

Dear Friends

It has been a year since the craziness started, and the world has changed. But despite all that has happened, Namibia is still a safe travel destination. Within an entire year, only 355 COVID-19 related deaths have been recorded in our country. With its extremely low population density (2nd lowest in the world), social distancing comes naturally here! Furthermore, we pride ourselves in having good medical care facilities and great doctors. Namibia is regarded as relatively safe, and we have welcomed many travelers back already!

More detrimental to the health and livelihoods of the Namibian people than the corona virus itself is the economic impact caused by all the measures attempting to mitigate the spread of the disease. In almost all African countries, where the majority of people need to leave their houses to simply survive on a daily basis, social distancing and hygiene measures are impractical, to say the least...

We sometimes wonder if the reaction towards this threat is warranted for, and if we are not facing greater dangers because of our attempt to gain control of something that naturally will have to take its course? It might be hard to accept, but there are still aspects of our human lives where we are not in control. Facing this fact seems disheartening at first because we have over-powered much of our natural world, and live comfortable, seemingly safe lives... but we as humans need to perhaps again find the courage to face the world and all its dangers. And we can. Facing the elements, being comfortable with the uncomfortable, being part of one's natural environment is in fact liberating as it allows one to find one's inherent courage, strength and resilience. In fact, it is what hunters seek to do!

NEWSLETTER March 2021

COVID-19 in Namibia

Mount Etjo Private School

Renovation works at camp

On our rhinos

Trophy Photos October 2020

ALEX WILL BE IN THE USA!

13th March

Great Falls SCI Chapter Banquet

<https://safariclubgreatfalls.org/banquet-registration/>

20th & 21st March

**Oak Creek Sporting Club, Brainard,
Nebraska for 10Am to 4pm on Saturday,
and 10am to 12pm on Sunday**

26th and 27th March

Wisconsin SCI Chapter Banquet

<https://sciwi.org/2021-banquet-registration/>

Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris

Right: The second wave. COVID-19 cases are rapidly declining again after the festive season.

When assessing global risks to humanity, infectious diseases are listed on 4th place – only. Loss of biodiversity, destruction of habitat and extreme weather rank in the first three places. And yet, by focusing so much on the risk of COVID-19, we neglect these dangers. Hunting in Namibia has for the past decades provided the financial means to support a huge proportion of conservation and social projects, favoring in itself the protection of wildlife and its habitat, and a symbiotic relationship of communities with wildlife. With the proceeds from hunting abruptly disappearing for an entire year, on a worldwide scale, one cringes to think what will become of the beautiful places that have now become subject to human greed and the human need to survive, without an incentive for conservation.

But, despite everything, Namibia, “land of the brave”, is resilient. We take hope from the fact that it has rained for the second consecutive year, our hearts filled with gratitude every day when we walk through shoulder-high grass, that the heavens have again been so generous. Despite of what humanity decides and deems to think itself in control of, we are reminded every day that life’s greatest beauty and gift to us is, that we are not in control, but have the opportunity instead to simply be thankful.

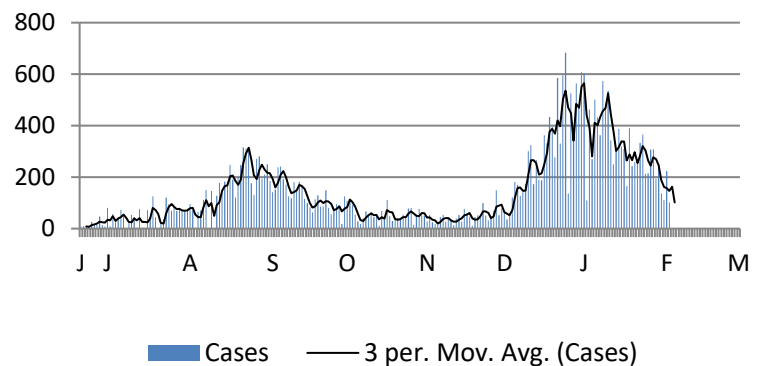
Our school to continue!

