



**Namibia
Scientific
Society**

**Namibia
Wissenschaftliche
Gesellschaft**

NEWSLETTER/ MITTEILUNGEN

62: 7-12
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Juli-Dezember 2021

Dear members,

The year is coming to an end, and it is time for our second *Newsletter 2021*. Here are some of the highlights.

First of all, we would like to introduce our new team member Frieda Mukufa. She has been actively supporting our publishing department since September 2021.

Coming to the contents of the *Newsletter*, a large part is taken up by the Annual General Meeting. This may be a good read for those who could not attend.

As the Corona related social distance requirements still present a challenge, the Namibia Scientific Society launched the *Backyard Talks* for hosting more participants. Special technical equipment was bought and also received by means of donations. The new sound system and beamer are powerful, so that events can now take place outside in the backyard of our premises. This enables us to host more guests, whilst we still stream events via Zoom.

The Astro workgroup also has new equipment and enjoyed testing their special telescope control at one of our popular stargazing evenings.

Kuiseb Publishers has been able to host three book launches in recent months: firstly, the tri-lingual book about the artist John Muafangejo *Visions of Love and Sorrow* by Orde Levinson was presented to the public in September.

Secondly, at the end of October, the German translation of the annotated version of *The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia* was launched with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation to promote the understanding of democracy in this country. As such, the Constitution is available for free in several languages on our website! Just visit www.namscience.com!

Thirdly, Hans Hilpisch provided another successful book launch at the beginning of November with his book *Die Woermann-Linie als Lebensader Deutsch-Südwestafrikas*. This enthusiastic author was also invited to the Estorff family gathering after the publication of his last book about Ludwig von Estorff. He reports on this experience on page 43.

The librarians have a lot to report. With financial support from a foreign donor, the cellars below the library are being cleared to provide more and much needed space. The library team is pleased to report that all books in the Irlich collection are now classified, catalogued and shelved!

When you are looking for a specific publication, you should go to our website, where you will find the entire catalogue of our library.

Enjoy reading!

Compliments and special regards from the Board
and Team of the Namibia Scientific Society!

NEWSLETTER
NAMIBIA SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY
MITTEILUNGEN
NAMIBIA WISSENSCHAFTLICHE GESELLSCHAFT

CHAIRMAN/Vorsitzender	Theo Schoeman
VICE CHAIRMAN/Vizevorsitzender	Prof. Michael Backes
TREASURER/Schatzmeister	Abrie Collard (co-opted)
BOARD MEMBERS Vorstandsmitglieder	Michael Hasheela Kai Kleingünther (co-opted) Bertchen Kohrs Helke Mocke Alfred Schleicher Heike Uhrich Erika von Wietersheim Frank Wittneben
SENATORS/Senatoren	Helmut Bistri Dr Kuno Budack Dr Maria Fisch
HONORARY MEMBERS Ehrenmitglieder	Dr Josef Brandmayr, Sonja Enke, Dieter Ludwig, Gabriele Moldzio, Wolfgang Reith, Dr Sigrid Schmidt, Ilme Schneider, Dieter Springer, Helmut zur Strassen
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS Korrespondierende Mitglieder	Dr Imre Demhardt
EDITOR	Heike Uhrich
EDITING	Frieda Mukufa, Helen Vale
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The opinions expressed in the articles do not necessarily represent the view of the Namibia Scientific Society.

Die in den Beiträgen veröffentlichten Ansichten oder Meinungen geben nicht unbedingt die der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft wieder.

Frieda Mukufa

As the Kuisseb Publishers, the publishing department of the Namibia Scientific Society, has continued to grow over time and could no longer keep up with the manuscripts and projects submitted, the Board decided to hire a publishing assistant. Numerous applications were reviewed and several candidates were interviewed via Zoom. Three candidates were then invited to the Namibia Scientific Society for a personal interview. In the end, Frieda convinced us of her suitability and she now introduces herself:

My name is Frieda Ndeutala Kaunapawa Mukufa. I was born in Onamwoolo, Ohangwena region. I hold a Masters degree in English and Applied Linguistics from the Namibia University of Science and Technology. I am currently the part-time editor for various organisations such as Blog4SDGs, Jeffrou's Language Consultancy as well as Unwrap online, which is an entertainment blog, although employed as the Assistant Publisher at Kuisseb Publishers.



As a feminist and an activist on women empowerment issues as well as social issues, I have been vocal on women-related issues ranging from petitions for abortion, justice for women who have been sexually harassed as well as being part of movements such as the Slut Shame Walk and the Pride March. I am a weekly writer for the New Era, where I have a column that is dedicated to female-related topics. I have never been affiliated to any political party or employer but rather mine are the views of a wary, humorous Namibian who is interested in the progress of women and wants them to be liberated in every way.

In my free time, I am a poet who has created her own identity as a performer at Open Mic Namibia, which is a platform given to poets to showcase their talent and air opinions on social issues. Currently, I run a poetry space called *Frankly Speaking* with my friend, Franklin Newman Shitaleni. This is a space where poets are able to communicate through dialogue with the audience, should they wish. The aim is to create a safe space for the performer.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 96th Business Year 2020/21

on Wednesday, 23rd September 2021 at 19h00
at Namibia Scientific Society, Robert Mugabe 110, Windhoek

- Present: 55 members attended, register is available for inspection in the NSS-office. 7 members attended online via Zoom. The meeting was streamed live throughout to the satisfaction of those attending
- Apologies: 40 members and invited guests sent their apologies. List of apologies is available in the NSS office.
- Minutes: Waltraut Fritzsche

1. Welcome

Chairman, Mr Theo Schoeman, gave a warm welcome to all members, especially Senator Bistri, and Honorary Members Helmut and Alrun zur Strassen and Wolfgang Reith (Zoom).

Covid regulations were applied; attendants were urged to wear a mask at all times and keep a safe distance.

Mr Theo Schoeman stated that it is the main aim of an AGM to inform the members about the activities of the previous year, give approval for actions of the Board as well as elect board members.

Notice of the AGM was sent to the members as stipulated in the Constitution, and it was announced in the Allgemeine Zeitung and the Namibian more than 21 (twenty-one) days before hand. As more than the 15 members required for a quorum were present, the meeting went ahead. 44 paid-up members were entitled to vote.

2. Additions to the Agenda under Miscellaneous

Handover of corporate membership certificates > 12.1,
Honorary membership > 12.2

3. Discussion and Approval of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30th September 2020: Minutes were sent with the Newsletter; approved without changes, as proposed by Mr Klaus Roerkohl, seconded by Ms Ellen Gudde.

4. Annual Report of the Chairman

The Annual Report was presented. The comprehensive report will be published with the Minutes in the *NWG-Mitteilungen/Newsletter 2021-02*. Members present applauded Chairman Theo Schoeman and unanimously agreed that the Annual Report of the Chairman is accepted as is. Proposed by Dr Rob West, seconded by Mr Hanjo Böhme.

5. Annual Reports by the Study Groups

Prof. Backes presented the Annual Report of the **Astronomy Work Group**. The report will be published with the Minutes in the *NWG-Mitteilungen/Newsletter 2021-2*.

Gudrun Middendorff presented the Annual Report of the **Namibia Ornithology Group (Bird Club)**. The report will be published with the Minutes in the *NWG-Mitteilungen/Newsletter 2021-02*.

Mr Alfred Schleicher presented the Annual Report of the **Herpetology Work Group**. The report will be published with the Minutes in the *NWG-Mitteilungen/Newsletter 2020-02*.

Mrs Ester Gustavo, as the President of the NHA, presented the Annual Report of the **Namibia Hydrogeological Work Group (NHA)**. The Annual Report of the NHA will be published with the Minutes in the *NWG-Mitteilungen/Newsletter 2021-02*.

Members present approved the reports of the various study groups, as proposed by Heidrun von Koenen and seconded by Ellen Gudde.

6. Annual Reports by the Regional Groups

Mrs Ilme Schneider read the 2020 Annual Report of the **Tsumeb Museum**, drafted by Chairman Mr Jens Frautschy. The report will be published with the Minutes in the *NWG-Mitteilungen/Newsletter 2021-02*.



Hanjo Böhme (Photo: Isdor Kamati)

Mr Gunter von Schumann read the 2020 Annual Report of the **Grootfontein Museum**, drafted by Chairman Günther Friederich. The report will be published with the Minutes in the *NWG-Mitteilungen/Newsletter 2021-02*.

Mrs Erika von Wietersheim read her translation of the Annual Report of the **Lüderitz Museum**, drafted by Mrs Gisela Schmidt-Scheele. The German report, together with Mrs

von Wietersheim's English translation, will be published with the Minutes in the *NWG-Mitteilungen/Newsletter 2021-02*.

Attending members approved the reports of the various regional groups, as proposed by Heike Urich, seconded by Ellen Gudde.

7. Presentation, Discussion and Approval of the Financial Report

Treasurer Julia von Wietersheim presented the Annual Financial Report for the financial year April 2020–March 2021 with a PowerPoint Presentation. The Financial Statements were reviewed by Beancounter Financial Services CC, represented by Christo Loubser. Copies of the Annual Financial Statements are available for members attending the AGM; they can also be inspected upon request in the offices of the Society.

The Statement of the Financial Position shows that the Main Financial Assets are slightly more than at the end of the previous year.

- Premises – constant
- Office Equipment, Library, Furniture and Fittings – depreciated N\$500,000
- Financial assets and reserves – increased by about N\$1.1 mil
- Kuiseb Press inventory – stable

The main points of the Comprehensive Income Statement are positive. Note the following:

- N\$280,000 in operational savings achieved, especially prominent in advertising, payroll-related expenses and repairs and maintenance costs
- Namibiana depreciation expense continues for the period 2019–2023, accounting for a theoretical expense of N\$ 500,000
- Less sales in books and tours, but excellent returns on investments (N\$1.4 mil) and another very generous annual donation
- This results in a net surplus of N\$ 760,000 this year and a net increase of N\$1.3 mil from the prior year.

The Cash Flow Statement shows that

- the cash flow position is strong, relies heavily on donations and is not (yet) self-sufficient
- membership fees and book sales (especially in the past year) covered about 10% of operational costs.
- Confidence for the coming years!

Mrs Julia von Wietersheim thanked bookkeeper Ruth Moldzio, Christo Loubser and his team, and members for their trust. Members applauded Julia von Wietersheim and unanimously agreed that the Annual Financial Report is accepted as is, proposed by Alrun zur Strassen and seconded by Heidrun von Koenen.

Chairman Mr Theo Schoeman thanked Treasurer Julia von Wietersheim as well as Tony Edmunds and Katja Greef from Pointbreak and Hanjo Schlabitze from Wealth Management Solutions for attending to the accounts and investments of the Society.

8. Appointment of a Bookkeeper

Hanjo Böhme suggested that the Society's financial matters remain with Bean-counter Financial Services CC; Ms Ruth Moldzio seconds; Bean-counter is appointed as the accountant of the Namibia Scientific Society.

9. Confirmation of the Membership Fees

Chairman Theo Schoeman proposed that the membership fee remains unchanged at N\$ 300 for Namibian members with 50% rebate for pensioners and students. Fee for foreign members should be reduced from € 50 to € 20, as the cost for the postage of the printed *Journal und Newsletter/Mitteilungen* fell away, because these are now sent digitally. The members present unanimously agreed.

