



**Namibia  
Scientific  
Society**

**Namibia  
Wissenschaftliche  
Gesellschaft**

# NEWSLETTER/ MITTEILUNGEN

63: 1–6  
January–June 2022  
Januar–Juni 2022

Dear members,

June in Windhoek has brought below freezing winter temperatures and a reminder that it is time for the January to June reports from the Namibia Scientific Society.

The Society had to say goodbye to our dear librarian Isdor Kamati at the end of March 2022. We wish him all the best for the future!

Many exciting smaller and larger expeditions were organised for the first months of 2022. This *Newsletter* contains some reports with very personal impressions from participants.

In February, the first 'Namib Naukluft—Namtib—Walvis Bay—Eastern Border Tour' took off. Having received more registrations than actual places available, the NSS offered another dune adventure tour in March. Ria Henning-Lohmann and Irmgard Haacke report on their exciting experiences.

Annegret Enengl and Ester Gustavo learned a lot about boreholes and the water in Windhoek during a Water Walk through the city. A report reflects their experience.

The 'Rote Kamm Tour' in March took the participants to the South of Namibia. Via Koichab, Aus and Aar, the travellers drove to the Fish River Canyon. Afterwards, a visit to the Neckertal Dam and Naute Date Plantation was scheduled. The last stop was at Mesosaurus Camp. Eberhard Hofmann tells the story.

For the stargazers, there was an 'Onjala Stargazing' weekend in June, as reported by Helen Vale.

Because of new equipment to stream the Society's Zoom presentations, we are now able to present events and talks via our YouTube channel. Please have a look and don't forget to like and subscribe.

In the last few months, Kuiseb Publishers has been busy finishing the book *The Hambukushu of Namibia's Kavango East Region* by Maria Fisch. This 500-page work is the first-ever comprehensive publication on the history of the Hambukushu people, covering a period of approximately 300 years.

The library staff currently converts their whole database to run on new software (KOHA). This process, although going well, brings challenges mostly of a technical nature. However, the light at the end of the tunnel is coming closer, and the collections will be well presented once the process is finished.

In addition, the extension of the basement rooms for the expansion of the library is progressing. The dust has settled—in a literal sense—and the dusting and cleaning of the complete collections is advancing well.

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

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MITTEILUNGEN  
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The opinions expressed in the articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Namibia Scientific Society.

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

# A Personal Review of the Namib Desert Trip 19–25 February 2022

*Ria Henning-Lohmann*



To make it short: Being a participant of this trip through the Namib Desert was one of the most exciting experiences ever! We thank Frank and Waldi for inviting us on this trip designed for the members of the Namibia Scientific Society (NSS). We—my husband Mike and I—have been so close to the desert for so many years, but only once for a daytrip behind that big fence. And actually, we had no idea what we could expect behind it, but there was still a longing to follow this primal human instinct and conquer new territory.

This trip required all kinds of preparation, including getting a well-equipped car with which the tour would be feasible. We thank our Namibian friends for providing us with everything beyond an almost perfect car supplied by a rental firm.

But let me tell the story from the beginning: We met at Namtib Nature Reserve, our starting point, for the first night at a camp that for a couple of years had been much drier because of a lack of rain. But this time our cars stood on green grass. First meeting, first meal, first night ... for us everything was new. As all of the other participants were members of the Society and already knew each other, everybody walked around for 'meet and greet'.

After dinner we listened to Walter Theile and his wife talking about the struggle to realise their concept for a private Biosphere Reserve.

Next morning, first breakfast, fresh morning breeze, aromatic coffee and installation of radios in every vehicle.

Fifteen vehicles: three of our tour operator Volker from Desert Magic and his crew; two with board members and scientists of the NSS; and ten mainly with participants with experience of the desert. First a discussion of the day's route, all kinds of dos and don'ts, and an introduction to the operation of the radio. We learned to count ourselves: happily, number six. We drove back for some kilometres to the Entrance Kanaan Nr 1. First stop, first gathering—and then we left the 'known' world.

The good rains of the previous days and weeks allowed us to drive through a surreal green wide and empty landscape. Sometimes herds of oryx and ostriches crossed our way. At noon, we reached the first sand dunes; actually, they were prehistoric sand dunes, now compressed to sandstone. Here we had to prepare our vehicles: deflate the tyres to a much lower pressure to allow them to grip the sand.

And then ... lots of small dunes and large clusters of grasses started to dominate the scenery. From a distance it looked quite harmless: a lot of orange sand, some grey-green stuff on it, and far away some brown-black mountains. Coming into this 'grey-green stuff', we realised that this meant finding a way through the small dunes and the rough vegetation and driving carefully around it. These grasses were called 'Bushman grasses', and were so hard and dry that no animal ever ate them. The San, we were told, manufactured their arrows from it.

The convoy kept falling apart, so it was helpful to stop from time to time, so as not to lose anybody. By the way: modern electronically assisted vehicles have a lot of highly complex technology to control the vehicle optimally in every situation. Features that are hardly ever needed in road traffic were immensely helpful here and had to be learned urgently. A big thanks to the experienced members of the NSS who were passing on their knowledge to us!

Some time in the late afternoon, we came upon a huge dark block in the valley. This was something especially interesting to entomologist Dr John Irish. It turned out to be a prehistoric termite burrow. Some of its passages were still visible—for termites that must have been far larger than today's species.

The sun sank lower; we were hungry and tired, but there was one point we should not miss, as Volker announced: A view from the Bushman Hills overlooking the desert.

We drove round these dark brown hills of dolerite of volcanic origin, originating from the time of Gondwana. While passing enchanted-looking rock formations the road ascended.



At the top, we watched the sunset from a magical place, overlooking an endless desert. It did not take much effort to imagine the San of former times, how they had danced there and sacrificed to their gods.

Finally, Volker directed us to the foot of the hills, where we set up our camp for the night and had our first shower with the water we had brought—we can assure you, it works—having a shower with five litres of water. Volker's team had meanwhile built up the kitchen area and prepared a delicious meal. What a day!

I woke up early in our roof-top tent, inhaling the great silence and the deep peace of that place. Being aware that there were no other humans around for miles was exhilarating.

At a distance, the kitchen crew started to prepare breakfast as more and more fellow-travellers left their sleeping bags, heading for a new day with new adventures.

After breakfast, packing, and the daily morning meeting, we returned to the dunes with their hard tufts of grass. As the sun rose it became hot again. Dunes and flat plains alternated. Framed by black rock formations, our tour group proceeded sometimes faster, sometimes more slowly. Sometimes our driving speed averaged 10–15 km/h. This was one of the experiences that made the difference: driving within the large expanses became a physical experience that made us feel a part of that landscape. Drivers who did not yet have calluses on their palms got them now.

At noon we paused at a small rock formation with a cave in the Awasib mountains. Forever a secluded shelter in the battle against heat and cold. In front of it three bushman graves. Nameless fates.

Afternoon proceeded with driving through the dunes. And then—a great surprise to everyone—within a large, wide-open pan, something twinkled like water. A mirage? We had to check—and found a large pan full of water. None of the party had seen this before. We stopped and enjoyed this miraculous sight for the afternoon.

The third overnight camp was set at a place close by, in the foothills of Awasib, close by a single tremendous wild ebony at an ephemeral river. Time to meet and talk and enjoy our refreshing sundowner drinks and delicious dinner. What a luxury within this harsh environment!

Next morning the scenery changed again: black flat ground, sometimes spare grass, sometimes just bare gravel. In the distance, a sandstorm darkened the air. A group of the participants set out to find a spring they had discovered decades earlier. They were successful!

These mountains were made of sandstone and could store and save rainwater over long periods. Someone found a piece of ostrich eggshell with engravings on it: a certain indicator of the use of this spring by San to refill their water supply in their ostrich eggs.



We continued. And the further west we went, the bigger the dunes became. Strange mountains were our companions along that way and seemed quite extraterrestrial to people who have a gift for fantasy.

Later the ride became a bit monotonous, but we could listen on our radios to the lectures of Gunter von Schumann, the great expert on the coastal area with all its relics from the white man's history in the Namib. Our first destination was an abandoned bulldozer—a relic from the 1930s when a South African diamond prospector wanted to try his luck here. He did not find his fortune in this place, but machines and a shelter remain to this day as testimony to the run for diamonds that gripped this desert for several generations. A few kilometres further on, we saw an abandoned lorry called “Suzi”, which also bears witness to the days of the diamond fever.