Like everyone, we at Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris have had to make ends meet during this difficult year. But thanks to the great support by **Larry and Ellen Bell, Amy Bell Charities**, we have been able to continue our school, even adding a pre-primary class and grade 7 to our program!!! Many of our children were struggling to find a space at schools in town this year, our schools hopelessly

Right: Jan Jnr, Alex and Keira admiring the overflow at “Big Dam” after a big rain storm!

Number of COVID-19 cases in Namibia

Cases 34 270 Deaths 355



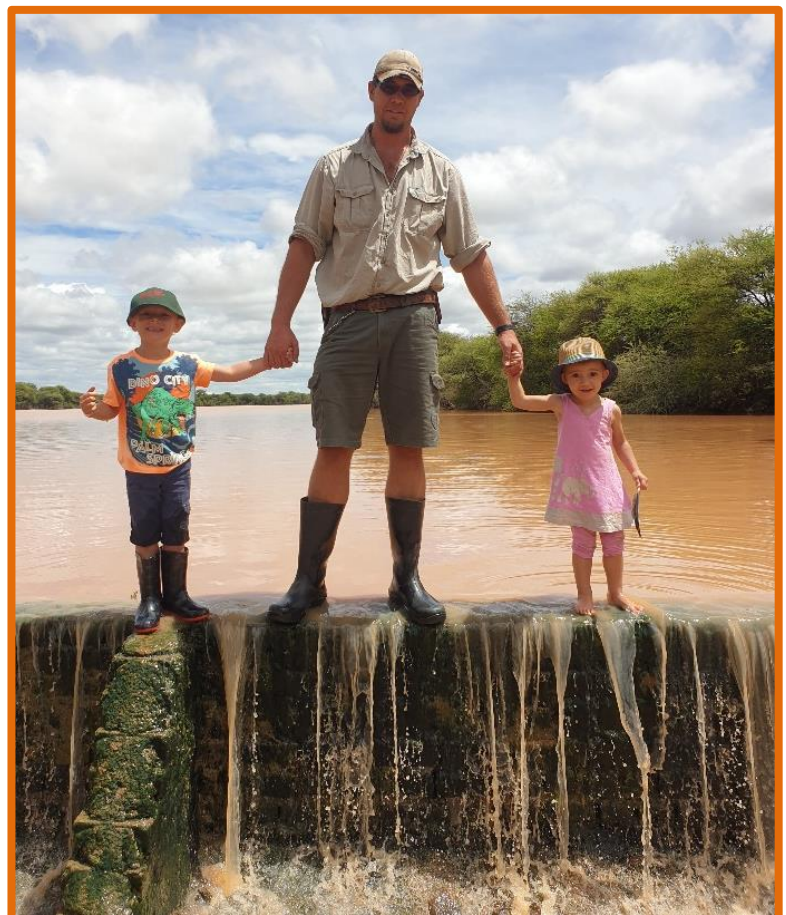
Namibia
where social distancing just comes naturally!

Just one recorded black rhino per 471km²

Just one recorded case of Covid-19 per 471km²

Ati holidays Journeys Of A Lifetime (MET) (as of 13th Oct '20)

Covid-19, as critically endangered as our black rhino



“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest”- Benjamin



Our new team of teachers!
Cornel, Retha and school head, Drina



over-filled with learners. What a blessing that we have now been able to employ a third teacher, to cater for a wider age range this year! We cannot thank you enough, Bell family, for financing the education of children across all Africa when it is needed most!

