



The Golden Mole

NaDEET's Newsletter

Vol. 12. No. 1 ~ July 2014

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Our new outreach programme is underway



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Learning about the realities of the local landfill site



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NaDEET's Director awarded Conservationist of the Year



LED lights up NaDEET



Our brightened up classroom

It is again time for some snippets of the world of the technical department at NaDEET. One of the projects that we can highlight from the recent past is the completion of our NaDEET Centre lighting project. Our educators and participants have been in dire need of better lighting for some time, and we have found a very effective solution. Thank you to all the clever minds that contributed to this. The pinewood walls of the NaDEET Centre have aged to beautiful, but darker, colours over the years of oiling with linseed oil. Consequently, the lighting within the centre has become worse than it already was. Initially, installation costs and electricity deficiencies prevented us from upgrading. Now, after some demand for better lighting, we wanted to improve the situation. The obvious solution was LED technology, but initial costs are quite expensive. Given that we had also received a generous donation of Compact Fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's), we included these in the solution. To implement our project, we installed six new CFL bulbs in the classroom where spot lighting was appropriate. These were installed above the reading corner and serving counter respectively.

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NaDEET Centre continues to deliver

Following trends from the past years, NaDEET Centre was once again fully booked for its 2014 season within a few weeks. By the end of July 2014, eighteen programmes have been successfully completed. Our programmes are still very much enjoyed and we have recently added some new activities and adapted others to increase participation and learning:

- Our secondary school family-style meal preparations and servings are now being done with all groups
- Our climate change awareness is improved through "Hello Earth"
- Dune walk "takeaway" breakfasts (without all the unnecessary styrofoam packaging, of course)

Recent highlights from the Centre:

Surprise visit from *Malacothrix typica*



As a part of the biodiversity segment of the NaDEET Centre programme, participants learn how to trap and release nocturnal insects and animals. In May one fortunate learner from the Swakopmund Environmental Club trapped a rare small mammal called a gerbil mouse (*Malacothrix typica*) or large-eared mouse in her pitfall trap. This gerbil mouse is uncommon and was trapped for the first time at NaDEET.

Tradition at its best

N. Mutschuana Primary School, one of our participating outreach schools, came for a programme in May. The learners performed 'Nama stap', their traditional dance, to a group of NamibRand visitors. Understanding our traditions and culture is key to integrating more sustainability practices into our norms and way of life in an appropriate way.



NaDEET Centre

Douglas McCarty, an American astronomer, spent a week at the Centre. He contributed to our "Night Sky" activity with the St. Joseph Primary School learners and gave our staff valuable training on astronomy. "I like where I am now and do what I enjoy most. I am the happiest guy on earth today. NaDEET is a fantastic place to stay and enjoy nature."

Cooking for Free

After the "Power of the Sun" experiments, each participant prepares food with their sustainable living teams as a "family". Solar cooking at NaDEET is always a hit; however, having different groups from different backgrounds and lifestyles comes with challenges. Learners from the city often struggle



to prepare their own food since they are used to food being served to them. On the other hand, learners from villages or farms are hands-on and skilled in creating their own dishes and handling kitchen equipment. The children from rural areas approach clean-up sensibly, whereas the children from urban areas tend to complain about it.

Martha Kambidhi



European Union (EU) funded three year action

Building Sustainable Education and Practices in Communities through an Integrated School-centred Approach

NaDEET's "RUG for Sustainability" is underway

NaDEET's European Union funded integrated school-centred community action is underway in the communities of **Rietoog**, **Uibes** and **Gochas** with the catchy title of "Rug for Sustainability". The RUG has a double-meaning of illustrating the role of each community in weaving a strong support system for sustainability. This action builds upon NaDEET previous community based outreach activities and our Centre philosophy. It will run for three years, with the aim of improving the environments and lives of rural Namibians by creating a sustainable community through environmentally sound actions. The project puts the school at its core, thereby ensuring that all stakeholders involved in the school get a chance to participate, as well as benefit.



Meet our school-centred communities

To ensure better communication and a successful project, each community has chosen a group of people to lead them and help them to better steer the activities into the right direction. Each community has a community liaison officer (CLO) and a community representative committee (CRC). These people work closely with NaDEET.