Meanwhile, the previously known world had disappeared from the horizon of our memory. What do we care about civilization, more than one of us may have thought or felt, when reality caught up with us in the evening of the 24th of February, while we were sitting comfortably together having a drink: someone had an Iridium mobile phone, and so the news reached us that there was war in Europe. An event that hardly anyone could imagine - and which did not fit in at all with our peaceful mood.

On the next day, an increasingly fresh wind came to meet us over the dunes. At lunchtime, we finally reached the sea at Silvia Hill Bay and were suddenly surrounded by the distinctly cool Antarctic winds.



The roaring sea appeared far below us. We stood at least 100 metres higher on a pure sand wall that had been built up here over thousands of years.

From now on there was only sand. We were in the heart of the Sea of Sand, the Sand Namib, with its ever-moving dunes. Just stunning. In any case, it turned out that the small dunes in the east had been a good preparation for what was awaiting us now. The dunes all have a flatter and a steeper side. The wind sweeps the sand up to the crest and there it breaks and rolls back down the other side. The steep side was angled at 37 degrees—and we had to throw our cars and ourselves down the slope.

Agreement between the vehicles at this point is of particular importance: Once a vehicle is over the edge, it cannot be steered or braked and is visible again only minutes later. Only then can the slip be released again for the next car. To launch yourself over the edge into nothingness in the heavy vehicle is pure adrenaline!

Now we also understood why no insurance covers damage caused here. And why no tour guide would tow away an unroadworthy vehicle. It is simply impossible! The only way to get a disabled vehicle out of there is with the help of a mobile workshop that can be ordered to the scene to repair the vehicle there—days or weeks later.

Driving at noon is a particular challenge; the sun is so high that all contours are blurred and the tracks of the cars in front are no longer recognizable. The gaps between the cars increased because of this, but it was vital to stay in the track, because untracked there is no orientation at all. It is good to have a tour leader who really knows his way around in the sand!

To keep to schedule we had to drive on the beach itself for some kilometres, and we had to reach that beach during low tide, because some sections were narrow and submerged quickly. If we were too late, we would be stuck.

When we left the beach, Volker guided us to a flat area at Meob Bay, close to the former Diamond Restricted Area. A police hut was all that was left.

At our campsite it was very windy. After sunset it became clammy, cold, salty, and sandy. What a change! We had to take down our roof tent again after half an hour; the danger of its being torn to shreds was too high. A night on the seats in the car followed. It was not really comfortable—but much better than a night in an airplane. First time that we really enjoyed having a warming fire in the kitchen area. Some put their bed rolls right beside it.

But it was not only the weather that made the area look haunted: the beach was lined with bones of uncounted whales. As early as 350 years ago whalers (from Connecticut, USA) came here to boil the fat and skin of the whales for lamps. The rest was left to the elements. What a mess!

It was not until 1909 that new life came to the coast when diamonds were prospected here for the first time by a number of German geologists. Various



remnants of buildings and installations from that time bear witness to the elaborate efforts of that period. Several times the work had to be closed down. During the First World War and the world economic crisis in 1931 the fields were closed. All workers and employees had to leave the area in less than an hour. Countless objects of daily life have therefore been preserved in the sand. The name ‘Sperrgebiet’ has survived.

We were pleased to have with us members of the Windhoek Diving Club, led by Gunter von Schumann, Frank Witneben, and Hartmut and Frauke Rechholtz, who, in collaboration with museums and foundations, have set themselves the task of preserving the remains from final decay and thus saving a reminder of the beginnings of the diamond era from disappearing completely. An important and dedicated voluntary task.

Further north, we got back to the beach in the area of ‘Langewand’. There our expedition passed the shipwrecks of Eduard Bohlen—nowadays in a great distance from the coastline. The ship suffered shipwreck exactly 100 years ago, and later a smaller ship named Shawnee, still lying in the wave area of the ocean. In order to get back to the dunes, a transit on the ‘Langewand’ had to be found that would allow the ascent.

In Gunter von Schumann’s highly interesting lectures we heard about the unbelievable efforts that were necessary to live and work in the diamond estates; not only a pipeline for water had to be installed—bringing water from

80 kilometres away. Hundreds of workers had to be supplied with food transported by ox-wagon, or provided by their own bakery and vegetable gardens. Still a scenery of oppressive intensity.

Later we were crossing the so-called moonscape—endless gravel hills with the overburden of countless excavations. More incredible evidence of human effort!

A final stretch of fantastic dune driving followed. One slip face after another. The dimensions of the dunes we now reached were unimaginable. Everything we saw was pervaded by an unearthly sense. We felt like giants but at the same time we were ‘goggas’—a new Afrikaans word I learned—tiny crawling creatures. Stunning—breathhtaking—gorgeous!

We spent the last night in a huge crescent dune on solid ground. Once an old riverbed of the Kuiseb. In the morning we woke up again to clammy, foggy air—but the mood was still upbeat. It seemed that nothing would be able to frighten us any more—except the realisation that this journey was rapidly coming to an end.

At noon, we reached the exit of the park south of Walvis Bay. Our little survival community had reached its destination. But we were united by an indescribable time of intense experiences and new friendships.

We needed days to get used to normal life in civilization again, while this incredibly strong feeling of having left the dimensions of our known world has remained—and at the same time the sense of having experienced the world as giants and as goggas. We were giants. We were goggas. We were heroes.

Thanks to everybody who made this trip possible!

For photo enthusiasts and photo book lovers, I will bring my photographic memories in book form (21 x 27 cm) to share with you and others. If you are interested in a copy, please contact me! [mail@riahenning.de](mailto:mail@riahenning.de)

# Water walk: boreholes and water in Windhoek

*Ester Gustavo and Annegret Enengl*

The Namibian Hydrological Association (NHA), City of Windhoek (CoW), and Namibia Scientific Society (NSS) offered a Fun Walk which was about 8 km from the city centre to the eastern side of Windhoek.

On Saturday 5th March 2022, members and friends of the NSS met in a parking area in front of the Apostolic Church near Windhoek Municipal Offices at 7:00.

After a short muscle warm-up and introduction by hydrogeologist, Ester Gustavo, on the activities planned for the walk, the group went to the first site, the Pahl Quelle.

In the early years, there was a swimming pool near the Pahl Quelle, which was filled with the hot water of this spring.

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 165 m into a fault, it had previously been artesian and flooded the surrounding buildings on several occasions. It also produces hot water measured at about 79°C. The borehole yields roughly 60 m<sup>3</sup>/h.



Figure 1: Old hot water swimming pool near Pahl Quelle borehole. Source: NSS Photo Collection



Figure 2: The group engaged in estimating the water temperature at Pahl Quelle

The second site was a hand-dug well at the old Grüner Kranz Hotel. History has it that in the olden days people came to the area with their wagons and let the horses feast on the marshes while the men had a beer at the hotel.

The depth of the well is not known, but the water level can rise as high as 7 m below the ground surface. The well is well maintained and a pump is installed to keep the water level low. During the site visit the constant inflow through the rock into the well was evident.

The third site was a group of boreholes (at Maerua Mall) drilled to target the major Pahl Fault at different depths. The intention was that the City would have a backup water supply in the form of boreholes that get used during periods of drought and in times of water scarcity. There are five boreholes at this location, drilled to different depths. The Maerua Mall

boreholes are referred to as the Group 3 boreholes. The current production boreholes 3A\_5 and 3A\_6 were drilled to 189 m and 223 m respectively. The water has a temperature of about 41°C.

After this visit, well-earned refreshments and snacks were due. The group met at the parking area in front of Hi-Fi Corporation, where they could rest and recharge for the uphill hike awaiting them before the next stops.

The fourth site was the exposed section of the Pahl Fault, where a further explanation on how this geological feature plays a role in groundwater recharge and in the positioning of the boreholes was provided.

This was at a group of older boreholes in Klein Windhoek located in the proximity of the South African Embassy, on Jan Jonker Road. The older two boreholes form part of the Group 5 boreholes. Borehole 5\_4 was initially drilled to 305 m and borehole 5\_6 was drilled to 246 m. This borehole has hot water of about 51°C.

The last site was the “cherry on the cake”. Mr Siyamana Mulele from the City of Windhoek was kind enough to explain the process of Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) or Artificial Recharge. This is one of 7 recharge stations where





Map 1: The water walk on 5th March 2022



Figure 3: Hand-dug well at Grüner Kranz



Figure 4: Participants measuring groundwater temperatures at the Group 3 Boreholes (Maerua Mall)



Figure 5: Refreshment stop



Figure 6: Group photo at an exposure of the Pahl Fault





Figure 7: The participants at one of the Group 5 hot water boreholes



Figure 8: A short introduction to the Managed Aquifer Recharge system at one of the recharge stations



Figure 9: The treatment tanks at the recharge station

water received from NamWater is treated to predetermined standards before it is stored underground for future use. This process not only assists with water storage but also serves to protect the water from high evaporation. The two main treatments are the removal of dissolved organic carbon, and chlorination.

