

## Dear hunting friends!

Weather is one of the most complex and seemingly least understood phenomena on earth. It has been the worst rainfall this year since rainfall has been recorded in Namibia. Climate change is on everyone's mind who is involved in the wildlife industry. Wildlife being adaptable to change has been the great success of many a species, but if change is too quick it will be detrimental to survival. It is up to mankind, the only species who did not need or want to adapt to the environment in the previous centuries, to finally make some changes. Whether man-made or not, the climate is changing and we will need to adjust. We already secured 500 tons of alfalfa in South Africa and alfalfa is trucked up at 32 tons per truck. Thank you hunting friends for hunting with us, your proceeds are well applied towards bridging the next few dry months! And who knows! May be the biblical 7 years of drought will be over next year and surprise us with 7 years of flooding?

## Elephant Capture

With our resident elephant herd reproducing so efficiently, they have exceeded the carrying capacity last year, counting around 40 animals. Because of a very dry spell over the past 7 years, our habitat has suffered tremendously due to the vast amounts of food that elephants have to consume daily to sustain themselves. An elephant has to eat 5% of its bodyweight, i.e daily a 6 ton bull needs 600lbs.

Alex visited the Congo the meet with president Kabila himself who just founded a new park recently, and the president has shown interest in buying part of the elephant herd. If all goes well, 10 selected animals (giving attention to not disrupt the complex social structure of the herd) will find their way to paradise soon! Watch this space.

Link to Steve's article on our website:

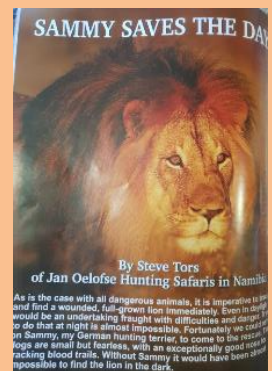
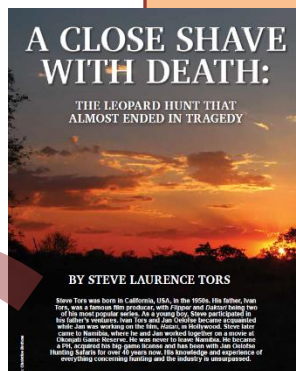
<https://www.janoelofsesafaris.com/blog/african-sportsman-featuring-steve-tors-and-dangerous-leopard-hunt>

## LEOPARD TAG

### 2019

AVAILABLE

Email Annette at  
[jan.oelofse@iafrica.com.na](mailto:jan.oelofse@iafrica.com.na)

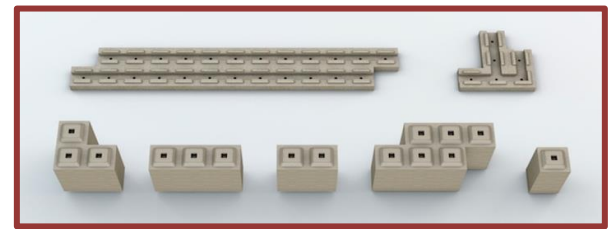


The *AFRICAN SPORTSMAN* magazine features these articles about our own PH Steve, who had two very close encounters with a wounded leopard and a lion and lived to tell the stories...

## NEWSLETTER April 2019

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*This is how the Polycare building blocks look like!*

At Mount Etjo Safari Lodge, a trial version is currently being built, serving as staff housing for employees at the lodge. We are more than excited to be part of this new venture and cannot wait for our staff to move in!

On 16<sup>th</sup> April the method was presented to an audience of around 60 farmers and other persons of interest at Mount Etjo Safari Lodge, hopefully spreading the news of this wonderful technique. For more information go to: <https://poly-care.co.na>.



*A total of eight bachelor apartments are currently being built at Mount Etjo Village, including a small kitchen and bathroom each. These little houses are all about efficiency. They are quickly assembled, cheap to build, highly insulated and solar-powered. We hope to see more of these in Namibia soon 😊*

