

BLACK MAMBAS SPECIALIST PRO-ACTIVE UNIT: CRIME PREVENTION

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Transfrontier Africa NPC is well advanced in the training of a new specialist Black Mamba team, who will focus on crime-prevention on our landscapes.

This team has been selected from over 200 applications received and the successful candidates were jointly chosen after a screening process by our fitness partners, the local tribal authorities and our senior Black Mambas, and has been primarily funded by Helping Rhinos (UK) and DER Touristik.

The team has been engaged with a special tailored training regime for the past 4 weeks and although their training includes the traditional para-military curriculum, we have solicited the expertise of external specialists to upskill the team to focus on the following aspects of our pro-active model:

- Search-and-destroy poachers snares, traps and camps.
- Conduct roaming and routine vehicle stop-and-searches.
- Conduct frequent inspections and searches of contractors building sites and camps.
- Regular visits to unsupervised staff quarters in remote areas.
- Take responsibility for remote camera-traps and other early-warning technology.
- Keep data-bases up-to-date on all of the above.
- Hold frequent observation and information-gathering posts in hot-spots and on suspicious activities.

This team will be mobile across all of our landscapes and work directly with the Operations Centre.

The above mentioned duties have been carried out by the other Black Mamba teams, on an ad hoc basis, and as the responsibilities of the Mambas has increased, it has become necessary to deploy a team that focuses on these aspects, whilst the other teams continue with their disruptive patrols.

The Black Mambas strive to make the landscape undesirable and unprofitable for poachers, and foster an ethos of environmental patriotism amongst the villages. This requires continuous pro-active interventions and includes disruptive patrols and information gathering at a high-frequency.

The new team has been recruited from the Maseke and Makushani tribes, on our western boundary, and these six young women have already exceeded expectations. It is in this time that we find it necessary to reinforce our model, following on the past decade of success. To relax now, would be to waste the last 10 years investments that the Mambas and their supporters have made.

The recent spike in pangolin poaching and crocodile poaching has raised alarms here. Let us join hands in welcoming the Black Mamba Crime Prevention Unit into the arena and show them the same kindness and support that the Mambas have enjoyed over the years.

Many regards



Craig Spencer
Managing Director
Transfrontier Africa NPC

