

NEWSLETTER - 2017

Firstly, some encouraging words from Namibia's Minister of Environment and Tourism: -

"Hunters all over the world can be proud to be part of the greatest African Wildlife Recovery story ever told. Unfortunately, the more we do the more international attention and scrutiny we attract. For those who spread rumours and misinformation, our Ministry, together with the hunting and tourism community, have achieved what many other countries envy, so show us the respect that we deserve. The rest of the world should know that hunting contributes 50% of the revenue earned by our community based natural resources management programmes and an important source of income for almost half of all commercial farms in Namibia. We are proud of our natural heritage and will guard it jealously".

In dealing with the rise in wildlife numbers over the past decades, Namibia has used hunting as a tool in Conservation Management, duly considering many variables. This led to yet another conflict as there are those who believe that Namibia should not use trophy hunting as a conservation tool. The results obtained through sound scientific research, however, speak for themselves.

We are confronted with the effects of public opinion formed by ignorance and a lack of understanding the real issues – especially concerning trophy hunting. Those in the tourism sector who continue to oppose trophy hunting, those in the trophy hunting sector who continue to harm the image by engaging in unethical practices, as well as those who cover up corruption, all hampering the efforts to continue the success of our policies for sustainable use of our natural resources. We trust that you understand why our presence on social media was kept to a minimum lately.

Life becomes complicated when you are a hunter and with hunting comes huge responsibilities. We must ultimately provide educated answers to questions asked. We cannot afford failures. Now, more than ever, we as hunters need the support and praise of fellow nature lovers for the function and role that hunters play in conservation, to be accepted and appreciated. We as hunters should not fear to be just that: hunters!

Now is also the time to reflect on what has been achieved during the past year. Did the direction we took result in a dead end or did it open up new challenges and opportunities? North Western Namibia is still very much in the grip of a drought. For the first time in history, Oryx succumbed. In addition, migration routes and grazing patterns were altered. We remain hopeful for much needed rains and the full recovery of game populations in our hunting area.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to every client who visited our beautiful country and especially trophy hunters, who are the high-end tourist willing to travel to remote regions and hunt under adverse conditions. This kind of low-impact, high-output client is indispensable for true wilderness conservation.

We at WESTFALEN HUNTING still believe in the concept of fair chase and free range hunting to take us and the art of hunting tourism into the future. We embark on a totally new venture to renew all our facilities in order to accommodate our esteemed hunters and their families. We still strive to highlight our country's vastness, endless horizons, our special way of easy-going hospitality and most of all, an unforgettable African experience.

After all, Namibia is still politically stable and the safest tourist and hunting destination in Africa.

We will keep you posted – watch this space!

Juretha will be starting her second year as a BA Communication student in January. Hain remains in the Solar industry, but will gradually get involved in our family business during 2018.

We are so grateful towards our Heavenly Father for His Blessings and Guidance and we would like to extend an abundance of Peace and Joy to you at Christmas time and through 2018! John, Juliana, Hain, Juretha and staff.