Possible Upcoming Public Presentations:

- 4 June
  Talk on Whales and Dolphins of Namibia – “Conservation in the face of human development” 19h00 at Namibian Scientific Society
- 18 June- Giraffe Project by Dr Julian Fennessy
- 15 July—Bustards and Powerlines by John Pallett

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

**REMINDER:**

World Giraffe Day’s “Jeans for Giraffes”
Support the Giraffe Conservation Foundation on **21 JUNE 2014**
NEWS Highlights

After much thought, the NEWS committee has decided to proudly sponsor Liz Komen from NARREC to provide funding for her vulture feeding station and Dr Miha Krofel from the University of Ljubljana to conduct a study on the “Transfer of new approaches to survey black-backed jackals in Western Kalahari, Namibia”.

Liz Komen NARREC vulture feeding station

NARREC is a non-profit organization that is run by Liz Komen. They provide professional care and rehabilitation facilities to injured, orphaned and misplaced wildlife. Their goal is to ensure these animals are rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

NARREC also operates as a special support service to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. They also collaborate with City of Windhoek, the SPCA, Ministry of Agriculture and Water and Forestry on issues that relate to human and wildlife interactions.

Without the financial support from members of the public and respective organizations NARREC’s mission to provide wildlife services and environmental education facilities would not be possible.

To date NARREC has recorded 309 re-sightings on the crowd map. As reported by Liz Komen, and more than half of these are from NARREC’s efforts over the past two years.

Dr Miha Krofel Black-backed jackal project

Black-backed jackal is a common mid-sized African carnivore. Despite its widespread occurrence throughout Namibia, importance in the ecosystem, and potential effects on livestock industry and game management, very few information is available about its population densities. At the end of May we have started in collaboration with the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research with a new project generously supported by the NEWS: “Transfer of new approaches to survey black-backed jackals in Western Kalahari, Namibia”.

Acoustic method is currently being increasingly used to monitor golden jackals in Europe, Asia and Northern Africa. By playing jackal howling and recording acoustic response from the territorial family groups, one can determine spatial distribution of jackals and estimate their density. Within this project we will test applicability of using this method for surveying black-backed jackals in Namibian farmlands. We will also provide first estimates of black-backed jackal densities in this region, study the effects of different types of land use on jackal density, and determine distribution of jackal groups in relation to the distance to farm houses.

We believe that this project will bring important new insights into the ecology of black-backed jackals in Namibia, which will also have management implications. In addition, if the new method proves to be as effective as predicted for the black-backed jackal, we will provide wildlife researchers and managers with an important new tool to determine distribution and densities of this species. We will report about the results of the project in the future issue of the Roan News.

Text by: Miha Krofel, University of Ljubljana

http://travelnewsnamibia.com/wp-content/
A workshop was held in May, in Hanoi, Vietnam, on the topic of Rhino horn being used as a Traditional Medicine. The workshop was funded by WWF South Africa. Attendees included the Vietnamese Ministry of Health, TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade and monitoring network, and WWF Vietnam.

WWF reported a unanimous agreement by all 100 attendees, including academics from the Traditional Medicine Association, that there is no evidence to support the myth that rhino horn can cure cancer. The President of the Cancer association denounced the idea that rhino horn can cure cancer as well.

Towards the end of the workshop, a draft was recommended to be set up by the Traditional Medicine Administration, passing on the message to refuse the use of rhino horn and other endangered species.

A discussion to identify methods on how to communicate this message throughout the country to those using the rhino horn for cancer curing purposes, needs to take place.

Did You Know?

Namibia has the world’s largest population of black rhino that has survived on communal land—without conservation status— and therefore without fences.

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it”

-Robert Swan
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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