

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER

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Dear clients,

The very last newsletter of 2024, we hope it's a good one! Before we start, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and we hope you will have a wonder holiday. It is becoming tradition by now, our year overview! It was not easy to make, this year has been filled with many highlights! We also would like to show you the video of the elephant translocations to Angola – perfect to watch during your Christmas holiday 😊
Enjoy the holidays! Kind regards, the Wildlife Vets Namibia team.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL 2025!

Dear all,

As we approach the end of 2024, we like to recognize the tough times our farmers are facing due to the ongoing drought. It certainly has been a year of resilience and determination, and it has been great to see that the wildlife industry is doing so well amidst these challenging times! With the festive season nearing, we are hopeful that the rainy season will bring much needed relief to Namibia.

We would like to extend our heartfelt 'dankie' to every one of you for your continued support and trust in our services. Our year certainly has been busy and interesting, never a dull moment while in the field! We very much look forward to assisting you again in the coming year!

Enjoy the holidays with your loved ones, and here's hoping for a fantastic rainy season! Merry Christmas and cheers to an amazing 2025!

Best regards,

Ulf and Mariska



WHAT A YEAR... THIS WAS 2024!



January Whilst January normally is a quiet month for us, this time it was very busy! We immobilized a wide variety of antelope species, mostly to get them ready for auction purposes. This included i.e. measuring horns, putting sleeves on horns, taking photos and sometimes moving them. Here we are darting a painted oryx with Raymund Simon.



February Dr Morné de la Rey, Africa's leading expert on animal reproduction and owner of Rhino Repro, came to Namibia to check several rhinos with a history of not getting calves. He checked if they were pregnant, and if not, treated them. To learn more about what this procedure entails, read our [March 2023](#) newsletter!

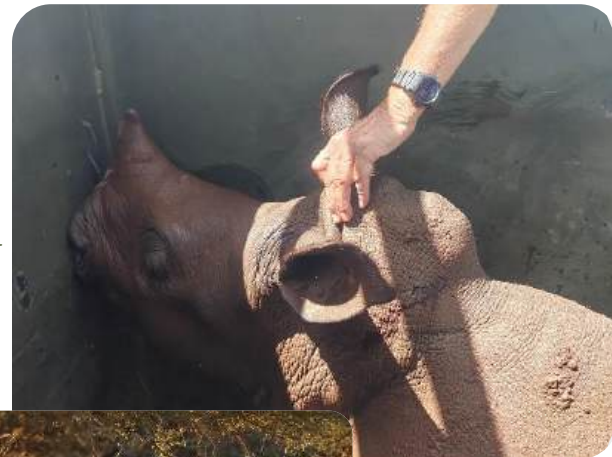
If you have issues with animals (rhinos or other species) not getting calves, feel free to contact us. If we have multiple farms together, we can plan another visit of Dr de la Rey to Namibia.



March This rhino cow had an old (suspected snare) wound on her lower left hind leg. She was lame before, but came right. Suddenly the leg started swelling up again. We brought a portable X-Ray machine with, as it was suspected a piece of wire was still inside. Instead of just pieces, the whole snare was still inside, having cut down nearly all the way to the bone! The wound was opened up, and after some digging around the snare was found, cut and pulled out. The rhino made a full recovery.

April The phone call you do not want to get... A rhino cow died, leaving her 12-14-month-old calf behind. Normally weaned at 18 months, the calf was small and the farm had little grass. After consulting with two rhino orphanages, we decided to relocate the calf to the Mount Etjo Rhino Trust.

Two older rhino orphans had recently been released into a camp with good grass cover, so we hoped the new calf would join them. Thankfully, they quickly bonded, forming a strong trio now. A huge thanks to the Mount Etjo Rhino Trust for their ongoing efforts in helping these magnificent rhinos! If you would like to help, visit their [GoFundMe page](#).



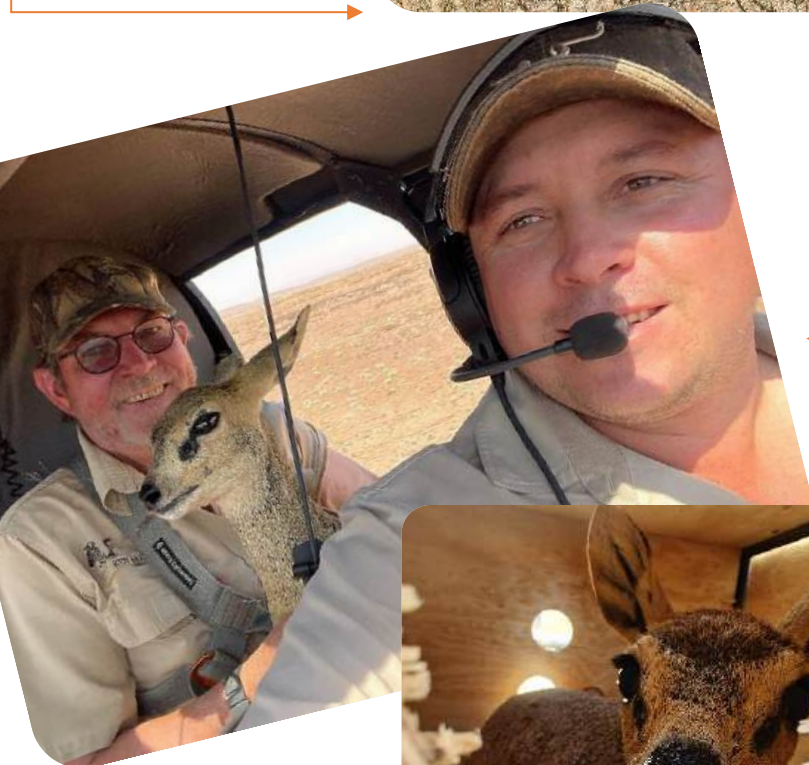


May We immobilized 121 animals in 4.5 days for the Icarus Project of the Max Planck Institute. Whichever animal presented itself in front of the helicopter was immobilized; elephant, rhino, giraffe, zebra, eland, kudu, waterbuck, oryx, blue and black wildebeest, impala and springbok – very exciting! All got tiny solar-powered GPS ear tags that communicate with SigFox towers. Thanks to the tagged animals, both the researchers and the game farmer will have a better idea where the animals are, and how they move over the reserve. Read more in our [May-newsletter](#).

