

COMMUNITY CAMPSITE MANAGERS INVESTIGATE SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Nine participants for the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Tourism Project funded by the European Union visited NaDEET Centre for two days in May. The project, as its name indicates, aims to reduce energy consumption and introduce alternative energy sources used in community-based tourism projects. In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in community based tourism operations due to the work done by government and non-governmental organisations in providing training and financial support to previously disadvantaged peoples. Many community based tourism operations are camp sites located in remote areas with few services. Due to a variety of barriers many of the operations are not based on sustainable living practices.

The aim of the environmental education workshop at NaDEET Centre was to give community campsite managers first-hand experience in living and learning at a sustainable living centre. The programme primarily focused on solar energy for electricity, cooking and hot water. It also illustrated fuel-efficient stoves, recycled paper fire bricks as an alternative fuel source and a way to reuse

(Continued on page 2)

The Golden Mole is produced by

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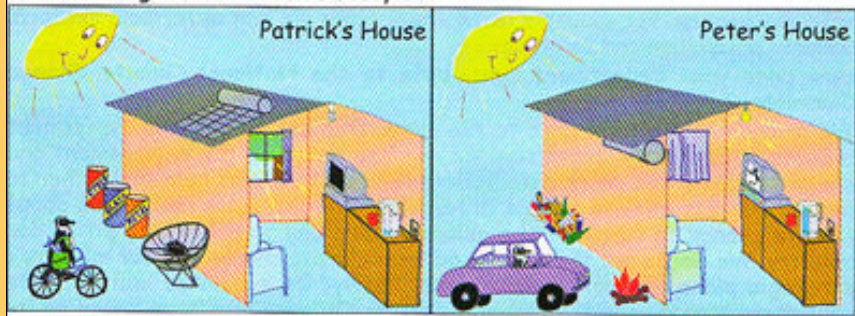
Trustees: C. Berker, E. Dürr, D. Klein
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CLIMATE CHANGE: AND NOW?

The most recent issue of NaDEET's *Bush Telegraph* youth magazine covered the hot topic of Climate Change. The issue was funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Namibian Climate Change Project of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET). To support the theme for this year's World Environment Week, the Climate Change Project held a youth symposium in Windhoek. This issue of the *Bush Telegraph* was commissioned as an educational resource material for participating youth. In addition, it was circulated as always to its regular readers. Except for a few copies, all of the eleven thousand printed were quickly distributed.

It has taken long for most people to recognise the real threat of climate change. Namibia is one of the countries may suffer harsh consequences, although it has contributed little to the problem. In "Climate Change: and now?", an African Penguin cartoon introduces readers to Climate Change and its potential impact on Namibia. Readers are asked to examine their own lifestyle by comparing low-carbon to high-carbon lifestyles.

Look at the two pictures below and compare how Patrick and Peter live differently. See if you can find at least eight differences and list them below. Who do you think is living a 'Low-Carbon Lifestyle'?



The positive feedback we have received for this educational resource material has been overwhelming, as five thousand more copies are to be printed. In addition, we have been asked to design a complementary poster. As illustrated in Ms. Mwandangi's letter below, this has been a fantastic opportunity for NaDEET to collaborate with another project to fulfil common objectives.

Dear NaDEET team,

I would like to give a word of appreciation to the team at NaDEET for doing a good work ... This booklet was really a good investment and proved to be an effective mind teaser if you would like. I, being responsible for the environment programme which supported and motivated for this work, am very proud that we have a Namibian-based NGO that is reaching out and dealing with environmental issues as it relates to youth and schools. Please keep up the good work and let's see how we can collaborate in the future. I was particularly impressed with the Low-Carbon Lifestyle of Patrick in comparison to Peter's (on page 8); while these things are easy to explain, if one is aware; putting it in the context of a comparative quiz brought the message clearly home.

Thanks once again and hope that we will continue to enjoy your exciting contributions to environmental issues.

