

## Minister of Environment and Tourism

### Response to the questions by Hon. Vipuakuje Muharukua

1. Mike Griffin was employed in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism as Conservation Scientist responsible for the research and monitoring work on the reptiles and small mammals. Mike Griffin went on retirement in early 2008. At the time of his retirement, Mike was working on the Annotated Checklist and Provisional Conservation Status of Namibian Reptiles. This work was never completed, was never submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

Attempts were made on many occasions to obtain the final report from Mr. Griffin but with no success. Mr. Griffin did not resign but went on retirement and has returned to United States of America.

There <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ number of research projects currently being administered by the Ministry which studies the reptiles: <sup>eg:</sup>

- Research project on the conservation status of Nile Crocodile in Kunene and Okavango River Systems by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism,
- Monitoring of crocodile population dynamics in the northeast wetland systems (Zambezi Region) by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism,
- Monitoring of the Husab Lizard in the Namib Desert by the Gobabeb Research and Training Centre.
- Research and monitoring work on the tortoises of Namibia by private scientist Alfred Schleicher
- Research on movement patterns of snakes at N/aankuse Foundation at Farm Frauenstein

In short, the Ministry has personnel that work on the research and monitoring of reptiles in Namibia. Reptiles like any other wildlife species are protected under the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1974, and our nature conservation officials are actively involved in their conservation. Any illegal activities concerning reptile are dealt with under the relevant laws of Namibia.

2. The information on the reptiles of Namibia is available for the public at our Ministry. The National Museum of Namibia has a Natural History Section that has a collection of Namibian reptiles.

### 3. List of research and monitoring projects undertaken in Namibia by external researchers

The table below list the research and monitoring projects undertaken by the external researchers in Namibia in the last five years (2010-2015). These projects were undertaken with permission of the Ministry. The results from these projects are available at the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's Research Section.

Name of Researcher	Research Topic
<b>Dr. J. S. Heaton</b>	Endemic Namibian reptile climate change extinction risk, subject to attached conditions.
<b>Professor A. M. Bauer</b>	To collect all species of reptiles and amphibians throughout Namibia, excluding protected areas, subject to attached conditions.
<b>Dr D. DeNardo</b>	To conduct a study on a comparative assessment of transcutaneous water loss in reptiles throughout Namibia excluding protected areas, subject to attached conditions.
<b>Ms CA Hipsley</b>	To conduct the evolutionary consequences of Cenozoic climate change on African Reptile at the central Namibia south of Etosha National Park outside protected areas except the area around GOBABEB in the Namib Naukluft Park.
<b>Dr K.A. Tolley</b>	To conduct a pilot research on patterns of reptile speciation in Namibia, excluding protected area except Namib-Naukluft Park.
<b>Mr P. Cunningham</b>	To conduct research on reptiles and small mammals associated with a proposed mining site at Daberas and / or Sendelingsdrift - Namdeb jurisdiction areas.
<b>Ms M. Awases</b>	To conduct a research on the Namibian reptiles throughout Namibia excluding protected areas.

<b>Dr B. Wasiolka</b>	To conduct research on the influence of shrub encroachment caused by intensive land use on birds, small mammals and reptile communities at BIOTA savanna sites, subject to attached
<b>Professor K.E. Linsenmair</b>	To capture and collect stomach samples of reptiles and amphibians; and to study the impact of ants, termites and tenebrionids on soil properties and vegetation at BIOTA observatories and in Namib-Naukluft Park.
<b>Dr K. Stratford</b>	To conduct a pilot study of the Reptiles and Amphibians at Ongava Game Reserve
<b>Dr E. Scott</b>	To collect reptiles and amphibians throughout Namibia, excluding protected areas.
<b>Mr H. Jauch</b>	To keep and conduct research on reptiles, subject to permit conditions.
<b>Mr A. Sanib</b>	To collect and keep specimens of invertebrates, reptiles, birds and small mammals (<5kg) as well as trophies of kudu, Oryx and Springbok at the Welwitschia Environmental Education Centre, subject to attached conditions.
<b>Mr A. Schleicher</b>	To collect, keep and conduct research on Namibian tortoises, a maximum of two hundred and fifty (250) to be kept at any particular time, subject to permit conditions.
<b>Professor J.O. Juvik</b>	Study on native tortoise conservation biology and habitat assessment in southern Namibia, with special reference to the unresolved status and distribution of the endemic Nama padloper ( <i>Homopus solus</i> ) and other tortoise species.