Edward Frederick Primary School, Uibes

The Community Representative Committee

- NG Davids, Male, School Principal
 - PI Fleermuys, Male, Teacher
 - Abraham Gariseb, Male, Community
 - Martha Fleermuys, Female, Community
 - Sophia Kinda, Female, Youth
 - M Isaaks, Female, Youth
 - Katrina Swartbooi, Female, Learner
 - Frans Witbooi, Male, Learner
- 50 % female representation**

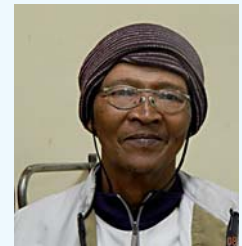


The CLO, Frederick Jonker, 30

N. Mutschuana Primary School, Gochas

The Community Representative Committee

- Lynette de Klerk, Female, teacher
 - Laurencia Jonkers, Female, School board member
 - Cynthia Miesoor, Female, Youth
 - Theresia Cloete, Female, Youth
 - Anna Nero, Female, Community
 - Sr Lisma Swartz, Female, Community
 - Juff G Ortman, Female, Community
- 100% female representation**



The CLO, Berend Velskoen, 53

WJD Cloete Junior Secondary School, Rietoog

The Community Representative Committee

- Ivan R Cloete, Male School Principal
 - CD Moller, Male, Teacher
 - Jan P Mouton, Male, Community
 - Naomi Vries, Female, Community
 - Shitaleni Bonifatius, Male, Learner
 - Lily-Ann Moller, Female, Learner
- 33% female representation**



The CLO, Izaan Goliath, 20

A look ahead:

- NaDEET Centre programmes for youth from each of the communities – August
- NaDEET Centre programmes for community members - November
- Start of the Eco-Rug Assessment and Sustainability Reward System for youth to earn a solar powered light and cellphone charger



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European Union (EU) funded three year action

Building Sustainable Education and Practices in Communities through an Integrated School-centred Approach

Integrated School-centred Outreach Activities

Environmental Mapping: This is my environment

With high expectations and excitement, NaDEET staff embarked on their first in-community activity implementation, titled “environmental mapping”. The first year of the project is devoted to creating awareness and knowledge. This trip was also aimed for NaDEET staff to familiarise themselves with communities, their environment, and to set up the foundation of the action.

The environmental mapping was done with all age groups from 7 years to adults by focussing on depicting the components of their immediate environment. This was done through illustrations, discussions and a diorama made with natural and recycled materials.



RUG understanding waste issues

Waste is a very big issue in Rietoog and Gochas. Although they started to take action against this issue, more knowledge and awareness is needed. The waste issue was explored in the communities using short films and hands-on practical activities covering the 5Rs of waste management (reduce, reuse, recycle, repair and rot (composting)). Through this we also addressed the myth that littering creates employment. Recycling projects were given to all, including turning newspapers into bags, recycling awareness posters out of recycled materials and a youth talent show displaying recycled costumes to be presented at NaDEET Centre in August.

Communities Taking Action

Community clean town and solar cook, Rietoog



This year’s World Environmental Day local theme was ‘Let’s keep Namibia clean – every day, everywhere, everyone.’ To fulfil this, school learners from WJD Cloete JSS and community members alike participated by hosting a community clean-up campaign and solar cooking competition. They applied the divide and conquer concept by spreading people throughout the community to ensure that every part has been cleaned.

The solar cooking competition was done to ensure that people had refreshments at the end of the cleaning, and complemented the day’s theme by preparing their food using clean energy. The community contributed funds to sponsor the food and prizes for the winning classes. The food was judged by taste and how well the food was cooked. All grades competed, from pre-primary to Grade 10.

In the end **1st place:** Grade 6 N\$ 150.00 **2nd place:** Grade 7 N\$ 75.00 **3rd place:** Grade 2 N\$ 50.00

The learners borrowed solar cookers from community members who had attended a NaDEET Centre community programme in 2013.