The walk was informative, fun, and the participants enjoyed the activities at the boreholes. The Managed Aquifer Recharge concluded the fun walk, at which point everyone was satisfied and looking forward to the next Fun Walk.

Our gratitude is extended to the City of Windhoek staff for partnering with the walk and arranging for the access and assistance needed to make the walk a success.

We also extend our gratitude to Mr Ferdinand Diener for making available access to the well and for his input on the history of the site.

Finally, our thanks to the friends of NHA, with a special mention of Mr Nelson Chipeo, who was available to transport the instruments and who ensured we had the event sufficiently photographed.

# Namib Naukluft—Namtib—Walvis Bay Eastern Border Tour

*Irngard Haacke*



Photo: W. Haacke

On the approach to Namtib, at the Tiras Mountains, herds of Oryx (170 roughly counted) fled the passing cars but delighted the passengers. The signs of ‘desert magic tours’ guided the tour participants to the ‘Little Hunter’s Rest’ campsite, a very different one to those of the following nights. A calm Volker Jahnke, our knowledgeable tour guide, and Kole, the logistics expert and leader of the ten convoy vehicles, were ready to welcome us. Towards the evening the owner of Namtib, Walter Theile, and his wife Renate joined us for dinner and after all the participants had introduced themselves, Walter lectured us on aspects of the biosphere reserve on his farm. The well-built ablution block with its hot shower water was a luxury indeed. First evening, first campsite.

However, it is not the intention of this report to give diary entries of the six days and nights of the trip from 5 to 11 March 2022. Instead, impressions will be highlighted.

Ten roadworthy 4x4s, loaded with at least 20 litres of water per person (including shower water), the petrol/diesel required to take us through to Walvis Bay, camping equipment, drinks, and lunch eats, were ready to take on





Photo: Roger Swart

whatever terrain was encountered. The drivers and their passengers were keen to start the adventure.

It was however not actually about us, the participants, the human beings, enjoying being away and out and about in a different world to our everyday one, tackling slip faces and revving up long dunes, but about what we encountered. A cave formerly used by San, eight graves, and a rock painting reminded us of people having lived here much earlier. There were also fossilised dunes created by millions of years of wind, sand, and water. The approach to Awasi was green, almost lush, after the good rains. Its unusual and striking plant life, as well as the disputed fairy circles, called for a botanist to provide expert information. A bulldozer left behind by some diamond prospectors and the old Ford truck called 'Suzi', deserted by Emil Ottogalli, could not have illustrated better that human-made objects left unmaintained will succumb to destruction by nature. Rusty remains sticking out of her cover of dune sand still showed what a splendid and impressive ship the 'Eduard Bohlen' must have been when she ran aground in 1909. Peculiarly, the wreck lies far inland due to an ever-changing coastline, and jackals have made it their sandy home. Not far from the rusty heap of the 'Eduard' lies the skeleton of a whale with most of its bones hidden in deep sand. The whale could clearly not have managed to heave itself to its place of death. As a contrast, the shipwreck of the 'Shawnee' (1976) is surrounded by splashing waves, but photos revealed that this lady had already

been totally covered by sand so that cars could even drive over her. Forces of wind, water and sand clearly take their course and the coastline will inevitably continue to change.

Yet, human effort did not shun a harsh desert. On the contrary, friendly terrain and available resources invited activity. Fischersbrunn, for example, still shows the sizable water hole, traces of gardening activity with a wooden water channel, and sand sledges used for transporting cargo. A Dakota even flew in the parts of a bulldozer to be reassembled to facilitate earth works. Everywhere wood showed its robustness: it has continued to outlive the rusty and collapsing iron, as is evident in the shambles of what were once functioning Chevrolets. The big workshop shed standing tall is proof of the heightened activity, but the bulldozer has by now also given itself up to the ravages of time. However, present-day fishermen have made Fischersbrunn their haven for angling tours and live in well-constructed wooden buildings with water available. As a contrast, Conception Bay exhibits dilapidated structures jutting out of the sand, except for a sturdy waterpipe junction and a sound one-roomed hut, which was once a police station on the beach.

Then there are the deserted diamond mining settlements of Grillenberger, Charlottenfelder, and Hosatia between Meob Bay and Conception Bay, which



Photo: Susanne Cranz

are the monuments to hectic human activity for personal gain. Many heaps of sifted sand are scattered throughout Charlottenfelder. Grillenberger provides the best evidence of how vast the mining activity was and how the miners passed their life in those remote desert places ruled by wind and sand. The bulldozers, the ox-wagons, and diamond sifting areas, as well as some houses and the numerous green wine bottles, are evidence of how miners coped with the lonely life in remote desert surroundings. The praiseworthy effort of laying a pipe for conveying water from the 80 km-distant Conception Water to these mining fields was a formidable task. Yet ruin and desolation caused by wind and sand has taken its toll here too. The Windhoek Underwater Club, however, has done some renovations and established a museum to preserve abandoned and collected items for posterity.

If human efforts in these parts of the desert belong to the past, the seals at Sylvia Hill and beyond, the penguins at the cave in the southern direction, and the endless colonies of cormorants along the beach front north of Conception Bay, together with the ever-present seagulls, more than make up for all the human endeavours lost to the past. Their domain is secure and their existence assured, their noise dominating the crashing waves, their little ones falling prey to jackals and birds.

Having lined our vehicles up one behind the other for the 'race course' down the dune slope, with Kole in the lead, we chatted away easily with lots of laughter, confident in Volker's knowledge of the desert dunes irrespective of whether we were travelling in clear sunshine or in thick mist with the poorest visibility. He just showed us how it's done! Of course, he naturally expected us to do the same, namely plunge down steep slip faces in the mist on our way to Bayview! He continuously kept the convoy updated via radio and conveyed the relevant facts applicable to the area we were travelling through. When he and Kole took us down to the narrow beach drive between the dunes and the sea, we knew we would be safe. They knew the tide cycles, knew the driving ability of their participants, trusted us to be sensible, and thus provided an enjoyable experience for us along the Atlantic beach. The approach to the expanse of Sandwich Harbour was amazing. And once again, sand-covered rusty barrels and a wooden gable emerged from the sandy depth to lay bare past activity.

It was left to us to arrange our own camping routine, while the kitchen, breakfast, and dinner area was established in no time by Volker, Kole, and especially Johnnie and Goodboy. And what a sociable area it was every single day! We only had to bring chairs, drinks, crockery and cutlery, and dish up the tasty, hearty and healthy meals (a fresh salad every evening!!) prepared with a smile by Johnnie and Goodboy. Shower cabins were a luxury to use with the water we took in containers for Volker to heat up. The well-used long-drop tent was to be counted on. There was nothing that was missing, or that 'desert magic tours' had not planned or catered for.



Photo: K. Brandt

The participants were all members of the Namibia Scientific Society, attracted by the offer of a guided tour through the dunes starting at Namtib and ending in Walvis Bay. A number of us knew one another and everybody tried to become acquainted with every participant. Interesting and stimulating conversations, as well as much catching up, took place. The spirit of belonging to one group determined the mood and helping one another became a prevailing code of behaviour, whether stuck three-quarters up a long, drawn-out dune, in a sharp bend at the bottom of a slip face, or when regulating tyre pressure to obtain the aspired 0,8 bar. Proving which vehicle could perform best was never a motive, but tackling slip faces and reaching the top of the dune were priority. Waiting for one another when a vehicle was still struggling to escape the thickest churned up sand did not upset participants, but was accepted. When nothing seemed to move while a driver was tackling a more trying sandy challenge, Goodboy quietly arrived in the Land Cruiser and either effortlessly pulled out the vehicle or asked the driver to follow him on a different track up the dunes to safe terrain. A 'Goodboy' indeed!