10. Approval of Actions of the Board

Hanjo Böhme said that the members owe the Board a tremendous gratitude for a job well done. He applauded the dedicated staff and management and complimented Chairman Theo Schoeman for his supreme leadership and the Board for their input. Mr Dieter Ludwig proposed relief of duties, seconded by Eberhard Hofmann. Members applauded.

11. Election of Board Members

Hanjo Böhme was appointed to oversee the election of board members. Attending members agreed that he is authorised to recruit three members to count votes. He chose Honorary Member Mr Dieter Ludwig, Ms Sonja Bartlewski and Mrs Marika Reiff. In line with the Constitution, the two-year terms of duty of Prof. Michael Backes, Mr Alfred Schleicher, Mr Frank Wittneben and Mrs Julia von Wietersheim have come to an end. Prof. Michael Backes, Mr Alfred Schleicher, Mr Frank Wittneben are available for re-election. Mrs Julia von Wietersheim is no longer available. The position of Dr Martin Schneider became vacant. Mrs Ilme Schneider resigned after many years of wholehearted input. As discussed before the Annual General Meeting, co-opted member Gabriele Moldzio is no longer available for co-option, but she stays as a member of the Publishing Committee. Six positions need to be filled. Seven nominations have been received: Prof. Michael Backes, Mr Michael Hasheela, Mrs Helke Mocke, Mr Alfred Schleicher, Dr Martin Schneider, Mrs Heike Urich and Mr Frank Wittneben. All nominations reached the office in time and comply with stipulated requirements. The nominees introduced themselves,



Board of the Namibia Scientific Society: Heike Uhrich, Theo Schoeman, Bertchen Kohrs, Alfred Schleicher, Erika von Wietersheim, Frank Wittneben, Michael Hasheela, Prof. Michael Backes and Helke Mocke (Photo: Isdor Kamati)

as requested by Mr Hanjo Böhme. Voting took place and members approved the outcome. Now the board members are Prof. Michael Backes, Mr Michael Hasheela, Mrs Bertchen Kohrs, Mrs Helke Mocke, Mr Alfred Schleicher, Mr Theo Schoeman, Mrs Heike Uhrich, Mr Frank Wittneben and Mrs Erika von Wietersheim. The Board members will be assigned positions – chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer – in due time. Until then, Mr Theo Schoeman serves as acting Chairman.

12. Miscellaneous

12.1 New corporate members received their membership certificates:

- Paratus (sent apologies)
- Mindsinaction – Andreas Leonard
- Ondili Lodges – Carsten von Lüttwitz (sent apologies)
- Sense of Africa – Guido Rösclau (sent apologies)

12.2 Honorary Membership

Acting Chairman, Theo Schoeman, stated that according to the Constitution, *“The Committee shall have the right at each AGM to propose Honorary Members to be elected, who shall have to be approved by the voting members*



Mindsinaction Team and Theo Schoeman (Photo: Isdor Kamati)

present at such Meeting by simple majority. The Honorary Members shall have all powers and duties attaching to membership, but shall be exempt from payment of membership fees.” The Board proposed that Honorary membership is granted to Mr Wolfgang Reith, Mrs Ilme Schneider and Mrs Gaby Moldzio. Members applauded and unanimously accepted the proposal.

Mr Wolfgang Reith has served as an honorary corresponding representative of Namibia Scientific Society for exactly thirty years. In this capacity, he was the main spokesperson for our Society in Germany. As technical development has progressed, he terminated his service in July as the last of his twelve honorary positions.

Mr Reith addressed the audience via Zoom from Germany offering his appreciation thanking the Society for many years of great cooperation and best wishes for the future. His CV and more details will be published in the Newsletter together with the Minutes.

Mrs Ilme Schneider has served on the Board and Publishing Committee for at least ten years! She has attended meetings, been involved with decisions (sometimes not so easy) and discussions (sometimes a bit hot) and spent hours and hours of proof reading and editing. The Board, Management and Team will miss her dearly!



Ilme Schneider and Theo Schoeman
(Photo: Isdor Kamati)



Wolfgang Reith via Zoom
(Photo: Isdor Kamati)

Mrs Gaby Moldzio has also served on the Board for many years, lately as a co-opted member. She fortunately stays on as a member of the Publishing Committee!

Mr Theo Schoeman thanked members and guests for their attendance and input, everyone who assisted, the team and all the supporters and invites for a happy get-together.

The Annual General Meeting officially closed at 21h00.

Annual Report of the Namibia Scientific Society 2020/21

presented by Chairman: Theo Schoeman

The Chairman welcomes corporate and normal members, life members and senators, members of the press, as well as friends.

Intro

We had both a good and sad year. We lost many members due to Covid, who are too many to mention. We also lost two authors, namely Dr Dr Jürgen Krause of *Children in Exile* and Mr Samson Ndeikwila of *Agony of Truth*.

Can we please have a few seconds of respectful silence.

Our total Membership now stands at 861, locally 760, foreign 80 and 21 corporate members.

Covid restrictions made it difficult for us as we had to close the library and office a few times. We also had to cancel and restrict evening presentations.

Many of our staff had to work from home, but we continued functioning. Despite the restrictions, we organised several tours.

Several Society functions could be overcome with Teams or Zoom etc., but it's not quite the same. However, we need to get used to it. It's part of the new world order!

Library

Our library is well staffed with six qualified librarians, three older and three youngsters. Johannes Willibard is doing well with his library studies and helps us part time.

The digital database is continuously expanding with more information constantly being added.

The comprehensive Irlich collection has been indexed.

Gunter von Schumann has kindly given us access to his maritime collection of 1330 books, which Heike Urich processed. It is available via our library website.

Currently, the Truebody collection is still being processed.

The Greenstone programme is expanding as more photos, slides and maps are added.

Thank you, Andrew Fordred, Rigo Reddig and Renate Morgenstern for getting the library and Kuiseb books online again.

Many people donated books and money to the library. Thank you!

Dr Fisch's book on the Hambukushu is progressing; as well as Dr Vedder's enhanced reprint.

Gunter von Schumann is working hard to finish his book on Shipwrecks along the Namibian Coast.

The recently renovated cellar is now fully utilised.

Our magazines moved to the building at Love Street entrance.

We desperately need more space, so we are looking at digging out the northern cellar. Geva Construction with Anja and Fred Krenz did the feasibility. Cost is N\$±500,000. We have found sponsorship for this exercise at 33,000 Euros.

In the long run, we will have to expand our library and hall space creatively.

The librarians had some time during the quiet times to digitise old CDs, DVDs, tapes, and films. With some of our old equipment, Berndt Schneider and Armin Jagdhuber managed to refresh all these to comply with today's digital standards. Otherwise, they would have been lost!

Publishing

Miriam Hutterer has reapplied for her work permit. A special thank you to Miriam and the publishing committee. These volunteers are: Ingrid Kubisch, Marika Reiff, Sylvia Schlettwein, Heike Urich, Helen Vale and then Gunter von Schumann. Gaby Moldzio, Ilme Schneider, and Erika von Wietersheim are also members of the Board.

They spend hours and days evaluating and reading manuscripts, to see whether and how we can publish.

A special thank you to Rob West for proofreading the Newsletter, the *Journal*, and contents on the website!

Some of the books published include:

- *Good Morning Namibia* by our very own Erika von Wietersheim
- *Journey into the Unknown* – Dr Kalumbi Shangula
- *Reptiles of Namibia* – English Version, by our reptile specialist Alfred Schleicher
- *Visions of Love and Sorrow: The Art of John Muafangejo* – Orde Levinson

A reprint was done of „*Wo sind die Herero geblieben?*“ updated and expanded by Hans Hilpisch; launch will be in the first week of October.

In addition, we will shortly have 3 books on Amazon eBooks.



Many books in Miriam's factory are in progress. *Das alte Südwestafrika* – Heinrich Vedder, *Die Woermann-Linie als Lebensader Deutsch-Südwestafrikas* – Hans Hilpisch, *Goggas of Namibia* – Klaus Birkhofer, John Irish and Tharina Bird, *Mati and the Nasty Monster* – Victoria Erasmus, *Rocky Point* – Peter Bridgeford, *The Hambukushu of Namibia's Kavango-East Region* – Maria Fisch. Our latest Journal Vol. 68-2021, plus quite a few on hold. Our Mitteilungen/Newsletter 2021-01: You can collect the latest edition tonight or download from our website!

Several book launches were held, which were Dr Kalumbi Shangula: *Journey into the Unknown*; Erika von Wietersheim: *Good Morning Namibia*, Alfred Schleicher: *Reptiles of Namibia*; John Kinahan: *Namib – The Archaeology of an African Desert*; and Dr Erik Holm: *Die Ossewa en sy Spore*.

Presentations

Presentations were unfortunately restricted due to Covid, but we managed a few:

- *The Fugitive* – Andrew Fordred,
- *Maritime Heritage in Namibia* – Dr Alma Nankela,
- *Wastewater Treatment* – Prof. Ateeq Rahman,
- *Zoom Workshop* – Berndt Schneider,
- plus 2 x Zoom meetings on *Artificial Intelligence*.

Films and Exhibitions

- *Seeds of Profit and Saving the Dead Sea*
- Science Week with the Goethe-Institute and
- The History of a New Unified Germany

Excursions

Our educational and scientific excursions were very popular.

- 3x Skeleton Coast, Kunene and Western Kaokoland
- 3x Sea of Sand: Dunes, River, Rocks, Plains and the Beach
- Donkerhuk: Marble and Marmalade – Nature Conservation
- Reptile Excursion – Alfred Schleicher
- Gobabeb Research and Training Centre



Chairman Theo Schoeman (Photo: Isdor Kamati)

Lockdown was the ideal catch-up time

Ruth Moldzio archived 200 CDs, copied ± 100 stiffies, sorted and labeled our Scientific Society files, presorted 15 boxes of books from the safe, sorted out duplicate and printed manuscripts and created spreadsheets to easily find documents etc. in the storeroom.

Elfi Schneider sorted, filed and cataloged; listed correspondence from the 50's and 60's in Excel for easy retrieval and storage; updated all our mailing lists, AGM and Board meeting minutes of 95 years, collected, sorted, neatly filed in files and stored in the safe.

Other matters of interest

We rented out the hall many times for scientific functions and meetings.

Thanks to The Village (Wouter van Zijl and Deane Spall) for assisting us with a venue from time to time. Furthermore, we used the Scientific Society backyard for presentations and book launches with great success.

Our new Website is up and running: www.namscience.com. Many hours by many people were invested in getting our new website up and going. You can update your own member details, shop for books online and much more. Please have a look!



Treasurer Julia von Wietersheim (Photo: Isdor Kamati)

Thank you, to Paratus for our fibre donation, Andrew Fordred and Rigo Reddig for all the help with ABCD and namscience.com and Kuiseb books, all our members and friends, media and press, Hans Seidel and Konrad Adenauer Foundations, Goethe-Institute and Gobabeb, German and EU embassies, Swakop Scientific Society and Heritage Council, Pointbreak and WMS (Wealth Management Solutions).

