

NEWS @ NaDEET



Vol. 16. No. 1 ~ July 2018

www.nadeet.org



Learning and Living for a Sustainable Future

Dear NaDEET friend,

We are NaDEET-ers!

Mr Plaatjies, Nabasib Primary School

How true! During his visit, the primary school principal shared with our Centre staff, "We are NaDEET-ers!" This was evident throughout the programme as the children understood concepts quickly that teachers prepared beforehand and they all already knew how to solar cook! These two boys, in the photo above, were happy to share their talents with us. The school now owns a solar cooker since their last visit two years ago. Being a NaDEET-er means living sustainably.

What a compliment! Our "we practice what we teach" philosophy is spreading. This newsletter is filled with stories of school classes at NaDEET Centre, our nature conservation interns, and many other projects that we are involved in that all share the common enthusiasm and passion to live sustainably. We are also proud to share that NaDEET has become the official educational partner of NamibRand Nature Reserve enabling us to achieve more together.

It is this passion that gives NaDEET momentum to keep going. It makes me proud that my *alma mater*, Bowdoin College, recognised our work and recently bestowed me with their annual Common Good Award.

Thank you all for your support to helping us continue to give this amazing opportunity to so many Namibians.

Thank you!

Viktoria Keding, Director

Read on pages:

2-3:



News from
NaDEET Centre
and Tech Talk

4-5:



Environmental literacy &
Urban Sustainability Centre

6:



EE/ESD
News from
Abroad &
Finances & Fundraising

7-8:



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Centre on NamibRand

Namibia. NaDEET Centre has been buzzing with activity since the beginning of the year. Already 15 groups including two adult groups, the Center for Global Education & Experience and “Freundschaft mit NaDEET”, have visited. All left the Centre with a different view on the environment and sustainability. For example, the schoolchildren from the Waldorf School Windhoek demonstrated this as they celebrated Namibia’s 28th Independence Day at the Centre by preparing a beautifully decorated solar-cooked pizza.



Nabasib Primary School visits NaDEET – “We are NaDEET-ers!”



Nabasib PS is a small hostel school in the Hardap Region. Most of the children come from farms and speak the local language, Khoekhoegowab. As it is such a small school, 30 children from grade 5-7 came together. The trip to NaDEET was possible with the support of the Rotary Club Windhoek.

All of the schoolchildren, who live in a hostel during the school term, were very well-behaved and independent. Even if they were a bit shy in the classroom and sometimes struggled with English, we had a lot of fun with them and ran a smooth programme. This was also largely because of the positive support and help from the teachers. They know NaDEET Centre well from past years and were very involved in the activities. The teachers also

encouraged the children to speak up and helped to translate when needed.

Some highlights from the programme were solar cooking and the dune walk. Solar cooking was very exciting for the schoolchildren and they showed their skills by cooking a great “*mieliepap*”. During our 3 hour dune walk they learned about the desert and the adaptation of the plants and animals. Here they impressed us with their indigenous knowledge. “Adaptation” is a term most kids struggle to learn, but the Nabasib kids already knew it or understood it quickly.

Every week, each house team performs a drama on an environmental problem. During the dramas we could see their creativity and understanding of the problems. They also presented us with great reasons not to pollute or waste resources. They suggested that instead of wasting water it should be given to plants to provide us with oxygen, and many other creative solutions. As our final activity on Thursday evening we do an environmental quiz. Here the Nabasib kids demonstrated how much they learned during the week. Next to seeing how smart these kids are we again realised how valuable it was for them to practice English in a different context to their daily school life. This too is an important aspect of the NaDEET programme.

Franziska Hünнемeyer-Weber

welcoming new staff members

We welcome three new full time staff members to the team who have joined us early this year.



John Amanyanga is the new environmental educator at the Centre.

He is not new to NaDEET as he did his internship with us in 2017.



Helena Moses has joined the sustainable kitchen team at the Centre as a kitchen educator. She has quickly learned to solar cook and is now teaching others.



Pandu Haindongo has a newly created position as environmental educator and communications officer at the Urban Sustainability Centre.

Work Integrated Learning at NaDEET

Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) Nature conservation students Jonas, Natanael and Tuwilika share their experiences of their 5 month internships at NaDEET. *Read about Natanael on page 5.*

Tuli Shares her Experience at NaDEET

Being at NaDEET has offered me an opportunity to practice theoretical knowledge in a practical environment and to build on my foundation of knowledge. Being part of a dynamic team that strive to 'do good for the environment' has motivated me to teach about sustainable living and to live a sustainable lifestyle myself.



