



NEWS @ NaDEET

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www.nadeet.org



Learning and Living for a Sustainable Future

Dear NaDEET friend,

2018 was truly a remarkable year for NaDEET.

We were blessed with several international awards that recognised our contributions to the field of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and for our on-going commitment towards working for the common good.

Receiving the UNESCO-Japan ESD Prize in October is a true honour. The award coincided with NaDEET Centre's 15th anniversary which has given us a great opportunity to celebrate and reflect on our achievements in the past years. We look forward to building upon our past work to upscale our activities and support ESD developments throughout the country.

This is only possible with the support of continuous and new donors. In this newsletter we report on the highly successful and very adventurous cycling tour that a group of German high school students undertook to raise funds for NaDEET. They rode 500 km from Windhoek to NaDEET enduring extreme weather and many bumpy roads. With the funds they raised and thanks to e-mobility finally available in Namibia, we were able to purchase an e-fat bike for transport in the dunes around NaDEET Centre. Another step in our pursuit of "practicing what we teach".



After having so many things to celebrate, we are eager to get back to work and focus on fulfilling our existing projects and maintaining our ESD services to Namibians. We are excited to soon open the Urban Centre in Swakopmund and to continue to collaborate with our partners.

We enter 2019 riding high!

Viktoria Keding, Director

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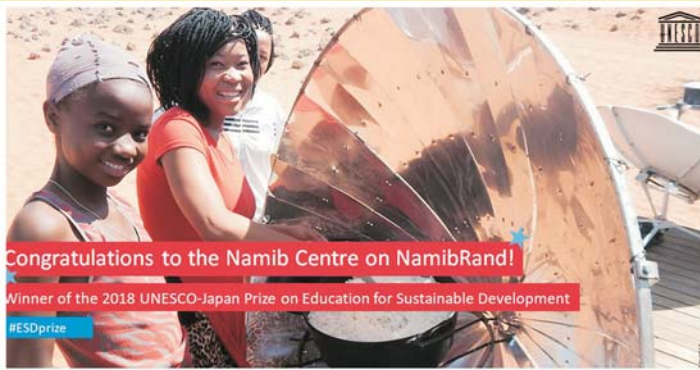
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UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development

UNESCO awards 2018 winners of ESD Prize



In October, UNESCO awarded the three winners of the 2018 UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development. They were the Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust (NaDEET) from Namibia, the Kalabia Foundation (YaKIn) from Indonesia, and the Let's Do It Foundation from Estonia. Each of the three non-profit organisations received an award of US\$50,000 at a ceremony in Paris.

NaDEET was selected for its project "NaDEET Centre on NamibRand" for its experiential and transformative approach to learning where sustainable living is not just theory, but put into practice. Since its humble beginnings in 2003, NaDEET Centre has hosted over 13,500 participants in more

than 400 week-long, residential programmes. Schools throughout the country, but especially in the Hardap Region, have made NaDEET Centre an annual part of their school calendar as they see the positive results in their students.

This year's winners were chosen by an independent international jury from 87 nominations, submitted by the governments of UNESCO Member States and organisations in official partnership with UNESCO. The core selection criteria were the projects' potential for transformation, their innovative quality and the ability to embrace all three dimensions of sustainability – the economy, society and the environment.

Funded by the Government of Japan, the Prize was established by UNESCO's Executive Board in the framework of the Global Action Programme on ESD to showcase and reward outstanding ESD projects and programmes. This is the fourth edition of the prize.

Viktoria and Andreas Keding received the prize on behalf of the whole NaDEET Team. This prize is an enormous honour for us. We are thrilled that our approach to teaching and learning about the environment has impacted so many Namibians. This is an opportunity for us to upscale our work and to reach out even further in the country.

