

# THE BARKING GECKO

November 2023

Vol. 24, No. 2



**THE MARIMBA**  
GREETINGS FROM THE NORTH  
**BARKING GECKOS**  
**SNAKE TRAINING AT NAMIBRAND**  
**FOREVER RHINO RIDE**  
**TRIBUTE TO JÜRGEN KLEIN**  
NEWS @ NaDEET



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*"Heaven is under our feet  
as well as over our heads."  
- Henry David Thoreau*

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## EDITOR'S INPUT

In the months since our last edition of the Barking Gecko, the Reserve has experienced extreme weather, from very hot days to freezing mornings with fog rolling over the dunes. Of course, the fog is welcomed by the animals as it gives them the precious water they need in this arid place. We also had strong east wind and winter rain. The weather has been extremely varied, but sometimes that is how it is in the desert.

We lost a kindred conservation spirit with the passing of Jürgen Klein in October and his contributions to and enthusiasm for NamibRand will be missed.



Happy family in the dunes

The annual game count took place in late May and was combined with the annual general meeting (AGM) hosted at Wolwedans.

Reports received from our concessionaires include musical workshops and horticulture activities. Reserve and concessionaire staff had the opportunity to learn more about snakes and how to handle them safely, while researchers explored the grass availability on the reserve. We have an article about cyclists who are going the extra mile to save a species. We had visitors that came to look at our stars, while a lot of school groups visited NaDEET.

It is with the most immense joy that Andre and I welcome our son, Dominic Steyn, to the NamibRand family. Dominic was born in Windhoek on 24 August 2023. He weighed 3.6 kg and was 55 cm long at birth. This is now a time for sleepless nights, but it is also filled with endless love for our son.

There is much that awaits you in this issue, and we would like to thank you, one and all, for your interest and contributions.

*This is final issue of the Barking Gecko for 2023. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas filled with family and joy and a good start to 2024.*



Jessica Steyn



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Ostriches in the sunset at Jagkop

A lot has happened over the past few months on the Reserve. It is with great sadness that we report one of our founding members, Jürgen Klein, passed away on 8 October 2023. Jürgen was one of the pioneers that helped make NamibRand a reality and he will be greatly missed by the NamibRand family. Our heartfelt condolences to his wife Dorothe and the rest of the Klein family. We have included a tribute to him in this edition of the newsletter.

We are thrilled to welcome Dominic, the first-born son of our Keerweder wardens Jessica and Andre Steyn, to the world. We wish the new family all the happiness and joy for this new adventure. His birth announcement is included in this issue.

Congratulations to NaDEET, who celebrate their 20th anniversary this year. The NamibRand community had the chance to attend the launch of the NaDEET Information Centre at Die Duine Homestead on 29 September. Well done to NaDEET, Tok Tokkie Trails, the NamibRand Family Hideout and Albi's Arche Trust for transforming the homestead into a beautiful place. Please see the NaDEET article in this issue for the full story and some pictures.

We have always believed in a fence-free Namib, spending all our efforts and resources in removing old livestock fences so that wildlife could move freely in search of grazing. In our area the predominant land use is now conservation and tourism, however a few livestock farmers remain. Unfortunately their incompatible management actions and unsustainable wildlife utilisation are a threat to a healthy ecosystem. We have thus embarked on an ambitious effort, in partnership with our neighbouring ProNamib Nature Reserve, to rebuild some border fences. This project is in the spirit of "good fences make good neighbours."

Our warden from the South gives an update on this fencing project in his article in this edition.

A new passenger shelter is nearing completion at the Keerweder airstrip. Fly Namibia Safaris has now included Keerweder as part of their scheduled flights. As Fly Namibia is registered with the international aviation authorities, overseas visitors can now book their luggage all the way through to Keerweder when they board their aircraft in Europe or America. Our warden from the North has included some pictures of the new building in her article in this edition of the newsletter.

Thankfully the COVID-19 pandemic is a now distant memory and tourism in Namibia is bouncing back. Our income from park fees, collected for us on behalf of our tourism concessionaires, has recovered and we can now start to conquer our debts. We are a long way off from repaying the financial aid that we received in order to make it through the pandemic and you can help by donating to NamibRand. We have been working with a small start-up company based in Santiago, Chile, called LeMu, who have developed an online app to raise funds for conservation. LeMu's goal is to be responsible for financing the protection of 1% of our planet's land within the next 10 years. Visit [www.le.mu](http://www.le.mu) where you can download the app that allows you to view and support conservation initiatives from all over the world, including NamibRand. We thank you in advance.

Yours,

Nils Odendaal  
Chief Executive Officer



# GREETINGS FROM THE NORTH

Jessica & Andre Steyn

Over the past several months, the research front has been quiet. The only researcher was Jeff Dai, IDA Dark Sky Delegate from China, who visited NamibRand in June. He visited Keerweder to brief us on our lighting management plan and discuss the methodology for dark sky readings taken on the Reserve. He then stayed two nights at the Family Hideout to experience the stars.

A talk about the Reserve was presented in July to a group of Kwessi Dunes Lodge VIP guests on a sundowner experience in the dunes.

A course on snake handling was held at Keerweder on 28 June and presented by staff from the Snake Park in Swakopmund. Various reserve staff attended, and more information can be found on page 30.

The annual game count took place on 27 May, with full participation from concessionaires, landowners and NamibRand staff. Everyone was happy to see so many animals, especially given the low rainfall last season. There still seems to be enough grazing in certain

areas to support the wildlife. More about the game count and results can be found on page 18.

Dr. Antje Burke, who conducted vegetation mapping last year on NamibRand, requested that we

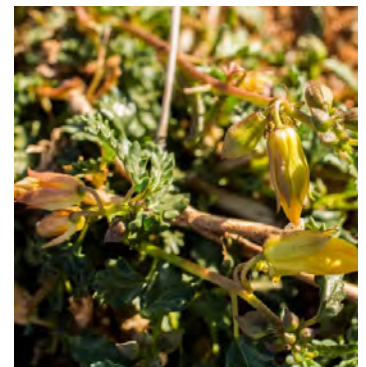
keep an eye out for a specific endemic plant she found on the Keerweder Pan. She wanted better photos of this plant as she was only able to find one example of this unique species.



*Boerhavia repens* L. subsp. *repens*.



*Corchorus asplenifolius* Burch.



After the first rain in February 2023, various small herbaceous plants appeared on the Keerweder Pan. In the process of searching for Dr Burke's specific plant, another unknown species was recorded. After it rained again in April, both species flowered and photos and specimens were collected for identification. The specimens

were pressed, dried and then mounted on a board with all relevant information included. These mountings were then submitted to the National Herbarium of Namibia for positive identification.

The National Herbarium identified the plants as follows:  
1. The *Boerhavia repens* L. subsp.

*repens* (Creeping spiderling) is the plant Dr Burke was looking for and it is now included on the NamibRand species list.

2. *Corchorus asplenifolius* Burch (Fern-leaved corchorus) .

The *Corchorus asplenifolius* Burch, is a new species for NamibRand, recorded for the first time. It has only been recorded on the Keerweder and Zebra Pans. Hopefully, with better rainfall in future, other pans on the Reserve can also be checked to see if it has a broader distribution.

The Keerweder airstrip is now an official FlyNamibia destination as part of their scheduled safari flights. A shelter was built at the eastern end of the airstrip for the fly-in guests. The ground is very rocky and hard, so it was a challenging job and a jackhammer had to be used to reach the required depth. In addition, a new pipeline had to be laid from the existing line between Dina and Jagkopwater. The shelter consists of two toilets and a seating area with a cover to protect guests from the sun. An official road sign was also installed, to assist other lodges and operators in locating the airstrip.

Over the past few months, the Reserve has experienced extreme fluctuations in weather, from freezing cold and foggy days to warm east wind and even some rainy days. In June and July, the reserve received small rain showers, which was a blessing for nature. At times the fog hung so thick over the dunes and its vegetation that you could count every drop of water.



