



# NEWS @ NaDEET

Vol. 13. No. 2 ~ December 2015

[www.nadeet.org](http://www.nadeet.org)



*Learning and Living for a Sustainable Future*

Dear NaDEET friend,

Recently I had the privilege of sharing NaDEET's environmental literacy programmes during a week-long Quality Education Platform hosted by the government, tertiary institutions and UNESCO. The platform discussed the new UN Sustainable Development Goal #4 on Quality Education and focussed on literacy and numeracy, language, teacher training and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Truly the Namibian education system needs to accelerate its efforts to ensure its citizens are afforded the best foundation for success. Most of the platform participants were previously unfamiliar with NaDEET's work and were excited by the cross-curricular nature of our environmental education work. They demanded to know when we would start opening Centres in other parts of the country!

For me, listening to the concerns of teachers regarding these issues, especially language and literacy, reminded me of all of the **opportunities** Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) actually has to integrate the environment into all spheres of learning. I am proud that NaDEET already has this approach to education. A simple representation of this is the mural that one of the schools participating in our EU-funded "RUG for Sustainability" action painted, depicting recycling and a clean environment. Using artwork transcends language barriers and opens up the opportunity to discuss issues in any language. We hope you enjoy reading about these mural paintings and our other recent activities in this newsletter.



As a first step in addressing the need to promote our indigenous local languages of Namibia, I say **Kai Aios!** for your support this year!

Viktoria Keding, Director

Read on pages:

**2-3:**  
NaDEET  
Centre and  
the Water  
Wise  
Washrooms



**4-5:**  
RUG for  
Sustainability



**6:**  
Networking  
and fundraising  
activities



**7-8:**  
Thank you  
to our  
donors





# NaDEET Centre



Glenn and Albert showing off their beanies given to them for their hard work.



Oanob PS learner solar-cooking meatballs.



St Joseph's learners acting out overpopulation.



This curious Oryx started taking over perfect shady spots around and even under the Centre houses.



NaDEET's Assistant Environmental Educator, Elia, riding the E-Fatbike on loan from SunCycles. On harder dune surfaces, the E-Fatbike is a great way to get around, but the fine, soft Namib dune sand can prove to be a real challenge in places.

## The Magic of a Great Learning Environment

It is true that all people learn in different ways; but one element that remains constant is that we all feel pride in our ability to learn and improve. Teaching at NaDEET Centre has shown me that learning is highly dependent on one's attitude towards learning. What was even more surprising to me is that with the right learning atmosphere all kids can succeed, regardless of their previous knowledge, experiences and economic background. Here at NaDEET we allow the best possible learning environment with our learner-centered, non-ridiculed and 'mistakes are awesome' environment, creating the space necessary for learners to express their own ideas and take credit for their own ingenuity. Glenn Kaoë and Albert Windstaan, school children from Kutenhoas Primary School, exemplified this as they really took it upon themselves to learn as much as they could – ask questions, make mistakes, come up with solutions and show interest. It is learners like these that make NaDEET so rewarding.

Farhan Pocsi

*We take the environment for granted. We don't observe. We don't know what its components mean to us and how important they are. Here we lived in the environment without disturbing the environment, and we were not disturbed as well. We only knew that one could sit in the sun when it's cold and we use it for light. We did not know that we could use it for so many things such as cooking, electricity and warming water.*

Mr. Goeieman, Kutenhoas Primary School

## Deserts – Places of Extremes!

Indeed! This distinguishing fact became ever so real and clear during the annual programmes for the schoolchildren from the Deutsche Höhere Private School (DHPS). The first of two groups arrived at NaDEET to pleasantly mild and calm weather.

One day into their stay however, temperatures suddenly dropped overnight by almost 20°C so that learners woke up to cloudy skies, wet sand and really cold air. While warming up and observing the environment during the three hour dune walk, the question - where do plants and animals get water from? - could be answered by simply looking at the drops hanging off grass and leaves. Finding any kind of tracks was difficult as almost all nocturnal creatures had decided to stay home.

On the weekend between the two groups hot wind blew and temperatures rose close to 40°C during the day. When on Monday the second group of DHPS learners arrived, humans and animals alike realised summer is here! Scorpions appeared in large numbers. Interesting patterns of all sorts of tracks could be found on the dunes, including many clear prints of the very distinct body and legs of dancing white lady spiders that had performed their name-giving dance the night before. Even a Namib dune gecko, with its almost translucent pink body, was found in one of the pitfall traps. The Namib is a place of true extremes.

Manuela Schmid



Stampriet learners shivering on frost covered dunes in July.

## Weather, Climate and Education

Recording the weather on a daily basis has been a primary school activity since 2004. Thanks to recent sponsorships, NamibRand and the hard work of Cosima Schröer, our current Centre assistant intern, NaDEET now boasts:

- Davis professional weather station, recording and broadcasting actual weather conditions via our website: [www.nadeet.org](http://www.nadeet.org)
- An upgraded educational weather station at NaDEET
- An exploratory "Climate Change Path", teaching about climate, human-made climate change and how living sustainably is part of the solution.





