

# SAMARA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE (INCLUDING ELANDS MOON)

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

**LOCATION:** ± 35 km east of Graaff-Reinet

**SIZE:** ± 26 894 ha

**ANNUAL RAINFALL:** ± 300 – 700 mm on the plains and 500 – 800 mm on the foothills and mountains

**TOPOGRAPHY:** Diverse topographical scenery ranging from open Karoo plains in the south to the stark contrast of rugged mountains with cliffs and undulating plateaus to the north bisected by a deep and remote valley and non-perennial river which runs for ± 20 km through the property. The highest point within the property is 1670 m ASL in the north east while the lowest point on the open plains is 785 m ASL.



**VEGETATION:** A diversity of habitat including the four biomes of Savanna, Nama Karoo, Albany Thicket and Grasslands. Half of the property has largely been rested for ± 14 years.

The plains contain of a good mixture of palatable Karoo dwarf and succulent shrubs with open woodland nearer the mountains with nutritious sweet grasses and the iconic Karoo Shepherds Tree throughout. Larger shrubs include Karsie and Kuni Bush while larger trees like Vachellia Karoo (Sweet Thorn), and Karee trees are to be found especially along the watercourses.

The dense thicket especially on the lower mountain slopes contains a diversity of smaller trees including Guarri, Jacket Plum, Kuni Bush and Spekboom. The deeper well-watered valleys contain dense woodland with larger trees including Camdeboo Stinkwood, Vachellia Karoo, Karee and a most impressive grove of ancient Wild Olive trees. These areas also contain a variety of smaller shrubs and a good cover of palatable grasses including *Setaria neglecta*, *Sporobolus*, *Eragrostis*, *Panicum Maximum* (Guinea Grass), *Cenchrus ciliaris* (Blue Buffalo Grass), Tambookie and Spear Grass.

The plateaus are covered by both dwarf shrubs and grassland including *Themeda Triandra* (Red Grass) and *Eragrostis* with winter grasses and forbs (herby small plants) interspersed with larger shrubs like *Dicerothamnus rhinocerotis* (Renoster Bush), *Searsia lancea* (Besem Karee), Blinkblaar, and Mountain Karee etc.



## PORTION 1: ELANDS MOON – ± 14 186 ha

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** This portion is partly enclosed with a 2.4 m high game-fence with the balance enclosed with standard 1.6 m stock fence. There are no internal fences. There is an extensive road network of ± 150 km on the property.

**WATER SUPPLY:** A reliable network of ± 13 boreholes can each supply between 1,000 and 60,000 litres per hour. Currently only 6 are fitted with solar powered submersible pump providing adequate water for the game and the lodge. In addition there are a number of earth dams on the property. All boreholes and river weirs are registered.

**POWER:** The Ops Centre and Historic Homestead are supplied by Eskom while the Historic Lodge is supplied by a 20kva silent diesel generator. The Valley Homestead is not currently supplied with electricity.

**GAME:** The property carries a wide variety of plains game. Approximate numbers (2016) are 56 Blesbok, 35 Eland, 80 Oryx, 80 Red Hartebeest, 200 Kudu, 15 Waterbuck, 35 Black Wildebeest, 32 Ostrich, 30 Warthog, and 52 Burchell's Zebra. Other naturally occurring game includes Springbok, Mountain Reedbuck, Duiker, Steenbok and Klipspringer.

### BUILDINGS:

1. **Historic Lodge:** An early colonial cottage and outbuilding tastefully converted into a characterful lodge with 5 en suite bedrooms with a large under-roof patio and plunge pool.



2. **Valley Homestead:** A 5 bedroom house with outbuildings in an idyllic setting on the banks of a river under a grove of Alhambra trees in need of attention.



3. **Ops Centre:** The modern 4-bedroom homestead is occupied by the reserve manager and has numerous outbuildings including an abattoir, sheds, workshops, staff cottages and storerooms etc.
4. **Historic Homestead:** A 5-bedroom homestead currently let out to tenants but suitable for management accommodation or future conversion into reserve reception, lodge or private residence.



## PORTION 2: SAMARA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE – 12 708 ha

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** This portion is completely enclosed with a certified electric elephant and lion proof 2.4 m high game-fence. There are no internal fences save for perimeter safety fences around the lodges, volunteer centre and staff compound. There is an extensive road network of ± 200 km on the property.

**WATER SUPPLY:** A reliable network of numerous boreholes supplies all the currently utilised guest and staff accommodation as well as a number of water holes for wildlife. The boreholes are variously fitted with submersible pumps powered by Eskom or back-up generators and with solar panels at the water holes. In addition there are a multitude of earth dams on the property.

### **BUILDINGS:**

1. **Main Guest Lodge:** A farm homestead renovated and developed into a 9-bedroom lodge offering luxury en-suite accommodation in three room types with dining-room, bar, TV room, lounge, kitchen, scullery, pantry, cold room, offices, reception, curio shop, storerooms, ranger offices, strong room, staff briefing room and under-roof vehicle park etc. The main lodge is surrounded by a wide veranda, open lawn, entertainment or alfresco dinner boma, and swimming pool with a covered gazebo. Currently caters for individual travellers, couples and families.





