



**Namibia  
Scientific  
Society**

**Namibia  
Wissenschaftliche  
Gesellschaft**

# NEWSLETTER/ MITTEILUNGEN

63: 7-12  
July-December 2022  
Juli-Dezember 2022

Dear members,

As the year 2022 comes to an end, we look back on busy and exciting months.

After ten years of dedication Waltraut Fritzsche handed over her duties as CEO to Ruth Moldzio. More information on what has happened over the last ten years and is planned for the next can be read in their write-ups.

As usual, we have included the various reports and minutes of our Annual General Meeting, which took place in September.

Our excursions in August and October (Skeleton Coast to Kunene River Mouth and Western Kaokoland, and the Namibia De Luxe Tour to Southern Namibia) were once again a great success.

In September the *Narrating Namibia* series of events filled the hall of the NSS for several evenings, with a mix of writers, poets, and readers. This series was initiated by the “Deutsches Literaturarchiv” in Marbach, and we thank Frieda Mukufa and Sylvia Schlettwein for their report on page 44.

Our astronomy working group was particularly active in the second half of the year. Shortly after the 15<sup>th</sup> Southern Star Party, the celebrations for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of H.E.S.S. were on the agenda. The Open Day informed close on 600 interested people about the telescopes and the history of H.E.S.S., as well as showing off the new inflatable and mobile planetarium which turned out to be a well-received visitors’ attraction.

The reptile group published a most interesting article in the *African Herp News*— which we are happy also to share with our members here.

While Hans Hilpisch and Hans-Joachim Liedtke dedicated a book to the controversial colonial officer *Berthold Deimling*, Peter Bridgeford’s book *Rocky Point* demystifies one of Namibia’s hard to reach destinations. The events around this isolated rock outcrop of the otherwise sandy Skeleton Coast are chronicled in this book and illustrated with numerous fascinating photos. Maybe a perfect Christmas gift?

The library has been able to complete the transition from the ABCD to the more user-friendly KOHA software and would like to take this opportunity to thank Robert Carr for the aerial photo collection that he donated. All donations that have been received this year as well as all the friends who have come to visit make the library everything but a stale room filled with old books.

In an effort to support upcoming Namibians in their efforts to promote science and technology, and ultimately empowering young Namibians, the Namibia Scientific Society is happy to include the report on the STEAM Partnership Project, which was successfully held.

The board and team of the Namibia Scientific Society would like to take this opportunity to thank all members and friends for the well-received support.

We wish all a wonderful festive season and invite you to come and visit us in the new year to find out what great ideas and plans are in the making.

NEWSLETTER  
NAMIBIA SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY  
MITTEILUNGEN  
NAMIBIA WISSENSCHAFTLICHE GESELLSCHAFT

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# Contents/Inhalt

Nachruf für Walter Karl E. Rusch	4
Nachruf für Christian Hofmann	6
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 97 <sup>th</sup> Business Year 2021/22	7
Annual Report of the Namibia Scientific Society 2020/21	14
Annual Report Das Alte Fort Museum Grootfontein	20
Annual Report Tsumeb Museum	22
Annual Report Lüderitz Museum	23
Annual Report Astronomy Working Group	24
Annual Report Reptiles and Amphibians Working Group	27
Annual Report Namibian Hydrogeological Association	28
Annual Report Namibia Bird Club	31
Namibia Scientific Society and Desert Magic Tours	33
Impressions of the <i>Namibia de Luxe Tour</i> :	
<i>Erkundungsreise in den Süden Namibias</i>	36
A Decade of Dynamic Development: 2012–2022 in Retrospect	38
What's next – by the incoming CEO Ruth Moldzio	41
Narrating Namibia	44
Southern Star Party	46
H.E.S.S. Open Day	47
Chersobius solus	48
BRANCH, 2007	48
NAMA Dwarf Tortoise	48
TWO-EGG CLUTCHING	48
New Books/Neue Bücher	51
Aerial photo collection from geologist Robert Carr	53
Namibia-Luftbild-Sammlung von Geologe Robert Carr	54
Besuch der Vereinigten Evangelischen Mission Wuppertal	55
Diamonds Found in our Library	57
Report on the STEAM Partnership Project Pilot	59
Events	62
Corporate Members/Korporative Mitglieder	63

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.*

# Nachruf für Walter Karl E. Rusch

*Gunter von Schumann*

Unser langjähriges, aktives Mitglied, Teilnehmer bei vielen Exkursionen und Fahrten und ehemaliges Vorstandsmitglied Walter Rusch ist am 9. September 2022 verstorben. Unser Beileid gilt seinen beiden Töchtern Evelin und Angela sowie seinem Sohn Hartmut mit Familien.

Walter ist ein Nachkomme von Ernst Rusch, einem der Pioniere und ersten Einwanderer, der 1890 ins Land kam, auch bekannt als einer der ersten Simmentalerzüchter in Deutsch-Südwestafrika (DSWA) und Farmer auf Farm Lichtenstein im Bezirk Windhoek.

Walter Rusch kam am 30.05.1935 in Windhoek zur Welt. Er war ein eifriger Unterstützer von sowohl der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft in Windhoek als auch

der Swakopmunder Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft. Von 1982 bis 1994 war Walter ehrenamtlich als Vorstandsmitglied unserer Gesellschaft tätig. Er engagierte sich auch als Mitglied des Verlagskomitees und publizierte unter anderem eine Biografie von Dr. Erich Lübbert (1883–1963). Einige seiner Artikel wurden in dem Heimatkalender (Jahrgänge 1979 und 1981) veröffentlicht. Als aktives Mitglied des Museumsvereins und der Kriegsgräberfürsorge erfreute er sich großer Beliebtheit.

In den Fachkreisen der Südwest/Namibia Eisenbahngeschichte machte sich Walter Rusch ebenfalls einen Namen und brachte es zu internationaler Anerkennung. So ist es nicht verwunderlich, dass er 1988 von der neu etablierten *National Transport Corporation* unter Führung von Herrn Direktor Albi Brückner und Transportminister Hampie Plichta zum Kurator ernannt wurde und den Auftrag bekam, das Eisenbahnmuseum aufzubauen. Dieses von ihm geplante, am 1. Juli 1993 amtlich eröffnete Eisenbahnmuseum wurde sein Lebenswerk.

Unter anderem erforschte Walter Rusch die Eisenbahngeschichte von ihren Anfängen in Cape Cross/DSWA seit 1895. Dann folgte die Dokumentierung



der kurzen sogenannten *Walvis Bay Railway*, einer kurzen Bahnstrecke vom Walvis Bayer Hafen bis zu der Station Plum hinter den ersten Dünen. Sein Meisterwerk folgte im Jahre 2000, als Walter in Zusammenarbeit mit Brenda Bravenboer *The First 100 Years of State Railways in Namibia* publizierte.

In Zusammenarbeit mit der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft publizierten Edda Schoedder, Antje Otto & Walter Rusch 1983 eine Chronik, die einen Bildband von Lüderitzbuch umfasste. Ein Großteil der darin veröffentlichten Fotos stammte aus der Fotosammlung von Walter Rusch. Die erste Auflage umfasste 2.000 Exemplare.

Wegen ihres außergewöhnlichen Wissens über den historischen Hintergrund des Landes wurden Walter Rusch und Gunter von Schumann in den 1980-er Jahren öfter vom Staatsarchiv um Hilfe gebeten. So bekamen sie 1987 den Auftrag für einen Nachdruck der *Kriegskarte von DSWA 1904, Acheia Serie Nr. 9* ein Register sämtlicher Ortsnamen mit einigen sprachlichen Erklärungen zusammenzustellen. Diese beliebte Publikation wurde inzwischen schon viermal nachgedruckt.

Eine weitere Glanzleistung muss ebenfalls erwähnt werden. Walter hat in mehr als 50 Jahren eine der größten privaten Sammlungen von Fotos aus der deutschen Zeit in Südwestafrika zusammengetragen. Auf Einladungen hin hatte er einen Großteil dieser Fotos in den 70-er Jahren im alten SKW-Saal und bei der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft ausgestellt. Teil der Sammlung sind auch viele Bildpostkarten aus den Anfängen der Kolonialzeit.

Die Namibia Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft dankt Walter Rusch für sein großes kulturelles Interesse und seinen Beitrag zum Erhalt von Namibias Entwicklungsgeschichte.



# Nachruf für Christian Hofmann

Gunter von Schumann



Am 12. Oktober 2022 verstarb Christian Hofmann in Tsumeb im Alter von 87 Jahren.

Geboren wurde Christian am 14. September 1935 in Sachsen. Nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg emigrierte er in das damalige Südwestafrika. Die Farm Kakuse im Tsumeb Distrikt, wurde für ihn und seine Familie zur neuen Heimat.

Über Jahrzehnte war Christian Hofmann eng mit der Namibia

Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft (NWG) und dem Tsumeb Museum verbunden. Als treibende Kraft zur Erhaltung der deutschen Kultur diente er über 30 Jahre als Vorstandsmitglied und zweiter Vorsitzender im Vorstand des Tsumeb Museums. Im Jahre 2019 trat er in den wohlverdienten Ruhestand.

Mit dem Ziel ein Heimatmuseum in Tsumeb aufzubauen, wurde unter der Leitung von Ilse Schatz und Hans Ernst am 17. November 1972 der Entschluss gefasst, die „Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft Otavi Bergland-Ortsgruppe Tsumeb“ zu gründen. Das Tsumeber Museum wurde dann am 5. April 1975 feierlich eröffnet.

Christian Hoffmann war maßgeblich an den Bemühungen beteiligt, für das Tsumeber Museum eine dauerhafte Immobilie zu finden:

Das Gebäude der deutschen Schule Tsumeb (eröffnet 1908), war zunächst im Besitz der OMEG. Nach dem dem Ersten Weltkrieg wurde das Gebäude durch eine Entscheidung des *Custodian of Enemy Property* der Tsumeb Miene überschrieben. Nach langwierigen Verhandlungen gelang es Frau Ilse Schatz mit der Unterstützung von Herrn Christian Hofmann schließlich im Jahr 1999 das ehemalige deutsche Schulgebäude (mit finanzieller Unterstützung der NWG) zu erwerben und damit dem Tsumeb Museum ein Zuhause zu geben. Die Stadt Tsumeb erfreut sich heute einer regen Touristenbesucherzahl und das Museum ist eine der lokalen Attraktionen.

Seit 1998 stellte Christian Hofmann durchgehend ideenreich die Jahresberichte des Tsumeb Museums zur Jahreshauptversammlung der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft in Windhoek zusammen.

Die Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft ist Christian Hofmann für seinen langjährigen Einsatz, seine loyale Verbundenheit und sein langjähriges Engagement als Vorstandsmitglied des Tsumeb Museum zutiefst dankbar.

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 97<sup>th</sup> Business Year 2021/22

on Wednesday, 22 September 2022 at 19h00  
at Namibia Scientific Society, Robert Mugabe 110, Windhoek

Present: 62 attendants; register is available for inspection at the NSS-office.  
Apologies: 31 members and invited guests sent their apology. List of apologies is available in the NSS office.  
Minutes: Waltraut Fritzsche

## 1 .Welcome

Chairman Theo Schoeman extended a warm welcome to all members present, corporate members, representatives of study and regional groups as well as representatives of partner organizations, members of the diplomatic corps, especially UNESCO, members of the press, and guests. A special welcome for Honorary Members Helmut zur Strassen with his wife Alrun, Dieter Ludwig, Ilme Schneider, and corporate members Hanjo Schlabitze from Wealth Management Solutions, Matthieu Tieghem from Matiti Safaris, and Nina Maritz from Maritz Architects.

Notice of AGM had been sent to the members as stipulated in the Constitution. More than 15 members are required for quorum and were present. The Meeting could therefore proceed. All paid-up members are entitled to vote.

The Chairman requested a Moment of Silence for Walter Rusch.

## 2. Additions to the Agenda under Miscellaneous

Handover of corporate membership certificates > 13.1

Honorary membership > 13.2

**3. Discussion and Approval of Minutes** of AGM held on 23 September 2021: Minutes were sent with *Newsletter 2021-02*; approved without changes, as proposed by Ilme Schneider, seconded by Klaus Roerkohl.

