THE MABALINGWE
Species List

PLEASE NOTE

For our birds, mammals and snakes we provided the common names if there is one in English and Afrikaans. Most people find it easier to remember and recognize common names instead of scientific names of familiar plants and animals. Common names are less likely to change because it is so widely used but over time a single species may be assigned more than one name depending on the location of the area you are in. Scientific names on the other hand tend to change as it is constantly revised when our understanding of the taxonomy improves.

For our trees of Mabalingwe, we provided the scientific name together with the common name in English and Afrikaans. Scientific nomenclature is associated with the system of classification and will always include the genus, spelt with a capital letter and the species, spelt without a capital letter and both written in italics. Genus can be defined as a group of species with the same characteristics and evolutionary ancestor whereas species refers to a group of individuals from the same ancestral stock that will produce fertile offspring when breeding with one another. Where a scientific name has recently been changed, the changed name is provided in the yellow box at the bottom of the page and the previous name is used in the list for the reason of popularity of the previous name.



Snakes...

African rock python
Luislang

Black mamba
Swartmamba

Brown house snake
Bruinhuisslang

Boomslang
Boomslang

Grass snake
Grasslang

Mozambique spitting cobra
Mosambiekse spoegkobra

Puff-adder
Pofadder

Night adder
Nagadder

Spotted bush snake
Gespikkelde bosslang

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NEUROTOXIC AND CYTOTOXIC

Snake venom is generally classified as neurotoxic, which affects the nervous system and can cause paralysis or respiratory failure, or cytotoxic, which destroys tissue and blood cells, leading to swelling and pain. In southern Africa, the Black Mamba is an example of a neurotoxic species, while the Puff Adder carries cytotoxic venom.



Mammals...

- Bushpig / Bosvark
- Aardvark
- Brown hyena / Bruin hiëna
- Aardwolf
- Black-backed jackal / Rooijakkals
- African elephant / Olifant
- White rhinoceros / Witrenoster
- African buffalo / Buffel
- Caracal / Rooikat
- Leopard / Luiperd
- Hippopotamus / Seekoei
- Giraffe / Kameelperd
- Kudu / Koedoe
- Burchell's zebra / Sebra
- Eland
- Nyala / Njala
- Warthog / Vlakvark
- African wildcat/ Vaalboskat
- Hedgehog / Krimpvarkie
- Klipspringer / Klipspringer
- Rock hyrax / Klipdassie
- Scrub hare / Kolhaas
- Spring hare / Springhaas
- Striped polecat / Stinkmuishond
- Cape clawless otter / Groototter
- African civet / Afrikasivet
- Small spotted cat / Klein gekolde kat
- Side-striped jackal / Witkwasjakkals
- Cape fox / Silwervos
- Pangolin / Ietermagog
- Porcupine / Ystervark
- Chacma baboon / Bobbejaan
- Vervet monkey / Blou-aap
- Lesser bushbaby / Nagapie
- Tsessebe

- Red hartebees / Rooihartbees
- Sable antelope / Swartwitpens
- Banded mongoose / Gebande muishond
- Jameson's red rock rabbit / Jamesonse rooiklipkonyn
- Dwarf mongoose / Dwergmusihond
- Serval / Tierboskat
- Mountain reedbuck / Rooiribbok
- Reedbuck / Rietbok
- Small spotted genet / Kleinkolmuskeljaatkat
- Common duiker / Gewone duiker
- Steenbok
- Bushbuck / Bosbok
- Honey badger / Ratel
- Tree squirrel / Boomeekhoring
- Slender Mongoose / Swartkwasmuishond
- Blue wildebeest / Blouwildebees
- Impala / Rooibok
- Waterbuck / Waterbok

DON'T FORGET THE LITTLE GUYS

While the mammals listed here highlight some of the more prominent species at Mabalingwe, many smaller mammals also call the reserve home. These include various rodents, shrews, bats, and mice, which form an essential part of the ecosystem — serving as prey for predators and contributing to the balance of life in the bush.



Birds...

