

## About the SappiWWF TreeRoutes Partnership

The SappiWWF TreeRoutes Partnership focuses on the creation and development of community-based eco-tourism as an alternative to the non-sustainable use of resources that threaten sensitive indigenous forests and wetlands in KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga.



## Dlinza Forest Aerial Boardwalk

The 125-metre boardwalk in Eshowe, at an elevation of 10 metres above ground, allows visitors to walk right under the canopy of Dlinza's indigenous scarp forest and culminates in a 20-metre observation tower with a breath-taking view.

The wheelchair-friendly walkway provides intimate access to 65 bird and 85 butterfly species, as well as to small mammals such as red duiker, bush pigs and bush babies. Magnificent trees that can be seen from the boardwalk include the Fluted Milkwood, Giant Umzimbeet and Wild Plum.



Come and meet the birds eye to eye

## Karkloof Crane and Conservation Centre

Home to all three South African crane species, the Karkloof Crane and Conservation Centre aims to develop the eco-tourism potential of the unique biodiversity and scenic beauty of the Karkloof Valley.



The Crane Centre consists of a central interpretive facility, supported by a network of trails leading to two strategically positioned hides. The centre, trails and hides are situated on two private farms owned and operated by leading conservation champions.

Crane species to all 3 Homesteads



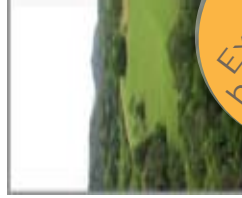
Dlinza Forest Aerial Boardwalk  
Karkloof Crane and Conservation Centre  
Ongoye Forest Birding Camp  
Marutswa Forest Trail and Boardwalk  
Wakerstroom Wetland Reserve and Training Centre  
Thonga Beach Lodge and the Mabibi Campsite  
Southern KZN Birding Route

www.treeroutes.co.za

## Ongoye Forest Birding Camp

The Ongoye Forest in southern Zululand is one of the gems along the Zululand Birding Route, especially due to the presence of the highly localised Green Barbet, *Stactolaema olivacea*, a highly sought after species by most birders.

The forest is also recognised as the number one site in terms of biodiversity conservation in KwaZulu Natal, home to the endemic Ongoye Red Squirrel; *Paraxerus palliatus ornatus* and numerous special plants and invertebrates.



Exclusive home of the rare green barbet

## Wakerstroom Wetland Reserve and Training Centre

Wakerstroom was chosen as the site for the first SappiWWF TreeRoutes Partnership project as it is home to one of the largest populations of threatened bird species in South Africa.

It is also one of the most important recreational birding destinations in the country, and one where the Wakerstroom Natural Heritage Association and the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Authority have built an excellent foundation for conservation action.



The best place to see the grassland biome specials

## Marutswa Forest Trail and Boardwalk

Marutswa Forest is one of the few easily accessible intact scarp forest patches in the southern KwaZulu Natal area, and is already popular with birding groups who use the existing trail network. The forest trail extends access from a number of jetties and viewpoints and the boardwalk branches off the existing trail network in places into and out of the forest.

Exclusive home of the Cape parrot

The 300-metre boardwalk was constructed entirely of local timber and in some places is situated approximately 12 metres above the forest floor and features a range of interesting interpretive signage.



## Thonga Beach Lodge and the Mabibi Campsite

Thonga Beach Lodge is a 24-bed luxury lodge tucked into the dune forest, right on the beach at Mabibi, just north of Sodwana Bay and it joins other projects in the SappiWWF TreeRoutes Partnership as a significant empowerment initiative that combines conservation ethics with major equity for local communities.

The lodge is also the first tourist lodge in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park - South Africa's first World Heritage Site - and is adjacent to the more rustic but very popular Mabibi Campsite.



Track back to the beach

## Southern KZN Birding Route

Birders drawn to the famed ornithological bounty of KwaZulu Natal have a new route that showcases not only the startling diversity of the province's birdlife, but also its range of habitats and its hospitality.

The Southern KZN Birding Route takes visitors from the golden beaches and dense, lush forests of the North and South coasts through the tranquil Midlands up to the spectacular heights of the Drakensberg Mountains. These scenic backdrops alone lure travellers into memorable road trips, but a bird list of 500 species including many rare and endemic species such as Blue Swallow, Cape Parrot, Drakensberg Rook-jumper, Eurasian Bittern and Bearded Vulture make these unforgettable outings for birders.



