



Namibian Environment & Wildlife Society

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GECKO PRESENTATION

It was a full house with over 100 people attending the public talk on Wednesday 21 September where NEWS hosted Gecko to present their proposed Vision Industrial Park (VIP) developments at the coast. Mr Philip Ellis (Gecko) introduced the VIP project while Dr Peter Tarr (SAIEA) and Mr Pine van Wyk (Gecko) presented the environmental aspects as determined during the Scoping Phase and Walvis Bay as a potential site, respectively. Comprehensive presentations were delivered of each aspect followed by an extensive question & answer session.



A packed audience at the Gecko Vision Industrial Park presentation
(© Frauke Kreitz)

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

- NANGOF TRUST Vol 1(2)
info@nangoftrust.org.na
- ENVIROSCOPE, Issue 65, August 2011
admin@ecoawards-namibia.org
- THE BARKING GECKO Vol 12(3)
Newsletter of the NamibRand NR
www.namibrand.org
- NAMPOWER/NNF Strategic Partnership Newsletter No 8, September 2011, www.nnf.org.na
- BOTSOC Newsletter September 2011, drdrblack@hotmail.com
- CHEETAH STRIDES, Cheetah Conservation Fund Newsletter, drlauriemarker@cheetah.org
- Brown Hyena Research Project Newsletter No 35
www.strandwolf.org

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GECKO PRESENTATION CONTINUED



Assurances were given by the Gecko team that the development would not proceed should it be determined to negatively affect the environment or human health and without first completing a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) using the best specialists available.

The Scoping Phase identified the site just north of the Swakopmund Salt Works as initially the most feasible site, mainly due to economic reasons, while the problems around the proposed Dune 7 site at Walvis Bay were largely related to logistics with major financial implications, although it was confirmed that this site would have the least effect on the overall biodiversity.

For more info also see:

<http://www.namibian.com.na/news/full-story/archive/2011/september/article/gecko-heat-dies-down/>



NEXT NEWS PRESENTATION

Dr Mark Jago, who is the vet for the Ministry of Environment & Tourism (MET), will present a talk titled **"Game capture in Namibia"** on 27 October 2011.

This presentation promises to be informative and entertaining so diarize this date and join NEWS at the Scientific Society lecture room at 19h00.

Entrance is free of charge for NEWS members while non members are encouraged to give a donation. Wine and snacks will be served after the presentation. For more information please contact Hilda-Marie Botha at the NEWS office.



FACEBOOK

NEWS has recently established a Facebook page! All members who use this function are encouraged to join and contribute to the current and topical developments regarding environmental issues in Namibia.

For more information please contact Andri Marais (andri.cornelius@gmail.com)

Participants in the packed venue (top), question time after the presentations (middle) and the Walvis Bay site as an option being discussed (bottom)
(© Janke Cunningham).

BATTERY DISPOSAL FEEDBACK

Responding to a NEWS media release regarding the collecting and responsible disposal of household batteries, John Gerber of Energizer Namibia had the following to say:

"Indeed Energizer batteries are safe to discard of in the normal household waste system as they contain no harmful substances to the environment. Energizer batteries no longer contain harmful Mercury or Cadmium and are approved for household disposal by the US Environmental Protection Agency. We can only confirm this for our Energizer batteries and not for the other brands on the market".

Todd Montgomerie, MD of Energizer South Africa Limited responded as follows:

"I think John Gerber has already communicated to you that despite perceptions to the contrary by many consumers, alkaline batteries are safe to dispose of with all your other household waste and are not classified even under very stringent US environmental legislation as toxic or hazardous. These perceptions I think are a hangover from over 20 years ago when Mercury was used as a performance enhancing additive in many batteries by many companies. With the realization that Mercury does have harmful effects in the environment especially when it enters the food chain Energizer stopped adding mercury into its alkaline batteries approximately 20 years ago. Likewise Cadmium is also now recognized as environmentally harmful under certain circumstances and Energizer does not market Nickel-Cadmium Rechargeable batteries here in Africa anymore. The newer rechargeable technology Energizer sells (Nickel Metal Hydride) while also performing better in most consumer applications than Nickel-Cadmium is are also more environmentally friendly and not deemed toxic or hazardous in household waste".