## **POLYCARE - low-cost housing success**

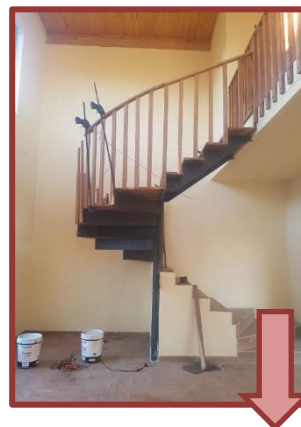
The ongoing drought in Namibia is one of the factors contributing to the poor economy in Namibia. But fortunately, Dr Gerhard Dust and his team from Germany have developed a potentially quick and affordable solution to the housing problem in Namibia (and other parts of the world). His lego-like building blocks are cast from a combination polymer that is much harder and durable than conventional cement and produced quickly and efficiently in a factory just outside of Windhoek, and – most miraculously - without need of water! The shape

**BIG THANKS** goes to our hunting client **KURT** who will be funding the church at our Village – to be built by Polycare.

of the building blocks allows for quick assembly and because they are hollow, they are not just cheaper but also insulate against the extreme heat or cold of the typical Namibian desert climate.

## ***Moving into a new Home***

After staying in a flat for 8 years, sharing much of the living space with Annette, who has been forever patient, Alex and Carola with little Jan (almost 3 years old) and Keira (almost 1 year old) have moved to their own home. A water hole directly in front of the porch makes for great game viewing, distracting me from doing the dishes while staring out the kitchen window... Alex has built the house himself, featuring a beautiful wooden staircase. The garden is already furnished with a playground for Jan and a game-safe vegetable garden. An internet connection (which is not to be taken for granted out here!) functions most of the time and we have 4 almost fully grown majestic grey hounds keeping the lechwes from destroying the grass patch. It could not be more perfect. Come visit us at our new home 😊



*Alex built this beautiful staircase himself! Little Keira (now 10 months) is eagerly climbing the stairs already, not long and she will be running them up and down like her older brother, Jan!*

*"Would just like to tell you again how much Ryley and myself enjoyed our time on your amazing property and with the most welcoming and hospitable staff I have ever experienced anywhere. When we got on the plane one of the first things my son said was "I am really going to miss all the people there, they were all so very friendly and just great people!" I think that is a huge compliment to the business you operate there." –Aaron S.*

# Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris

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*A truck loaded  
with alfalfa from  
South Africa – this  
year is the worst  
drought in history.*  
☹☹☹☹☹☹☹☹



## Hunting Show in China

Anti-hunting groups and their wide influence on social media, a sometimes unstable world economy and numerous political issues have intimidated the hunting community in the past few years to an extent that some outfitters around the world have either had to close down or seek other sources of income to finance their conservation programs. But a seemingly unlikely new generation of hunters is emerging in a country where hunting is not so much a tradition, but slowly becoming more popular: China.

With a population of 1.4 Billion, and only a small percentage of that huge number hunting, the potential hunting clientele is still substantial. In China, owning a rifle is against the law. Hunting an animal therefore, would seem much out of the comfort zone of a Chinese citizen. But perhaps the novelty and exclusivity of this typically Western-world experience may tickle the adventurous type? Alex will be attending a show in Shanghai 20-23 of June. If anyone out there just happens to be there – be sure to visit our booth!  
<https://www.chinahuntingshow.com/>

## Two Black Rhino Orphans

Rhino poachers are becoming increasingly vicious and coldblooded in their greed for rhino horn. In April this year, a custodian farm in the North of Namibia may have lost its entire rhino population to several poaching groups hitting the area all at once. Even when the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and several Anti-Poaching Units arrived, the merciless criminals did not stop their chase on the littlest rhino calves running for their lives. Only two male calves could be saved and evacuated to Okonjati Game Reserve. One of the bulls, barely a year old, had been shot 7 times for his horn which yet measures a mere few centimeters. The cruelty of mankind is slowly but surely bringing those trying to save the species to their knees... but there is still hope. Without hesitation, Alex put his mind and all his men to the task of building a boma (a safe enclosure) for the young calf, where he first could be nursed back to health before being released. Within a day, he collected all necessary materials (such as old conveyor belts from a nearby goldmine, a sliding door and plastic material) and built a tall and sturdy pen where he could heal. His friend was released in the same area in the hope that the two would find each other again.

The little bull calf was doing miraculously well for the first two days. He was forcefully weaned off his mother's milk and although small, thought able to survive without being bottle fed. He had proven his determination, outrunning his chasers, dodging their bullets, losing his mother, his faith in mankind... and, despite all efforts, eventually the young calf lost his life. On the third day the bull succumbed to his wounds. His close friend was found not too far away, likely suffering internal bleeding.

