Wildlife Vets Namibia October 2019 Edition 19

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER

In this newsletter:

Dear clients,

The days are getting longer and hotter, that also means that the game capture season is coming to an end. Of course, we will be available for work within your farm boundaries and for any consultation you might need! We finally have made arrangements for the Post-Mortem course, which will be held at AfriCat on 07 March 2020. If you are interested in attending the course, let us know!.

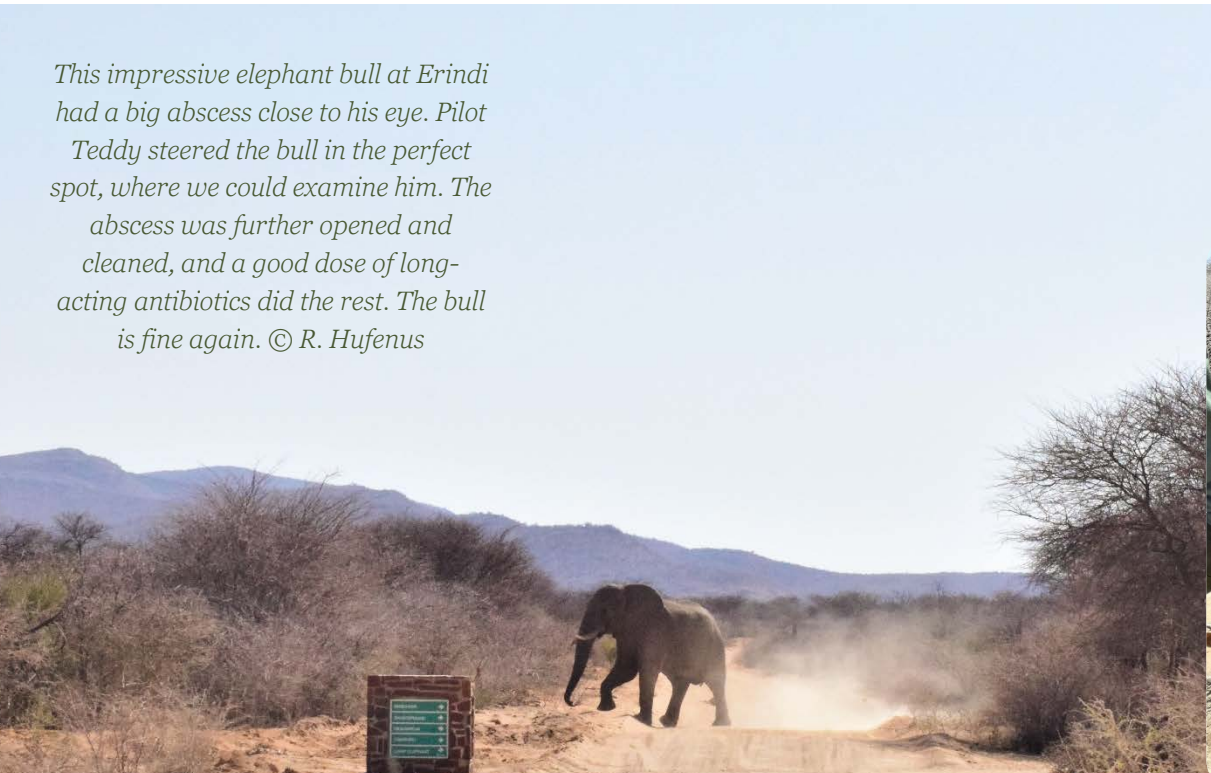
All the best! Kind regards, Ulf and Mariska

GAME CAPTURE SEASON ENDING

In Namibia we are bound to a game capture season, where animals may only be captured and translocated from February (north)/March (south) until the end of September (north)/October (south). In some cases an extension can be arranged at the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) until the end of October. Besides the fact that it is too hot to catch and transport animals outside of the season, animals are often in poor condition - following the long dry season. In addition, many females are heavily pregnant or have young calves at foot.

For us this means our busy season is over, but it also means we have more time for our clients 😉. We can still assist you with jobs within your farm boundaries (preferably early mornings when it is a bit cooler for the animals), and we have more time for consultation work. We can advise you on various topics, such as game- veld- and disease management, what species to introduce, genetics etc. Do not hesitate to contact us!

This impressive elephant bull at Erindi had a big abscess close to his eye. Pilot Teddy steered the bull in the perfect spot, where we could examine him. The abscess was further opened and cleaned, and a good dose of long-acting antibiotics did the rest. The bull is fine again. © R. Hufenus



EYEPLANE

A couple of months ago we met some people from the company Eyeplane who are enrolling an interesting project in Namibia. As we believe this might be of your interest, we would like to share their story with you. Eyeplane provides unmanned aerial surveillance services which can be beneficial on your farm in basically two ways; as a crime-prevention tool, and as farm management tool:

- Prevention and detection of poaching
- Inspecting large areas
- Reporting of animal numbers, their location, movement and food availability
- Reporting cars, people, fire etc.