The new pipeline was dug with the assistance of the Pro-Namib tractor



Nearly completed airstrip shelter

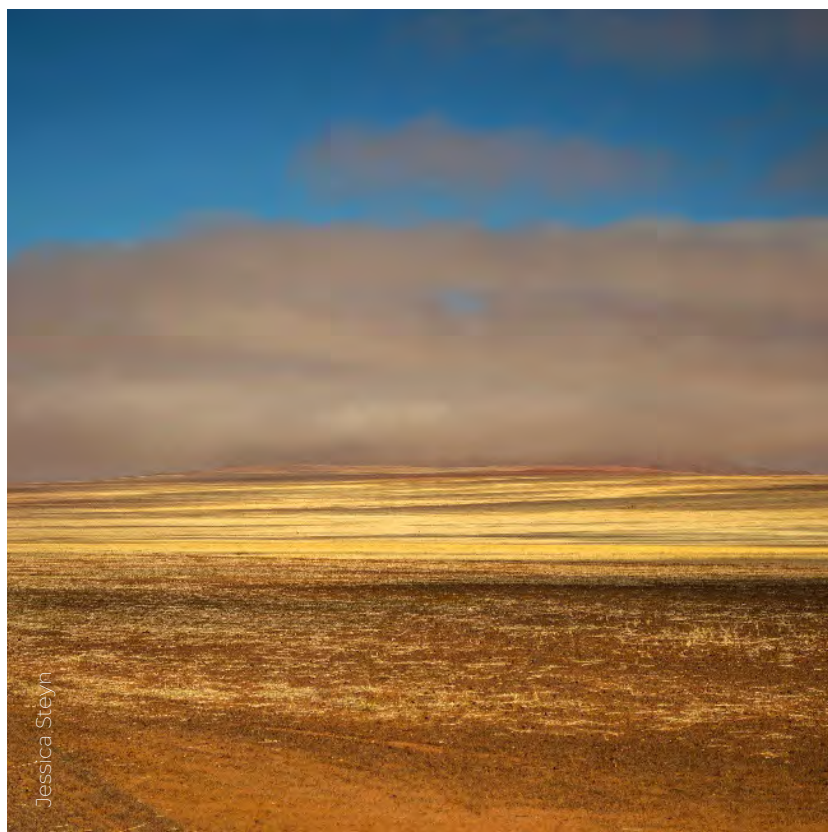


## Rainfall figures

Property	Rain gauge	June	July
<b>Kwessiegat</b>	Kwessiegat house	4	2.2
	Cobra dam	3	2.2
<b>Toskaan</b>	Moringa	1	0.8
	Kokerboom	1	0
	Toskaan borehole	1.5	2
	Porcupine	2	0.5
<b>Draaihoek</b>	Draaihoek house	1	0
	Bushmankoppies	1	0
<b>Keerweder</b>	Keerweder house	3	0.5
	Boscia	0	1
<b>Jagkop</b>	Jagkop	2	0.5
<b>Verweg</b>	Zebradam	0	2
	Verweg house	0	1
<b>Toekoms</b>	Toekoms house	7	2
	Kuduwater	4	2
<b>Wolwedans</b>	Kraal junction	0	0
	Karl's valley	0	0
	Dunes lodge	0	0
	Wolwedans village	0	1.5
	Dunes camp	0	0
<b>Die Duine</b>	Chateau	0	0
	Schafsberg	3	0
	DDR	2	0
	NaDEET centre	0	0
	Die Duine house	0	1
<b>Stellarine</b>	Horseshoe water	1	0
	Horseshoe camp	3	0
	Hideout house	0	1
<b>Gorrasis</b>	Gorrasis house	0	0
	Straussenwasser	2	0
<b>Aandster</b>	Boulders camp	0	0
	Swartkoppie	2	0
	Vista	2	0
	Twee Pompe	3	0
	Aandster house	3	1.5
	Kalkpomp	3	0
	Prosopis	2	0
	Grootpomp	0	0
	Satanskop duine	3	0
<b>Springbokvlakte</b>	Satanskop	2	0
	Satanskop south	0	5
	Springbokvlakte house	0	5
	Two pumps	0	5
	Four Tanks	0	6
<b>Saffier</b>	Park border	0	6
	Aandster water	0	6
	Excelsior Turnoff	0	6
	Saffier House	0	5
	Sonop water	0	5
<b>Dina</b>	Dina north reservoir	2	0
	Dina middle	0	0
	Dina house	0	0
	Dina south reservoir	3	0
	Dina border	3	0



New road sign

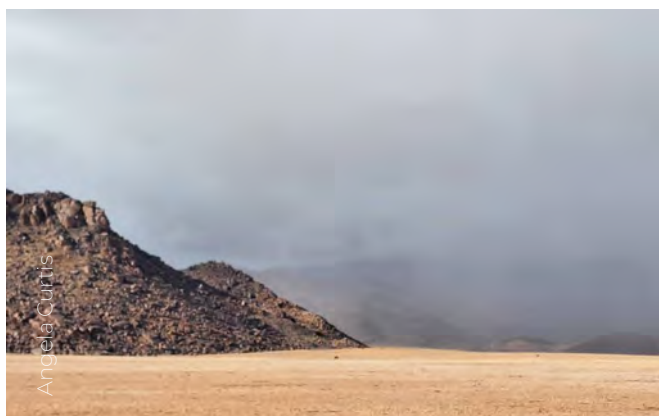


Fog over the dunes





Fog droplets in the dunes



Rain falling on the Nubib Mountains



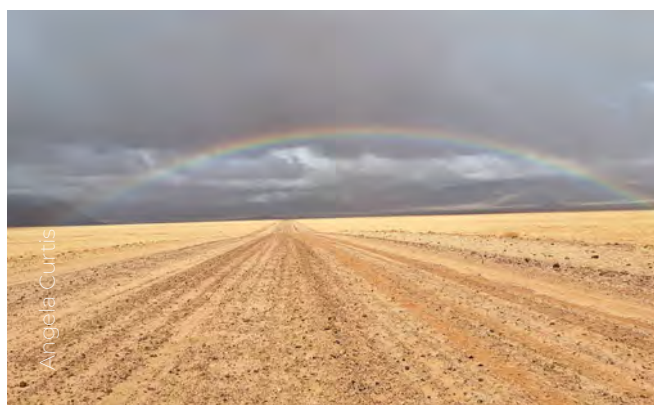
Wet dunes after the rain



Build-up of rain clouds



The Keerweder veranda after the winter rain



Rainbow over the C27





The east wind near Keerweder



Sun shining through the dust



A road blown closed by the wind



Damage to shade netting at Keerweder



Trees were either uprooted completely or stripped of their leaves, fruit and bark by the wind



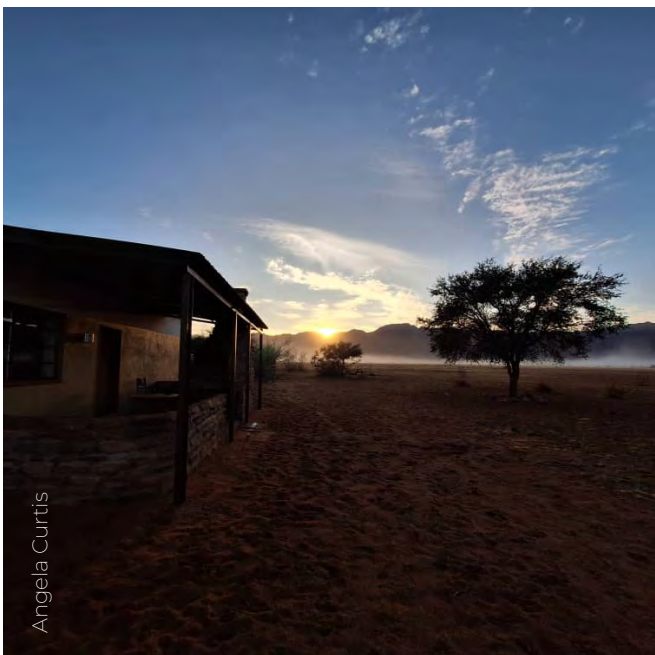


Damage which occurred in the northern part of the Reserve





Satellite image showing the effect of the east wind



Cold sunrise at Keerweder



Warthogs sighted close to Draaihoek

# GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH

Martin Verwey

On 24 January 2023, the upgrade of the Aandstêr airstrip began. Initially, it was planned as a three-month project, but with various delays, it took six months to complete. The project started with about twenty workers. There was a lot of uncharacteristic hustle and bustle at Aandstêr during this time, with trucks driving back and forth and workers moving from their tents to the airstrip. The first flight to land on the airstrip, which was still only 1 km complete at the time, was John Bernstein and some of his guests on 27 May. The finished airstrip is now 1.2 km long and 7.5 m wide, with a parking area for up to three other aircraft. The project was finalized on 30 June by eight workers.

On 3 April, NamibRand and the ProNamib Nature Reserve initiated a joint project. ProNamib is funding the repair of the border fence between Wêreldsend and NamibRand. A team has been

employed and the Aandstêr team is also assisting with the work. The aim is to reduce conflict with NamibRand's neighbour. The project has been underway for just over six months. Progress is very slow because the fence needs to actually be rebuilt in most places and the work is challenging.

In July, nature reminded us all that the east wind can blow strongly. The wind blew for four days straight. We experienced a wind speed of 63km/h on Aandstêr. On Die Duine, the wind blew up to 80km/h. With these winds, the Namib restores itself by erasing all the tracks and marks made by man, a "restored to factory settings," if you will. After the wind stopped, everyone started digging out and dusting off everything. In addition to roads being blown shut, waterholes were filled to the top with sand. Luckily, there was no damage to infrastructure in the South. After the wind, just as you think four seasons in a week can't happen, fog



Schinz's Beaked Blind Snake (*Rhinotyphlops schinzi*)



was waiting in the morning.

