



12 July 2024

Public Statement: Devastating Wildfire at Wide Horizons Mountain Retreat

Dear guests and friends of Wide Horizons,

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of a devastating wildfire that struck Wide Horizons Mountain Retreat on 11 July 2024. Severe winds and raging fires have been sweeping through many parts of Eswatini, causing widespread devastation. Unfortunately, Wide Horizons was not spared despite the tireless efforts of our team that worked hard to save the Lodge.

The fire has resulted in the complete loss of our Main Lodge and all its contents. The Lodge was the original stone and thatch building dating back to the 1950's. Additionally, Valley View and Rose Cottage, along with all their contents, have also been completely burnt to the ground. This is an immense and heartbreaking loss of decades of memories for all who hold Wide Horizons close to their hearts.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who rushed to help during this crisis. Special thanks go to the dedicated team from Wide Horizons who fought the fire from the early hours of the morning, however despite their best efforts, we were unable to save the lodge. We would also like to thank the staff from Big Game Parks and All Out Africa, along with the Roques and Reilly families for their swift response and efforts to assist us. Your support means so much, and we are very grateful for your efforts.

Thankfully all our staff members are safe, and our guests who were on-site during the incident were safely evacuated with all their belongings. As we write this, the embers are still burning, and our team is still at work, trying to manage the aftermath of this catastrophic event.

We are grateful that our private cottages (Ligwalagwala, Aloe, and Adventure Cottage) are still standing and available for rental, along with our campsite and Adventure Centre. By choosing to stay with us, you help preserve this natural heritage area and assist our team in rebuilding and conserving this special part of Eswatini for generations to come.

For all who treasure Wide Horizons as a special place, we are still in business and we are committed to picking up the pieces and working on the best way forward. Your continued support means a lot as we embark on the path to recovery.

Warm regards

Kim & Robs Roques