Martha Mwandangi,

on behalf of the entire UNDP Namibia Energy & Environment Unit Team

Download this issue from: www.nadeet.org/educationalMaterial.html

BECOMING ENVIRONMENTALLY AWARE AND ACTIVE @ NaDEET CENTRE

NaDEET Centre continues to educate on sustainable living practices. From March to July this year we hosted a total of twelve different groups. Amongst the visiting groups were two adult groups while the rest were school groups from primarily the southern parts of Namibia. We are also pleased to announce that we welcomed three schools for the first time while the others have been visiting NaDEET Centre annually. NaDEET once again welcomed the Dr Frans Indongo Primary School who visited in May. As in the past years, the learners benefited immensely from the sustainable living activities they undertook. The children were interested in the numerous ways to save water and promised to practice these in their community on the outskirts of Windhoek.

WJD Cloete Junior Secondary School from the nearby village of Rietoog came during the first week of June. The grade 10 group members were mostly part of the Learners' Representative Council (LRC). As selected leaders for their school, they further improved their leadership skills via their interaction with NaDEET staff and the sustainable living programme. The learners identified waste management as the main project to address in their community upon their return in order to improve the local environmental conditions. The school shares a dumping site with the surrounding community which is poorly managed. Although there is a fence around the area, rubbish has been dumped in front of the gate, instead of inside the rubbish area. This has caused everyone to follow suit and the rubbish is exposed to animals and wind. The group gained knowledge from our integrated waste management activities and identified relevant solutions that are worth undertaking in Rietoog. These include creating awareness, recycling and erecting a notice board next to the community dump site.

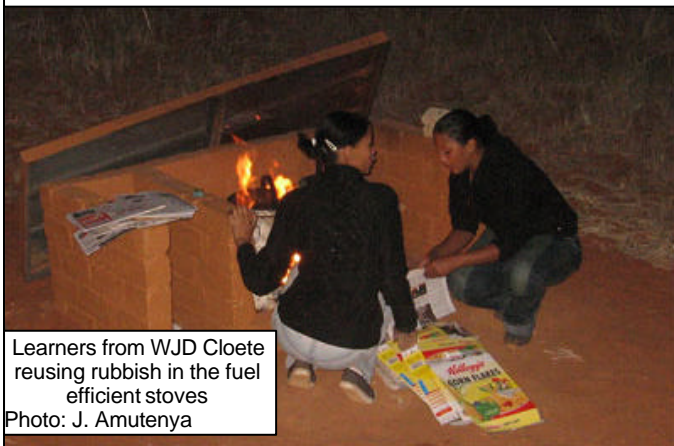
Two schools from the Hardap Region, El Natan Private School from Stampriet and P.J Tsaitsaib Junior Secondary School from Hoachanas, visited NaDEET Centre for the first time this year. Learners from El Natan learned a lot from the nature walk where they got first hand information about desert plants and animals. P.J. Tsaitsaib



Child from P.J. Tsaitsaib JSS showing off his "Super-Adapted Desert Creature" Photo: J. Hausiku

JSS learners listed newspaper recycling as the most favoured activity by the group because it reduces waste and is fun. However, the school did not appreciate the cold weather conditions that prevailed at the time of their visit. This is one of the factors that make a desert a desert though- the temperatures can be extreme. We thank all of the visiting schools for continuing to support NaDEET. A special thank you to the Rotary Club Windhoek, Sossusvlei Mountain Lodge, Africa Foundation, Lions Club Windhoek and Richard Speich for your financial support of underprivileged schools.

Frederick Simasiku



Learners from WJD Cloete reusing rubbish in the fuel efficient stoves
Photo: J. Amutenya

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rubbish. Water saving and recycling were also key components of the programme.

Several participants were very interested in modifying their existing shower hot water systems. Currently the camp sites use firewood to heat water in a large 200 litre tank commonly referred to as a "donkey". This system, although easy and inexpensive to install and operate in the short term, is environmentally unfriendly. It requires a lot of firewood to heat 200 litres of water, especially as the tank stands upright and therefore only heats a small surface area. The "donkey" creates deforestation and high water consumption. An alternative explored at NaDEET Centre was to use a smaller water tank that is built similar to a fuel efficient stove powered by recycled fire bricks and other burnable rubbish. This forces the flames from the fire to surround the water tank instead of escaping. In addition, it prevents deforestation and instead recycles rubbish and decreases water use.