OSTRICH
Ostrich

GREBES
Little grebe

CORMORANTS
White-breastedCormorant / Witborsduiker
Reed cormorant / Rietduiker
African darter / Slanghalsvoël

HERONS
Grey heron / Bloureier
Black-headed heron / Swartkopreier
Goliath heron / Reusereier
Purple heron / Rooireier
Great egret / Grootwitreier
Little egret / Kleinwitreier
Western cattle egret / Veereier
Green-backed heron / Groenrugreier
Dwarf bittern / Dwergrietreier

STORKS
Hamerkop / Hamerkop
White stork / Witooievaar
Black stork / Grootswartooievaar

IBISES
Hadedao ibis / Hadeda
African spoonbill / Lepelaar

DUCKS
White-faced whistling duck / Nonnetjie-eend
Egyptian goose / Kolgans
African black duck / Swarteend
Red-billed teal /Rooibekeend
Knob-billed duck / Knobbeleend
Spur-winged goose / Wildemakou

VULTURES
Cape vulture / Kransaasvoël
White-backed vulture / Witrugaasvoël
Lappet-faced vulture Swartassvoël

KITES
Yellow-billed kite / Geelbekwou
Black-winged kite / Blouvalk

EAGLES
Verreaux's eagle / Witkruisarend
Wahlberg's eagle / Bruinarend
Martial eagle / Breëkoparend
Brown snake eagle / Bruinslangarend
Black-chested snake eagle / Swartborsslangarend
African fish eagle / Visarend

BUZZARDS
European honey buzzard / Wespedief
Common buzzard / Bruinjakkalsvoël

SPARROWHAWKS
Gabar goshawk / Witkruissperwer

HARRIERS
African harrier hawk / Kaalwangvalk

KESTRELS & FALCONS
Lanner falcon / Edelvalk
Amur falcon / Oostelike rooipootvalk
Dickinson's kestrel / Dickinson grysvalk

FRANCOLINS
Coqui francolin / Swempie
Crested francolin / Bospatrys
Shelly's francolin / Laeveldpatrys
Natal spurfowl / Natalse fisant
Swainson's spurfowl / Bosveldfisant
Helmeted guineafowl / Gewone tarentaal
Common kurrichane buttonquail / Bosveldkwarteltjie

CRAKES & FLUFFTAILS
Black crake / Swartriethaan

GALLINULES
Common moorhen Grootwaterhoender Red-Bleshoender

KORHAANS
Red-crested korhaan / Boskorhaan
Black-bellied bustard / Langbeenkorhaan
Southern black korhaan / Swartvlerkkorhaan

JACANAS
African jacana / Grootlangtoon
Common ringed plover / Ringnekstrandkiewiet
Three-banded plover / Driebandstrandkiewiet
Crowned lap wing / Kroonkiewiet
Blacksmith lap wing / Bontkiewiet
African wattled lap wing / Lelkiewiet

