

Supporting African Wildlife Vets at Makakatana



Wildlife in Southern Africa is facing massive challenges in today's world - between loss of habitat, competition with an ever-growing human population, drought and disease - not to mention snaring and poaching. Although poaching numbers have dropped year on year since the peak in 2014, more than 2 rhinos are still being poached every day in South Africa, which has by far the largest population of rhinos in the world. While there's no exact number, experts believe that there are less than 30,000 rhinos left of the estimated 500,000 that roamed free at in the early 1900's - so in the last 120 years a devastating 470,000 rhinos have been wiped out.

So today - saving every rhino matters - which is why [Makakatana Bay Lodge](#) is a firm supporter of [African Wildlife Vets](#) and actively encourages its guests to actively get involved in funding them too.

African Wildlife Vets is a non-profit organisation founded by Dr Dave Cooper, Dr Pete Goodman and Kate Church, that assists wildlife organisations, primarily in Zululand and Maputaland, with the conservation of threatened species by providing essential veterinary support. This small team of vets selflessly dedicate their lives to preserving this critically area of biodiversity and donations help them with numerous projects including:

- rhino relocations
- assisting with finding homes for rhino calves in special orphanages till they are old enough to be released and assisting [Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife](#) with the care of both black and white rhino orphans by providing the necessary veterinary support and feed.
- placing transponders into the horns or dehorning rhinos for their own safety
- radio-collaring and ear-notching operations to assist with monitoring and tracking
- treating wounds from snaring, gun shots and poaching as well as poisoning
- emergency captures when animals escape reserves into community areas
- post-mortems and disease control

This kind of care doesn't come cheap so it truly makes a big difference when vital equipment, pharmaceuticals, and other veterinary supplies are donated or sponsored by local lodges and their guests.

Makakatana Bay Lodge, set on the banks of Lake St Lucia, is the only privately-owned lodge situated within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park – an official UNESCO World Heritage Site. The lodge is owner-run by Hugh and Leigh-Ann Morrison and comprises just 8 spacious rooms on raised wooden decks. It's the perfect spot from which to explore Zululand's unspoiled beaches, vast wetlands and game-rich wilderness - be it by guided 4x4 game drive or by boat cruise on the estuary. For more information visit <https://makakatana.com> or email info@ethosmarketing.co.uk

"iSimangaliso must be the only place on the globe where the oldest land mammal (the rhinoceros) and the world's biggest terrestrial mammal (the elephant) share an ecosystem with the world's oldest fish (the coelacanth) and the world's biggest marine mammal (the whale)." — President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, 2001