My project at NaDEET allowed me to interact with learners from different backgrounds and to evaluate their knowledge on sustainability. It is amazing to see

how NaDEET influenced learners and motivates them to change their ways of living to benefit of our environment and future generations. Based on my experience at NaDEET Centre, it is the best centre to learn and practice environmental education.

Tuwilika Shihepo

Jonas adopts the NaDEET Philosophy

NaDEET's philosophy is the back bone of all the activities at the Centre as participants get to practice what they learn as they live at the Centre.

I saw that the programme based on; biodiversity, energy, water and waste, enables participants to learn more through audio-visual, environmental quizzes and role-plays in the classroom. Outside the classroom participants learn by exploring sustainable energy and considering three vital elements of sustainability, efficiency and accessibility. Participants are endowed with knowledge, skills and understanding how the ecosystem functions and how living a sustainable lifestyle is key to the future.

Being at NaDEET has developed my professionalism, problem solving skills, integrity and my attitude. Moreover, I have also developed a strong enthusiasm towards my future career.

Jonas Ndeuludila



Tech Talk

A New Solar Deck for NaDEET Centre

One of our main features of NaDEET Centre is the solar deck which is part of the sustainable kitchen. The solar deck is our "outdoor cooking platform" to place our solar cookers and ovens. All participants use it to take part in cooking their solar cooked meals. In 2010 this high operation area was renovated by replacing old re-used and patched up timber with wood planks made from *Prosopis* wood. Due to cost we did not replace the sub-structure, but only re-enforced it then.

So 8 years down the line thanks again to a fabulous donation from the Speich Foundation, we tackled the task to take down the whole deck and sub-structure to re-build it a bit bigger and definitely better than before. Also an outdoor cupboard was added to house the washing machine. Most of the old planks from 2010 were reused, but the sub-structure was not salvageable and completely replaced. Thanks to the Tech team and the additional help of our Environmental Educator John, and intern Jonas, a great solar cooking space has been created.

Andreas Keding

Why using *Prosopis* is good

The *Prosopis* tree originates from the southern part of the USA and Mexico. It is a very successful and hardy tree well-adapted to dry areas and ephemeral rivers. It was brought into Namibia as a fast solution for farmers wanting to grow shade and fodder trees. Unfortunately it has become invasive in our dry river beds and indigenous trees are being pushed out by it. That is why we choose to use it as decking. The invasive trees are made into planks and thereby controlling the species. Timber and desert are not always agreeable, but this wood has worked very well for us at NaDEET.



The old solar deck



Construction underway



The new solar deck

Environmental Literacy



Environmental Literacy Projects

Bush Telegraph reaches 50,000 readers

NaDEET's latest edition of the *Bush Telegraph* on giraffe was published in partnership and with the financial support of the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF). With 50,000

copies printed for distribution, 14,000 copies were delivered to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. They distributed them to all government schools on NaDEET's mailing



list while another 6,000 copies were sent via the post to other *Bush Telegraph* readers nationwide. A further 9,000 copies were given to the National Library and Archive Services who ensured that all schools in Namibia received 5 copies of the publication. Partners in environmental education including the GCF Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP), EduVentures and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism EE Centres are using the booklets in their lessons. In the photo Vilho Absalom, the environmental educator at Namutoni and former NaDEET staff, is sharing the *Bush Telegraph* with learners. This issue of the *Bush Telegraph* introduces readers to new information about giraffe taxonomy and their much needed conservation. It can be downloaded from our website at: <http://nadeet.org/bush-telegraph-series>.



It's Time To Grow

After the successful launch of the newly translated *It's Time to Grow* lower primary school learning materials the materials have been distributed across the country. The materials are translated into the three languages Khoekhoegowab, Oshindonga and Otjiherero. The recipients of the materials were excited to receive their boxes and we have received messages and phone calls from teachers from different parts thanking NaDEET for the materials.

At the official launch in Windhoek in January, teachers shared how, since the translation workshops at NaDEET, they have understood Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) better and importantly how they are implementing different ESD activities at their schools. Under the topics of biodiversity, energy, waste and water, the materials promote the use of local languages and environmental education. Each learning pack has:

- 50 copies of each of the themed books
- 1 teacher's photocopy book
- 4 memory card matching games

This project was made possible with the support of the Namibia National Commission to UNESCO and the Ministry of Basic Education, Arts and Culture.



Pandu Haindongo

National Developments in EE/ESD

EduLink project



NaDEET is proud to be part of the recently launched EduLink project which will improve and link EE/ESD centres in Namibia. The project which is developed by

EduVentures aims to develop standard curriculum to train teachers in ESD. During 2018 the materials are being developed to be implemented in the following year. Each participating Centre will be given a smart board, the curriculum, internet connectivity and funding to host the teacher workshops.