To cut a long story short: if the Namibia Scientific Society had not come up with the invitation to join a guided dune tour with 'desert magic tours', we would have missed out colossally. The entire south-west region of Namibia from the eastern border of the Tiras Mountains through the dunes to the west coast up to Sandwich Harbour would have remained unvisited; the many striking

sights, places, and remnants of human endeavour unnoticed, and the experience of a dune challenge foregone. Special mention thus goes to the Namibia Scientific Society for designing a programme for a dune tour that left no participant's soul untouched. Thanks to the scientists who fulfilled a huge job in keeping us informed and enlightened on the surroundings we passed through. There was much that we could easily have missed if geologist Dr Roger Swart had not explained the geographic phenomena and the forceful action of wind, sand, and water over millions of years. The botanist Prof. Norbert Jürgens sketched an integrated picture of how plants live and protect themselves, at times idiosyncratically, in their environment. The many Latin names of plants and grasses may well have escaped us, but the fossilised camelthorn tree roots in the plain of the Inselberge cannot be forgotten. Dr Elisabeth Mausolf leads the GIZ MARISMA Project Office in Swakopmund. She skilfully introduced us to Marine Spatial Planning (Marisma) and explained, by referring to concrete examples, how Namibian Ministries need to talk to one another before taking decisions about where and when human activities should occur in the ocean to assist in growing the ocean economy, instead of obstructing sustainable ocean economic growth in Namibia by going ahead alone.

To conclude, a huge thank-you to

- The Namibia Scientific Society and its ever-active CEO Waltraut Fritzsche, better known as Waldi, as well as her staff, of whom Ruth Moldzio joined the tour. Waldi remembers all the easily overlooked details and hence, naturally, brought along the bottles of champagne to be cracked on Elke's and Ruth's birthdays.
- 'desert magic tours': Volker Jahnke, Kole, Goodboy, and Johnnie are an amazing team with whom to be crossing the dunes and can only be recommended.
- All the participants making up a friendly, kind, and harmonious group that Rhe spoilt with ice-cream during the lunch break at shipwreck 'Shawnee'.

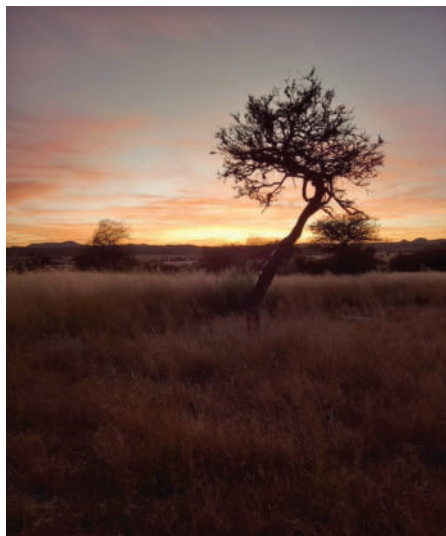
Saying goodbye would have been sudden and very final on arrival close to the salt pans of Walvis Bay, where tyres were inflated to normal measures, if it had not been postponed to after dinner at Altstadt Restaurant in Swakopmund in the evening. Then the group split up.

What a good time it was.



## Report on the NSS weekend at Onjala Lodge—3–5 June 2022

*Helen Vale*



A group of 9 Namibia Scientific Society (NSS) members enjoyed an action-packed weekend at Onjala in early June. This private nature reserve and lodge is situated some 85 km north-east of Windhoek and covers about 1700 hectares. Its two unusual attractions apart from the wide vistas, superb sunsets, and varied species of game, are an observatory with ‘Zeiss refractor’ telescope and semi-resident astronomer Wolfgang Paech (knowledgeable compiler of the monthly Astro news), and its Zensensations Spa. I enjoyed both, though I wish my German had been better to fully appreciate the former. We viewed





the craters on the waxing crescent moon, the Eta Carina Nebula, the jewel box amongst other celestial wonders! The Southern Cross, the constellation of Scorpio, and the Milky Way were the dominant sights in the night sky.

The company was great, as was the food. The highlights for me were the breakfast on the Saturday morning in the bush after a leisurely thirty-minute walk; the game drive late Saturday afternoon; chatting round the fire by the Observatory under a starry sky; and the company and insights of the two young Namibian guides, Pinehas and Philemon; not to mention the ever-warm hot water bottle that miraculously appeared in my bed in the late afternoons.

Many thanks are due to the NSS (and particularly to Armin for his warm good nature) and Pack Safaris for organising this weekend

# Wir waren denn 'mal weg – kreuz und quer durch den tiefen Süden

Roter Kamm 19. bis 27. März 2022

*Eberhard Hofmann*

Weitläufig, triste Strecken, öde Ebenen, endlose Pad, ob mit Teerdecke oder Schotter, extreme Hitze – dann auch noch mit Sandsturm! Oder klirrende Kälte. Vordergründig besehen ist der Süden Namibias wahrlich kein Reise- und Vergnügungsziel, abgesehen von ein paar „Perlen“ wie Lüderitzbucht, Fischfluss-Canyon, Bogenfels ... Da hört's schon auf, da Schloss Duwisib und Sossus-Vley eigentlich noch zur Landesmitte zählen.

Die ältere Generation der Namibier, die noch mit der Eisenbahn ans Kap oder ins damalige Transvaal mehrere Tage lang zu Besuch oder zum Studium gefahren ist, hat den Süden im Bahnabteil auch möglichst durch Kartenspiel oder Lümmelei im Speisesalon hinter sich bringen wollen, wenn's denn keine Geselligkeit beiderseitiger Geschlechter gab.

## Vorurteile über den Süden

Der aride Süden begann für die Bahnfahrer direkt nach der Parklandschaft von Rehoboth und hörte zwei Tage später erst beim Eintritt in die Hexrivier-Berge und Weinhänge des Kaplands auf. Mittendrin lag noch der lange



Rastlager im Sperrgebiet im feuchten Rivier. (Foto: Drohnenaufnahme von Urs Gabathuler)



Ausgedehnte silbrige Grünflächen im Sperrgebiet mit Gewitterwolke der auslaufenden Regenzeit. (Foto: Eberhard Hofmann)

Warte-Aufenthalt am trostlosen Eisenbahnknotenpunkt De Aar in der Großen Karru. Vielleicht hegen andere Namibier, die den Süden auf dem Weg zum Kap eiligst im Automobil zurücklassen oder am besten überfliegen, ähnlich abweisende Vorurteile über den Landesteil samt Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet)-Nationalpark nördlich des Oranje.

Das ändert sich abenteuerlich und faszinierend, wenn sie als individuelle Selbstfahrer, bzw. als Allrad-Gruppe mit der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft (NWG) in der auslaufenden, guten Regenzeit 2022 gezielt und kreuz und quer in den tiefen Süden eintauchen! Auf dem kommerziellen Farmgelände und teils bis tief in die Namib, ins Sperrgebiet hinein, steht in diesem Jahr das silberne Gras lückenlos in der Saat auf weiten Strecken wie ein wogendes Kornfeld, dazu mit überströmenden Dämmen – der Süden hatte in dieser Regenzeit überraschende Sternstunden!

## Selbstfahrer unter Führung

Eine geführte Selbstfahrer-Reisegesellschaft wollte das in diesem Jahr erleben. So geschehen am Samstag, 19. März, ab Farm Trekpoort, 50 km nördlich



der Zink-Mine von Rosh Pinah, bis Sonntag, 27. März 2022, als 16 Teilnehmer in acht Allradwagen zwischen Köcher- und Kameldornbäumen, 40 km nordöstlich von Keetmanshoop auf Farm Spitzkoppe schließlich noch einmal gecamppt haben. Dann haben sie den langen Heimweg zur Landesmitte oder selbst nach Swakopmund angetreten. Von Windhoek aus haben sie insgesamt rund 4.000 Kilometer zurückgelegt, ca 500 km davon verliefen auf der Teerdecke Windhoek/Keetmanshoop und zurück sowie von Grasplatz über Aus nach Seeheim. Von dort folgte ein besonderer Abstecher auf einer ziemlich verspülten Schüttelpad zum überströmenden Neckartal-Damm: einer der unvergesslichen Höhepunkte im ariden Süden.

Über 3.000 km der Safari-Tour waren Bezirks- und Veldpads sowie streckenweise totale Off-Road-Spuren im kaum kartierten Gelände wie in und westlich der Koichab-Pfanne, aus deren Tiefen seit 1968 Trinkwasser nach Lüderitzbucht abgepumpt wird. Die meisten Teilnehmer der Tour haben neben dem populären Ziel des Fischfluss-Canyons und anderen vertrauten Teilstrecken absolutes Neuland erlebt und sind nun zum ersten Mal auf Flecken gestoßen, die vorher höchstens dem Namen nach bekannt waren. Auch für die NWG war es das erste Mal, dass eine ausgedehnte Südentour zwischen dem Sperrgebiet im Westen und dem Köcherbaumwald östlich von Keetmanshoop arrangiert wurde. Dass die Selbstfahrer täglich ohne Irrfahrt das Planziel mit geselligem Campingplatz erreicht haben, hatten sie den geländekundigen „Pfadfinder-Guides“ Volker Jahnke und Bernd Roemer zu verdanken, die von der NWG zur Führung angeheuert waren.

