and other key species.

## ENGAGE

Kwandwe helped to found the Ubunye Foundation and continues to support it daily. Every guest contributes directly through their community and conservation levy, half of which goes directly to the Ubunye foundation, whilst the other half funds conservation specific activities on and around Kwandwe.

The Ubunye Foundation is Kwandwe's community development partner, and focuses on economic development, education and health initiatives in more than 50 rural communities in the Eastern Cape.

## COLLABORATE

There is an African proverb that says, "If you want to go far, go together" and collaboration is an important part of Kwandwe's conservation efforts.

Since inception, Kwandwe has partnered with like-minded conservation entities in order to expand and ensure the healthy growth of wildlife populations beyond the borders of the reserve. This is achieved through wildlife swaps to ensure genetic diversity, as well as the recapturing and translocating of species.

## RESEARCH

Kwandwe proudly partners with and assists in educational biodiversity research on the reserve. This research enables an increased understanding of how Kwandwe and other African organisations can better protect and enrich natural biodiversity and vulnerable species.

- Recent research projects::
- Leopard population census (Rhodes University)
  - Brown hyena behaviour (Nelson Mandela University)
  - Elephants & the propagation of spekboom (Nelson Mandela University)
  - The impact of baboons on euphorbia trees (Rhodes University)