

## **REVITALISING THE GREAT KAROO TO THE WAY IT WAS**

Samara Private Game Reserve consists of 28 000 hectares of indigenous vegetation. This area teemed with game before the arrival of the 19<sup>th</sup> century settlers. Lion, Elephant, Rhinoceros, Cheetah, and Buffalo once occurred in the area in huge abundance. The plains of Camdeboo once set the stage of one of the biggest migrations ever to occur on earth. Millions of Springbuck and Black Wildebeest crossed these immense plains in the search of better grazing and water. A sight which would cause the dust in this parched thirstland to settle only after a number of days. This magnificent sight stopped abruptly with the onslaught of the 19<sup>th</sup> century settlers. Traditional game paths that the Springbuck followed for centuries made way for agricultural fences. Big game was massacred with heavy calibre weapons for sport. The migrations stopped and the game disappeared along with the extinction of the horse-like Quagga. It is the dream of Sarah and Mark Tompkins to be witness to these great migrations and see the footprints of large game that disappeared from here so long ago.

## **LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The reserve is located 20 km southeast of the town of Graaff-Reinet in the Camdeboo region of the Eastern Cape Province. It is located both below and on top of the southern portion of the Karoo Mountain Complex, which is, in turn, part of the Great Escarpment. The mountains of the reserve are represented by the Tandjiesberg (1 424 m) on the extreme western boundary, the Aasvoelberg (1 379 m) in the centre of the reserve, Spioenkop (1 450 m) on the northeastern boundary and the Bouershoek (1 390 m) on the eastern part of the reserve. The reserve is separated North/South by the Apieskloof/Melkriver drainage system. In the southwestern and southeastern parts of the reserve, there are extensive flat Karoo plains characteristic of the Camdeboo area.

## **CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY**

Samara is rich not only in its habitat and diverse surroundings but unusually it contains four of South Africa's seven biomes on one piece of land.

## **VELD TYPES/BIOMES**

- 1-Plateaux Grasslands
- 2-Nama Karoo
- 3-Savanna
- 4-Valley Bushveld/Thicket

## **LIST OF MAMMALS OCCURRING ON SAMARA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE**

-BATS

ORDER: CHIROPTERA

- Egyptian Free-Tailed Bat
- Cape Serotine Bat
- Egyptian Slit-Faced Bat

- Schreiber's Long-Fingered Bat
- Geoffrey's Horseshoe Bat

-INSECTIVORES

ORDER: INSECTIVORA

- Forest Shrew
- Reddish Grey Musk Shrew
- South African Hedgehog

-ELEPHANT SHREWS

ORDER: MACROSCELIDEA

- Smiths Rock Elephant Shrew
- Round-Eared Elephant Shrew

-PRIMATES

ORDER: PRIMATES

- Vervet Monkey
- Chacma Baboon

-RABBITS AND HARES

ORDER: LAGOMORPHA

- Scrub Hare
- Smith's Red Rock Rabbit

-RODENTS

ORDER: RODENTIA

- Ground Squirrel
- Common Mole
- Springhare
- Pouched Mouse
- Namaqua Rock Mouse
- Striped Mouse
- Spectacled Dormouse
- Karoo Bushrat
- African Porcupine
- Pygmy Mouse
- House Mouse

-CARNIVORES

ORDER: CARNIVORA

- Black-Backed Jackal
- Cape Fox
- Bat-Eared Fox
- Cape Clawless Otter
- Striped Polecat
- Water Mongoose
- Yellow Mongoose
- Small Grey Mongoose

- Suricate
- Small-Spotted Genet
- Aardwolf
- Caracal
- Small Spotted Cat
- African Wild Cat
- Leopard
- Cheetah
- Brown Hyaena

-ORDER: TUBULIDENTATA

- Aardvark

-ORDER: HYRACOIDEA

- Rock Hyrax

-ODD-TOED UNGULATES

ORDER: PERRISODACTYLA

- Burchell's/Plains Zebra
- Cape Mountain Zebra
- White Rhinoceros

- EVEN-TOED UNGULATES

ORDER: ARTIODACTYLA

- Springbuck
- Klipspringer
- Steenbuck
- Kudu
- Eland
- Oryx/Gemsbok
- Common Duiker
- Mountain Reedbuck
- Grey Rhebok
- Bushpig
- Giraffe
- Waterbuck
- Red Hartebeest
- Black Wildebeest
- Blesbuck
- Nyala

