

Agricultural & Natural Resources Snippets

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Department of Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences, Polytechnic of Namibia

About mice, *magou*, wild dogs and *pap cakes* at the Guinib Omuramba

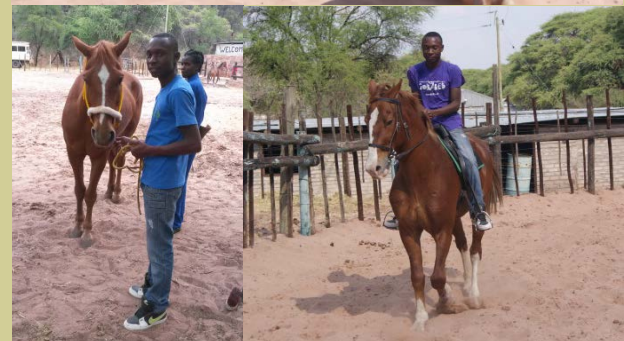
Our Honours students, joined by senior students from the Department of Geoinformation Sciences and Technology, went on an excursion to the Greater Waterberg Landscape as part of their Natural Resource Management, and Community-based Natural Resources management courses. We started off with a visit (and an exclusive game drive) on a commercial game farm, Otjiwa, followed by a night at Okatjikona. From here we went into the deep *Omaheke* - camping in the middle of the Guinib Omuramba. We did small mammal atlasing, interviewing conservancy members about the African Wild Dog Conservancy (and got no positive response regarding the Wild Dog!), got introduced to the biggest problem to farming in the *Omaheke*: *magou*, watched videos from camera traps and had each evening a feast with the chefs competing against each other over the menu. And Dudu's *pap cakes* with sauce and GFC (*Guinib Fried Chicken*) won *loshande*!



Horse riding at Waterberg Plateau Park

Natural Resource Students recently went on an excursion for horse riding at Waterberg Plateau Park. This is done to overcome the fears students have towards horses and to encourage the use of such this cost-effective transport method in the ever demanding career of Natural Resources. The pictures tell the story!

— Martin Handjaba



Successful Post-Graduate Symposium held

The academic year ended for our Honours and Masters students with a symposium, in which each was given an opportunity to present their year's work to their supervisors and other interested persons from the Polytechnic and collaborating institutes. Topics ranged from *Welwitschia* population health to forest regeneration, from environmental audits on irrigation projects, to small scale mining in communal conservancies, from Hyaena scat to insects attracted to light. Well done to all the students for very well-prepared presentations!



Honours student attends World Birdstrike Conference in Mexico

Dirk Bockmühl - a Nature Conservation Honours student - was sponsored by the Wildlife and Aircraft Research Namibia (WARN) project to attend the World Birdstrike Conference in Santa Fe Mexico. Dirk presented two papers on behalf of WARN: One on behalf of Masters student Christa D'Alton titled: **Arthropods and apron lights: can they affect bird strike risk?** and the other : **Aircraft-wildlife collisions at Namibian airports: The value of understanding ecosystem factors** (Hauptfleisch, Bockmühl, D'Alton & Avenant). Feedback on the Polytech research was very positive, with enquiries for collaboration from as far as Columbia.

Dirk was further involved in a meeting to establish an African Bird Strike Association, and has brought back a wealth of knowledge to assist WARN and the Namibia Airports Company in managing bird hazards at airports

— Morgan Hauptfleisch



New publications from the Department

- Joubert, D., Powell, L. A., & Schacht, W. H. (2014). Visual obstruction as a method to quantify herbaceous biomass in southern African semi-arid savannas. *African Journal of Range & Forage Science*, 32:1-6.
- Strohbach, B. J. (2014). Vegetation of the Eastern Communal Conservancies in Namibia: I. Phytosociological descriptions. *Koedoe - African Protected Area Conservation and Science*, 56.
- Strohbach, B. J., & Kutuahuripa, J. T. (2014). Vegetation of the Eastern Communal Conservancies in Namibia: II. Environmental drivers. *Koedoe - African Protected Area Conservation and Science*, 56.

Dear readers, dear students,

This will be the last issue of the Snippets for 2014. We wish our students success in the forthcoming exams, and all our readers a Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year!