At the end of the workshop, one participant wrote, "It helped me a lot and when I get back to my site I can make big changes." We hope that all participants will make the appropriate changes and operate more sustainable tourism operations. The programme was also a good learning experience for NaDEET, as it reminded us of the significance of our work for local industry and that there is a great demand for us to expand our environmental education programmes more into local communities.

Viktorina Keding

RENOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT NaDEET BASE

When NaDEET began in 2003, we had our first office in an old storeroom next to Tok Tokkie Trails. The storeroom was in a building that also contained a workshop, garage and shaded parking areas. For the first two years, the little NaDEET office managed to provide us with everything that we needed. As NaDEET's success and outreach grew, so did its infrastructural needs. In 2005 we made our first major improvement project to the NaDEET base by adding accommodation rooms, bathrooms and a communal kitchen.

With the implementation of our three year strategic plan in January 2008, we again need to improve and expand our infrastructure at the NaDEET Base. Although most staff members stay at NaDEET Centre while we have a visiting group, the NaDEET Base remains our logistical headquarters and the main housing of staff.

The renovations that began at the beginning of July include increasing from two bedrooms with en suite bathrooms to four bedrooms with two larger shared bathrooms, a larger communal kitchen, a new dining/meeting room and a new common room for all residents of Die Duine Homestead. In addition to NaDEET staff, this includes Tok Tokkie Trails and the NamibRand Family HideOut staff. In order to make all of these renovations possible and as a major improvement to the NaDEET Base, the Tok Tokkie Trails back-up generator has been moved into a new building further away. New parking areas will also have to be constructed to replace the ones that have now been converted into rooms. We anticipate that the renovation project will be completed by the end of August.

Viktoria Keding



Builders moving the generator frame



Using the Wolwedans brickmaker, bricks are made on site



The new communal living area

Photos: V Keding



Stephan using the new Insect Guide with Bentley from Aranos PS Photo: J. Hausiku

BOOKS FOR NaDEET

In the past several months NaDEET has been fortunate to be the recipient of several book donations. The Swakopmund Buchhandlung held a Book Fundraiser for several weeks, whereby they asked patrons to purchase specific books for NaDEET Centre. The books that we specifically requested were primarily identification guides of insects and reptiles. We need several copies of each of these books to enable small groups of children to use them during activities such as "Identification and Adaptations". During this activity children investigate the animals they trapped the previous evening in catch and release traps. Other books that were donated include topics such as the Namib Desert, animal tracks and holistic management.

We are very grateful to all who purchased a book for

NaDEET Centre and especially to the Swakopmund Buchhandlung for this initiative and support.

NaDEET has also received a large box of books from the United States on two separate occasions. The Darien Book Aid Plan distributes unwanted books to needy recipients worldwide. The books sent to NaDEET are about the environment in general and range from children's books to adult textbooks. These books have been well received by children at the Centre and are a valuable asset to our library. We hope that our link to the Darien Book Aid in Connecticut, USA, will continue.

Viktoria Keding

THE MOLE FILE

Fact No. 24

"So much more to learn..."

Very little is known about the social structure of the Namib Golden Moles. They seem to spend their time alone. We do not know how often or when they breed. Do they make nests for their young? Normally Golden Moles do not make nests but rather rest and sleep in the sand.



