



Learning and Living for a Sustainable Future

Dear NaDEET Friend,

By looking at the faces of these girls, it's clear they are determined to take action against air pollution. On the 5th of June we celebrated World Environment Day with this year's theme of #BeatAirPollution. These grade 6 learners from A. A. Denk Memorial School showed us their great creativity when they performed an environmental drama, displayed their poster and shared ideas on how we can act to beat air pollution.

Young people throughout the world are protesting that our governments are not acting quickly enough to address the climate crisis. Namibia is suffering from another year of drought and potential water shortages. At the recent UNESCO meeting on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), I had discussions with educators from around the world about how we can we accelerate change, **real change**. There is not one solution to this, but fundamental change is about changed practices. Policy needs to turn into action on every level of society.

Teaching and learning at NaDEET is based on practice. It remains the core of our work. We are not perfect, but it is through constructive, critical reflection that each of us can change our practices to live more sustainably.

This issue is packed with highlights of our activities from the past six months. Enjoy reading it and thank you for your support!

Viktoria Keding, Director

UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education
for Sustainable Development
Laureate 2018



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NaDEET Centre



Centre on NamibRand

Already over 600 participants were at NaDEET Centre since January this year. The participants ranged from primary school to various adult groups.

Here a few reflections:



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Our Centre educator, Petra, shares her exchanges with the many school learners she has taught:

Learners have told me they wish they had a more outdoors, hands-on learning experience at their schools. At NaDEET, they get to gaze at the stars and planets, which they find much better than learning about them in a book. Learners feel especially happy to go on dune walks. They feel particularly lucky if they see a dancing white lady spider or even luckier to see a Namaqua chameleon (especially now during the drought).

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Exploring sustainability with the secondary school learners is fulfilling, as they leave no stone unturned when looking for answers. At this level, they show a true passion for learning about environmental problems and bring up problems that concern them. By connecting what they have learned to the real world, they also make personal realisations, such as one participant's comment:

I feel shocked about the state of our environment, and I am happy that they do this programme to educate us.

YOUTH PROGRAMMES

After the 2nd "Solar Cooking and Sustainable Living at NaDEET" workshop, designed for youth and funded by several partners, including the Hanns Seidel Foundation, we received this very rewarding feedback from the organiser:

The feedback from the participants show that their perspectives on certain things have changed 360 degrees ...During the past weekend I had a conversation with one of the participants who said that she is literally enforcing the resource efficiency aspects at their house and the concepts are very new to her family. Hence, the transformation power of NaDEET's interventions cannot be over emphasized.



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY GROUPS

Several student groups from the United States and the UK took part in weekend programmes at the Centre. Tailor-made to suit their course of study, most students are refreshed by NaDEET's approach to sustainability. Students are interested in finding ways to adopt sustainability practices back home. A highlight is always the dark skies and the beauty of the Namib Desert. One student commented:

The programme was amazing! I loved learning about conservation in Namibia.

TEACHER ESD WORKSHOPS



Approximately 50 teachers participated in ESD workshops at the Centre earlier this year. This year we were fortunate to invite teachers from the //Kharas, Kavango East and West and as far as the Zambezi Region. Some teachers therefore travelled 1,700 km to reach the Centre!

Continuing with our translation of our environmental resource for lower primary schools, "It's Time to Grow", this year we tackled Silozi and RuKwangali. Having teachers translate the booklets, in combination with the ESD workshop at the Centre, empower them to teach concepts about sustainability in their own languages. One teacher told us:

I never knew a chance like this would reach me, where I would use my language to advantage the future of children in order to learn about the environment.

Tech Talk

Sustainability Garden @ NaDEET Base

Trying to keep pace with developments in sustainability keeps us busy! This time the idea is driven by long time team member, Elizabeth Lammert. While giving a tour of the Centre, she shared her dream of having a large garden that can supply food and teach our NaDEET Centre participants about food production. This wish turned into a generous donation from the Reinke family to honour the 80th birthday of their father/grandfather.

Several NaDEETers involved in this project began gathering information how to go about this the best way as building a large-scale garden in the desert (and within a nature reserve) is new to us. We also knew this was the opportunity to tackle a much needed renovation and modernisation project for NaDEET Base, as we would need improved facilities to welcome participants to our operational area and to accommodate the needs of our growing staff.

First, we needed to add to our tech team to tackle this project. Jonas Ndeuludila, one of our recent interns, has returned in the role of technical foreman. During his internship, he completed his research on watering techniques in an arid environment and we look forward to his valuable contributions. In addition, through our new Weltwärts partner, Artefact, we are happy to have Lukas Rohrer working with us since March.

Bodo and Corinna Reinke with their daughters came to Namibia over Easter and took the opportunity to pop by to have a look. It was great meeting them in person. Their company, "Ideal Spaten", in Germany, manufactures garden hand tools. In conversation with them I learned that, "a spade is not a spade", if you dig deep into this subject matter (pun intended). We are awaiting some spades and tools from the Reinkes and are eager to test them out once they arrive.

The first garden houses are constructed and our compost-making is a top priority. Watch this space for more updates as the project unfolds!