WADERS
Common sandpiper / Gewone ruiter
Wood sandpiper / Bosruiter

COURSERS
Spotted thick-knee / Gewone dikkop

Bronze-winged courser / Bronsvlerkdrawwertjie

PIGEONS
Speckled pigeon / Kransduif

Red-eyed dove / Grootringduif

Cape turtle dove / Gewone tortelduif

Laughing dove / Rooiborsduifie

Namaqua dove / Namakwaduifie

Emerald spotted wood dove / Groenvlekduifie

LOURIES & PARROTS
Brown-headed parrot / Bruinkoppapegaai

Meyer's parrot / Bosveldpapegaai

CUCKOOS
Red-chested cuckoo / Piet-my-vrou

Black cuckoo / Swart koekoek

Levaillant's cuckoo / Gestreepte nuwejaarsvoël

Jacobin cuckoo / Bontuwejaarsvoël

COUCALS
Burchell's coucal / Gewone vleiloerie

OWLS
Western barn owl /Nonnetjie-uil

African grass owl /Grasuil

Marsh owl / Vlei-uil

African scops owl / Skopsuil

Southern white-faced owl / Witwanguil

Pearl-spotted owlet / Wikoluil

Spotted eagle-owl / Gevlekte ooruil

Verreaux's eagle-owl / Reuse-ooruil

NIGHTJARS
Fiery-necked nightjar / Afrikaanse naguil

Freckled nightjar /Donkernaguil

SWIFTS
Common swift / Europese windswael

White-rumped swift / Witkruiswindswael

Little swift / Kleinwindswael

African palm swift / Palmwindswael

MOUSEBIRDS
Speckled mousebird / Gevlekte muisvoël

Red-faced mousebird / Rooiwangmuisvoël

KINGFISHERS
Pied kingfisher / Bontvisvanger

Giant kingfisher / Reuse visvanger

Half-collared kingfisher / Blouvisvanger

Malachite kingfisher / Kuifkopvisvanger

African pygmy kingfisher / Dwergvisvanger

Woodland kingfisher / Bosveldvisvanger

Brown-hooded kingfisher / Bruinkopvisvanger

Grey-headed kingfisher / Gryskopvisvanger

Striped kingfisher / Gestreepte visvanger

European bee-eater / Europese byvreter

Blue-cheeked bee-eater / Blouwangbyvreter

White-fronted bee-eater / Rooikeelbyvreter

Little bee-eater / Kleinbyvreter

Swallow tailed bee-eater / Swaelstertbyvreter

ROLLERS
Lilac-breasted roller /Gewone troupant

Purple roller / Groottroupant

HOOPOES & HORNBILLS
African hoopoe / Hoephoep

Green wood-hoopoe / Rooibekkakelaar

Common scimitar-bill / Swartbekkakelaar

African grey hornbill / Grysneushoringvoël

Southern red-billed hornbill / Rooibekneushoringvoël

Southern yellow-billed hornbill / Geelbekneushoringvoël

BARBETS
Black-collared barbet / Rooikophoutkapper

Acacia pied barbet / Bonthoutkapper

Yellow-fronted tinkerbird / Geelblestinker

Crested barbet / Kuifkophoutkapper

HONEYGUIDES
Greater honeyguide / Grootheuningwyser

Lesser honeyguide / Kleinheuningwyser

WOODPECKERS
Bennett's woodpecker / Bennettspeg

Golden-tailed woodpecker / Goudstertspeg

Cardinal woodpecker /Kardinaalspeg

Bearded woodpecker /Baardspeg

LARKS
Monotonous lark /Bosveldlewerik

Rufous-naped lark / Rooineklewerik