We are excited to be part of this project both at NaDEET Centre and the Swakopmund Urban Sustainability Centre.

NEEN Conference 2018

NaDEET took part in the annual Namibian Environmental Education Network (NEEN) conference. This year it was held at the B2Gold Otjikoto Nature Reserve and Environmental Education Centre in May. Hosted under the theme of 'Innovative strategies to develop peaceful co-existence with the endangered wildlife', John Amanyanga and Pandu Haindongo presented NaDEET's work on light pollution and its impacts on humans and wildlife.

The NaDEET team also distributed our environmental literacy materials with workshop participants.



NaDEET Urban Sustainability Centre



Urban Sustainability Centre

Development of the New Urban Sustainability Centre

Work on developing the Urban Sustainability Centre in Swakopmund is in full swing with NaDEET staff members embarked on developing the different sections of the model house. Although

the centre will not be launched as soon as it was planned, the addition of extra staff members has boosted the work rate on the house.

The model house is designed to address various sustainability issues from a Namibian perspective and it will display the choices that households from the different socio-economic classes are faced with on the daily basis. In "NaDEET style" displays are being mostly handmade using creative, hands-on ways to teach the information.

One such display is the transport activity station that asks visitors "How did you get here?" and then gives the advantages and disadvantages of seven different modes of transport such as walking, cycling and carpooling. In addition to the model house, the centre will include information about

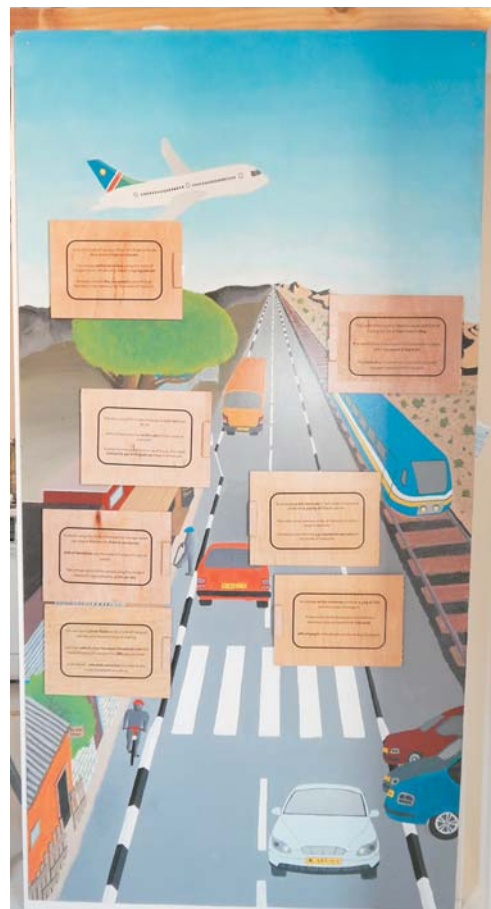
Namibia's environment and sustainable development, and a small classroom area.

Day visitors to this centre will be able to do a self-guided tour and educational programmes will be offered as well.

We are very much excited about the project and are working to ensure that it will soon be open to the public.



Klara working on the welcoming mural to advertise the new centre



Natanael researches littering on the beach



NUST intern Natanael Hangula who was based at NaDEET's Urban Sustainability Centre undertook a study to establish littering patterns along the beach in Swakopmund. The study was part of his Work-Integrated Learning towards the fulfillment of the nature conservation course; but it also complemented his duties at NaDEET.

The aim of the study was to establish the amount and type of waste that was found on the beach comparing the two parameters after week days and after weekends at two different sections of the beach that are used for two different activities. Another aspect of the study was also

to determine the sources of litter found on the beach.

The study found that the main source of litter was generated by human beings and the most common type of litter was plastic bags which are already a huge environmental concern. The research findings were presented and discussed with the Environmental Health Department of the Swakopmund Municipality to also provide insight that will guide decision making with regards to waste in the town. The findings are helpful in educating the general public about waste and also in creating awareness towards behavioral changes. The study also helps NaDEET to improve its educational programs to ensure that the current environmental threats of waste are fully addressed.

Marine Literacy Training

Through its Marine Environmental Education and Outreach Program (MEEOP), the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources hosted a training workshop to improve knowledge on marine concepts. The week long workshop included presentations, excursions and hands on learning activities that enhanced the teaching content and methods of science teachers and environmental educators from across Namibia.

Our educator Pandu attended the training to improve his understanding of the coastal environment and develop ideas for programs. It was also an important networking opportunity to look for potential areas for collaboration.