But we shall never give up trying or hesitate for a second, giving our best to save an endangered animal – at the forefront Alex and Annette with their endless

## Things you do not see every day caught

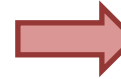
**on trail cam:** a lynx, a brown hyena, a serval cat and a white and black rhino sharing a drink at the water hole (WOW!)



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Little Jan and  
Girla are  
almost the  
same age ☺



resourcefulness, passionate love and determination to succeed in saving wildlife.



## Two White Rhino Ladies

Both Chayka and Girla are doing extremely well and are ready to be fully weaned. In fact, Girla has been receiving mostly water mixed with some glucose for a while just as a distraction while Chayka (still a little younger and in need of milk) received her regular meals. Both of them will be released soon, their strong friendship and the trust they formed growing up together will be of great advantage when they will have to fend for themselves in the wild.

The girls and Annette were paid a very special visit from another beautiful lady recently, a Namibian born Victoria's Secret supermodel Behati Prinsloo (wife of famous singer Adam Levine) who wishes to learn more about the protection of this species and to create more awareness of the poaching situation. Behati and her team will be collecting some much-needed funds for "Save the Rhino" and other organizations. Thank you, Behati! We are proud to call you a Namibian.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8dKmYsisfs>

Follow Behati on Instagram to learn more about her mission!

Much effort went into trying to save the wounded bull calf and his friend. Annette and the team looked forward to giving him a new home... was it all for nothing? No! As conservationists one NEVER stops trying!



**OLD CONCESSIONS RE-ACTIVATED!** They have been dormant for 10 years and we have just started hunting on them again - Steve took a very nice Kudu there recently.

## Byron and Darryl Pace

With over 20 000 followers on Instagram, the Scottish-born "Pace Brothers" are celebrities amongst hunting circles. Check out their videos, their posts and their podcasts, covering diverse topics such as how to best cook your food in the wilderness, how to save the pangolin and their passion about the great outdoors: <https://www.thepacebrothers.com/>. Byron and Darryl are true ambassadors, actively promoting the hunting way of life in a sincere, comprehensive and honest way, speaking to a young generation of hunters, conservationists and non-hunters alike.

On his five day visit to the Okonjati Game Reserve, Byron Pace spent much time with Alex, observing elephants and rhinos and discussing the future of the hunting industry and way of life. The one hour podcast with Alex will be available soon on "Into the Wilderness", as the Pace Brother's channel is called.

If you have a long car trip ahead, be sure to visit their podcasts – it is time well spent.



*Byron Pace and Alex – having long conversations about the future of hunting, elephant capture and pangolins, among other things... Byron Pace has a degree in economics as well as engineering, but hunting is how he chooses to live his life!*

## SCI Pathfinder Recipient

This year's recipient of the SCI pathfinder award recipient was Corey McGregor, who, joined by his lovely wife Tanya, recently visited us on a donated hunt for 10 animals, 10 days. Our PH Rudie thoroughly enjoyed hunting with him!



## Hunting with Corey - as told by PH Rudie

Yet again, the pathfinder hunt this year was a great success with a lot of memories and moments to cherish and behold. The pathfinder hunt is always the hunt that we look forward to the most in the hunting season, as we've been doing it for the last 20 some years, we shared some awesome experiences together and some great friendships were built with both the pathfinders and the "helpers".

This year's Pathfinder - Corey and his wife Tanya came from Cody, Wyoming (our 3rd pathfinder from there) and spent 10 days of hunting with us. Corey won the award due to the unselfish dedication he puts into arranging hunts for hunters, who just came out of rehabilitation or are struggling to adapt back to their previous lives as hunters. (And also because he's such an awesome person

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*Alex took Corey on a helicopter ride to round off his experience at Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris!*

that never stands back for any challenge).