## Fachkundiges Briefing

An jedem Morgen vor der Abfahrt des Konvois begann der Tag nach dem Frühstück mit einem landeskundlichen, bzw. geophysikalischen Briefing der vorliegenden Strecke. Während der Fahrt meldeten sich die Kundigen per Funk noch sporadisch zur Ergänzung der aktuell sachlichen Information oder mit regionalen Anekdoten, wozu sich jeder Wagen einschalten konnte.

Der Einstieg zur Südentour erfolgte bei Rosh Pinah in den Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet)-Nationalpark und zwar mit Kurs auf den für die meisten Teilnehmer unbekannten Roten Kamm, den Meteoritenkrater, der durch Einschlag aus dem All vor viereinhalb Mio. Jahren entstanden ist und der als exotischer Namengseber für die Südentour der NWG herangezogen wurde. Die Selbstfahrer mussten im tiefen Sand am Hang des Kraterrands ihr Können unter Beweis stellen, aber mit zwei, drei Anläufen und Schwung im Donkeygang hat es jeder geschafft.

Auf dem Kamm selbst wehte ein peitschender Sandsturm, so dass sich niemand beschwerte, als die Fahrt durch die flache Namib fortgesetzt wurde, die





Geophysikalisches Briefing mit Dr. Detlef Eberle (Foto: Eberhard Hofmann)

sich über die größten Strecken nicht als gewohnte Einöde sondern als silberwogendes Gräsermeer darbott, vereinzelt mit Oryxherden, Springböcken und am Fischflusscanyon auch mit Bergzebras.

## Feine Pferde und Koichab

Ein Besuch der verwilderten Pferde von Garub lag auf der Strecke sowie eine Rast an einem ursprünglichen Ausspannplatz der Frachtfahrer, die vor dem Bahnbau zwischen Lüderitzbucht und Aus per Ochsenwagen Güter vom Hafen ins Inland befördert haben – unter unsäglichen Entbehrungen und großen Verlusten an Trekkochsen. Am Rastplatz findet man steinmarkierte „Grundstücke“ und antiquarischen Müll von vor 125 Jahren – verrostete Blechdosen, Scherben von Bier- und Parfümflaschen ...

Weitere Stationen waren das ausgestreckte Gelände der Koichab-Pfanne mit ausgeprägten Kameldorninseln sowie die Pumpstation Koichab, woher Lüderitzbucht sein Trinkwasser herleitet. Zwischen den Campingnächten unter dem stets ansprechenden Sternenzelt mit Kreuz des Südens hat sich die

Safari-Gruppe dann mit zwei Übernachtungen am Westrand des Fischfluss-Canyons im Luxus der Fishriver Lodge verwöhnen lassen. Zwei versierte Canyonfahrer haben die Besucher zu einem Tagesausflug sowie Bad im laufenden Fischfluss per Schaukelpartie im Touri-Landruiser in die Tiefen des Spülgrabens bugsiert – über jede Klippe am Abgrund mit jedem Rad einzeln. Die Selbstfahrer waren froh, dass sie die Geländefahrt diesmal den lokal kompetenten Fahrern überlassen und sich kutschieren lassen konnten, um die Aufmerksamkeit auf Fels, Kluft und Flusslauf zu lenken. Die durch Millionen Jahre geäderte Landschaft erfährt der Fahrgast hier nicht nur mit dem Auge und Gemüt sondern auch mit Gesäß und Magen.

Eingeflochten in die Tour war zudem die Besichtigung bis zum Anfassen von Felsgravuren und – noch viel, viel älter – Dinosaurier-Fossilien auf den Farmen Aar bei Aus und Spitzkoppe bei Keetmanshoop, wo die Tourgruppe originelle, mit der Erde verwurzelte Menschen angetroffen hat. Und unterwegs gab es einen Stopp bei den Schanzen der Engländer und Buren, die im 1. Weltkrieg bei ... einen Angriff der deutschen Schutztruppe erwarteten, den die Truppe auf ihrem Rückzug vor der zehnfachen Übermacht wahrscheinlich gar nicht mehr erwogen hat.

## Dämme-Erlebnis

Und weiter ging die Fahrt zu den größten Dämmen des Südens, zuerst zum technischen Vorzeige-Erlebnis am funkelneuen Neckartal-Damm, sogar mit überströmender Mauer. Im Inneren der Mauer konnten wir modernste technische Schikanen bestaunen. Nach kurzem Aufenthalt folgte der Aufbruch ca 80 Kilometer weiter zum Naute-Damm, der durch die Al Dhara-Dattelpalmpflanzung – man sollte lieber vom Palmenhain sprechen – mit rund 24.000 Palmen einen Brennpunkt des Südens bildet. Die Führung mit dem arabischen Dattelspezialisten durch die Export-Verpackungsanlage mit Kostproben der köstlichen Wüstenfrucht und einer Geschenkpäckchen zum Mitnehmen hat sich tief eingepreßt. Anschließend lockte die Kaffeepause mit Likör und Gin der hauseigenen Dattel-Destillerie der Familie Katrin und Michael Weder. „Wir wären ja so gerne noch geblieben ...“ doch die Gruppe musste aufbrechen, um 40 km jenseits von Keetmanshoop den malerischen Mesosaurus-Kamp von Giel Steenkamp möglichst noch bei letztem Tageslicht zu erreichen. Der letzte Tourabend nach einer anstrengenden vielseitigen Tagesroute endete zwischen Kameldorn, Siedelwebernest und Köcherbaum bei bester Steenkamp-Gastfreundschaft. Der Abend bildete noch nicht den Abschluss.

Am nächsten Vormittag führte Giel Steenkamp uns zu etlichen farmeigenen Mesosaurus-Fossilien. Über die versteinerten Relikte konnte er trefflich Auskunft erteilen, denn er empfängt wiederholt kundige Wissenschaftler auf



Eine Mesosaurier-Fossilie bei Keetmanshoop, ca 280 Millionen Jahre alt, vor der Kontinentalverschiebung, als Südamerika noch mit Namibie verbunden war. Ähnliche Fossilien kommen in Brasilien vor (Foto: Eberhard Hofmann).

der Farm „Spitzkoppe“. Nach der guten Regenzeit traf die Gruppe hier auch den ersten großen, hüpfenden Schwarm junger Fußgängerheuschrecken an, die in den Aprilwochen darauf fliegend über Weideflächen des Südens hergefallen sind.

Vielseitig, unzählige Details, kurze Einblicke in die Tiefe der Erd- und Landesgeschichte, in die Natur mit allerhand Anekdoten mit Lokalkolorit ... eine anstrengende, aber unvergessliche neue NWG-Fahrt, aus der die Leitung Lehren zieht, was bei einer Wiederholung verbessert werden kann. Die Anpreisung der Safari als „Desert Magic Tour“, was zunächst wie ein Klischee klingt, hat Bedeutung erlangt, weil für viele Eindrücke Worte nicht ausreichen.



Journeys *Namibia*



## Equipment upgrade made possible by Atlas Engineering



Because of a generous donation from our committed member Mr. Roland Enke and his company Atlas Engineering Solutions, the Namibia Scientific Society is now able to broadcast its events with the new live streaming camera joining the global community.

Such equipment grants a significant improvement in terms of image transmission quality, especially when compared to the previously used camera, which was actually designed for use in private households.

In the first months of the year, we could reach a live audience all over the world, thus following the general tendency to have events beamed right into the living rooms of interested partners. This is first world quality, and our Society will for sure not be left behind! In addition, it is now possible to have experts from all over the globe address attendants in Namibia via internet.

The recordings are then processed and available on our YouTube channel a few days after the presentation, which offers the convenience of time-independent participation. Most viewers are in the United States (24%), followed by viewers in Namibia.





## Renovation of the Namibia Scientific Society's floors

*Frieda Mukufa*



During the December holidays of 2021 David Kooper and his team started working on the restoration of woodwork for the Namibia Scientific Society. They started on the floor, realising that they needed the most TLC. The floors in all the offices were varnished. After the team had finished, they started working on the tables as well, and then continued to the chairs, and the cupboards in the CEO's office and in the reception area.

We are grateful to them for giving our floors and offices a fresh new look. We thank them for giving up their holidays so that we would be able to return to work in a beautiful environment.

If you would like to make use of David Kooper and his team, do not hesitate to contact him on 081 216 0640.





