

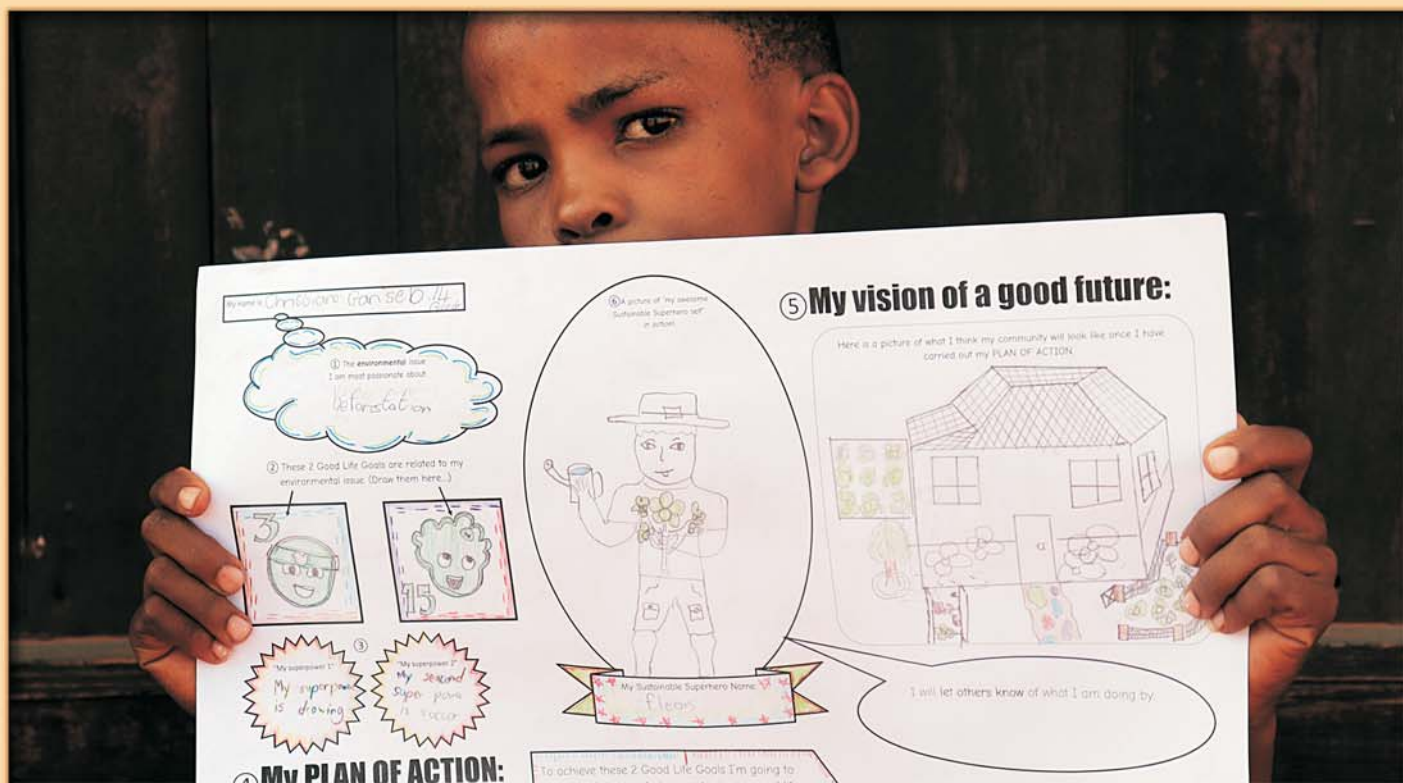


NEWS @ NaDEET



Vol. 19. No. 1 ~ June 2021

www.nadeet.org



Learning and Living for a Sustainable Future

Dear NaDEET Friend,

After a difficult 2020, the year 2021 got off to a positive start. In Namibia, COVID-19 cases were very low, schools had re-opened in person and tourism was beginning to show signs of revitalising itself. This was during our summer months and despite some restrictions such as mandatory masks, life was "normal". By April, vaccines became available through a government outreach programme (although vaccination rates are still low). We were able to implement many of our projects and COVID-adapted activities during these months. I am therefore happy to share with you the progress of our tree planting project, modernisation and garden project, as well as, the groups that we were able to host at NaDEET Centre. In addition, our Urban Centre team was able to visit schools and advertise our new programme available to school children in Swakopmund.