One of the many memorable hunts we did with Corey, was stalking an old gemsbuck bull. We glassed an area along one of the riverbeds and decided to go after an impala we saw feeding about 400 yards away, sneaking along an old overgrown road, through ditches and along thickets. We came close to where the impala was last spotted. Climbing up on a termite mound to look for the quarry, I was quickly distracted by a gemsbuck bull feeding towards us, still about 200 yards out. Hurrying towards some thick cover, we got set-up on an open lane, with a shot of about 100 yards. Not able to see the gemsbuck from this position, it was now a waiting game. Every now and then a little wisp of air would lick at the back of our necks, but the estimated point where the old bull would appear was far enough and we would be just on the right edge of the wind, when Corey would take his shot. After approximately 45 minutes we spotted movement to our side... the impala! Was he going to bust us, after waiting so long? The impala sensed something not right and slowly moved away again. As he turned, the old bull appeared, 40 yards away. Quickly turning his scope power down, Corey was just in time to see the beautiful bull stepping into an opening not more than 30 yards from us, at that same moment the dreaded wisp of wind softly touched our backs and with a very astonished look the bull looked up at us, immediately spun around and was gone. The impala, just for good measure snorted and growled, just to let us know we were busted.

Seeing the mixture of both excitement and disappointment in Corey's eyes and the sense of achievement of getting so close, I silently made a promise of coming back to this area to look for the old bull again.

Two days later, after a successful springbuck hunt, we

decided to hunt for gemsbuck again. We drove to the area where we last stalked the bull. Getting on to higher ground we could see down into this area and sure enough, there he was, not more than 100 yards away from where we last saw him. The stalk was on, this time we couldn't afford that the wind would bust us again. We moved up and along a deep donga(ditch) to be down wind, not without a lot of sweat, swearing (mainly from me, as the wind started with its old tricks again) and getting Corey stuck in every Wait-a-Bit thorn along the way. For us, to get to a shootable position we needed to get through the donga, the hick-up being - its steep sides are 6 feet deep and strewn with bowling ball sized boulders in the bottom.



Corey had a bit of hesitation when I told him getting down would be no problem, I'll just push him, but quickly caught on to the joke, so down we went, over the boulders and with a lot of sweating, moaning and groaning we got Corey up the other side. We again got positioned to where we thought the bull would appear

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The drone is called the "penguin" and is diesel-propelled. It can fly for 6 hours and can be shot into the air using a catapult. For landing a small runway would be quite useful, though, as the machine is worth quite a bit of money... Rob Sturm and their team hope to offer their services to landowners across Namibia, for anti-poaching as well as game counts and other surveillance projects.

and this time, right on the money, he stepped out exactly where we thought, the late afternoon sun highlighting him for the whole world to see, in his full glory, a magnificent beast. Corey was already on the sticks and pulled the trigger as soon as he felt he had a clean humane kill shot. The shot rang out into the silent afternoon, the bull kicked and spun, running full speed, tail streaming behind him and over the ridge. Getting up to where it stood when shot, we could immediately see lung blood and knew it was a good hit. After about 5 minutes of tracking we found him in some thickets, right on the edge of yet another donga and it was time to pay respect to the old bull that give his life for us to take.

The success of a hunt has got very little to do with trophy size or the amount of animals taken on your safari, but as in this case, it had to do with the amount of punctures and flat tyres (on both wheelchair and uri), thorn scrapes on your arms and faces and the sweat tasted on our lips, the joy of being out in nature, to be able to stalk and give your quarry a fair chance and the ability to sit down with your "trophy" and appreciate its beauty and to say thank you to the honour bestowed upon you to take its life.



*"We, too, survive  
off the natural  
world.*

***Protecting  
and nourishing it  
allows us to  
appreciate and  
connect with  
the source of our  
own  
existence."***

## ***Drones - the poaching solution***

Rob Sturm and his team from the Netherlands are developing an amazing software, which is hoped to be able to strategically fly areas in which animals need to be protected from poachers. With corruption being one of the main risks to anti-poaching teams and a lack of trustful rangers willing to risk their lives on foot, drones seem the best way forward. Drones can cover large areas, surveilling from a safe height, on a continuous basis, during the night with thermal lenses, always objective, always reliable.

Quite a lot of research, time and money has gone into their promising project, and team leader Mr Rob Sturm has chosen Okonjati Game Reserve as their first destination to test their equipment, flying it for the first time on Namibian ground. Hopefully their services will soon become available to Namibian farmers! For more interesting info on their incredible technology, visit <https://www.eyeplane.com/>.



**And last but not least, check out Tom Opre's new amazing film "Killing the Shepherd", acknowledging the hunter as the true conservationist:**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Movie/Killing-the-Shepherd-1783508495311798/>

<https://www.pictame.com/user/tomopreofficial/221449453>

***Best wishes from all at Jan Oelofse  
Hunting Safaris!!***