

DR RACHEL BRAND

ZOOLOGIST

ADDRESS

Dr Rachel Brand
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DATE OF BIRTH: 17 March 1978

NATIONALITY: British, but with Domicile rights in Namibia (married to a Namibian)

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QUALIFICATIONS

- **PhD in Zoology:** University of Newcastle upon Tyne, 2003-2007. Project title: Evolutionary biology of Giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) in Etosha NP, Namibia. The project included collection, analysis and interpretation of large quantities of data on giraffe spatial use and social behaviour in relation to Park ecology, and genetic parentage assignment. Fieldwork (18 months) was carried out in Etosha National Park, Namibia.
- **BSc Honours degree in Zoology: 1st class.** University of Newcastle upon Tyne (1998-2001). George Heslop Harrison Prize for outstanding performance in the Faculty of Agriculture and Biological Sciences.
- **Baccalauréat Scientifique Fédéral Suisse and Certificat Cantonal de Maturité:** average of 5.3/6. Gymnase Cantonal de Neuchâtel, Switzerland (1995-1998).

WORK EXPERIENCE

Vreugde Guest Farm, northern Namibia: Co-Owner and Manager from March 2015 to present date (Assistant Manager from April 2010). Responsible for Guest Farm reservations, marketing, guest relations and hosting, supervising hospitality services and staff, managing and monitoring of finances, and development and implementation of the Guest Farm's Environmental Management Plan.

Park Warden / Manager, Gondwana Canyon Park, southern Namibia

A 3-year position (2007-2010) shared with my husband, managing the Gondwana Canyon Park, a private reserve of 1'250km² in the south of Namibia. The position involved:

- Management plans: developing and implementing the park's 5-year Management and Development Plan, as well as the annual work-plans.
- Environmental auditing: lead assessor of the environmental branch of the Gondwana Canyon Park and Lodges internal audit.
- EcoAwards preparation: carrying out the initial internal assessment for EcoAwards application and assisting the Lodges in preparing for their first EcoAwards submission.
- HR duties: managing the park staff, and developing and implementing training programs, including in Environmental Awareness, for both park and hospitality staff.

- Science-related duties: developing and running the Park's monitoring program (including annual game counts) and managing and analyzing the related data; compiling and updating databases and photo-catalogues of the park's biodiversity.
- Re-introduction projects: re-introducing blue wildebeest and black rhino to the park.
- Finance-related duties: developing and managing an annual budget, and overseeing the ordering of supplies and equipment.
- Other administrative duties: writing regular reports for distribution both within and outside the company.

Front-of-house administrator

Four months part-time (2006) at One NorthEast, the regional development agency for the north-east of England, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Administrative assistant

Twelve months full-time (Nov. 2001 – Oct. 2002) then 12 months part-time employment (Nov. 2002 - Oct. 2003) in the Executive Office at the University of Newcastle, UK.

Research student

Oct. 2001: Assistant to research staff in the Psychology dept, University of Newcastle, studying:

- Comparative evolutionary biology, based on statistical analyses of data on bird ecology.
- Human mate-choice behaviour, involving the recruitment of 150 volunteers, the collection of information from them, and responding to any queries they had about the project.

Vacation Scholarship:

Awarded by Newcastle University's Research Committee (Jul.-Aug. 2001).

- Collection and analysis of data from literature on scent-marking in ungulates.

Trainee Lab Technician.

European Collection of Cell Cultures (ECACC), CAMR, Porton Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

- Five weeks' (1998), 6 weeks' (1999) and 4 weeks' (2000) paid vacation work.
- Assisted with DNA extraction, cell culture, quality control, and updating of databases.

VOLUNTARY WORK**Voluntary research assistant**

Two weeks' voluntary participation (April 2003) in an Earthwatch mammal monitoring project in association with the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, Wytham Woods, Oxfordshire, UK.

Voluntary research assistant.

Two weeks' voluntary participation (July 2000) in an Earthwatch environmental enrichment project at the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute in Ellensburg, WA, USA.

OTHER TRAINING, SKILLS and AFFILIATIONS

Certificate in Game-Ranging

FGASA-accredited certificate, awarded by Ecotraining c.c., South Africa, following a one-month residential course in the South African Lowveld (April-May 2004). The course included theoretical and practical training and testing in animal ecology and behaviour, identification of trees and their uses, tracking, game-driving, guiding, client care, orientation, safety and survival, and basic rifle handling.

Languages

- English: Mother tongue
- Afrikaans: Near-fluent
- French: Near-fluent
- German: Good

Web-presence

- www.vreugdeguestfarm.com
- www.facebook.com/VreugdeGuestFarm

Full and clean Namibian driving license

PUBLISHED ARTICLES AND REPORTS

- Carter, K.D., Brand, R., Carter, J. K., Shorrocks, B. and Goldizen, A. W. (2013) Social Networks, long-term associations and age-related sociability of wild giraffe. *Animal Behaviour*, 86 5: 901-910
- Report (2007) for the National Geographic Society Committee for Research and Exploration, on the project entitled "Biogeographical variation in coat colouration, sexual selection and population viability in giraffes".
- Report (2007) for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Namibia on research carried out under Permit Numbers 560/2002, 760/2004 and 876/2005 (project: Evolutionary ecology of giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) in Etosha National Park, Namibia).
- Article for Roan News (June 2007 edition): Mating Strategies of Giraffes in Etosha National Park

REFEREE

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