

Huntinamibia

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In Namibia we have put our principles into practice

Namibia has been able to bring the black rhino back from near extinction. Today there are more black rhino outside national parks than in them; wildlife numbers have increased on communal land where communities have the right to use game sustainably for the benefit and development of their communities; trophy hunting has been the largest contributor to the almost N\$50 million to community coffers; and wildlife is no longer regarded as competing with livestock. Because of hunting quotas for predators previously seen as a problem species, they now also bring benefits to farmers.



In Namibia we have put our principles into practice. And we stand by those principles. We defend them, because our philosophy of sustainable use of our natural resources is based on scientific data and ethical practices. Two years ago the Namibian Government put a moratorium on the hunting of leopard. A year later, with the necessary control measures, regulations and permit conditions in place, the quota was re-established.

But the onus is on every Namibian hunting operator to guard our good standing and reputation. We should not give activists reason to attack our policies because of self-serving actions. We have an exceptional trophy-hunting product, which is the envy of many countries with a proud hunting tradition, but which have lost the hunting grounds that Namibia has in abundance.

At Venture Publications we are proud to be associated with a sector that regulates itself. We support the policies and principles that make trophy hunting such a successful and important part of our tourism product. We promote this by telling the stories. Our company is 20 years old this year. You would think that after two decades, we would be able to produce a magazine effortlessly. But this is not so. Every year *Huntinamibia* has a different soul. When the hunting season starts, we can never predict what we will be offering our readers by the time it ends. Just as you as a trophy hunter set out on an adventure with high expectations, but with no certainty, we begin our *Huntinamibia* adventure year after year, not knowing how it will turn out. We trust that you will enjoy this adventure with us every year, and that you will appreciate the authenticity of the stories and their unpretentious nature.

We hope that before long, we will be able to present an on-line version of *Huntinamibia* to you. The limitations of the printed magazine, of costly distribution and of a heavy carbon footprint, inspired us to embrace new technology. It will not replace what you are holding in your hands right now. It will complement the printed magazine and benefit trophy hunting in Namibia in ways that we are not even sure of yet. One thing you can be assured of is that our goal will be to maintain the same high standards you have come to expect from us.

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Dr Wolf Michaelis was lucky to take this outstanding 48" buffalo in the Dzoti Conservancy near Mamili National Park in Namibia's Caprivi Strip in October 2011.