More than 500 bird species



## Mpumalanga

### Wakkerstroom Wetland Reserve and Training Centre

Telephone: 078 503 9754 / 083 227 0128  
Email: wakkerstroom-centre@birdlife.org.za  
GPS: E 30° 08 444' - S 27° 21 337'

From Durban, take the N3 and by-pass Pietermaritzburg, Howick, Mooi River and Escoort. Take the N11 to Ladysmith (11km from the N3 off-ramp). Travel through Ladysmith and head for Newcastle along the N11 (about 80km) and continue along the N11 to Volksrust (55km) traversing the Amajuba Pass. Pass straight through Volksrust and take the RS43 to Wakkerstroom (27km).



## Free State

### Karkloof Crane and Conservation Centre

Telephone: 033 330 2982  
Email: karkloofcentre@telkomsa.net  
GPS: E: 30° 15'40 34' - S: 29° 32'1 1654

Take the Howick North off-ramp from the N3 at Tweedie and into Howick through three sets of traffic lights. At the fourth set of lights take the Karkloof/Rietvlei Road. From the SupaQuick Tyre shop at the beginning of that road, measure 15½ kms. At this point you will see an avenue of Plane trees lining the drive into Gartmore Farm.



## Thonga Beach Lodge and the Mabibi Campsite

Telephone: 035 474 1473  
Email: info@lisibridiafrica.co.za  
GPS: E: 32° 45 027' - S: 27° 19 771'

From Durban, proceed on the N2 North to Hluhluwe. Turn off the N2, 4kms towards Hluhluwe, proceeding through the town until you reach the last traffic circle (there will be four in total). Turn left towards Mbazwana/Sodwana Bay and proceed for 0,7 km and turn right again towards Sodwana Bay/Mbazwana. Proceed for 87 km bypassing Mbazwana on your right. Proceed straight through the circles following the signs to "Coastal Forest Reserve". Proceed for 33 km after Mbazwana (passing the Mseleni turn-off) turning right onto a dirt road marked as "Coastal Forest Reserve". It is 4,7km along this road to the Coastal Cashew Factory on your right hand side, where you will be collected.

### Ongoye Forest Birding Camp

Telephone: 035 474 1046 / 082 945 4255  
Email: richardsbay@birdlife.org.za  
GPS: E: 31° 43 60' - S: 28° 52 60'

Drive on the R102 from Road Island Service Station outside Mtunzini towards Empangeni for 11,6 kms. Turn left into the D525 and follow this road for 4,5 kms before turning right into D1554. Continue on this gravel road for 4,4 kms and just after passing Manzamnyama School (on the left) turn right into the Ongoye forest.



### Dlinza Forest Aerial Boardwalk

Telephone: 035 473 0730 / 082 415 4686  
Email: boardwalk@birdlife.org.za  
GPS: E: 31° 27 085' - S: 28° 53 515'

Situated just outside Eshowe and well signposted on the Kangella Road, a short distance from the Eshowe High School. From Durban (approx. 150km) on the N2 north, take the Dokozeni off-ramp, along the R66 to Eshowe for 24km, take the 2nd left.



### Marutswa Forest Trail and Boardwalk

Telephone: 033 234 4367 / 071 491 8933  
Email: bulwerbush@treeroutes.co.za  
GPS: E: 29° 47 058' - S: 29° 48 465'

From Howick, take the R617 to Underberg. Travel through the village of Bulwer. Just past the Police Station on your left you will see the Marutswa Forest Boardwalk sign. Turn left here and travel down the road for a few hundred metres. You will then see another sign on your right hand side. Turn right here and proceed to the parking area.



### Southern KZN Birding Route

For a comprehensive list of birder-friendly establishments and local bird guides and advice, go to BirdLife South Africa's Avitourism website at [www.birdingroutes.co.za](http://www.birdingroutes.co.za) and look for the SKZN Birding Route page. Bookmark this link [http://www.birdingroutes.co.za/southern\\_kzn/skznbr-home.html](http://www.birdingroutes.co.za/southern_kzn/skznbr-home.html) for easy future reference.



## Mozambique



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