

## **MBAZO**

**Lynn 'Mbazo' van Rooyen:** *Lynn 'Mbazo' van Rooyen started his extensive career on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1967 when he was appointed in Skukuza as the first full time game capture staff member with the job title of Ranger/Game Capturer. He remained in this position until 1970 when he resigned in order to study further at Stellenbosch University, during this time, he spent every July and December back in Kruger filling in for section rangers who were on leave at the time.*

*After finishing his studies in December 1972, as planned Oom Don Louw retired from the Kruger National Parks and Lynn was appointed in the vacant position as section ranger at Shangoni from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1973 and remained there until end 1974. In 1975 the then 'National Parks Board' sponsored Lynn to complete his Honours degree in Wildlife Management at the University of Pretoria. During this absence **Louis Olivier (see Mandleve)** acted as relief ranger at Shangoni.*

*In 1976 upon returning to the Kruger National Park Lynn was stationed at Tshokwane as a district ranger until 1977 when he was moved to the 'great north' as district ranger based at Punda Millia (before the name change to Maria). At this stage no tourists were allowed north of the Letaba River during the summer months and Lynn enjoyed many years at Punda Millia until April 1980 when he was transferred to Lower Sabie as the regional ranger for the south of the Kruger National Park which at that time included the whole area from the Crocodile River in the South to the Olifants River in the North and he remained at Lower Sabie until December 1991.*

*Lynn was later transferred to the 'head office' in Skukuza in 1992 as Manager Nature Conservation for the Kruger National Park and continued in this position until March 1996 after which he was moved to the Kimberly offices, in the position of Manager Conservation/Head of the Northern Parks.*

*In January 1998 Lynn made his last move within SANParks to 'Groenkloof' Pretoria's head office still as Head of Northern Parks and eventually in the acting position of Parks Director for 9 months and lastly as Head of Biodiversity for all Parks (excluding the Kruger National Park) as well as Head of the Poverty Relief Unit*

**(Information provide by Lynn van Rooyen care of Louis Olivier)**

*Thank you very much for thinking of me during the Elephant naming process. It will be a great honor for me to have a Kruger Great carry my name.*

*Only Mbazo (the elephant) will know what the Kruger National Park means to me as he (the elephant) has the privilege of spending his entire life span within the Kruger National park, something that eluded me, despite being a personal ambition.*

*I am very proud of my SANParks career and especially the quality of people that I have the privilege to rub shoulders with.*

**(Excerpt from Lynn van Rooyen on the naming process of the 'new tuskers')**