

THE GOLDEN MOLE

NaDEET's Endemic Newsletter



November 2005

Vol. 3, No 3

HAPPY 2nd BIRTHDAY NaDEET!

The grade seven girls from Danie Joubert Primary School came to help us celebrate our second birthday. They wrote the following letter after returning to school.

Dear NaDEET,
Our time at NaDEET was.....SUPER!!!!!!
We will try to get NaDEET's sand out of our shoes and hair, but we know that would be impossible, so we are going to take it with us for the rest of our lives. This sand is all the lessons we learned from you.
At NaDEET you gave us food, shelter and taught us how to adapt and this will help us a long way into the future. We even learned a lesson from each member in our group.

Gabriella taught us that it doesn't matter how fast you get to the top of the dune, just get there. Vanessa taught us that friendliness would take you a long way. So we learned valuable lessons not only from the camp but also from each other.

Back home we are going to throw a water, electricity and plastic party. We will be strong like the camel thorn tree, full of energy like the toktokkie and defend our rights like the chameleon. We wish we could take Viktoria, David, and Bornface with us, but we know that you guys belong in the desert to educate and guide other kids in need of education.

We thank you for everything that you taught us, we will miss you a lot and look forward to seeing you next year. Until then take care!

Grade 7 girls from Danie Joubert Primary School



EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The United Nations has appointed UNESCO to be the lead agency for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). In Southern Africa, the Southern African Development Community/ Regional Environmental Education Programme (SADC/ REEP) was asked to gather information and experiences from stakeholders throughout the region to help develop guidelines for participation in the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UN DESD).

NaDEET was approached to host this workshop on behalf of SADC/ REEP in Namibia. As we are very interested in getting involved in activities and projects surrounding the UN DESD, we organised and hosted the workshop in Windhoek at the Habitat Research and Development Centre from 13-14 October.

A total of 18 people participated in the 1 ½ day workshop including participants from various local and national government bodies, non-governmental organisations, tertiary institutions and schools. On the first day of the workshop participants were asked to give examples of current educational practice for sustainable development in their own contexts. This information was then compiled into a report and given to SADC/ REEP to help develop the international guidelines.

The second day of the workshop was used to develop the content for an issue of NaDEET's youth magazine, the *Bush Telegraph*, on the UN DESD. The aim of the issue is to present this complex international issue for young readers to encourage them to become action-orientated and involved. It was the first time that the *Bush Telegraph* had been developed in a participatory workshop. It was a great experience and NaDEET hopes to receive funding (and time!) to repeat such a workshop with future issues.

Thank you to SADC/ REEP, Sida and Danida for funding the workshop.

Viktoria Keding

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Trust Certificate #: T168/ 2003

Trustees: C. Berker, E. Dürr, D. Klein
Director: V. Keding



CAPACITY BUILDING: NEEC 2005

Capacity building in the field of environmental education in Namibia remains one of NaDEET's top priorities. In 2005 we have accomplished this by working together with the Polytechnic of Namibia. We hosted two In-Service Training students from the Nature Conservation diploma course and I was one of two course conveners for the Namibian Environmental Education Certificate (NEEC) course.

The NEEC course is a semi-distant, full year, professional development course. This year's course had 18 participants from a variety of backgrounds including teachers, agriculture extension officers, conservancy managers and community activists. The course is divided into three modules: a) the environmental crisis, b) EE approaches: theories and practice, and c) developing programmes, curricula and resources.

Participants are engaged in their course materials and through four 4-day workshops. As their main project and final assignment, they are required to develop, implement and evaluate an environmental education programme, curricula or resource that is appropriate in their work context. Some of the projects implemented were a waste management workshop, an HIV/AIDS awareness workshop and an environmental game park tour.

I believe that this course has been very beneficial to the participants. It has not only exposed them to different environmental education methods, but it has also challenged them to look at the root causes of issues. It is very common that we try to solve environmental problems without addressing the underlying social, economic and political issues. I am confident that the NEEC students have gained these skills to make a positive difference.

Viktoría Keding

A LETTER FROM AN NEEC STUDENT

Dear Viktoría Keding,

We have come almost to the end of 2005 NEEC programme with only one item remaining (graduation). I'm glad that I was given the opportunity to be a part of NEEC course 2005...

Courses such as NEEC is what Namibia need in order to achieve its National Development Objective of environmental sustainability. It is disappointing to note that many people living in rural areas lack adequate environmental information. Therefore I feel privileged and honoured that as a rural development agent I have been empowered through the course to carry-out environmental education activities either incorporating it in to my work activities, through Bethanie Environmental Committee or through EE programme for out-of-school youth of Bethanie, which I have developed.

Since I enrolled for NEEC course I have done quite a number of things locally, which I would say as a product of NEEC course. Firstly, I spearheaded the establishment of Bethanie Environmental Committee of, which I'm its chairperson. Aims of the committee are:

- To assist Bethanie Village Council in safe guarding Bethanie Environment.
- To keep the town and its surrounding environment clean.
- To create conducive environment for businesses, tourists and to enable a safer environment for both living and non-living systems of Bethanie.
- To promote environmental literacy among learners, out-of-school youth, business people and the entire Bethanie community.

Members to the committee are as follows: Three principals from local schools, Head of Health Center, One Local Authority Councilor, One Business person, One Leader of Local Youth Forum and an Agricultural Extension Technician (that's me). Secondly, I spearheaded the drafting of Bethanie Environmental Committee's terms of reference, which was approved by Bethanie Village Council. Thirdly, I have developed an EE programme for out-of-school youth of Bethanie... Fourth, As the chairperson of Bethanie Environmental Committee together with other committee members we drew up the committees plan of action for 2005 of, which two of the planned activities namely: Clean-up campaign and tree planting of which the later was implemented on Arbor day October 14, 2005.