By the end of May and with the onset of Namibia's winter (yes, it can get quite cold!) unfortunately our COVID-19 cases have rapidly increased. As had occurred in so many other places around the world, we now are faced with a much more contagious variant and many more deaths. Schools are closed for an "extra winter holiday" and the country is again in lockdown. We have had to postpone our Teach for ESD teacher training workshops that had been scheduled for June - August. The success of the first few months of the year have come to an abrupt halt!

This is the 19th year that NaDEET has sent out newsletters filled with stories of our impact to protect the environment and improve sustainability.

To help us through these difficult times, we ask you to support us in our work and make a donation today! Let's help Namibians reach their vision for a good future!

Thank you from the entire NaDEET Team,

Viktor Keding

Viktor Keding, Director

UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education
for Sustainable Development
Laureate 2018

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Thank you to our donors
and make a DONATION!



Centre on NamibRand



INSPIRING OUR PARTICIPANTS ONCE AGAIN

We are very grateful and excited to have hosted three school groups so far this year. Grade 7 learners from the Waldorf School (Windhoek) came to visit us early in February (after having their trip postponed by almost one year!) A few weeks later, Grade 6 learners from AA Denk Memorial School (Kalkrand) came for their annual visit. The third group was an environmental club from Eldorado Secondary School (Windhoek), which came for the first time.

We introduced some new activities with these school groups, such as Desert Yoga (poses that are inspired by desert animals) and showing the new Namibian feature film about rhino conservation, 'Baxu and the Giants'. We also designed some new activities around the Sustainable Development Goals, in alignment with the new UNESCO decade, #ESDfor2030.

Alisa Volkmann



PROGRAMME IMPACT



On a recent visit to one of our past participants, Veronika showed off her solar cooker that she still uses daily for over 10 years.

BEHIND THE SCENES - IMPROVING SUSTAINABILITY AT NADEET BASE



COMPOST TRAINING

We have all heard that having good compost is key to a successful garden! For us in the desert this is of course even more true as we have little fertile soil. In May, we hosted Wendy and Matt from the NGO, Towards a Better World, who gave us training in compost making. The on-site practical training focused on getting the correct ratio of 'browns' and 'greens' with the right amount of warmth and moisture for fast compost production. Now that we have a dedicated compost house, the NaDEET team has been very successful. We look forward to training our participants in the near future.

Thank you to **Towards a Better World** for sharing your experiences!



LEARNING BY DOING - FROM TOMATOES TO THE SAUCE

We were fortunate to have a Namibian volunteer solely focused on our vegetable garden earlier this year. New vegetables and herbs were planted and the kitchen team has been experimenting with new recipes and techniques. Here, Helena is processing our tomato crop to become a tomato base for many dishes at NaDEET Centre.



Covid-19 Tree Planting Project



In December and January we were delighted to finally receive rain after many months of drought. The shimmer of new grass and rainbows on the horizon were good news for our tree planting project. In addition, we were fortunate to have two enthusiastic university students, Leo and Paulina, join our team for one month. During this time, they managed to plant 300 trees that were home-grown in our indigenous nursery! Since then, NaDEET and NamibRand staff have planted a total of 606 trees; primarily the iconic Camel-thorn tree. The project had many hurdles along the way including insect plagues and many other animals that enjoyed eating the young saplings.



Jonah showing Leo and Paulina the cocoon planting method.



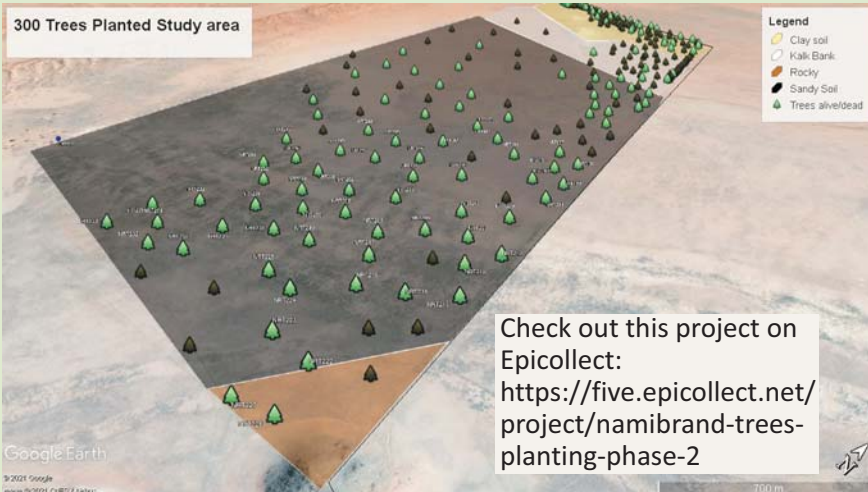
Tree planting during a staff workshop.



