



MIKE BOLHUIS:
THE FLAMINGO PROJECT
PART 15

ANNIVERSARY
24 JANUARY 2019 - 24 JANUARY 2020



THE MIKE BOLHUIS FLAMINGO PROJECT

On 24 January 2019, over 2 134 Flamingo-chicks were rescued from the drought-stricken Kampfers Dam, in Kimberley.

Today we celebrate the Mike Bolhuis Flamingo Project 1-year anniversary.

Today we reflect on one year of an adventure we have never experienced before. A year in which our lives were enriched unexpectedly and a year turning out to be a steep learning curve for most of us. This project challenged us to be significantly more than what we imagined we could ever be.

We appreciate each and everyone's involvement and commitment. Our volunteers, our group of private and corporate benefactors and philanthropists, professional veterinarians and their teams, government officials, the media and many, many more. This would never have been possible without everyone's personal time spent and relentless dedication. It ensured a much-praised successful outcome, not only nationally, but in the international arena as well. It has been my privilege to have the opportunity to work with dedicated and passionate individuals.

There are only about 190 flaminglets left to return to Kamfers Dam and their release is planned in the very near future. Although the infrastructure at the dam is not ideal as yet, the seasonal rains and the hard work done by several interested parties in the area, has made the release and successful integration of the rescued birds into the wild, possible.

We will continue to monitor the situation and we will update you regularly on the last phase of this project. I am including links of our previous documents, showing the history and the eventual fruition of the Mike Bolhuis: Flamingo Project.

Last, but not least, the glory and successful outcome of this unique project would never have been possible without our reliance on Our God in Heaven. All Glory to Him answering prayers and strengthening each one of us daily. We appreciate every prayer and blessing we received.



Good morning Mike,

Your beautiful voice note regarding the anniversary of the Kamfers Dam Lesser Flamingo Rescue Project reached us early this morning.

There is so much to say about the project, yet we are still left speechless.

24 January 2019 is a date we will always remember. The devastation found on the dam a year ago was heartbreaking and those images will haunt us for many years to come. We, however, treasure the memories of how a community (local, national and international) came together to assist with the largest rescue operation in Kimberley history. Those first few weeks saw people of all ages and ethnicity stand together as one to bathe, feed and warm-up emaciated and dehydrated flamingo chicks. To this day we are blown away by the support our Society received from the local & global community and businesses during one of the toughest rescues, our Society has ever been involved with.

Our Society was by no means prepared for the scale of the rescue and the project. No words can ever describe our gratitude or can give proper thanks to those who assisted during the rescue and the aftercare.

We wish you a blessed day while we remember not just the horror at the dam on that day, but also treasure the positive response by volunteers and supporters. We also want to thank you for your persistence and hard work over the last year.

With kind regards,

Alet Steyn

Kimberley SPCA Chairperson



24 January 2019

I remember the first day as if it were yesterday. And I remained there to the very last day.

Only a few of us pitched to help out. The numbers grew steadily. Volunteer numbers grew into the hundreds. A few of us did the midnight shift – from 11:00 until 6:00 the next morning, and we were there every day. At 4:30 we'd have a coffee break and listen to Mike's cranes waking up and calling out to each other. It became part of our routine – for 3 months until the midnight shift ended and we worked from 18:00 until 21:00.

boxed in for their flight home. We all shed a tear because we were part of their lives for so many months and would miss them and our fellow-supporters dearly. All-in-all: We slept little; experienced a lot; learned a great deal and built wonderful friendships that lasted to this day.

Thank you, Mike, for initiating this project and to Claudia and my vet Heidi Smal for bringing me on board. It was an experience we will all cherish forever.

Sonja

FLAMINGO PROJECT - PART 1

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/81ca5a64b7a954042f1ee5ab2/files/a8a2a703-4835-46f8-b520-677a9abf6325/Gmail_FLAMINGO_PROJECT.pdf

FLAMINGO PROJECT - PART 2

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/81ca5a64b7a954042f1ee5ab2/files/f1d3b703-b22f-4d62-b520-677a9abf6325/Gmail_FLAMINGO_PROJECT_PART_2.01.pdf

FLAMINGO PROJECT - PART 3

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/81ca5a64b7a954042f1ee5ab2/files/2e5c020c-bc80-4473-8d8b-fd2cc63f066e/Gmail_FLAMINGO_PROJECT_PART_3.pdf

FLAMINGO PROJECT - PART 4

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/81ca5a64b7a954042f1ee5ab2/files/d05f8eaa-93da-49d0-9dd8-d4ed2cd64bee/Gmail_FLAMINGO_PROJECT_PART_4.pdf

FLAMINGO PROJECT - PART 5

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/81ca5a64b7a954042f1ee5ab2/files/18d2fa7e-60f0-4929-bba9-b9a4309a44a9/Gmail_FLAMINGO_PROJECT_PART_5.pdf

FLAMINGO PROJECT - PART 6

<https://mailchi.mp/6f05a36fea60/mike-bolhuis-the-flamingo-project>

FLAMINGO PROJECT - PART 7

<http://mailchi.mp/7c29e5488257/mike-bolhuis-the-flamingo-project>

FLAMINGO PROJECT - PART 8

<https://mailchi.mp/fe91bc26cd85/mike-bolhuis-the-flamingo-project>

FLAMINGO PROJECT - PART 9

<https://mailchi.mp/018186042b12/mike-bolhuis-the-flamingo-project-part-9>

FLAMINGO PROJECT - PART 10

FLAMINGO PROJECT - PART 11

<http://mailchi.mp/8faac2169188/mike-bolhuis-the-flamingo-project-part-11>

FLAMINGO PROJECT - PART 12

<https://mailchi.mp/903e65a76158/mike-bolhuis-the-flamingo-project-part-12>

FLAMINGO PROJECT - PART 13

<https://mailchi.mp/5c86741c58fe/mike-bolhuis-the-flamingo-project-part-13>

FLAMINGO PROJECT - PART 14

<https://mailchi.mp/2ef15a0e9a38/mike-bolhuis-the-flamingo-project>



Photos graciously supplied by Debbie Smith.

You may forward this information.

Regards

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Follow us on Facebook to view our projects -

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mike-Bolhuis/699211183522411?fref=ts>

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