We were also lucky to see 14 Lapped-faced vultures (*Torgos tracheliotos*) at an oryx carcass on 18 June.

Bat-eared foxes have been active throughout the day over the winter months and can be seen across the whole Reserve. These animals are mostly nocturnal and usually move around from just before sunset to just after sunrise. They are active in the daytime in winter, due to the availability of termites and moderate temperatures during the day.

A Shinz's beaked blind snake (*Rhinotyphlops shinzi*) was found in the Aandstêr garden. This blind snake can be found in many different habitats. They like to stay burried much of the day in the soil, or can also be found beneath stones, logs or piles of rotten leaves. They eat mostly small invertebrates such as caterpillars, moths and crickets, and occasionally a spider. However, they do prefer ants and termites.

It is not always just the big things that make nature work, but also the little unseen things that are needed to complete the circle of life.

With the red sand in our shoes, we still enjoy our time here in the Namib Desert, even though the wind sometimes tries to blow us away.



Lapped-faced vultures on Dina



Visibility on the Aandstêr airstrip during the east wind



Aandstêr airstrip looking east



The entrance road to Aandster after the east wind, and the road to Aandstêr's house blown closed with dunes



The state of the border fence before repairs started



A worker busy on the fence



The road from the A-frame to the house at Aandstêr during the east wind





A fog bank covers Aandstêr Mountain



Bat-eared foxes feasting on termites



Fog at the Aandstêr homestead



Gorasis Mountains in a fog bank

*Julodis mitifica* (jewel beetle) on dune grass  
where fog droplets have gathered





# BARKING GECKOS

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Alec Tsaobeb, guide from Kwessi Dunes Lodge



Barking gecko (*Ptenopus garrulus*) to show their small size



Barking gecko colour patterns

The barking gecko (*Ptenopus garrulus*) is a reptile which occurs on NamibRand in sandy areas. They are active for a short time at sunset and on cooler mornings, with their characteristic clicking calls heralding their presence.

Their diet is mainly termites, small beetles and ants. Males are slightly smaller in the body than females, but have louder calls. Females lay 1 to 2 hard-shelled eggs that are white in colour.

The colouring on their backs is usually greyish to yellow; eyes are reddish-brown; belly is white and the throat is orange to yellow in males.

A variety of species occur in the Namib.



# 2023 GAME COUNT RESULTS

Jessica Steyn

The annual game count took place on 27 May 2023. In advance of the count, participants attended a game count briefing at the Wolwedans base after the NamibRand Nature Reserve AGM on the afternoon of 26 May 2023. Jessica Steyn explained the count methodology at the briefing and divided participants into different game count routes.

This year's results show that the total estimated oryx population increased by 10.49%, while springbok

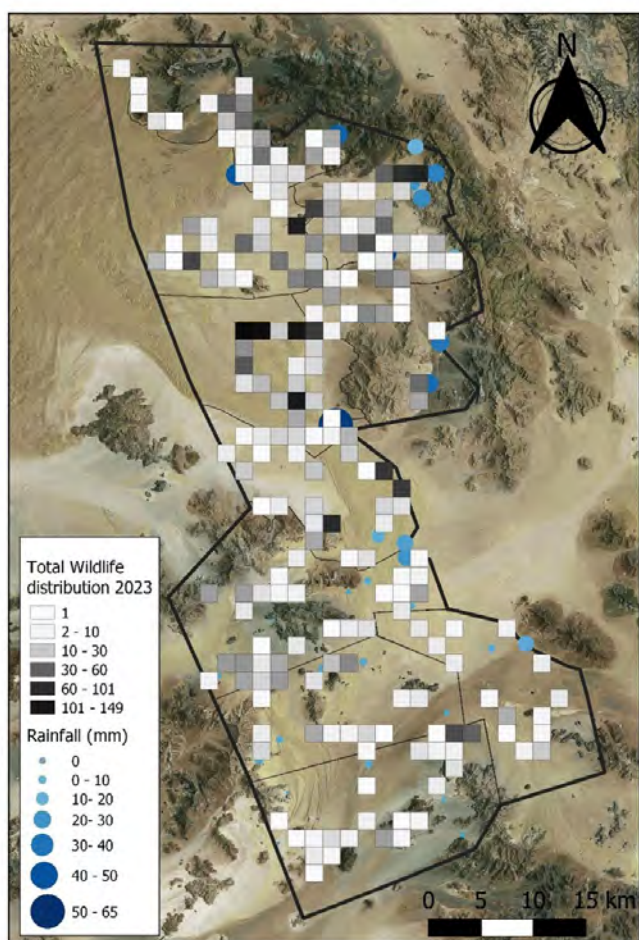
numbers decreased by 11.37%. The distribution of oryx and springbok was widespread across the Reserve. However, wildlife numbers are more concentrated in the central and northern parts of the Reserve. This is most likely due to the good rainfall received in the area in late April 2023. The highest concentration of animals was seen in the north of the Reserve with the most oryx sighted in the Wolwedans dunes. Almost all springbok were counted in the Keerweder and Draaihoek areas.

The Burchell's zebra population is well distributed throughout the Reserve, with the highest density in the Keerweder and Draaihoek areas. Their population increased by 21.16%.

This year five hartebeest were counted, compared to last year's sighting of three. This is due to the two calves that survived this year. Unfortunately, the prolonged drought from 2013 to 2021 has taken a heavy toll on this species, whose population was once estimated to be around 200. While most animals have likely succumbed to the drought, some have migrated outside of the Reserve in search of better grazing. Hartebeest have been sighted on neighbouring properties with higher rainfall and closer to the escarpment.

This year we received significantly less rainfall than last year. However, the little rain that was received, and the grazing left over from last year resulted in an overall increase of 13.96% in the total wildlife population.

It is worth reiterating that this census method is best suited to large plains game such as oryx, springbok and Burchell's zebra. The methodology is less suited for counting smaller species such as steenbok, or species with different habitat requirements such as kudu or mountain zebra. The population estimates provided are only intended to give an indication of population numbers on the Reserve. Wildlife management decisions are not based on population



Total wildlife distribution



estimates, but rather on animal distribution (location of the animals) and the trend (change) in animal numbers – are there more or less individuals? Distribution and trend are calculated using the actual number of sightings and not on the population estimates.

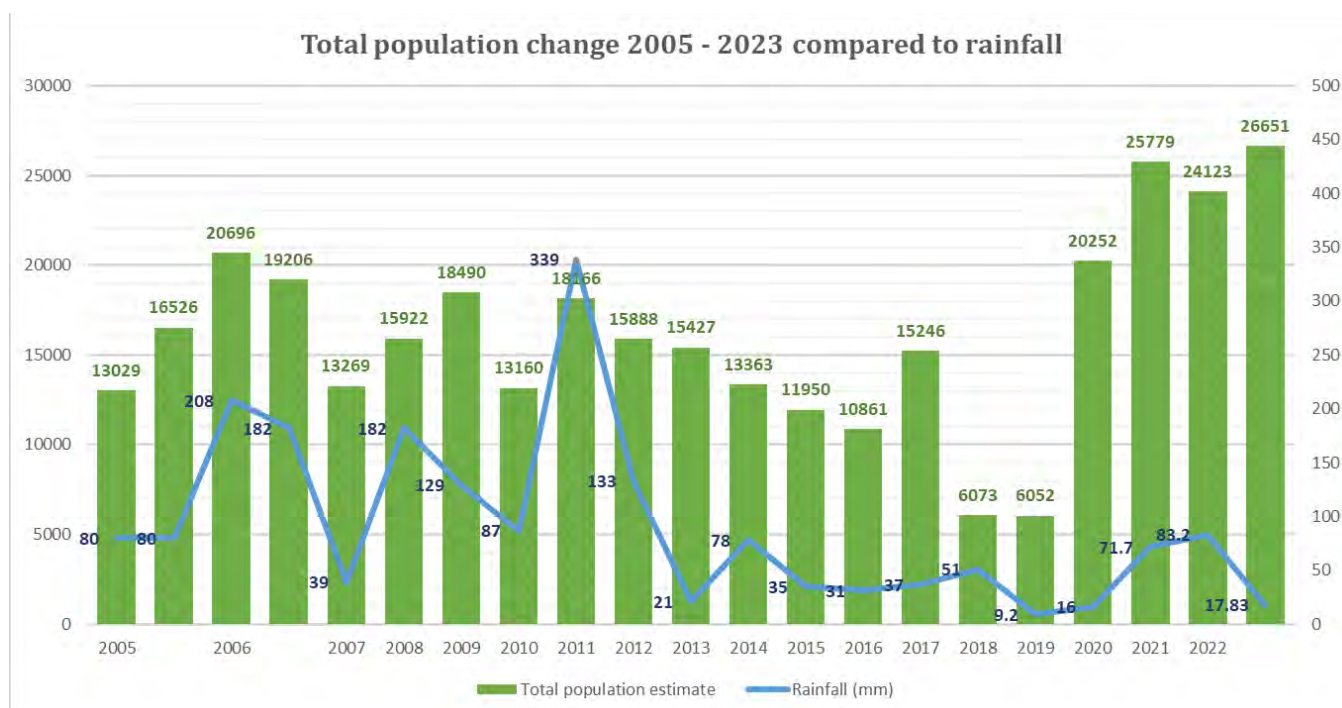
The full 2023 Game Count Report can be found at: <http://www.namibrand.org/Library/NRNR%20Game%20Count%20Report%202023.pdf>.

