

AWA's Wilderness Around the World Talk Series Takes Edmonton Audience on a Fascinating Tour of Namibia

By Sean Nichols, *AWA Conservation Specialist*



As the second instalment in its *Wilderness Around the World* series of Edmonton talks, AWA was privileged to present Lu Carbyn on January 22 as he spoke about his home country Namibia in his talk *Namibia: Wilderness Between Two Deserts*.

Despite its occasionally hostile climate and its location sandwiched between areas of inhospitable desert terrain, Namibia supports a surprisingly vibrant array of plant and animal biodiversity. Lu took the audience on a tour through this diverse wilderness area via photos and stories from his past, when he grew up in the region.

Some of those pictures and stories served as a reminder of how much places like Namibia and Alberta can have in common, despite being at opposite ends of our planet. Both have their own brand of severe weather and arid climates; both are sparsely populated with ranching- and resource-based economies that can exact a toll on a pristine landscape.

With only two permanent rivers in a land area one and a quarter times that of Alberta, Namibia's wilderness areas are utterly dependent on a delicate groundwater balance and highly sensitive to any changes brought about by humans.

Differences and similarities – the differences found in wilderness areas around the world and their frequent similarities – is a theme underlying the *Wilderness Around the World* series. After visiting Argentina and now Namibia, the series will go on to take audiences through Bhutan and Jamaica before wrapping up with Ethiopia on April 30 and Iceland on May 28.

AWA thanks the Wildbird General Store for their support with this talk series, and Jackson Power for hosting.