EE/ESD News from Abroad

A Look at the Future of ESD– UNESCO GAP Key Partner Meeting



Under the theme of 'a look into the future of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), together' over 90 Key Partners met in San Jose, Costa Rica at the end of April. As the Global Action Programme (GAP) will end in 2019, this meeting focussed on the UNESCO draft position paper on the future of ESD. With the adoption of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, Education for Sustainable Development has an exciting opportunity to move to the forefront in playing a key role to achieve the goals.

Viktoria Keding represented NaDEET at the meeting which was held at the Earth Charter Headquarters at the University of Peace. She was able to visit a local school that was incorporating sustainable practices into its curriculum. Students at the school were using solar ovens to keep their

food (primarily beans and rice) warm for lunch. In Namibia the sun would be too hot for the plastic containers! It highlights the importance of culture in applying sustainability.

NaDEET's Director Receives the 2018 Common Good Award



On 2 June 2018, Viktoria Keding was honoured with the Common Good Award from her *alma mater* Bowdoin College in Maine, USA. This award is given annually to recognise "alumni who have demonstrated an extraordinary, profound and sustained commitment to the common good, in the interest of society, with a conspicuous disregard for the personal gain in wealth or status". Viktoria was bestowed the award for her "impact in the field of environmental education and conservation worldwide, and for inspiring countless students to understand, care for, and protect their natural surroundings".

She celebrated the event with her family and friends who joined the celebrations during the 20th Reunion Weekend. Viktoria received her B.A. in Environmental Studies and German with an anthropology minor from Bowdoin College in 1998.

Congratulations to Vicki Endjala!

We are proud to share that Vicki has completed her degree in Environmental Science at Avans University in Holland. She recently completed an internship at a bio-digester company. She will be returning back to NaDEET as Centre Manager in September.



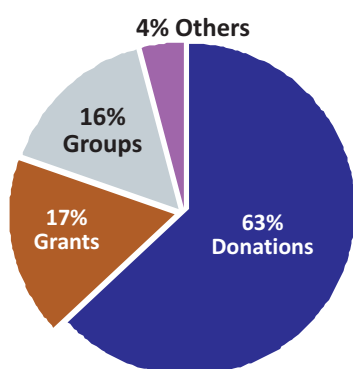
Thank you to "Freundschaft mit NaDEET" for making this possible!

Finances & Funding

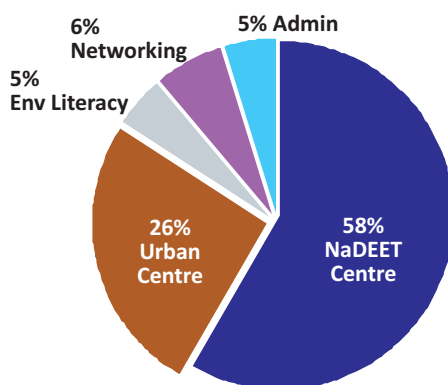
Financial Overview 2017/2018

In the past financial year NaDEET's income has been primarily from donations in the absence of any large grant-giver. We have secured several smaller grants to start our new Urban Sustainability Centre on the coast. For the time being we have paused our outreach and community work in the South to focus on this project.

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



Freundschaft mit NaDEET is one of our main sources of private donations. This organisation has the sole purpose of supporting our work at NaDEET Centre. Every other year, Reinhard Keding, founder and chairperson of the organisation, hosts an educational tour of Namibia with a week at NaDEET. This year's group in May was once again a success.

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

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Professional affiliations:



NaDEET

P.O. Box 8702
Swakopmund, NAMIBIA

NaDEET Head Office
Tel: +264 (0)81 367 5310
Fax: +264 (0)88 655 2669

NaDEET Centre
Tel: +264 (0)63 693 012

admin@nadeet.org

www.nadeet.org



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Trust Certificate # T168/2003

NaDEET Structure and Staff

Trustees: Richard Baines ~ Christiane Berker ~ Michael Louw ~ Gabi Schneider

Director: Viktoria Keding

Technical Director: Andreas Keding

EE Programme Developer: Viktoria Endjala (on bursary)

Environmental Educator & Communications: Panduleni Haindongo

Environmental Educator - Centre: John Amayanga

Homestead & Kitchen Manager: Elizabeth Lammert

Administrative Officer: Priscilla Kuzeeko

Kitchen staff: Helena Moses & Layha Vliede

Volunta "weltwärts" Volunteers: Klara Leithäuser & Franzi Hünнемeyer-Weber

NUST Interns: Natanael Hangula, Jonas Ndeuludila & Tuwilika Shihepo