Alternatively, it can be accessed at: <http://www.namibrand.org/library.html> under Game Count Reports.

## Total estimated numbers of game between 2022 and 2023

Total estimated numbers of game - Routes 1-10 May 2022 - May 2023					
Species	May-22		May-23		Percentage change
	No. Counted	Total estimated number	No. Counted	Total estimated number	
Oryx	1168	12564	1360	13882	10.49%
Springbok	529	4818	311	4271	-11.37%
Kudu	1	80	0	0	-100.00%
Steenbok	0	0	3	594	100%
Ostrich	114	742	108	1371	84.66%
Ludwig's Bustard	66	2193	104	3315	51.15%
Ruppel's Korhaan	28	1774	42	851	-52.02%
B. zebra	266	1943	258	2354	21.16%
Hartebeest	3	8	5	13	65.12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2175</b>	<b>24123</b>	<b>2191</b>	<b>26650</b>	<b>10.48%</b>
Giraffe*	13	13	15	15	15.38%

\* Total (estimated) numbers known



The graph shows the long-term total population estimate compared to the average annual rainfall received for the same period.

# CULTIVATING SUCCESS: HORTICULTURE TRAINING BLOOMS AT WOLWEDANS DESERT ACADEMY

EMPOWERING YOUTH WITH HANDS-ON AGRICULTURAL EXPERTISE

Annely Ickua

## Horticulture training and 1st assessment

In 2021, the Wolwedans Desert Academy proudly introduced the pilot of the Horticulture Level 2 qualification, a long-awaited addition to its successful Hospitality training program. The Wolwedans Foundation has been eagerly seeking to offer horticulture training, and the

pilot group of trainees has now undergone their first assessment, marking a significant milestone in their agricultural journey.

## Growing Partnerships for a Greener Tomorrow

Collaboration lies at the heart of Wolwedans' commitment to nurturing agricultural talents. As part of the horticulture

training program, the academy has partnered with esteemed organizations such as AGRI Business Development, Deurdruk Farming, Farm Grootfontein No. 91 (Maltahöhe District) T/A Raves Trading, Krumhuk Farm, Voigtsgrund Farm (Maltahöhe District), E.G Freshway Farming, and Mr. Penias E. Topnaar from Orab North (Unit B). These partnerships facilitate hands-on learning experiences, empowering trainees with the practical knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in the horticultural arena.

## Horticulture Trainees Share Their Journey

For aspiring horticulturists, the journey has been nothing short of transformative. Martha Paulus, one of the dedicated trainees, shares her enthusiasm for the program, emphasizing the importance of hands-on experience and the rewarding nature of agricultural work. Martha's passion for conservation and sustainable food production has been ignited through the horticulture training, motivating her to envision a brighter future for herself and her community.

Another trainee, Emerson Van



Wolwedans Foundation

Martha Paulus – Horticulture Trainee



Rooi, expresses his gratitude for the enriching experience at Wolwedans Desert Academy. He highlights the exceptional support from the facilitators and the valuable practical lessons that have expanded his horizons. Emerson's journey underscores the significance of following one's passion, as it leads to fulfilment and success in any career path.

### NTA's Visit: A Step Towards Excellence

At the end of July 2023, the Namibia Training Authority (NTA) paid a visit to the Wolwedans Desert Academy. This assessment aimed to evaluate the training facilities, interview the trainees and explore the campus. The NTA's involvement reflects the Academy's commitment to maintaining the highest standards in horticulture training, ensuring that trainees receive a comprehensive and top-notch educational experience.

### Looking Ahead: A Blooming Future

The Wolwedans Foundation remains dedicated to cultivating the next generation of skilled horticulturists, empowering them to contribute to sustainable agriculture and conservation efforts. As trainees continue to learn and grow in the nurturing environment of the Wolwedans Desert Academy, the community eagerly anticipates the positive impact they will have on local agriculture and beyond.

Here at Wolwedans Desert Academy, we embrace curiosity, dedication, and a desire to make a difference in the world of agriculture. We look forward to sharing our results from the first assessment on our social media platforms and website ([www.wolwedansdesertacademy.org](http://www.wolwedansdesertacademy.org)).



Kauko Divine – Horticulture Trainee

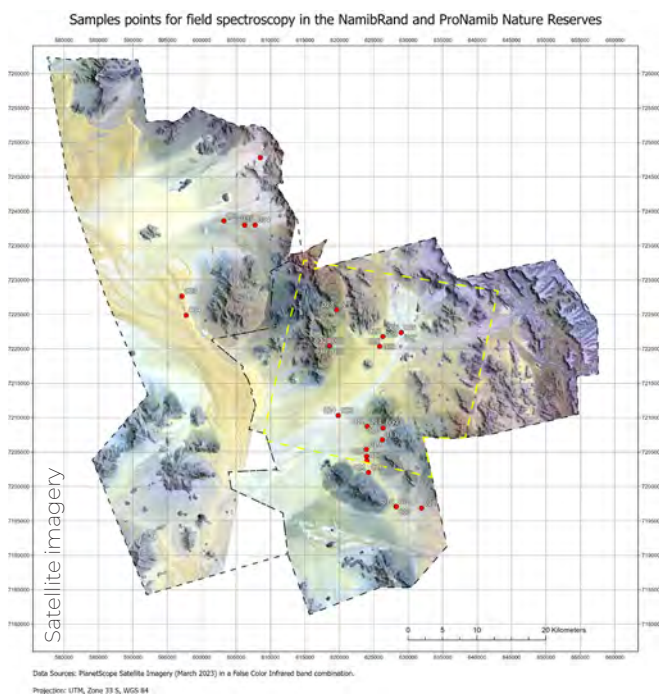


On-site practical assessment with support from partners



# IN SEARCH OF GREENER PASTURES

Daniel Wyss, Paul Bantelmann and Martin Kappas  
University of Göttingen, Institute of Geography, Cartography, GIS & Remote Sensing Section



**Distribution of sample plots within both conservation areas using Multispectral PlanetScope imagery in a 3-meter spatial resolution containing eight spectral bands** (Satellite imagery)

After a first student excursion from Göttingen University to the NamibRand and ProNamib conservation areas in March 2022, we returned to this exceptionally beautiful place in March 2023 with a smaller research group. The main research objective was to map and determine grassland types with the hope of collecting information on grassland statuses such as biomass, quality and phenological (seasonal) stage using new remote sensing technologies combined with in-situ field measurements. With this research we hope to contribute towards ongoing ecosystem conservation strategies on both reserves.

We felt very welcome at Toekoms, which was an ideal place to access both reserves during our 10-day stay. During our visit, we were supported by a handful of very motivated students from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) in Windhoek, who provided valuable help in identifying grass species and actively participated in field data collection. After a fantastic rainy season in 2022, we experienced extremely dry conditions with rainfall less than 20mm in January and February and extremely hot temperatures above 40 degrees. These conditions



NamibRand Nature Reserve in March 2022 (left) with large healthy stands of grassland in comparison to March 2023 (right), illustrating the high intra-annual variability depending on rainfall amounts and distribution



Daniel Wyss



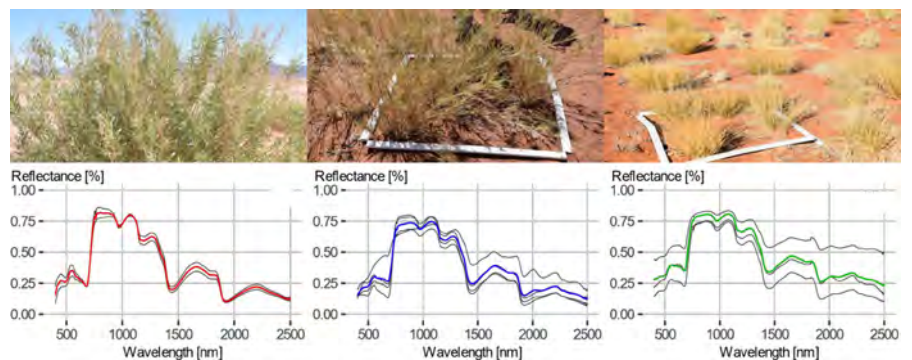
Daniel Wyss



Fieldwork (species identification, LAI measurements, field spectroscopy and spectral analysis)

largely affected grassland vitality and limited the informational value of data collected. In addition, the conditions challenged us and our technical equipment during the fieldwork.