Technology gets better and better… The more footage the software gets in, the more 'intelligent' it gets. How it works? In short, the camera takes images, the software analyses these images, and will say 'I see 5 mountain- and 2 plains zebras. The controller behind the software checks if the software has it right, and 'teaches' the software this way to get better and better. The software can now quite confidently detect differences in species from the size of a springbuck and up! © Eyeplane

So how does this work? The first system consists of a fixed-wing aircraft that can fly up to 8 hours at 70-100 km/h, thereby scanning large areas in just one flight. Another system consists of a customized drone, that can fly 100 km at 50-90 km/h in a 20km radius, for about 2 hours. You decide when and where the drone will fly, the software will do the rest. Eyeplane pre-programs flight patterns, so the drone and airplane will be fully autonomous.

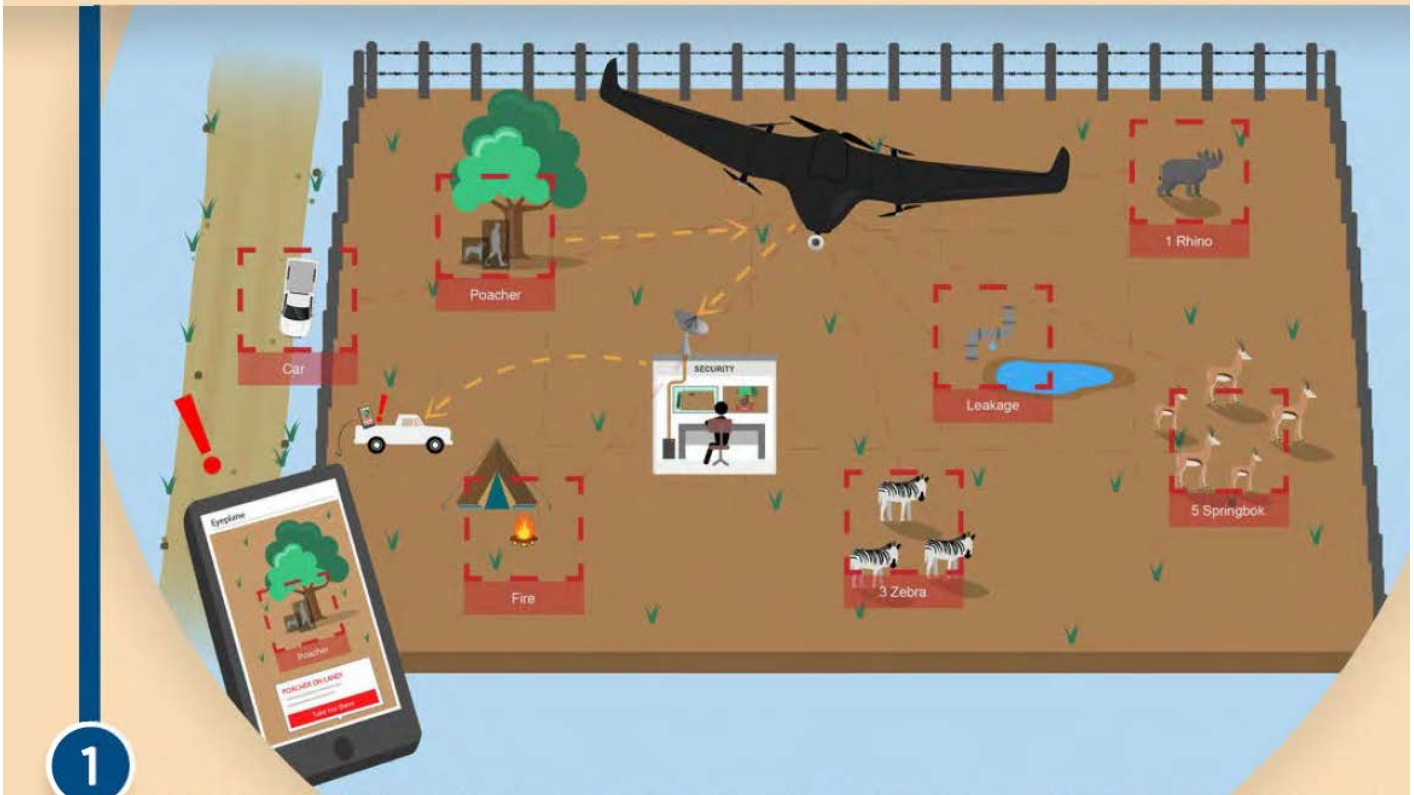
The on-board cameras on the drone and aircraft makes visual and infra-red images, and sends these to specialized software. This software detects images in real-time, and will report to you in case there is a problem, e.g. people, fires etc. The system will tell you 'people spotted at place X', and you can deploy a team to go out and check. Besides security, it can also be used for livestock/game counts, checking infrastructure, etc. Let's say you want to know where your eland are located on the farm, you program the software, the drone will look for you and sends you the desired information.

