

OTS has received \$265,000 in funding from the National Science Foundation for building new housing for researchers at the Skukuza Research Station



SINCE 2003, working in close association with South African National Parks, the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) has established a research-based education program for U.S. and South African undergraduates that includes semester and summer courses and summer research experiences. Through local partnerships, OTS has also provided support for scientists offering field-based training for South African, Australian, and Canadian students, as well as numerous environmental education programs for the surrounding local communities in the Park.

The infrastructure to support this initiative is at a three-acre campus in Skukuza, the largest rest camp and administrative center in the park. With support from SANParks and a private donor, the first phase to renovate and construct student housing, dining facilities, and an outdoor classroom on the campus was completed in 2015. More recently, funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation and the

Government of South Africa made it possible to construct a science center consisting of a dry and wet laboratory, a library and a lecture theatre.

This new funding from the NSF – Field Station and Marine Labs Program is to construct critically needed researcher accommodations on the campus. The accommodations would include two multi-functional units for either four single researchers for long-term stays or eight researchers sharing rooms for a shorter duration and would provide ease of access to the Skukuza Science Center. Like the previous construction projects, the researcher housing will highlight OTS' commitment to sustainable building and locally-sourced materials. The building will also demonstrate the feasibility of low impact living by showcasing the design and construction materials to reduce the environmental footprint in all aspects of daily living in the Park.



For more pictures of the Skukuza Science Center, please visit:
<https://tropicalstudies.org/skukuza-research-station/>