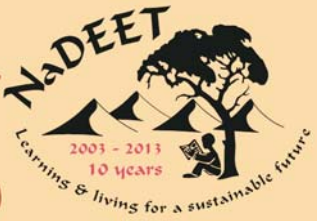
NaDEET's Newsletter

The Golden Mole

Vol. 11. No. 2 ~ November 2013 www.nadeet.org



Featuring:

On pages 2-3:
Read about our EU funded action results

On pages 4-5:
NaDEET Centre turns 10 - more reflection

On page 6:
It's Time to Work introduced at regional technical and vocational workshop

Reaching out to the Kavango East Region

Thank you to NaDEET and the European Union for giving people a chance to learn about using the sun that is given to us by God to cook our food and live in a more sustainable way.

These were remarks made by Hildegard Mangundu, councillor of the Diyona Constituency who attended a workshop at Shinyungwe Youth Centre. At the end of October and beginning of November staff went on a week and half long outreach trip to Kavango East Region in northern Namibia. We wanted to expand our educational programmes to another part of the country and chose this region due to the demand of environmental education practitioners in the region.

Seven communities were visited between Rundu and Bwabwata National Park. During the trip, 48 solar cookers were distributed to community members as well as to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's Environmental Education department, schools and conservancies. With so much biodiversity in the region, the Kavango was a completely new experience both professionally and also personally for staff.

We were surprised how the concepts of sustainable living and solar cooking were mostly foreign to the people in

Continued page 2

Most of our workshops were conducted under big shady trees.

Teachers Believe in NaDEET!

"Not one cent, not one minute would we take back to come here. I will tell every school to come!" Pure enthusiasm and certainty rings in the voice of Ingrid Kollmitz, headmaster and teacher of the Deutsche Privatschule Omaruru. Followed by the Khoandawes Primary School from Gobabis and Salmon Boois Primary School from Aranos, these schools participated in NaDEET Centre's programme for the first time with much enthusiasm.

NaDEET Centre hosted 11 groups since August of which four were first-time participants and the remaining seven groups were loyal annual returnees. These returning schools are bringing a new group of schoolchildren every year, based on the teachers' and principals' recognition of the value of the NaDEET experience for the children's overall education. This is evident by the teachers' involvement in the programme highlighted here.

Mr. Basson from Tsumis Farm PS shares his gratitude and support to us before departing NaDEET. *You taught us something new with the 3Rs! You taught us to reduce the negative attitudes, you taught us to reuse the positive things and attitudes and you taught us to recycle knowledge. We thank you so very much.*

"It was perfectly in context and the content is so relevant and correlates with the syllabus" reports Mr. Lucas from Danie Joubert Combined School when referring to NaDEET's programme supporting the Namibian school curriculum.

Not only do the teachers support what NaDEET is doing at the Centre, but so do people around the world by making it financially possible for Namibians from all backgrounds to come to NaDEET. During the second half of the year, groups were sponsored by the European Union, Sapphire Foundation, Lions Club Schwalmstadt and the school IGS Wilhelmshaven.

Year after year, NaDEET supporters devote time and energy in securing funding for schools to come to here. These sponsorships allow NaDEET to host a wide variety of learners and help maintain the balance between schools that can fully fund themselves and those who cannot. Without these sponsorships secured, we would not be able to implement our current "open door" policy, which allows and welcomes all Namibians to come regardless of their financial means.

We are here to educate all Namibians and again, thanks to these sponsorships, we can!

Karley Drumm

European Union (EU) funded three year action

Environmental Education to Empower Namibian Communities to Improve their Living Conditions

Elizabeth is demonstrating how quickly the solar cooker can burn paper

While teaching about solar cooking to community members, our Sustainable Living Kitchen Manager Elizabeth, nicknamed Ousie, meaning older sister, kept emphasising in the local language Nama and again in English how the solar cooker works by repeating the phrase 'only with the sun'. The participants would repeat back 'only with the sun'. Now whenever she is in the local community and she sees this one particular man, he yells out to her "Ousie! Sores /kha /gui" - only with the sun.

This is one of many stories that highlight the impact of our work, especially the results of our three year European Union (EU) funded action to promote sustainable living in Namibia. We see time and again that education is the key to better decision-making and the foundation to changing existing habits and attitudes towards the environment. This project has enabled us to reach out to thousands of people in many communities in our region. Many of these participants have absorbed what they have learned from NaDEET and have taken action.