## Follow us on YouTube

Follow us on **You** 

and watch the recordings  
of our latest events!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcaLb3iIOMbz39I30uA5kOWQ>

**NAMIBIA**



**SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY**  
WISSENSCHAFTLICHE GESELLSCHAFT

**Namibia Scientific Society**

e-mail: [info@namscience.com](mailto:info@namscience.com) • Tel. 061-225372 • 110 Robert Mugabe Ave., Windhoek

Good news! We are excited because we now have our own YouTube channel so that you have access to various presentations.

Especially issues like elephant numbers, oil in the Kavango region, interbreeding among zebra species and the leopard project enjoy a lot of interest.

Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcaLb3iIOMbz39I30uA5kOWQ>

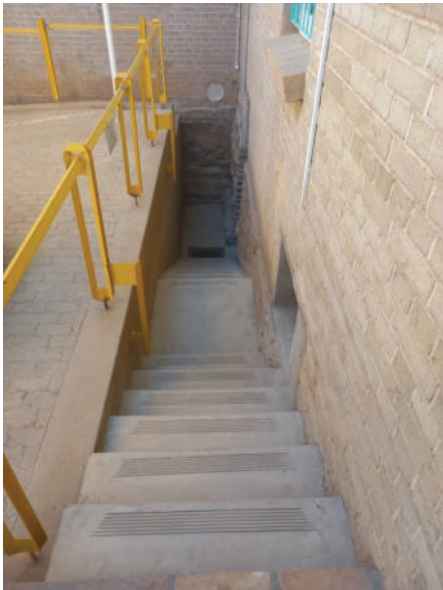
## The renovation of the Namibia Scientific Society's cellars



After studying the old plans of the early 1900s the CEO and the Board decided that there will be plenty of space for the library if some of the cellars which were filled with sand could be cleaned.

First the shelves with the books had to be taken out of these rooms and then the floors of two rooms had to be taken out and be re-installed with reinforcement. This project started on 11 November 2021 and the keys to the renovated rooms were handed over on 7 June 2022.

The thorough cleaning of the whole library to get rid of building dust is still under way.



# Isdor bids Scientific Society farewell

*Isdor Kamati*



Time flies so fast, most especially when you are having fun. Although it has already been six years since I became a Namibia Scientific Society (NSS) team member, it still feels like yesterday. I joined the NSS Library in March 2016, initially as a student librarian while studying Library and Information Science at the University of Namibia (UNAM). Upon joining the NSS Library, I was awarded a study bursary by the NSS board, which enabled me to complete my studies and become a qualified librarian. During my time in the NSS Library I have learned invaluable lessons in researching a wide variety of topics, as well as other soft skills from my engagement with the members.

When I say I have enjoyed my time at the NSS, that would certainly be an understatement, as I cannot even find the fitting words to describe my time in the NSS Library. To my fellow team members: I have valued your friendship and all the support you have given me over the years. It has been a joy to have worked diligently with you on so many different projects.

To the entire NSS Board and management: thank you for giving me your trust and opportunities. You gave a much younger me a chance, which to me was more than a chance, a career life-line. I thought I had learned so much by graduation, but the library and the NSS turned out to be another one of my real classrooms. Thank you for seeing my potential and always giving me new challenges and opportunities to learn. You have given me the confidence I needed to take the next step in my career.

My motive for leaving is merely that I have found greener pastures and have also decided to take on new challenges. I have experienced mixed emotions about leaving the NSS. I am so excited for the challenges that lie ahead, but I am sad to leave the team. I am so proud of what we have been able to accomplish over the past six years, and I really appreciated working with everyone. To the members, I will continue being a member of the NSS, and look forward to seeing you and interacting with you at our events.

## New Books/Neue Bücher

### The Hambukushu of Namibia's Kavango East Region by Maria Fisch

*The Hambukushu of Namibia's Kavango-East Region* by Maria Fisch is the first ever comprehensive history of the Hambukushu people, covering a period of approximately 300 years.

The older history of the Hambukushu is partly based on extensive research material which Father Joseph Wüst gathered between 1921 and 1939 from elderly Hambukushu informants, who still possessed first-hand knowledge about their past.

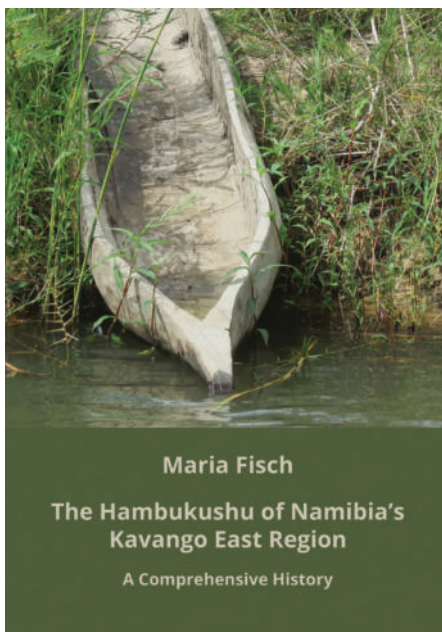
The author takes the reader back to the Hambukushu's original home at Mussuma, their sojourn at Ditomboro and along the Luyana and Mashi Rivers, and then describes their final settlement along the Kavango River around 1800 and up to recent times.

The book presents valuable information on all Hambukushu traditional leaders (hafumu) and the traditional leadership elite, including exact genealogical details, their alleged ability to make rain, and important events during their time.

Apart from the Hambukushu in Namibia, the book also describes the Hambukushu living in Angola, Botswana, and Zambia. The author discusses their relationship with other people of the region including the !Kung, Khwe, Balozi, and Batawana during the time of slave-trade and the rule of different colonial powers.

Since Roman Catholic missionaries played an instrumental role in shaping the lives of many Hambukushu, a large part of the book is devoted to their efforts in the fields of education, health care, and spiritual development.

This book is a must for anybody interested in this aspect of Namibian history.



English • ISBN 978-99945-76-78-4 • 494 pages • 170 x 240 mm

## Irlich Photo Collection

*Armin Jagdhuber*



Franz Irlich and librarian Gunter von Schumann

The Librarians wish to thank Franz Irlich for his photo collection, which he kindly donated to us. The collection contains historical photos. Every photo in the collection has a caption identifying what is portrayed. Two folders are sorted and marked by the photographers Peter Kuhn and G. Reinebeck. Another folder shows photos of the Schutztruppe and Oberstleutnant Klotz, the Himbas and Streitwolf. Photos of towns range from Areb to Jerusalem, Kabus to Pforte, Ramansdrift to Witvlei, and Swakopmund. The photos all date from the 20th century. Gunter von Schumann brought this collection from Swakopmund in April.

## Call for donations

I hereby call upon everyone—members, non-members, and friends of the library, to donate maps, photos, books, and magazines to our library. After we changed from the ABCD database to the Koha database, we managed not only to get an easy and user-friendly database, but also along with our book, periodical, and reprint collection, to digitise our large map and photo collections. A part of this collection can already be viewed on our website. To further expand this collection—and the aim is to become the largest map and photo collection provider in Namibia—we request these donations. If you have old material (maps, photos, books, magazines) which you want to get rid of, please give them to us, without trying to judge whether we will be able to fit them into our collection or not. Material which we cannot use, we donate through our network to schools, kindergartens, and other educational institutions. Your maps and photos will then be digitised and will become available on our website to the public and your name as donor will be shown in the description of the map. I thank you in advance and we, the librarians, look forward to receiving your valuable donations.





Photo: Isdor Kamati

The comprehensive collections of our library and our archives are vital pillars of the work of the Scientific Society.

Donations of *Namibiana* (books, maps, photos, and other documents relating to Namibia) to the library are indeed always welcome and highly appreciated.

In this context the Society would like to thank all donors for their ongoing support.

## Scan your Slides or Photos for Storage as Digital Data

Dear members and friends of the 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 by appointment.

Cost per slide is N\$ 3.00  
and members' price is  
N\$ 2.50 per slide.

NSS-Team



# **Transfer of our database to Koha Integrated Library Systems—ILS**

*Armin Jagdhuber*

The year 2022 started as a challenging year in our library in many different ways. After 20 years of working with CDISIS/WINISIS (currently discontinued by UNESCO) and ABCD as a database, we had to change these databases to the new Koha system that is compatible with international standards; which is the first world-leading open source library management system. This was done to ease the workflow for the librarians and to facilitate easy access and retrieval for our users. In recent years, we have had very good support from Mrs Renate Morgenstern, who implemented and maintained the ABCD system for us. At this point, the librarians want once more to thank her very much for her work, her love of the library, and her loyalty to the Namibia Scientific Society (NSS).