Sabota lark / Sabotalewerik

SWALLOWS
Barn swallow /
Europese swael

White-throated swallow /
Witkeelswael

Pearl-breasted swallow /
Pêrelborsswael

Red-breasted swallow /
Rooiborsswael

Greater striped swallow /
Grootstreepswael

Lesser striped swallow /
Kleinstreepswael

Rock martin /
Kransswael

Common house martin /
Huisswael

Sand martin /
Europese oewerswael

Brown-throated martin /
Afrikaanse oewerswael

SHRIKE
Black cuckooshrike
Swartkatakoeroe

DRONGOS & ORIOLES
Fork-tailed drongo /
Mikstertbyvanger

Eurasian golden oriole /
Europese wielewaal

Black-headed oriole /
Swartkopwielewaal

CROWS
Capeo crow / Swartkraai

Pied crow / Witborskraai

TITS
Southern black tit /
Gewone swartmees

BABBLERS
Arrow-marked babbler
Pylvlekkatlagter

Southern pied babbler
Witkatlagter

BULBULS
Dark-capped bulbul
Swartoogtiptol

African red-eyed bulbul
Rooioogtiptol

THRUSHES
Kurrichane thrush /Rooibeklyster

Olive thrush / Olyflyster

Ground scraper thrush /
Gevlekte lyster

Cape rock thrush /Kaapse kliplyster

CHATS
Familiar chat / Gewone spekvreter

African stonechat /
Gewone bontrokkie

ROBINS
White-browed robin-chat /
Heuglinjanfrederik

Cape robin chat /
Gewone janfrederik

White-throated robin chat /
Witkeeljanfrederik

White-starred robin /
Witkoljanfrederik

White-browed scrub robin /
Gestreepte wipstert

Kalahari scrub robin /
Kalahari wipstert

BABBLER
Chestnut-vented tit-babbler
Bosveldtjeriktik

WARBLERS
Little rush warbler /
Kaapse vleisanger

Icterine warbler /
Spotsanger

Willow warbler /
Hofsanger

APALISES
Bar-throated apalis /
Bandkeelkleinjantjie

CROMBEC
Long-billed crombec /
Bosveldstompstert

EREMOMELAS
Yellow-bellied eremomela /
Geelpensbossanger

Burnt-necked eremomela /
Bruinkeelbossanger

BUSH WARBLERS
Grey-backed camaroptera /
Greysrugkwêkwêvoël

Barred warbler /
Gebande sanger

CISTICOLAS
Rattling cisticola /
Bosveldtinktinkie

Neddicky /
Nedikkie

Tawny-flanked prinia /
Buinsylangstertjie

Black-chested prinia /
Swartbandlangstertjie

FLYCATCHERS
Spotted flycatcher
Europese vlieëvanger

Afican dusky flycatcher
Donkervlieëvanger

Grey tit flycatcher
Waaierstertvlieëvanger

Southern black flycatcher
Swartvlieëvanger

Marico flycatcher
Maricovlieëvanger

Pale flycatcher
Muiskleurvlieëvanger

Fiscal flycatcher
Fiskaalvlieëvanger

Chin spot batis
Witliesbosbontrokkie

Fairy flycatcher
Feevlieëvanger

African paradise flycatcher
Paradysvlieëvanger

WAGTAILS
African pied wagtail
Bontkwikkie

Cape wagtail
Gewone kwikkie

PIPITS
Nicholson's pipit /
Nicholsonkoester

Plain-backed pipit /
Donkerkoester

Buffy pipit /
Vaalkoester

Striped pipit /
Gestreepte koester

Bushveld pipit /
Bosveldkoester

SHRIKES
