**World Heritage Site**

**at Drakensberg Gardens Resort**

**RECYCLING:**

Please use the bins provided to separate organic only, and recyclables at source.

We hope you share our concern for our natural heritage… for all generations to come.

We all generate waste and it is everyone’s responsibility to keep our natural environment pristine, for the sake of our flora and fauna.

In this good practice of totally eliminating waste on our resort, we also protect our wildlife, which was endangered by feeding on and around bad waste such as plastics, cans and glass.

Please remember, our property is on a World Heritage Site, and we have always had wildlife here, long before our arrival.

All year round we encounter Eland, baboons, a variety of birdlife, smaller buck and snakes on the resort.

We kindly ask that you are both aware and respectful of these animals.

With this “waste food source” being eliminated, the **Chacma Baboons** have become a bit braver and problematic, coming close to, and even in the units!

They are looking for food, so here is some basic advice.

**If a baboon does manage to enter your room or unit:**

**Stay calm!**  We cannot emphasise this enough!  He will not hurt you unless he feels threatened or cornered. Make sure he has an exit route like an open window or door.

**If you are holding food**, **drop it**. (Walk away) In a wrestling match over food the baboon will win.
 **Be confident** – baboons will ignore you if you are not sure of yourself. Make a loud noise such as banging pots and pans, and as a last resort spray him with some kind of aerosol – they don’t like the sound.

**DO NOT FEED BABOONS!**

It is illegal to feed baboons and it encourages them to hang around the resort, where they may be hurt (or culled. For your safety, we do not want the baboons becoming unmanageable inside the resort)

For more information on the above, a website link for you:

<http://www.baboonmatters.org.za/baboon-facts/encountering-baboons/>

We should all be fully aware that wild animals do have access to the resort, and always have. It is not a closed off and secured fence area – it is the beauty and nature of the berg, the reason we choose to be here.

**Management is currently taking steps in respect of the baboons:**

1. Eliminating human food (waste) sources around the resort in the hope they return to forage and exist naturally in the nearby mountains.
2. We advise our guests to ensure there are no opportunities for baboons to scavenge i.e. try to keep your units closed, and easy food pickings packed away (sorry, but until the baboons do stray off)
3. We are consulting with Ezemvelo (KZN Wildlife), who will provide us with long term solutions that are balanced and positive.

The above is a learning curve and a process for all, and is focused not only on our guests’ experiences here, but also in terms of conservation practices that will ensure our beautiful country stays that way.

Thank you for your understanding.

Gooderson Drakensberg Gardens Management