Viktoria Keding



Andreas and Viktoria Keding at the ceremony

Overview of NaDEET Centre



Centre on NamibRand

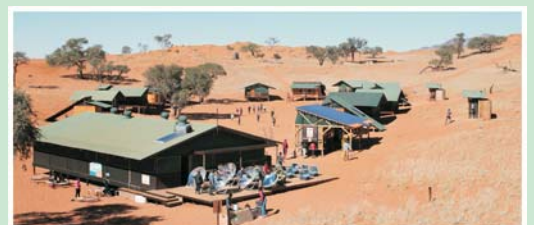
NaDEET Centre on NamibRand had another successful year with a total of 30 programmes with 948 participants from 27 organisations. As in the past, most of our participants

are from schools that return year after year. We had a slight decline in the actual number of participants in each of the Hardap Region school classes due to limited space in the vehicles used to travel to NaDEET. These schools rely on government vehicles and due to the budgetary constraints the previously used bus, which fit more than 40 students, has been replaced with 2 mini-busses which can only transport 30 students. Reliable and affordable transport to NaDEET Centre is a hurdle for most groups that needs to be addressed with a more suitable long-term solution.

We would like to thank all of our partner schools, the Ministry of Education and all the generous people and companies that have sponsored the Centre this past year.

2018 participating groups

Origo PS, #Oan//ob PS, Waldorf School Windhoek, Amazing Kids Private School, St Paul's College, Center of Global Education & Experience, Freundschaft mit NaDEET 2018, Ruimte PS, Rehoboth PS, Grand Valley State, Nabasib PS, Samuel Veldskoen PS, ACS Cobham International School, St Joseph's PS, Stampriet PS, AA Denk Memorial School, Jakob Soul PS, WBG Bike Tour, WJD Cloete JSS, Think Namibia Youth Group, PJ Tsaitaib JSS, Danie Joubert CS, DHPS, Private School Swakopmund, Rev. PA Schmidt PS, Kalkrand PS and EduLink Workshop



Think Namibia Project - Youth Workshop

The Hanns Seidel Foundation's Think Namibia Project together with the National Youth Council brought a diverse group of 28 young people to NaDEET Centre in August 2018. NaDEET hosted the sustainability and solar cooking workshop for participants who were interested in climate change, cooking, renewable energy and natural resource management. The aim of the workshop was to promote the use of renewable energy in Namibia. It also focused on how humans can coexist with the environment and the importance of living a sustainable lifestyle. Having my Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resource Management and Conservation, and being a part of a volunteer youth group called Young Achievers Empowerment Project, I am keen to learn about and protect my environment and natural resources. This made me apply to be part of the workshop.

The group enjoyed preparing their meals in the solar ovens and cookers for the first time, surprised by the delicacy of the meals and the effectiveness of the sun's energy. During the early morning hours energy-efficient stoves were used to prepare meals. Their effectiveness was tested during the "Great Cook Off" where teams were in competition to boil as much water as quickly as possible. I was part of the "open fire group", which had the strongest members with good knowledge and experience in making open fires. But even with that, we boiled the least water and our resource (wooden pieces), finished very quickly. This activity was eye-opening and we all agreed that the traditional open fire system is time, energy and resource consuming, and it is time to eradicate it and replace it with energy-efficient stoves.



The group also got to understand how to save natural resources such as water by using bucket showers, dry pit toilets and brushing his/her teeth using a cup and not a running tap. They also fully understood the concept of reuse, reduce and recycle as most of items used at NaDEET are products of something else.

At first many participants were agitated by the idea of not having cellular reception, stoves to cook on and modern showers; however, after a few hours at the NaDEET Centre, the coin turned. The Centre reconnected the group to nature; gazing at the majestic landscapes, the crimson colour as the sun set, the microorganisms and unpolluted

environment which allowed them to clearly see the Milky Way and explore the twinkling night skies.

Young people need to be equipped with a lens through which they are able to identify and apply innovative solutions to solve global issues and this is what NaDEET has done for this youth group.

Sorry Kalumbu

(Editor note: Sorry has recently joined the NaDEET team as an environmental educator.)

Staff updates

More congratulations are in order!

We are proud that two of our staff members have successfully completed their further studies in 2018. Vicki Endjala returned after two years in Holland to take on the position of Centre Manager on NamibRand in September. We are extremely grateful to Freundschaft mit NaDEET for their instrumental role in Vicki's success. Priscilla Kuzeeke who has been with NaDEET for almost five years completed her Bachelor's Degree in Financial Management and will be taking on the position of Financial and Administrative Officer as of January.

Both Priscilla and Vicki were provided with a bursary from NaDEET to further enable them to achieve their own personal goals and NaDEET's long term plans.

10 Years of Service

On 11 January 2019, Elizabeth Lammert was awarded with a 10 year Long Service Award during our staff orientation day. Elizabeth's contributions to NaDEET are invaluable and have touched the hearts of many children and visitors to the Centre.