BIRDS

**Apalis**  
**Avocet**  
**Barbet**

Bar-Throated

Pied

<b>Batis</b>	Cape Pirit
<b>Bee-Eater</b>	European
<b>Bishop</b>	Red
<b>Bokmakierie</b>	
<b>Boubou</b>	Southern
<b>Bulbul</b>	Red-eyed Sombre
<b>Bunting</b>	Cape Golden- Breasted Larklike
<b>Bustard</b>	Rock Kori Ludwigs Stanley's
<b>Buzzard</b>	Jackal Steppe
<b>Canary</b>	Black Headed Cape Streaky-Headed Yellow-Eyed White-Throated
<b>Chat</b>	Anteating Familiar Mountain Stone
<b>Cisticola</b>	Fan-Tailed Grey-Backed Levaillant's
<b>Cormorant</b>	Reed
<b>Crane</b>	Blue
<b>Crombec</b>	Long-Billed
<b>Crow</b>	Black Pied
<b>Cuckoo</b>	Diederiks Jacobin Red-Chested
<b>Dikkop</b>	Spotted
<b>Dove</b>	Cape Turtle Laughing Namaqua Red-Eyed
<b>Drongo</b>	Fork-Tailed
<b>Duck</b>	African Black Yellow-Billed
<b>Eagle</b>	Black/Verreaux's Booted Martial

<b>Egret</b>	Black Breasted Snake Eagle
	Cattle
	Little
<b>Eremomela</b>	Yellow-Bellied
<b>Falcon</b>	Lanner
	Peregrine
<b>Finch</b>	Red-Headed
	Scaly-Headed
<b>Finchlark</b>	Grey-Backed
<b>Fly Catcher</b>	Fairy
	Fiscal
	Spotted
<b>Francolin</b>	Grey-Winged
<b>Goose</b>	Egyptian
	Spurwing
<b>Goshawk</b>	Gabar
	Pale Chanting
	Helmeted
<b>Guineafowl</b>	
<b>Gymnogene</b>	
<b>Hammerkop</b>	
<b>Harrier</b>	Black
<b>Heron</b>	Grey
	Blackheaded
<b>Honeyguide</b>	Greater
	Lesser
<b>Hoopoe</b>	African
	Red Billed Wood
<b>Ibis</b>	Hadeda
	Sacred
<b>Kestrel</b>	Eastern Red-Footed
	Lesser
	Rock
<b>Kingfisher</b>	Brown-Hooded
	Malachite
	Pied
<b>Kite</b>	Black-Shouldered
	Yellow-Billed
<b>Korhaan</b>	Black
	Karoo
<b>Lark</b>	Clapper
	Long-Billed
	Sabota
<b>Longclaw</b>	Orange-Throated
<b>Martin</b>	Brown-Throated
	House
	Rock
	Sand
<b>Moorhen</b>	Common

<b>Mousebird</b>	Red-Faced Speckled White-Backed
<b>Nedicky Nightjar</b>	Fierynecked Rufous-Cheeked
<b>Ostrich Owl</b>	Barn Cape Eagle Grass Scops Spotted Eagle Wood
<b>Pigeon</b>	Rameron Rock
<b>Pipit</b>	Grassveld Plain-Backed
<b>Plover</b>	Blacksmith Crowned Kittlitz's Three-Banded
<b>Prinia</b>	Namaqua Spotted
<b>Quail Quelea Raven Robin</b>	Common Red-Billed White-Necked Cape Karoo White-Browed Namaqua
<b>Sandgrouse Secretarybird Shelduck Shrike</b>	South African Fiscal Red-Backed
<b>Sparrow</b>	Cape House Grey-Headed Yellow-Throated
<b>Sparrow Hawk</b>	Black Red-Breasted
<b>Starling</b>	Cape Glossy Pale-Winged Pied Red-Winged Wattled
<b>Stork Sunbird</b>	White Black Lesser Double-Collared