Nevertheless, we managed to measure the spectral properties of various grass species, shrubs and soil types using a so-called field spectrometer (ASD) which measures reflectance across the electromagnetic spectrum, including visible, near-infrared and shortwave infrared



Reflectance of selected bush and grass species: (left) Bitterbush (*Pechuel-loeschea leubnitziae*); (middle) River Bushman Grass (*Stipagrostis namaquensis*); (right) Silky Bushman Grass (*Stipagrostis uniplumis*)



## View of Boscia waterhole

wavelengths. In addition, we measured Leaf Area Index (LAI), Above Ground Biomass (AGB), and height and circumference of vegetation, and took soil samples within 35 sample plots distributed across both areas. High-resolution multispectral satellite imagery (PlanetScope) was used for mapping and orientation purposes in the field.

Spectral profiles were taken for a total of 19 dominant species with the aim of creating a spectral library, which is currently unique for vegetation types in the semi-arid Greater Sossusvlei-Namib Landscape. Even though the level of browning was very high, we did manage to find greener grasses and shrubs on the dunes as well as along river beds and were able to test the methodology involved to process the data after returning back to Germany. The following illustration shows spectral profiles for three selected species.

Slight differences can be seen looking at the near infrared wavelengths from 780 to 1400 nm indicating chlorophyll content and associated plant vitality. The short-wave-infrared wavelengths range from 1400 to 2500 nm and give information on plant water content.

We were lucky to obtain new generations of hyperspectral EnMAP satellite imagery from the German space agency (DLR) covering both reserves. The imagery analyses a wide spectrum of reflectance values using hundreds of narrow spectral bands, which can ideally be used

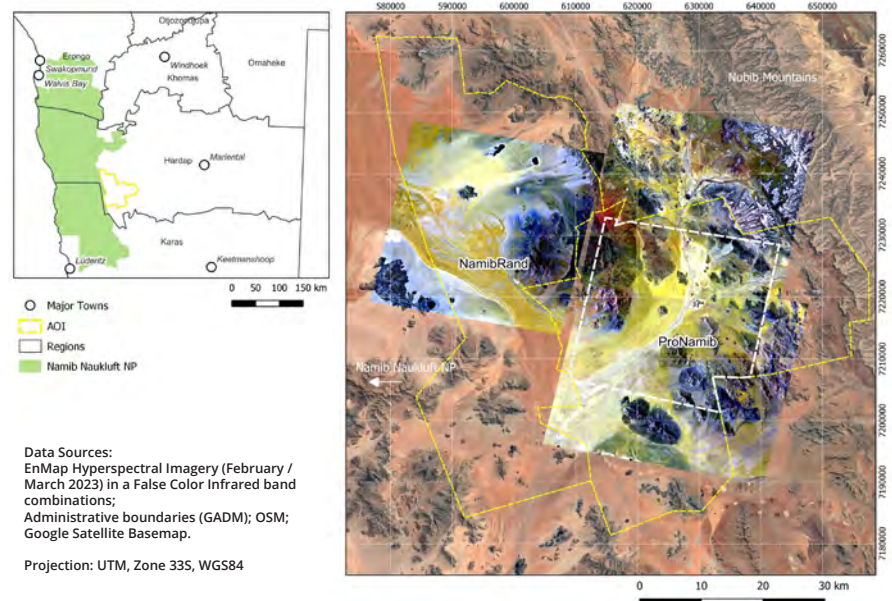
to map and monitor vegetation types and relevant proxies on vegetation conditions through the combined use of spectral field measurements, and resampled to match the band configurations of satellite imagery.

Back at our university in Göttingen, we've been experimenting with various and quite complex algorithms to process both field and satellite image data to produce the first vegetation abundance maps. As expected, the quality of the outputs is low and needs further field work under better natural conditions. Nevertheless, the methodology is in place, and we are looking forward to being back in the coming years, hoping for better rainy seasons and to find more representative and more significant homogeneous plots of healthy vegetation which we can

use as reference areas.

We are thankful to have experienced such beautiful landscapes, to have an opportunity to build capacity, and also to learn so much from the students accompanying us. The short trip has also triggered a series of postgraduate theses at our university looking at time-series analysis of vegetation coverage and relationships between vegetation health and environmental drivers such as varying precipitation and topographic conditions, which we will gladly share as they progress. We would like to say a big thank you for the great support from Jessica and Andre from NamibRand, Murray and Lee from ProNamib and the involved NUST students: Elisabeth, Albertina, Martin and Hange. We look forward to seeing you again.

## Location of study areas NamibRand and ProNamib



Coverage of hyperspectral EnMAP imagery, acquired simultaneously as fieldwork



Showing unity  
in the Sossosvlei  
area

# THE FOREVER RHINO RIDE EXPEDITION

Nikki Bolton

**'E**xtinguishment cannot be our legacy' drives the passion of One Land Love It (OLLI), a conservation and education non-profit company focused on rhino, and based in South Africa. One of OLLI's aims is to create awareness and ensure that rhino conservation fatigue does not feed complacency. At the heart of this organisation is the desire to lead by example, to motivate and inspire ordinary people to move from simply caring to 'doing' for our natural heritage, to use whatever we have in our hands to make a difference and to speak for those who cannot speak.

Namibia and South Africa are the primary custodians of the world's rhino population. Concern about the resurgence of rhino poaching in both countries and declining population statistics in South Africa gave rise to the 'Forever Rhino Ride'.

Endurance sport has been a successful tool for awareness raising, and the 'Forever Rhino Ride' was OLLI founder Wayne Bolton's third awareness campaign for rhinos and rangers. Through this expedition, Wayne and his family extended a call for ordinary people to act now on behalf of this ancient species to ensure that they remain forever a part of our world. Accordingly, he symbolically linked the oldest desert in the world, the Namib, with the Karoo. The 'Forever Rhino Ride' started in Swakopmund in Namibia on the 20 August 2022 and ended in Nelson Mandela Bay in South Africa on World Rhino Day, the 22 September 2022. The journey was a continuous 2510 km journey on mountain bike, averaging 100

km per day and linking both countries.

With the endorsement of Namibia's Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), Wayne was permitted to cycle through the Namib-Naukluft National Park representing the Namib Desert. Cycling the 60 km stretch to Sossusvlei with its extraordinary red dunes was a privilege and a bucket-list experience. He then continued to link the incredible private parks of NamibRand Nature Reserve and Gondwana Canyon Park.

The beauty of the vast, rugged landscape Wayne cycled through was staggering. NamibRand stood out as a highlight on this journey where one can only wax lyrical as the surroundings stir emotions deep in your soul. NamibRand is an artist's masterful canvas, depicting plains that stretch as far as the eye can see, with vibrant red dunes and stony outcrops. It is a place where wildlife is noticeably more prolific, and herds of zebra and gemsbok comfortably follow age-old paths illuminated by the setting sun that ignites the grassland where they graze, transforming the setting into a mesmerising scene of unimaginable beauty. NamibRand was a place of tranquility, rest-filled solitude, memory and a space in time that the team treasures.

In South Africa, a milestone in the journey was arriving at SANParks Karoo National Park and officially connecting the Karoo Desert with the Namib. Wayne then linked the private park, Samara Karoo, and finally SANParks Addo Elephant National

Park. He was privileged to cycle through parks accompanied by rangers and at times, cycling with them and Park Managers.

Weaving his way across two countries, from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean, provided much time on the road to

experience the raw beauty and diverse landscapes of these two incredible countries, along with the warm and generous hospitality of the people he and the team engaged with.

The initial 760 km of dirt road, with corrugations and soft sand

as well as high elevation and strong headwinds, made the journey particularly challenging. However, the extraordinary surroundings were a reward for the journey's difficulties. It was on the tough days that mental strength was imperative.

The now sun-bleached, pink, beaded rhino given to Wayne in 2015 by 'Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary', aptly named 'Five' (because when 'Five' is gone, we only have the 'Big Four') and attached to his handlebars, was a constant reminder of his cause. Arriving to an enthusiastic welcome and the unfurling of the South African Flag at the Donkin Reserve in Nelson Mandela Bay on World Rhino Day was a fitting tribute to the goals of this expedition. Together with conservation stakeholders, Wayne connected the 'Forever Rhino Pledge of Unity in Conservation'. The pledge, in two wooden parts, representing black and white rhinos, was carried by him from Swakopmund, where the black rhino half was handed to him by the Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) CEO, Andrew Malherbe. The SRT works closely with the MEFT on rhino conservation in Namibia. The Pledge highlights Namibia and South Africa's significant responsibility in assuring the survival of rhinos and the need for collaboration and united efforts by all. OLLI was particularly motivated to see the commitment of all participating parks to rhino conservation and the enthusiasm of the public in both countries.

