We are very excited to announce our first presentation of the year:

5 February **Chadmanwalking** @ 19:00

at the Namibian Scientific Society, 112 Robert Mugabe Ave

We look forward to having you join us!

**Facebook Stats from 2014**

We are very excited that our Facebook fan page is growing!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Page Likes</td>
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<td>1,095</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Likes</td>
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<td>16.7%</td>
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<td>Weekly Total Reach</td>
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<td>7,231</td>
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<td>People Engaged</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>595</td>
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There has been an increase in complaints about the baboons found on the mountains in the Avis area. Many residents have been complaining about the safety of their children and animals especially when playing outside, for fear that the baboons may attack them. The baboons have also been entering houses and stealing food from residences. This has led to talk about ways to stop the baboons from entering the premises or worse off, shooting them. Please see the following information for more information:

How to react when a baboon enters your home:
This is potentially the most dangerous situation, especially if the animal feels cornered.
- Always leave an escape route for the baboon — preferably the same way that it got into the house.
- Never place yourself between the baboon and its escape route.
- Never try to grab back something, especially food that the baboon is holding.
Remember in any interactions with baboons that a direct stare is seen as a challenge-in pressure situation. Turn your back on the animal as this is a sign of submission and defuses aggression.

Why conserve these baboons?
- Baboons are an integral part of the ecosystem where they are agents in seed dispersal and contribute to the control of insects such as ticks, worms, scorpions and spiders.
- They are also part of the natural heritage of Namibia, which we have the responsibility of protecting for future generations.
- Certain residents also perceive baboons as beneficial and part of the package of living close to nature.

What can be done to decrease conflict?
Baboons become positively conditioned to the availability of food. They have complex evaluations of benefits and risks. The key factor is that the baboons do not always visit the city because they are starving, but because they can get food easily. They are also able to get the necessary nutrients far quicker through raiding gardens than through natural foraging which then allows far more time for social interactions and is thus seen as a benefit from a baboon point of view.

Restricting the availability of human food should be the first step!
- Fruit trees and vegetable gardens are an attraction that baboons cannot seem to resist. As many residents spend a lot of time, effort and finances in the cultivating of fruit trees and vegetable gardens, it is a valid problem to the residents involved. Residents should protect their trees and gardens with additional or alternative fencing. If your garden only has indigenous species it holds no bigger attraction than the veld.
- Refuse bags and compost heaps are also an attraction. Adequate covering of compost heaps and safe storage of refuse bags should alleviate the problem.
- Garbage drums are opened or overturned by baboons in search of food. Tie the lid of your garbage drum down with a piece or rope or similar attachment.
- Dog food also attracts the baboons. Don’t let your pets food lie around (don’t over feed) or feed them at night when the baboons are not around.
- Baboons often travel through one premise to another in search of food. To avoid baboons using your premises as a throughfare, electrical fencing could solve the problem. Although electrical fencing is expensive a cheaper form of electrical fencing could be investigated to deter the baboons.
- Swimming pool water is often used by the baboons for drinking purposes. Electrical fencing should also deter the baboons from the use of the pool.
- Never feed the baboons as they become accustomed to being fed and could become aggressive if food is withheld. Similar problems were experienced in South Africa at the Cape Point Nature Reserve, which led to the troop being virtually exterminated by officials as problem animals. Burglar bars or safety doors should deter baboons from entering houses.
What to do when baboons enter your gardens:

- Baboons need to be actively discouraged from entering gardens. As soon as it becomes too much of a problem for them to get food in the city, they will return to the veld.
- Loud noises often discourage them. This can be done with firecrackers, hitting pots together or using whatever is available.
- Rubber snakes, especially if suspended above the ground with wire or string, so that they move in the wind.
- In general, baboons are wary of dogs, especially big dogs, and will avoid them. If however they feel cornered they might attack and could seriously harm and even kill a dog.
- Spraying with a hosepipe often works.
- A catapult is also useful, but could injure a baboon if hit in the facial area which then in turn could lead to the creation of a problem individual.
- The use of firearms is effective but illegal to discharge in a built up area. You could find yourself prosecuted for such an offence. The wounding of baboons is also unacceptable.

Instruct your children never to tease the animals and to immediately turn away from the baboons and go indoors. Although attacks on humans are virtually unheard of, the risk is still there.

Scoping and 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. NABIRM ENERGY SERVICES – PROPOSED 2D SEISMIC SURVEY IN LICENCE BLOCK 2113A, WALVIS BASIN, OFF THE COAST OF NAMIBIA: PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCESS
2. AVAILABILITY FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TRUCK PORT IN OTJIVARONGO
3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA): PROPOSED UPGRADING OF M0115 OKAKARARA TO OKONJATU GRAVEL ROAD TO BITUMEN STANDARDS, OTJOZONDJUPA REGION
4. AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT OF RUNDU EXTENSION 29
5. NABIRM ENERGY SERVICES – PROPOSED 2D SEISMIC SURVEY IN LICENCE BLOCK 2113A, WALVIS BASIN, OFF THE COAST OF NAMIBIA: PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCESS
6. DRAFT SEA OF THE LOGISTICS HUB SEA
7. TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT OF EXTENSION 14, HENTIES BAY

“We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.” ~Thomas Fuller, Gnomologia, 1732
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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