



# BLACK NOSSOB HUNTING SAFARIS

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## Newsletter 03/2005: May and June 2005

Greetings from the winter in a summer costume!

Although we are in the beginning of July already, right in the middle of the Namibian winter, the temperatures really don't correspond.

After a few frosty nights in May, the night temperatures did not drop below 5°C since then; the early rays of the sun warm up the morning quite quickly.

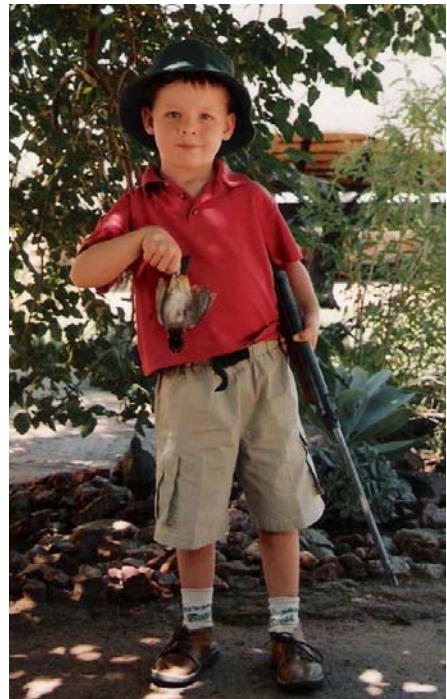
But, it will definitely become chilly in the near future.

Now, with the yellow grass in the veld and the dry bushes, the game animals come closer to the farmyard. Warthogs, porcupines and kudus have harvested the cornfields, the birds plunder the garden. Hornbills like the early morning pap of the dogs, francolins battle for the best sleeping places under the hedges and doves and guinea fowls search for maize- and mahango-seeds.

The doves give real pleasure to Lennart, our oldest son. According to the Cramer- family tradition, he was given an air gun for his 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since then he developed a real passion for bird hunting. Every morning he gets up early to look for some doves, as they make a little bigger bite than the tiny sparrows!

In the middle of June, the annual game count in Doro !Nawas had to be finished off.

Ernst- Ludwig had a meeting from the NAPHA big game committee on at the same time. Thus, he was only able to participate one day at the counting, scheduled for two days. He also had to drive an extremely bad route during the count, were an



unknown part of Doro !Nawas was explored and a rhino and some Springbok were encountered.

According to the results of the game count, all animals showed an increase in population numbers, except for zebra, were fewer were counted this year. Since the game in the western desert regions cover huge distances in their search for grazing and water, the data from Doro !Nawas have to be brought in perspective with the neighbouring Conservancies, to make the relevant predictions in population numbers.



The free migration of game in the commercial farming area is unfortunately increasingly restricted by game fences. In our neighbourhood, too, more and more farmers fence off a certain area of their farm to introduce game like Impalas, Blesbok and Black wildebeest. Nearly every third trophy hunter operates a game camp.

We believe that this trend is very negative; fair hunting on free roaming game can't be guaranteed by these practises; on foot, sometimes exhaustive, but ensuring real memories, remembered for a long time.

But, here the principle of demand and supply equally applicable. When foreign tourists prefer a game camp hunted Blesbok in favour of a fair chase hunt, game camps will be available on the Namibian hunting scene.

Our new State President, Hifikepunye Pohamba, is ruling the country now for three months. And, we are positively impressed with his new style. In the beginning, his attitude towards corruption was not taken seriously, but he gave meaning to his words.

The parastatal companies were warned of severe mismanagement, as only three of them were able to show dividends at the end of the financial year, payable to the State revenue, the others opting to pay huge sums in form of salaries to the managers.

Hopefully, Pohamba will keep on with this positive trend and will on the long term ensure a more prosperous future for our country.

Best regards from Namibia!

*Ernst-Ludwig and Ina Cramer with Lennart and Florenz*