Please excuse me if I missed anyone.

Our Finances are in the good hands of Julia von Wietersheim – more from her later.

As a really, really final point:

Our Society’s success is a result of the hard work of several sections.

Our staff in the office, in the library, and in the publishing department and our voluntary board members.

Can you please all stand up so that everyone can see you.

To you all, we say:

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Annual Report

Das Alte Fort Museum Grootfontein

by Günther Friederich



Dear Members, Supporters, Families and Friends!

We, the Committee of *Das Alte Fort Museum* wish to thank everyone so much for your support during the year 2020. Taking all circumstances into consideration, this support we are still receiving is very much needed and appreciated. We trust that everyone had a happy and blessed festive season, together with your loved ones.

Museum activities during 2020 kicked off with a computer still out of order, due to lightning the previous December. The computer had to be re-programmed by Mendacom CC. However, most of the files were lost and could not be retrieved from the hard drive. On Monday 27th, the computer was re-installed with a new program and the lost files were re-installed during the following weeks from a private external medium.

A rainstorm hit the town on January 13th, breaking down one of the old Jacaranda trees on the Museum premises. The trunk and branches were cut up by Mr Udo Gärtner; thank you very much, Udo.

A notice was received from AgriCollege that they were informed by the Namibia Heritage Council of their intention that they would require a room in the building to establish a Regional NHC Office. The only space available would have been one of the classrooms. We have heard nothing more regarding this case since.

From Monday, March 16th, 2020 and onwards, the year was challenging, with unexpected, major problems for our Museum, with the tourism sector falling to zero due to the Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in a complete lockdown. Our Museum was forced to close its doors.

The Chairperson did make an attempt to schedule a Committee meeting on April 9th, 2020 to discuss some urgent matters regarding the current situation.



Historian Gunter von Schumann (Photo: Isdor Kamati)

Due to various personal reasons, every Committee member excused her-/himself from the meeting. No meeting was held as a result and for the remainder of 2020, no Committee meetings took place. Urgent cases were dealt with on the Museum's Committee WhatsApp Group.

On Thursday, May 7th, Mrs Klitzke, Mr Friederich and the cleaner were allowed to come in to clean the Museum entrance and courtyard and to mow the grass at the entrance. All showcases were cleaned thoroughly and displays of some cabinets were re-arranged.

On Monday, May 11th, the Museum re-opened its doors, as Covid regulations were relaxed in some ways.

The decision was taken by the Committee to re-open the Museum on Monday to Friday mornings 08h00 to 12h00 only, and to clean and update admin. If visitors should appear, Covid 19 regulations had to be adhered to. By Thursday, 28th, the Committee unfortunately saw no other way as to reduce the salaries of both female employees, as no sufficient funds from visitors were coming in.

When the President, Dr H.G. Geingob opened the airports for tourists to travel again, an expected increase of tourist visitors did not realize. Our first visitors to the Museum appeared on Monday, June 1st; – Mr and Mrs von Ludwiger, local Tour operators from Windhoek. Another local tour-operator, Mr and Mrs Seifart from the Dordabis area, also paid a visit to the MUSEUM.

On Thursday, June 18th, two surveyors from Ministry of Lands and Resettlement appeared to survey the complete fort building for re-valuation purpose for the Ministry. A copy of the latest site plan of this erf 361 was handed to them.

A visit of 70 learners from the north, booked for July, did not materialize either, probably cancelled due to COVID.

On Friday, November 27th, it was again time for our annual Christmas Market Event. As the large tent of Namibia Breweries was not available any more, the Grootfontein LIONS CLUB made their tent available for the event; the NG Kerk supplied their tables and benches, and dishes for the evening meal were supplied by Deutsches Schülerheim.

This event eventually turned out way above all our expectations. A big thank you once more goes to the LIONS Grootfontein for their contributions and continuous support to the Museum. NG Kerk, Schülerheim, without your input and assistance, we would not have made it.

To all involved with the organization of the Christmas Market, our Curator Mrs Klitzke in handling the exhibitors' entrance fees and other finances, Mrs Ulli Prickett and her team with table decorations and at the meal-handing out table, Mr Marcus Prickett and his team at the braai grids, the LIONS Team at *The Fountain*, Rubicon Security Services, and last but not least, all the visitors who attended the event: every one of you, as well as those involved not mentioned here, did his/her part to the full to make this day an extraordinary success for the Museum, especially in this difficult year.

A special mention goes to the Namibia Scientific Society, Windhoek. Mrs Ruth Moldzio did visit this event as the NSS's representative and presented us with a financial contribution. Thank you very much, we do appreciate your well-meant contribution.

Mrs Elize van Zyl presented us with a donation of Afrikaans books, some of historical value. Due to a lack of space, these books were passed on to Mr Polla Steyn of the *Afrikaanse Taalmuseum* in Windhoek. These books will make a valuable addition to their new library.

A large set of complete issues of *National Geographic Magazine* was donated by Mrs Helena Brand.

These boxes, full of magazines, will find their way to the new *Karstveld Academy School* in Grootfontein.

On Wednesday 2nd Decemeber, we had a visit of eight learners, with four personnel from the German Private School Otavi. They were guided through the Museum by Mr Zahradniki and Mr Friederich.

On Wednesday 30th December, a group of German visitors, 4 adults and 2 children, had the honour of being the last visitors for 2020. They were very impressed with what we had to offer.

A visitor's breakdown for 2020 since first lockdown looks as follows:

May – nil;

June – 6;

July – 8 (5 foreign);

August – 4;

Sept. – 12 (Luiperdsheuvel School)

Oct. – 10 (6 foreign);

Nov. – 25 (21 foreign);

December – 30 (12 Otavi School, 4 foreign)

If we look at these figures, one might begin to doubt if ever the situation will return to normal in future. Our funds do originate mostly from foreign tourists. With these off the market, we have to evaluate the current situation urgently. The Museum has some funds in reserve, which so far had to be used to pay wages, security, insurance and other expenses. Even with external activities organized to generate additional income, will this be sufficient for the survival of the Museum in future?

Furthermore, a new 5 year lease agreement of this Museum with the National Heritage Council has to be negotiated during this year.

Planned events:

November 26th, 2021: Christmas Market on the Museum premises @ 16h00 with Steak Braai @ 19h00.

December 23rd, 2021: Museum closes till after New Year 2022.

Anyone who wishes to hold any activity on the Museum premises is welcome to approach the Museum's Office to discuss the issue.

We wish everyone all the best for a peaceful, prosperous and successful NEW YEAR 2021.

From your Grootfontein Museum Team:

Günther Friederich, Ulli Prickett, Magda Klitzke, Johann van Heerden, Gerd Beyer, Gunther Dressel,

Gunter von Schumann (Country Representative).

Annual Report Tsumeb Museum

by Jens Frautschy

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the closing of the Museum in the beginning of the year and very little income, we did not hold an AGM this year.

Last year, we had about 115 guests. At the moment, we have about 30–40 guests per month.

We are full of hope that visitors will pick up again in the future. Till then, we are busy with digitalization of all our photos and negatives.

We would like to thank the Namibia Scientific Society for their donations of books, advertisements and support over the years.

Also, to all our members, friends and donors, a thank you. All the help and interest in our Museum is very much appreciated.

Kind regards from the Museum Committee.



Bericht des Tsumeb Museums

von Jens Frautschy

Da wir wegen Covid und teils Schließung des Museums so gut wie keine Einnahmen hatten, haben wir in diesem Jahr 2021, noch keine Jahreshauptversammlung gehalten. Im letzten Jahr hatten wir 115 Gäste.

Es kommen momentan in etwa so 30-40 Gäste im Monat zu Besuch.

Wir wollen doch hoffen, dass die Zeiten sich bessern, bis dahin gibt es im Museum genug zu tun, um alte Fotos zu digitalisieren.

Wir bedanken uns bei allen Helfern, Ratgebern, Vereinsmitgliedern und Gönnern für die Unterstützung im vergangenen Jahr.

Auch der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft gilt ein Dank für Bücher und sonstige Hilfe und Unterstützung.

Wir schätzen es sehr.

Herzlichen Gruß aus dem Tsumeb Museum

Annual Report Lüderitz Museum

by *Gisela Schmidt-Scheele*



Erika von Wietersheim (Photo: Isdor Kamati)

The year 2020 started well. We had many cruise liners, and many passengers visited our Museum.

Unfortunately, the last ship arrived on 11 March and since then, all trips were cancelled due to Corona. According to the schedule, we should have had ships until 24 April, but unfortunately, they were cancelled, and our dreams were shattered. All tourism came to a standstill, including the local tourism. It was no longer worthwhile to keep the Museum open. Even during the Christmas holidays, there were only sporadic visitors, and it was simply not worth it.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Namibia Scientific Society for the generous donation. We also received a generous donation from Gräfin von Roedern. In this way, we had no losses to show at the end of the year for which we are very grateful. The running costs like bank charges that are still invoiced, we had to keep paying just as the basic telephone rates.

There was another attempt to break the barred door, and we have replaced it. An alarm transistor was installed so that Security is immediately alarmed. We furthermore must thank Mynbach Security as we did not have to make any payments since 1st of April – only once we are open again.

Every now and then, some tourists show up and I have agreed to let them in; in case they are Namibians or foreign guests who keep to the regulations. We all hope that the situation will improve soon and there will be normalcy again.

In this sense, I thank all colleagues of the Namibia Scientific Society for their help and support and remain with heartfelt thanks and greetings.

Bericht des Lüderitz Museums

von *Gisela Schmidt-Scheele*

Dieses Jahr hat sehr gut begonnen.

Ab Januar hatten wir sehr viele Luxusliner und viele Passagiere besuchten unser Museum.

Leider hatten wir dann das letzte Schiff hier am 11. März und dann wurden alle Schiffe eingestellt wegen Corona.

Wir hätten noch bis zum 24. April Schiffe gehabt laut Programm, aber leider wurden diese storniert, also aus der Traum.

Und der ganze Tourismus kam zum Stillstand, auch lokal.

Es lohnte nicht mehr, das Museum zu öffnen, selbst zu den Weihnachtsferien kamen nur sporadische Besucher, aber es lohnte sich einfach nicht.

Wir möchten uns ganz herzlich bei der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft für die große Spende bedanken. Ebenfalls bedachte uns Frau Gräfin von Roedern mit einer großzügigen Spende, somit verzeichneten wir keinen Verlust am Jahresende, wofür wir allen von Herzen danken können.

Die laufenden Kosten wie Bankgebühren, die leider immer lustig weiter gefordert werden, hatten wir außer Telefonrechnung (eben nur die Grundgebühren) zu zahlen.

Dann hatte man mal wieder versucht, die Gittertürschlösser zu knacken, die ersetzt werden mussten. Und nun haben wir auch einen Alarmtransister installiert, somit wird die Security sofort alarmiert.

Wie müssen uns auch bei Wynbach-Security herzlichst bedanken, dass wir ab dem 1. April keine Zahlungen machen brauchten. Erst wieder, wenn wir die Türen öffnen.

Es tauchen momentan hin und wieder einzelne Touristen auf und ich habe angeboten, wenn es Namibier sind oder Gäste aus dem Ausland, die sich an alle Vorschriften halten, eine Ausnahme zu machen.