In the search for a new database, through the Goethe Institute of Namibia, we found Mr Russel Shihepo, a qualified Systems Librarian, who had the right combination of knowledge and expertise for our library. Russel is in possession of an Honours Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Namibia. Furthermore, he specialized in implementing and developing information systems and digital library systems such as the Koha-database. He is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Information Technology (specialized systems) with the University of Pretoria. With the support of the worldwide Koha community Russel was able to implement successfully the Koha system for the NSS Library on our servers. He transitioned us from the old ABCD system to the Koha system. This process involved tasks such as migration of the information, records data, and metadata from the ABCD system to the formats compatible with the Koha-database. This was a “relatively” easy task. These data comprised mainly all the books and periodicals, together with their bibliographic data.

Additionally, the picture collection was successfully transferred onto the Koha catalogue with its metadata. However, the challenge is now to transfer the map collection onto the Koha-database. Our photo collection was previously also on our old ABCD-database, and could be fairly easily transferred, but our map collection with up to 450 maps, had first to be recreated. This was necessary because the computer which was used for the maps was operating on outdated hardware; now we have been fortunate enough to acquire a newer and faster computer.

The Koha system encompasses two graphical interfaces. One interface function as the library webpage and is reserved for the NSS clients and visitors, who can search, browse, and explore our different collections virtually and remotely on their personal devices. The other interface is reserved solely for the NSS



Russel Shihepo

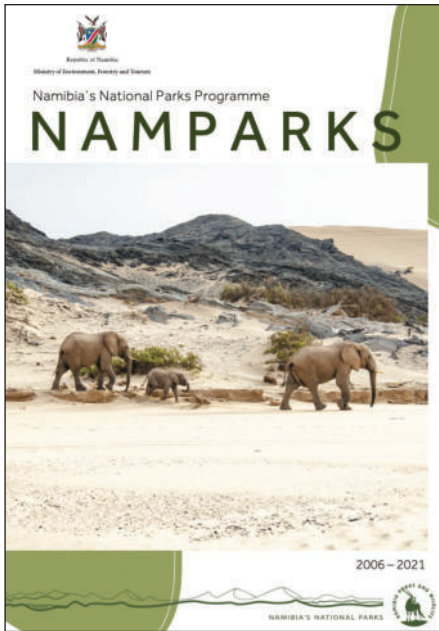
staff such as librarians and data curators. With the Koha system, the NSS is now a member of an ever-expanding network of Namibian, African, and International institutions that are using Koha as digital library and management system to keep up with the 4th industrial revolution trends.

We also thank Rigo Reddig for always making sure that IT requirements for KOHA software were granted.

Teamwork is dream work!

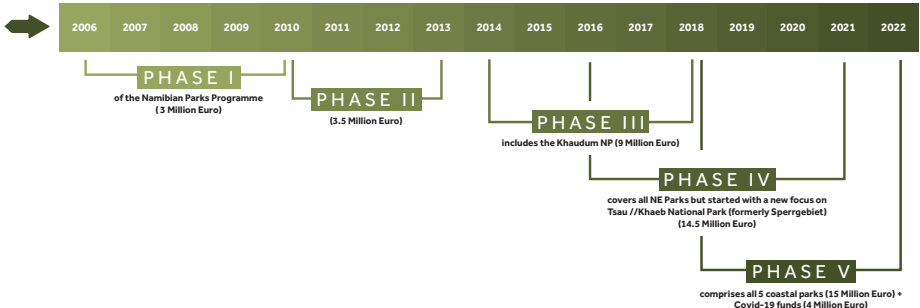
# NamParks Brochure

Heinrich Pielok



The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism of Namibia (MEFT) and the German Government financed through their Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented through the German KfW Development Bank started the Namibian Parks Programme as early as 2006, with phase I. The first 2 phases covered only the 3 North-Eastern Parks Bwabwata NP, Mudumu NP, and Nkasa Ruparah NP (former Mamili NP), with relatively small budgets. In Phase III, starting in 2013 the Khaudum National Park was added. The main emphasis of the phases I-III was to build infrastructure in the form of 6 park management stations in the 4 national parks. The approach has changed with phases IV and V, now

also referred to as Integrated Park Management I and II. The components have improved park management, and community/tourism development have received more emphasis, also made possible through much higher budgets of the phases IV and V. Phase IV added the Tsau//Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park in the south-western corner and is the last phase supporting the North-Eastern parks. The new phase V covers the 4 coastal desert parks stretching for 1500 km from the South African border to the Angolan border.



## Highlights in 15 years of NamParks



**57 STAFF  
IN 3 PARK STATIONS**

were built to replace the old camps at Khaudum National Park and Namibia Nature Park under NamParks II



**7 ARTIFICIAL WATERHOLES VITAL FOR WILDLIFE IN KHAUDUM ARE REHABILITATED**  
This serves to reduce conflict and competition between elephants and other animals

**1st SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPED**

The Elephant conservation and management plan will for the next ten years guide the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism in its conservation management of the elephant population of Namibia



The architectural design appropriately matches and reflects the character and aesthetics of the different environments and  
**REPRESENTS A SENSE OF PLACE  
BEING BORN FROM THE LANDSCAPE**

### AT SWABWATA NATIONAL PARK

- the park entrance gate
- tourist reception building
- service block
- vehicle store
- campsite
- 10 x 1 bedroom house
- 10 x 2 bedroom house
- vehicle's station block
- a sports field

**WERE BUILT**



**SOLAR HOT WATER GEYSERS  
& EFFICIENT FITTINGS  
AND FIXTURES ARE PROVIDED**  
at the accommodation facilities



**COMMUNITIES  
ARE VIEWED AS ALLIES**

to be helped and rewarded for safeguarding some of Africa's most precious natural resources including growing populations of elephants and many other species



**PARTNERSHIPS ARE  
ENCOURAGED**

between park and staff, residents and neighbours, NGOs and the private sector. The Ministry established several forums to enable stakeholders to have a say in how parks and ecosystems are managed



**SMART APPROACH  
SMART DATABASE &  
PATROL DATA COLLECTION  
IMPLEMENTED IN ALL THE PARKS**

Including line maps that incorporate zoning criteria as per national guidelines for zoning of protected areas and the relevant new Park Management Plans. Under NamParks V the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool approach will be rolled out to Coastal Parks.



**NEW  
PARKS MANAGEMENT PLANS  
AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLANS**  
were prepared, launched and are being implemented



**NATIONAL GUIDELINES  
FOR ZONING OF  
PROTECTED AREAS  
IN NAMIBIA**

and management objectives for each zone as per ICH requirements were developed together with key stakeholders



**IN LÜDERITZ THE HISTORICAL  
OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING  
IS RENOVATED**

to serve as the required park visitor centre and office for MEFT staff for the northern TONP



**CROSS-BORDER WILDLIFE CORRIDORS  
ARE BEING RESTORED**  
and wildlife numbers are increasing

The situation of the infrastructure including signage has changed dramatically in the supported parks, and so has the staff motivation and capacity, both of which reflect favourably on the park management on the ground. This can be seen from the interviews with the staff depicted in the NamParks brochure. A special feature of the brochure are the views published from all MEFT staff levels and the various stakeholders who have been involved in the programme. It shows what integrated park management on the ground means, and that the many very visible successes were possible only through the cooperation of all these people involved.

The MEFT and KfW take pride in the national parks of the country and in the very successful design and implementation of the Namibian Parks Programme in the last 15 years. These parks in Namibia preserve wildlife and biodiversity, which has a global significance but also is of utmost importance for the tourism sector in Namibia as the parks are the main tourist attraction. The NamParks Programme has also contributed to a clear improvement in the capacity of the responsible Directorate for Wildlife and National Parks in the MEFT.

The overall objective of the Programme was formulated: "the neighbouring population of the parks will receive a fair access to and the parks will have a sustainable management of natural resources leading to an improved environmental situation and to a stabilisation and improvement of the production base and rural incomes."

The brochure is available at the Namibian Scientific Society as a free copy.



## 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.*

### Namibia and Green Energy Backyard talk by Prof. Anicia Peters 27 January 2022

The Green Hydrogen Research Institute of the University of Namibia (UNAM) was founded upon Senate approval on 2 September 2021. It is the first institution of this kind in Namibia. The Institute has been serving as a national research and capacity building hub under the University with the aim of conducting local research and development and providing innovative solutions as well as upskilling and reskilling Namibians and developing local businesses across the value chain of Green Hydrogen. This development came at a prudent time as Namibia developed into a hub of Green Hydrogen in Africa. A prospect made possible by Namibia's 1,500 kilometres of coastline desert with sunlight exposure totaling over 3,500 hours a year—conditions ideal for producing solar and wind power at high availabilities. The institute's focus area ranges from desalination, wind and solar energy, electrolysis, fuel cell technologies, community and societal impact, to emerging technologies—areas on which UNAM has successfully run pilot projects.