Andreas Keding



From l to r: Bodo Reinke, Simon Rooi, Jonas Pombili, Elizabeth Lammert, Andreas Keding, Corinna Reinke and Lukas Rohrer.

UNESCO-Japan ESD Prize Regional Celebration

In celebration of the UNESCO-Japan Prize for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the UNESCO Regional Office hosted a regional appreciation event that gathered international delegates from 9 countries in Windhoek.

The event was addressed by high level ESD stakeholders such as Mr. Djaffar Moussa-Elkadhum, Director and Representative of UNESCO to Namibia, and H.E. Ambassador Hideaki Harada, Ambassador of Japan to Namibia, who congratulated the laureates.

In her keynote address, Honourable Anna Hipondoka, Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, highlighted the importance of education as a vehicle for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Deputy Minister applauded NaDEET for closing the gap between learning about the environment and practicing for the environment.

Delegates heard from the award winners, NaDEET (2018) and Sihlengeni Primary School Permaculture Project (2017), as to what special efforts their projects do to deserve the award. The principal of Sihlengeni, Mr. Sibanga Ncube, and Director of NaDEET, Viktoria Keding, shared the challenges of running ESD projects on a sustainable basis. A big thank you was given to Rod April and the Namibian National Commission to UNESCO for their nomination of NaDEET for the prize. An international delegation of 20 proceeded to NaDEET Centre on NamibRand Nature Reserve, for a day site visit. Here, they practiced sustainability by means of implementing the NaDEET philosophy first hand.

Vicki Endjala



Research at NaDEET

What long-term impact does the **NaDEET** programme have? After 16 years of operation, we have a significant amount of information to reflect on. Currently, we are looking at ways to improve our monitoring and evaluation on an impact level. We hope to improve partnerships with universities to achieve our goals. Since January this year, we have hosted three new Nature Conservation students and a PhD student from the USA. Here an overview of their research.

Follow up research- one year later

Two Nature Conservation interns took on the challenge to do a follow-up research with past participants. In 2018, our intern Tuwilika Shihepo studied the attitudes of the participants immediately before and after a week at the Centre. Lovisa Katanga and Theofilia Ndahalele worked together to locate these past participants to determine their attitudes about the same issues, a year later. Despite the study having several limitations, it gave us some initial feedback and new ideas for future research.

Here an excerpt of Lovisa and Theofilia's findings:

Does the **NaDEET** Centre programme have an impact on its past participants?

The main focus of our research was on water and waste management.

Waste

The follow-up survey showed that all respondents seem to be well aware of litter and its negative impact. People react differently when they see litter or when they see someone else litter. When presented with these two scenarios, the majority stated that they would pick up litter, but also mentioned that they would walk past, depending



Lovisa teaching

on the type of litter. The majority said they would confront the person

littering, but also mentioned that it would depend on the age of the person and the relationship they have with that person. A good number of learners also mentioned that awareness, cleaning campaigns, and the provision of more rubbish bins are important factors in order to reduce littering. It was very interesting to learn that some of learners do not take plastic bags from the shops at all and that those who do have good reasons; mainly to reuse the plastic bags for something else.

Water

It was discovered that most of the learners are conserving water by making sure that they use cups when brushing their teeth, close taps properly, fix or report leaking tap and monitor leaks using a water meter. Some of the learners use bucket showers and tippy-taps at their farms, and most of the learners take limited showers per day, using little water when they shower. Some of the learners went further to inform their parents about how to save water, and one of the learners managed to convince their parent to change the sprinkler irrigation system they use at home.

The whole experience was really amazing, and all the exposure to challenges and successes helped build more confidence in real life situations. The majority of the schools were really wonderful and organised comfortable spaces where interviews could be conducted.

Evaluating impact on community level and assessing learner attitudes

Samantha Lindgren, the Coordinator of the STEM Teacher Development at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in



Samantha Lindgren (left) with NaDEET staff during team building workshop.

the U.S., first learned of **NaDEET's** work through the SunBucket project several years ago. Sam holds a MEd in Science Education and is in the process of obtaining a PhD in Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Her interest lies in understanding the impact of the **NaDEET** Centre programme on energy efficiency practices on a household level. Samantha's ongoing research is being carried out in two sections:

The impact of **NaDEET** programmes on community level by comparing a community that actively participates in the programme versus a community that has minimal exposure to the programme.

Learner attitudes using the pre- and post-surveys to determine the attitude differences between learners that have been to **NaDEET** and those that have not been to the Centre.

Several of our staff are assisting with data collection and entry, as it is a significant amount of data. We look forward to the results.



Theofilia explaining solar oven

For past research, mostly done by undergraduate Nature Conservation students, see the Research & Publications section of our website: <http://www.nadeet.org/research-and-publications-or-about-nadeet>.

Urban Sustainability Centre



Urban Sustainability Centre

Erongo Region- Coastal towns EE/ESD Baseline Survey

In preparation for the development of programmes and activities for the Urban Sustainability Centre in

Swakopmund, the **NaDEET** team conducted a baseline survey of environmental education (EE)/ Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at the coast in Erongo Region. With focus on schools and EE/ESD service providers in the towns of Arandis, Henties Bay, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, the study aimed to identify the topics and various types of EE/ESD practices in the region to identify existing needs and gaps. With backing from the Ministry of Education, the survey is significant for establishing the current trends of implementation of EE/ESD by service providers, schools and the general public.

