On Wednesday 15 February, Keith Sproule and Usiel Ndjavera of the WWF presented a stimulating talk and slideshow on the role of tourism in communal conservancies in Namibia.

In 1990 13% of Namibia had some form of wildlife protection and by 2012 this had increased to 42% (approximately 343 691km² in size which is similar in size to the UK) largely as a result of the 71 currently registered communal conservancies throughout the country. Joint venture agreements - of which there are now 54 - had increased income generated from N$1.1m in 1998 to 45.8m in 2010 of which 50% was as a result of various tourism activities.

Wildlife numbers have increased exponentially in these protected areas with much of this contributed to the communal conservancy concept. Although there are still many problems, this is still “the greatest wildlife recovery story ever told” according to Keith and Usiel.
NEWS is currently negotiating discount for members making use of various nature based activities throughout Namibia. Four organisations have already agreed to offer discount varying from 5 to 20% to NEWS members only.

A NEWS membership card is currently in the process of being designed and will be issued to members to be used when making bookings so as to qualify for the discount on offer.

As soon as the cards are ready, members will be issued with these and informed on the companies which have signed up to offer NEWS members some form of discount.

We trust that this initiative will act as an added reward to NEWS members for their continued loyalty and financial support.

Watch this space for final arrangements!

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

**Nature…..**

You are like an antidote that counteracts all my miseries; you are the reason why there is hope in the world.....

Old and young, they all form history in your presence.

Your beauty can be documented in the absence of light.

With you being characterized by beautiful mountains, rivers and not forgetting the animals you tolerate.....

You are friendly, kind, caring, sensitive, and reliable and understanding even when we try to destroy you, you are always there.

Yes, that's you, you are the past, you are the present, and the future.

I love you.........

By Heinrich N Aluvilu
On 18 February NamibRand Nature Reserve officially launched its solar-hybrid facility at Wolwedans which is a direct result of the NamibRand ethos of leading by example as a responsible tourism organisation and their sustainability strategy consisting of 4c's - i.e. Conservation, Community, Culture and Commerce.

Stephan Brückner, the managing director of Wolwedans, and Jochen Zeitz of the Zeitz Foundation officially inaugurated the 140 new solar panel plant and treated guests to a tour of the recently completed facilities.

NamibRand has also recently been certified as one of 10, and the only in Namibia, “Long Run Destination Global Ecosphere Retreat®” which identify truly sustainable tourism ventures focusing on the 4c’s as mentioned above.

Furthermore, NamibRand is also a finalist in the Tourism Tomorrow award with the winner being announced in Tokyo in April 2012.

This all started in 1992 when the visionary Albie Brückner started to buy land in an extreme marginal environment then termed a “sandgat” which has now evolved into a leading tourism and conservation destination in Namibia.

NEWS is proud to be associated with the NamibRand Nature Reserve as a corporate member contributing to NEWS activities.
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) MTC Cellular Stations, Windhoek

Enviro Dynamics
Contact: Ms Eloise Carstens, eloise@envirod.com

2) Industrial Township on Farm Nubaumis No 47, Windhoek

LM Environmental Consultants
Contact: Dr Lima Maartens, lima@iway.na

3) Bulk Infrastructure at Elisenheim, Windhoek

Urban Green CC
Contact: Mr Brand van Zyl, urbangreen@iway.na

4) Seismic Survey Programme in the Lüderitz & Orange Basins, SW Namibia

CCA Environmental Consulting Services
Contact: Mr Jeremy Blood, Jeremy@ccaenvironmental.co.za

5) Rezoning of Portion 428 of Farm Brakwater No 48 from residential to industrial

Green Earth Environmental Consultants
Contact: Carien van der Walt, agrisol@mweb.com.na

6) Rezoning of Portion 87 of Farm Brakwater No 48 from residential to industrial

Green Earth Environmental Consultants
Contact: Carien van der Walt, agrisol@mweb.com.na

7) Liquid Gas Plant, Lüderitz

Geo Pollutions
Contact: Pierre Botha, pierre@thenamib.com

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**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

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**STEENBOK**

African Wanderer Tours & Safaris
Blue Sky Namibia Tours
Camp Syncro
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Goehaganas Nature Reserve & Wellness Village
Municipality of Walvis Bay
Neo Paints Factory (Pty) Ltd
Reptile Uranium Namibia (Pty) Ltd
Retirement Fund Solutions Namibia (Pty) Ltd

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* Tok Tokkie Trails

Westair Wings Charters (Pty) Ltd

Wilderness Safaris:
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* 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

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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**
Peter Cunningham

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