

Miracle and wonder

Conservation & sustainability

We are a small, family-run lodge inside a World Heritage Site. Four generations of the Morrison family have lived on this ground since 1918, and caring for our corner of the park is the reason we are here.

A World Heritage Site

iSimangaliso is isiZulu for miracle and wonder. Saved from dune mining, the park — 1,328,901 hectares of land and sea — was listed as South Africa's first UNESCO World Heritage Site in December 1999, for its outstanding natural values. We are the only privately owned lodge inside it: a privilege, and a responsibility we take seriously.

We traverse under a concession from the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority and follow the conservation rules and park guidelines it provides. Through that concession, and through our conservation levy, we contribute directly to the park's development and sustainability programmes.

At a glance

Solar power
Since April 2023. By day the lodge and the staff village run entirely on solar.

On the water
2 solar eco-boats, 4 guests each, near-silent on the bay.

Plastic
No single-use plastic bottles: water is filtered here and guests use refillable bottles.

Waste
Plastic, tins and glass are sorted here and recycled by the local community.

From our land
Herbs from our garden, eggs from our own chickens and honey from our hives.

Conservation levy
Our own levy, per person per night, shared between 4 causes.



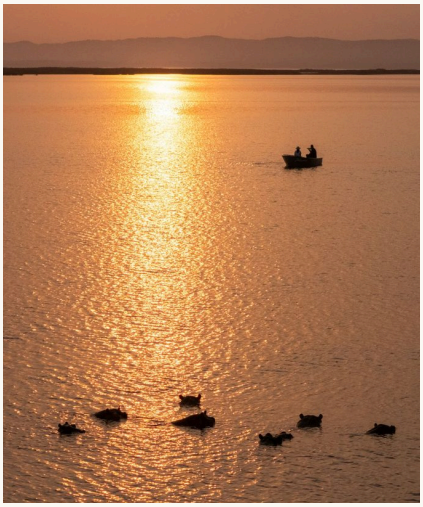


Power from the sun

Since April 2023 the lodge has run largely on solar power, which eases our reliance on South Africa's strained national grid. By day the lodge and the staff village run entirely on solar; at night we draw from the grid or on solar-charged batteries. A diesel generator, kept 1 km away, is there for emergencies only.

The switch has made power more reliable for our staff, kept the bush quiet for our guests and lowered our carbon footprint.

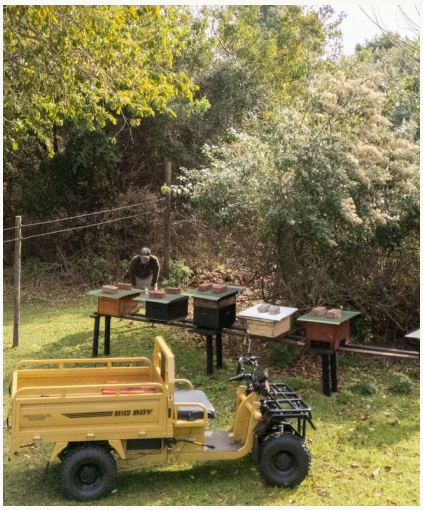




Silent on the water

Our 2 eco-boats run on solar-charged battery motors. They slip out across Makakatana Bay in near silence, 4 guests to a boat, so the hippo and the birds carry on as though nothing has arrived and the bay keeps its natural quiet.





Electric transport

Around the property we use 2 electric bikes and an electric four-wheeler fitted with a collection bin, which carries deliveries between the workshop and the stores. They are silent and produce no emissions, so they barely disturb the bush and keep our footprint inside the reserve light.

From our garden and our hives

Our vegetable garden supplies the kitchen's herbs, we buy what we can from local growers, and our own chickens lay fresh eggs every day.

Andrew Morrison has kept bees at Makakatana since childhood and still tends the hives, which give the lodge fresh honey, local and chemical-free. The bees also pollinate the surrounding vegetation and support the biodiversity of the wetland.

Water and waste

Only 1% of the Earth's water is drinkable, and Makakatana lies in a water conservation area, so care for water is part of every stay. Our rooms encourage showers over baths, towels are reused until they need changing, and linen is changed every 3–4 days, or sooner on request. Guests are warmly invited to take part.

Plastic, tins and glass are sorted on site and collected by the local community for recycling, which keeps the reserve clean and provides an income. Drinking water is filtered here and guests use refillable bottles, so there are no single-use plastic bottles at the lodge. All wet food waste is composted.

Where the levy goes

Our conservation levy is shared between the 4 causes below, and we thank every guest for their support.

African Wildlife Vets

A Zululand non-profit supporting the wildlife veterinarians who treat animals injured by poaching or other causes. It is severely understaffed — Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has only 1 permanent veterinarian — and often short of essential drugs. Guests can donate directly at info@africanwildlifevets.org or add a contribution to their lodge bill. The founder, Kate Church, is based in the uMkhuze section of iSimangaliso and is happy to meet visitors given advance notice.

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife anti-poaching units

Anti-poaching teams face daily danger and often lack essential equipment. Part of our levy buys binoculars, camera traps and drones for these units, and guests who can help with further equipment are warmly invited to tell us.

Ezemvelo Honorary Rangers

We work closely with the Honorary Rangers on regional conservation. We have helped raise funds for an anti-poaching vehicle and supplied uniforms and essential anti-poaching equipment, and we continue to support them wherever needed.

Staff micro projects

Small, staff-led initiatives that enrich the lodge and the wider community. Our chef Khayesani Ndlovu, a gifted musician, is being given recording equipment to produce his own music, including the Makakatana song on our social media channels, and we help with educational equipment where we can.

Guests who would like to do more can speak to management, and we will put them in touch.