Prof. Anicia Peters is the Head of UNAM's Namibia Green Hydrogen Research Institute, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Development and an associate professor at the University of Namibia.



Prof. Anicia Peters (Photo: Isdor Kamati)

## Preventative Parenting—Restorative Parenting

### *Public talk by Flip Brink about Child Protection*

### *1 February 2022*



Flip Brink (Photo: Isdor Kamati)

After many years of sticking plaster onto the wounds, Flip Brink decided rather to devote his time to the prevention of child abuse (including but not limited to human trafficking). He gave informative presentations to parents, grandparents, teachers and any other interested persons about the various faces and appearances of child abuse, the tactics used by abusers, the vulnerability of children in

specific age groups and many related aspects. Most important is the advice he gave for prevention and early intervention. He believes our future is as safe as our children and will do as much as he can to promote safe parenting. He also worked on a programme called Restorative Parenting where he aimed to help children who have been abused or trafficked and their parents/guardians to deal with the situation correctly and to get out of it with minimum damage.

Flip Brink is a retired state advocate who served for 25 years. Because of his personal background, he dedicated most of his career to child protection and has received specialized training in the legal, emotional, practical and psychological aspects thereof. In Namibia's legal circles, he is known as the Child Witness expert, as he has been Head of the Child Witness training programme for many years.

## Issues, Challenges & Opportunities to Develop

### Green Hydrogen in Namibia

### *Panel discussion*

### *8 February 2022*

Experts Dr Detlof von Oertzen, Jacky Scholtz and Robert McGregor discussed financial implications, energy and infrastructure issues and legal requirements relating to the development of Green Hydrogen in Namibia.

Dr Detlof von Oertzen is an independent scientific and technical consultant, holding a PhD in high-energy nuclear physics and an MBA (Advanced) with a focus on finance. Dr von Oertzen is the director of VO Consulting, which is a specialist consulting firm active in the energy, environment and radiation protection sectors. In his consulting career spanning more than 25 years, he



Dr Detlof von Oertzen (Photo: Isidor Kamati)

has worked in numerous multi-disciplinary teams and as member of international expert groups, including international bodies such as the UNDP, World Bank, GEF, GIZ, and IAEA, numerous African authorities and institutions (ministries, regulators and development agencies), as well as major mining (e.g. AREVA, Bannerman, CGNPC, Deep Yellow, Reptile Uranium, and Swakop

Uranium), and energy sector players, such as the Australian Greenhouse Office, NamPower, Electricity Control Board and various Rural Electrification Agencies, where he has led and/or participated in specialist studies and assessments in his fields of expertise.

Jacky Scholz is a legal consultant with more than 20 years' experience. She holds B. Juris, LLB and LLM degrees from the University of Pretoria. Jacky has mainly specialised in regulated industries with focus on the energy, petroleum, and communication sectors. She is a multi-skilled consultant and has worked on a great variety of projects. From 2004 to 2007 Jacky was Manager: Corporate and Legal Services with the ECB and she continues to consult for the ECB on a variety of energy matters. During her employment with the ECB, Jacky was intimately involved with the establishment of Erongo RED and CENORED and attended all stakeholder meetings of these two REDs. She was also responsible for drafting the 2007 Electricity Act and drafted the Namibia Energy Regulatory Authority and Electricity Bills. During the implementation of the REFIT programme Jacky assisted in the drafting of standard PPA and TCA. Since then she has drafted and advised on a number of PPAs in Namibia, giving her a thorough understanding of IPP contractual arrangements within the regulatory framework. Being intimately familiar with the Namibian electricity regulatory framework, Jacky is ideally positioned to develop and advise on policy development and a future regulatory framework for mini-grids, smart grids, and home systems.

Robert Mc Gregor attended Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa, where he completed a B.Com (Honours) in Economics. He began his career at the Economic Association of Namibia, where he was involved in socio-economic research and policy analysis. In July 2017 he joined the financial services company Cirrus Capital, where he was employed as an economist. He has conducted extensive work on the Namibian economy, including economic impact assessments covering sectors such as agriculture and electricity generation. In June 2021, he was promoted to Head of Research. He is currently completing an LLB through UNISA.

## Opportunities & challenges in developing Namibia's Green Hydrogen Economy

*Backyard talk*  
23 February 2022

Dr Tobias Bischof-Niemz, one of the ENERTRAG appointed directors of Hyphen, Representatives of Hyphen Hydrogen Energy, and Margaret Mutschler of Namibian Green Hydrogen Association (NamGHA) discussed financial implications, energy and infrastructure, issues and legal requirements relating to the development of Green Hydrogen in Namibia.

Hyphen Hydrogen Energy (Pty) Ltd (“Hyphen”) is a project development company established with the objective of developing, constructing and operating Green Hydrogen production facilities in Namibia to supply international and regional markets.

Dr Tobias Bischof-Niemz is Head of Division: New Energy Solutions at ENERTRAG and Director at ENERTRAG South Africa. He holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) on energy and renewables policies Columbia University, New York, and studied Mechanical Engineering at the Technical University of Darmstadt and UC Berkeley, obtaining DrEng. and Dipl.Eng. qualifications. Dr Tobias Bischof-Niemz is author of the book South Africa's Energy Transition that outlines a roadmap for a low-cost, decarbonised, and job-rich future for South Africa's energy sector.

Margaret Mutschler serves as the inaugural chairperson of Namibian Green Hydrogen Association (NamGHA). She has vast experience in the packaging, negotiating and managing of complex infrastructure projects, focusing on environmental sustainability, technical feasibility, commercial viability, legal architecture, and financial bankability. She is a partner in Mutschler Consulting Services (MCS), a Namibia-owned cross-sectoral consultancy providing engineering, management and development solutions on sustainable projects, across different sectors. Since July 2019 MCS has been supporting CWP H1 Energy in developing PtX projects. She recently joined their international Green Hydrogen development team.

Mr James Mnyupe is a multidisciplinary financial professional with a background in accounting, asset management and wealth management. A graduate of UNAM and Rhodes University, Mr Mnyupe plied his trade in the private



James Mnyupe (Green Hydrogen Association of Namibia), Dr Tobias Bischof-Niemz (Head of Division: New Energy Solutions at ENERTRAG AG), Margaret Mutschler (Chairperson/Green Hydrogen Association of Namibia) and Marco Raddinetti (CEO/Hyphen) (Photo: Isidor Kamati)

sector for over a decade auditing a wide variety of companies in all 3 sectors of the Namibian economy and undertook extensive research on listed securities on the local stock exchange. He led one of Namibia's prominent asset management firms for 5 years, was the Founding Chair of the Namibia Savings and Investment Association, was appointed to the High-Level Panel on the Namibian Economy in 2019 by His excellency Hage Geingob and holds the CA, CFA and CFP designations.

Mr Mnyupe possesses a holistic appreciation for how the capital and institutional savings markets intertwine to drive Namibia's economic and developmental agenda. His involvement in various industry and national bodies have offered him a unique perspective from which to contribute to various dialogues and initiatives that look to deploy said assets across various opportunity sets, locally and regionally more effectively.

In September 2020, Mr Mnyupe was appointed as President Geingob's Economic Advisor.

## Re-invigorating Ubuntu Through Water: A Human Right to Water under the Namibian Constitution

### *Backyard talk by Dr Ndjodi Ndeunyema*

#### *2 March 2022*



Prof. Backes, W. Fritzsche, Dr Ndeunyema, B. Gawanas and H. Vale (Photo: Isdor Kamatil)

The subject matter of water is of self-evident critical importance in Namibia, Africa, and globally. Namibian born Dr Ndjodi Ndeunyema completed his law doctoral studies at the University of Oxford. He was recently awarded the Dr Surya Subedi Prize for 2019/2020 for the best University of Oxford law doctoral thesis. Dr Ndeunyema shared an overview of the contents of his book which is based on his doctoral work with

Namibia Scientific Society and argued for the existence of a court enforceable human right to water that is implied from the right to life in Article 6 of the Namibian Constitution, while invoking the African value of ubuntu as the normative basis.

Dr Ndeunyema was joined as a discussant by Advocate Bience Gawanas, formerly Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General (2018-2020), former Ombudsman of Namibia and former African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs.



## 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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