



# Namibian Environment & Wildlife Society

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## NEWS sponsors research activities

NEWS has identified two worthy research projects to support as part of our mandate in furthering conservation activities throughout Namibia.

The projects, one in progress and the other awaiting support from the Namibia Wildlife Resorts (NWR), are both in Okaukuejo Camp in the Etosha National Park. The project in progress is being conducted by Michelle Kastern on waste generated at Okaukuejo Camp with the aim to inform NWR/MET on the amount and type of waste generated per month and the recycling potential thereof. The NEWS support partly funds Michelle's study and it is expected that this work would increase the overall awareness of waste generation within a National Park and the advantages of recycling.

(Pictures below © Michelle Kastern)



The following environmental newsletters of interest have recently been distributed and can be viewed at the following websites:

- CRANE WORKING GROUP:  
CRANE NEWS 46 , MAY 2010  
WWW.NNF.ORG.NA/CRANES
- BROWN HYENA RESEARCH  
PROJECT, ISSUE 30, JUNE  
2010  
WWW.STRANDWOLF.ORG.ZA

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

RESEARCH CONTINUED	2
BEACHED WHALE	2
PUBLIC PRESENTATION	2
GULF OIL SPILL	3
ROLL OF HONOUR	3

## Research continued

The second project to be partially funded by NEWS depending on other donor funding requested is by John Carter on Black-backed Jackal activity within the Okaukuejo Camp.

Black-backed Jackal's have become notorious scavengers within the Etosha campsites with many a wary tourist forfeiting a braai when the meat "disappeared" as a result of marauding jackals. This is not only inconvenient, but could become serious should tourists be bitten especially with jackal's often being afflicted with rabies.



Black-backed jackal (© Peter Cunningham)

John is investigating the actual problem with the aim to recommend solutions and install preventative measures.



(© Peter Cunningham)

## Beached Whale

A beached whale - probably an Antarctic minke whale (*Balaenoptera bonaerensis*) - was observed just north of Wlotoskas Baken on Saturday 12 June. The whale was still alive and breathing when first observed.

Antarctic minke whales spend summer months in the Antarctic where they feed on krill - predominantly of the *bonaerensis* form from where the scientific name - with the majority moving northwards during winter to their equatorial breeding grounds.

A unique trait of this baleen whale (baleen plates in mouth filter ingested water for krill) is what is known as a post-partum oestrus - i.e. females come into oestrus soon after giving birth resulting in a shorter calving interval than for other baleen whales.

These whales are the most abundant of the whales in the southern hemisphere with 450 000 estimated still to occur.

[See: Skinner & Chimimba 2005. *The mammals of the southern African Subregion, for more details*]



Beached whale (© Andrew Cunningham)

## Public Presentation

You are herewith cordially invited to attend the NEWS Public Talk on Wednesday, 23 June 2010 at 18h30

**Dr Oliver C. Ruppel**

WTO Chair & Director of HRDC, Faculty of Law, University of Namibia on:

**Climate Change and Human Vulnerability: Law and Policy**

VENUE: rooms of the Namibia Scientific Society, 110 Robert Mugabe Ave, opposite the National Theatre in Windhoek.

No entrance fee - Donations welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Gulf Oil Spill

The following are some facts regarding the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico including a few images:

Volume: Up to 100 000 barrels or 16 million liters per day.

Area covered: 6 500 to 24 000 km<sup>2</sup>



Oil spill as seen from space (top), oiled seabird (centre top), turtle feeding in oil (centre bottom) and soiled brown pelican (bottom).

## Roll of Honour

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our corporate members, which allows us to pursue our mission to conserve the natural environment of Namibia and to promote appropriate protection, wise and sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable development.

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