

Hunting Shows 2024

For the first time, both Keira and Jan were able to attend the hunting shows in January 2024, and both kids were absolutely awe-struck. We shared in Keira's excitement about the automatic water taps and soap dispensers, Jan's disbelief at the high buildings and big trucks. The kids got to experience snow, skiing, riding a snow mobile, ice-skating, seeing real dinosaur fossils, wolves, and bison at Yellowstone National Park... and so much more. Disneyworld in Orlando was beyond exciting! The hunting shows, luckily, also provided much entertainment, with laser guns, looking at the mind-blowing taxidermy from across the world and meeting many friendly people!

The hunting shows were a great success, and we have had fully booked season this year so far. It was heartwarming to seeing you all, and we are ready for the next shows in Nashville, Dallas, and Atlanta next year!



Top: Hunter Felix, thank you for your unwavering support at the shows!!!



Right: Vern Edewaard, former SCI president, at the SCI show in January 2024. The legendary man was the first president to initiate the SCI Pathfinder Award together with Jan Oelofse.

Left: Jan borrowing Alex' gloves. First time these Namibian kids experienced these extraordinarily low temperatures!



Left: Of all the parks in Disneyworld, the Magic Kingdom was by far the most impressive. From morning until sundown and the help of the 'Genie App', we managed to go on 13 rides in a day. By that time, the parents were worn out...



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Left: Paying former Jan Oelofse Legacy Award recipient Geoff Newmeyer a visit at his home, admiring his custom-built track chair.

Right: Keira, amazed by the amazing taxidermy exhibits at SCI!



Jan Oelofse Legacy Award

Justin Gordy and his family were a pleasure to have visit with us. As this year's Jan Oelofse Legacy Award recipient, Justin received a donated 10 day hunt for 10 animals. Additional expenses such as taxidermy and flights were graciously covered by Mr John Banovich, Mrs Betsy Searle and Mr Mike Branham. Justin was selected because of his community engagement, his exceptional efforts in assisting other disabled hunters to get back into the outdoors. Justin builds his own custom made "trigger fingers", which is a structure that can facilitate better control of the hand during shooting. But this is only one of the plenty adaptations that Justin has come up with to help him and many others in their pursuit of the outdoors. As a qualified welder, his skill, personal experience, and willingness to help, have led him to mentor, guide and facilitate hunts to many others with disabilities. We have come to experience Justin as an incredibly grateful, humble, and inspiring personality, we are thankful to have had him visit! Justin did exceptionally well and even though the days were long and tiresome, Justin carried a smile on his face during the whole time of the trip!



Left: Preparing for a dry year. Alex is offloading four bales of alfalfa off a truck load of 35 tonnes. The barn is currently half full. With the foot-and-mouth threat in South Africa, Namibia is not permitting alfalfa imports, and alfalfa will be hard to get by. Alex is prepared so that our animals shall not go hungry!



Left: stronger together, three white rhino orphans have found a new family – together!



Right: The habitat in Angola, where some of our elephants will find a new home.

Rhino Orphanage

Beginning of 2024, Annette rewilded two white rhino ladies, Malaika and Nzuri, their strong friendship, their physical strength, and independence providing the perfect foundation for a release into the wild. Not long after, though, a vet called Annette to ask if she could take in another calf of about 12 months old, the mother having died of natural causes. The calf was feisty, old enough to survive without milk, but not old enough to wander in the wilderness by herself. Knowing that a rhino would always be better off when in the company of other rhinos, Annette decided to give it a try and let the little one loose in the same area where Malaika and Nzuri were last seen. Monitoring the situation from afar, Annette was relieved to see that after only a day, the three girls were friends. Malaika and Nzuri immediately took Okambara under their wing, and the three orphans seem to never leave each other’s side. Bonded in experiencing the same trauma of losing their mothers, but even stronger in their will to survive, these three rhinos are doing more than ok!

Water for Elephants

This year, Namibia has been hit by a terrible drought and our current elephant population has exceeded what the area could sustain during this time. Luckily, Alex has been able to locate a game reserve in Angola that would be willing to take and care for around 25 elephants. Alex made a trip to look at the area and found it would be just perfect – with more than enough water, beautiful trees, and protected. He is currently assisting the reserve to elephant-proof its perimeter and building elephant crates for the transfer himself!

Most importantly, Alex was able to source funding for the tremendous undertaking, which will cost us many helicopter flying hours, at least two 4 x 4 trucks. Thanks to **John Banovich, SCI SHIKAR and Wildscapes Foundation**, all transportation expenses are covered! The transfer is ready to happen beginning of August, and as during the last such operation, we will be joined by renowned filmmaker Byron Pace. We are keeping our fingers crossed that everything runs smoothly!

Right: Alex and his metallic blue R44 helicopter have served countless game operations all over Namibia. From game counts, tracking down wounded animals or poachers, chasing wildlife into capture pens, darting, administering vaccines, and contraceptives, picking up people from dire situations, fixing antennas or entertaining his kids – the helicopter is without doubt the most useful tool in Alex’ diverse toolbox, and that is saying a lot...!



Right: Alex looking over the lush landscape in Angola. This will be the destination for a few of our elephants, scheduled to be transported by truck in August this year.





Left: Aerial photo from the plane of the soon-to-be solar plant. The trenches serve to harbour the many electrical cables.



Right: A ramming machine, bought second hand and repaired in Alex' workshop, on its way to the solar plant.

From sunrise to sunset

When a sub-station was first built on one of our cattle farms, an opportunity presented itself that Alex immediately recognized: this would be an ideal position for a solar plant. A gold mine only a few kilometers away would be the obvious client to purchase most if not all the electricity generated. Alex got a South African solar investment company on board, and the gold mine signed an agreement to purchase all the green electricity of the plant within the next 7 years, within which time the plant will have paid for itself. The groundwork for the proposed 10 MWatt plant has already been completed, bush removed, ground cleared, fences erected. Currently, Alex is busy ramming the frames into the cleared ground which soon are to carry the weight of the roughly 17 000 solar panels. This is of course easier said than done, and Alex is spending countless hours repairing the rammers, hitting poles into the ground himself, supervising, and ensuring nobody gets into trouble. We are so proud of him for undertaking this massive project "biting off more than I can chew, but then just chewing like crazy!", as he puts it.



Top: One of our hunting clients truly impressed us by hunting all his 10 trophies, including a giraffe, with his bow. Not one animal wounded!



KWELA – the TV show

Out of the blue, a famous South African TV show host requested an interview with Alex and Annette for their show, "KWELA". The host was intrigued by Jan Oelofse's life, the development of the mass game capture method, his contributions to the classic movie "IHatari", the building of the Okonjati game reserve together with Annette and Alex. An entire morning was dedicated towards interviews, filming all aspects of the lodge and the variety of wildlife. We are grateful for the exposure and the opportunity and look forward to the screening!

LEFT: Annette with the famous singer and TV show host, Pieter Koen.



Best wishes from Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris!