



Learning and Living for a Sustainable Future

Dear **NaDEET** Friend,

UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education
for Sustainable Development
Laureate 2018

The new **NaDEET** Urban Sustainability Centre in Swakopmund is now officially open! We look forward to welcoming visitors of all ages to explore this exciting hands-on activity centre. The official opening comes at an important time as despite a growing international concern our environment is in a crisis and needs help.

Following global trends, since 2018 Namibia now has more people living in urban areas than in rural areas. This may seem surprising as Namibia is generally seen as a sparsely populated country where people are dependent on subsistence farming. However the demographics are changing and so too must our response. We must adapt and integrate more diverse ways of teaching the importance of our natural environments to all human beings. With more people living in urban areas how can we develop these areas that they become thriving, resilient centres of sustainability instead of areas of poverty and suffering. This is a growing challenge for Namibia.

NaDEET continues to work towards supporting the integration of education for sustainable development (ESD) into all areas of learning and teaching. With the opening of our second centre we will be able to extend our programmes to many more Namibians and broaden our range of topics.

Enjoy reading this issue!

Viktor Keding

Viktor Keding, Director

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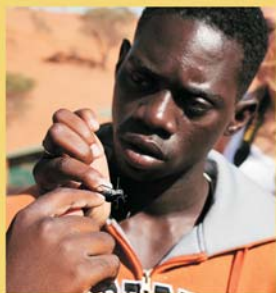
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Centre on NamibRand

NaDEET Prize Money Supports Winner of School Recycling Competition

Every year Recycle Namibia Forum hosts a school recycling competition in an effort to curb the waste problem. This year, the overall winner and the most improved school awards were scooped up by the Moreson Special School in Windhoek. Their prize was a trip for the learners to **NaDEET** Centre on NamibRand Nature Reserve. This came at a time when **NaDEET** had recently won the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) which came with a cash reward. **NaDEET** felt it was fitting to directly share some of the prize money by sponsoring the recycling competition. Moreson Special School is a school for learners with special needs. Although **NaDEET** has very little experience working with children with special needs, the **NaDEET** hands-on approach fit well with how the participants learn at school.



The programme not only focussed on waste, but participants were taught and shown the importance of using renewable energy as well as water saving techniques. The highlight as with many of our participants is preparing their own food using solar equipment. This group also in particular enjoyed being out in nature and seeing animals in the nature reserve. For most of the participants it was the first time to visit the Namib Desert. "We will go back to school and share with the rest of Moreson what you have taught us this week", concluded one of participants at the end of the week.

Vicki Endjala

Visitors from afar!

Japan

The impact of the UNESCO-Japan Prize for ESD for prize-winners is far reaching. Of course, there is the initial excitement, publicity and financial support, but almost a year after **NaDEET** won this prize, has brought a group of students all the way from Japan to the Namib Desert! A first for both the Japanese students and for **NaDEET**.

Twelve Bachelor of Education students from the University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo came to Namibia to see and experience **NaDEET's** ESD practices first-hand. The long journey became a reality as their professor Yoshi Nagata, one of the international jury members for the ESD Prize, took the initiative to organise this tour together with two other colleagues.

The group of fifteen started their Namibia educational tour by first visiting a local primary school that participates in **NaDEET** Centre programmes annually. The trip continued to **NaDEET** Centre where the visitors spent four days learning and practicing ESD. From solar cooking pizza to water saving to making recycled fire balls, the group



engaged in all activities with enthusiasm. In the evenings **NaDEET** staff had the opportunity to exchange ideas and cultures over dinner discussions. A highlight was learning words from each other's language. At the end of the stay, the group expressed their excitement as they felt the connection with nature and how vital it is to protect our biodiversity.

"Before I came here, I didn't clearly know what ESD is. But I spent 4 days here, I think I was able to learn and understand ESD." "Knowing exactly my energy use! And it was so simple so that I can do the same thing when I go back to my country."

Kavango West

During the first week of December, we hosted a secondary school from Kavango West, with carefully chosen grade 10 pupils. The group travelled over 1,200 km to reach the Centre! They were financially supported by the Rossing Uranium Mine with all necessary preparations and organization of the learners by the Rossing Foundation, an organization that works together with the school through their national outreach educational programmes.

Kahenge Combined School was our first ever school from Kavango West to visit **NaDEET** Centre, we were equally thrilled as the participants to have them there. Most of the participants enjoyed dialogues with their classmates and they were vastly interested in the astronomy lesson.