The action's overall expected outcome was to:

offer holistic, complementary environmental education programmes in order to provide the awareness, skills and knowledge for Namibians to improve their quality of life, and thereby the natural environment, as they choose to participate in finding viable solutions to their local and national environmental issues. The main focal area of the project was the Hardap Region, especially regarding our work with schools. For the other activities, including environmental literacy publications, outreaches and student internships our work was countrywide.

Here we present some recent stories and overall facts and figures of what the action has achieved.

Result #1: Improved environmental ethic among Namibians
Result #2: Improved knowledge and skills for environmental action taking
Result #3: Increased access and ownership of environmental education opportunities and sustainable living technologies especially for the most vulnerable groups

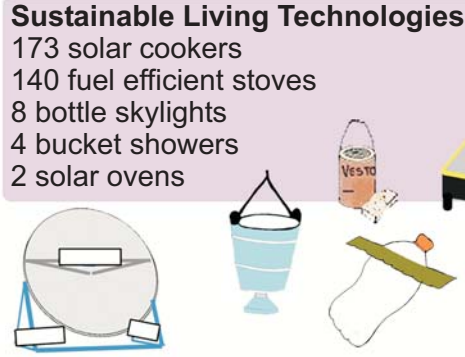
Teaching and reaching out

Our core activity in this action was environmental education at NaDEET Centre for school, community and educator groups. These programmes were linked to outreach programmes and the distribution of sustainable living technologies with the overall aim to achieve improved ethic, knowledge, skills and ownership of sustainable living equipment. We achieved the following:

Environmental Education at the Centre
1,064 participants
33 school groups, 882 participants
6 community groups, 114 participants
3 educators groups, 68 participants

Outreach Programmes
6,962 km travelled
2 x school outreach
2 x community outreach
1 x educational materials delivery

Sustainable Living Technologies
173 solar cookers
140 fuel efficient stoves
8 bottle skylights
4 bucket showers
2 solar ovens



Continued from page 1 - Outreach in Kavango

the Kavango, but were thankful for their enthusiasm to learn. They were impressed by how simple, cheap and environmentally sustainable it is to cook with the sun directly. *Thank you for teaching me that the sun is not only good for drying but also for cooking*.

Thanks for having a team that came all that far to come and open our eyes and see how we could take care of our plentiful natural resources that most places in this country don't have.

While in the Kavango, NaDEET took the opportunity to visit schools in the area. Learners were introduced to sustainable living and educational materials were donated to these schools. With programmes like this, sustainable living can be spread further and wider and we can have hope for a sustainable future.

This was the second outreach trip (first in Rehoboth) this year that taught people in their communities about sustainable living. Both these programmes were not only good for the community members, but for NaDEET as well, as this made us realise just how much community education is needed, and that when anopportunity is presented to the people they appreciate and make full use of it.

A total of 75 solar cookers were earned in these communities. Both the educational programmes and solar cooking equipment were fully sponsored by the European Union to meet our desired results of improving and increasing access to sustainability within Namibia.

Viktoria Endjala

European Union (EU) funded three year action

Environmental Education to Empower Namibian Communities to Improve their Living Conditions

Result #4: Enhanced implementation and teaching of sustainable living by educators and tertiary level students in various learning (i.e. schools, community programmes, environmental education centres)

Educators come together for environmental education

I feel like I have been immensely armed with not only knowledge, but excellent ways of delivering it remarked a participant of this year's educator programme. To date we have hosted three educator programmes that have brought together students, teachers, environmental education practitioners, youth offices and individuals from different ministries and institutions across the country to share and learn. *If everyone implements what has been given here, there is hope for the future.*

What a place of learning!

NaDEET is transforming Namibians, especially our future generation, to live in a more sustainable way to protect the environment. I was one of those people who believed that as an individual I do not have any impact on the environment and only others such as big industries have impacts and needed change. NaDEET gave me an understanding of why environmental education is so critical for successful environmental protection. I believe we are all custodians for our environment and we must analyse our own way of living and be willing to change. - Martha Sam, intern 2013

Through our educator programmes and internships we believe that we can reach thousands more people as they become ambassadors of sustainable living.

Result #5: Increased access and use of locally based, relevant environmental literature for Namibians, especially children, educators and community members

New *Bush Telegraph*: "*It's More Than Just Food*"

"There are billions of people who have more than enough food and waste it due to lack of awareness", explains our latest *Bush Telegraph*. This issue deals with the subject *Food* to enable readers to develop a deeper understanding of the global food system. Readers learn about nutrition, nature as our food supplier, food wastage, packaging and labelling and much more.