## 4. Annual Report of the Chairman

The Annual Report was presented. Theo Schoeman stated that an AGM's primary aims are to inform the members about activities of the previous year, find approval for actions of the board, and elect board members.

The Chairman's mentioned some highlights: member numbers and more corporates, adapting to Covid, new internal systems, renovations, upgrade of library software and expansion of cellar space, activities of the publishing



committee, frequent presentations and excursions. As for future development, he called upon Waltraut Fritzsche and Ruth Moldzio to come forward. From now on Ruth would be responsible for day-to-day management, supported by Waldi who would act as a consultant.

The comprehensive report will be published with Minutes in the *NWG-Mitteilungen/NSS Newsletter 2022-02*.

Attending members applauded Chairman Theo Schoeman. The Annual Report of the Chairman was accepted as given, proposed by Heidrun von Koenen, seconded by Bertchen Kohrs.

## 5. Annual Reports of the Study groups

Standing in for Prof. Michael Backes, Ms Waltraut Fritzsche presented the Annual Report of the **Astronomy Working Group**.

Gudrun Middendorff presented the Annual Report of the **Namibia Ornithology Group (Bird Club)**.

Standing in for Alfred Schleicher, Heike Uhrich presented the Annual Report of the **Herpetology Working Group**.

Ester Gustavo, President of the NHA, presented the Annual Report of the **Namibia Hydrology Working Group (NHA)**.

All presenters are applauded and reports noted. Reports will be published with AGM Minutes in *NWG-Mitteilungen/NSS Newsletter 2022-02*.

## 6. Annual Reports by the Regional Groups

Helke Mocke read the 2021 Annual Report of the **Tsumeb Museum**, drafted by Chairman Jens Frautschy. The report was in German. A summary was presented in English.

For the Grootfontein Museum, Gunter von Schumann introduced the new representative Antje Rahn. She read the 2021 Annual Report of the **Grootfontein Museum**.

Gunter von Schumann read the Annual Report of the **Lüderitz Museum**, drafted by Gisela Schmidt-Scheele.

All reports of the regional groups were accepted. Reports will be published with AGM Minutes in *NWG-Mitteilungen/NSS Newsletter 2022-02*.



Heike Uhrich (Photo: Berndt Schneider)

## 7. Presentation, Discussion and Approval of Financial Report

The Annual Financial Report for the financial year April 2021–March 2022 was presented by Treasurer Ivor Lesley Aib. Financial Statements were reviewed by BeanCounter Financial Services cc of Christo Loubser. Copies are available for members attending the AGM.

Treasurer Ivor Aib discussed

### 1. Statement of Financial Position:

- Premises (investment property) – constant; no change in value of our property.
- Office equipment, furniture and fittings, library – decrease, due to depreciation.
- Financial assets decreased by N\$471,618, because PointBreak investment depreciated from N\$2,082,824 in prior year to N\$1,337,517 for 2022 financial year; > 64.22%.
- Inventory - decreased.

Our Assets decreased by N\$926,518.

### 2. Statement of Comprehensive Income:

- Sales increased by N\$314,339, from N\$192,838 in prior year to N\$507,177.
- Staff Cost was the highest expense at N\$2,425,966, which makes up about 63% of the total expenditure for the year.
- Deficit for 2022 financial year was N\$974,906.

### 3. Statement of Cash Flow:

- Donations received: N\$1,651,302 (decrease of N\$332,575 compared to prior year's N\$ 1,983,877).  
Donations at events N\$19,680.  
Library Donations N\$ 13,921.
- Interest from investments decreased by N\$1,098,728.
- We also had a sale of E-books to the value of N\$1,367.
- Membership fees show increase of N\$29,144.



Ivor Aib (Photo: Berndt SchneiderO)

The Treasurer looked forward to a more promising year in terms of financial matters.

Ernst-Jost Herma asks why interest on investments had decreased and where the investment came from. Chairman Theo Schoeman explained that these are investments collected and maintained over the years from donations and that a large bi-annual donation received in past years had not been granted.

Annegret Finke commented that there was a remarkable increase in member fees. Theo Schoeman credited Waltraut Fritzsche and Ruth Moldzio for this.

Ruth Moldzio said that unusually high interest had been received in the previous year while barely any income had been generated due to Corona restrictions. Investment values normalized at the beginning of this financial year, thus causing the apparent “loss”.

Hanjo Schlabitz from Wealth Management Solutions explained the risk management of Namibia Scientific Society’s investments and stated that medium risk investment is only profitable in the long run; short-term peaks and dips are normal.



Ruth Moldzio (Photo: Berndt Schneider)

The Annual Financial Report was accepted as is, proposed by Dr Robert West, seconded by Heidrun von Koenen.

**8. Appointment of a Bookkeeper:** Theo Schoeman suggested that the Society’s financial matters remain with Bean Counter Financial Services cc, Ruth Moldzio seconded. Approved. BeanCounter was thus appointed as the accountant of Namibia Scientific Society.

**9. Stipulation of the Membership Fees:** The Board proposed that membership fees remain unchanged at N\$300 for Namibian members with 50% rebate for pensioners and students. Foreign members pay €20. The attending members unanimously approved the proposal; fees thus stay the same.

**10. Approval of Actions of the Board:** Prof André du Pisani was appointed to attend to Approval of Actions of the Board. He commented that he probably gets asked because he lectures in politics. However, in this case all is transparent. All procedures complied with the Constitution of the Society. Dieter Ludwig proposed relief of duties (the task having been completed), seconded by Klaus Roerkohl. Attending members approved.

**11. Election of Board Members:** Prof André du Pisani was appointed to oversee the election of board members. He read from the Constitution



Dr Roger Swart, Heike Uhrich, Helke Mocke, Theo Schoemann, Kai Kleingünther, Michael Hasheela, Ivor Aib and Frank Wittneben (Photo: Berndt Schneider)

§ 8.1: *The Committee of the NSS shall consist of not less than five and not more than nine persons. Committee members are elected for a period of two years, re-election being possible.* Members of the Board 2021/22 were Theo Schoeman (Chairman), Prof. Michael Backes (Vice Chairman), Michael Hasheela, Bertchen Kohrs, Helke Mocke, Alfred Schleicher, Heike Uhrich, Frank Wittneben, Erika von Wietersheim. Co-opted were Kai Kleingünther and Ivor Lesley Aib.

In line with the Constitution, the two-year terms of duty of Theo Schoeman, Bertchen Kohrs and Erika von Wietersheim had come to an end. Theo Schoeman was available for re-election, and had been nominated. Bertchen Kohrs and Erika von Wietersheim were not available for re-election.

Two new nominations had been received: Guido Roeschlau and Dr Roger Swart.

As three nominations had been submitted for three available positions, no voting was required.

Members accepted and approved the nominations and procedure, as proposed by Nina Maritz, seconded by Gudrun Middendorff.

The Board members for 2022/2023 are Prof. Michael Backes, Michael Hasheela, Helke Mocke, Guido Roeschlau, Alfred Schleicher, Theo Schoeman, Dr Roger Swart, Heike Uhrich, Frank Wittneben, with co-opted members Kai Kleingünther and Ivor Lesley Aib. A photo would be taken after the meeting.

As stipulated by the Constitution, Board members would assign duties—chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer—after the AGM. Until then Theo Schoeman would serve as acting Chairman.

## 12. Commemorative Publication for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Theo Schoeman requested that members give input and contact the committee.

## 13. Miscellaneous

### 13.1 New corporate members received their membership certificates:

Amanda Miller Insurance Brokers (apologies)

Nina Maritz Architects (attending)

Kerry McNamara Architects Inc. (apologies)

Namibian Green Hydrogen Association, represented by Margaret Mutschler (attending)

Hyphen Hydrogen Energy (Pty) Ltd., Marco Raffinetti (absent)



Left: Margaret Mutschler, Namibian Green Hydrogen Association; left: Nina Maritz, Nina Maritz Architects and Theo Schoeman (Photo: Berndt Schneider)

**13.2 Honorary membership:** Acting Chairman Theo Schoeman stated that according to the Constitution § 4 *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 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 be granted to Erika von Wietersheim and Bertchen Kohrs. Both have served many terms on the board of the Namibia Scientific Society and will be dearly missed by the board, management, and team.

Members applauded and unanimously accepted the proposal. Certificates were handed over; outgoing members Bertchen Kohrs and Erika von Wietersheim were praised and thanked.



Theo Schoemann, Erika von Wietersheim and Bertchen Kohrs (Photo: Berndt Schneider)

Theo Schoeman thanked members and guests for their attendance and invited all for a happy get-together.

He announced that board members had decided that Kai Kleingünther would serve as the acting Chairman supported by Prof. Michael Backes as Vice Chairman.

The Annual General Meeting officially closed at 20h50.



# **Annual Report of the Namibia Scientific Society 2021/22**

*presented by Chairman Theo Schoeman*

Dear members and friends of Namibia Scientific Society—a warm welcome to all. Thank you for attending our Annual General Meeting!

Our business year runs from 1 April to 31 March. At the end of March 2022, we completed our 97<sup>th</sup> business year.

All other information is for the period from the previous AGM until today. Our Highlights are as follows:

- Our members
- Adapting to Covid
- New internal systems
- Renovations
- The library
- The publishing committee
- Presentations
- Excursions
- Finances
- The future

## **Members:**

As this is a members' association, our members come first. We wholeheartedly acknowledge and thank those who loyally stayed with us during Covid and associated difficult times. At present we have the following:

Total Membership 811

Corporate members 26

Local Members 597

Pensioners 92

Foreign Members 75

Students 21

Much appreciated are 4 new corporate members. Our new corporate members will receive their certificates later. Sadly, we had to remove 63 members from the member list due to outstanding payment for 3 years.

## **Adapting to Covid**

Your Society has adapted to changes! Covid requirements limited the number of participants at events. We therefore started offering hybrid presentations so that members and others could Zoom from the comfort of their home. Hi-tech equipment was procured for hosting events in our backyard, allowing social distancing and professional streaming. We especially thank Paratus for

the fibre connection, Atlas Engineering Solutions (Mr Roland Enke) for a streaming camera, and the Minds-inaction team for setting up and running Zoom meetings. We sincerely thank our three sponsors that made this possible. Presentations were then made available on YouTube with applicable links being sent to members by mail or via Facebook announcements. They can also be downloaded from the webpage

### **New Internal Systems**

As announced during the previous AGM, we made the most of the lockdown and revamped cluttered systems, changing from Pastel to Xero and the related AirSquare website. This process continued and has been successfully concluded with a change to the new domain (namscience.com). The bookshop is online, and sales and member data digitized and automated.

Likewise, changes to library software were implemented through migrating from ABCD to KOHA. Installing new software, synchronizing systems, and migrating data is a very intensive and complicated process. Taking about 90,000 biblio numbers to KOHA could not have been achieved without the support of the Goethe Institute, Russel Shihepo and Rigo Reddig!

### **Renovations**

As the Library needed more space the unutilized space below the library turned into a construction site. Thank you, Geva Renovations and Fred and Anja Krenz.

Due to the need for a larger library in the long run, construction of a new building has been considered. Hermann Strydom (Strydom & Associates Land Surveyors) generously drafted 3D plans of our premises, so that the basics are known. Thank you so much!

A building Committee was then founded upon the initiative and with the professional input of Andy Chase. As the services of a qualified, registered professional architect will be required, a call for Expression of Interest was sent to members of the Society. Eleven applications were received, and the screening process is currently underway. Thank you, Andy!

Talking about our buildings ... the floors were renovated and so were the desks and some other wooden items. They were all beautifully restored.



Theo Schoeman (Photo: Berndt Schneider)

## The Library

Johannes Willibard is in his final year studying Library Science at UNAM and is making good progress, Meanwhile he is becoming fluent in German. Hannah is already fully qualified. Gunter works from home most of the time, and we look forward to the completion of his shipwreck book. Annegret and Armin are still working hard after so many years. Annegret has been here for 22 years and Armin is going into his 8<sup>th</sup> year.

The newly installed KOHA software grants easy access to digital data. More photos, slides, and titles are available online, while our maps are now also being processed and digitized.

Various library donations have been received and processed. We sincerely thank members and friends.

Daily requests for research on various topics were received and processed. Many enquiries, especially from overseas, have been answered. Assistance with books being published such as the Hambukushu book, also takes up library time.