Die Duine - Modernisation & Renovations

In 2019 we embarked on a large-scale renovation and modernisation project focused on establishing a garden and updating our operational infrastructure. There were and still are many hurdles for us to overcome including funding, but one unexpected challenge has been the significant increase in wind storms. There is little protection from the fine dust and sand making progress on some days slow.

Here some updates. Enjoy, *Andreas Keding*.

Garden

Our small experimental garden is operational and for pretty much half a year we could harvest delicious fresh lettuce and tomatoes. Some carrots, onions and potatoes have been seeded out. Towards the summer months, temperatures have been soaring and we have been struggling to keep the lettuce going with current conditions. We are noting down the experiences and will try to adapt.



To support this project, "Freundschaft mit NaDEET" has worked on a beautiful fundraising opportunity together with our main

sponsors the Reinke Family and their company, *Ideal Spaten*. To promote sustainability, we all should be getting our hands into some soil to create gardens and green areas. For this you can get a set of beautiful high quality *Ideal Spaten* garden tools that are bound together with a genuine Namibian kudu leather strap. Proceeds are earmarked for the garden project at **NaDEET** Base. The tools can be purchased for €25.



Electricity upgrade

With all the new developments, it was inevitable for us to purchase a new solar system for the base. We are gaining experience with the new setup that includes a grid-tie inverter, instead of regulators, and lithium ion technology. We are excited to compare the old and new system experience. This will of course be shared with **NaDEET** Centre participants in the future to be able to make more educated decisions in this regard. Our old system will power the workshop operations whilst the new system has taken over the office, satellite internet, kitchens and staff areas.



Workshop

Within our partnership on NamibRand Nature Reserve we also share our base with two tourism concessionaires. To create streamlined space for us all, a jointly financed workshop space was created. With a very capable tech team and strong hands from weltwärts volunteer Lukas we have managed to move into the new building. This frees up the space for our planned day centre and new offices. The day centre will complement our garden and have information on the International Dark Sky Reserve as well as history and stories about NamibRand Nature Reserve.



Water

The water installation upgrade has been an exciting task. We tested out using sand bags to build the bottom platform. Now with the centralisation of all water infrastructure and a new pumping system we are working out the best monitoring system around this precious resource. Weltwärts volunteer Aron, who has been entering data into our monitoring system LIME Green (LIME standing for Less Impact More Education), is exploring how to do this from the data side. We can then install water meters at all the locations needed.



Urban Sustainability Centre Officially Opens

Following months of development and perseverance, **NaDEET's** dream of opening another centre became a reality on the 22nd October 2019. The opening of the new centre brought a multi-faceted audience to the event ensuring that different stakeholders including international and national government agencies, local partners of EE/ESD, **NaDEET** supporters and the media houses gathered to witness the memorable milestone.

Guests had an opportunity to view the centre's facilities before official proceedings to get the first insider view of what the centre will offer to local and international visitors. The importance of this environmental education centre for the town of Swakopmund and Namibia could not have come at a better time as it bridges the local and national efforts to get Namibia's environment in the best possible state.

Speaking in his keynote address Mr. Roderick April, Secretary General of the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO, emphasized the importance of such an initiative that aligns with the national development goals as well as teaching citizens how to protect their

environment and natural resources as part of upholding the Constitution.

Director of Education for Erongo region, Mrs. Ernfriede Stefanus, who also spoke at the event pledged that they would assist school teachers and learners from the region to come and take part in the programmes that will be offered at the centre as they complement the learning content of the National Curriculum.

The Mayor of Swakopmund in her closing remarks welcomed the centre as it complemented the town's plan of becoming more sustainable and for providing an initiative that addresses the developmental issues associated with growing urban areas which is currently happening in Swakopmund.

The opening event was also attended by members of the German-based **NaDEET** support organization "Freundschaft mit NaDEET". The chairperson Pastor Reinhold Keding spoke about the importance of **NaDEET's** work to ensure harmony between people and the environment.

Panduleni Haindongo



Erongo region Director of Education Mrs. Ernfriede Stefanus addressing the audience during the opening



***NaDEET** Director Viktoria Keding (l) watches on as Rod April (c) and Djaffar Moussa-Elkadhun (r) officially unveil the plaque at the centre*



Viewing some of the sustainable practices taught at the centre



Local group African Vocals delivered lively performances during the event

visiting the Urban Sustainability Centre



Urban Sustainability Centre

What is on offer at the Urban Sustainability Centre?

The Centre has several educational hands-on display areas, a small classroom and an environmental library. All are welcome to visit for a semi-guided tour or bookings can be made for programmes.



