

## Dear friends in hunting!

Thank you to all of you who visited us during the shows in Dallas, Calgary, Saskatoon and Las Vegas!! Especially the "small" Canadian shows turned out well and we look forward to welcoming many Canadian hunters this year. Much has happened in the past months, with Alex being busy almost full-time capturing and selling excess game and preparing for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive dry season this year. But we consider ourselves fortunate to be in the financial position to overcome yet another year of feeding our wildlife – thanks to our hunting supporters!

## The tragedy of !Xhi

In January 2016 the Ministry of Nature Conservation brought another black rhino to the Mount Etjo Rhino Orphanage, a female, about 11 months old at the time. Her mother had passed away for unknown reasons in another nature reserve. The little one was dehydrated and, even though already feeding on acacia, unlikely to make it on her own in the wild. She was welcomed with open arms, she would make for a perfect companion for the already resident black rhino baby bull "Yandja" (previous newsletter!). After only a few weeks, !Xhi (meaning "rhino" in bushman), was already much accustomed to life at Mount Etjo, with Alex feeding her acacia bush of which he single-handedly had removed the thorns. !Xhi did not want (and seemingly did not need) any milk supplementation at first, but soon found a liking to it after having watched Yandja receive his 3 Liter bottle every 3 hours. She and Yandja became best of friends!

But this bliss and happiness was not to last very long. Little !Xhi, who had arrived with a bitten-off ear and tail, suddenly failed to get up on the 16<sup>th</sup> March, and even though Annette tried everything in her power to help her, the state vet decided that there was nothing

### GOALS of the MOUNT ETJO RHINO TRUST:

1. Rhino Orphanage
2. Actively protect resident rhinos
3. Create awareness
4. Collect funds
5. Support other local initiatives

## NEWSLETTER June 2016

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You can now actively contribute to the **Mount Etjo Rhino Trust!!!** Thank you to Adriana & Tim Jacobi & their 6-year old daughter **SOPHIA** who have raised much awareness by opening a youtube channel and starting a competition for the best contribution on youtube for other kids! The winner stands to win an educational RHINO ADVENTURE TRIP to Mount Etjo! More information can be found here:

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



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Want to receive our RHINO NEWSLETTER?  
Email us: [mount.etjo@iway.na](mailto:mount.etjo@iway.na)

Below: !Xhi & Yandja having an afternoon snooze. Rabies in rhino is almost unheard of. The incubation period can be up to a year after infection and the disease presents itself very untypically through paralysis, no salivation and no hydro-phobia. In the case of !Xhi, she must have been bitten by a rabid jackal long before arriving at Mount Etjo Rhino Orphanage.

else to be done than to put an end to her misery. He suspected right away that !Xhi had developed a neurological problem, but none of the Oelofse family could believe their ears when the laboratory results stated that !Xhi had succumbed to a rabies infection sourcing from her old wounds, probably the wound from her tail. There was nothing one could have done more for her, the moment little !Xhi had arrived at Mount Etjo, she had been a ticking time-bomb, her certain death had already been written in stone. All those who had worked with !Xhi, including Yandja, had to have a rabies vaccination – except for Carola – who being pregnant, could not take the risk of adversely affecting her unborn child through the shot.

!Xhi will be missed dearly – most of all by Yandja, her companion for a few happy months. Who would have thought that the life of such a happy, healthy-looking rhino would find such a tragic end... but we have to accept that nature takes precedence over all our human efforts and sentiments – this is what makes all life so precious!



## Hunting News

Cody Vucasin was able to hunt a truly majestic Kudu with Naftali in March this year, measuring at 58"! Cody also got quite a few other animals, but the Kudu he will definitely treasure most. So far, the Kudu population in our area is stable, and despite the poor rains and generally unfavorable condition of the bush, the Kudus are doing well. Regular vaccinations may have helped greatly reduce the risk of rabies infections.



Annette taking a walk with Yandja (left) and !Xhi (right). Both Yandja & !Xhi were about the same age and, being male and female, would have made perfect companions. Annette is heart-broken to have lost !Xhi, but fortunately it seems that Yandja, having received several dosages of rabies vaccine, has not been infected by the deadly virus through his contact with !Xhi. Yandja is now about 1 year old, receiving 20L of milk/day.



Left: Steve caught this photo of a cheetah on the stealth camera recently! He will continue monitoring the location to see if he returns!

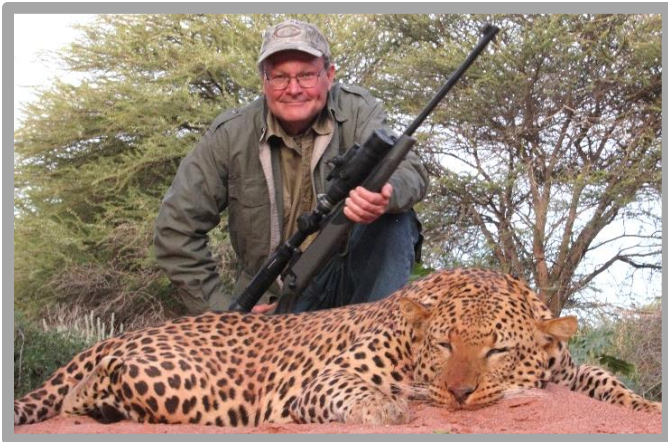


# Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris



Left: Alex – standing in front of the barn – resembling Noah in front of his ark... preparing for the worst.