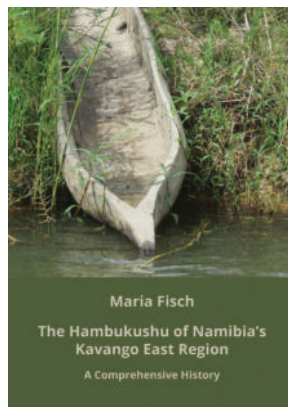
## Publishing Committee

Miriam Hutterer has again applied for a work permit. We especially thank Miriam and the members of the Publishing Committee for their dedicated work. Some members of the publishing committee are also Board Members, namely Erika von Wietersheim and Heike Uhrich, plus several committed voluntary helpers, namely Ingrid Kubisch, Marika Reiff, Sylvia Schlettwein, Helen Vale, Gabi Moldzio, and Gunter von Schumann. They all spend many hours and days evaluating new manuscripts, editing and proof reading. With publishing assistant Frieda Mukufa, many flyers, Facebook announcements, Newsletters, Journals and more have been and are being processed. We wholeheartedly thank Dr Robert West for his ever kind proofreading! His English is impeccable. This year's *Scientific Journal* will be a special edition for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gobabeb. The Scientific Society was involved in the founding of this institution, hence a special connection.

## Publishing

Several new books were published including.

- *Die Woermann-Linie als Lebensader Deutsch-Südwestafrikas* – Hans Hilpisch
- *Die Verfassung der Republik Namibia (kommentierte Auflage)*
- *The Hambukushu of Namibia's Kavango East Region* – Maria Fisch



**Reprints:**

- *Benni und der Zauberstein* – Almut Heddenhausen
- *Der weiße Buschmann* – Peter Stark
- *Die Kolonialkiege in Deutsch-Südwestafrika* – Hans Hilpisch
- „*Wo sind die Hereo geblieben?*“ – Hans Hilpisch (revised edition)

**E-Books available on Amazon:**

- *Journey into the Unknown* – Kalumbi Shangula

**Currently in Process:**

- *Journal 69* – 2022
- *Berthold Deimling* – Hans Hilpisch und Joachim Liedtke
- *Das alte Südwestafrika* – Heinrich Vedder
- *In den Fängen der Hilfe* – Hans-Jörg Bollinger
- *Rocky Point* – Peter Bridgeford
- *Goggas of Namibia* – Klaus Birkhofer, John Irish and Tharina Bird
- *Der Bart des Elefanten* – Wolfgang Brune
- *In Times of Pandemic* – Goethe Institute
- *Painted Stories* – Peter Breunig
- *Omuntu nenge Oshiluli?* – Andrew Niikondo
- *Gaub* – Armin Jagdhuber und Hans Hilpisch

**Events**

All events were offered in line with Covid regulations. In comparison to pre-Covid times, we found that fewer participants attended. While we had 60–100 listeners in the past, we are now happy to have more than 25. Below is a list of some of the events:

- Novald Kandali Iiyambo: *Issues in Conservation - Namibian Perspective*
- Prof. Dr Dietmar Quandt and Dr Julia Bechteler: *CRC1211: Earth-Evolution at the Dry Limit*
- Dr Roy Miller: *Prevention of in situ Leach Mining in the Stampriet Artesian Basin*
- Matt Totten Jr: *Oil in the Kavango? What Namibia Risks by Blessing ReconAfrica's Drill Bit*
- Kenneth Uiseb: *Spatial Ecology & Population Genetics of the Zebra-Etosha National Park*
- Prof. Anicia Peters: *Namibia and Green Energy*
- Flip Brink: *Preventative Parenting – Restorative Parenting*

**And many more**

The hall was frequently used by other institutions for their events: Abundant Life Ministries Namibia, some NGOs such as NEWS, Greenspace,

Hörerinitiative and Kulturrat were hosted. Our hall became popular for public hearings and environmental impact assessment communication, e.g., Environmental Compliance Consultancy (ECC), Serja HGE Consultants, Environmental Assessment Practitioner & Consultant Ing. Workshops were offered by Excel Dynamic Solutions. while our own working groups, Bird Club and Namibia Hydrology Association, used the hall as part of the Society. Interesting events like *Felsgraffiti* and book launches from UNAM Press were also accommodated.

Bright Minds, being young, qualified Namibians under 40 years of age, met in November, February and July at various sites. This is an initiative of the team which intends to link with upcoming experts and promote social connections.

In addition, we were involved in various workshops, e.g., MARISMA, Sustainable Forest Management, Marine Heritage, and others.

## Excursions

Due to their Scientific flavour, our excursions have become popular, and several tours were organized.

- Namib Naukluft–Namtib–Walvis Bay–Eastern Border Tour
- Boreholes and Water in Windhoek
- Roter Kamm–Koichab–Aus–Aar–Fish River Canyon–Neckartal and Naute Dates and Distillers–Mesosaurus Cam.
- Onjala Star Gazing
- Star Gazing, Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory
- Skeleton Coast – Kunene River Mouth and Western Kaokoland Tour



Participants of the Namib Naukluft–Namtib–Walvis Bay–Eastern Border Tour (Photo: Armin Jagdhuber)

Our Society facilitated a grant from EXXON Mobile for contracting the Mind-sinAction team to run a series of computer/robotics/maths/science training sessions in the north-western regions. A workshop for schools was also hosted here.

## Finances

Our Finances were in the capable hands of Abrie Collard, who unfortunately resigned due to other commitments. We welcome our newly coopted treasurer Ivor Lesley Aib. The Financial Report will be presented by Igor soon. We are awaiting our regular large donation from the Metje Foundation towards the end of the year.

## **The Future**

After ten years of dedicated service our CEO Waldi decided that she wants less administration and more time for herself. It was agreed that Ruth Moldzio will from now on attend to all administrative tasks as she knows our Society inside out and has been working alongside the CEO for many years. Due to the book-keeping being automated, Ruth will become CEO after the AGM. Waldi has offered to assist as a consultant focusing on public relations, events and tours, members and team dynamics. This arrangement brings about a win-win situation for the Society. Waldi will do what she enjoys and is good at. Elfi moved to the front desk and is doing a great job.

- Otherwise, the team members are as before:
- in the library: Annegret Enengl, Armin Jagdhuber, Gunter von Schumann, Johannes Willibard and Hanna Iitula,
- the office staff: Elfi Schneider, Ruth Moldzio, Rosalia Kalola, Waltraut Fritzsche (Waldi) and
- for publishing Miriam Hutterer and Frieda Mukufa.

With changing times and our Society being nearly one hundred years old, a successful strategy for the future needs to be devised. Two strategy meetings have been called and strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats were discussed. SWOT analysis is a technique used for assessing these four aspects which can then lead to forming future plans.

In May 2025 our Society will celebrate its 100th anniversary. We have already embarked on planning a special year. Members will later be called upon to voice their opinions and suggestions for a special publication.

We are now at the end of my presentation.

**A big Thank You** to the members and friends for helping us: the media and press, corporate members, colleagues at various NPO-NGOs, foundations, embassies, companies, Pointbreak and WMS, NEWS, BotSoc, Gobabeb, various working groups, Swakop Scientific Society, and book shops—too many to mention!

**Thanks very much for listening!**



# **Annual Report**

## **Das Alte Fort Museum Grootfontein**



We, the Grootfontein Museum Team, would like to THANK you for your loyal support throughout the challenging year 2021.

The number of visitors dropped drastically and, as you all know, we had to close the doors of the Museum on 1 July 2021 due to the corona pandemic, as well as illnesses of staff members and a lack of visitors and tourists. Many people lost their lives while others lost their livelihoods – our deepest sympathy. The Museum did not come to a complete standstill as the telephone – No 242 456 – had been converted to our house numbers and also appeared on a sign board at the entrance gate and people could reach us to be able to enter the premises and view the wide range of artifacts. The few committee members also took turns in showing tourists around and in attending to the upkeep of the large premises and parking area and conducting regular inspections of termite damage.

Unfortunately, we had to retrench the workers owing to a lack of work and income. We would like to thank Mrs Magda Klitzke (85) for the years of dedicated curatorship and are relieved that she found a safe haven in the Karl Albrecht Old Age Home in Grootfontein. We wish her good health and happiness for the years to come.

The Namibia Scientific Society, as the custodians of the Grootfontein Museum, regularly sends us books (at no charge) which they publish. We appreciate this generous gesture and would like to THANK them for their input in enlarging the range of information in our library.

Rubicon is still in charge of security issues and all the fire extinguishers were serviced.

Due to restrictions we have not been able to hold our fundraising events. We have not yet been informed by the Namibian Heritage Council whether the Museum may continue with the Lease Agreement which expired on 31 December 2021. The other half of the Old Fort Building has now been standing

empty for a year after the Agri College vacated that part of the building, and we are getting worried.

Thank you for sharing 2021 with us, and may we ask you to think about the future of our heritage with us and also the possibilities for moving on. With a dedicated team we should never lose our hope and achieve even greater heights.

We trust that you and your loved ones had a well-deserved holiday and we wish you a prosperous and healthy year 2022.

Best wishes and kind regards.

Your Grootfontein Museum Team (Johann van Heerden, Max Beyer, Faan van der Merwe, Gunter von Schumann, Ulli Prickett, and co-opted Irmgard Beyer and Marcus Prickett)

# **Annual Report Tsumeb Museum**

*by Jens Frautschy, Chairman*

Due to the worldwide Covid19 pandemic and the travel restrictions still in place in Europe, especially in Germany, visitor numbers in 2021 were at a very worryingly low level. The museum welcomed just 1143 visitors in the period April 2021 to March 2022.

All urgent renovations were postponed until further notice; only necessary repairs were carried out. Membership of the German Cultural Council and the Museums Association of Namibia (MAN) also had to be discontinued for cost reasons.

The research cooperation between the Tsumeb Museum and the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing, which has been in place since February 2020, was further expanded. With the involvement of the HTW Berlin (University of Applied Sciences), we developed a concept for the restoration of the historical mineral laboratory at the former mine site until it was ready for submission. The funding application was submitted in June 2021.

Together with Department 9 of the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing, which is responsible for component safety, the initial considerations for the restoration of the DeWet winding tower, which, as is well known, is a major feature of Tsumeb's cityscape, were already made in 2020.

Interestingly, due to the partly desolate condition, but also due to the statics, not inconsiderable safety measures have to be taken during the repair. The necessary welding work will certainly be technically demanding and relevant to research.

The first meetings were held in 2021, and in the meantime a very promising initial concept was drawn up. A probable application in mid-2022 became increasingly clear towards the end of the year.

The biggest contribution was certainly made by Ms Anne Wolfrum, MA, from Department 9 of the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing. The Tsumeb Museum, but especially I personally, would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Wolfrum very much! We hope finally to be able to welcome Ms Wolfrum to Namibia in 2022.

In connection with the DeWet restoration, the Tsumeb Museum was able successfully to broker another cooperation agreement with the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing and the Tsumeb Municipality, which now owns the DeWet scaffolding and engine house property.

Despite all the difficulties, we are looking forward with confidence to an exciting year 2022. Feedback from our cooperation partners, who unfortunately can only be found overseas, gives us hope.

# **Annual Report Lüderitz Museum**

*by Gisela Schmidt-Scheele*

The beginning of the year started very disappointingly as there were no tourists, which meant that there was no income. Thus, we decided to close the Museum for the time being to save expenses.

During the winter school holidays, we hoped for a chance to see Namibians and South African Tourists, but nothing happened. Some requests from visitors for the Museum to be opened for them were agreed to on condition of a donation being given. Therefore, we had no expenses, just a little income. We are very thankful that Mynbach Security did not send us an account for the period, even though their watch patrolled the area of the Museum day and night. They also kept an eye on the shops opposite that were open as. Regular cleaning, especially after very strong sand storms, was done, and I checked the alarm system, toilets, etc. weekly. Apart from the monthly telephone account (basic charges only) and replacing a yale lock, we had nothing to pay for.

Mrs Georgia Garises, brought me a small hand-crafted leather apron pocket by her grandmother. She thought it would be in a better place in our Museum. Now it is in the Nama Showcase display.

Yes, the lockdown all over the world due to Corona has hit us hard, but we are hoping the coming year will be a better one. I thank the two ladies for their understanding that the Museum had to be closed for so long. And our sincere thanks to the Scientific Society for their help and advice at all times.