<p><b>Prof. M.D. Hofmeyr</b></p>	<p>To conduct research on the phylogenetics and phylogeography of southern tortoises from wild populations in Windhoek, Kalkrand, Helmeringhausen and Rosh Pinah districts, subject to attached conditions.</p>
<p><b>Mr P. Cunningham</b></p>	<p>To study the distribution, home range, habitat use and diet of Homopus bergeri, Psammobates oculiferus, P. tentorius and Geochelone pardalis tortoises throughout Namibia, excluding protected areas, subject to attached conditions.</p>

from 1 December 2001 to 30 November 2002
from 12 February 2015 to 31 January 2016
from 1 March 2006 to 30 April 2006
from 1 September 2009 to 31 October 2009

**RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROEJCTS OI**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of Researcher</b>	<b>Co-workers</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Dr. J. S. Heaton</b>	D. Joubert, J. Juvik and Polytechnic students
<b>2</b>	<b>Professor A. M. Bauer</b>	J.J. Marais, M.P. Heinicke, A.L. Kuhn, E. Freitas, N. Iiyambo, M. Awases and J.L. Childers
<b>3</b>	<b>Dr D. DeNardo</b>	M. Feldner and T. Trowbridge
<b>4</b>	<b>Ms CA Hipsley</b>	J. Mueller, D. Miles and M. Jones
<b>5</b>	<b>Dr K.A. Tolley</b>	Dr J. Measey
<b>6</b>	<b>Mr P. Cunningham</b>	N/A
<b>7</b>	<b>Ms M. Awases</b>	H. Roets
<b>8</b>	<b>Dr B. Wasiolka</b>	Prof. Dr F. Jeltsch, Dr N. Blaum, and D. Joubert
<b>9</b>	<b>Professor K.E. Linsenmair</b>	C. Grohmann, J. Henschel, A. Graiff, M. Weib, V. Siteketa and T. Kapalanga
<b>10</b>	<b>Dr K. Stratford</b>	Dr M. O'Skea
<b>11</b>	<b>Dr E. Scott</b>	T. Bird, L. Prendini
<b>12</b>	<b>Mr H. Jauch</b>	None

13	Mr A. Sanib	P.P. Spanneberg, B. Sanis, L. Guidao-Oas and J. Awarab
14	Mr A. Schleicher	None
15	Professor J.O. Juvik	Polytechnic students students and Prof. M. Hofmeyr
16	Prof. M.D. Hofmeyr	A. Schleicher and Dr J. Jurgens
17	Mr P. Cunningham	None

## N REPTILES FROM 2005 TO 2015

Research Topic
Endemic Namibian reptile climate change extinction risk, subject to attached conditions.
To collect all species of reptiles and amphibians throughout Namibia, excluding protected areas, subject to attached conditions.
To conduct a study on a comparative assessment of transcutaneous water loss in reptiles through Namibia excluding protected areas, subject to attached conditions.

To conduct the evolutionary consequences of Cenozoic climate change on African Reptile at the central Namibia south of Etosha National Park outside protected areas except the area around GOBABEB in the Namib Naukluft Park, subject to attached conditions.

To conduct a pilot research on patterns of reptiles speciation in Namibia, excluding protected area except Namib-Naukluft Park, subject to attached conditions.
To conduct research on reptiles and small mammals associated with a proposed mining site at Daberas and / or Sendelingsdrift - Namdeb jurisdiction areas, subject to attached conditions.
To conduct a research on the Namibian reptiles throughout Namibia excluding protected areas, subject to attached conditions.
To conduct research on the influence of shrub encroachment caused by intensive land use on birds, small mammals and reptile communities at BIOTA savanna sites, subject to attached
To capture and collect stomach samples of reptiles and amphibians; and to study the impact of ants, termites and tenebrionids on soil properties and vegetation at BIOTA observatories and in Namib-Naukluft Park, subject to attached conditions.
To conduct a pilot study of the Reptiles and Amphibians at Ongava Game Reserve, subject to attached conditions.
To collect reptiles and amphibians throughout Namibia, excluding protected areas, subject to attached conditions.
To keep and conduct research on reptiles at 5 Sauerbruch Street, Windhoek, subject to attached conditions.



To collect and keep specimens of invertebrates, reptiles, birds and small mammals (<5kg) as well as trophies of kudu, oryx and springbok at the Welwitschia Environmental Education Centre, subject to attached conditions.
To collect, keep and conduct research on Namibian tortoises, a maximum of two hundred and fifty (250) to be kept at any particular time, subject to attached conditions.
To conduct a study on native tortoise conservation biology and habitat assessment in southern Namibia, with special reference to the unresolved status and distribution of the endemic Nama padloper ( <i>Homopus solus</i> ) and other tortoise species, subject to attached conditions.
To conduct research on the phylogenetics and phylogeography of southern tortoises from wild populations in Windhoek, Kalkrand, Helmeringhausen and Rosh Pinah districts, subject to attached conditions.
To study the distribution, home range, habitat use and diet of <i>Homopus bergeri</i> , <i>Psammobates oculiferus</i> , <i>P. tentorius</i> and <i>Geochelone pardalis</i> tortoises throughout Namibia, excluding protected areas, subject to attached conditions.

Period
from 8 December 2014 to 30 November 2015
from 18 March 2014 to 28 February 2015
from 1 November 2012 to 31 March 2013
from 8 November 2010 to 31 December 2010
from 10 May 2010 to 31 December 2010
22 April 2010 to 30 April 2010
6 April 2010 to 31 March 2011
from 20 July 2009 to 30 June 2010
1 February 2008 to 31 December 2008
from 25 April 2007 to 31 May 2007
from 1 November 2003 to 30 October 2004
1 June 2003 to 31 May 2004