Wir alle hoffen, dass es baldigst wieder besser wird und Normalität zurückkehrt.

In diesem Sinne danke ich allen Mitstreitern der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft für Hilfe und Beistand und verbleibe mit herzlichstem Dank und Grüßen.

Annual Report Astronomy Working Group

by Prof. Michael Backes

As the second year influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020/2021 has been quite challenging, particularly, as it brought a good and long rainy season with lots of clouds, although the strict curfew regulations were effectively prohibitive of most night-time activities. Still, the successful work of the astronomy section continued. Altogether, seven public events have been organized and public outreach continued success can be reported.

Together with the University of Namibia (UNAM) and the University of Oxford, an astronomy training course for tour guides has been developed and marketing for Namibia as prime destination for dark-sky tourism is being established.

Star Gazing/Astronomical Events

One fully booked star gazing evening has been organized at the Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory (CHMO) of Mrs Sonja Enke, just South of Windhoek, in 2021. This was led by Lutz von Dewitz and Prof. Michael Backes. Despite clouds cover several astronomical objects of interest could be shown to the interested attendees. In addition, two astronomical events of interest were featured in December 2020. On December 14th, we invited the public to Hotel Heinitzburg for the *sundowner eclipse* (a partial solar eclipse visible during sunset). Despite limited attendance, clouds and even rain, spectacular images were taken. On December 21st, the planets Jupiter and Saturn were visibly very close during the *Great Conjunction*. Despite being almost totally overcast, images of both planets in a single telescope image could be taken.

14/12/2020 *Partial Solar Eclipse* (Hotel Heinitzburg)

21/12/2020 *Great Conjunction (Jupiter and Saturn)* (Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Obs.)

10/09/2021 *Star Gazing* (Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory)

Public Lectures

This year, a series of five public lectures were developed together with UNAM and the University of Oxford. The lectures were developed by the team of Drs Hannah Dalgleish, Meghan Hughes, Getachew Mekonnen, and Eli Kasai, as well as Profs. Garret Cotter, Michael Backes, and were presented online via

Zoom:

24/08/2021	<i>Introduction to Astronomy</i>
31/08/2021	<i>Astronomy facilities and research in Southern Africa</i>
07/09/2021	<i>Astronomy for Development and astrotourism</i>
14/09/2021	<i>Stargazing and indigenous astronomy in Namibia</i>
21/09/2021	<i>Light pollution and dark skies for sustainable development</i>

Excursions

The much-anticipated yearly excursions, trips to **Onjala Observatory**, as well as an **astrophotography** course with Heiner Dillmann fell victim to the global pandemic and the resulting situation. Similarly, visits to the H.E.S.S. telescopes and Mt. Gamsberg could not be organized. Hence, we are particularly happy to report that after long postponement, the 14th edition of the **Southern Star Party** (SSFT¹) will take place in Gross Barmen from 8th–10th October 2021.

Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory

For the telescope of the Namibia Scientific Society at the Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory, the newly purchased electronic steering has been successfully installed and tested for and during the public stargazing on 10/09/2021. Further calibration of and a small technical addition to the permanently mounted outside telescope are expected for the coming year.

Astronomical Observations

In collaboration with the IOTA-ES², UNAM, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Observatoire de Paris, International Amateur Observatory (IAS³), Hakos Astrofarm, Deutsche Höhere Privatschule Windhoek (DHPS), and CHMO, astronomical observations of a stellar occultation by the asteroid Chariklo in 2017 were successfully published in one of the leading scientific journals of the field, *Astronomy & Astrophysics*⁴.

¹ Süd Sternfreunde Treffen

² International Occultation Timing Association – European Section

³ Internationale Amateursternwarte e.V., Heidelberg, D and Mt. Gamsberg

⁴ Morgado, B.E. et al. *A&A* 652, A141 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/202141543>



Vice Chairman Prof. Michael Backes
(Photo: Isidor Kamati)

Outreach

The website⁵ as well as the Facebook-page⁶ of the astronomy section have been regularly contacted: To date, 4,363 visitors have seen the website (compared to 3,785 last year; +15%). The Facebook-page has 624 regular followers (compared to 555 a year ago; +12%) and is especially useful for promoting events. Certain contributions have an active reach of more than 2,400 visitors.

Several newspaper and radio interviews were held and we are proud to report that Astronomy in Namibia

will be one of the major topics featured in the Namibian pavilion at the World Expo 2020 in Dubai (October 2021–March 2022).

Additionally, many thanks to Wolfgang Paech and Franz Hofmann, Team Chamäleon – Onjala and Rooisand Observatory for providing the Astro news and Irene Bader for the translations to English, so that a monthly Astro-newsletter is distributed via email and is regularly highly commended by the recipients.

Clear skies!

⁵ www.astronwg.wordpress.com

⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/astro.nwg>

Annual Report

Reptiles and Amphibians Working Group

by Alfred Schleicher



Board member Alfred Schleicher
(Photo: Isdor Kamati)

The annual report of the herpetological working group on reptiles and amphibians is again part of the set-up of the events of the second half of last year (2020) and the first half of this year (2021). During this period, no lectures could be offered so far on the subject of reptiles due to ongoing restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The annual reptile day on March 20th could still take place in the usual form. This reptile day was again an all-round success. We would like to thank all of our participants who made this reptile day so special. Many thanks at this point to the Finke family, Helmut Halenke (permission to use farm area) and the managing couple of Farm Hohewarte who made the day unforgettable.

The research project on Farm Tiras on Bushmanland Tent Tortoises (*Psammobates tentorius verroxii*) is still in progress.

The English language reptile guide *Reptiles of Namibia* is selling well and provides valued information on our Namibian world of reptiles. Therefore, the book is much enjoyed by the public.

As every year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the employees in particular for the good and therefore, pleasant cooperation.

I would like to thank the members of the Namibia Scientific Society for their interest in connection with the offers related to Namibia's reptiles/amphibians.

Furthermore, let us take the opportunity to drive out to our beautiful nature to be able to look forward to upcoming better times for all of us.

Stay tuned and above all – always curious and therefore interested.

Bericht der Reptilien und Amphibien Arbeitsgruppe

von *Alfred Schleicher*

Der Jahresbericht des herpetologischen Arbeitskreises Reptilien und Amphibien setzt sich wieder aus den Ereignissen des zweiten Halbjahres des vergangenen Jahres (2020) und des ersten Halbjahres dieses Jahres (2021) zusammen. In diesem Zeitraum konnten aufgrund der anhaltenden Einschränkungen der Covid-19-Pandemie bislang keine Vorträge zum Thema Reptilien angeboten werden.

Der jährliche Reptilientag am 20. März konnte noch in gewohnter Form stattfinden. Dieser Reptilientag war wieder ein rundum gelungener Tag. Wir möchten uns bei allen Teilnehmern bedanken, die diesen Reptilientag so besonders gemacht haben. Vielen Dank an dieser Stelle an die Familie Finke, Helmut Halenke (Benutzungserlaubnis) und das Geschäftsführerehepaar des Gästebetriebs der Farm Hohewarte, die alle zusammen den Tag erst möglich und damit unvergesslich gemacht haben.

Das Forschungsprojekt auf Farm Tiras zum Thema Buschmannland-Zeltschildkröten (*Psammobates tentorius verroxii*) ist weiterhin am Laufen.

Der englischsprachige Reptilienführer *Reptiles of Namibia* verkauft sich gut und bietet so wertvolle Informationen über unsere namibische Reptilienwelt. Das Buch wird zudem im englischsprachigen Ausland sehr geschätzt.

Wie jedes Jahr möchte ich mich an dieser Stelle insbesondere bei den Mitarbeitern/Mitarbeiterinnen für die gute und damit angenehme Zusammenarbeit bedanken.

Ich danke den Mitgliedern der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft für ihr Interesse an unseren Angeboten rund um Namibias Reptilien und Amphibien.

Lassen Sie uns außerdem die Gelegenheit nutzen, in unsere schöne Natur zu fahren, um uns auf bevorstehende bessere Zeiten für uns alle freuen zu können.

Bleiben Sie dran und vor allem - immer neugierig und daher interessiert.

Annual Report Namibian Hydrogeological Association

by Ester Gustavo

This report captures some activities that the Namibian Hydrogeological Association (NHA) council managed to carry out during this period since the last AGM of the association in October 2020.

The council met five times during this period, (inclusive of virtual and face to face meetings), the meetings were well attended, and a quorum was always reached.



1. The NHA AGM

- The AGM was held on 10 October 2020.
- The meeting was held on Zoom and was attended by 16 members.
- The major key points on the agenda were:
 1. Financial Report
 2. CAWA Conference feedback
 3. Election of New Council
 4. Groundwater National Focal Group
 5. IAH Chapter MOU and fees
 6. Geosciences Council registration
- At the AGM, the new council was elected via nominations by fellow members.
- The council for 2020-2021 comprises:
 - Anna David
 - Bertram Swartz
 - Diganta Sarma
 - Ester Gustavo (President) and
 - Gettie Shiinda

2. The IAH

(International Association of Hydrogeologists) and the NHA have signed an MoU establishing the NHA as a chapter within the IAH.



**International Association
of Hydrogeologists**

the World-wide Groundwater Organisation

This MoU seeks to co-operate to bring scientific, professional and social benefits to the hydrogeological and related community in Namibia, and to promote sound and sustainable groundwater use. The parties shall also seek to engage in

these matters, where applicable, with the hydrogeological and related community in the surrounding region and worldwide. The International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) encourages the formation of these national chapters in order to facilitate administration, promote contacts and co-operation, and organise national or regional scientific meetings, training courses or field visits. National chapters may also be able to advocate for and promote the importance of sound groundwater management and protection in their own country, thus, assisting in meeting the IAH’s aims and objectives at the country level.

This relationship has been developing and more NHA members have become part of the IAH as a result.

3. Educational FUN Walk

The NHA organised an 8km hydrogeological education/fun walk open to the general public. The walk was held in Windhoek on 29th May 2021. The aim of the walk was to show interesting hydrogeological sites around the eastern side of Windhoek. The walk covered five (5) major spots, led by a few of the council members of the NHA, who were additionally accompanied by an official from the Municipality of Windhoek.

The first site, the Pahl Quelle, is a borehole drilled into the Pahl Fault affecting the Auas Quartzite – a major aquifer that supplies Windhoek’s potable water. The borehole was of interest because besides being drilled in 1928 to a depth of 165m into a fault, it was previously artesian flowing and flooded the surrounding buildings on several occasions. It also produces hot water measured at about 79°C.

The second site was a group of boreholes drilled at Maerua Mall targeting the major Pahl and Merensky faults at different depths.

The third site was the actual exposed section of the Pahl Fault.

The fourth site was a group of older boreholes in Klein Windhoek followed by a visit to the fifth site, a domestic borehole, which has an interesting history as narrated by the owner.



Figure 1: Demonstration of groundwater level measurements



Figure 2: Participants at the second stop engaging in the activities



Figure 3: Brief explanation on the role of the Pahl Fault and borehole positions



Figure 4: The group listening intently to some history

4. Forecast

Talks by the 3rd and 4th year UNAM students – planning for this is still under-way.