With kind regards  
Gisela Schmidt-Scheele

Thank you for the invitation to the AGM. Please excuse me, but I am unable to attend.

# **Annual Report Astronomy Working Group**

*by Prof. Michael Backes*

The year 2021/2022 was significantly less influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic than the previous ones, so that the successful work of the astronomy section continued. Altogether seven public events were organized, and also in terms of 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 was developed and marketing of Namibia as a prime destination for dark-sky tourism is being established.

## **Star Gazing/Astronomical Events**

Several fully booked star-gazing evenings were organized at the Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory (CHMO) of Mrs Sonja Itting-Enke, just south of Windhoek, in 2022. These were led by Lutz von Dewitz. In addition, an astronomical event of interest was featured: On 16 May 2022, we witnessed a total lunar eclipse.



16/05/2022	<i>Total Lunar Eclipse</i>
21/12/2020	<i>Great Conjunction (Jupiter &amp; Saturn) (Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Obs.)</i>
29/07/2022	<i>Star Gazing (Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory)</i>
30/07/2022	<i>Star Gazing (Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory)</i>
24/09/2022	<i>Star Gazing (Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory)</i>

## Public Lectures

Though developed and mostly presented last year, let us recall a series of five public lectures developed together with UNAM and the University of Oxford. The lectures were developed by the team of Drs Hannah Dalglish, Meghan Hughes, Getachew Mekonnen, and Eli Kasai, as well as Profs. Garret Cotter and 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>

The course received 864 registrations, including 295 (30%) and 77 (9%) from individuals who are living in Namibia and South Africa, respectively. The majority of registrations came from those with a tourism (35%) or astronomy (28%) background. People residing in Namibia and South Africa maintained a high participation throughout. To obtain a certificate for their attendance, the participants had to complete some homework assignments and 231 participants were awarded certificates. 88% of those who responded to the exit survey commented that they are planning to implement the material they have learned. The material may be used to produce a booklet in the future.

## Excursions

The much-anticipated astrophotography course with Heiner Dillmann on Farm Donkerhuk West, planned for 1 to 3 October 2021 unfortunately had to be cancelled. Hence, we are particularly happy to report that after long postponement, the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Southern Star Party* (SSFT<sup>1</sup>) took place in Gross Barmen from 8 to 10 October 2021. From 2 to 5 June 2022, a successful star-gazing excursion was organized to the Onjala Observatory together

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<sup>1</sup> Süd Sternfreunde Treffen



with Team Chamäleon and Wolfgang Paech. The 15<sup>th</sup> *Southern Star Party* was organized from 26 to 28 August 2022 at Daan Viljoen. With about 90 participants, this was again a huge success. Further, this was the first occasion that showcased the UNAM/Africa Millimetre Telescope planetarium to the public.

08–10/10/2021	14 <sup>th</sup> <i>Southern Star Party</i> (Gross Barmen)
02–05/06/2022	<i>Star-Gazing Excursion</i> (Onjala)
26–28/08/2022	15 <sup>th</sup> <i>Southern Star Party</i> (Daan Viljoen)
23/10/2022	<i>H.E.S.S. Open Day Excursion</i> (H.E.S.S. telescopes)

## Cuno Hoffmeister Memorial Observatory

We are truly grateful for the donation of astronomy books by Rob Johnstone. Discussions on the acquiring of further astronomical equipment are currently ongoing.

## Outreach

The website<sup>2</sup> as well as the Facebook-page<sup>3</sup> of the astronomy section have been regularly contacted: To date, 5,236 visitors have seen the website (compared to 4,363 last year; +20%). The Facebook-page has 1,422 regular followers (compared to 624 a year ago; +128%) and is especially useful for promoting events. Certain contributions have an active reach of more than 2,100 visitors.

Several newspaper and radio interviews were held and we are proud to report that Astronomy in Namibia was one of the major topics featured in the Namibian pavilion at the World Expo 2020 in Dubai (October 2021 – March 2022)<sup>4</sup>, as well as by the international journal Popular Science<sup>5</sup>.

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

Clear skies!

<sup>2</sup> [www.astronwg.wordpress.com](http://www.astronwg.wordpress.com)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/astro.nwg>

<sup>4</sup> <https://namibiaexpo2020dubai.com/2021/10/21/namibia-an-space>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.popsci.com/space/africa-millimeter-telescope-astronomy/>

# **Annual Report**

## **Reptiles and Amphibians Working Group**

*by Alfred Schleicher*

As in previous years, the annual report of the herpetological working group for reptiles and amphibians covers the events of the second half of last year (2021) and the first half of this year (2022).

This year the report is very manageable. The annual reptile day did not take place this year, after consultation with the farms and the management of the NSS. Has anyone even noticed?

Of course, it shouldn't remain that way in the future, because this event, at least until the tiresome corona story, produced a lot of joy among interested participants.

The research project on the Namibian tortoise species has continued unabated. I was able to explicitly prove that the Nama Padloper (*Chersobius solus*) does not lay only a single egg in the distribution area during the summer or winter rain phase, as previously assumed, but is quite capable of producing a clutch of two eggs. The work recently appeared in the latest issue of African Herp News.

Fortunately, I was able to give lectures in Germany and Switzerland again this year.

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

I also thank the members of the Namibia Scientific Society for their interest in Namibia's reptilian and amphibian species.

Stay tuned and, above all, always curious, and therefore also interested, because the African environment around us always has one or other surprise in store.

# Annual Report Namibian Hydrogeological Association

*by Ester Gustavo*

This report captures activities that the Namibian Hydrogeological Association (NHA) undertook during the period 2021–2022.

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

The activities undertaken are as follows:



## 1. The NHA AGM

- The AGM was held on the 11 February 2022.
- The meeting was held both virtually and face to face, at the Scientific Society Hall.
- At the AGM the new council was elected via nominations by fellow members.
- The council for 2022 comprises:
  - Ester Gustavo (President)
  - Diganta Sarma (Vice President)
  - Anna David (Secretary)
  - Bertram Swartz (Treasurer)
  - Abednego Shinana (ordinary member)
  - Dr Josefina Hamutoko (special sub-committee (Media))

## 2. Women in Geoscience Night of Acknowledgement

Ada Lovelace Day is a day to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). In October 2021 the NHA joined the international community in celebrating this day by hosting a night of acknowledgement for the women in Geoscience in Namibia. The event had 35 ladies in attendance. The event was refreshing, inspiring, and provided a networking platform for the ladies.

## 3. World Water Day 2022

The theme for the World Water Day 2022 is: “Groundwater: Making the invisible visible”. Together with the Geoscience Council of Namibia, the NHA participated in a national campaign to bring awareness to the nation through a radio talk show, in about 7 local languages, that aimed at informing the nation about how geoscience is a part of our daily lives. The NHA thus rallied hydrogeologists and hydrologists to participate in this radio talk show, and subsequently



Figure 1: Group Photo of the Women in Geoscience Dinner, 2021.

made groundwater visible to the nation through topics such as: Introduction to hydrogeology, drilling methods, groundwater management, and busting of groundwater-related myths. The feedback from the public was amazing.

#### **4. Educational FUN Walk**

The NHA together with the NSS organised an 8 km Hydrogeological educational/fun walk for the general public. On Saturday 5 March 2022 members and friends of the NSS and NHA met in the parking area in front of the Apostolic Church near the City of Windhoek Municipal Offices at 07h00. The aim of the walk was to show interesting hydrogeological sites around the eastern side of Windhoek. The walk covered six (6) major spots, led by a few of the council members of the NHA. The sites included the 68°C hot-water-borehole (Pahl Quelle), a hand-dug well at the old Grüner Kranz Hotel, the Group 3 boreholes (Maerua Mall), the exposed section of the Pahl Fault, the Group 5 Borehole in Klein Windhoek, and the “cherry on the cake” was the Managed Aquifer Recharge site, where the group was accompanied by an official from the Municipality of Windhoek who explained the process.

#### **5. The IAH**

An Annual National Chapter Report was submitted. From the Namibian National Chapter, 9 individuals are members of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH). The report further outlines the Namibian Chapter’s general information, including council members, website information, the local NHA memberships, the challenges faced, and the planned activities for the year.



Figure 2: Hydrogeological walk group photo

## 6. Life Coaching

Paramount to a work-life balance is self-awareness, and knowing one's strengths and talents. Sessions with Suoma-The Life Coach were organised by the NHA, and members were able, with the help of the life coach, to discover their talents and get guidance on how to apply them in life and at work. The feedback was positive, and this remains a priority on our list.

## 7. Forecast

In keeping with the work-life-balance theme, the association is planning another Women in Geoscience event, in October 2022, focussing on how to attain a work-life balance. The event will also see the compilation of biosketches (profiles) of close to 40 women in geoscience. Life coaches, financial coaches, and a psychologist will grace the evening so that the ladies can engage with them and hopefully make individual arrangements in the pursuit of a work-life balance.

And because we do not want to leave the “Aqua Men” behind, a social event is also planned for the end of the year for the men in hydrogeology and hydrology.

## 8. Conclusion

These activities have sparked interest in many people, and this has culminated in the growth of the number of paid-up members of the association. This is something to be grateful for, as it demonstrates that we are succeeding at promoting the study and sciences of hydrogeology and hydrology.

Your truly  
President of the NHA  
Ester Gustavo

# Annual Report Namibia Bird Club

*by Gudrun Middendorff*

Good evening ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this memorable event, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Namibia Bird Club. Mr Heinrich von Maltzahn was the first Chair of the “Ornithologische Arbeitsgruppe der Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft”, as it was then known. There are few organisations that can look back on many years of existence; the Windhoek Farmers’ Association turned 118 this year and the Namibia Scientific Society 97. Only a few associations reach this status.

The past rainy season brought a lot of grass cover, encouraging the birds to breed. After the big drought in 2019 the small seed-eating bird numbers were drastically reduced. It seems as if the numbers are slowly recovering, but it might need more time. This is where we need you on board to atlas at every opportunity, every visit to a farm or other location. Full protocol cards will contribute to knowledge of the distribution of all the species in Namibia. In 2021 1613 full protocol cards were submitted, which contributed to 1.4% additional coverage. Please join us in this fun activity – it does enhance your ID skills.

Although the Covid restrictions hampered the midyear events we managed to conduct some morning walks and outings. The morning walk - a short walk alternating between Avis Dam and Gammams Water Care Works - was held ten times. Our outings included trips to Farm Haris (twice), Otjiva Game Lodge, Airport Hunting Farm, Omalala Camp and Farm Neu-Heusis. The long weekend trips took us to Gobabeb Research Station, Farm Ousema near Omatako Dam and Omambonde Tal – family Düvel. Once a year a vulture awareness day is held at Farm Smalhoek – family Stehn, where white-backed vulture chicks are ringed. The Birders’ Get-together at Guest Farm Vreugde was a big success with 29 birders attending. The Biomarket coffee shop was manned twice to generate funds.

Donations are handed out once a year to support the valuable educational work done by our rehabbers who often pay expenses out of their own pockets.

Sonja Bartlewski - Wild Bird Rescue (Windhoek)

Liz Komen - NARREC Rehabilitation Station at Brakwater

Dr Sandra Dantu - Penguin Rescue Swakopmund

Dr Jessica Kemper - Penguin Rescue Lüderitz

Sancobb for the rescue of abandoned Cape Cormorant chicks

The aim of the Namibia Bird Club is to educate and practise all aspects of formal ornithology and informal bird-watching in Namibia by promoting, organizing, carrying out, and encouraging study, research, conservation

and protection related to all branches of the science of ornithology. General information and research findings are collected in our own journal published quarterly.

On this note I want to thank each and every one present, our members at home and abroad. Thanking the Namibia Scientific Society and their staff for the venue, the media for broadcasting our outings, and last but not least the committee for their tireless work and support.

Thank you.



# **Namibia Scientific Society and Desert Magic Tours**

Skeleton Coast—Kunene River Mouth and Western  
Kaokoland: 14.–21. August 2022

*Esther und Matthias Rohr*



Am 14. August morgens um 8 Uhr trafen sich die 21 Teilnehmer der Tour am nördlichen Ortsrand Swakopmunds. Nach einem kurzen Briefing startete die Gruppe in Richtung Norden entlang der Skelettküste. Das erste Etappenziel war der Eingang zum Skeleton Coast National Park, Terrance Bay.