Share Net

MEET OUR STAFF

NaDEET takes this opportunity to introduce its new staff members and to say goodbye to previous staff members Thomas Neema and Jeremiah Amutenya. Thomas was employed on a temporary basis as "Assistant to Director" He has now obtained a full-time job with the Ministry of Fisheries in Lüderitz. Jeremiah has returned to his studies at the Polytechnic in Windhoek. We wish them both success in their endeavors. We have the following four new staff members:



From left: Jonas, Elizabeth, Frederick and Stephan Photo: V. Keding

Frederick Simasiku is our new Centre Manager/Environmental Educator and joined NaDEET in May 2008. Prior to his appointment, Frederick served as a High School Geography and Environmental Management teacher at the A. Shipena Secondary School in Windhoek. He holds a Bachelor's Degree of Education from the University of Namibia and is currently completing an Honours' Degree in Environmental Education from the University of South Africa. Frederick is from Katima Mulilo and enjoys educating the public about the importance of sustainability.

Elizabeth Lammert is our In-Service Student studying Hospitality and Tourism at the Blek's Foundation 35 km West of Windhoek. She joined the NaDEET team in June. She is responsible for maintaining the smooth running of the sustainable living kitchen at NaDEET Centre. Her hobbies include preparing food, singing and making new friends. She is the second born in her family and has three brothers.

Jonas Ndumba Hausiku is a third year Nature Conservation student at the Polytechnic of Namibia and joined us in July for his final In-Service Training. He is from Nkurenkuru in the Kavango Region. Jonas sees Nature Conservation studies as the backbone to conservation and opted for this field hoping that one day he will be able to apply all the knowledge learned.

Stephan Trappe is the newest member of the NaDEET staff team. He is 19 years of age, and has just completed his secondary schooling graduating from the Hittorf-Gymnasium in his home town Recklinghausen, Germany. Stephan joined NaDEET in mid-July through the new "Weltwärts" programme by the German government, which is endorsed by the German Development Agency (DED) in Namibia. He will volunteer at NaDEET for one year.

A GOOD PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE CONSERVATION STUDENTS

We continue to benefit from our partnership with the Polytechnic of Namibia's Nature Conservation Department which affords us the opportunity to gain from the students' commitment towards conservation.

Our first student this year, Jeremiah Amutenya, investigated different methods of repairing holes in the game proof fence on the boundary between NamibRand Nature Reserve and a livestock farm. The study contributed to the work of the Centre as it revealed areas that experience a high level of iron oxidation or rust. It gives us a practical example of iron oxidation to use when we discuss the mineral composition of dunes with groups. Our second student this year, Jonas Hausiku, is doing a study on the 'Occurrence and the Activities of Raptors in the Southern Namib near NaDEET'. He has a deep interest in raptors and hopes to be able to also develop educational resources on raptors for the Centre.

Nature conservation students play an important role at NaDEET Centre. They are role models for young Namibians who are aspiring to continue their studies and make a contribution to the positive development of Namibia. The students also are well versed in the desert ecosystem and provide information about plants and animals, especially on the dune walk. Lastly, they are a great help to the educator by setting up materials for activities, assisting learners during their work and helping to solar cook. At the end of Jeremiah's service, he said, "I got great marks for the in-service training and that's all thanks to you and NaDEET and I would like to say thank you!".

Frederick Simasiku

VOLUNTEERS AT NaDEET

2008 has been a busy volunteer year at NaDEET. As previously reported, we have signed an agreement with the German Development Agency (DED) in Windhoek to host volunteers annually (See Stephan's biography). At the end of May this year, we said goodbye to two volunteers that donated six months to NaDEET. Sarah volunteered as a Development Associate while Chris handled several capital expenditure projects. Both Sarah and Chris' contributions to NaDEET have been invaluable and will make a positive, lasting impact on NaDEET. In addition we had two more volunteers that came for 1-2 months and helped out with general tasks at the base and Centre. Although their help was much appreciated and needed, NaDEET prefers to have volunteers that have a specific skill such as carpentry, fund raising and computer skills. We currently have a film maker developing a NaDEET promotional film free of charge in the United States. Earlier in the year, he spent a week filming and interviewing staff. Although we are not able to accept all volunteer requests, contact us for more information.

NaDEET thanks our 1 March– 31 July 2008 donors:

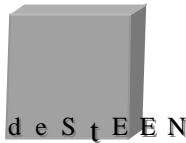
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