At the finish, children representing local schools added their signatures to the 'Forever Rhino Children's Promise', allowing the youth to add their voices to this fight. They joined their commitment to those of



Pledge handover from Save the Rhino Trust in Swakopmund



Wayne standing at the northern entrance to NamibRand





Nikki Bolton

### Roads on NamibRand are long and dusty

children who signed the promise starting at Mount Etjo in Namibia, in the Karoo, and Nomathamsanqa (a conservation community bordering Addo Elephant National Park).

On completion of the 'Forever Rhino Ride', Wayne has cumulatively cycled 10,510 kms for rhinos and rangers over a series of three expeditions – connecting SANParks, private reserves and countries – all of whom are critical role players in the preservation of our rhino.

OLLI's goals are to demonstrate through example that ordinary people can make a difference for an iconic species before it's too late and to recognize and validate our rangers for their critical role in defending and conserving our natural heritage. Rhinos have been here forever, but unless we do something urgently, their future is uncertain.

What we do today can alter our forever... extinction cannot be our legacy!

Link to Forever Rhino Ride Clip:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR19H\\_7td-kS5rq0u9xX4oD9o\\_7GIJkVjhCoQVIKiKTvrssyXzdGo8jmOM&v=pOQdDaD9y68&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR19H_7td-kS5rq0u9xX4oD9o_7GIJkVjhCoQVIKiKTvrssyXzdGo8jmOM&v=pOQdDaD9y68&feature=youtu.be)

For more information:  
[www.oneland.co.za](http://www.oneland.co.za)  
[www.waynebolton.co.za](http://www.waynebolton.co.za)  
 Follow both on Facebook and Instagram



Nikki Bolton

### On the border with South Africa, at Gondwana Canyon Park



Nikki Bolton

### Wayne showing the Pledge joined together at the end of the journey

# WOLWEDANS WELCOMES THE MELODIC MARVEL: THE MARIMBA

Annely Ickua

## *The Voice of the Wood & Metal Resonates in Harmony with Wolwedans' Culture*

We are thrilled to announce the latest addition to Wolwedans' musical ensemble—the magnificent marimba. With its enchanting timbre and captivating resonance, this percussion instrument has found its home at Wolwedans, courtesy of the facilitators of the Hit The Beat workshop—an extraordinary celebration of culture and art that graces Wolwedans Village bi-annually.

Translating to “voice of the wood,” the marimba truly lives up to its name. This remarkable instrument belongs to the percussion family and boasts a unique construction. Consisting of wooden bars meticulously arranged, each bar is paired with a resonator pipes, which amplifies the distinctive harmonics of its sound. The marimba produces warm, deep, and pure tones when played with mallets—a harmonious departure from its cousin, the xylophone.

### **Hit The Beat: Fostering the Rhythm of Culture**

The marimba's journey to Wolwedans was a result of the tireless efforts of Senior

Trainers Toivo Paulus and Tapz Tapuwanashe during the Hit The Beat performance art workshop. This exceptional event has been gracing Wolwedans with its cultural vibrancy year after year, promoting the arts and immersing participants in the essence of their heritage. Making its return after the isolating years of COVID-19, Toivo and Tapz dedicated themselves to imparting the art of playing the marimba to eager trainees. Witnessing the culmination of their hard work, the trainees showcased their newfound skills at the morning circle.

Now, the marimbas have found their permanent home in Wolwedans, where they will play a significant role in enriching the choir's performances and entertaining our cherished guests.

### **The Melodic Duets: Marimba and Mbira**

The soul-stirring Mbira—a thumb piano originating from the Shona culture is accompanying the marimba in its musical journey. Thanks to the efforts of Tapz and Cecilijah during the artist residency, we were lucky to have some of these magnificent



The mbira makes its debut at Wolwedans

instruments at Wolwedans. The Mbira's gentle tones complement the marimba's richness, adding even more depth to our musical endeavors.

### **The Unveiling: A Sunrise Concert at The Village**

A sunrise concert was arranged to mark the marimba's official debut at Wolwedans, filling the Village with an enchanting melody. As the clock struck 8 am, the morning circle came alive with the harmonic sounds of the marimba. Even the horses from the stables gathered to listen to this early morning musical treat—an experience to cherish for everyone present.





The horses came from the stables to listen to the marimba sunrise concert

### Embracing the Arts and Culture at Wolwedans

At Wolwedans, we understand the profound impact of art and culture on our lives. Our journey is woven with the threads of heritage, creativity, and expression, and we are honoured to welcome the marimba as a new voice in this symphony of life. With the marimba's presence, Wolwedans is now more than ever a thriving hub of artistic endeavours, fostering the growth of culture and harmonious connections among our community members.

As we embark on a journey filled with musical wonders and cultural exploration, we hope you stay tuned for more performances, workshops, and

exciting events as we continue to embrace the arts, creativity and expression at Wolwedans. From workshops and performances to art residencies, we welcome artists from all over the world

to experience the magic of Wolwedans with us. Visit [www.wolwedans.com](http://www.wolwedans.com) for more information.

Wolwedans, Inspiring a New Way!



The facilitators of the Hit The Beat came out to entertain, teach and deliver our stunning new MARIMBA's. (l to r) Toivo Paulus (Hit the Beat Facilitator), Stephan Brückner (MD), Cecilijah Nghidengwa (Happiness Coordinator), Tapz Tapuwanashe (Senior Hit the Beat Facilitator)



Wolwedans team members learning and listening at the morning circle

# SNAKE TRAINING AT NAMIBRAND

Angela Curtis

Stretch Combrink and Angela Curtis from The Living Desert Snake Park in Swakopmund presented a course at Keerweder on the 28 June 2023 for staff members of the Reserve and concessionaires. The course focused on snake awareness, first aid for snake bites and snake handling. It turned out to be a freezing cold day with rain predicted. It was so cold that the snakes had to be kept warm in

the car during the theory and then wrapped in blankets in a room with a gas heater at night.

The course opened with an introduction to Namibian snakes and their behaviour and biology. This helped to demystify snakes and counter the many unfounded myths about snakes which many people believe. The course then covered the identification of snakes, the different types of venom and

their symptoms, and how to determine whether a snake is dangerous or not.

During the theory portion of the course, the participants were introduced to various live snakes and encouraged to gently touch the non-venomous ones to become more comfortable with how a snake feels and moves when handled. The course also covered what first aid actions can be taken for a snake bite, especially in the remote areas where we all work.

After the theory, practical training was provided on snake handling. Stretch demonstrated how the hook stick and snake tongs are used correctly. The techniques to hook and tail a snake and how to encourage it to enter a capture pipe were taught. The capture pipe provides a safe, dark space for a snake, which they usually enter easily. In fact, snakes can often be guided into the capture pipe with something as simple as a broom when the correct equipment is not available.

The course participants then had the opportunity to work with a zebra spitting cobra (*Naja nigricincta*) and a boomslang (*Dispholidus typus*). Stretch stood next to each participant and guided every move. Most



Stretch explains the capture equipment to everyone





Stretch explaining how to handle the zebra spitting cobra



Andre putting the boomslang into the capture pipe

participants did very well. We hope that most unfounded fears around snakes have been dispelled and that in the future snakes will be safely removed and relocated when found in unwanted places by the confident new snake catchers.

The participants on the course were: Andre Steyn, Elton Vries, Martin Verwey, Ruben Bonifacio from NamibRand, Cornelius Bekeur from the Family Hideout, Fillemon Haimbodi from Tok Tokkies Trails, Steve Hindjou from NaDEET, Boetie

Mbunga and Kaino Angela from Wolwedans, and Bradley Hendricks, Alec Tsaobeb and Dawid Kooper from Kwessie Dunes Lodge.

Congratulations to all of them.

***For more information about snakes or the course, please get in touch with Stretch or Angela:  
The Living Desert Snake Park and The Environmental Trading Enterprise  
Stretch Combrink (+ 264 81 662 0777) and Angela Curtis (+264 81 275 7786)***



Fillemon holding Anchieta's dwarf python (*Python anchietae*)



Boetie and Kaino with their course certificates



Kaino holding Anchieta's python

## Feedback from participants

Fillemon: "We have learnt the different types of snakes, which ones are dangerous, and how to handle these snakes. Also, how to calm someone who got bitten by a snake."

Steve: "The snake course was very enjoyable; it was a very short course for the practical part because we have been trained with four different snakes. I was also excited because it was my first time touching a snake with my own hands. I have enjoyed the snake day course."