***It's Time to Grow* gets distributed!**

In September, two NaDEET staff members went on an outreach to Gibeon and Mariental to introduce and distribute the *It's Time to Grow* environmental learning pack. In Gibeon, early childhood, pre-primary and Grade 1 teachers attended the presentation to familiarise themselves with the booklet while NaDEET staff tried to keep over 300 excited children busy by reading the stories in the booklets to them. In Mariental, 20 pre-primary teachers attended another NaDEET presentation and received an introduction on how best to use the pack. With a print run of 10,000 copies, a total of 7304 copies of this publication have been distributed to schools, educators and individuals across the country already!

Result #6: Better protected local environment (especially water and energy resources) and improved quality of life

Practicing what is learned…

All of these results are linked as activities planned to be complementary. Measuring the immediate impact on participants is relatively easy as our activities are received with enthusiasm and positive feedback. However, the long-term impact and the ability for these activities to achieve a better protected environment is more challenging to measure. NaDEET hired an external evaluator, who visited eight schools and four communities recently, to receive outside feedback. Some of the highlights of positive environmental action taking that were observed were:

- Schools organising recycling days
- Schools making fuel-efficient stoves for community members
- Learners making recycled firebricks from newspapers collected at post offices
- Communities making gardens with home-made compost
- Learners replicating some of the experiments learned at NaDEET to fellow students who did not get a chance to attend the programme
- 80% of former participants interviewed put a shield around the fires to ensure that not so much heat is lost

However, these practices are not widespread enough among many schools and there is need for further follow up and evaluation to ensure that what they learned at NaDEET is not lost after they have gone back home.

Looking Ahead 2014-2016:

To further close the gap between theory and practice, NaDEET is embarking on another three year action funded mainly by the European Union to work intensively with all residents in three communities only.

Celebrating 10 YEARS NaDEET Centre

Still practising what we teach...

In this year's newsletters we share with you achievements and stories from the past ten years with contributions from those involved. Enjoy!

Behind the scenes

When I first came to NaDEET I just thought that I had arrived when there was a lot going on. At the end of my volunteer year I realised that NaDEET is just a fast paced organisation - Stephan Trappe weltwärts volunteer '08-'09 and current "Freundschaft mit NaDEET" board member.

NaDEET is only able to achieve our programme activities with a supportive "behind the scenes". Our small, yet efficient administration and support system that we have has been located at what we call NaDEET Base for the past ten years. Here is a small glimpse into what makes running a small NGO in the middle of the Namib Desert at this fast pace challenging. Our top ten list of "favourite" logistics when there is little money...

Top Ten List of Challenging Logistics at NaDEET Base

#10: Explaining to people why we have a postal address in Windhoek, but are located on the NamibRand Nature Reserve and they therefore cannot courier anything to us
#9: Keeping perspective on what are reasonable working conditions
#8: Sand, dust and heat
#7: Finding staff who are willing to give up creature comforts
#6: Planning ahead - way ahead! Town trips, truck deliveries, etc.
#5: Dealing with unexpected breakages - getting parts and spares
#4: Actually having a real Sunday
#3: Needing to have skills for everything and anything
#2: Pulling out another stuck vehicle
#1: Why is my email not working! The on-going battle with our communication systems!

Merci Beaucoup ~ Baie dankie ~ Tangi ~ Okuhepa ~ Dankeschön ~ Grazie ~ Aios!
NaDEET says THANK YOU to the donors who have made our story possible!

From little things – big things grow!

As a small, private NGO, the ability to educate and influence behaviour on a large scale is directly reflected in the amount and diversity of resources available to an organisation. In this issue, NaDEET takes the opportunity to acknowledge those people and organisations that have made our work possible and to register our deep and sincere gratitude for your support over the past 10 years. Without you, the story of NaDEET and its many achievements may never have been told.

Each donation to NaDEET, whether in funds, labour, advice, expertise, material resources, music concerts or photographic presentation, has had a direct and beneficial effect on NaDEET's ability to develop and deliver its many programmes. Since our inception in 2003 we have been very fortunate to have several individuals and organisations, both locally and throughout the world, that have spent considerable time and effort helping to raise funds for NaDEET. Many of these individuals and organisations have become regular supporters and donors.

To our donors, whoever you are and wherever you are now, we say **THANK YOU**!

You have made a positive difference to our dynamic centre in the tranquillity of the Namib Desert.

Celebrating 10 YEARS NaDEET Centre

Still practising what we teach...

10 years of continuous development – the facts are in the stats!

Who have NaDEET's programmes reached?