MONITORING OUR SUCCESS

Another university intern, Hendrin, completed her research project on the short-term survival rate of the 300 trees planted in December and January. Using the EpiCollect app and a GPS, Hendrin was able to determine that just under 50% survived. Different factors such as soil type, predators, wind and rainfall had an influence. We intend to do further monitoring to be able to learn from this project to guide us in the future.

Read her research project here: <https://nadeet.org/research-and-publications-biodiversity-0>



GOING MORE SUSTAINABLE - OUR NEW E-TRANSPORT

One of the issues we realised with the tree planting was that the transportation of trees with fossil fuel vehicles became an ethical burden. As it happened, we were looking for an electrical vehicle for many years already and had finally found one around this time. Our tree planting project sponsor agreed that we could use some of the funds for this vehicle to better achieve the goal of mitigating climate change.



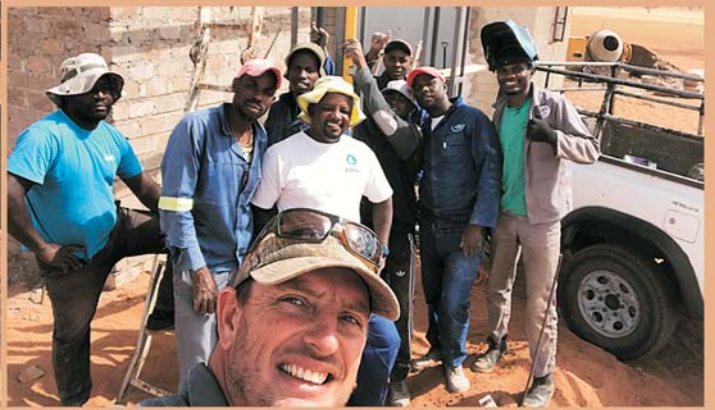
The prototype electric vehicle is made in Namibia and is called the FONK (a word play on the English 'fun' and Afrikaans 'spark'). We can charge it from our solar system and thus have 100% carbon free transport. The FONK will be used for our tree planting and as a support vehicle for NaDEET Centre and general short transport needs. We have it now for 3 months and our old petrol 4x4 has not been used since! *Andreas Keding*

NaDEET Base Modernisation

We were able to continue the **NaDEET** Base Modernisation project this year with a generous donation from the **German Embassy - Local Small Projects Fund**. After having completed the new workshop (2019) and the renovated staff quarters (2020), this year the technical team is tackling the new office building, arts and crafts workshop, garden kitchen and storeroom and Information Centre. The project is now more than half way done. Here are already some photos of the building and improvements around the **NaDEET** Base.



Left: Jonah and Andreas discussing the way forward.
Bottom left: QuickBuild team in front of the new office.
Bottom right: The renovation building team.



ESD in the News

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL ESD TASKFORCE

Representing a broad-base of stakeholders, the National ESD Taskforce was launched on 21 April 2021 at the Habitat Resource and Development Centre in Windhoek. Comprised of members from government, tertiary institutions, non-governmental organisations, the Namibian Environmental Education Network (NEEN) and UNESCO, this Task Force has the mandate to advise and support the implementation of the National EE/ESD Policy.

The Environmental Commissioner, Timoteus Mufeti, gave the keynote address and encouraged Task Force members to guide and inspire the nation to take care of Namibia's environment. NaDEET is proud to be a founding, permanent member of this newly established committee and plans to take a leadership role.



UNESCO WORLD CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD) 2021

After a year postponement the world conference took place virtually from Berlin. As one of the presenters, Viktoria was able to once again share NaDEET's unique approach to ESD. We hope that it has inspired and that truly more people begin to "act now". The ESD Taskforce is well-positioned to support Namibia's actions.