“Cool Kids for a Clean Kalahari”, Gochas

Earlier this year a member of the Gochas community, Madaleen Pansegrouw, initiated a waste management project in the community that encourages school learners to pick up litter in exchange for points. These points are exchanged for food, clothes, school stationary and toys. The project is called ‘Cool Kids for a Clean Kalahari’. Primary school learners from N. Mutschuana and Pally Carsten schools participate in this project. They pick up litter in the community throughout the month, and once a month it is weighed to calculate the points.

To date they have collected over 2000kg of litter.

N. Mutschuana learners ‘practice what they learned’, Gochas

One of the main activities of this action is a NaDEET Centre visit to experience first-hand sustainable living. It is always a pleasant experience for all our visitors and the primary classes from the three schools were no exception. After learning about our four main programme topics (energy, water, waste and biodiversity), learners went back home and practiced what they learned.



and at N. Mutschuana PS Grade 6 learners reconstructed solar ovens as part of their science class. When asked what motivated the teacher to encourage learners to do that Mr Cloete answered

‘the dire need of alternative energy, since conventional energy is non-renewable, what if we do not have it any more and also thinking about the environmental damage it [non-renewable energy] causes’.



“Freundschaft mit NaDEET” and Maltahöhe Community Partnership Continues



In May, thirty community members from Maltahöhe participated in a week-long Centre programme; once again this was sponsored by our German support group “Freundschaft mit NaDEET”. The group was led by Ms. Veronika Katjikuru, our strong community supporter and organiser.

Lessons in solar cooking, water monitoring and waste management were taught, with special emphasis on practical application in a typical household of a rural community.

Participants each built their own fuel efficient stove and bottle skylight from reused and recycled material and also learned how to build a bucket shower for their own home.



Preparing meals in solar ovens and on parabolic solar cookers provided the group not only with delicious meals throughout their stay but also served as hands-on practical lessons on how to solar cook. As in previous years, due to the generous support from donors to “Freundschaft mit NaDEET”, these men and women were able to earn their own parabolic solar cooker. It is important to us that our participants leave us with the skills, attitude and the equipment needed to live in a more environmentally-sustainable manner. At the end of the programme, all participants’ sustainable living knowledge was thoroughly tested in a practical way in the language with which they felt most comfortable.



Grateful for the opportunity and enthusiastic about the experience, the community members departed, already looking forward to welcoming the “Freundschaft mit NaDEET” travel group from Germany to Maltahöhe the following week to share what they had learned and their culture.



Pastor Reinhard Keding, the organisation’s founder and chairperson, organised and led an educational tour of Namibia for Germans. The tour was centred around a week at NaDEET Centre to experience first-hand this working model of sustainability on the NamibRand Nature Reserve. The highlight of the week was to meet with the Maltahöhe residents in their community.

On the day of the trip, half-way to the destination, it became clear that a large truck was blocking the road to Maltahöhe after having turned over at the bottom of a steep pass. The visit had to be cancelled on very short notice, much to the disappointment on both sides. To make the best of the situation, the bus took a detour on its way back to NaDEET, to give the group the opportunity to climb some

famous high dunes at Sossusvlei. During the remainder of their visit, we enjoyed introducing the “Freundschaft mit NaDEET”-group to our work at the Centre, sharing ideas and spending time in nature, showing off the beauty and diversity of the Namib Desert.

Manuela Schmid

“Freundschaft mit NaDEET” is a registered not-for-profit organisation in Germany with the aim of supporting environmental education at NaDEET for Namibians. Donations to “Freundschaft mit NaDEET” for German taxpayers is tax-deductible.



International Donor News

NaDEET relies on the generous support of our donors, including many private individuals who see the value of the impact of our programmes. We are working on making donating to NaDEET easier and hope to introduce some new methods soon, including via our website. Recently we have been approved as a charity by the CAF American Donor Fund (CADF). If you are a UK, US and/or Dutch tax payer, please contact us for donating via this support mechanism for a tax deduction.

We welcome our new trustees

In June we welcomed two new trustees to our board. Dr. Richard Baines is a retired medical doctor who has served on several boards in the past and has been a long-time supporter of NaDEET. Michael Louw is an avid outdoorsman and works in the health and safety field. We look forward to their support in achieving our environmental education goals. We are extremely grateful for the many years of service that both Uda Nakamhela and Elinor Dürr gave to NaDEET. Elinor as founding trustee aims to remain involved in NaDEET.