Together, with the 27 government and private schools surveyed, the study also surveyed 22 EE/ESD service providers that were identified from the target area of the study. The study identified the different types of EE/ESD activities and programmes that schools conduct, as well as, the challenges they face in achieving their EE/ESD plans. With EE/ESD service providers, the study established the types of activities offered and the main audiences while at the same time identifying relevant challenges and gaps.

Findings are currently being finalised and will be made available soon. They will serve to shape the programme development at the new Urban Sustainability Centre and as a means of monitoring change. *Pandu Haindongo*

Urban Sustainability Centre, Up and Running!

The Urban Sustainability Centre welcomed its first groups! With various programmes being piloted at the centre, visiting groups have mainly been school classes from Swakopmund. With some donor funding, **NaDEET** was able to transport and provide a snack for a 2 hour long pilot programme offered either in morning or afternoon sessions.

The programmes were mainly focused on exploring the "Sustainable Activity House" using a semi-guided format. It has helped staff to see areas which work and those that need improvement before the Urban Centre is officially opened later this year.

Exploring different types of fabrics. We have also welcomed visitors from higher learning institutions, individuals and local kindergardens. As the Urban Centre is open to all members of the public, we look forward to more visitors and participants as we continue to develop the displays and future programmes. Here is a comment left behind by the one of the school participants:

Beautiful initiative with an amazing goal, surely everyone should take part!

Sarry Kalumbu



Learning about worm composting.

Behind the scenes @ NaDEET... there is always something being made or updated!



Cedric, our new Weltwärts volunteer, painting a global problems game.



Helena crocheting holders for our new glass water bottles.



Laura building at the new urban centre.

National EE/ESD Development

EduLink Sustainability Module

The next stage of the EduLink project has started with the development of interactive teaching modules. As a partner project, **NaDEET** is helping to develop the sustainability module. With the help of a group of American students from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts USA, the module is being developed to address the various topics of sustainability. As the EduLink project is based on the concept of using different teaching methods, such as the interactive smartboards together with hands-on learning activities, the smartboard module is a core component of the workshops.

This is the feature that makes the programmes easily replicable in the various EE Centres regardless of other resources. The teacher workshops are due to start in September.



Sharing our expertise with Ontanda EE Centre



In the far south of Namibia lies the well-hidden environmental education centre named Ontanda. This Centre is owned by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and was previously part of the Kolmanskop mining town. The facility was renovated many

years ago by NamDeb and Raleigh International to make it into an environmental centre. Ontanda EE Centre lies within the newly proclaimed Tsau //Khaeb National Park formerly known as the Sperrgebiet.

Through a MET donor-funded project to improve management and tourism to this mostly unknown area, **NaDEET** was given a consultancy to develop an environmental education programme for the Centre. Training was provided to the newly appointed EE Warden and the MET staff in the region.

The programme is focused on the themes of unique local biodiversity, the Succulent Karoo Hotspot, waste management and sustainability. Some of the highlights of the programme are activities such as "Fishing for the Future", which illustrates the detrimental impact of resource overutilization, as well as, field trips in the area to explore the biodiversity including the Marine Protected Area.

Viktoria Keding



10 years of Freundschaft mit NaDEET

Freundschaft mit NaDEET- 10th Anniversary!

For the past 10 years, a dedicated team has been raising funds to support environmental education at NaDEET Centre. The idea was born by Pastor Reinhard Keding upon his return to Germany after living a total of 24 years in South Africa and Namibia. The vision was to support **NaDEET's** environmental education work and thereby improve the quality of life of Namibians. With this objective as the focus, a not-for-profit membership organisation was founded in April 2009 by Reinhard with a small group of existing supporters in Germany.

In June 2019, a week of activities took place to celebrate Freundschaft mit NaDEET's 10th anniversary, including visits to partner organisations, schools and presentations. One of the highlights was a visit to the school IGS Wilhelmshaven in northern Germany. I had the opportunity to give a presentation about **NaDEET** and our approach to waste management to about 120 grade 6 students. In addition, we discussed future collaboration around the theme of waste management to improve environmental learning.

The week culminated with the Annual General Meeting which was attended by over 30 members of a membership of 125. Pastor Keding gave a review of the success of the organisation, not only to raise funds for **NaDEET**, but also awareness and a love for Namibia by many Germans that have accompanied him on specialised tours to Namibia with a five-day experience at **NaDEET** Centre.

Viktoria Keding



Freundschaft mit NaDEET Board members, Stephan Trappe, Reinhard Keding, Dirk van der Duijn Schouten, with their new "10 years solar cooking aprons" together with Viktoria Keding (l) and Dorle Keding (r).

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

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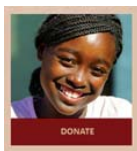


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Technical Director: Andreas Keding



Centre Manager: Viktoria Endjala

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