Due to funny coincidence, former staff spanning from 2011 to today were visiting NaDEET Centre on the same day.

Staff "reunion"



WBG for Africa Cycle Tour

The idea

Christian Huhn, principal of the Willy-Brandt-Gymnasium (WBG) in Oer-Erkenschwick, Germany, had developed the dream of doing a big cycle tour in Namibia through the Namib Desert with some of his schoolchildren. Christian, an avid cyclist, worked as a teacher in Namibia at the Deutsche Höhere Private School (DHPS) about 15 years ago where this dream was born. During a recent visit and a leisurely conversation sometime in late 2016, we discussed the viability of cycling from Windhoek to NaDEET, sleeping on farms on the way and raising money per kilometre ridden for NaDEET.

Early 2017 we received an email that Christian had roped in some sports teachers from his school and that they had started a project at his school called "WBG for Africa", and they had started training with participants and raising funds for the trip. A group of 30 people, mainly students, together with some teachers and parents would come to cycle and help with the backup. The aim was to fundraise €10,000 for NaDEET Centre and give the participants an unforgettable experience of Namibia. With many months of planning, fundraising, logistics and training, the cycling started on the 27th July 2018.



The team starting off in Windhoek

Taking up the challenge



Crossing the desert

The first part of the tour was the challenge to negotiate the mountainous terrain of the Khomas Hochland. But the physical challenges were overshadowed by the beauty of the landscape, the adventures of sleeping on farms between roaming animals and a very special full lunar eclipse. The days went by and the support team, which included Willem Rooi from NamibRand Nature Reserve, the WBG Africa backup team and myself, mastered the art of logistics in a tremendously short amount of time.

The middle part of the trip led us to a NaDEET partner school in Rietog where we spent two nights experiencing some cultural exchanges. Then, the last part led the cyclist into the Namib Desert with rough roads and sand to deal with all the way to NaDEET Centre. Here the cyclists after a day of rest met up with the school kids from Rietog again to participate in a NaDEET



Enjoying a meal in Rietog

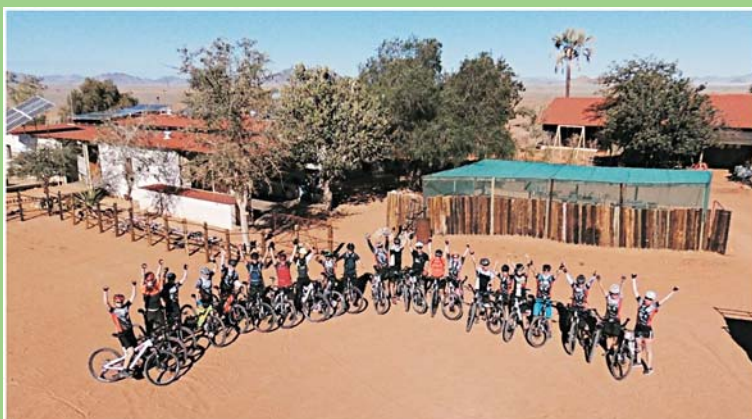
Centre programme. On a once-off project like this, not everything goes as planned and we definitely had to deal with challenges. We were surprised by temperatures as low as -4 degrees Celsius during one of the coldest weeks recorded for a long time at NaDEET Centre. Then there were some mechanical hiccups and right at the end, a broken leg...BUT, during such a two week tour, we made things happen and it became an absolutely unforgettable experience that bonded people together in ways that cannot be achieved if one doesn't try something special like this.

Mission accomplished

In the end not only was the mission accomplished, but it was far exceeded! Due to the generous and kind support received from people and companies within Namibia and Germany donating their time, hospitality and funds, the fundraising surpassed its aim by double. The WBG for Africa group handed over €20,000 to NaDEET.

A true example of teamwork between worlds to achieve something amazing. I am thrilled to have been a part of this experience and am grateful to the efforts of all involved and to Christian for making his dream into a reality.