Click here to watch a short video that clearly explains what the project is about. For more information, have a look at their website: https://www.eyeplane.com/

If you are interested and/or have any questions, you can contact Rob Sturm - rs@eyeplane.com .

EYEPLANE

FULL CONTROL



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YOUR OWN EYEPLANE SYSTEM WILL AUTOMATICALLY DETECT AND REPORT TO YOU EVERYTHING GOING ON

EYEPLANE

HOW DOES IT WORK?

DRONE

Pre-programmed flight plan selected and set by security team

FLIGHT PLAN

Drone streams down all daylight and thermal images one per second

IMAGES

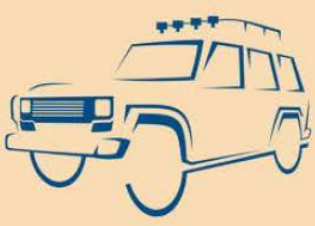
EYEPLANE PROVIDES A FULLY AUTOMATED

SELF-SERVICE SYSTEM AND PROCESS

READY TO OPERATE BY YOUR STAFF

REQUESTS

Field teams can request to change flight plan to support their actions or to check specific locations



SECURITY/GUIDES

DETECTIONS

Automated realtime detection of people, cars, fires and animal species has been demonstrated to work in June 2019; those images that require action are sent to security team