2. **Manor Lodge** – a modern 4-bedroom villa currently operated as a luxurious five star lodge with lounge, dining room, bar, wide covered patios, kitchen, scullery, pantry, walk-in fridge, managers office and surrounded by lawns with an infinity pool and an open-air lapa for alfresco dinners and a nearby undercover vehicle park.



3. **Volunteer Centre** – includes accommodation facilities for 8 students with an ablution block, an open-plan communal kitchen and TV or entertainment room, storeroom, laundry and two 1-bedroom staff or ranger cottages with open-plan kitchen and lounge etc.



4. **Tracking Academy** – a training facility providing accommodation for 8 – 10 students with kitchen, TV room, and classroom facilities and run by the South African College for Tourism under the auspices of the Peace Parks Foundation.





5. **Colonial Homestead** – A 4-bedroom homestead with two bathrooms, large lounge and dining room, and kitchen with wraparound veranda ideally suitable for management or staff accommodation or development into guest accommodation.



6. **Mountain Homestead** - A 4-bedroom homestead currently not utilised with outbuildings and in need of attention suitable for development as a private homestead or as a horse-safari or eco-lodge.



7. **Staff Compound** – includes accommodation for all other reserve staff and also includes four 1 and 2 bedroom senior staff cottages, under-cover carpark, fuel park, reserve laundry, and an open-plan staff kitchen and entertainment or TV room.
8. **Sleepout platform** – platform where guests can sleepout for an evening and experience raw bush.



**POWER:** All the above sites are supplied with Eskom electricity with back-up generators in place. The Mountain Homestead is not currently supplied with electricity.

**GAME:** An aerial game count during 2016 indicated the following numbers of animals on the property: 38 Blesbok, 4 Buffalo, 10 Bushbuck, 3 Cheetah, 40 Duiker, 515 Eland, 355 Gemsbok, 48 Giraffe, 155 Red Hartebeest, 14 Impala, 32 Jackal, 827 Kudu, 10 Klipspringer, 3 Nyala, 81 Ostrich, 5 White Rhino, 35 Mountain Reedbuck, 111 Springbok, 67 Steenbok, 42 Waterbuck, 143 Warthog, 213 Black Wildebeest, 184 Burchell's Zebra, 32 Cape Mountain Zebra, and 5 Black Rhino. Other naturally occurring species include Cape Leopard, Caracal, Aardvark, Chacma Baboon, and Vervet Monkeys as well as many smaller species. The Black Rhino are owned by SANParks. In 2017/2018 8 Elephant and 3 Lions were reintroduced to the property making Samara a fully-fledged Big 5 game reserve, and the two female lions have subsequently both produced offspring.

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**PROPERTY PRICE FOR TOTAL AREA:** R 134 500 000 + VAT if applicable (± R 5 000/ha)

**MOVEABLE ASSETS & GAME PRICE:** by negotiation

## UNLOCKING ECOLOGICAL RANGE EXPANSION AND ELEPHANT CORRIDORS

### Short term ecological range expansion

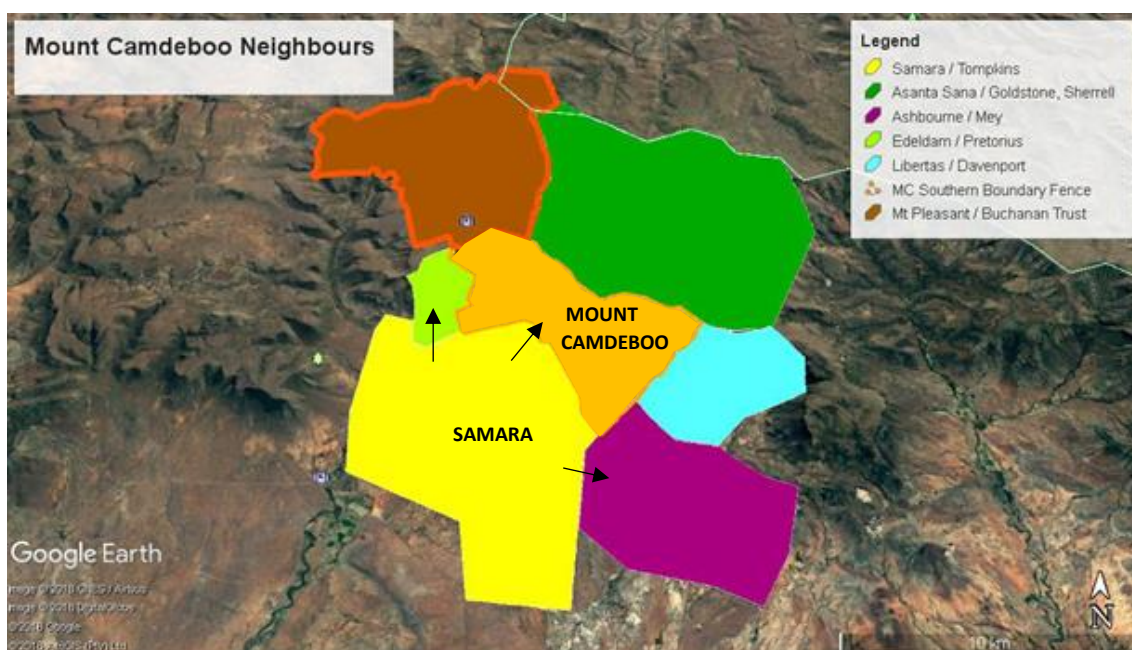
A significant opportunity exists for Samara to be the catalyst of a much larger regional ecological expansion plan. There have been discussions for many years for Samara to drop fences with neighbouring reserves, specifically Mount Camdeboo Private Game Reserve. The Aspinnall Foundation has already forged a very strong relationship with Mount Camdeboo and the first captive born cheetah are being released from Howletts Wild Animal Park onto the reserve as part of our 'Back to the wild programme'.