NaDEET Urban Sustainability Centre



Urban Sustainability Centre

INFORMING ERONGO REGION SCHOOLS ABOUT THE CENTRE

To kickstart our programmes after the 2020 COVID year, we embarked on an outreach trip to visit 25 schools. Pandu, the centre's educator, together with intern, Toini, spoke with over 75 principals, teachers and school staff. There was a lot of interest in the Urban Centre programme, but also some reservations due to COVID about

when they would be able to visit. Presentations were given in various settings such as the staff room as well as in the classroom. Toini also conducted a baseline survey with learners to assess environmental awareness.

Far left: Toini in action for her survey. Left: Pandu, centre educator.



Watch our new promo video here: <https://nadeet.org/urban-sustainability-centre-programmes>



It was nice to see schools taking action against COVID-19 using new tippy tap handwashing installations.

READY TO WELCOME DAY VISITORS

While the vision for the Urban Centre has been unfortunately and entirely affected by the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have been able to use the time to make the space ready for day visitors. The layout, displays and curio shop were all updated, and Natanael, our returning intern's happy face is at reception to greet those that

drop in. Despite the lack of tourism and social outings seen around the world, we are grateful that we have had 152 unique visits since 2019, and a total of 606 individuals that have come to explore the Urban Centre in Swakopmund, learn what NaDEET does and discover new tips to living a more sustainable lifestyle.

Damaris Braune

Former intern, Manjana, came by for a visit (and got to see her handiwork, the Namibia relief map, now on display)



Duinesig Environmental Club from Walvis Bay visited on a Friday afternoon



Interning at NaDEET

My experience doing my internship at NaDEET Urban Sustainability Centre was the best because there was great teamwork among the employees, which made work fun. All colleagues are eager to assist the team in succeeding and meeting NaDEET's objectives. They are all pleasant to be around and treat everyone with respect. The educational outreach was fortunate for me because I managed to conduct research on 'A Baseline of Environmental Knowledge and Activities Amongst Learners in the Erongo Region, Namibia'. It was an exciting trip for me because, as a student studying Nature Conservation, I was exposed to more flora, fauna and aquatics along the journey. Through my internship at NaDEET, I can now spread the protection of the health of our planet, by promoting human behaviors that have a positive impact on the natural environment.

Toini Shimwandi

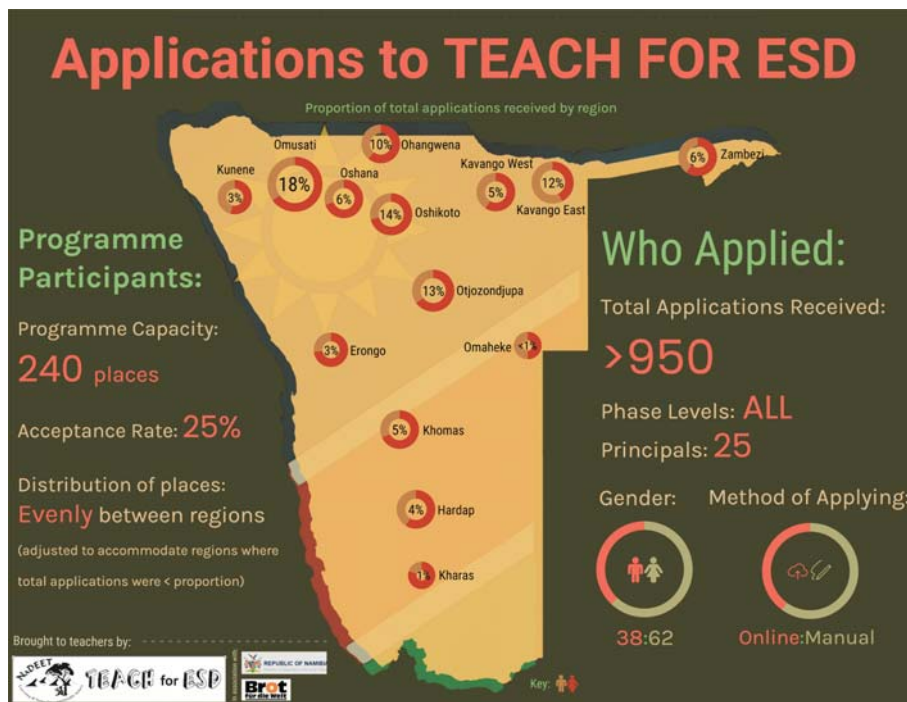
See her research project here: <https://nadeet.org/research-and-publications-about-eesd>