Since 2003, 6,755 school children and 1,526 adults have attended NaDEET Centre and participated in our environmental education programmes. Nine schools have attended for at least five years or more. NaDEET's reach has expanded both in size and breadth since the first four groups attended in 2003. Our programmes have reached out to include the participation of both primary and secondary schools, adult community members, educator and special interest groups, enabling us to spread the word across generations about how to live a sustainable lifestyle. We are excited about our next phase of development as we reach out into local communities to further embed and reinforce sustainable living practices.

NaDEET Centre Participation

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

8281 participants

253 groups including 63 different schools and 11 communities

Average of 23 groups per year with 750 participants

Celebrating 10 Years in Style

Prior to NaDEET Centre's actual birthday on October 24th, we closed the doors to our offices on NamibRand Nature Reserve and off to the coast we went. For a week all NaDEET staff members were in Swakopmund for a team building and environmental week of activities such as a trip to Sandwich Harbour, one of the four Ramsar sites in Namibia. To end the week, NaDEET's Trustees, long time friends, former staff and volunteers, joined us for a well deserved party!

Thank you all for the support over the last 10 years, and it is our hope your support continues for the next 10 or even more years to come!

Looking ahead:

Bookings for NaDEET Centre continue to pour in and we are about to begin our next three year action to work intensively with three Hardap Region communities. We would also like to start up-scaling our activities throughout the country and are therefore taking the first step by moving our head office to Swakopmund in January 2014.

NaDEET other news

UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)COP 11

"Land degradation is a significant threat to development and a driver of poverty in Namibia's rural areas. It is a threat we are committed to addressing", stated Namibia's Minister of Environment and Tourism, Uahekua Herunga, in his welcome speech at the UNCCD COP 11 held in Windhoek in September. Attended by over 3000 people, the conference mainly focussed on dry lands with the objective to maintain and restore the land and soil productivity. Representatives from various governments and organisations came together to present and exchange ideas on how to combat desertification in order to reduce poverty and to ensure sustainability. Although NaDEET was not a conference participant, we were invited by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to host an exhibition stand where we could showcase our programmes to a wider audience.

Martha Sam

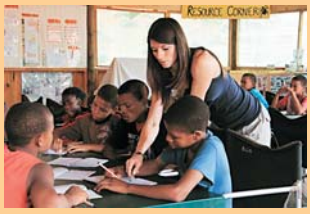
What do You Want to be When You Grow Up?

This is a question that all young people are asked and often ask themselves. Providing career guidance is very important to help young people match their skills and interests with potential jobs. NaDEET's latest booklet in our *It's Time to…* sustainable living series is for secondary school and out-of-school youth. Entitled *It's Time to Work - A decision-making and career guide to technical and vocational training for a green economy,* it gives general career guidance and focuses on careers in the technical and vocational sector. Importantly it connects traditional jobs such as electrical or plumbing work with the sustainable development of the economy. It was sponsored by UNESCO under its theme "Greening TVET". NaDEET's Director recently introduced the booklet at a UNESCO Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Regional Forum in Stellenbosch, South Africa. The booklet will be officially launched and distributed in Namibia early 2014.

Viktoria Keding

Staff Changes

We say goodbye to…



Karley Drumm

Let's just say the stars were aligned. 'Two years is not such a long time' I thought as I packed my bags for a new life somewhere in Namibia. Leaving all that was familiar behind, I was eager to not just visit, but live in Africa. After two months in the country I finally visited NaDEET; in a desert that I would soon call home. Nearly 4 years have passed and my volunteering for NaDEET has come to a close. I could not have landed in a more nurturing and empowering place. Even though teaching came naturally to me, I acquired new techniques and methods, as well as new skills in administration and management. Being a part of NaDEET was something greater than teaching and daily logistics of an amazing NGO, for me it was a new holistic way of life. Over the years I've learned to love the vast variety of cultures in Namibia and have tried my best to embrace Namibia's pace of life. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people I've met along the way as you have shaped my experience in this beautiful country. More closely, I give a huge heartfelt thanks to my NaDEET family who believed in me and supported me every new step of the way. My time at NaDEET was simply immeasurable and I wish the same for those to come.