The first phase of the expansion into Mount Camdeboo Game Reserve will mean that Samara's ecological footprint will be expanded from 66 700 acres to 98 842 acres. This expansion will be immediately triggered by the purchase of the land and Mount Camdeboo have confirmed that they would be willing to enter into an agreement in this regard, prior to the purchase. Other neighbouring reserves and farms have also expressed interest in the expansion plans and this could mean that the ecological range for elephants, rhinos and other endangered species could be expanded to 173 000 acres in the first three years.

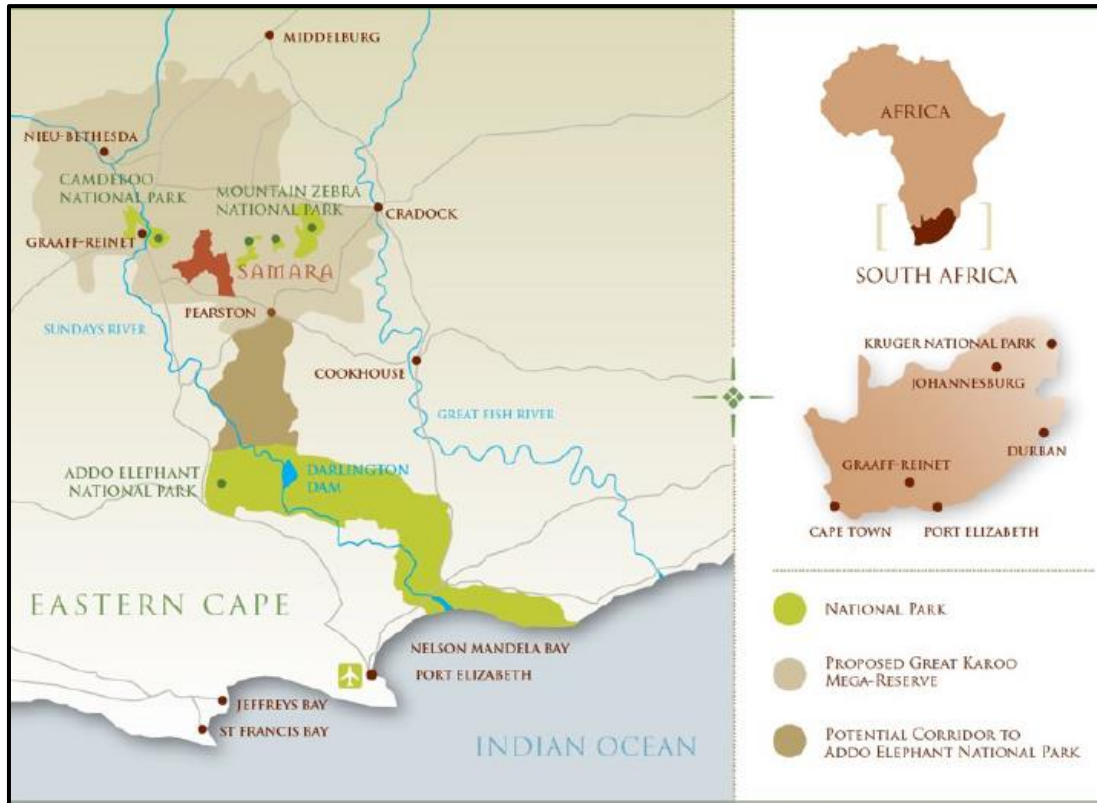
### Long term creation of a mega reserve and elephant corridor

A mega-reserve is proposed, which will link the Camdeboo National Park and the Mountain Zebra National Park with mixed-use private land designated for conservation, creating a Mega- Reserve of 3 million acres. At its core lies a conservation corridor of physical links between the two National Parks. This area of 1.3 million acres is not traversed by a main tarred road.

There is further long-term potential to link up with the Addo Elephant National Park in the south to recreate ancient elephant migratory routes. To date, 842,971 acres in the Mega- Reserve footprint have been secured under varying levels of conservation protection. Almost 80% of this land forms part of the Mountain Zebra – Camdeboo Protected Environment, declared in March 2016, a joint project between SANParks and the Wilderness Foundation, with funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. Next phases of the project will further expand the conservation estate and create physical conservation corridors.



Samara immediate expansion opportunities



**Overview of mega reserve and proposed corridors to Addo Elephant Park**