



March 2022

IN THE LOOP

WWF Namibia Newsletter



Support from WWF Germany

We are excited to welcome Marco Vollmar, Executive Director Communications, and a Member of the Board of Executives from WWF Germany to WWF Namibia.

After a career in journalism at Deutsche Welle, Marco joined WWF Germany eleven years ago. Marco manages communications, campaigns, and public affairs.

To support these efforts, Marco is also responsible for digital affairs and communication, an area which has seen tremendous growth during Marco's tenure. Campaigns and social media sites for WWF Germany serve as an increasingly important platform to mobilize, interact, and communicate to the entire online community of more than 2.500.000 WWF Germany supporters and followers.

Marco is seconded to our office for three months to share his expertise and assist the Namibian team to elevate our communications work on a national and international level. We are grateful to Marco and to WWF Germany for making this learning and sharing opportunity possible.



Crisis Communications

Preparing, responding and communicating in a crisis

April 2022, Marco Vollmar

Crisis Communications Workshop

28 April: Marco Vollmar, Executive Director Communications from WWF Germany, hosted a crisis communications workshop with WWF Senior Management Staff and the NACSO Secretariate. The workshop covered the preparatory steps that can be taken that prevent issues from being exacerbated into crises, and who should be involved in managing a crisis when it does arise.



FAO Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) project

5-8 April: Namibia hosted a delegation from the French Development Agency, the Food and Agricultural Organization, Wilden Trust (Botswana), and Botswana's Directorate of Parks and Wildlife. The mission's purpose was to visit the Zambezi Region sites supported through the FAO-SWM project and to act as a lesson sharing exchange (setting guidelines for Botswana to gazette their first communal conservancy).

As part of the round trip, the delegation went to Lima Farms, the Sobbe Corridor, Mashi Crafts Centre, Balyerwa's newly gazetted fish reserve, two Human-Wildlife Conflict mitigation initiatives in Wuparo, and a poultry producer that received training through the SWM programme.

KAZA

The KAZA WWF Dreamfund Wildlife Corridors Project (KWDWCP), supported by WWF Netherlands, provides funding for alternative and additional livelihood initiatives for the residents in and around BNP and the Zambezi Region. The project also assists MEFT with the rehabilitation and maintenance of the Buffalo Fence, a condition stipulated in the Namibia-Botswana 1999 Maun veterinary conference.



In support of MEFT's work, the KAZA WWF Dreamfund donated a 4x4 tractor (with maintenance and fuel for 20.5 months), a 2,500-litre firefighting water bowser, a tractor-drawn grader/scrapper, a tractor-drawn grass slasher, and a 5-ton trailer. The equipment, which was handed over on 12 April 2022, will provide MEFT staff with additional means to create and maintain cutlines and fireguards, fight veld fires and repair the Buffalo fence.

These activities will help secure the BNP wildlife migration route and increase benefit flow to the people linked to the park.





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IWPP - Training, training and more training

On 14 April, the IWPP-team supported the MEFT in organizing the closing ceremony of a 9-week basic ranger training course at MEFT's Waterberg Law Enforcement Training Centre. Thirty-six Wildlife Protection Service Rangers (10 female rangers and 26 male rangers) from Etosha NP, Mangetti NP, Bwabwata NP, Nkasa Rupara NP and Lusese station, and four rangers from the Windhoek-based Intelligence and Investigations Unit completed this demanding and diverse training programme, the first training of many to follow.

The basic ranger training included modules on forest protection, MEFT human resources policies, species conservation, SMART, counter-poaching, and a law enforcement nature conservation officer accreditation course.

During the training, IWPP also distributed field equipment for the trainees and ensured training on equipment such as GPS, compass and night vision goggles.