An Inside Look at the NaDEET Urban Sustainability Centre



The Environmental Discovery Area

A day visitor's experience begins in the environmental discovery area. Here a mural depicts Namibia's beautiful environment whilst showing the threats the country faces resulting from human activities and unsustainable development. It also gives a background to the demographics of the country and its position in a global context.



The Eco-House

The Eco-House is designed to be a model house to demonstrate how we can apply sustainable living on a household level in Namibia. Set up as an open plan house it has five main "rooms" including the entrance way, kitchen, living room, laundry and bathroom. By exploring the house, visitors can find environmental tips and conduct activities in the different rooms. Visitors will discover how this "Eco-House family" is practicing energy and water efficiency, using alternative resources and managing the household waste.



By completing the survey "Measure your Ecological Footprint" visitors can identify how they can improve their own lifestyle habits.



Namibia's Resources Relief Map

A relief map of Namibia shows the country's resources regarding biodiversity, energy and water. There are five large posters linked to the map to provide more background information. Here visitors can find out for example where in the country electricity is produced, where dams are to be found and which areas are protected for conservation.



This new environmental education centre is open to day visitors in the coastal town of Swakopmund. It is ideal for the general public, local Namibians visiting the coast and tourists. The duration of the visit is normally between 30 minutes to 1 hour. Entrance is free of charge. We welcome donations.

Location: <https://goo.gl/maps/tqmQLs6FrDxh6qDN9>

Opening hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm and Saturday 10 am - 3 pm

National, Regional and Internationally EE/ESD

Northern Outreach to Ongwediva



Solar cooking at Mweshipandeka High School

Ester Hango, long time youth officer and past **NaDEET** Centre participant, invited us to present at a women's conference, "Exploring opportunities in Renewable Energy, Agriculture and Environment for rural communities" in Ongwediva. We shared our expertise in energy efficient cooking and raffled off a solar oven. Salmi, a teacher, from a local school won the prize.

The **NaDEET** team also visited a local high school to share solar cooking and recycled fireball making with the learners. The school was pleased to finally learn how to use a solar oven as they already owned two large solar ovens (see blue ovens in photo)!

This again illustrates the importance of education in the use of renewable technologies as otherwise equipment may be underutilized.

EEASA 2019 ~ ESD - One Vision Different Voices

Strengthening Education for Sustainable Development in Southern Africa was the main agenda of the 37th annual EEASA conference that was held in Gauteng, South Africa. With over 10 countries represented by delegates from different sectors, the highlight of the conference was really how EE/ESD will be furthered in the region as the old EEASA council handed over to the newly elected council members. Speaking in her keynote address, newly elected EEASA president Presha Ramsurup urged the members of the organizations active participation in national and global events of EE/ESD. She further urged members to not wait for EEASA conferences to engage and report to each other, but to embrace different digital platforms to engage each other and report to EEASA. The global ESD community is preparing for the upcoming #ESDfor2030 that will be launched in June 2020.



Pandu Haindongo

The Namibian delegation consisting of educators, youth activists and government officials

Plastic Planet- finding the key to wisdom & education in Asia-Pacific Tongyeong ESD International Forum, South Korea



The Regional Centre for Expertise (RCE) Tongyeong is one of the members of the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) Key Partner Network. As one of its commitments to the network, it has hosted an annual international conference on ESD for the past 11 years. As a key partner in the network and as one of the UNESCO Prize Winners in 2018, RCE Tongyeong invited **NaDEET** to share our work and experiences at the 2019 conference.

The conference was attended by over 80 delegates from 6 different countries including Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Laos and Namibia and took place at the Sejahtera Forest RCE Tongyeong Eco Park. This Centre was built as a leading ESD Centre for Asia-Pacific and hosts workshops and programmes for teachers, students and local government. It is located in a forest area directly on the southern coast and features many sustainable facilities.

Unfortunately, there is a tremendous quantity of Styrofoam and plastics on the coast line. It is extremely challenging to clean up as the small pieces lie between the rocks. The conference organisers got all participants involved to collect the rubbish. In addition, similar to **NaDEET**'s approach, the group conducted an audit on the type of waste and the origin!



Viktoria Keding

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



Centre Manager: Viktoria Endjala
Environmental Educator & Communications: Panduleni Haindongo
Environmental Educator - Centre: Michael Kanyanga
Homestead & Kitchen Manager: Elizabeth Lammert
Finance & Admin Officer: Priscilla Kuzeeko
Technical Foreman: Jonas Ndeuludila
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