Chuck Hoffer & his wife Janice had a good time hunting leopard with Rudie! Chuck was one of those fortunate hunters who spent three days in the blind waiting for leopard and on the fourth day, after just 30 minutes, the leopard showed up! Chuck got a nice cat, medium in his prime – congratulations!!!



## Game Capture

This year, Alex has set himself a courageous goal: capture 200 Zebras that are to go to a Zoo in China. With strict regulations on how old the animals were to be, how they were to be treated, quarantined and last but not least loaded on an airplane, this would be a huge, complex operation. This time, Alex flew the helicopter himself, herding the animals in to the capture pen, while monitoring and organizing the ground teams by radio from the air. A total of 200 of the resident 800 Zebras were caught at Mount Etjo.

In addition, Alex successfully caught and transferred a few herds of Eland, Gemsbuck, Giraffe, Wildebeest and Waterbuck. He will continue capturing Springbuck, selected breeding Roan, Sable and Lechwe later in the year. Hopefully, with the strategic removal of excess animals the new target of about 6000 animals will be reached, relieving the pressure on the carrying capacity.

### Lambert Roux – may you find peace in the heavens, where your heart was free and your soul at home...

It is with great sadness that we say good bye to helicopter pilot, game capture companion and our dearest friend, who tragically lost his life in a helicopter accident on a foggy morning of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Lambert was en route to a capture operation and the details of his accident are still unclear – but thought to be weather related. Our condolences go to his wife and two sons. Lambert, with his consistently positive outlook on life, his happy, talkative nature and true friendship, will always have a special place in our hearts.



**Stocking Up!** Around 30 tons of alfalfa can be loaded on one truckload, and alfalfa costs around N\$4000 per ton these days. The barn at Mount Etjo is now currently carrying about 400 tons of alfalfa in preparation for the tough times when the animals in the area are going to rely solely on supplementary feeding – probably in July this year.



Left: A stubborn giraffe is drawn into the truck by sheer manpower and the help of some rope. Giraffe are tremendously docile if their ears and eyes are shut with cloth. Right: Eland antelope horns are covered with plastic pipes before loading to prevent the animals from hurting each other.





## Hunting Vehicles

After many years of good service, one can expect that the good old "Uri" would need a makeover... Steve's Uri was completely stripped down, received new axles, a new suspension system, new tyres, new wiring and a paint job! Steve is ready for the upcoming hunting season. Next on Alex's list will be Naftal's old Uri and slowly but surely all vehicles at Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris will be as good as new ☺



## Annette & Rudie's Bird Photography

Annette & Rudie have seen some rare interesting birds on their recent excursions: amongst them the GREATER PAINTED SNIPE (bottom) and the BLACK NECKED GREBE.

Follow us on facebook to view  
more awesome wildlife photography!

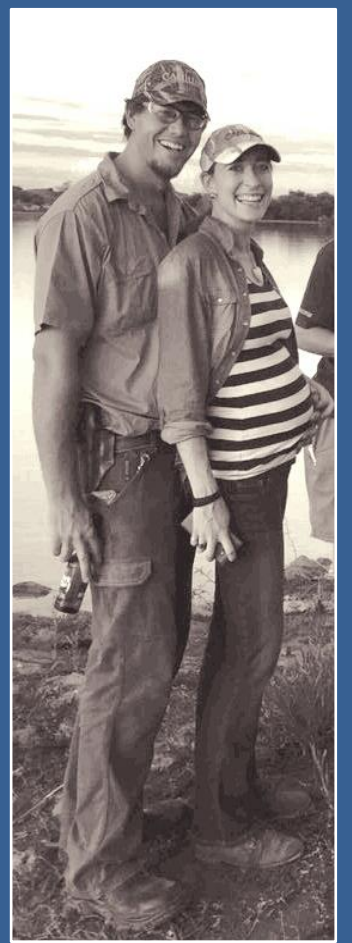
Artwork by Carola: currently  
only painting in black &  
white, preferably cats and big  
animals!



After having met at SCI, artist  
**JAMES CORWIN** followed our  
invitation to stay at Mount Etjo  
for a week – we hope his stay  
will be inspiring to this young  
and talented wildlife artist!

Check out his work here:

<http://www.jamescorwin.com/>



Waiting for Jan Alex Oelofse...  
At almost 38 weeks pregnant,  
Carola left to Swakopmund to  
wait for the arrival of their first  
born child... any time soon  
now! Previous sonar showed  
he weighed in at 3.3 kg  
already. ☺ We can't wait ☺