Lesser grey shrike / Gryslaksman

Southern fiscal / Fiskaallaksman

Red-backed shrike / Rooiruglaksman

Magpie shrike / Langstertlaksman

Southern boubou / Suidelike waterfiskaal

Crimson-breasted shrike / Rooiborslaksman

Black-backed puffback / Sneeubal

Brubru / Bontroklaksman

Brown-crowned tchagra / Rooivlerktjagra

Black-crowned tchagra / Swartkroontjagra

BUSH SHRIKE
Orange-breasted bush shrike / Oranjeborsboslakman

Grey-headed bush shrike / Spookvoël

Southern white-crowned shrike / Kremetartlaksman

White-crested helmetshrike / Withelmlaksman

STARLINGS
Wattled starling / Lelspreeu

Violet-backed starling / Witborsspreeu

Burchell's starling / Grootglansspreeu

Capeo glossy starling / Kleinglansspreeu

Greater blue-eared starling / Grootblouoorglansspreeu

Red-winged starling / Rooivlerkspreeu

OXPECKERS
Red-billed oxpecker / Rooibekrenostervoël

SUNBIRDS
Marico sunbird / Maricosuikerbekkie

White-bellied sunbird / Witpenssuikerbekkie

Amethyst sunbird Swartsuikerbekkie

Cape white-eye Kaapse glasogie

Southern yellow white-eye Geelglasogie

SPARROWS
White-browed Sparrow-weaver / Koringvoël

House sparrow / Huismossie

Great sparrow / Grootmossie

Cape sparrow / Gewone mossie

Southern grey-headed sparrow / Gryskopmossie

Yellow-throated petronia / Geelvlekmossie

Scaly-feathered finch / Baardmannetjie

WEAVERS
Village weaver / Bontrugwewer

Cape weaver / Kaapse wewer

Southern masked weaver / Swartkeelgeelvink

Lesser masked weaver / Kleingeelvink

Red-headed weaver / Rooikopwewer

QUELEAS & BISHOPS
Cuckoo finch / Koekoekvink

Red-billed quelea / Rooibekkwelea

Southern red bishop / Rooivink

WIDOW BIRDS
White-winged widow bird / Witvlerkflap

Red-collared widow bird / Rooikeelflap

Long-tailed widow bird / Langstertflap

FIRE FINCHES
Green-winged pytilia / Gewone melba

African firefinch / Kaapse vuurvinkie

Jameson's firefinch / Jamesonvuurvinkie

Red-billed firefinch /

Rooibekvuurvinkie

WAXBILLS
Blue waxbill / Gewone blousysie

Violet-eared waxbill / Koningblousysie

Common waxbill / Rooibeksysie

Black-faced waxbill / Swartwangsysie

Swee waxbill / Suidelike swie

African quail-finch / Gewone kwartelvinkie

Orange-breasted waxbill / Rooi assie

FINCHES & MANAKINS
Cut-throat finch / Bandkeelvink

Bronze mannikin / Gewone fret

WHYDAHS
Pin-tailed whydah / Koninggrooibekkie

Shaft-tailed whydah / Pylstertrooibekkie

Black window finch / Gewonde blouvinkie

CANARIES
Yellow-eyed canary / Geeloogkanarie

Blackthroated canary / Bergkanarie

Streaky-headed seed eater / Streepkopkanarie

BUNTINGS
Golden-Breasted Bunting / Rooirugstreepkoppie

Cape Bunting / Rooivlerkstreepkoppie

Rock Bunting / Klipstreepkoppie

Trees...