There are so many good things about NEEC course that I can talk about the list is endless... I would like to thank you for your guidance, which have led to my positive progress in NEEC course. It is due to your continued positive comments and advice on my work, which resulted in shaping me to be a genuine environmental educator...

Kind regards, Thimoteus Shinguwe KATIVA



NEEC course field trip at the Habitat Development and Research Center in Windhoek. Kativa is sitting on the right.

A TERTIARY STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE AT NaDEET

After four and a half months at NaDEET, I have officially come to the end of my in-service training. I have learned a lot of things that will be invaluable to my future actions, in particular the use of alternative energy sources to ease the strain on our non-renewable resources.

While at NaDEET I worked on a project on the feasibility of reusing wastewater—greywater in contemporary terms—to water a vegetable garden. Greywater can be defined as any household wastewater produced, excluding sewage. The pilot study included having water samples tested for conductivity (to measure dissolved salts) and making a garden in which wastewater was used to irrigate plants. I used tomatoes for my pilot study because part of the method involves testing the fruit and evaluating this on a given scale. I also made an effort to try and use sand (dune and gravel sand) as a natural method to filter the water.

Although the study is not complete because there are not tomato fruits yet, I have been able to make some deductions from the current results. At the moment it seems that greywater does not have adverse effects on the growth of tomatoes. Although plants watered with clean water seem healthier compared with plants watered with wastewater, the difference is not very significant. There are benefits that can be achieved from using wastewater, such as reducing demand for fresh water, saving water and utilizing nutrients in the water to fertilize soil. When the study is completed NaDEET aims to use the garden as a model to teach visiting learners about the potential of producing their own food by using wastewater. There are still pending questions like the effects of greywater on fruit production and if the food grown with this water will cause sickness to people. So far I am optimistic I will achieve the desired results and make recommendations about the way forward.

Bornface Simangolwa

CHANGES AT THE GOLDEN MOLE

NaDEET will now be producing two *Golden Mole* issues: one in July/August, and one in November/December. The third issue will be the *Annual Mole*, and will be an annual report produced in March. The *Annual Mole* will list all donors from the previous financial year, and the *Golden Mole* issues will list donors since the previous issue. We are hoping to cut down on some paperwork, while increasing the information provided to our supporters.

Can You Help in Kind?

Cleaned up your storeroom lately? Your "old junk" may be gold to us. NaDEET is looking for the following items:

- Cheese graters
- Buckets
- Any workshop tools (hammer, screw-drivers, saw)



If you would like to donate any of these items or anything else you do not need, please e-mail (nadeet@iway.na) or phone us (063-693012) so we can arrange a pick up. Your help is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU!

Big thank you to Hilda de Villiers. After living on Namib-Rand since February 2005, she is returning to South Africa. Hilda's time and dedication assisting with the NaDEET book keeping is priceless. Thank you!

Also thank you to David Roberts and Angela von Wietersheim for your help.

SUCCULENT KAROO EE PROJECT

We are waiting for closure on the project from the funders. Please check the next issue for an update.

E-mail Version of *Golden Mole*

If you have received a paper version of this newsletter and would like it e-mailed instead, please send us an e-mail with your e-mail address. Thank you! nadeet@iway.na



NEW RECEPTION AREA!

We are pleased that we now have a reception area where visitors can read about NaDEET, sit and relax, and visit our curio shop. While traveling through southern Africa, Jon Leavitt spent three weeks painting this wall (above) for NaDEET. Jon was born in Helena, Montana, USA, and studied fine art at the University of Montana in Missoula. He left us with a beautiful and educational addition to our reception area. Thank you Jon!



Jon Leavitt

THE MOLE FILE

Fact No. 21: "Size does matter"

The Golden Mole's small size, and therefore higher metabolism, allows it to change its body temperature much faster than larger animals. This way the Golden Mole can quickly adjust as the desert changes temperature between day and night.



Share Net

NaDEET thanks our 1 September through 15 November donors:

Anonymous
 Michel Eeckhout
 Hedy Erny
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 Annette and Uwe Fischer
 Freunde Deutscher Sprache
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 Elisabeth and Ruedi Pletscher

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 Heidy Schaffner
 Aurelle and Johann Torean
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 deSTEEN
 Netherlands Delegation to UNESCO
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 Free School of the Hague
 Greenwich World Hunger

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Wulf and Renate Paulick
 Caia and Jan-Peter Petersen
 Bernard Pinon
 SADC/REEP
 Tok-Tokkie Trails
 Wilde Ganzen
 Bernard and Mayda de Winter

We are starting a new method of listing donors. Please see page three for a complete explanation of the new Golden Mole. Thank you to all our donors for your continued support!



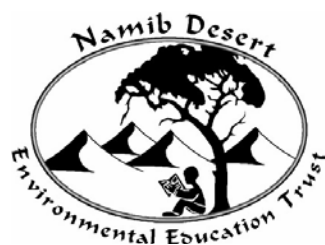
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In order to conserve paper, time and money, we are no longer using envelopes for our newsletters.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT NADEET

with the following donation: _____ (amount)

Please fill your contact details to receive the newsletter and for our records:

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NB: Please post this form with your donation or copy of your bank deposit to:
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Sponsors will receive two newsletters a year, and our *Annual Mole*.

Thank you very much! Your help is greatly appreciated!