



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

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30 September 2008

NEWS RELEASE

NAMIB NAUKLUFT PARK TO CELEBRATE 101st ANNIVERSARY

The Minister of Environment and Tourism, Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, will host a celebration to mark the 101st anniversary of the Namib Naukluft Park on 11 October, 2008.

The event will be held at the Gobabeb Training and Research Centre in the Park. Invited dignitaries will include Government representatives, diplomats, representatives from the resident Topnaar community, members of the tourism sector, former park staff and captains of industries.

The celebration will include a short formal programme, nature walks, a tour of the station and a chance to talk to both current and former park staff and researchers.

The first proclamation of the central Namib as a game reserve (Wildreservaat No 3) took place in March 1907 under German colonial rule. The area of about 10 000 km² that was proclaimed encompassed most of what is now the central Namib or northern portion of the park. Initially the German colonial government established the Namib Game Reserve as a buffer zone to restrict English sovereignty to Walvis Bay.

A series of alterations were made to the park boundaries. In 1989, Diamond Area #2 was added and, with a small amendment made to the borders in 1990, the current boundaries were finalised. The park currently measures 49 768 km² and features attractions such as:

- The world's oldest desert
- The Dunes at Sossusvlei and Sesriem Canyon
- Welwitschia Trail with ancient Welwitschia over 1 500 years old, and
- Naukluft mountains, hiking trail and 4x4 route.

Organising partners are the MET, Gobabeb Training and Research Centre, Namibia Tourism, Fenata and Venture Publications. A new book on the Namib Desert will be launched at the same event.


Dr Kalumbi Shangula
Permanent Secretary