June Checking if this lion is sleeping... Our rule, always start away from the sharp side! After the lion is darted, we wait until it falls asleep. Then we quietly go in, and clap hands. If there is no response, we throw a stick. Still no response? Then we pull the tail, and lastly tickle the ears. When there is still no response, it is safe to go in 😊



July This boma was built by Simon Wildlife Services, and this big sable herd was chased in with the helicopter. From there, we could easily dart certain individuals out of the herd. This saves a lot of flying time, and reduces stress on the herd as they are chased only once. Since we work in a team, we can very quickly process the animals – Ulf darts, and Mariska handles and wakes up the animals.



August A species we have not worked much with before... Klipspringers! These small antelopes were darted with Raymund Simon in very rugged terrain. Once darted, we had to land, pick up the klipspringers and bring them with the chopper to the recovery vehicle, which had special transport boxes. A very interesting job!

Klipspringers have a bit of a strange thick coat with hollow, brittle hairs. The coat reflects heat from the sun, insulates against the cold and protects them from injuries should they fall.





September From big to small – that is what makes our work so much fun! Darting +/- 6000 kg elephants, then +/- 3 kg Damara dik-dik antelopes, all in one month 😊

The elephants were immobilized for a collaring project, and the dik-diks were moved another farm.



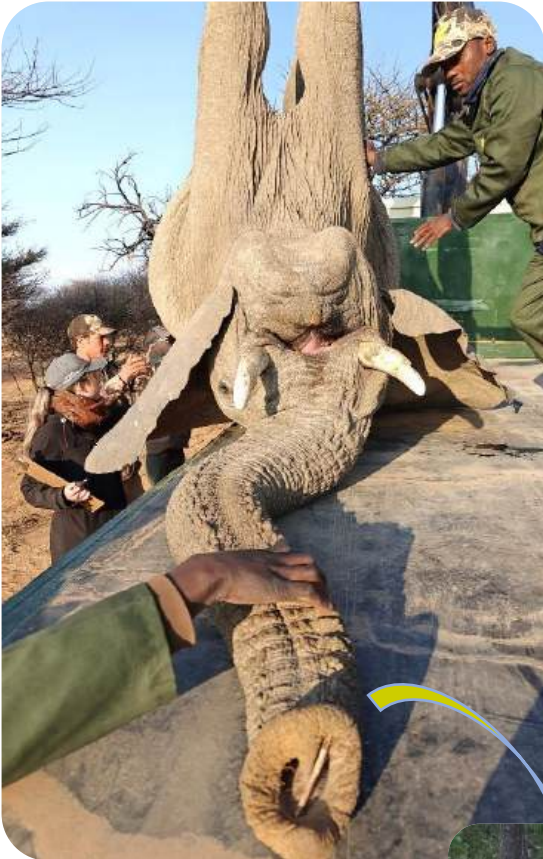
October Anthrax is a disease endemic to Namibia, and this year we have seen quite a few cases in a variety of species. For especially rhinos, elephants, hippos and lions in areas where anthrax occurs, we highly recommend to vaccinate them annually with [Rhinovax](#). This vaccine protects both against anthrax and several clostridial diseases, and is given via a 2cc dart.



November In November our trusted old MB 1113 worked hard! With the assistance of our guys Frederick, Manu and Romario, we moved several species such as sables, nyalas, lechwes and kudus to areas with better grazing. This truck is not very big, but very strong – and can drive most places modern trucks cannot come.

We also had a fun project where we had to dart and move two male ostriches! Ostriches are known to be difficult to immobilize, but we have done three so far this year, without issues! The last two we kept standing, so we could walk them to their new camp.





THE YEAR OF THE ELEPHANT

While last year was our year of the giraffe, this year is undoubtedly our year of the elephant! We have immobilized a total of 31 elephants this year. Part for a collaring project, some were injured, and then some went to Angola!

The one big elephant project was to assist the Mount Etjo team with the translocation of 26 elephants to the Cuatir Nature Reserve in south-east Angola. And we are very proud to let you know that our video about the translocations is online! Check out the YouTube link below, documenting the entire trip from Namibia to Angola:

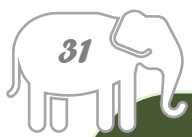
[Reintroducing Elephants -](#) [Namibia to Angola](#)

If you want to get updates on the elephants (and other residents of Cuatir!), follow Cuatir on [Facebook](#) and/or [Instagram](#).



Happy elephants! © Stefan van Wyk – Cuatir Nature Reserve

*The end of a busy year!
Total number of wild
animals immobilized:
847*



Dr Ulf Tubbesing
P.O. Box 50533, Windhoek
+264 (0)81 128 3050
ulft@africaonline.com.na

Mariska Bijsterbosch
+264 (0)81 382 8473
+31 (0)6 4369 3095 (WhatsApp)
mariska@wildlifelivetsnamibia.com



www.wildlifelivetsnamibia.com.na



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*"The bone, chew toy and treats aren't a problem.
Getting your testicles back will pose a challenge."*