APPLICATIONS FAR EXCEED OUR EXPECTATIONS

After the initial worry that not enough people would apply for our new teacher development programme, we were overwhelmed by the number of applications flooding in from all corners of Namibia. We set up numerous ways to apply to give all interested teachers equal access including an online form, email, fax and WhatsApp submissions. Teachers were eager to find out the results and phoned us daily. But, with close to 1000 applications, it took several weeks to process all applicants and to choose the 240 lucky participants.

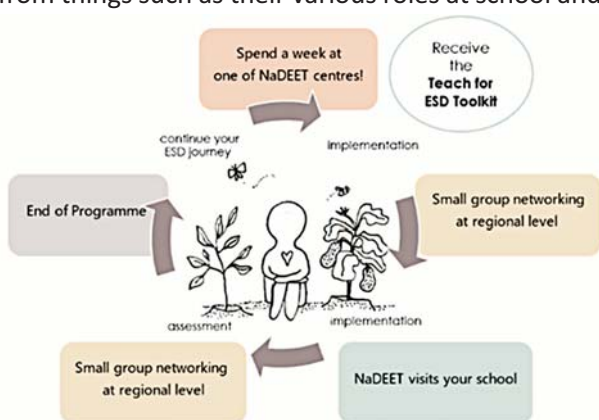
See the infographic to get a background of the applicants to our new programme.



PROGRAMME ORIENTATION

Our 240 teachers are all working in teams representing 120 different schools nationwide. Once selected, we couriered an Orientation Pack to our 120 teacher teams! The Orientation Pack includes an overview to the programme over the next 18 months. It also includes their first task: creating their ESD Profile. The Profile allows us to learn more about the participants – from things such as their various roles at school and the different environmental aspects around

their school to their goals as a leader of ESD and their own daily actions they take towards protecting the environment. It also includes their picture and picture of their school!



CENTRE-BASED TRAININGS POSTPONED

The Teach for ESD training at NaDEET Centre and the Urban Sustainability Centre were scheduled to begin 21 June 2021. We were racing to perfect every detail to be prepared to host our 240 teachers. But... COVID-19 had another plan for us. Namibia was hit with a third wave of COVID-19, with positive cases and deaths reaching higher numbers than last year. While it broke our hearts, we knew it was in the best interest of all to postpone our in-person training workshops – hopefully only by two months.

COVID-19 ADAPTATIONS... ONCE AGAIN



But, don't worry! As our team refuses to lose any momentum, we quickly are adapting (as is the nature of ESD!) Our teachers will now receive the first two sections of the Teach for ESD Toolkit. With this, the teachers can begin their ESD journey with background on environment and ESD. For us, it is another large undertaking to prepare and courier 240 boxes! For some of us, the last several months have been nothing short of living, breathing and dreaming Teach for ESD! The project is growing into a masterpiece!

Damaris Braune & Katherine Graham



Thank you to following organisations* for giving hardcopy resources for the Teach for ESD Toolkit:
 EduVentures ♦ Hanns Seidel Foundation ♦ Legal Assistance Centre ♦ Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
 Namibia Chamber of the Environment ♦ PAKO Magazine ♦ Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
 * More to come in next newsletter

A BIG thank-you to our on-going donors & supporters

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU

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UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education
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We hope our tourism and volunteer partners will soon be able to support us again:



A special thank you to



... and all of its donors!

Ein besonderer Dank geht an

... und allen deren Spendern!

To our founding supporters:

Berker Family

Elinor Dürr

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We need YOUR HELP!



One child at NaDEET Urban Sustainability Centre:

€ 25
US\$ 30
N\$ 340



One child at NaDEET Centre for one week:

€ 70
US\$ 80
N\$ 980



Co-sponsorship for a two-year teacher training programme:

€ 95
US\$ 115
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TEACH for ESD



A school class at NaDEET Centre for one week:

€ 2,800
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Choose your own amount:
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* Exchange rate may fluctuate

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NaDEET is a registered non-profit trust in Namibia.

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