Gleich in Terrance Bay begann das Abenteuer. Volker, unser Guide von Desert Magic Tours, hatte vorab nachgefragt, ob auch Benzin und Diesel an der Tankstelle vorhanden sei. Die Auskunft, die er erhalten hatte, sollte sich als falsch erweisen. Diesel war nicht da und so wurde telefonisch 300 Liter Diesel zur Anlieferung nach Purros geordert. Soviel vorab: die Treibstoffvorräte reichten! Kein Fahrzeug musste zurückbleiben.

Die ersten drei Nächte campierten wir am oder wenige Kilometer vom Strand entfernt. Etappenziele waren Möwe Bay und Angra Fria.

Die Fahrzeuge waren mit Sprechfunkgeräten verbunden und so wurden wir auch während der Fahrt kontinuierlich informiert. Wir erfuhren, wie lebendig die Wüste ist und wie sich die Natur auf den nicht vorhandenen Regen, die Dürre und den salzhaltigen Nebel eingestellt hat und Pflanzen, Büsche und Tiere am Leben erhält. Auch die Geologie der Region wurde erklärt. Wie kommt es zu den Küstenveränderungen, warum verschwinden Buchten oder versanden und was hat dies für Auswirkungen auf die Umwelt. Foxi (Gunter von Schumann) brachte uns mit seinem Reichtum an Wissen und Geschichten, diese raue, unwirklich Küste näher und lies sie uns lebendiger und mit anderen Augen sehen.

Jeden Morgen gab es ein Briefing mit Informationen über eigentlich alles, was wir in den nächsten Stunden sehen würden: die Geologie, die Pflanzenwelt, Schiffswracks und ihre Abenteuergeschichten ebenso wie Informationen über mögliche Bergbauaktivitäten in dieser unwirtlichen Umgebung.

Am dritten Tag erreichten wir den Kunene Mund und ließen unseren Blick nach Angola streifen. Hier Namibia mit Dünen und Wüste, dort Angola jenseits des Flusses steinig und rau. Wirklich ein Kontrast.

Ja, und dann hieß es ab in die Dünen, entlang des Kunene ostwärts, landeinwärts zum nächsten Lager. Nach gut 120 Kilometer nur strandwärts nördlich, nun das nächste Abenteuer durch die Dünen. Welch ein Erlebnis. H4 oder L4 erster oder dritter Gang, Vollgas, den Motor aufheulen lassen, bis zum nächsten „slip face“, 30 bis 40 Grad abwärts, nur den Motor bremsen lassen, Gas geben, um wieder in die Spur zu finden. Das muss man auch erst einmal lernen.

Abends das Lager am Kunene Fluss. Statt Dusche ein Bad in den seitlichen Pfannen des Flusses. Dabei Ausschau haltend, ob sich nicht doch ein Krokodil zu uns verirrt ... Ein gemütlicher Abend unterm Sternenhimmel am abendlichen Lagerfeuer.

Und natürlich auch hier eine fürstliche Auswahl zum Abendessen und Frühstück. Unsere Tagen begannen mit einem reichhaltigen, köstlichen Frühstück: Eier, Speck, Kaffee und Tee, Jam und Brot und endeten am Lagerfeuer mit kulinarischen Wüstenwundern vom weltbesten Küstenstroganoff über Spaghetti Bolognese, einem Braai, Hühnerfrikassee und Steaks - ob well done, medium oder rare – Desert Magic Tour did food magic!

Nach dem Kunene Camp konnten wir am nächsten Morgen nach der Abfahrt schon bald die Hartman Berge sehen. Es erwartete uns das Hartmans Valley, nach einer guten Regensaison von seiner schönsten – nämlich grünen - Seite.

Der Marienfluss, der gar kein Fluss ist, gab die weitere Route vor und die Himbakultur und das Leben der Himbas erlebten wir live.

Dem Hoarusib Flusslauf folgend war das nächste Ziel Purros. Natürlich waren wir gespannt, ob wir die Wüstenelefanten entdecken würden. Tracks, ältere und frische, und Losung war viel zu sehen, aber die Elefanten hielten sich versteckt. Wir gaben nicht auf und unermüdlich, mit geschärften Sinnen folgten wir ihren Spuren. Und wir wurden belohnt. Majestätisch zogen sie seitlich durchs Flussbett. Und auch am nächsten Tag im Hoanib Fluss sollten wir sie entdecken. Wir erlebten, wie wichtig diese zwei Lebensadern für die Tier- und Pflanzenwelt sind. Hoarusib und Hoanib, mal der eine wasserführend, mal der andere oder beide, bilden die Lebensgrundlage dieser Region.

Von Purros aus starteten wir zu unserem letzten Tag. Der Mannije vor Seesfontein war unser letzter Stopp. Diese künstlerische Gestaltung des Kaokoveld wäre eine eigene Reise wert. Wir fanden fünf dieser Mannijes und jeder war einzigartig und gab uns Einblicke in das Leben dort.

Abschließend bleibt zu erwähnen: Ein Reifen forderte die Tour, drei kamen noch auf dem Weg nach Windhoek dazu, keine größere Panne oder defekte Autos waren zu beklagen.

Es bleibt allen Organisatoren, Experten und Helfern das größte Lob auszusprechen und herzlichst zu danken.

Wir werden sicher bei einer der nächsten Touren wieder dabei sein.

## **Impressions of the *Namibia de Luxe Tour*: *Erkundungsreise in den Süden Namibias***

8 to 18 October 2022

*Photos: Armin Jagdhuber*



Kicking off in Windhoek, this tour gave the participants a chance to see and hear about old lime kilns, lithops and succulents, as well as the history of Lüderitzbucht and the impressive remains of the diamond rush in Elisabethbucht.

Aus, with its rich history, was chosen as a starting point for several day tours visiting, amongst others, the Red Ridge, wild horses, and historic and new mining sites at Rosh Pinah.





The impressive Fish River Canyon was visited to treat the eyes, while the Aldhara date plantation and Naute Kristall Cellar and Distillery were included to treat the taste buds.

... And what would a visit to the south have been without including the Naute and Neckertal Dams ...

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank:

Armin Jagdhuber and Gunter von Schumann of the Namibia Scientific Society  
 Karin und Michael Weder of Naute Kristall Cellar and Distillery,  
 the Team of Pack Safari,  
 the Team of Sense of Africa,  
 the Team of The Nest Hotel  
 Bernd Roemer of Bahnhof Hotel, Aus  
 Family Mouton of Alte Kalkofen Lodge  
 for offering their time and input to make this tour memorable and unique.



## **A Decade of Dynamic Development: 2012–2022 in Retrospect**

*by outgoing CEO Waltraut Fritzsche*

As announced at the AGM, I am taking a break.

It feels like yesterday and not ten years ago when I, blonde, hesitant, and with some bias, boldly walked into this reputable, dignified entity in the remarkable buildings, soon to be taken aback by appreciation of and esteem at what had been achieved by the wholehearted commitment of farsighted experts over so many years. What a privilege it was to be entrusted with the day-to-day management of an institution which, driven by a mutual passion for science and research, against all odds survived not only a World War and various demanding political transitions, but also times of economic hardship and societal changes.

I could not resist the challenge to build on a solid foundation at a time when technical innovation offered opportunities like never before, and while current conditions and a growing awareness of civil society's role called for change. Especially not when they told me "this is how it has been done for the last so many years, so don't think you will change anything here ...".

With more colleagues joining, we soon became a strong team, and everyone did what needed to be done. Ten years later, I most modestly say that I am so very grateful for a farsighted board, enthusiastic supportive members, and clever, tolerant colleagues. Of course, there were ups and downs, as usual, but as a team and together with board and members, we managed to accommodate continuous change as a given.

Changes came first through technical development. In 2012 communication happened through letters sent to members. Apart from enveloping some hundred printed pages, there were the odd incoming fax and the not very cooperative fax machine. The Society had one mail address which served all staff members. Fortunately, the Board agreed to buy a new computer and allowed separate mail addresses for each department. Nowadays, communication happens mostly via e-mail. And Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, websites and zoom send messages faster than you can react to them. Communication gradually changed from German to English, and the slogan *Science for Society* soon served as an invitation to whoever was interested in sharing fact-based unbiased information. Member numbers steadily increased to over 800 members from all sectors of society. Corporate members could then join through a change to the Constitution. We are still trying to reach the target of one thousand members because the member base is fluid with new applications constantly coming in as members pass away or are taken off the list due to non-payment or emigration.

Technical development also changed bookkeeping and sales, as we migrated from Pastel to Xero and the affiliated AirSquare website which allows for online shopping straight from the digital catalogue, and for the management of events.

In the printing department advanced technology also called for creativity, and so the popular black-and-white *Mitteilungen* with their well-known yellow covers became colourful and glossy. (See picture). The output of the publishing department increased tremendously, and apart from winning prizes for Namibian children's books, the Society published its first book in a local language. More translations (still of children's books) followed, as well as biographies written by politicians and Namibian field guides, while history and contemporary literature remain popular. The FNB and Konrad Adenauer Foundations, SWAPO (for the History of the GDR Children), and various authors assisted with funding. Digital versions of the Namibian Constitution in local languages, presentations to be downloaded via YouTube, and e-Books became part of the range. A young board member creatively playing with colour for professional branding added a vibrant blue to the Society's logo and image. And now staff members receive compliments for their chic appearance.



The Library is at the heart of the Society. In 2015 and perfectly timed for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Society received Franz Irlich's generous offer of a very comprehensive Namibiana collection; N\$ 2.5 million were raised within just one year through the support of members, companies, foundations, and diplomatic missions. More special collections came in together with remarkable donations, while valuable books and new publications are regularly bought. Just recently, the library software was upgraded to KOHA for international accessibility and processing of comprehensive data. Bursaries have been granted to ensure continuity. At present the library employs five experts who attend to enquiries from all around the world and maintain around 60,000 entries relating to our country, including maps, photos, slides, diaries, aerial surveys, and construction plans.

Events and excursions were my favourite! We added wine to public lectures and took on controversial topics, chose another venue when needed and, as becomes Namibians, agreed and disagreed, discussed, debated, and then happily shared drinks. And we still do. Others followed suit and booked the NWG hall for workshops, public meetings, Environmental Impact Assessment



meetings, get-togethers, and AGMs. The Society followed (and still follows) a strategy of being everyone's colleague and nobody's competition, and so we offered a platform for networking and facilitation of fact-based information, and soon became a social hub. Memoranda of Understanding were signed with other NPO NGOs and training institutions, and various initiatives were supported. Relations with embassies, foundations, and foreign development organizations were built, and friendly cooperation with government institutions, media and press expanded. When crippling Covid restrictions chased us out of our cozy, convenient comfort zone, we learnt how to stream online and kept the show running in the backyard, with the support of helpful members and communication providers. To mention Covid crisis management: we were indeed creative and even utilized the cellar space for storing booze so that we could survive the next liquor ban. Or we changed the dates for the Kunene tour a few times and recruited home brews for happy campfire chats. Because of Covid, excursions became especially popular when members did not dare fly overseas. And so we kept moving and organized more tours on demand. You say and we go!

I was sometimes asked what I enjoyed most. It is certainly the interaction with people, be it members, board or team, and especially young Namibians. As a highlight we could send a team of eleven Namibians (all under thirty) to represent our country at the Berlin History Festival in 2018. After thorough planning, preparation and training, they confidently went to make us proud! Thereafter some signed up for leadership training, even the exchange of young parliamentarians, and they are still occasionally invited when high-ranking German delegations officially visit Namibia. I am so happy to say that two of them now serve our Society as board members! Close to my heart is also "our" MindsinAction team whom we supported when they successfully applied for a grant for training young women in Kaokoland in mastering maths, robotics, IT, and physical science. Or the Bright Minds initiative where we got around one hundred qualified young Namibians together to meet and share and exchange ideas. It is not only what you know, but also whom ... and with so many very bright qualified Namibians becoming part of the Society, we are sure to keep going.

I can only repeat that I am so grateful! Thank you for your trust and tolerance and kind support! I so loved the interaction with each and every member, the events, the tours, the phone calls, the mails. So much fun being part of a society of like-minded people. Thank you!