5. Conclusion

Amidst the challenges faced in the last year, the association has kept going and rallied more interest; it remains an active member of the Namibia Scientific Society (NSS).

Annual Report Namibia Bird Club

by Gudrun Middendorff

Dear bird club members and friends, ladies and gentlemen,

Personally, I think we have reason to be extremely grateful tonight about the lovely rains that occurred over the last few weeks. It is an amazing sight to see the country transform from brown, grey and black to various shades of green and yellow. It is fascinating to see that on the barren soil from previous year, now grasses, weeds, flowers and lilies grow. Last year, atlasing and bio-mapping was hard work as nature seemed void of any life. Now with nature back in full bloom, the situation has not changed overnight; it still takes a big effort to find birds and all the critters that we like to photograph for the virtual museum; nature and its living things must have had severe losses.

A year has 52 weeks and the bird club had 29 events lined up in 2019. During the year, eleven morning walks were held alternating between Avis Dam and Gammas Water Care Works and nine Sunday outings took place on farms around Windhoek. Twice a year, the summer and winter wetland counts take place in and around Windhoek and at Walvis Bay. Three camping weekends



The Bird Club calendar for 2022, also available at the Namibia Scientific Society

were undertaken - one on the Independence weekend to Hochfeld, Easter weekend to farm Wewelsburg and in August, to farm Lucia in the Witvlei area. A Birder's Get-together took place at Swartfontein Lodge focussing on the ringing of birds. What a bonus to see a rare Tree Pipit on the lawn of the lodge garden. The last event of the year was held at Omatozu Lodge, where after a morning walk, members were spoiled to a hearty breakfast.

Have you ever had coffee and a brötchen or cake at the Biomarket in Klein Windhoek? Beginning April, members and volunteers ran the Biomarket coffee shop and the public have repeatedly complimented us on our lovely brötchens and delicious cakes. The Shed market has turned out to be a valuable venue to sell our crafts and our calendars. We invite our members and photographers to send in their five best pictures for the calendar 2021 and to use us as a platform to show off their pictures. The sale of the calendars really has gone well and the layout seems to please the public.

We have four dedicated ladies amongst us who offer a lot of their own time to the conservation effort of birds irrespective of whether it is a mouse bird, a penguin or an eagle. The bird club fully supports these entities with moral and financial help. Therefore, this year's donations go to Liz Komen from NARREC Rehab Station at Brakwater and Sonja Bartlewski of the Wild Bird Rescue Centre in Windhoek, as well as the two penguin rehabilitation stations at the coast, one being in Swakopmund – Dr Sandra Dantu, and one in Lüderitz – Dr Jessica Kemper.

Atlasing is still slow in Namibia. Currently, the coverage is 16.77% for Namibia. The species maps generated by atlasing will ultimately be used in bird books and field guides. This is an excellent way of brushing up your knowledge, enjoy the outdoors and simply have fun.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for their dedication, the loyal members for supporting your club, the Scientific Society for the venue and cooperation and the media for the spreading the news.

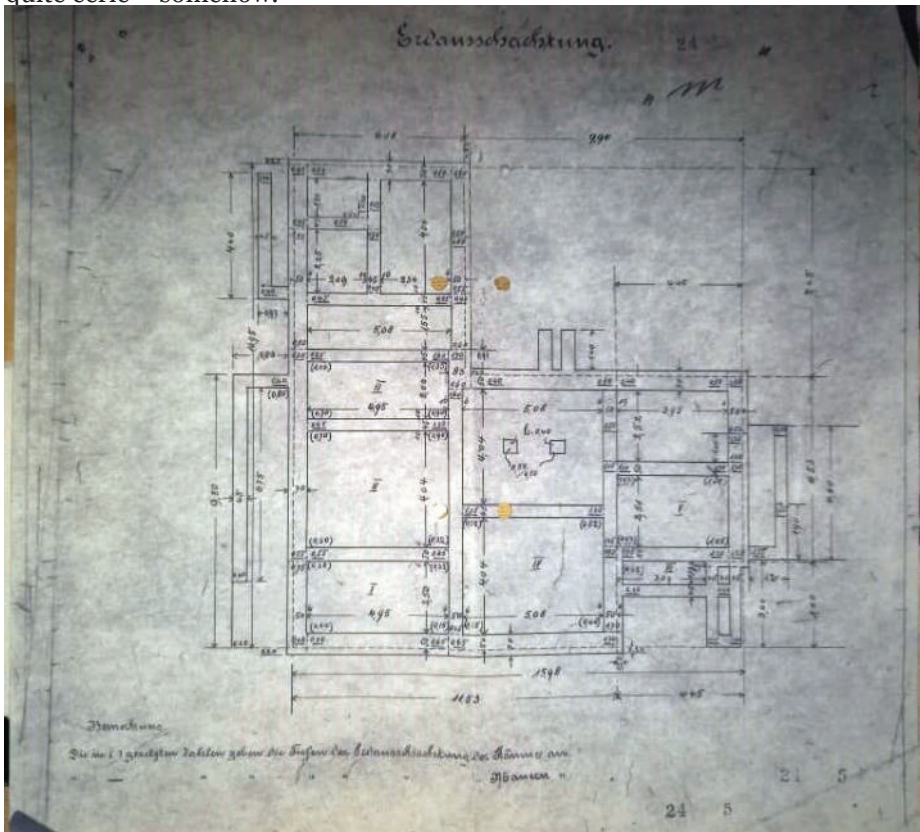
Digging deep!

by Waltraut Fritzsche, Photos: Armin Jagdhuber

As the library receives more and more collections, also in form of donations, more storage space is urgently needed.

With the financial support of a foreign donor, the cellars below the library are being reclaimed. These cellars were filled with rubble and sand at the beginning of 1980, as a quick fix to structural building problems. The Society is now able to restore the rooms by applying a modern engineering solution. Consequently, the whole building, dating from the early 1900s, will be accessible and of use again soon.

Having an old excavation plan (see below), still in the original old German handwriting, is one thing. To see the cellar rooms, in reality, is another, and quite eerie – somehow.



The old excavation plan



Preparations for the digging



The work begins



Digging deeper and deeper

Corona restrictions – no problem, we will just move out!

by Ruth Moldzio

It cannot be denied that COVID-19 has turned everyone’s life upside down. After months of uncertainty and restrictions, things seemed to go back at least to normal partially, except for the “contact” issue. However, as much as we try, we cannot put more than 35 visitors into the hall of the Namibia Scientific Society and hence, decided to “*maak a plan*”! And this plan became reality within only a few weeks!

Atlas Engineering Solutions, DELK, Paratus, Mindsinaction, Stage Audio Works and Namibia Breweries enabled us to get an entire outside setup together. Paratus provided an internet connection at a massively reduced rate. At the same time, DELK was so generous as to lend to the Society the big screen. Atlas Engineering Solution sponsored the camera equipment which the team of Mindsinaction uses to “Zoom” the big presentations now being hosted in our backyard.

Members of the Scientific Society can thus not only come together again, but also be updated on important issues under the open sky. The other benefit is, that members and interested people from all over the world are able to follow most presentations of the Scientific Society. The teething phase with this setup has been successfully managed and the “Zoom machinery” is running better and better with every presentation.

We would like to sincerely thank the all above-mentioned parties for making this new endeavour possible, be it by sponsoring (lending) in kind, financially, giving advice or simply with their time. A members’ association is as strong as its members and the support shows the strength of the Scientific Society.



Backyard talk with Matt Totten Jr. on 16 November 2021 (Photo: Isdor Kamati)

Neue Teleskopsteuerung für die Astrogruppe

von Lutz von Dewitz



Lutz von Dewitz mit der neuen Teleskopsteuerung (Foto: Michael Backes)

Es steht ja schon eine ganze Weile: das Newton Teleskop der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft bei der Cuno Hoffmeister Gedächtnissternwarte nahe Windhoek. Dank einer Leihgabe konnte das Teleskop eine ganze Weile betrieben werden, nun war es aber Zeit für eine eigene Steuerung. Eine neue Steuerung wurde beschafft und dann kam der erste Lockdown. Erst durfte man und konnte nicht, dann gab es noch ein paar Einstellungen, die in Erfahrung gebracht werden mussten. Dann konnte man und durfte nicht. Letztendlich hat es dann doch geklappt. Die neue Box, sprich Steuerung, konnte programmiert und installiert werden.

Das Teleskop ist auf einer äquatorialen Montierung angebracht, mit Schrittmotoren auf der Rektaszension- oder Stundenachse und auf der Deklinationsachse. Diese werden von der besagten Box angetrieben, um das anvisierte Objekt immer schön im Bild, besser gesagt, im Okular zu halten.

Die ersten Versuche mit der neuen Box verliefen negativ, da die Deklinationsachse egal welchen Knopf man benutzte, sich immer in die gleiche Richtung neigte. Somit stand fest, dass alle Kabelverbindungen inklusive Stecker geprüft und erneuert werden mussten. Mit den neuen Steckern und Verbindungskabeln lief die Steuerung dann einwandfrei.

Die bestehenden Kabel für die Stromversorgung wurden angeschlossen und ein Ausgang am Sockel montiert. Die Blechhütte zum Schutz des Teleskopes wurde mit Spannschrauben versehen, um sie stabiler vor Wind zu sichern. Es ist jetzt auch einfacher, sie zu lösen und wegzuschieben.

Nach getaner Arbeit konnten wir das Teleskop endlich wieder zum Einsatz bringen und den ersten Sternabend mit neuer Steuerung haben wir am 10. September durchgeführt. Auf das viele weitere folgen mögen.

Star Gazing at the Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory

by Frieda Mukufa



The Celestron C14 at the Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory (Photo: Miriam Hutterer)



The same telescope during an observation (Photo: Miriam Hutterer)

Namibian skies and stargazing are usually an astronomer's best friend, but for the night of Friday 11th September 2021, Namibian skies had a mind of their own. The evening started with a mini lecture by Prof. Michael Backes and Lutz von Dewitz, who spoke mainly about the positioning of the earth and its rotations. They took turns to take questions from the audience and explain, as well as giving a brief introduction on the different hemispheres. However, when it was time for the actual stargazing, it was very difficult to see some of the planets and big stars because it was too cloudy. Some of us managed to see Venus, Jupiter and Saturn as well as the Alpha Centauri constellation for a brief while. The evening ended with more conversation, cups of tea and coffee with an overcast Namibian sky. We can only hope, that the next time the skies are clear.

Namibia Scientific Society's Strategy Meeting

by Frieda Mukufa



The board and the team discuss ideas (Photo: Miriam Hutterer)

On Friday 15th October 2021, the Namibia Scientific Society held its second strategic meeting with members of the board and the staff of the Society.

This was to evaluate the progress the team had made since the last strategic meeting in February 2021 and to recognize which developments need further to be addressed.

The focus of this event was on the organisations' strengths and weaknesses and how to best mitigate these issues as well as the growth needed.

Brainstorming sessions resulted in a dynamic outlook on the Society's continued way forward.

Overall, it was a very fruitful meeting.

