

Umphafa Private Nature Reserve

Research Topic Ideas	Explanation	Desired Outcome	Research Period	No. of Days Research Estimate	No. of days Intern Estimate
White Rhino Ecology					
Distribution of White Rhino on UmPhafa	This study would determine the seasonal movements of individuals coupled with the spatial distances and habitat preferences between each Rhino group. Opportunity to compare with four years' worth of previous collected data	Understanding of the Rhino groups movements and seasonal habitat preferences	All year. This study will show seasonal differences, so available for multiple students over different seasons (and/or could compare with previous collected data)	3	2
Feeding Preferences of White Rhino on UmPhafa	White Rhino are grazers. This study would look at preference for different grass species and provide recommendations for UmPhafa habitat management	Understanding of food preference of White Rhino on UmPhafa and habitat management suggestions	September - May. This study will show seasonal differences, so available for multiple students over different seasons	3	2
Poaching					
The Effects of Poaching on UmPhafa	This study would map the distribution of poaching incidents per species on UmPhafa based on records collected over multiple years. Cost analysis of the effects of poaching can also be carried out. Recommendations for improvement in security at key areas can also be made	Understanding of the distribution of poaching incidences and security management suggestions	All year	3	2
Geology					
Impact of Erosion on Soil and Vegetation Quality on Umphafa	UmPhafa suffers from wind and water erosion. This study will look at habitat quality around the erosion sites, including vegetation surveys and soil condition. Recommendations for erosion management techniques can also be made	Understanding of impact of erosion on the habitat availability and quality on UmPhafa	All Year	3	2
Habitat - Bulk Grazers					
The Effects of Buffalo Grazing on UmPhafa	UmPhafa currently have a lack of bulk grazers so in late 2023 and mid 2024 30 Buffalo were introduced to counter this problem. There is an opportunity for post- introduction study looking at the effects of buffalo's preferred sites for grazing on UmPhafa and the impact. We have location data since they were introduced.	Impact assessment of buffalo grazing and identifying their preferred vegetation preference	All year, multiple studies post buffalo introduction	2	3

Data analysis					
Analysis of Species Movements on UmPhafa	This study would use collected game count records to analyse the trends, patterns and movements of species on UmPhafa	Understanding of animal movements on UmPhafa	All year	2	3
Blue Crane					
Analysis of Blue Crane Habitat on UmPhafa	Listed as Vulnerable, UmPhafa want to ensure that the Blue Cranes have the right habitat to survive and flourish here. This study would assess habitat suitability for Blue Cranes on UmPhafa and provide recommendations for management	Habitat assessment and management recommendations for Blue Cranes	All Year	2	3
Predator Management					
Leopard Density and Identification	This study would use camera trap data and visual sightings to analyse the distribution and home range size of individual leopards on UmPhafa. Impact on other species within these ranges can be deduced by analysis of kill sites	Understanding of leopard distribution, home range and predation levels	All year	2	3
Impact of a new predator species – Cheetah introduction to UmPhafa	From early 2025 UmPhafa is hoping to introduce Cheetah, using satellite data and visual sightings this is an opportunity to study Cheetah in a new environment and to assess the home ranges, prey densities and food preference on UmPhafa to ensure a successful introduction	Provide management recommendations on distribution, ranges and prey species	All Year	2	3