Special regards from the outgoing CEO Waldi

## What's next

*by the incoming CEO Ruth Moldzio*

Never would I ever have dreamed of sitting in this chair, writing this report, and calling myself CEO. Little did I know that the motto “bring it on” opens all doors you could ever dream of; so, when offered this challenge I could simply not refuse.

A little bit about myself:

Over the past 10 years, I have gained detailed insight into the work of the Society, including also its strengths and weaknesses. I am not the “Talker” but the “Doer” type of person and am always open to new ideas, plans and projects. For me, it is most rewarding when after an event one can say, “all went very well”, “the people involved were happy”, and “what’s next?”. I would rather be involved with fewer projects, allowing me to give 100% of my effort, instead of trying to be part of everything and that only halfheartedly. Primarily, I will consolidate the various ventures and plans that my predecessor has built up over the past decade; all the connections with other institutions that were established, the standard of events she has set, as well as the program she has built up. Furthermore, some projects have already been formulated and will be attended to and hopefully implemented soon.

Having been part of “Team NWG” since 2012, I was actively part of and involved with organizing and implementing many of the changes, events and happenings Mrs Fritzsche mentioned in the previous article. Even though I was once employed to do the bookkeeping at NSS it soon became evident that one does not just “do one thing” at NSS, but one is part of a team doing everything. Daily tasks ranged from organizing events, helping members with their queries, assisting with repairs and maintenance, to reorganizing the Lager and helping in the library, and of course taking care of the daily bookkeeping.

As Waltraut Fritzsche mentioned, the Scientific Society’s strength lies in its incredibly supportive members and its ability to adjust: adjust to external changes, adjust to advancing technology, adjust to the change in demand. With Corona forcing us to drastically change our work routine and still meet the demands of members, scientists and interested parties, it became evident that things had to change again, quite drastically. We realized that our workstations and processes needed to be “technologized” and material digitized and all of that a whole lot more quickly than anticipated. The beginning has been made with implementing the new accounting software which is linked with our webpage and transitioning to a more user-friendly library database system. Now all the captured and transferred data needs to be completed and rounded off

to make it readily available. While it is great to collect and have information, it takes a lot of time to view and process it. "Information is Power", and the Scientific Society is eager to share both. As so appropriately said, "The Namibia Scientific Society is everyone's colleague and nobody's competitor", and it has become evident repeatedly over the past 97 years that so much more can be accomplished when working together. Working together with scientists and stakeholders allows us to ensure that accurate information is accessible, that people with similar interests can connect, and that new endeavours can be embarked on. Working together is also what makes the NSS Team so extraordinarily great and fun; ten helping hands will reach for you at the slightest stumble, making most challenges a breeze to master successfully. It is with this assistance that I strongly believe the Society can go from strength to strength!

While Namibia is busy establishing an accreditation protocol for Journals in Namibia, we have already looked into getting our own Journal accredited internationally. It has become ever more important for the authors of scientific work to be accredited for their articles, as only then will the hard work pay off for the scientist in the form of recognition. To date the Society has been fortunate to print hundreds of interesting articles, but if the Journal of the Namibia Scientific Society is to survive the next 100 years and keep its mission of being by Namibians for Namibia, it needs to become more attractive to the scientists of Namibia. Amongst other requirements, the Journal needs to become accessible on an Open Access basis as well as being granted its own ISSN Number. While these needs seem easy enough to achieve, it is weeks of work that hide behind them and unfortunately, they cannot quickly be done.

The biannual Newsletter has to date been printed to allow our members to be part of the happenings of the society, especially when not able to attend the various events in person. The past couple of years, however, have shown us that with technology advancing this need has subsided considerably, and so ideas have surfaced of rather creating a regular publication with more information instead of just a recap of the last few months. It is now already possible (via Zoom and YouTube) to have various information accessible much more quickly and allow all members to be part of more events, even while sitting in a hotel room in New York.

The library completed the transition from ABCD to KOHA in November and is already adding new information daily, while still ironing out the last hiccups of the transition. Now the pictures, books and documents can all be found in one database which is currently receiving its newest addition, the maps. Several hundred maps are being scanned and processed as I write this, making the collection of information of the Scientific Society even more unique.

The publishing department is about to embark on the production of the "Gogga Guide of Namibia". This exceptional guide will entail pretty much all

“goggas” or creepy-crawlies in Namibia, from the small barely visible ones to the big and *jukky* ones. Having already produced the reptile guide, we are very well aware of how much work is awaiting the publishing department, with at least 500 pages of goggas waiting to be brought to paper. This work not only promises to encompass all goggas, but will also be the first of its kind in Namibia!

And then, of course, the centenary of the Namibia Scientific Society. One hundred years of attending to scientists, collecting books by Namibians and about Namibia, organizing events for the public, and all of this in the interest of making fact-based information accessible. Surely this deserves just more than one giant *Makietie*. As the current CEO of a members’ association that has successfully survived wars, political changes and economic challenges, I call on all members, stakeholders and friends to assist us with ideas on how to properly celebrate such a fantastic achievement, and would like to thank those who have already brainstormed.

I confidently dare to say that the Society will continue to provide fact-based information to all interested parties and relevant stakeholders as well as assist with various projects that promise to uplift young Namibians; and all this while welcoming all its members with that open-heartedness which makes this Society so extraordinarily great.

## Narrating Namibia

Frieda Mukufa & Sylvia Schlettwein



Mimi Mwiya, Hugh Ellis, Rémy Ngamije, Sylvia Schlettwein Prince Kamaazengi, and Keamogetsi Joseph Molapong (Photo: Martin Kuhn/DIA Marbach)

Over three days the *Narrating Namibia, Narrating Africa Literary Festival* took place in Windhoek from 7 to 9 September 2022. Organised and hosted by the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach, Doek, and the University of Namibia, the festival took place at the Namibia Scientific Society with three days of panel discussions, readings, and performances by the featured authors and poets, and performances by Narrating Namibia fellows, who had attended three week-long creative writing workshops facilitated by Remy Ngamije. These workshops for emerging writers consisted of tuition sessions on fiction as well as non-fiction writing, and on how to be a poet, both in writing and performing. At the end of the course the fellows had a complete composition that they performed at the *Narrating Namibia, Narrating Africa Festival*.

The three panel discussions featured established writers and poets and prompted lively discussions on pertinent topics. On Wednesday 7 September the festival kicked off with the Night of Poets. The conversation with Namibian poets Hugh Ellis, Keamogetsi Joseph Molapong, Mimi Mwiya, and Prince Kamaazengi, was moderated by Sylvia Schlettwein and Rémy Ngamije, *Doek!* Literary Magazine's editor-in-chief. At the end of the evening, poets from the *Doek* fellowship performed poetry or read from their short stories.



Ruth Moldzio, CEO Namibia Scientific Society (Photo: Martin Kuhn/DIA Marbach)

The second evening, on Thursday, 8 September, was themed *Writing Back for the Future*. Lauri Kubuitsile from Botswana, Chuma Nwologo from Nigeria, and Valerie Tagwira from Zimbabwe engaged in conversation and read from their works. The evening was moderated by Prof. Dr Annette Bühler-Dietrich from the University of Stuttgart and Rémy Ngamiye.

The last day saw moving performances and a raw, emotional yet honest conversation on *Continental Violence, African Silence* between

Ugandan playwright George Seremba and Hugh Ellis, moderated by Joseph Molapong and Sylvia Schlettwein. A showcase of the poetry and writing of the last group of *Doek* fellows rounded off the *Narrating Namibia, Narrating Africa Festival*.

This festival was invaluable, not only because it provided an opportunity for Namibian and other African writers to discuss the Namibian writing landscape, but also because of the opportunity it provided to young and emerging writers, who were able to network with established authors and literary academics. The sense of community and creative, academic and intellectual discourse experienced during these three short but intense days injected the Namibian writing scene with a well-received booster.

For more information:

Literaturarchiv Marback: [www.dla-marbach.de](http://www.dla-marbach.de)

Doek!: <http://doeklitmag.com/>

UNAM: [www.unam.na](http://www.unam.na)



Some of the participants of the events (Photo: Martin Kuhn/DIA Marbach)



# Southern Star Party

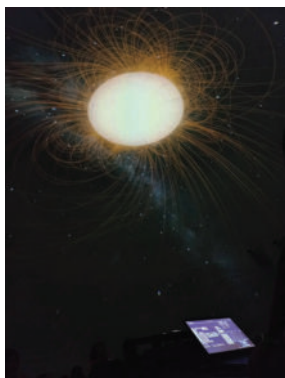
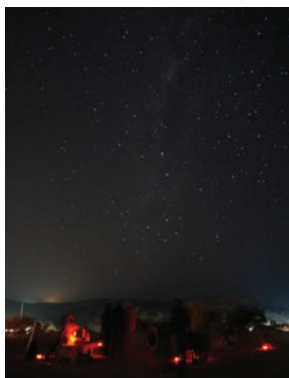
*Michael Backes*



Right: Daytime star gazing: observing the Sun! Left: The organizers and facilitators Francisco Macucule, Hiiko Katjaita, Lott Frans, Prof. Michael Backes, and Alex Arnold in front of the UNAM AMT Planetarium.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Southern Star Party was organized from 26 to 28 August 2022 at Daan Viljoen. With about 90 participants (including about 30 children), this was again a huge success. Further, this was the first occasion that showcased the UNAM/Africa Millimetre Telescope (AMT) planetarium to the public.

In three shows of about one hour each, the astrophysics students from UNAM gave the excited audience a tour through the Universe even before it got dark. At the same time the Sun could be observed through specialized telescopes, showing a huge protuberance. At night the participants could enjoy guided tours of the stars, making use of several different telescopes of sizes up to 20 inches.



Left: At night at the observing site; middle: Our Sun's magnetic field as seen within the UNAM/AMT Planetarium; right: This way to the Conference hall and Planetarium ...



# H.E.S.S. Open Day

*Michael Backes, Photos: Heidi Schubert*



One of the smaller telescopes and the large one.



Prof. Dr. Werner Hofmann (Max-Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics), the founding Director of H.E.S.S., explains the working principle of a Photomultiplier tube (PMT), the light sensors used in the H.E.S.S. cameras. In the background, NSS librarian Gunter von Schumann listens interestedly.

The High Energy Stereoscopic System (H.E.S.S.) telescopes, situated in Namibia, are the world-leading facility in the field of ground-based gamma-ray astronomy. Further, H.E.S.S. also hosts the largest mirror telescope in the World. During October 2022, H.E.S.S. celebrated its 20th anniversary, since the first telescope was inaugurated in 2002. The full array of (then) 4 telescopes was inaugurated in 2004 and, in 2012, the fifth and largest Cherenkov telescope was inaugurated.

For the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the H.E.S.S. collaboration with the University of Namibia (UNAM) organized a one-day scientific symposium, close to Windhoek, followed by the formal 20th anniversary celebrations at the telescope site with ministers, representatives from Namibian, German and French ministries, diplomatic missions, UNAM top management, as well as partners like the Namibia Scientific Society (NSS) present; then the H.E.S.S. collaboration had their third ever collaborative meeting in Namibia and as conclusion of the festivities an Open Day was organized

together with the NSS on Sunday 26 October. With more than 400 people on Farm Goellschau, gazing at the impressive H.E.S.S. telescopes during the day, 5 organized buses for students and the wider public, and 220 visitors to the UNAM/Africa Millimetre Telescope (AMT) mobile planetarium, the Open Day can rightfully be called a huge success.

For more information about the 20th anniversary celebrations, see <https://www.mpi-hd.mpg.de/hfm/HESS/pages/home/som/2022/11/>.

**Chersobius solus**  
**BRANCH, 2007**  
**NAMA Dwarf Tortoise**  
**TWO-EGG CLUTCHING**

*Alfred Schleicher*

Dwarf tortoises (genus *Chersobius*) typically lay single-egg clutches (Boycott and Bourquin 2000; Hofmeyr and Branch 2018) but here I report evidence of two-egg clutches.

I cared for Nama Dwarf Tortoises (*Chersobuis solus*) in outdoor enclosures in Windhoek, Namibia, with most individuals being in my care for more than 25 years. Five wild adults (3 males and 2 females) were presented to me by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) of Namibia, and their age is not known. The tortoises are kept in three different enclosures, each of which encompasses approximately 7m<sup>2</sup> of mostly natural habitat. Both females and males shelter under overlapping rocks, succulent plants or small shrubs. All tortoises and their enclosures are checked frequently (ca. daily). In the first few years, I incubated all eggs in an incubator, but for the past two decades, I left the nests undisturbed, allowing incubation under natural conditions.