<b>Swallow</b>	Malachite European Greater-Striped Pearl-Breasted White-Throated
<b>Swift</b>	Alpine European Little White-Rumped
<b>Tchagra</b>	Southern
<b>Thrush</b>	Cape-Rock Olive
<b>Tit</b>	Cape Penduline Southern Grey
<b>Titbabbler</b>	Common Lanyard's
<b>Vulture</b>	Cape/Griffon
<b>Wagtail</b>	Cape
<b>Warbler</b>	Cape Reed Rufous-Eared Willow
<b>Waxbill</b>	Blue Common Sweet
<b>Weaver</b>	Cape Masked
<b>White-Eye</b>	Cape
<b>Whydah</b>	Pin-Tailed
<b>Woodpecker</b>	Cardinal Ground

## REPTILES

### SNAKES

- 1-Common Egg-eater
- 2-Brown house snake
- 3-Cape Cobra
- 4-Puff adder
- 5-Karoo whip snake
- 6-Spotted skaapsteker
- 7-Spotted house snake
- 8-Cape wolf snake
- 9-Mole snake
- 10-Sundevall's shovel snout
- 11-Montane grass snake
- 12-Red-lipped snake
- 13-Coral Snake
- 14-Rinkhals

- 15-Horned adder
- 16-Plain mountain adder

#### LIZARDS

- 1-Golden sand-skink
- 2-Ground agama
- 3-southern rock-agama
- 4-Karoo dwarf chameleon
- 5-Karoo girdled lizard
- 6-Ocellated sand lizard
- 7-Namaqua sand lizard
- 8-Bibrons thick-toed gecko
- 9-spotted thick-toed gecko
- 10-Marico thick-toed gecko
- 11-Eastern Cape crag lizard
- 12-Karoo thick-tailed gecko
- 13-Rock monitor lizard
- 14-Cape thick-toed gecko
- 15-Cape skink
- 16-Western rock skink
- 17-Variegated skink
- 18-Spotted desert lizard
- 19-Burchells sand lizard
- 20-Spotted sand lizard
- 21-Namaqua sand lizard
- 22-Namaqua plated lizard
- 23-Common long tailed seps
- 24-Cape girdled lizard

#### TORTOISES

- 1-Angulate tortoise
- 2-Mountain tortoise
- 3-Karoo padloper
- 4-Greater padloper
- 5-Cape terrapin
- 6-Tent tortoise

#### FROGS AND TOADS

- 1-Karoo Toad
- 2-Southern Pygmy Toad
- 3-Common Caco
- 4-Cape River Frog
- 5-Common Platanna
- 6-Giant Bullfrog

## PROMINENT TREES AND TALL SHRUBS

<i>Acacia karoo</i>	Sweet Thorn
<i>Aptosimum procumbens</i>	Karoo Viooltjie
<i>Aloe ferox</i>	Mountain Aloe
<i>Aloe broomii</i>	Aloe
<i>Boscia oleoides</i>	Shepherd's Tree
<i>Buddleja glomerata</i>	Karoo Sage
<i>Cussonia spicata</i>	Cabbage Tree
<i>Diospyros austro-africana</i>	Firesticks
<i>Diospyros lycioides</i>	Blue Bush
<i>Diospyros whyteana</i>	Bladder Nut
<i>Dodonea angustifolia</i>	Sand Olive
<i>Elytropappus rhinocerotis</i>	Rhinoceros Bush
<i>Euclea crispa</i>	Blue Gwarrie
<i>Euclea undulata</i>	Common Gwarrie
<i>Euphorbia mauritanica</i>	Yellow Euphorbia
<i>Grewia occidentalis</i>	Crossberry Bush
<i>Lycium cinereum</i>	Honeythorn
<i>Olea europaea subsp africanum</i>	Wild Olive
<i>Pappea capensis</i>	Jacket Plum
<i>Portulacaria afra</i>	Spekboom
<i>Rhus burchelli</i>	Khuni Bush
<i>Rhus dentata</i>	Nana Berry
<i>Rhus erosa</i>	Broom Karee
<i>Rhus lancea</i>	Mountain Karee
<i>Rhus longispina</i>	Thorny Taaibos
<i>Rhus pyroides</i>	Firethorn Rhus
<i>Tarchonanthus camphoratus</i>	Camphor Bush