LED lights up NaDEET - continued

Lamp fittings were made from recycled old tins. The kitchen



also received one extra light for above the kitchen sink. Furthermore, we standardised bulbs by replacing bulbs with different wattages and light outputs. The main task though, was to lighten up the main classroom appropriately.

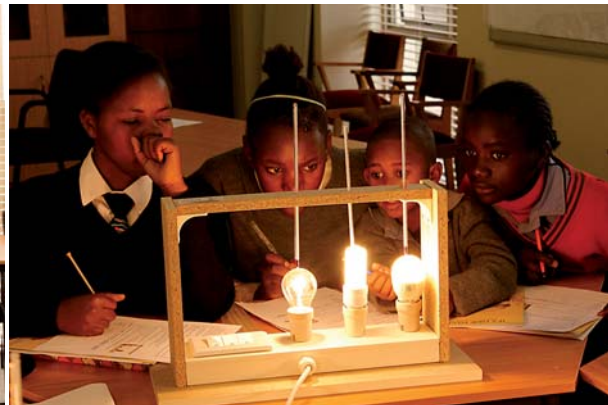
We decided to install 9m LED strips below the existing roof beams. Although the LED strips we used are designed for mood lighting, the way they were installed provided great results with very little shadow. This provides an ideal solution for the classroom. We have increased visibility and lighting availability to our participants by a huge margin. With 27W per beam, electricity consumption is kept at a minimum. The same effect would have only been achieved by at least 6 - 8 CFLs of 11W each per beam. Although the purchasing cost of the LED strips was quite significant, it was worth the while. Firstly, we could install a very narrow strip underneath a beam that didn't create any space problems. Secondly, the energy savings are significant and important, especially in the context of our independent (island) solar system that heavily depends on battery capacity and the amount of energy our inverter can produce at a given time. Last but not least, keeping up with new technology and showcasing it has educational value and that is what NaDEET

Centre is all about.

Andreas Keding



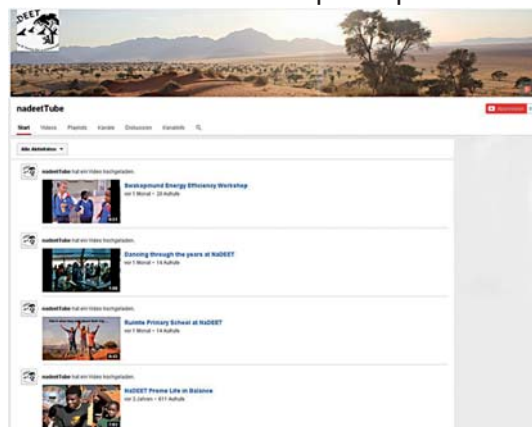
Energy Efficiency Workshop in Swakopmund



NaDEET recently teamed up with the Swakopmund Municipality to provide an energy efficiency workshop for representatives (aged 12-18) from 9 different Swakopmund area schools. These schoolchildren were picked based on their interest in the natural sciences and environmental issues, and represented the best and the brightest of their schools. The workshop was a part of the Municipality's on-going "Education for Sustainable Development" campaign, made possible through its partnership with the city of Malmö, Sweden. Ms. Annemarie Mater of Swakopmund Primary School heads the partnership, and has been involved in Swakopmund environmental activities for several years now. She had travelled to the NaDEET Centre and invited NaDEET staff to host the workshop.

The 90 minute lesson started off with an introduction to energy and the "ability to do work." Participants were prompted to think about the different types of energy sources available to them, and how they relate to "Sustainable Energy 4 ALL," the UN campaign to improve access, and support renewable and efficient technologies in developing countries. During the "Exploring Light Bulbs" experiment, a favourite, participants compared the heat output of an incandescent, LED, and compact fluorescent bulb to measure the efficiency of each bulb respectively. Upon completion of the workshop, each school took home one of the NaDEET-made "Exploring Light Bulbs" experiments. It is our hope that the schools will use the experiments and teach those who were unable to participate in the workshop about energy efficiency. In typical NaDEET fashion, we are not just teaching about energy efficiency, we have also installed new energy-efficient lighting at the NaDEET Centre. For more information, see the "LED lights up NaDEET" article.