All clutches discovered and measured from 1995–2021, contained one egg, with one exception. In September 1999, a long-term captive female produced a two-egg clutch. However, one egg was visibly smaller and deformed but contained yolk. The normal-sized egg measured 38.5 x 27.5mm, weighed 18g and hatched successfully after an incubation period of 93 days.

On 25 February 2021, two unusually small *C. solus* hatchlings (see Schleicher and Loehr 2001, and Schleicher 2004 for comparison) were found next to each other on a wet and misty morning at a nesting site of a different female to the one mentioned above, which had been captive since 2010. Each hatchling weighed 9g and had a straight carapace length, carapace width and shell height of 35.5 x 27.5 x 17.0mm and 34.5 x 28.5 x 16.5mm, respectively. (Fig. 1)

This suggests that both eggs were from a single clutch laid by the only female inhabiting the enclosure. However, she may have laid both eggs consecutively but in one location, with the hatchlings emerging simultaneously, assuming the possibility of embryonic diapause during development. This apparent two-egg clutch followed a three-year drought, during which the females produced extremely few eggs, and the drought may therefore have contributed to the production of the two eggs.

Tortoise egg size correlates with female size and body condition in southern Africa (Hofmeyr et al. 2005; Loehr et al. 2009). The female that laid the second two-egg clutch measured 111.5 x 80.0 x 43.5mm, and weighed 225g, indicating a body condition of 1.11g per cubic centimetre (cc, see formula in Loehr et al. 2004).

Two smaller females which produced exclusively single egg clutches had shell dimensions of 108.5 x 85.0 x 43.0mm and 101.5 x 78.5 x 39.0mm, and body masses of 193 and 172g, respectively. Their size and body condition indices (0.93 and 1.06g per cc, respectively) were lower than that of the female that produced two eggs.

Furthermore, I was able to obtain an X-ray of a Speckled Padloper (*Chersobius signatus*) female, which measured 94.0 x 72.0 x 39.0mm and weighed 165g, which clearly contains two eggs (Fig.2). If two eggs fit in the body of *C. signatus* (which are typically much smaller than *C. solus*), then they will certainly fit in an adult *C. solus* as well. These data, supported by data for a fully-grown *C. signatus* (van Loon 2008), suggest that favourable weather may combine with female size and body condition to increase production of two-egg clutches in *Chersobius* species.



Fig. 1

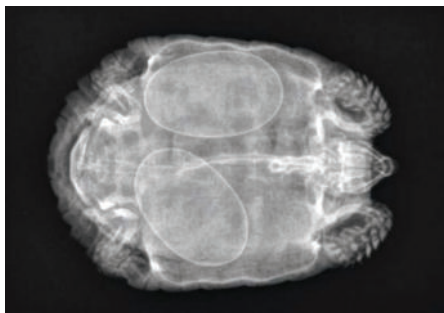


Fig. 2

## Acknowledgements

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) in Namibia are thanked for providing the necessary research and possession permits (permit number AN20171002). Olda Mudra (Czech Republic) is thanked for providing data and the X-ray of gravid *Chersobius signatus*.

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## New Books/Neue Bücher

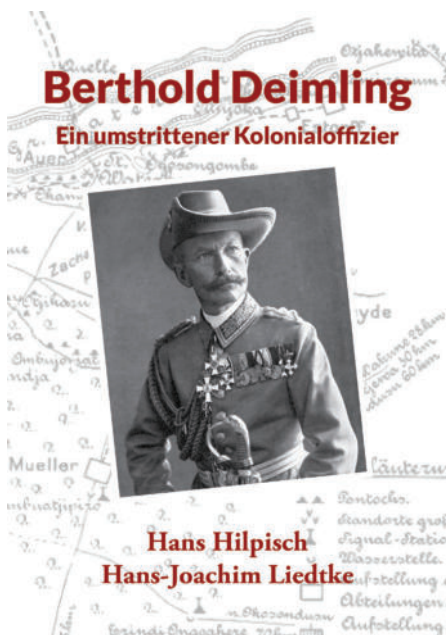
Berthold Deimling  
Ein umstrittener Kolonialoffizier  
von Hans Hilpisch und Hans-Joachim Liedtke

Sowohl während der Gefechte am Waterberg am 11. August 1904 als auch bei den Großen Karasbergen zu Beginn des Jahres 1905 legte der deutsche Kolonialoffizier Oberst Deimling immer wieder ein Verhalten an den Tag, das mit dem klaren militärischen Prinzip von Befehl und Gehorsam nicht zu vereinbaren war. Detailliert wird geschildert, wie er von Ungehorsam bis zur glatten Befehlsverweigerung alles tat, um seine eigenen Vorstellungen von Kriegführung durchzusetzen.

Warum es trotz dieses Verhaltens für ihn letztlich Lorbeer anstelle von Gitterstäben gab, wird in dieser Arbeit der beiden ehemaligen Berufsoffiziere der Bundeswehr, Hans Hilpisch und Hans-Joachim Liedtke, akribisch untersucht. Dabei wird letztlich deutlich, dass Deimlings Verhalten auch ein Beispiel für die Gratwanderungen darstellt, die sowohl Vorgesetzten als auch Untergebenen im Krieg oft genug damals wie heute abverlangt werden.

Schließlich stellen die Autoren auch ausführlich die Bewaffnung und Ausrüstung der Schutztruppe und – soweit vorhanden – der Herero und Nama vor. Auch die Probleme einer schnell aus allen Teilen des Reiches zusammengewürfelten Truppe, die zunächst weder Korpsgeist besaß noch ein hinreichendes Vertrauensverhältnis zwischen Vorgesetzten und Untergebenen entwickeln konnte, werden fachkundig beleuchtet.

Deutsch • ISBN 978-99945-76-81-4 • 260 Seiten • 148 x 210 mm  
Preis: 340 N\$ • Preis für Mitglieder: 290 N\$



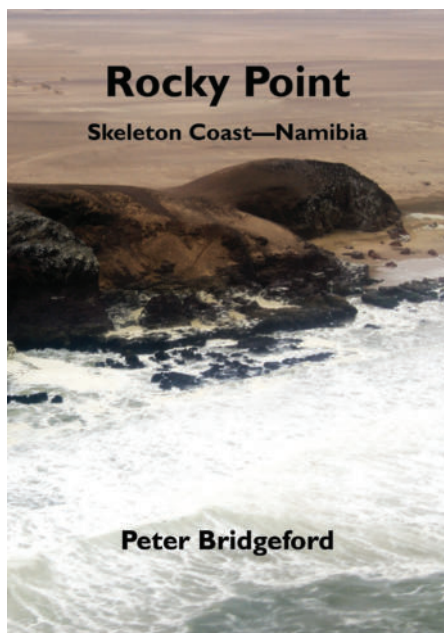


## Rocky Point Skeleton Coast—Namibia by Peter Bridgeford

Rocky Point is a small, isolated rock outcrop on the sandy Skeleton Coast of Namibia and the most prominent landmark between Möwe Bay and the Kunene River 250 km further north. It is hard to reach from overland, via the sea or by plane—a fact that has added to its mystique over the years. And yet, explorers, hunters, traders, scientists, refugees, stranded ship passengers, soldiers and even politicians have passed or visited Rocky Point during the past centuries.

The events chronicled in this book, illustrated with numerous fascinating photos, start in 1486 with the early explorations of the Portuguese. They tell us about the many adventures of hunger, thirst, despair, death, heroism, sacrifice and also joy and excitement on this wind-swept desert until

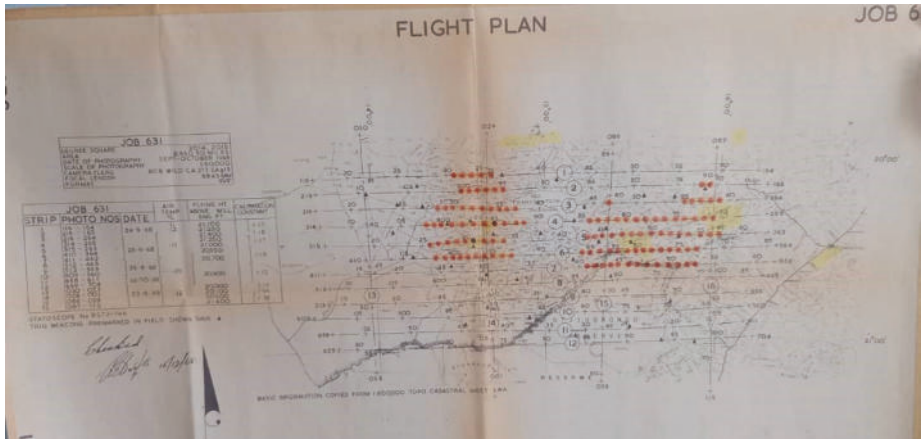
today—among them the stranding of the Dunedin Star in 1942 near Rocky Point and the almost impossible rescue operation of 63 people, including 29 women and three babies; the rescue of Angolan refugees in 1975, who had fled from the civil war and crossed the Kunene River in a large convoy; and while the inaccessibility of Rocky Point often led to disaster or frustration, it was ideal for consultations, away from the prying eyes of journalists, for example, when in March 1984, Prime Minister P.W. Botha of South Africa secretly met Dr Jonas Savimbi, President of UNITA there.



English • ISBN 978-99945-76-80-7 • 140 pages • 148 x 210 mm  
Price: N\$230 • Price for members: N\$195

# Aerial photo collection from geologist Robert Carr

*Armin Jagdhuber*



Some time ago our library received from geologist Robert Carr his complete Aerial Contact Photo Collection.

We had never possessed such Aerial photos and it has been a real blessing for us to introduce such a collection into our library.

His donation consists of 4 steel cabinet in which the photos are stored. These cabinets, manufactured in Cape Town, were specially designed for the storage of these photographs.

The Aerial Photos number 15 000 in total. They date from the 1960s to the 1980s. The scale ranges across 1: 36/40/50/60 000.

Furthermore, we received all his maps and job-plans, which are crucial to finding the relevant job and flight number to be able to locate the wanted photo.

A farm map of Namibia which is divided according to the different jobs, is the first step to locate the desired Aerial photos.

With the job number from the farm map, the area map with the same job number is used. On this map, in turn, the point of interest is located, with the number indicating where the Aerial photo can be found in the cabinet.

These contact photos (25x25cm) are black and white photos, designed to be used for stereographic overlap. Viewed under a stereoscope, the scene can be viewed in 3 dimensions.

We, the library of the Namibia Scientific Society says thank you for this generous and informative historical donation.



# Namibia-Luftbild-Sammlung von Geologe Robert Carr

*Armin Jagdhuber*



Der namibische Geologe Robert Carr übergab seine komplette und umfassende Sammlung an Luftbildaufnahmen kürzlich an das Archiv der NWG.

Die Schenkung umfasst 15.000 Aufnahmen, in vier für diese Sammlung maßangefertigten Eisenschränken. Die numerisch sortierte Sammlung beinhaltet Luftbilder Namibias aus den Jahren von ca. 1960 bis ca. 1980.

Die Sammlung wird durch korrespondierende Farmkarten Namibias ergänzt. Auf den Karten vermerkte Flugplannummer und Jobnummer verweisen auf die jeweilige Luftaufnahme im Kartenschrank.

Diese schwarz/weiß Fotos werden „Kontakt Fotos“ (25 x 25 cm) genannt und ergeben, überschneidend aneinandergelegt und durch ein Stereoskop betrachtet, ein 3 D Bild.

Die Schenkung ist eine wertvolle Ergänzung des historischen Archivs der NWG.

Die NWG dankt Herrn Robert Carr sehr für diese großzügige und historisch wertvolle Spende.