In addition, we have started a sponsorship program with many kind individuals (mostly German visitors to the photographic safari lodge), where sponsors have pledged to financially support the tuition and related costs such accommodation and schooling materials for selected former students of our school, who are currently attending grade 8 and higher grades elsewhere. **Carmen & Kai-Uwe Klotz** are supporting Helena, **Marinella Ciftelli and Boris Assmann** are taking care of Paulina's educational needs, **Family Gropp** will sponsor Paulus. **Ingrid Kreitmeier and Edith** will support Paulina Snr & Johanna. We have received extremely generous support for the school from **Werner & Petra Pussack, Tim and Reni Dauelsberg**. Thank you, for all your kind help in difficult times!!!

Alex has already welded together most of the roof structure, but progress has been slow because obtaining all the right materials during COVID times has proven a bit of a struggle. It will probably take two weeks before the roof panels can be collected in Windhoek, and Alex will continue his work here once he gets back from the states! Brigitte (manageress at hunting camp) is excited to have a bigger kitchen and Annette is busy with the interior design. Some of the rustic furniture for the new lounge is already finished!



Helena and her proud sponsors, Mr/s Klotz.

The high roof will allow for good cooling, covering the 'lapa' and offering much more space than the previous breakfast room!

Renovation works at camp!

Our breakfast room is receiving a facelift! When better to do this when there are no hunters at camp!



Right: Annette taking little Jan for a short flight in the Cessna 150.

Interesting fact: Alex had his flying license before he got his driver's license! He flew himself to Otjiwarongo to take the driver's test... 😊



On our rhinos

The white and black rhino population at Okonjati Game Reserve has been flourishing, thanks to anti-poaching strategies and of course, Annette's rhino orphanage! So much so, that we had to translocate some of the bulls to the lion area to avoid territorial fights between the animals. The company of the lions will guarantee extra protection against poachers!

Annette's current babies, Cato and Kamshona, are both doing well. They are almost 18 months old, at which Annette will slowly begin weaning them off their milk. She will have to consider carefully when and where to set them free one day so that they may integrate well into the wild population structure.



Cato & Kamshona with Annette



Top: Yandja, former orphan, had a cut on his foot, but Annette was able to nurse him back to health.

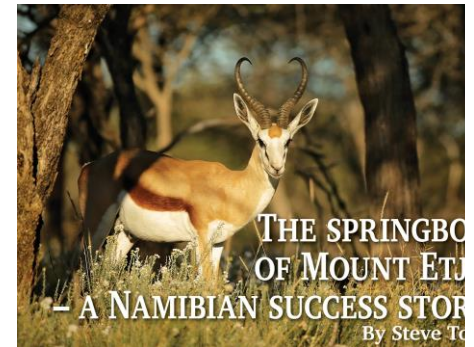


Top: one of the white rhino bulls that was released into the new area is exploring his new surroundings.

Another great article by our PH Steve Tors is available at the African Sportsman Magazine:

<https://www.janoelofsafaris.com/blog/springbok-african-sportsman-steve-tors>

Here, Steve speaks about the exceptionally large springbuck that can be found at Okonjati game reserve.



Below is a photo of Naftali with one of our record springbuck of 19 inches.



Best wishes from all at
Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris!

**Make sure to visit Alex while he is in the USA!
Or better even, book your hunt with us and
experience some of the freedom Namibia can
offer during COVID times 😊**



Right: Rudie and Annette with Jan Jr and Keira. Rudie has almost fully recovered from his encounter with an elephant in August 2019!

Bottom: **WELCOME to our team, Allan & Retha!** Allan will be permanently joining our team of PHs this year! Allan is a very experienced outdoors man, and has a Big Game license. His wife Retha is a teacher at our school! We are grateful to have you with us from now on!!!

Tom Opre's incredible documentary film "KILLING THE SHEPHERD" has received many international awards recently. If you do have the opportunity, go watch this excellent movie on why hunting is so important for the survival of communities, wildlife and natural habitats!



Top: Jan & Keira admiring the size of a giraffe front leg.



Trophy photos from Sep-Oct 2020! These clients were not discouraged by the travelling difficulties of COVID times!