Andreas Keding



End of the cycling tour at NaDEET Base

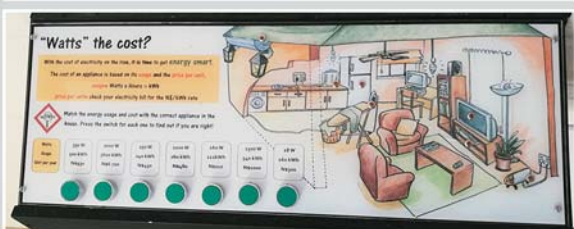
NaDEET Urban Sustainability Centre



**Urban
Sustainability
Centre**

Update

The Urban Sustainability Centre in Swakopmund is on course and will open soon to day visitors and school groups.



Linking schools in Swakopmund- Developing activities for kids & planting trees

To celebrate Arbour Day in the month of September, NaDEET and the Swakopmund Primary School held a tree planting activity at the school. The aim of the activity was not only to plant trees but to teach the significance of trees to the environment. Along with the indigenous trees planted the Karee tree (*Searsia lancea*) and the Raisin bush (*Grewia flava*), the school also received tree activity booklets and educational posters that can be used at lower primary level to understand the function and parts of trees.

The educational material handed over was developed by the students from the Private School Swakopmund. The students spent their community service day learning about trees and the importance of giving. They designed and made the educational materials in teams at NaDEET's Urban Sustainability Centre. Both activities surrounding trees created great enthusiasm as the schoolchildren from both schools were eager to get involved and promote trees for their environment.



Swakopmund Primary School tree planting day



Private School Swakopmund community service day

National Development in EE/ESD

EduLink project– Teaching EE/ ESD course at NaDEET Centre



The ongoing EduLink project, launched last year with the aim of building a network of all the environmental education centres across Namibia, has taken a huge step to reaching its goal. After workshops throughout the year in various locations, the last workshop was held at NaDEET Centre. EduLink members from the various centres across Namibia shared teaching methodologies and approaches they have successfully implemented. In addition the workshop at NaDEET focused on sustainability, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and how to prepare a lesson plan and activities. Through the EduLink project all centres are being equipped with internet connectivity and SMART boards. Next year the project will finalise the EE/ESD modules and begin with the teacher workshops.

EE/ESD Comic: Free Rangers

As part of addressing the environmental issues faced by Namibia KAYEC in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, EduVentures and the Namibian Newspaper produced a comic book series to address environmental issues and create ambassadors of nature.

NaDEET is proud to have contributed to the six publications.

Content was updated and re-used from previous Bush Telegraph magazine. The comics were based on super hero kids that worked together to save Namibia. Some of the topics were deforestation, poaching and littering. The comic book aims to improve the reading culture of Namibian schoolchildren by providing exciting local stories. Copies of the comic book are available at our centres and other environmental education centres and libraries nationwide. A total of 40,000 copies were distributed per issue.



EE/ESD News from Abroad

EEASA Conference in Zambia

Hosted in Livingstone, Zambia, the 2018 theme was “Rethinking Education for Sustainable Development: A Key to Our Future”. The conference aim improved the quality of education in the region. With 120 individuals from more than 10 countries, the conference had a stakeholder representation from various fields and levels that are part of the education for sustainable development agenda. Namibia was represented through the NEEN network with a delegation of 19, including educators, government officials, teachers and a journalist.

NaDEET was represented by educators John Amanyanga and Pandu Haindongo who actively participated in the various sessions and also exhibited NaDEET's work in the Environmental Education framework and as a key partner of the Global Action Programme for Education for Sustainable Development. Through the various sessions and excursions of the conference, educators exchanged knowledge and best practices for ESD and built networks to promote environmental education and the sustainable development goals.



The Namibian delegation at EEASA

African-German Youth Initiative Forum

NaDEET's unique approach to implementing ESD and philosophy of “we practice what we teach” evoked admiration from the participants of the AGYI forum. At the forum, NaDEET's educator Pandu Haindongo explained how NaDEET programmes help achieve sustainable development. The forum was a platform for sharing practices and experiences that can further the achievement of the sustainable development goals in the area of youth exchange and global learning. Held under the theme of “Partnerships for Youth Exchange and Global Learning in the context of Education for Sustainable Development” in Johannesburg in South Africa in August, a diverse delegation attended the forum.

The African-German Youth Initiative (AGYI) is an initiative of the German Government and the African Union Commission and is hosted by the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA).



Pandu and Jim Taylor of WESSA

Pandu Haindongo

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