To see a video of the participants' feedback, check out our revamped YouTube page-nadeettube.



We too must learn - educational trip to local landfill

As NaDEET staff we must also constantly educate ourselves to keep abreast with recent developments and trends in the environmental field. We therefore recently took a tour of the Swakopmund Municipal Landfill to assess the situation regarding waste management. The municipality is working hard to improve the recycling and sorting of recyclables. Our RUG for Sustainability team discovered the value of sharing the lessons from larger towns with the remote villages of the south.



Viktorija Keding:

Namibia's new Conservation Ambassador

We are honoured that our Director, Viktorija Keding, won the 2014 Windhoek Lager Conservation Ambassador Award. The award, which honours people who make a difference in their community, consists of a cash prize for both Viktorija and a charity of her choice (oh, it will be hard to figure out what she will choose!). Thank you to all who supported and casted votes for Viktorija and congratulations to the Ambassadors in the six other categories.



Visit to Namutoni EE Centre

The Kedings visited former NaDEET educator, Vilho Absalom, at his new workplace in Etosha. Andreas and Vilho exchanged ideas regarding water, waste and energy management of the Centre.



NEEN Conference and Representative

“Our Coast: Legacies and Future” was this year’s theme for the Namibian Environmental Education Network (NEEN) Annual Conference held in the heart of Namibia’s coastal holiday town, Swakopmund. Over 200 delegates from different institutions, including new and long-standing members took part.



As always, NaDEET was well represented with a presentation from Vicky Endjala entitled “It’s Time to Explore Sustainability.” NaDEET also took the opportunity to share some of its environmental literacy publications. Approximately 400 copies of *It’s Time To Work, It’s Time To Grow* and the *Bush Telegraph* magazine were distributed to the general public and various government ministries.

During exhibitions and networking, people complimented our work. This positive feedback encourages and motivates us to do even better.

During the conference, regional representatives were elected, and this time Liz Lukas, our Outreach-Environmental Educator, was chosen to represent the Hardap Region. NEEN has in the past 12-18 months revitalized itself and a new generation of enthusiastic environmental educators are pushing for more networking to share ideas and learn from each other. There is now one representative per region; the group meets 3-4 times per year. The next big event is the NEEN-hosted Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) conference in September in Windhoek. NaDEET will again take part through a presentation, information and active participation. *Elizabeth Lukas*



“Be a true member in your community”

In the past year there has been an alarming increase in gender-based violence in Namibian society. Although this topic may at first seem to fall outside of NaDEET’s objectives, it is a huge problem that calls for immediate action by all members of society. Each person has a role to play in a community. The latest issue of the *Bush Telegraph* looks at aspects and expectations of being a true member of a community and establishing a “sense of community”. It takes a unique approach by exploring ecosystem concepts to illustrate how each component depends on each other and by then applying this to the human community. For example, ecosystem succession is illustrated and can be applied to how human communities develop. The importance of being a true community, and subsequently an ecosystem member, lies in the fact that ecosystems can only take care of the human community if humans take care of the environment and **themselves**.

The community concept strives to address the importance of working together and caring for others to address the social and psychological problems that human communities

are facing in terms of gender-based violence and child abuse. It challenges readers to think differently about the world around them through introducing typical stereotypes as illustrated with the male character.

The *Bush Telegraph*, also available as a download from www.nadeet.org, challenges the reader with the final question as to “what are you going to do from today to protect your community and be a true member?”

Nabot Mbeeli



NaDEET thanks our on-going donors and supporters

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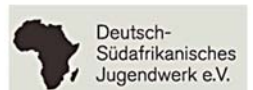


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Ein besonderer Dank geht an

... und allen deren Spendern!

To our founding supporters:

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WE NEED YOUR HELP



Education is the key to sustainable development.

Please support our grassroots efforts today!

One child for one week: N\$800= US\$80 = €60

A school class for one week: N\$32,000 = US\$3,200 = €2,400

Choose your own amount: Every contribution makes a difference.

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Donations may also be made by cheque. Due to, at times, slow postal service, please email or fax a short message that we know there is a donation on the way.



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