Scientific Society of Namibia is part of the Namibia Tour of the *Bild der Wissenschaft!*

by Ruth Moldzio, Photo: Isidor Kamati



To the delight of the Namibia Scientific Society, the reader's tour of the German scientific magazine *Bild der Wissenschaft* to Namibia was to include a visit to the Namibia Scientific Society. *Bild der Wissenschaft* was first published in 1964 and has since expanded to include reader's tours to various destinations worldwide. For drafting the itinerary of the Namibia tour, Matiti Safaris partnered with Namibia Scientific Society.

The afternoon of Sunday, 24th October 2021 was set as the date for the stop-over at the premises of NWG. Several members of our Society were present to welcome the group from Germany. Our guests, just having landed the same morning, were treated to some culinary treats such as local fruit, melk- and yskastert.

Brief but specialised lectures by staff and board members of NWG presented an extensive introduction to Namibia, its people, history, agriculture, archaeology, shipwrecks, and the night sky.

A short introduction of all present as well as time to mix and mingle during two breaks gave ample opportunity for orientation and personal interaction.

The professional and meticulous planning of the NWG team certainly left a memorable impression on our guests. They looked forward to find the sites suggested by the NWG and meet more experts and knowledgeable guides.

We sincerely hope that this was only the first of many similar events, clearly putting the Namibia Scientific Society on the map.

Development of the Policy Framework on Namibia Research Outputs and Journal Accreditation Workshop

by Prof. Michael Backes

The Namibia Scientific Society was invited to attend the *1st Consultation Workshop for the Development of the Policy Framework on Namibia Research Outputs and Journal Accreditation* by the Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation.

The workshop took place in Otjiwarongo on 27–28 October 2021. The Society was represented by Prof. Michael Backes as editor of the Society's Journal and Miriam Hutterer as its head of publishing. Other stakeholders were UNAM, NUST, NCRST, the National Planning Commission, and UNESCO.

During this lively and interactive workshop, experiences from different publishers and editors were exchanged and the role of what the upcoming policy should and should not regulate was collectively discussed. Prof. Backes was invited to give a presentation on the Namibia Scientific Society and its Journal, coined *Journal of the Namibia Scientific Society – more than 90 years of academic publishing in Namibia*.



Prof. Michael Backes during his presentation (Photo: Miriam Hutterer)

Presentations by other stakeholders were very insightful, particularly in view of open-access publishing processes. A follow-up meeting with the Research Support Services Section of the UNAM library was arranged. Connections to the UNESCO office in Windhoek, and its National Programme Officer for Natural Sciences were strengthened as well.

Book Launch: *Visions of Love and Sorrow* *The Art of John Muafangejo* by Orde Levinson

Photos: Isdor Kamati



Prof. André du Pisani



Andrea Behnsen



Bishop Katenda (Oshikwanyama-translator)



Sylvia Schlettwein (German-translator)



Bishop Katenda, Sylvia Schlettwein, Miriam Hutterer and Frieda Mukufa (both from Kuiseb Publishers)

Ein Vortrag bei der Familie von Estorff

von Hans Hilpisch

Zu den bekanntesten Offizieren der deutschen Kolonialgeschichte gehört zweifelsohne Ludwig von Estorff, der am 24. Dezember 1859 in Hannover als zweites Kind der Eheleute Eggert von Estorff, zuletzt Generalmajor a.D. und Julie von Estorff, geb. von Witzendorff zur Welt kam. Im Jahr 1894 ging er auf eigenen Wunsch als Hauptmann und Kompaniechef nach Deutsch-Südwestafrika. Dort verblieb er bis 1910, mit kurzen Unterbrechungen im Deutschen Reich sowie in Deutsch-Ostafrika und wurde Oberst und Kommandeur der Schutztruppe.

Die Familie von Estorff, urkundlich durchgehend seit dem Jahr 1162 bezeugt, gehört zu den ältesten Adelsgeschlechtern Niedersachsens. Die Rittergüter Veerßen, Barnstedt und Teyendorf befinden sich noch heute im Besitz der Familie und die Vorfahren Ludwig von Estorffs waren Landwirte und Offiziere in kurhannoverschen, später in preußischen Diensten. Kindheit und Jugend Ludwigs waren gekennzeichnet durch ein äußerst harmonisches und glückliches Familienleben in den Garnisonen des Vaters, aber auch auf dem großväterlichen Besitz in Teyendorf.



Ludwig von Estorff als Kolonialoffizier in Deutsch-Südwestafrika (Foto: Koloniales Bildarchiv der Uni Frankfurt am Main, Nr. PA12-81)

Der Familientradition gemäß wurde Ludwig wie seine beiden Brüder Offizier, während die drei Schwestern in kirchliche Dienste traten. Beide Brüder fielen. Der eine, Otto von Estorff, als Oberleutnant 1904 in Onganjira/Deutsch-Südwestafrika, der andere, Eggert von Estorff, verheiratet aber kinderlos, als Generalmajor im 1. Weltkrieg in Russland. Da Ludwig nie heiratete und auch die drei Schwestern unverheiratet und kinderlos blieben, fiel das Rittergut Teyendorf schließlich ihm zu. Im 1. Weltkrieg noch bis zum Generalleutnant aufgestiegen, verbrachte er dort seinen Lebensabend und starb am 5. Oktober 1943 in Uelzen.

Als der Kuiseb Verlag im Jahr 2019 mein Buch über Ludwig von Estorff herausbrachte, entschied ich mich,

auch der Familie von Estorff in Teyendorf ein Exemplar zu senden. Die Reaktion kam bald und war sehr positiv. Der jetzige „Chef“ des Teyendorfer Zweiges, Gerhard von Estorff, lud mich und meine Frau Sabine spontan zum nächsten Familientreffen derer von Estorff ein. Dieses sollte im Herbst 2020 in Teyendorf stattfinden, fiel dann jedoch dem Corona-Virus zum Opfer und wurde auf den 11. September 2021 verlegt. Es gehört zur Tradition der Familie, dass man sich reihum alle zwei Jahre woanders trifft und es kommen immer ca. 60 bis 80 Mitglieder dieser alten Familie zusammen. Einzige Bitte Gerhard von Estorffs war die Frage, ob ich einen Vortrag über Ludwig von Estorff halten könne, was ich gerne zusagte.

So kam es dann, dass ich mich an diesem Wochenende mit meiner Frau mittels unseres Autos auf den langen, von Staus und Baustellen gespickten Weg nach Teyendorf machte und deswegen sogar das geliebte Pipertreffen hintanstellte. Dabei handelt es sich um ein jährlich stattfindendes Ereignis, bei dem alte, zweisitzige Piper-Schulflugzeuge aus Deutschland und den Nachbarländern zusammenkommen, darunter regelmäßig auch die PA-18 unseres Fliegerklubs, die nur wenige Jahre jünger als der Verfasser dieser Zeilen ist. Auch das Pipertreffen ist bei bis zu einhundert teilnehmenden Flugzeugen eine Art Familientreffen und ich versäumte es in diesem Jahr zum ersten Mal seit zwei Jahrzehnten.

Es sollte sich jedoch herausstellen, dass das Estorff'sche Familientreffen mindestens genauso interessant war. Schon der Empfang war herzlich und unkompliziert und wir hatten gleich das Gefühl, dazuzugehören. Gerhard von Estorff



Einige PA-18-Flugzeuge beim diesjährigen Pipertreffen in Gelnhausen (Foto: Karf F. Rahm)



Das Gutshaus des Rittergutes Teyendorf (Foto: Sabine Hilpisch)

zeigte seinen Gästen den großen Besitz, die Wälder, Felder sowie das Gutshaus, die angrenzenden Pferdestallungen und den großen Reitstall. Beeindruckend! Dabei verstand er es meisterlich, auch auf die jüngere Geschichte des Gutes einzugehen, also auf die Zeit des 2. Weltkrieges bis heute.

Nach dem Kaffee war ich dran und versuchte, der zahlreichen Zuhörerschaft die Zeit nahezubringen, in der ihr Vorfahre lebte und seinen Dienst als Kolonialoffizier versah. Gerhard von Estorff hatte mich darum gebeten, nicht unbedingt länger als eine halbe Stunde zu sprechen und ich gab mir Mühe, diesen Zeitrahmen möglichst interessant auszugestalten. Es stieß auf viel Interesse, wie die militärische Erziehung Ludwigs als Kadett, verbunden mit seiner Herkunft aus einem sehr frommen Elternhaus, seine Einstellungen zu seinem Beruf prägten. Ludwig von Estorff wurde ja in Deutsch-Südwestafrika als ein Kolonialoffizier bekannt, der im Frieden bei Weißen wie Schwarzen sowie im Krieg bei Freund und Feind als fairer Soldat und Offizier anerkannt und geachtet war. Sowohl während des Herero- als auch des Nama-Krieges demonstrierte er mehrmals, was er unter dem Begriff „Preußischer Gehorsam“ verstand, nämlich die Fähigkeit, hinter dem Befehl eines Vorgesetzten dessen übergeordnete Absicht zu erkennen und sein Handeln entsprechend auszurichten. Das bedeutete, dass er nicht immer buchstabengetreu deren Befehlen folgte.

Ludwig machte sich durch sein eigenwilliges Handeln also nicht immer Freunde, aber der Erfolg gab ihm schließlich Recht. Sogar der Kaiser billigte seinen Friedensschluss mit den Nama-Bondelzwart, denen er viele Zugeständnisse machte, um den langen Krieg mit ihnen endlich zu beenden. Das wiederum führte zur teilweise schroffen Ablehnung vor allem bei den zivilen Behörden des Reiches und der Kolonie, die sich ein wesentlich härteres Vorgehen gegen die Eingeborenen erhofft hatten. Darüber hinaus sind mehrere Auseinandersetzungen Ludwigs mit seinem Vorgesetzten, dem Generalleutnant von Trotha, bekannt, weil er dessen Verständnis von Kriegführung in Afrika nicht einsehen wollte und konnte. Ludwig von Estorff hatte trotz der beiden Kolonialkriege immer das Land und seine Menschen im Auge, waren sie nun schwarz oder weiß. Er war damit nicht allein und es gibt genügend Zeugnisse auch von anderen Offizieren, die wie er dachten und handelten. Die rigorose Schließung des Gefangenenlagers auf der Haifischinsel in der Lüderitzbucht durch Ludwig von Estorff, in dem es aufgrund der klimatischen Verhältnisse und einseitigen Ernährung zu vielen Toten gekommen war, ist nur ein Beispiel für dieses eigenständige Denken.

Nach dem Abendessen zeigte Gerhard von Estorff mir in seiner Bibliothek die Briefe Ludwigs aus seiner Zeit in Afrika. Ich bat um eine Kopie der Briefe aus den Jahren 1904 und 1905, um später einmal den Konflikt Ludwigs mit von Trotha besser herausarbeiten zu können. So hoffe ich, aus diesen so manche Erkenntnis zu gewinnen und vielleicht in einer kleinen Arbeit veröffentlichen zu können, um den Kenntnisstand über diese Zeit zu erweitern.

Eine erneut lange Fahrt mit vielen Staus brachte uns am Sonntag, dem 12. September, gegen Abend wieder zurück in die Eifel. Fazit eins: Ein sehr interessanter Besuch bei einer großen, alten, freundlichen und unkomplizierten Adelsfamilie, dem von allen Seiten viel Interesse entgegengebracht wurde und allen viel Spaß bereitet hat. Fazit zwei: Sollte ich die von Estorffs aber wieder einmal besuchen können, nehme ich aufgrund der ständig schlimmer werdenden Verkehrsverhältnisse in Deutschland lieber die Piper.