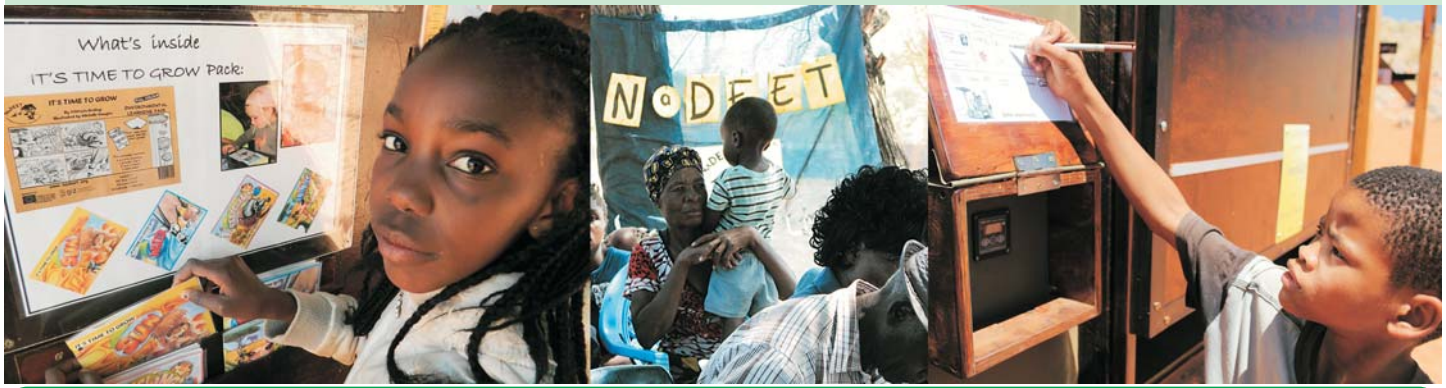
Vilho Absalom

"I came, I saw and I learned". From the first day I arrived at NaDEET, I realised that NaDEET was the right place for me to embark on my career as I have always wanted to protect Namibia's natural environment. Being at NaDEET for 2 1/2 years and following its mission, I have learned a better way to achieve my dream. Teaching fellow citizens in the Namib Desert on how to protect our natural resources by practicing a sustainable life style confirmed my passion for environmental education. I would like to thank NaDEET and its management for the awareness, knowledge and skills they have implanted in me, changing my attitudes in order to show concern for the environment and giving me an opportunity to participate in environmental learning through teaching. I'm now ready to apply and share the knowledge gained at my new job at the Namutoni Environmental Education Centre in Etosha as well as in my everyday life. Personally, NaDEET has been my home and its staff are my family and for this reason I will always be attached to NaDEET. I believe there is still room for further learning and this is the ideal place for environmental education in Namibia.

We also say goodbye to our current student intern, **Martha Sam** and take this opportunity to thank her for her valuable contribution over the last six months (see page 3).

We welcome… Tobias Thull is our new weltwärts volunteer hosted by the German-South African Youth Association. He will stay at NaDEET for one year working as our Centre Assistant and carrying out maintenance jobs.

NaDEET thanks our on-going donors and supporters



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Ein besonderer Dank geht an ... und allen deren Spendern!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

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Joe Walters

Stichting Ontmoeting der Volkeren

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Windhoek Office
Cluster Office to Angola,Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland

NamibRand Nature Reserve

NRCF NamibRand Conservation Foundation

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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To our founding supporters:

Berker Family
Elinor Dürr
Dorothé & Jürgen Klein
Wulf & Renate Paulick
Mayda & Bernard de Winter

Celebrate 10 years of NaDEET! We need YOUR on-going support.

In celebration of **NaDEET** Centre's 10th anniversary we ask you to consider making a special donation this year to fund our environmental education work. Gifts are welcome in all currencies.

N$ / Euro / USD / other:

10 ☐ **100** ☐ **1,000** ☐ **10,000** ☐

Donations can be made as a bank transfer to our account in:

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Bank name: Bank Windhoek - Kudu Branch
Bank address: Independence Avenue, Windhoek
Branch Code: 482 172
Account number: 3000659951
SWIFT: BWLINANX
IBAN: Not available

Account holder: NaDEET
Bank name: Bankhaus Lampe KG
Branch Code: 48020151
Account number: 3013812
SWIFT: LAMPDEDD
IBAN: DE83480201510003013812

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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Professional affiliations:

NaDEET's electricity aims to be 100% wind- and solar-powered

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Board of Trustees:
Christiane Berker, Elinor Dürr, Uda Nakamhela

Director: Viktoria Keding
Technical Director: Andreas Keding
Development Associate: Manuela Schmid
Centre Manager: Karley Drumm
Environmental Educator-Centre: Absalom Vilho (until November 2013)
Environmental Educator-Outreach: Viktoria Endjala
Sustainable Living Kitchen Managers: Elizabeth Lammert & Retatuhe Tjikotoke
DSJW "weltwärts" Volunteer: Tobias Thull (August 2013-July 2014)
Environmental Education Intern: Martha Sam (July-December 2013)

DHPL 2013