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PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Possible Upcoming Public Presentations:

- April - AfriCat North
- May - EHRA (Elephant vs Humans)
- May - Bird collisions & power lines
- June - Dolphin Project

Please contact Barbara Wayrauch, NEWS talks coordinator, for the suggestion of speakers.
Conservation Namibia Today

Don't forget about World Giraffe Day! If you would like to get involved please contact Desiree Rogers on drogers@sbzoo.org

Namibia signs London Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade

In February, Namibia was one of 64 countries to sign the London Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade. This declaration aims to address and end the billion dollar illegal wildlife trade industry.

Namibia’s own, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Minister of Environment and Tourism attended the conference where she proudly highlighted Namibia’s efforts to combat poaching, as well as expressing the success stories in boosting the countries once threatened wildlife species, namely, rhinos, cheetahs, lions and elephants.


"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land."
- Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, 1949

Namibia’s first environmental crowd-map:

A free online crowd-map has been created to report sightings and re-sightings of threatened and endangered vultures. This program can be used by Namibian farmers, as well as land managers, adventure tourists and tour operators. The map is easily accessible and sightings and re-sightings of tagged vultures can be reported.

Currently Namibia is home to 6 different breeds of vultures, namely; White headed, Hooded, Lappet-faced and White-backed vultures, which are all now seen as Critically Endangered. The Egyptian vulture is now extinct in Namibia and the Cape vulture is also close to meeting its fate.

One of the main dangers to vultures is poison. Many farmers leave poison (strychnine) out for pest predator control (jackals) and vultures are then affected indirectly.

Another issue related to vulture killings is poachers lacing carcasses with a fast-acting poison in order to kill vultures quicker as to avoid immediate detection. This incident was seen recently in Bwabwata Nation Park, where approximately 400-600 vultures were killed.

Allowing the mapping and remapping of vultures provides Vultures Namibia with necessary information for direct vulture conservation action.

The crowd map can be found at https://vultureresightings.crowdmap.com, however, other social media alternatives can also be used: blogs (insert address), facebook (http://www.facebook.com/seevultures) and Twitter (#seevultures).

**WWF Earth Hour**

**What is WWF Earth Hour?**

Earth Hour is a WWF initiative that was started in Sydney, Australia in 2007, where 2.2 million Australian citizens turned off their lights for 1 hour to raise awareness for Climate Change. Today Earth Hour is a growing global initiative to raise awareness for the environment.

**When is WWF Earth Hour?**

Earth Hour takes place on Saturday 29 March at 8.30pm. If you are interested in taking part, all you have to do is turn off your lights for one hour. Make an event of it, invite friends over for a candle lit dinner or a romantic dinner with your loved one. Not only individuals can be involved but companies too. It can be a great way to be creative while reflecting on, renewing and celebrating your commitments to protecting our planet.

If you would like more information please go to http://www.earthhour.org.za/about

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**First Conservation Detection Dog Project launched in South Africa**

The implementation of the first conservation detection dog project has been held by Cape Nature and local conservation partners to help conserve the Critically Endangered geometric tortoise, *Psammobates geometricus*.

A two-year old Malinois dog named Brin, is part of one of the four varieties of Belgium Shepherds, who are exceptional working dogs. Brin is the first dog that has been trained to do this in South Africa, and she is already a vital component of the Cape Nature team. Cape Nature’s Ecological co-ordinator, Vicki Hudson, trained Brin over a 6 month period, to get her to find and identify geometric tortoises.

In the USA, the use of conservation detection dogs has been seen to be safe, effective and cost efficient when searching for the threatened Mojave Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*).

The geometric tortoise has been listed as the third most endangered tortoise in the world and according to the IUCN has been listed as one of the top 100 most threatened species on Earth.

These dogs can be used as an alternative survey tool to humans. This is because the geometric tortoise is extremely well camouflaged and difficult to see, however the dogs are able to find the tortoise with their keen sense of smell.


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**Did You Know?**

Over 40% of Namibia’s surface area is under conservation management. Namibia now boasts the largest free-roaming population of black rhinos and cheetahs in the world.

http://travelnewsnamibia.com/conservation
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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