

LOWVELD TRAILS CO.

CONSERVATION

2023

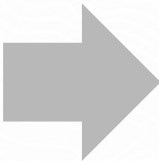
GREEN HOUSE GAS ASSESMENT

We completed a GHG emission assessment across all scopes of business for financial year end 2024.

11.89 % increase from previous year

37.05 TONS

The primary reasons for an increase in GHG emissions during 2023 is due to business growth and the addition of the Kalahari Primitive Trail. It has increased revenue, but comes at a carbon cost due to the long distances travelled by road.



GHG OFFSETING

We offset 38 tons of GHG emissions according to VERRA standards for financial year end 2024. However, we are committed to greater mitigation efforts as part of our long-term solution.

NET ZERO



We are committed to building a net positive, Nature-based business that creates the space for personal, social and Wilderness regeneration.

PRIMITIVE TRAILS

While out on 'Primitive Trail' we essentially conduct extended counter poaching patrols. Our random movements, away from roads, provide an unpredictable presence, an opportunity to detect spoor/shots and all-night observation points. We communicate our findings with relevant conservation managers throughout the year.

Lowveld Trails Co. conducted 56 'Primitive Trails' during 2023. That's a total of 224 days and 168 nights in the field.



CONSERVATION LEVIES

During 2023 Lowveld Trails Co. contributed more than ZAR 207 360 in revenue towards the Protected Areas in which we conduct 'Primitive Trails' and Trails Guide Training. These levies are used for conservation management and anti-poaching purposes.

ZAR 207K

WILDERNESS

We established our definition of Wilderness, created a 'Wilderness Scoresheet' and now use these components to provide a 'Wilderness Rating' for each of our Primitive Trail landscapes. The initiative is aimed at raising Wilderness awareness and to monitor the impact of infrastructure development within Protected Areas.

Lowveld Trails Co. defines Wilderness as an ecologically intact landscape with associated wild qualities that is largely untrammelled by modern human infrastructure.



FUND

We manage a 'Wilderness Fund' with which to protect and/or regenerate the intrinsic Wilderness qualities of select landscapes. Lowveld Trails Co. contributed a portion of our annual business profit and all our 'Wilderness Levies' to generate revenue for this fund. This year's donation of ZAR 43 000 went towards the removal of exotic trees (Mesquite *Prosopis glandulosa*) from the !Khamab Kalahari Reserve. We believe that the effort will not only improve the ecological integrity of the landscape, but also improve its Wilderness quality.

ZAR 43K

MONITORING OF WILDERNESS RATINGS

Kalahari Primitive Trail (!Khamab Kalahari Reserve) 85%

There was an overall decrease of 1% this past season (86%). The primary reasons for the decrease were due to; more infrastructure being observed (boundary fences and powerlines), increased vehicle movement, and an increase in other human activity (cows, dogs etc. from outside the reserve).

Makuya Primitive Trail (Makuya Nature Reserve) 83%

When compared to the previous season, there was a 1% decrease in our rating (84%). The primary reasons for the decrease was due to; an increased road density (due to unlawful off-road driving), an increase in other human activity, and an increase in the possibility of seeing other people (including snare and fish poachers).

Timbavati Primitive Trail (Timbavati Private Nature Reserve - Rothsay & Tawane) - 71%

There was an overall increase of 2% this past season (69%). The primary reasons for change was due to; a decrease in vehicle activity, and an increase in the non-physical features category (atmosphere, sense of place etc.). However, there was a significant increase in aeroplane and helicopter activity.

Since the implementation of the Wilderness monitoring, we have not noticed significant negative trends in any of the areas where we operate. We will continue to keep our finger on the 'Wilderness pulse'.