Gymnosporia tenuispina
Bell spike thorn
Klokkiespendorlng

Harpephyllum caffrum
Wild plum
Wildepruim

Heteropyxis natalensis
Lavender tree
Laventelboom

Kirkia wilmsii
Mountain seringa
Bergsering

Lannea discolour
Live long
Dikbas

Mimusops zeyheri
Transvaal redmilkwood
Moepel

Mundulea sericea
Cork bush
Kurkbos

Morella serrata
Lance-leaved waxberry
Smalblaarwasbessie

Mystroxylon aethiopicum
Kooboo berry
Koeboebessie

Nuxia congesta
Common wild elder
Gewone wildevlier

Obetia tenax
Mountain nettle
Bergbrandnetel

Ochna inermis
Stunted plane
Kreupelrooihout

Ochna pulchra
Peeling plane
Lekkerbreek

Osyris lanceolata
Transvaal sumach Bergbas

Ozoroa paniculosa
Common resin tree Gewone harpuisboom

Pappea capensis
Jacket plum
Doppruim

Pavetta gardeniifolia
Christmas bride's bush
Kersbruidsbos

Pavetta eylessi
Large-leaved bride's bush
Grootblaarbruidsbos

Peltophorum africanum
Weeping wattle
Huilboom

Protea caffra
Common sugarbush
Gewone suikerbos

Psiadia punctulata
Sticky psiadia
Blink stefaans

Psydrax livida
Green tree
Groenboom

Pterocarpus rotundifolius
Round-leaved teak
Dopperkiaat

Rhoicissus tridentate
Northern Bushman's grape
Noordelike boesmansdruif

Cussonia transvaalensis
Grey cabbage tree
Vaal kiepersol

Cussonia spicata
Common cabbage tree
Kiepersol

Searsia lancea
Karee
Karee

Searsia leptodictya
Mountain karee
Bergkaree

Searsia pyroides
Wild currant
Taaibos

Sclerocarya birrae
Marula
Maroela

Combretum hereoense
Russet bushwillow
Kierieklapper

Combretum imberbe
Leadwood
Hardekool

Combretum zeyheri
Large-fruited bushwillow
Raasblaar

Commiphora neglecta
Green-stem corkwood
Groenstamkanniedood

Commipohria schimperi
Glossy-leaved corkwood
Blinkblaarkanniedood

Croton gratissimus
Lavenderfever-berry
Laventelkoorsbessie

Dichrostachys cinerea
Sickle bush
Sekelbos

Diospyros lyciodes
Bluebush
Bloubos

Diopyros whyteana
Bladder-nut
Swartbas

Dodonaea viscosa var. angustifolia
Sand olive
Sandolien

Dombeya rotundifolia
Wild pear
Drolpeer

Ehretia rigida
Puzzle bush
Deurmekaarbos

Elephantorrhiza burkei
Sumach bean
Basboontjie

Erythrina lysistemon
Common Coral Tree
Koraalboom

Euclea crispa
Blue guarri
Bloughwarrie

Euclea natalensis
Natal guarri
Natalghwarrie

Euphorbia ingens
Tree euphorbia
Naboom

Faurea saligna
African beech
Bosveldboekenhout

Ficus ingens
Red-leaved rock fig
Rooiblaarvy

Ficus abutilifolia
Large-leaved rockfig
Grootblaarrotsvy

Ficus salicifolia
Wonderboom fig
Wonderboomvy

Ficus thonningii
Common wild fig
Gewone wildevy

Gardenia volkensii
Bushveld gardenia
Bosveldkatjiepiering

Grewia bicolor
White raisin
Witrosyntjie

Grewia flava
Velvet raisin
Rosyntjiebos

Grewia flavescens
Sandpaper raisin
Skurweblaarrosyntjie

Gymnosporia buxifolia
Spikethorn
Gewone pendoring

Scolopia zeyheri
Thorn pear
Doringpeer

Spirostachys africana
Tamboti
Tambotie

Strychnos cocculoides
Corky-bark-monkey-orange
Kurkbasklapper

Combretum apiculatum
Red bush willow
Rooiboswilg

Tarchonanthus camphoratus
Camphor bush
Wildekanferbos

Terminalia sericea
Silver cluster leaf
Vaalboom

Vangueria parvifolia
Mountain medlar
Bergmispel

Celtis africana Whitestinkwood Witstinkhout-
Vitex rehmannii

Ximenia caffra
Large sour plum
Grootsuurpruim

Zanthoxylum capense
Small knobwood
Kleinperdepram

Ziziphus mucronata
Buffalo thorn
Blinkblaar-wag-'n-bietjie

Pavetta zeyheri
Small-leaved bride's bush
Fynblaarbruidsbos

Acacia ataxacantha
Flamethron
Vlamdoring

Acacia burkei
Black monkey thorn
Swartapiesdoring

Acacia caffra
Common hook thorn
Gewone haakdoring

Acacia erubescens
Blue thorn
Blouhaak

Acacia galpinii
Monkey thorn
Apiesdoring

Acacia gerrardii
Red thorn
Rooidoring

Acacia hebeclada
Candle thorn
Trassiebos

Acacia hereroensis
False hook thorn
Bergdoring

Acacia karroo
Sweet thorn
Soetdoring

Acacia mellifera
Black thorn
Swarthaak

Acacia nilotica
Scented thorn
Lekkerruikpeul

Acacia rehmanniana
Silky thorn
Sydoring

Acacia robusta subs. robusta
Splendid thorn
Enkeldoring

Acacia sieberiana
Paperbark thorn
Papierbasdoring

Acacia tortilis
Umbrella thorn
Haak-en-steek

Acacia xanthophloea
Fever tree
Koorsboom

Albizia tanganyicensis
Paperbark false-thorn
Papierbasvalsdoring

Aloe marlothii
Mountain aloe
Bergalwyn

Apodytes dimidiata
White pear
Witpeer

Bauhinia galpinii
Pride-of-De-Kaap
Vlam-van-die-vlakte

Berchemia zeyheri
Red ivorywood
Rooi-ivoor

Boscia albitrunca
Sheperd's tree
Witgat

Buddleja saligna
False olive
Witolien

Burkea africana
Wild seringa
Wildesering