Translated German Edition of the Namibian Constitution Launched

by Frieda Mukufa



Photo: Konrad-Adenauer Foundation

On the 28th of October 2021, the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation Office Namibia and Angola (KAS), together with the Namibia Scientific Society (NSS) launched the 2nd translated German edition of the Namibian Constitution.

The evening started with opening remarks by KAS resident representative, Natalie Russmann, followed by an introduction, courtesy of Erika von Wietersheim, who is the translator and a board member of NSS.

With more than 40 guests, the event had the pleasure of having a dialogue on ‘Bringing the Constitution of Namibia to Life’. Through the dialogue, the conversation was centred around a renewed mission to continue promoting the values of the Constitution of Namibia to our society, in particular the youth.

The attendance included the Secretary to the National Assembly, Lydia Kandetu, the Minister of Justice, Hon. Yvonne Dausab, as well as the Ombudsman, Adv. Basilius Dyakugha, Her Worship Philanda Christiaan, Chief Magistrate of the Supreme Court of Namibia and Attorney General, Mr Festus Mbandeka. In the end, there was also a short quiz hosted by the CEO of the Namibia Scientific Society, Waltraut Fritzsche, to test the audience’s knowledge of the Constitution.

The KAS and NSS are grateful to the panelists as well as guests who added valuable insight to the discussion on the topics of digitization, enhanced democratic participation and civic engagement.

Buchvorstellung: *Die Woermann-Linie als Lebensader Deutsch-Südwestafrikas* von Hans Hilpisch

Fotos: Elfi Schneider



Hans Hilpisch



Gunter von Schumann



New Books/Neue Bücher

Die Woermann-Linie als Lebensader Deutsch-Südwestafrikas Darstellung einer schicksalhaften Beziehung von Hans Hilpisch

Die ausreichende Versorgung einer noch vollkommen unterentwickelten Kolonie wie Deutsch-Südwestafrika aus dem Mutterland war ein besonders schwieriges Unternehmen, dessen Gelingen von vielen Faktoren abhing. Nicht nur, dass in Frieden und Krieg genügend Schiffsraum für die Transporte von Mensch, Tier und Material in die Kolonie bereitgestellt werden musste, entscheidend waren auch die Umschlagkapazitäten der Häfen sowie der rasche und sichere Transport ins Landesinnere. Diese beiden Teilbereiche im Gesamtsystem Logistik waren besonders während der Kolonialkriege mit den Herero und den Nama äußerst angespannt und verlangten neben innovativen Ideen die volle Leistungsbereitschaft aller Mitarbeiter auf See und an Land.

In diesem Buch wird geschildert, welche Maßnahmen zur Lösung der Probleme angewandt wurden. Dabei wird besonders die Woermann-Linie als maßgebliches Transportunternehmen für die Kolonie näher vorgestellt. Schließlich sollen auch die Kriegsgewinnler-Vorwürfe untersucht werden, die der Linie damals gemacht wurden, sowie die Anschuldigungen aus unseren Tagen, sie hätte ihre eingeborenen Arbeiter erbarmungslos behandelt und damit zum Völkermord beigetragen.

Deutsch • ISBN 978-99945-76-76-0 • 280 Seiten • 148 x 210 mm
Preis N\$290, für Mitglieder N\$250



Die Verfassung der Republik Namibia (Kommentierte Auflage)

Diese deutsche Ausgabe der Verfassung von Namibia soll als Nachschlagewerk, Handbuch und Informationsquelle dienen. Sie enthält nicht nur die Übersetzung der Verfassung einschließlich ihrer drei Änderungsgesetze sondern auch umfassende Zusatzinformation. Die Texte der namibischen Nationalhymne sowie der OAE Hymne sind in Englisch und Deutsch abgedruckt, einschließlich der Noten zur Nationalhymne. Weiterhin enthält diese Ausgabe Informationen zur Nationalflagge und anderen namibischen Staatsflaggen sowie zu Staatswappen und Staatsiegel. Für das bessere Verständnis gibt es einen kurzen geschichtlichen Überblick über den Werdegang der Verfassung, eine Übersetzung der UN-Resolution 435 und der Verfassungsgrundsätze von 1982.



172 Seiten • 2021 • ISBN 978-99945-76-75-3 • 170 x 240 mm • Konrad Adenauer Stiftung/Namibia Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft/Kuisseb Verlag

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Namibia Scientific Society sincerely
thanks all donors for the books
received during the last months.
They add great value to our library!**



Photo: Isdor Kamati

**Die Bibliothek der
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herzlich bei allen Spendern für die
Buchspenden der letzten Monate.
Sie sind von großem Wert
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Dear members and friends of Namibia Scientific Society,
Contact our library when you think of scanning your slides and photos for digital data storage. Our colleagues in the library will assist you on appointment. Cost per slide is N\$ 3.00 and members' price is N\$ 2.50 per slide.
NSS-Team

Liebe Mitglieder und Freunde der NWG,
Wenn Sie Ihre Dias auf einem digitalen Datenträger archivieren möchten, aber nicht über die technischen Möglichkeiten verfügen, dann besuchen Sie uns doch einmal in der Bibliothek. Dort steht Ihnen unser moderner Dia-Scanner nach Vereinbarung zur Verfügung. Die Gebühr beträgt N\$ 3.00 pro Dia; für Mitglieder N\$ 2.50.
Ihr NWG-Team

Irlich Collection Entirely Shelved and Catalogued!

by Isdor Kamati

On the 12th of August 2021, the librarians euphorically announced that the last book of the Irlich collection, which was purchased and received early 2016, had been catalogued and shelved. Close to 7,000 books have now been viewed, sorted, and recorded. An entire room had to be made available by thinning out and rearranging our periodicals since the original space allocated was not big enough.

As expected, several books were already in the possession of the Namibia Scientific Society, and it was thus decided to offer close to 1,000 duplicates to the members of the Society. While in April 2020 the first books were auctioned off, we had another silent auction in October 2021.

We proudly announce that the amount of N\$40,397 was received after the first successful auction and another N\$38,632 was obtained with the latest silent auction – thus recovering close to N\$80,000 of the total cost of the collection to the Society. We are immensely grateful for the support of this initiative through our members! Hopefully, the successful purchasers are very happy with the reading material they have obtained.

The Irlich collection now forms an invaluable addition to the Namibiana archive of the Scientific Society.

The board of directors and the library staff of the Society would once more like to take the opportunity to thank Franz Irlich for offering his comprehensive library to the Society and for his support during and after the purchase!



Librarian Isdor Kamati surrounded by the Irlich collection

Postcard Collection at the Library

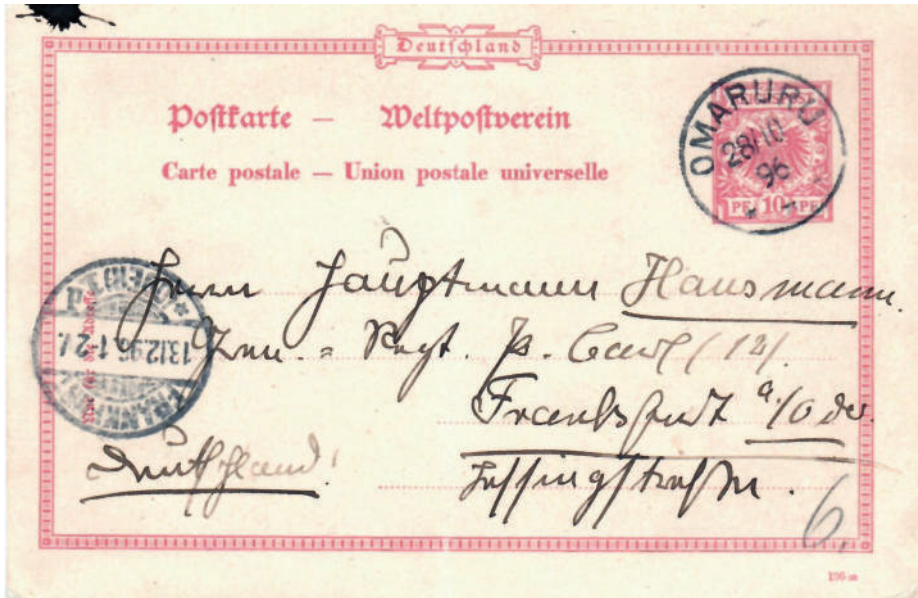
by Gunter von Schumann

Besides the obvious treasures such as books and magazines, the Namibia Scientific Society's library hosts an equally valuable collection of postcards. The so-called *Vorläufer* UPU [= Universal Postal Union] postcards for postal traffic came into circulation as early as the 1880s.

Below is an example from Germany from the Universal Postal Union. These were for postal use; with the front only having an address and preprint Stamp of the 1889–1895 issue, for overseas traffic. Domestic postcards were green in colour for 5 Pfennig.

On the opposite side, a Hungary postcard is proof that other countries also had postcards in use. This precursor postcard postmarked 10 Jul. 1896 in Budapest arrived with the steamer Lothar Bohlen in Swakopmund on 01.08.1896. This card wandered around the country, whether it ever reached its recipient Dr Langheld is not known.

Picture postcards were also produced during the early times. These were very popular in the Southwest with artists like Axel Eriksson, Aschenborn and various others who earned money through these postcards. Many photographers



A *Vorläufer* UPU postcard (Arge frame type one 1889-1898 issue) cancelled Omaruru 28.10.1896. Arrival date Frankfurt 13.12.1896.



Vorläufer P/c from Hungary. Arrived presumably with the ship Lothar Bohlen on 01.08.1896 in Swakopmund. Transit canellers Swakopmund 02.08.1896, Windhoek 09.09.1896 and 19.11.1896, Omaruru 09.12.1896. After a month still unclaimed by the veterinary surgeon, P/c finally forwarded to international mail sorting office in Swakopmund where it arrived 16.01.1897 Dr. N. Landheld was stationed in Omaruru 1896-1898 where he was involved in combating Rinderpest.

followed, who used different pictures as motifs because, in the beginning, it was mostly Schutztruppler who sent these cards. This was mainly because the postage was cheaper.

Today, postcards in colour and black and white are a popular topic with collectors. Nowadays, on average, the old colonial postcards cost between 10 euros to 60 euros at auctions. The ones with special stamps can go as high as 300 or more euros per postcard.

Today, the first airmail postcards in the Southwest from 1914 cost 500 Euro or more per postcard.

Among postcard collectors, some collect local history. For example, I own over 150 postcards from Omaruru. I have also collected postcards of the Woermann Line and the German East Africa Line. For my collection of Union Castle ships, I got the Gold Medal at an exhibition in London.

In Namibia, Irene Bader collects postcards relating to Grootfontein and Heiner Bader to Lüderitzbucht. Frank Snyman is interested in Schutztruppen subjects, while Freddy Herzberg collects all cards about SWA. Some collectors collect the old German buildings and forts in SWA. Railways are also a popular collecting theme.