4 SMART

In March/April 2022, WWF's Integrated Wildlife Protection Project (IWPP) team supported the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism in scaling up the MEFT's wildlife protection and monitoring capacity by concluding a 9-week training course at the Waterberg Law Enforcement Training Centre and conducting 4 SMART (Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool) training workshops at the Waterberg Law Enforcement Training Centre, Etosha NP, Mangetti NP and Bwabwata NP in close collaboration with North Carolina Zoological Society and MEFT. During the activity-packed training, 79 MEFT staff were trained in SMART data collection, downloading, patrol briefing and debriefing using SMART Mobile and SMART 7.

During the fieldwork, all SMART databases for northeastern parks, Etosha NP and Waterberg Plateau Park were upgraded to SMART 7. In addition, the Cybertracker data collection app was replaced by the new SMART Mobile version, another stepping stone towards the national rollout of SMART and a precondition for SMART CONNECT.



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Meet the Team

These faces will be familiar to many of you, as they have been important to WWF Namibia's operations for several years. For those of you who may not know them, allow us to introduce you to these great members of our team:



Richard Diggle

CBNRM, Business and Sustainable Financing Director

Richard has 30 years of experience working in community-based conservation, first with the CAMPFIRE programme in Zimbabwe, then with IRDNC in the Zambezi and now with WWF Namibia. His background in the banking industry in his previous career has enabled him to understand supply and value chains and how to establish partnerships between communities and the private sector that generate sustainable returns that can be invested back into conservation and social projects.



Ingelore Katjingsiua

CBNRM Business and Conservation Finance Manager

In 2010, Ingelore started as an intern under the business enterprise development section of WWF Namibia, and currently holds the position of CBNRM Business and Conservation Finance Manager. Ingelore furthered her studies and obtained her master's degree in International Business. Her background in economics and finance has allowed her to make a significant contribution to WWF Namibia, conservancies and the CBNRM sector by unlocking the value of wildlife and tourism for the benefit of the stewards. Her interests and experience in corporate finance, conservation finance, and innovative financing mechanisms drive her to find sustainable financing solutions for conservation like the Wildlife Credits concept.



Siphwe Lutibezi

Communications, Youth, and Innovation Manager

Siphwe started working at WWF Namibia as a communications intern in 2016. Since then, her responsibilities have increased to include dedicated youth outreach and the Innovation A team. With a master's degree in Natural Resources Management, Siphwe believes that her background in environmental biology together with her acquired communication skills aids in efficiently informing people of the importance of conservation. In leading WWF Namibia's efforts for Earth Hour, she puts this belief into practice. She loves to travel to new places and gain knowledge by interacting with people from different backgrounds. She enjoys working with young people and believes that they have innovative solutions and are key to protecting our natural resources. The road to success for her is in trying, doing something new, and learning every day.



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In Zambezi, they were involved with the introduction of the fixed route patrol and the conservation hunting modules to two new pilot sites (Mashi and Salambala).

Also, under the FAO-SWM project, provision has been made to pilot the SMART Human-Wildlife Conflict

Investigations form. As part of the field trip to Zambezi, WWF and MEFT engaged with the MEFT regional staff (providing support to areas outside of conservancies) and the game guards from Balyerwa, Wuparo, and Dzoti, and trained them in the use of the SMART HWC Module. The regional staff and the game guards will be testing the app in the field when they respond to HWC incidents.



FAO-SWM Project

19-30 April: Raymond and Matthew visited six conservancies to pilot various SMART modules. In Nyae Nyae conservancy, they analyzed the fixed route patrol data that was collected by the game guards, and were involved in the introduction of the SMART conservation hunting module. While in Nyae Nyae, they engaged with the conservancy committee regarding the update of the game management and utilization plan – an activity that is supported by FAO-SWM.

Where in the world is this?



Photo credit - Ginger Mauney

Hint - it is the site of a potentially exciting new large landscape conservation initiative. The landscape work would focus on effectively linking two national parks and community conservancies and managing the area as one integrated landscape. It would become the first community-owned protected area and create conservation and community benefits – a concept long developed by IRDNC and partners and supported by the MEFT.

Click below to share your answers with us!

[**HERE**](#)