Afrocanthium gilfillanii
Velvet rock-alder
Fluweelklipels

Elaeodendron transvaalense
Bushveld saffron
Bosveldsaffraan

Olea europaea subp. africana
Wild olive
Olienhout

Clerodendrum glabrum
Tinderwood
Tontelhout

Clerodendrum myricoides Blue cat's whiskers
Bloutontelhout

Gymnosporia senegalensis
Red spikethron
Rooipendoring

Combretum molle
Velvet bush willow
Fluweelboswilg

Combretum erythrophyllum
River bush willow
Riviervaderlandswilg

Strychnos madagascariensis
Black monkey orange
Swartklapper

Strychnos pungens
Spineleaved monkey orange
Stekelblaarklapper

Diplorhynchus condylocarpon
Horn-pod tree
Horingpeultjieboom

Maerua cafra
Common bush-cherry
Witbos

Ximenia americana var. microphylla
Blue sourplum
Kleinblousuurpruim

Euclea undulata subsp. undulata
Common guarri
Gewone ghwarrie

Englerophytum magalismontanum
Transvaal milkplum
Stamvrug

Securidaca longepedunculata
Violet tree
Krinkhout

Euclea undulata subsp. myrtina
Small-leaved guarri
Kleinblaar-ghwarrie

Cussonia paniculata var. sinuate
Mountain cabbage tree
Bergkiepersol

Lannea schweinfurthii var. stuhmannii
False-marula
Valsmaroela

Pseudolachnostylis maprouneifolia
Kudu berry
Koedoebessie

Gymnosporia polyacantha
Hedge spike thorm
Kraalpendoring





Although *Acacia* is now known as *Vachellia* or *Senegalia*, for the purpose of this list and popularity of the name, *Acacia* is still used.

WILDLIFE AND SAFETY

THE DO'S AND DON'TS

They say the bush teaches you respect — and at Mabalingwe, some guests have learned that lesson a little more… personally.

Owning property in Mabalingwe is a privilege — one shared with hundreds of wild animals who call this reserve home. As owners, we carry both the joy and responsibility of ensuring that this land remains a safe, natural space for generations to come.

THE DO'S:

Observe animals quietly from a distance — never approach or interact.

Keep food, bins, and braai leftovers secured to avoid attracting wildlife.

Report any injured, aggressive, or unusual animal behaviour.

Teach guests and children proper bush etiquette before exploring.

Enjoy sightings patiently — use binoculars or a camera zoom instead of moving closer.

THE DON'TS:

Feed or touch wild animals — it changes behaviour and causes aggression.

Leave fruit, scraps, or open coolers outside your lodge.

Try to "tame" warthogs, nyala, or monkeys around your home.

Play loud music or make sudden noises near animals.

Exit your vehicle during drives except at designated safe areas.

Real Incidents on Mabalingwe

The Great Elephant Escape

During a game drive, a lady decided she could "calmly reason" with a curious elephant by getting out of the vehicle. Luckily, the ranger's reflexes were faster than her logic, and she was quickly ushered back to safety. Rule number one: if your guide isn't running, neither should you!

The Thumb vs. The Puff Adder

One brave (or perhaps overconfident) guest spotted a puff adder and thought it would make a great photo prop. As he reached to "just pick it up quickly," the puff adder made its own opinion very clear. He nearly lost a thumb — and gained a lifelong respect for reptiles. Wildlife selfie tip: use the zoom, not your hands.

Rhino Butt Slap

After a few too many drinks, one guest decided he wanted to make history — by slapping a rhino on the backside. He jumped off the game viewer ready to dash. Luckily the ranger and his friends intervened before the rhino could return the favor. He spent the night with a bruised ego instead of a broken body.

The Warthog Whisperer

A young lady learned that warthogs might look adorable, but they come equipped with serious hardware. After a weekend of hand-feeding a "friendly" warthog, she tried to pet and cuddle it — and ended up with a deep gash on her thigh. She needed medical attention as the blood loss was severe.

Monkey Mayhem

A spirited guest found herself in a showdown with a vervet monkey over her "spirited" drink. The monkey went for the drink — she went for the monkey — and the monkey won. One bite to the leg and a trip to first aid later, she learned the golden rule: never pick a fight with something that has bigger and sharper teeth than you.

Each of these stories could've ended worse, but they serve as gentle (and sometimes painful) reminders that wildlife is wild.So when you visit Mabalingwe, keep your snacks, drinks, and bravery inside the vehicle — and remember: the animals are watching, and they've already heard all the excuses.