## Besuch der Vereinigten Evangelischen Mission Wuppertal

*Gunter von Schumann und Armin Jagdhuber*

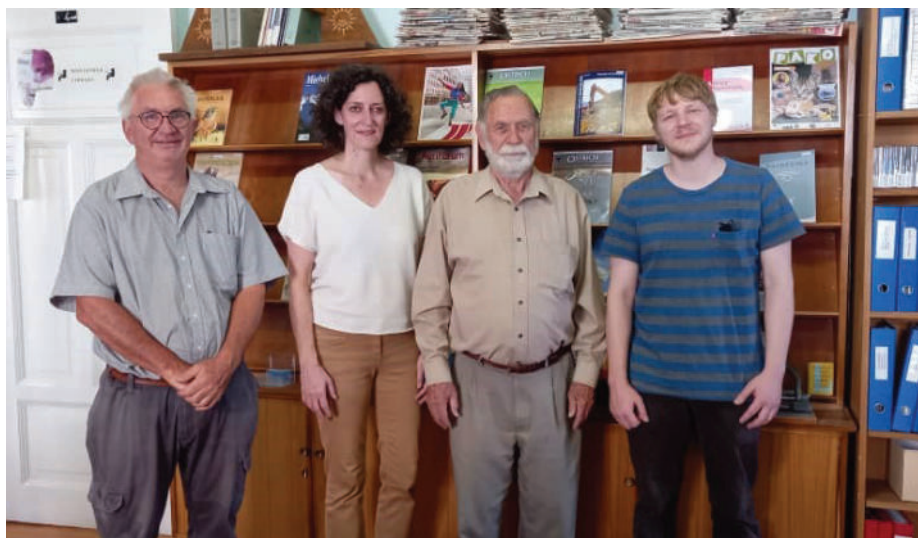
Am 3. November 2022 besuchten Julia Besten und Christian Froese als Vertreter der Vereinigten Evangelischen Mission (V.E.M.) Wuppertal die Bibliothek der Namibia Wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft (NWG).

Herr Froese ist der Nachfolger von Wolfgang Apelt im Archiv der Rheinischen Mission und wir freuen uns sehr, dass die langjährige gute Zusammenarbeit unserer Bibliotheken fortgesetzt werden kann.

Das Archiv der Vereinigten Evangelischen Mission in Wuppertal sowie das der Rheinischen Mission in Windhoek und das namibische National Archiv (NAN) sind wichtige Forschungsstätten für die weltweite Geschichte der Rheinischen Mission und besonders auch für die Missionsgeschichte Namibias.

Die Kooperation und der Austausch der NWG mit diesen Institutionen ist von besonderer Bedeutung.

Wir danken für diesen Besuch.



Armin Jagdhuber, Julia Besten, Gunter von Schumann und Christian Froese



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.

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

NSS-Team



## Diamonds Found in our Library

The following pages are a contribution from the library, a nostalgic view into the past. Something to smile about, advertisements from the past or some interesting and almost forgotten information.

*Die folgenden Seiten sind ein Beitrag aus der Bibliothek, ein Blick in die vergangenen Jahre. Etwas zum Schmunzeln, vergangener Jahre Werbung oder interessante und fast vergessene Informationen.*

[illegible]



Der geehrten Einwohnerschaft von Lüderitzbucht teile ich  
hierdurch er, mit, daß ich am 1. April d. J. meine **Schlachterei  
und Wurstfabrik** an Herrn

**Georg Steinbach**  
abgetreten habe. Indem ich für das bislang gezeigte Wohlwollen  
viel ich, selbiges auch auf meinen Nachfolger übertragen  
zu lassen.

Lüderitzbucht, den 1. April 1904.

Lüderitzbucht, Zeitung.

Der geehrten Einwohnerschaft von Lüderitzbucht und Umgebend  
teile ich, daß wir Mitte nächster Woche in Schenkschen Hause,  
Hotel eine

**Schlachterei und Wurstfabrik**  
eröffnen werden wird sein, unsere Kundschaft durch Lieferung  
dieser Waren und werden wir bis auf weiteres auch  
erhalten per Pfd. 73 Pfg., Hammelfleisch per Pfd. 80 Pfg.,  
Schinken, Rauchfleisch, sowie ff. Aufschnitt etc.

**Horwitz & Co.**

Zur Monatsfeier für den Kommandeur des Stütz-  
punkts, Herrn Major Daxböck in Neuenhagen, findet am  
Sonntag, den 21. März d. J. jeder, abends punkt 8 Uhr ein

**Bierabend**  
Neuenhagen Neuenhagen statt.  
Einwohner von Neuenhagen und Lüderitzbucht  
dürfen Ortsbesuche in die Stützpunkt werden ergehen  
sich an demselben zu beteiligen.

**Der Bürgermeister:**  
Dr. Forst.

**Schlachterei oder beher**  
der Haus, Fleisch und Wurstfabrik  
am 1. April d. J. teile ich, daß ich  
dieselbe heute ganz übergeben habe

**Dr. Oppermann,**  
Fam. Hermanns-Wurst,  
Lüderitzbucht.

**Hauswursts an die**  
**Baumwollseilerei**  
**W. Taupitz.**  
Fam. Hermanns-Wurst.

**Erstklassen**

### Heinrich Schulze

Schlosserei und Schmiede.  
Ausführung sämtlicher Maschinen-,  
Wasser- und Lichtleitungsanlagen.  
nach African Milling Co. Ltd., Cape-Town.  
sowie mit Holzwasser, Geröhr- und Produktions-Maschinen.  
Großbetrieb, sowie der beliebigen „SAMCO“ Maschinen und  
von Gießgütermaschinen.

Telegr.-Adress: Nilling.

### Konzert

zum Besten des Harmonienfonds der evangelischen  
Gemeinde Lüderitzbucht am Montag, den 22. März  
abends 8 Uhr im Saale des Kapo'schen Hotels.  
Konzert: 1. Klavier-Virtuose, Pianissimo; 2. Klavier,  
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# Report on the STEAM Partnership Project Pilot

*Prepared for: Exxonmobil, Namibia Scientific Society (NSS), National Commission for Research, Science and Technology (NCRST)*

*Prepared by: Mindsinaction on 17 October 2022*

## 1. Executive Summary



This report provides details of events, activities, impact, and outcomes of phase 1; pilot of the STEAM Partnership Project; Exposing Young Girls to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Education in the Kunene Region. The project commenced on 24 January and concluded on 23 September 2022. The STEAM Partnership Project is a collaboration between Exxonmobil, the Namibia Scientific Society, and Mindsinaction. The project aims to

increase interest in science and mathematics outside the classroom; hence the mission to expose 40 girls in the remote areas of the Kunene Region to STEAM educational activities using a hands-on approach to achieve its vision. This is to see children, especially girls, involved in and excited about problem solving, to increase their efficiency in tackling presented tasks, and their ability to comprehend technological advancements with a positive attitude. The project has the objective of creating an environment that promotes learning, respect, and personal development, while providing inclusive opportunities for girls, reducing gender disparities, and mitigating the exclusion of remote communities from quality education. The report gives details of project execution and findings, followed by comments and recommendations, and conclusions.

## 2. Details

The first round included 20 girls from Kameru Primary School (Grades 6–7), and 20 from Putwawanga Secondary School (Grades 8–10). In the second round 20 more learners from two remote schools some 40 kilometres from Opuwo were added to bring the total number of beneficiaries to 60. All learners



who participated in the program were selected by their school principals. The selection criteria considered girls of good behaviour, who demonstrated interest in science and mathematics in the classroom, and had a good school attendance record.

In line with the project mission, the 60 girls were trained in three STEAM modules, namely, Lego Robotics, Electronics, and 3D printing. Each module used a hands-on learning kit and a laptop per group of 4 learners.

Each module requires 8 workshops, and a total of 130 hours was spent on direct training. The modules' content included learning about motors, sensors (colour, ultrasonic, humidity, force), basic electrical circuits, coding, story-telling, gaming, CAD, 3D printing, problem identification, and problem solving. The exposure to these skills opened up new ways of thinking, and improved self-confidence and critical thinking abilities as observed from the pre- and post-evaluation results.



### 3. Findings

The following observations were recorded:

- None of the participants has access to a computer either at school or at home. In addition, 56 of the 60 learners had never used or touched a computer before the STEAM Partnership Project exposure. In the first workshop, which focused on pre-evaluation, all the learners were observed to lack basic computer skills such as navigating the cursor, typing, and dragging .
- Participants demonstrated the ability to learn fast through the hands-on approach, as concentration shifted quickly from the actual operation of the computer to solving the problem. In the process of solving the problem the basic computer skills such as dragging the coding blocks, typing, and software navigation seemed to come intuitively. At the end of the eighth workshop all participants could drag blocks of code and type numbers in the correct blocks with ease.
- No participant had prior knowledge of robotics or had ever been involved in similar activities. Learners used Lego resources to build their first robot in the first workshop, where they were introduced to motors, sensors, and micro-controllers.

- Learners opened up to scientific ways of thinking, including setting one's own tasks and evaluating one's own success.
- Most indicated their understanding of the value of STEAM in problem solving.
- All learners developed a prototype solution to a specified problem with the aid of four 3D printers and Computer Aided Software (CAD).
- Almost all the participants indicated that they had a lot of fun.



## 4. Conclusion

We had a great experience working with and training the girls in the Kunene Region, and the outcome of the STEAM Partnership Project Pilot was a huge success. Mindsinaction would therefore like to thank ExxonMobil and the Namibia Scientific Society for the life-changing opportunity you have given to these learners. They promised to use the acquired skills for self-improvement, to take up competitive careers, and to tackle challenges facing their communities and the world. We faced minimal challenges with implementation because the team was equipped with enough resources, and the regional office of the Ministry of Education, Arts, and Culture made our work easier by requesting the school principals to select the participants. We wish to continue the implementation of the STEAM Partnership Project in other communities or regions.

For more information: <https://mindsinaction.com.na>

## Events

01.07.2022–30.11.2022

- 05.07.2022 Financial Intelligence Center invite to a public presentation, *Crypto and Bitcoin*
- 07.07.2022 Leon Boye, *Khaudum Full Moon Waterhole Game Count 2022*
- 12.07.2022 Dr Ernest R. (Dick) Greene PhD, *Biomedical Engineering and Health Technology Management Training in Namibia: Serving a Critical Need*
- 14.07.2022 Namibia Scientific Society and Gobabeb invite to a public presentation, *Hominid Occupations of the Northern Sand Sea*
- 19.07.2022 Dr Paul A. Feil MD, *Pulmonary Pearls and Sleep Secrets: Guaranteed Awakening*
- 25.07.2022 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion' poetry reading social with Crispin Clay of Lüderitzbucht: *Laugh, Sob, Itch!*
- 03.08.2022 Tour briefing Kunene Tour 14.–20./21.08.2022
- 11.08.2022 Prof. Dr Imre Demhardt: *Putting Namibia on the Map: Cartographic Highlights, 1507–1918*
- 06.09.2022 CEO of German WALDZERTIFIKATE INT. GmbH Dipl. Des. Raphael Scriba: *The Future of Namibia's Forest—How to create additional Income through CO<sub>2</sub>-Certification*
- 15.09.2022 Book launch *The Hambukushu of Namibia's Kavango East Region*
- 27.09.2022 Prof. Walter Peters, *Swakopmund: the making of a town from scratch*
- 04.10.2022 Book launch with Author Hans Hilpisch and Hans-Joachim Liedtke: *Berthold Deimling – Ein umstrittener Kolonialoffizier*
- 06.10.2022 Tutaleni Ilonga, *How to Gamify the Namibian Education System*
- 17.10.2022 Exhibition and public talk by Dr Elga Drews, President of Namibian Chiropractic Association: *World Spine Day 2022—Every Spine Counts*
- 18.10.2022 Dr Aletris M. Neils, Founder and Executive Director, *Conservation CATalyst: Unraveling Carnivore Conflict in an Ecological Framework: Caracals on Namibian Farmlands*
- 01.11.2022 Winfried Holze, Urban Design Architecture: *The New City of Windhoek Spatial Development Framework—An Alternative Proposal*
- 15.11.2022 Book launch and public talk: An Evening with Peter Bridgeford
- 23.11.2022 Prof. Dr Jürgen Althans on a past due (and in good fun) academic documentation: *Namibian Farm Gates and Their Locks*
- 29.11.2022 Gobabeb – Namib Research Institute's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and launch of the Namibia Scientific Journal 69–2022

## 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:



**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, 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
2022 at 17h00 and reopen on  
Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**



**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, 23. Dezember  
2022 um 17.00 Uhr und öffnet wieder  
am Mittwoch, 11. Januar 2023.**





**Namibia  
Scientific  
Society**

**Namibia  
Wissenschaftliche  
Gesellschaft**

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