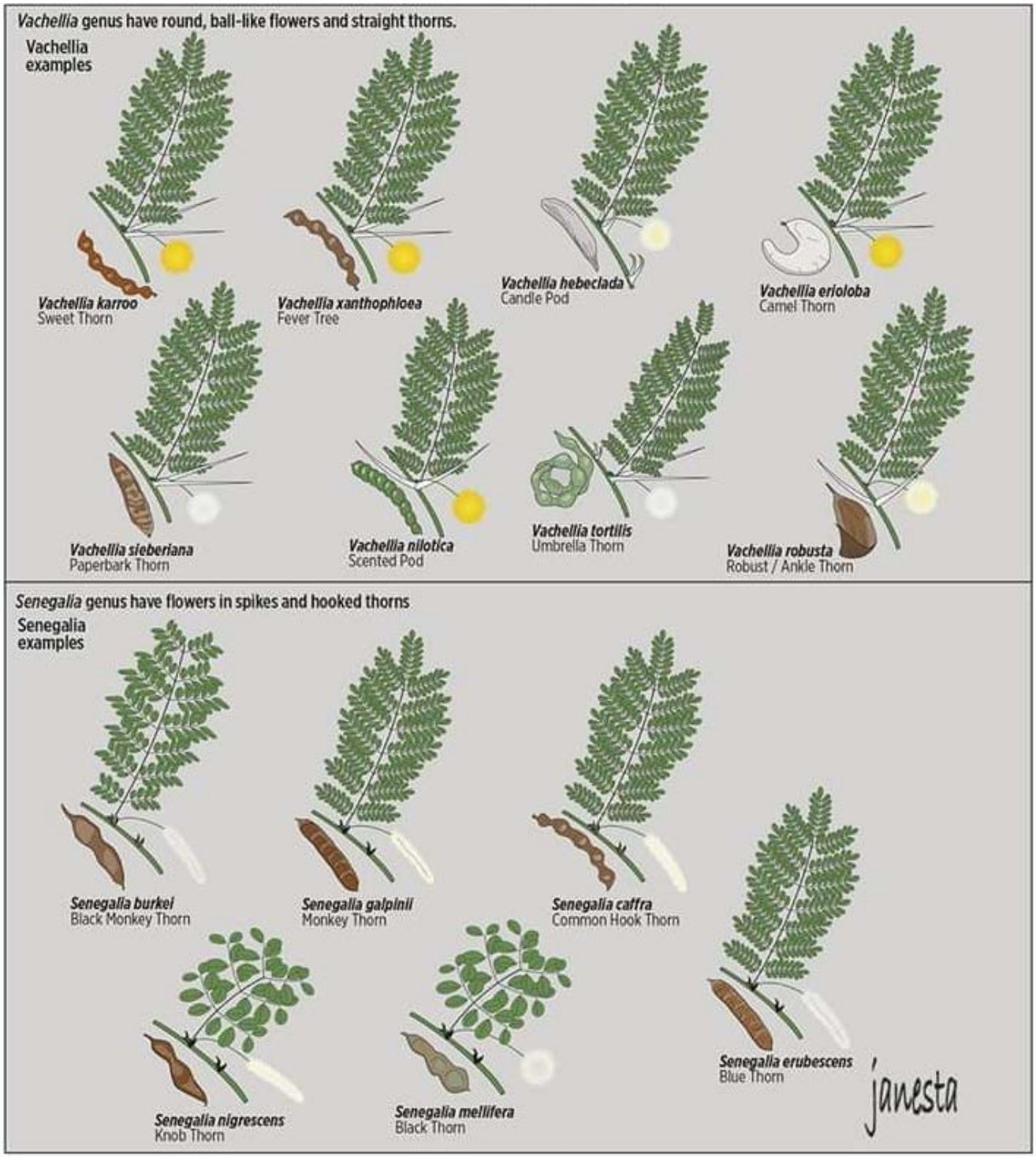
2

ACACIA, VACHELLIA OR SENEGALIA?

In Namibia we grew up with 'Acacia' trees, but the name *Acacia* is not applicable to our African thorny trees and shrubs anymore. The genus *Acacia* contains around 1500 species, and is widespread throughout Africa, Australia, Asia and America. For years a debate has been going on about the taxonomic status of these trees, and in 2003 a reclassification was proposed and adopted. From then, the genus *Acacia* is reserved for the Australian native species. In case of the African *Acacia* species, it was subdivided into two genera; *Vachellia* and *Senegalia*. These groups are based on a number of morphological (the shape/form), anatomical and biochemical characteristics. The main differences are:

- ***Vachellia*** Round, ball-like flowers, straight thorns (e.g. Camel thorn - *Vachellia erioloba*)
- ***Senegalia*** Flowers in spikes, hooked thorns (e.g. Swart haak - *Senegalia mellifera*)

On the right a nice overview of some of the well-known Vachellia and Senegalia species
© Janesta



For more information on the name change, read: 'New names for the African Acacia species in Vachellia and Senegalia' by Colin Deyer

POST-MORTEM COURSE

Doing a Post-Mortem (PM) on a fresh carcass dramatically improves the changes of getting a correct diagnosis concerning the cause of death of an animal. This knowledge helps you to improve the general herd management, and possibly prevent a disease from spreading. Since Namibia is such a vast country, getting a vet in is not always practical. We therefore designed a PM course to teach you the basic principles of doing a thorough and systematic PM. We spoke about it several times, but this year somehow flew away and our planning did not always work out 😉 But… we finally have a date and venue for the Post-Mortem course:

AfriCat Okonjima, Otjiwarongo district ~ 07-March 2020

This course is meant for farmers (livestock and game) and other interested people. After this course, you should be able to perform a basic PM by yourself. To improve our general knowledge of diseases in Namibian wildlife/livestock, and to help you understanding your PM, we ask you to send all your information, samples and photos to us. We examine them and/or sent them to the lab, interpret the results and discuss the findings with you. In the course you will be taught the following:

- Introduction to basic pathology
- Anatomy and physiology
- Basic Post-Mortem kit
- The Post-Mortem procedure
- Sample collection
- Post-Mortem changes
- Specific organ lesions
- Post-Mortem photography
- Poaching and crime scene handling
- Post-Mortem Demonstration

The fee for the course is N$1500. This is inclusive of lecture material (you will get the PPT's and extra material on a USB stick), the lectures itself, use of the facilities, a practical PM demonstration, coffee/tea and lunch.

Since it will be quite a loaded programme, we would like to start with presentations early in the morning. As a result, we want to give course participants the option to sleep over the night before the course. Note that this is optional. Accommodation prices (including breakfast and dinner):

AfriCat Okonjima – PAWS centre	1 night	N$ 550 (arrive 6 March, depart 7 March)
	2 nights	N$ 955 (arrive 6 March, depart 8 March)

If you want a course outline with extra information, or if you want to sign up for the course, sent an email to mariska@wildlifevetsnamibia.com!

We hope to do more courses in the north and south of Namibia during 2020.

WILDLIFE VETS NAMIBIA

WILDLIFE HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Recently we had an interesting weekend at the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF). We were invited to give a couple of lectures/trainings to rangers from Niger. The lectures ranged from game capture methods and translocations, to health/body condition evaluation and some darting practise. We also showed them how to do a Post-Mortem.

Exchanging knowledge and experiences are important factors if we want to preserve as much wildlife as possible, and we are glad we got the opportunity to lecture the rangers. If you are interested in seeing a bit more of Niger and some of the conservation work that is conducted here, watch this video: Operation Sahel Giraffe (a video by the Giraffe Conservation Foundation on a translocation of the West-African Giraffes).

We would like to thank the participating rangers and CCF for the wonderful weekend!

DR ULF TUBBESING

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