In conclusion: the stamp collection is indeed an asset to our library!

Corresponding Representative: Wolfgang Reith

Mr Wolfgang Reith has served as an honorary corresponding representative of Namibia Scientific Society for thirty years. In his capacity, he was the main spokesperson for our Society in Germany. As technical development has progressed, he terminated his service in July, 2021.

Wolfgang Reith first served in the military (Air Force officer) for three years after graduation, and then studied history, English and German in Germany and the USA. Until his retirement in 2009, he worked as a teacher and headmaster.

In addition to his professional work, he has numerous honorary positions. Being a member of the executive board of the Düsseldorf district of the German-South African Society (GSAS), he was the chairman and vice chairman between 1980–1998. In 1977, he was a founding member of the German SWA/Namibia Association (today's German-Namibian Society) and on its board until 2008. Since 1991, he has been a representative of the Namibia Scientific Society in Germany as well as a member of the South Africa Foundation and the German Africa Foundation.

In 1976, he was the foreign correspondent for the *Allgemeine Zeitung*, Windhoek, and from 1978–1988, he was the editor, then freelancer for the journal *AFRIKA-POST* published in Bonn and Berlin.

As the years went by, in 2017, he authored *The Paramount Chiefs of the Herero People* and *The Imperial Colonial Forces* (also both Windhoek) and finally in 2019, and 2021, *A Question of National Honour – National Socialist Plans for a New German Colonial Policy* and *Under the Southern Swastika – The National Socialism in South West Africa*, a composition in two volumes (also Windhoek).

In 1995, he received the award of the Badge of Honour of the Prussian Institute, of which he was the co-founder in 1971. In 2014, he received the award of the Silver Medal of Honour to the East Prussian team for its long-term commitment in the context of cultural exchange with East Prussian district communities and the East and West Prussians in Southern Africa.



Wolfgang Reith

Events/Veranstaltungen

The Namibia Scientific Society offered a variety of interesting events, some of which are mentioned briefly.

Please note that the opinions expressed during presentations, films, or other events do not necessarily reflect those of the Society.

In diesem Jahr fanden bei der NWG verschiedene Veranstaltungen statt. Einige werden hier kurz erwähnt.

Bitte beachten: Die während der Vorträge, Veranstaltungen und Filmvorführungen geäußerten Ansichten stellen nicht unbedingt unsere Meinung dar.

Issues in Conservation - Namibian Perspective: challenges, issues concerning species, what has been achieved and the way forward *Public talk by Novald Kandali Iiyambo* *29 September 2021*

Novald Kandali Iiyambo talked about issues related to conservation of species in Namibia from the perspective of the Ministry of Environment. She is currently a senior conservation scientist with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, conducting research in the north east of Namibia. She has a particular passion and a broad knowledge of reptile diversity in and around Namibia. She has extensive knowledge and experience as a researcher and her interest extends from conservation biology, indigenous knowledge systems, innovations and practices.



Novald Kandali Iiyambo
(Photo: Samuel Shinyemba)

STUCK!
Public talk by Andrew Fordred
19 October 2021

For talented Namibians who battle to find opportunities locally, this was not a sales pitch; this was an initiative to provide incentive and ambition for international work both in person or as an online business. It discussed opportunities, challenges, what is needed, where to start, and how much money can be made.

CRC1211: Earth-Evolution at the Dry Limit
Public talk by Prof. Dr Dietmar Quandt and Dr Julia Bechteler

Research within the CRC1211, a multi-disciplinary programme (spanning geosciences, biology, and physics) funded by the German Science Foundation (DFG) focuses on mutual evolutionary relationships between Earth-surface processes and biota. It aims to compare the evolutionary trajectories of the Namib and Atacama, the two oldest deserts on Earth, by isolating key finger-prints of biological activity at the (water) limit of the habitable earth and to characterize the earth surface processes operating in the (virtual) absence of liquid water. The CRC1211 aims to characterize thresholds for biological colonization, diversification and gene flow on population level in response to concurrent fluvial transformation of landscapes, identify the ‘tipping point(s)’ of biotically and abiotically controlled earth-surface systems, and establish detailed long-term terrestrial climatic records of the oldest and most arid zones on earth. Chronometric and spatial information on the colonization and radiation of biota will be related to the landscape evolution and their common drivers: water availability and climate.

An introduction was provided to the CRC1211, with a focus on the B-cluster, i.e. the biology cluster. Its main objective is to analyse the biogeographic history of selected taxa/communities, including speciation, population dynamics as well as past and recent colonization histories. Information on the more recent history of colonization and adaptation will to some extent allow us to predict the potential colonization of the transforming habitats caused by the global warming in the near future. A theme that the currently granted FRAME (SASSCAL) project on melons picks up and thus allows an outlook to further collaborative research in Namibia.

InterMuc Leopard Project
*Namibia Scientific Society and Namibia Environment and Wildlife Society
 offered a public talk by Ruben Portas*
 26 October 2021



Ruben Portas (Photo: Lea Dillmann)

The InterMuc Leopard Project is run by the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research of Berlin and the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. The talk focused on the leopards roaming in the Khomas mountains surrounding Windhoek and within the Auas Oanob Conservancy crucial project partners. Ruben Portas provided basic data on diet and spatial ecology and presented some of the current research questions (the study of interactions among carnivores) as well as the methodology used to answer such questions.

Oil in the Kavango?
All Risk, No Reward for Namibia
Backyard talk by Matt Totten Jr.
 16 November 2021

Oil and gas exploration in Namibia's Kavango region as well as aggressive stock promotion by Canadian company ReconAfrica has spiked local and international interest in the Okavango River Basin. ReconAfrica promises their oil and gas project will generate vast riches for investors, boost the Namibian economy, and cause no lasting harm to the environment. Concerned citizens, scientists and activists warn the opposite. Like the Niger Delta before it, Namibia would pay far more in terms of permanent damage to its traditional communities, fertile agricultural lands, pristine ecosystems and precious water resources than any short term, foreign dominated profit would generate. Mark Totten Jr. looked at the big picture by understanding what's really going on in the Kavango. How has ReconAfrica's geologic story, marketing campaigns and public communications changed since the project began? Who is shouldering the biggest risks of ReconAfrica's turning drill bit? And who actually stands to benefit from oil exploration in the Kavango? This presentation aimed to address these questions from an earth science and petroleum industry expert's perspective.

Matt Totten Jr. received both his B.S. and M.S. Geology degrees from the University of Oklahoma, specializing in oil and gas. He then worked as an exploration and operations geologist for British Petroleum (BP) from 2010 to 2015. During his time with BP, Matt explored for deepwater oil and gas prospects, drilled deepwater conventional wells, and geo-steered several horizontal frack wells for onshore unconventional plays. Matt now lives in Windhoek and has been an outspoken critic of the Kavango exploration project since it became public knowledge in late 2020.



Matt Totten Jr. (Photo: Isdor Kamati)

Time of the Giants
 The Tsingys of Madagascar
*Goethe-Institute and Namibia Scientific Society joined the
 International Science Film Festival 2021
 22 November 2021*

Over the last 20 years, the discovery of new species of dinosaurs and sea monsters has changed the paleontological overview. In a journey across the planet, the audience learnt about previously unexpected behaviours and characteristics – how these giants hunted, reproduced and took care of their offspring. This exclusive evidence was combined with highly realistic 3D imagery in a very ambitious and spectacular documentary, a thrilling vision far from the world of Jurassic Park!

Spatial Ecology and Population Genetics of the
Zebra species of Etosha National Park
Public talk by Kenneth Uiseb about a research project
29 November 2021

This research project is aimed at assessing and understanding the mechanisms and intensities of hybridization in natural populations of Hartmann's Mountain zebra (*Equus zebra hartmannae*) and plains zebra (*Equus quagga*) using integrated genetics and ecological approaches.

Kenneth Uiseb works for the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism as Head of Wildlife Research and Monitoring in the Directorate of Scientific Services. Kenneth is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa, Johannesburg. He has a Master's Degree in Environmental Management from the University of the Free State in South Africa, and has diverse research interests in the fields of wildlife ecology, community-based natural resources management, protected area management and financing, hybridization.

Lost Edens
Goethe-Institute and Namibia Scientific Society joined the
International Science Film Festival 2021
30 November 2021

Three breath-taking places around the planet reveal the secrets of the making of the Earth. From Central America to Vietnam and Madagascar, the documentary shows how amazing geological forces have shaped it. In an investigative style, each episode guides us to the understanding of how volcanoes, continental drift, meteorites, among other factors, could have played a shocking role in making the Earth as we know it today. One or more experts will be scouting areas looking for geological clues that also explain the endemic flora and fauna as well as the particular settings.

Namibia's Elephants – Population, Distribution and Trends

Public talk by Craig and Debbie Gibson
2 December 2021

Namibia's elephant population extends across the north of the country from the extreme north-west to the Zambezi region. Their distributions change seasonally in response to water availability and many of them move long distances between Namibia and its neighbours. The largest populations are found in the northeast of the country, in Khaudum/Nyae Nyae and Zambezi Region. Densities are very low in the extremely arid north-west and Etosha National Park but have recovered from historical over-hunting that almost exterminated them. The total population has increased since 1995. This talk presented the results of some of the research that has taken place over the years to monitor the distribution and trends of elephants in Namibia.

Colin Craig's 40 years of wildlife management, management planning, ecology, research and conservation in Africa began in National Parks in Zimbabwe where he became Chief Ecologist. In Botswana, he designed and established a system of country-wide aerial surveys of wildlife and from there came to Namibia. After 4 years as Chief Conservation Scientist in MET, he has spent 20 years as a wildlife consultant working mainly on aerial surveys in Mozambique and Namibia. Colin is an active member of the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group.

Deborah Gibson was a Principal Ecologist in Zimbabwe's Department of National Parks where her research focused on monitoring and aerial surveys for 9 years. As a freelance consultant for 28 years, she has undertaken a variety of conservation work with emphasis on establishing monitoring systems and conducting aerial surveys of wildlife in Southern and West Africa. She is an active member of the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group.

Corporate Members/Korporative Mitglieder

Corporate Membership was introduced for businesses and institutions wanting to support the Namibia Scientific Society in its mission to promote education, scientific research and public awareness with regard to current and cultural issues in Namibia. Credit is given to the following businesses:



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Pointbreak



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Sense of Africa



Solitaire Desert Farm Namibia



Wealth Management Solutions cc

The Board and Team of Namibia Scientific Society wish all members and friends a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

The Namibia Scientific Society will close on Friday, 24th December 2021 at 12h00 and reopen on Wednesday, 12th January 2022

Der Vorstand und die Mitarbeiter der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft wünschen allen Mitgliedern und Freunden ein frohes Weihnachtsfest und ein gutes neues Jahr.

Die Namibia Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft schließt am Freitag, 24. Dezember 2021 um 12.00 Uhr und öffnet wieder am Mittwoch, 12. Januar 2022.





**Namibia
Scientific
Society**

**Namibia
Wissenschaftliche
Gesellschaft**

If undelivered please return to:

P.O. Box 67, Windhoek, Namibia

Tel: 061-22 53 72 / Fax: 061-22 68 46

E-mail: info@namscience.com

www.namscience.com