Also see: www.Energizer.com for general information regarding Energizer products.

NEWS will however maintain the collection of household batteries as battery characteristics such as **ignitability, corrosivity & reactivity** remain potential problems. Batteries can be deposited at our NEWS office or during our public presentations for collection and disposal by the Recycle Forum Namibia (RFN).

POLYTECHNIC ENVIRONMENTAL POETRY

Students from the Polytechnic Environmental Club have submitted "environmental poetry" which will be included in subsequent NEWS-letters:

I cry out - Gustav Mbeha

Once beautiful and untouched I was
Until you wanted to know more
Now I cry out, not of joy, but in pain
The dams on the rivers prevent my fish from
swimming upstream

Suffocating in the tick grey smoke I cry out,
Buried in trails of trash I cry out,
I cry as I see the thick sludge of crude oil spills
What have I done but given you my very best?

I have given you Flora, but
It is cut down and burnt like it has caused great pain
They bare fruits and flowers for you but yet you
torture them so much
I have given you Fauna,
Is shot down for trophies and some are now gone
forever

The beautiful landscape you enjoy to watch
The ground you walk and build on
You have brought "civilisation" and scarred my
beautiful image
You have pushed all my little friends in a corner but
yet you demand their space as well

My tears have turned the sea salty...

If anybody is out there...
This is an S.O.S. from Mother Nature...
PLEASE HELP,
Before it is too late...

EIA's IN PROGRESS

The following developments have come to the attention of NEWS and should members be interested in registering as interested and affected parties or require more information, please contact the Environmental Practitioners directly:

1) Otjozondu Manganese Project, Otjozondu & Okondjatu area

GCS Namibia

Contact: Ms Alet Greeff,
alet@gcs-na.biz

2) Enigma Oil & Gas Exploration, 3D Seismic Survey, Walvis Basin

CCA Environmental

Contact: Ms Eloise Constandius,
elois@ccaenvironmental.co.za

3) Sandpiper/Meob Marine

Phosphate Mining Project, Offshore

Enviro Dynamics

Contact: Ms Carla Saayman,
carla@envirod.com

4) HRT Oil & Gas, Seismic Survey Orange Basin

CCA Environmental

Contact: Mr Jeremy Blood,
jeremy@ccaenvironmental.co.za

LATEST CORPORATES

The latest corporate member to join NEWS is:

City of Windhoek, at the Oryx category.

NEWS heartily welcomes you and greatly appreciates your commitment to environmental matters!

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.

ROAN

AngloGold Ashanti Namibia (Pty) Ltd

First National Bank

John Meinert Printing (Pty) Ltd

Rössing Uranium

SABLE

Bank Windhoek

De Beers Marine Namibia (Pty) Ltd

Namdeb Diamond Corporation (Pty) Ltd

KUDU

Namibian Engineering Corporation (NEC)

ORYX

City of Windhoek

Manica Group Namibia (Pty) Ltd

Namibia Breweries Ltd

Sense of Africa

SWA Safaris (Pty) Ltd

Valencia Uranium (Pty) Ltd

SPRINGBOK

Damarana Safaris

Langer Heinrich Uranium (Pty) Ltd

NamibRand Nature Reserve

Pumping Solutions

Springbok Atlas

Standard Bank

STEENBOK

African Tourist Info cc

African Wanderer Tours & Safaris

Blue Sky Namibia Tours

Camp Syncro

EnviroDynamics

Gocheganas Nature Reserve
& Wellness Village

Municipality of Walvis Bay

Neo Paints Factory (Pty) Ltd

Reptile Uranium Namibia (Pty) Ltd

Retirement Fund Solutions Namibia (Pty) Ltd

Safaris Unlimited

The Wood Connection

Unlimited Travel & Car Hire:

* Tok Tokkie Trails

Westair Wings Charters (Pty) Ltd

Wilderness Safaris:

* Anderssons Camp

* Desert Rhino Camp

* Damaraland Mountain Camp

* Doro Nawas

* Kulala Desert Lodge

* Kulala Wilderness Camp

* Lianshulu Lodge

* Little Kulala

* Little Ongava

* Ongava Game Lodge

* Ongava Tented Camp

* Palmwag Lodge

* Serra Cafema

* Skeleton Coast Camp

WML Consulting Engineers