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**Namib Ecology**  
25 Years of Namib Research



**Dr Charles Koch, founder of the research station at Gobabeb, and first Director of the Desert Ecological Research Unit, examines one of his Namib pit-traps.**  
(Photo: Dr L. Prozesky-Schulze)

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# FOREWORD

The Foundation for Research Development (F.R.D.) and its predecessors have striven over the years to support and to promote excellence in research and in the training of students. The Desert Ecological Research Unit (DERU) of Namibia has, because of its excellence over the past 25 years, been able to lay claim to support on merit within our system at the very highest level. It was not only the outstanding quality of leadership of Charles Koch and Mary Seely, but also quality of research maintained by the Unit, which prompted people like, P. J. du Toit, S. Meiring Naudé, Chris van der Merwe Brink and Chris Garbers to motivate for continued support of the Unit.

The success of DERU of Namibia to operate as a centre of excellence can be ascribed largely to three organizations with common scientific interests which ensured the smooth running of the research over many years. They are the Transvaal Museum with leaders like Vivian FitzSimons, Willem Steyn and Bob Brain, the Namibian Administration with notable contributions by Bernabé de la Bat, Polla Swart, Peet van der Walt and Eugène Joubert as well as the grant-giving body, the F.R.D., with major contributions by Willie Weideman and Marion Kemp.

It has been largely as a result of this very healthy cooperation that it has been possible to establish an infrastructure for research and research workers which has amazed many overseas visitors and aroused their envy.

I wish to extend the Foundation's congratulations, appreciation and gratitude to the current director, Mary Seely, for her leadership, professionalism and the dedication with which she has enhanced science and has guided students through her enthusiasm to assume leadership roles in a wide spectrum of careers.

My congratulations to you on the bright idea to inform the world in this way of what DERU of Namibia has achieved over the past 25 years by dint of hard work and sustained diligence. May the years ahead to the 50th anniversary be just as successful with even more splendid achievements.

**R. R. Arndt**  
President

Foundation for Research Development

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