Andre: "It was nice to learn about snakes. I was happy to see that all the concessionaires took part and learned not to kill snakes, but safely handle and relocate and them"

Martin: "I enjoyed it very much and it was informative. For me, it was the first time to actually

touch a snake, so it was great to get the experience and knowledge during the day."

Kaino and Boetie: "We had the incredible opportunity to attend a snake familiarization and handling course that completely transformed our perspective on these fascinating creatures. The course was a comprehensive journey through the diverse snake species found in Namibia, delving into their survival mechanisms, locomotion techniques and track patterns. Learning to differentiate between male and female snakes was enlightening, but what truly stood out was understanding the significance of identifying snakes by their species and the distinct types of venom they produce – an essential skill for proper treatment.

The course's expert facilitator, driven by an evident passion

for snakes, guided us through a remarkable process of dispelling myths and misconceptions, replacing fear with knowledge. The highlight was undoubtedly the hands-on experience with these creatures. With the guidance of our instructor, we overcame our trepidations and even handled the venomous spitting zebra snake. Safety protocols were meticulously emphasized, including methods for transporting snakes to safety.

This course not only eradicated unwarranted fears but also equipped us with the confidence and skills to aid snakes in need and provide assistance in case of snake-related injuries. Kudos to the facilitators for their expertise, patience, and the transformative impact they've had on our perception of snakes. We now view these creatures with newfound respect and a desire to contribute positively to their conservation."



Group photo of all participants



# TRIBUTE TO JÜRGEN KLEIN

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Nils Odendaal

It is with great sadness that we share news of the passing of Jürgen Klein, NamibRand landowner and board member, on 8 October 2023 in Cape Town.

Our founder and former CEO, Albi Brückner, first met Jürgen through business dealings. Jürgen and Albi and the rest of the family soon became good personal friends. Albi used to list his fishing trips with Jürgen as one of his annual highlights. It was during one of these fishing trips that Jürgen asked Albi to tell him what he was doing “there in the

Namib.” Albi shared his passion for nature, wildlife conservation and for NamibRand with Jürgen. Jürgen was a like-minded nature lover and told Albi he would be interested in joining and supporting such a worthy cause. Not long after, land adjoining the NamibRand Nature Reserve came up for sale. Albi was able to facilitate the sale of the farms Toskaan and Draaihoek to Jürgen in 1997, who then joined his farms to the Reserve.

Since becoming a part of the Reserve, Jürgen was a staunch supporter and advocate for NamibRand. He helped NamibRand to become a fully functioning and internationally renowned nature reserve. He was one of the founding members of the NamibRand Nature Reserve Association and the first landowner to actually sign the constitution. As a director of the NamibRand Board, Jürgen only missed two out of the 53 meetings since he joined. He was a hands-on individual, who not only assisted and gave input and advice where he could, but also helped the Reserve financially by making funds available in the early days, when the young Association was still trying to get on its feet. His profound commitment to NamibRand was recently re-enforced when he willingly stepped up to provide private personal funds to the Reserve, so that we could make it through the devastating financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a board member, Jürgen often challenged others with healthy discussion around NamibRand matters, while always keeping the Reserve's needs uppermost in his mind. Jürgen was a humble and kind person who cared deeply about nature and the NamibRand Nature Reserve.

The directors and members of the NamibRand Nature Reserve Association will miss Jürgen very much and extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Dorothe, his sons Hagen, Jan and Detlef, and their families.

Rest in peace, Jürgen.



Klein Family

# VULTURE SIGHTINGS ON NAMIBRAND

Jessica Steyn

On the 18 June, a group of vultures were sighted on an oryx carcass on Dina. One of the vultures had a tag, and it was possible to obtain information from the number.

The vulture was ringed and tagged in October 2014 in the Namib-Naukluft Park and was re-sighted on camera traps in Namib-Naukluft National Park areas only. This sighting on the reserve was the first in-person sighting.

We are always happy to see vultures on NamibRand and valuable information can be gained from reporting of sightings of tagged and ringed vultures.

Please be sure to share your vulture sightings with us and any of the following conservationists:

**Peter Bridgeford:**  
pmbridge@iway.na

**Mark Boorman:**  
felix@afol.com.na

**Holger Kolberg:**  
holgerk@mweb.com.na

**Liz Komen:**  
lizkomen@fastmail.fm

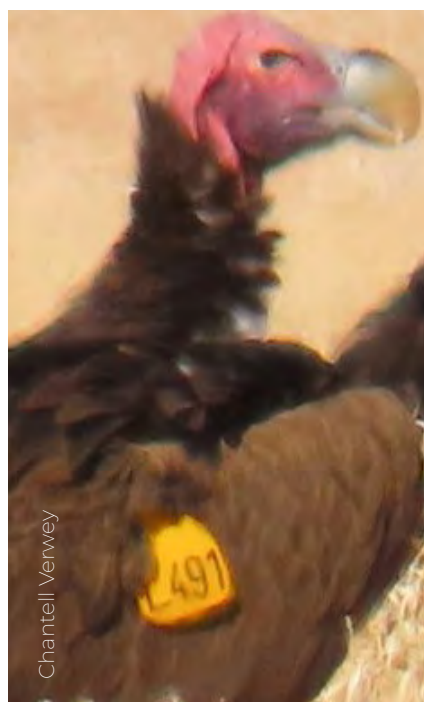
**Dirk Heinrich:**  
dheinrich@az.com.na

Also, please upload the sighting information and pictures (if you have any) onto the [www.vulturesresightings.crowdmap.com](http://www.vulturesresightings.crowdmap.com) website.

## Sighting data and map for vulture L491

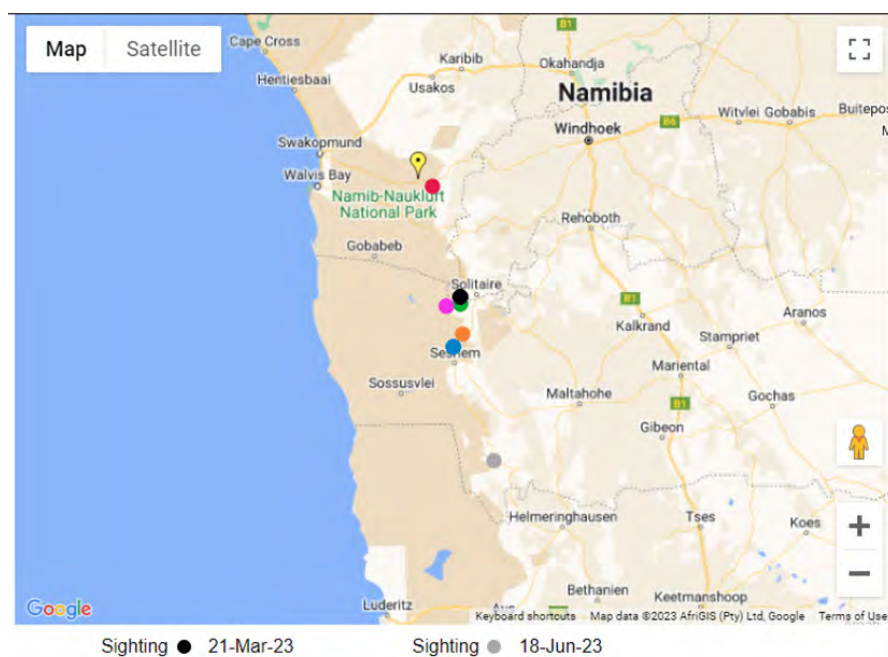
Tag	Ring	Date	Species	Locality	Co-ordinates	
L491	G32339	18-Oct-14	Lappet-faced Vulture	Bloedkoppie	-22.88755	15.44778
L491	G32339	13-Oct-16	Lappet-faced Vulture	Gemsbokwater	-22.95682	15.57612
L491	G32339	28-Apr-18	Lappet-faced Vulture	Tsamsvlei	-24.34311	15.77441
L491	G32339	31-Jul-18	Lappet-faced Vulture	Tsamsvlei	-24.34311	15.77441
L491	G32339	26-Oct-20	Lappet-faced Vulture	Hoffnung	-23.99488	15.71020
L491	G32339	06-Mar-21	Lappet-faced Vulture	Namibwater	-24.23393	15.86230
L491	G32339	22-Mar-21	Lappet-faced Vulture	Farm Tsondab Valley, Lorentzposten	-23.91170	15.84495
L491	G32339	14-Apr-21	Lappet-faced Vulture	Tsamsvlei	-24.34311	15.77441
L491	G32339	09-Dec-21	Lappet-faced Vulture	Farm Vito, Vito waterhole, Namib Naukluft Lodge	-23.97199	15.84274
L491	G32339	30-Dec-21	Lappet-faced Vulture	Farm Vito, Vito waterhole, Namib Naukluft Lodge	-23.97199	15.84274
L491	G32339	03-Jan-22	Lappet-faced Vulture	Farm Vito, Vito waterhole, Namib Naukluft Lodge	-23.97199	15.84274
L491	G32339	11-Apr-22	Lappet-faced Vulture	Farm Tsondab Valley, Lorentzposten	-23.91170	15.84495
L491	G32339	22-Apr-22	Lappet-faced Vulture	Hoffnung	-23.99488	15.71020
L491	G32339	04-Jun-22	Lappet-faced Vulture	Farm Tsondab Valley, Lorentzposten	-23.91170	15.84495
L491	G32339	21-Jan-23	Lappet-faced Vulture	Farm Tsondab Valley, Lorentzposten	-23.91170	15.84495
L491	G32339	21-Mar-23	Lappet-faced Vulture	Farm Tsondab Valley, Lorentzposten	-23.91170	15.84495
L491	G32339	18-Jun-23	Lappet-faced Vulture	Farm Dina, NamibRand Nature Reserve	-25.32490	16.15980





