

PAFURI GATE FACT SHEET

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- The upgrade of the Pafuri Gate forms one component of a R40-million make-over of the North and Far North regions of the Kruger National Park which has been designed to make access to the entire Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park easier.
- Political support in all three countries that make up the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) was achieved when the ministers responsible for wildlife in Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe signed a Memorandum of Understanding in October 1999 in Maputo.
- The next significant event took place on November 10, 2000 at Skukuza when the three responsible ministers, Mr Helder Muteia, Mozambique's Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Valli Moosa, South Africa's Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism and Mr Francis Nhema, Zimbabwe's Minister for Environment and Tourism signed an International Agreement on the Gaza-Kruger-Gonarezhou Transfrontier Park.
- Mozambican President Joachim Chissano, South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki and Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe signed the treaty for the establishment of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park on December 9, 2002 in Xai-Xai, Mozambique.
- On December 11, 2002, the South African Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Honorable Mr Valli Moosa and Mozambican Minister of Tourism, Honorable Mr Fernando Sumbana symbolically removed 20 metres of the border fence between Mozambique and South Africa.
- The GLTP consists of the following national parks and areas: Limpopo National Park (Mozambique), Kruger National Park (South Africa), Makuleke Contractual Area (South Africa), Sengwe Corridor (Zimbabwe), Gonarezhou National Park (Zimbabwe), Malipati Safari Area (Zimbabwe) and Manjinji Pan Sanctuary (also Zimbabwe).
- The GLTP process is managed by a joint management board (JMB), which is under the guidance of a tri-lateral Ministerial Committee. The JMB is made up of four representatives from all three countries (Zimbabwe, South Africa and Mozambique).
- The JMB has different management committees advising it on different matters, which include issues such as conservation, safety and security, finance, human resources, legislation and tourism.
- It is envisaged that the establishment of the GLTP (35 000 square kilometers) will eventually lead to the development of a larger Transfrontier Conservation Area spanning 99 800 square kilometers.
- The first Transfrontier Park in Southern Africa was declared in 2000 by the Presidents of Botswana and South Africa, creating the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park across the borders of both countries. This Transfrontier Park is now jointly managed with great success.

Other GLTP developments in the KNP include:

- The construction of the new, R7.2-million Giryondo Border Post, which is due for completion on June 30, 2004.
- The upgrade of the existing access road to the Giryondo Border Post, which is complete.
- The upgrade of the existing access road to the Pafuri Border Post, which is complete.
- A study to investigate the feasibility of a crossing point over the Limpopo River to link the Kruger National Park with Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe. This study has been completed.
- The upgrade of the existing KNP road network north of Shingwedzi to facilitate tourists' travel between the KNP and the LNP, which is now complete.
- Development of overnight facilities at Punda Maria Camp, which due for completion on August 1, 2004.
- Dropping of 20kms of fence between the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique and the Kruger National Park in South Africa. This has been completed.
- Development of research infrastructure in the northern area of the Kruger National Park, which is complete.
- Development of tourism interpretive centers at cultural/historical sites, which is complete.

- The upgrade of Punda Maria Entrance Gate, which is due for completion later this year.

Additional future projects might include (if funds are available):

- An environmental center, a day visitor's site, a curio outlet and regional office infrastructure at Punda Maria Entrance Gate.
- The restoration of the natural wetlands along the Luvuvhu River floodplain.
- Research and/or student accommodation and offices.
- Road verge clearance along the KNP road network.
- Facilities at the Thulamela Historical and Environmental Site.

Pafuri Area History

(from Dr Tol Pienaar's authoritative "Neem uit die Verlede" and other sources)

- One of the wildest "frontier" areas of the Kruger National Park;
- Was known as the Crooks' Corner area as a number of poachers, hunters and thieves operated in the area because of its remoteness as it is sandwiched between Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe;
- Was part of an area that was originally incorporated into the Shingwedzi Game Reserve after this was proclaimed in 1903;
- During 1913, the Mhinga and Shikundu Tribal Areas were effectively cut out of the Shingwedzi Game Reserve. The area between the Luvuvhu and Limpopo rivers was eventually called the Pafuri Game Reserve;
- In 1914 the two game reserves (Sabie and Shingwedzi) were effectively unified when land between the two reserves was acquired. They were called the "Transvaal Game Reserves" and, in 1927, they were jointly proclaimed as the Kruger National Park;
- During the 1930s, game rangers from the Kruger National Park were given permission to conduct anti-poaching patrols in the Pafuri Game Reserve. This arrangement carried on until 1954 when the former National Parks Board (now called SANParks) terminated these patrols at its discretion;
- Tourism started in the area when a tented camp was erected in 1939 on the banks of the Luvuvhu River (on the site of the present Pafuri Picnic Spot).
- As a result of severe drought during the 1960s, the 19 840 ha Pafuri Game Reserve was included in the Kruger National Park. The process of removing the Makuleke people from this area to Nthlaveni was completed by 1969 and the area was eventually proclaimed into the Kruger National Park in 1972;
- The road linking the KNP road network to Pafuri Entrance Gate was opened to the public during the early 1970s. It was, however, closed for a few months during 1976 as the security situation was too sensitive to allow tourists access to the area.
- The Land Claims Court ruled on behalf of the Makuleke Community during 1997 and the formation of the Makuleke Contractual Park and its Makuleke Joint Management Board occurred during 1998/1999.
- The Makuleke Joint Management Board consists of members of the Makuleke Community, SANParks representatives and other interested and affected parties.