Chantell Verwey

Vulture with tag



### L491

- Tagged 18-Oct-14
- Sighting 13-Oct-16
- Sighting 28-Apr-18
- Sighting 31-Jul-18
- Sighting 26-Oct-20
- Sighting 06-Mar-21
- Sighting 22-Mar-21
- Sighting 14-Apr-21
- Sighting 09-Dec-21
- Sighting 30-Dec-21
- Sighting 03-Jan-22
- Sighting 11-Apr-22
- Sighting 22-Apr-22
- Sighting 04-Jun-22
- Sighting 21-Jan-23

Elapsed time since tagging	km from last record
Tagged	
1 Years, 11 Months, 25 Days	15
3 Years, 6 Months, 10 Days	155
3 Years, 9 Months, 13 Days	0
6 Years, 0 Months, 8 Days	39
6 Years, 4 Months, 16 Days	31
6 Years, 5 Months, 4 Days	36
6 Years, 5 Months, 27 Days	49
7 Years, 1 Months, 21 Days	42
7 Years, 2 Months, 12 Days	0
7 Years, 2 Months, 16 Days	0
7 Years, 5 Months, 24 Days	7
7 Years, 6 Months, 4 Days	17
7 Years, 7 Months, 17 Days	17
8 Years, 3 Months, 3 Days	0
8 Years, 5 Months, 3 Days	0
8 Years, 8 Months, 0 Days	160



Chantell Verwey

Vultures sighted on a carcass on Dina

# NEWS @NADEET

**N**aDEET Centre continues to host many visiting groups. With participants ranging from 10-year-old school children to youth, university students and teachers, NaDEET Centre is reaching Namibians far and wide to provide practical sustainable living skills.

Take a look at some of our recent activities:



Waldorf School Windhoek schoolchildren had fun exploring the sand dunes.



A youth group representing various conservancies in Zambezi Region enjoyed learning about NamibRand's approach to conservation.



Students from the University of Namibia - Ogongo Campus applied their skills in environmental auditing.



Junior primary school teachers took part in a teacher's programme funded by our partner, EduVentures. Here they are preparing lunch with fresh lettuce from our garden.



Secondary school students from Okombahe enjoying solar cooking, including the baking of fresh bread rolls.





Learners from Dagbreek School in Windhoek exploring energy efficiency in our solar park.



An environmental club from Walvis Bay making recycled fireballs for use in fuel efficient stoves.



A primary school learner sharing her "Super Adapted Desert Creature" with her class.



Morukutu Primary School learners from the Omaheke Region experiencing dune boarding for the first time.



Amazing Kids schoolchildren testing their knowledge at the end of the week with the Enviro Quiz.



University students from the Centre for Global Education and Experience together with their programme leader, Albertina Shitoka, celebrating NaDEET's 20th anniversary!

# LAUNCH OF THE NADEET INFORMATION CENTRE

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Bodo and Corinna Reinke received gifts as a thank-you for their sponsorship and support

Viktoría Keding

On 29 September 2023 the culmination of many years of effort were celebrated with the official opening of the NaDEET Information Centre.

NaDEET lies in the middle of the Reserve on the eastern boundary and shares the Die Duine Homestead with the NamibRand Family HideOut and Tok Tokkie Trails. The modest Die Duine Homestead was under pressure for many years as all three of these operations grew and visitor numbers increased. Small additions were made here and there without a longer-term plan, and over time the homestead lost its flair. To address the growing capacity needs as well as to modernise, an overall plan was designed to redevelop the homestead in 2018. Slowly over the past five years as funding became available, the Die Duine Homestead transformed itself into a refreshing, appealing and modern operational base for all.

NaDEET had several key motivations in the updated design. Firstly, we wanted to ensure that our NaDEET Centre philosophy – “we practice what we teach” – is truly implemented at our base operations. The focus of this was to establish a food garden and a well-functioning compost to recycle our food waste from the Centre. Secondly, we wanted to ensure that we had sufficient capacity

to keep up with the high number of participating groups in terms of our office and staff accommodation facilities. And lastly, we wanted to improve the visitor experience when arriving at Die Duine, especially as NaDEET is the educational core of the NamibRand International Dark Sky Reserve. This gave birth to the idea of developing an informational centre.



Andreas and Viktoria, with the project sponsors



The NaDEET Information Centre provides visitors with information about NamibRand Nature Reserve including its history and importance to conservation in the Namib, including the night sky. It also has several information boards about the geology, biodiversity and climate of the Namib Desert. The remainder of the Information Centre is focussed around NaDEET's new food garden, including information about low-cost gardening in the desert, composting and our precious water resources. All visitors to the Reserve are welcome to visit the Information Centre. NaDEET staff are available to give a tour, however visitors can also explore the attractively displayed information on their own. A small curio shop offers books, t-shirts and hats as well as fresh garden produce and solar baked bread on order.

The official opening was well-attended by our sponsors, all NamibRand stakeholders, including tourism establishments, and several of our neighbours. We are very grateful to our sponsors for funding this ambitious project especially to Ideal Spaten, the Reinke Family and our support organisation in Germany, Freundschaft mit NaDEET.



Viktoria welcomes everyone to the official opening



Freshly baked solar bread and snacks awaited guests



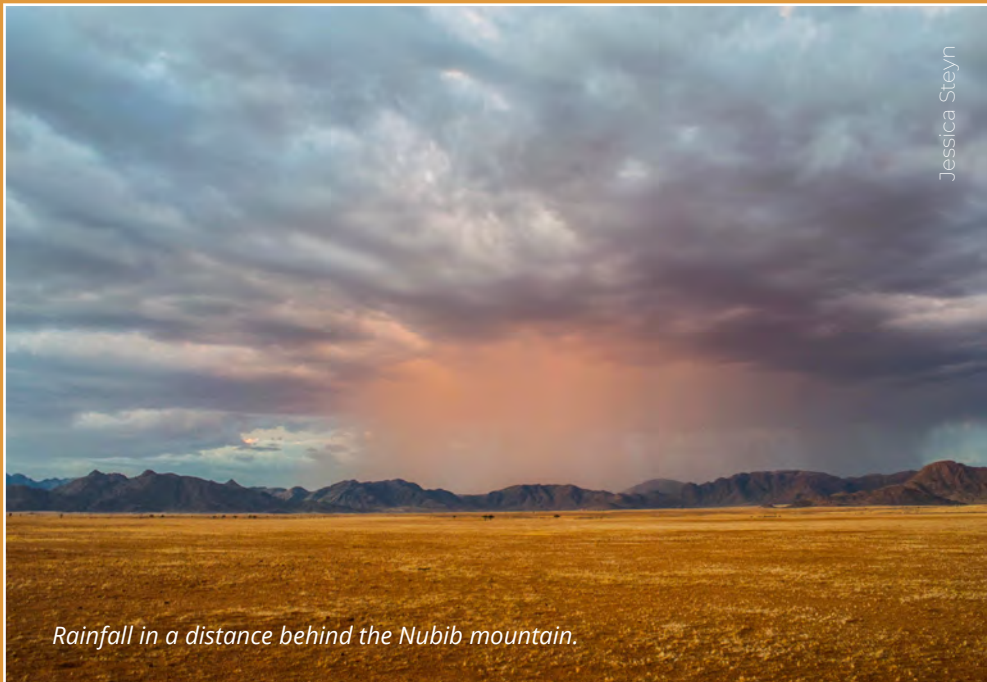
New boards provide the information to guests



Official opening of the boards and the Information Centre



Jonas explains the vegetable garden to guests



*The editors would like to thank all the contributors to this edition of the Barking Gecko. Many thanks to Vicky Human for her support and layout skills.*

*This newsletter is for our readers, friends and colleagues of NamibRand. We welcome any ideas, input and feedback you may have.*

*KINDLY NOTE:  
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If you wish to subscribe to the Barking Gecko, please contact the editor at the above address. Note that previous issues of this newsletter are available on the NamibRand website.