# NaDEET Centre 2015 Annual Stats



## Participants

563 Female  
525 Male

## Regions

66% Hardap  
16% Khomas  
6% Erongo  
3% Karas  
9% International

## Programmes

57% Primary school  
13% Secondary school  
13% Communities  
10% Youth group  
7% Workshop

## 2015 Quick facts



## Sustainable Living Equipment

116 Solar cookers  
116 Fuel efficient stoves  
116 Bottle skylights  
1 Solar light  
6 Solar ovens

**355 Distributed in Total**



## Top 3 Favourite Solar-cooked Meals

#1- Boerewors & solar cooker pot bread  
#2- Goulash & pasta  
#3- Pizza & fresh salad

## Transport funding

43% government  
20% donor  
37% group



## Programmes and Funding

A total of 1088 participants took part in 30 programmes at NaDEET Centre this past year. Almost 30% of these groups take part in our EU funded "Rug for Sustainability" action, 56% were returning groups and 13% were schools participating for the first time. Unfortunately we had to turn away many schools as the Centre was booked to capacity for the year. We are very grateful to all of our funders as only a few schools are able to cover the costs of the programme. *Freundschaft mit NaDEET* provided us with flat rate funding that supported all school classes and reduced the actual cost by N\$100/person for all participants. We had several local foundations and companies that co-sponsored school classes, and two overseas schools that sponsored a whole class. A special thank you to the Ministry of Education for providing transport for schools! The ability to keep our programme at such a low cost is only possible with this help and especially with the on-going support of individual private donors. *Viktoria Keding*

## Centre Environmental Audit

Check out some key results from our on-going environmental audit at NaDEET Centre regarding energy, water and waste.

### Energy

- More than 650 hours spent solar cooking, saving at least 850 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>
- More than 200,000 plates of solar-cooked meals eaten

### Water

- 20 m<sup>3</sup> litres of water solar-heated for participants' bucket showers
- 15.8 litres of water used per person per day for everything

### Waste

- At least 35,000 recycled paper fireballs made by participants for use in fuel efficient stoves
- More than 75% of waste was recycled



## Water Wise Washrooms

I have been involved in most of NaDEET's building projects and built many of them myself. Designing a building from the ground up has many implications and although a simple house (like NaDEET Centre's houses) are a straightforward structure, the background story of why it is built the way it is has been a long journey. The new Water Wise Washrooms (WWW) had many more challenging factors to consider, such as structural engineering, available and acceptable materials to NamibRand Nature Reserve building code and of course, big on our agenda, an environmentally friendly building. In addition there are the educational factors of how the building actually teaches our philosophy of "we practice what we teach". At the end of the day, it needs to look nice and not cost too much!

Now that we are actually building after a year of planning and fundraising, it is exciting to see the many great features and ideas that went into this project become reality. To accommodate the height of a bucket shower, for example, in a building on stilts with a dune slope and fixed roof structure that actually can accommodate the pulley system and not tower over every other building was quite a complex problem to solve. Although the building is a bit behind schedule at the time of writing this, we must complete the whole project by the end of January 2016. Thank you to the whole building team. Together we are all enduring the heat, the wind, the



dust - and although not always easy, our good team spirit is leading the way. Elia who has morphed from our environmental educator to builder will next year have the exciting task of making the Water Wise Washrooms come alive when the first school children arrive in 2016.

Thank you especially to all our donors which made this project possible.

*Andreas Keding*







## European Union (EU) funded three year action

*Building Sustainable Education and Practices in Communities through an Integrated School-centred Approach*

Namibian society has developed into a place where people constantly want to be given things. However, there are so many opportunities we can create for ourselves. All we need to do is to want to do it and to work hard at it. The RUG for Sustainability action this past year taught skills in practicing a sustainable lifestyle and empowered the communities with the necessary equipment to take action. Now it is up to the community to act!

Viktoria Endjala



## NaDEET Centre Activities

### Youth Programmes

This year's youth programmes included an exciting new activity on developing self-employment that is also environmentally friendly. The activity was based on four employment areas of produce, fix, grow and sell. Youth were given the option to choose the area they were most interested in to develop business plans and try out practical examples.



*Producing popcorn as a healthy alternative and a great business idea.*



*Business plan development to provide repair services.*



*Preparing soil for growing food as a source of income.*



*Presenting business plans for marketing and selling products.*

*NaDEET has been very educational. It has brought me closer to the environment, rather changed the way I think about the environment. It taught me the impacts my actions have on the environment. I can be responsible and take action to save the world.*

*Loutjie, Gochas Youth*

## Sustainable Living Technologies in Communities



*Uibes kids waiting for breakfast.*

A major outcome of the RUG for Sustainability action is to improve access to sustainable living equipment. This year, in addition to our community group programme, we trained RUG communities in solar oven construction together with the support of Namibian solar oven producer, Nailoke's Solar House. Interested men and women in each community made two goat-sized solar ovens that were donated to the schools and hostels for use at the schools for education purposes and as an alternative cooking method.



*Constructing the solar ovens in Gochas in the school yard.*



*Taking action! After their visit to NaDEET Centre last year, these young men went home and constructed their own solar oven with locally sourced materials.*



### Eco-RUG Points

The Eco-RUG point system allows participants to earn points over time towards a sustainable living technology. This October we handed over our first solar light and cellphone charger to Paulo Cloete, a Rietoog youth. Paulo has always participated and helped the RUG team with activities, even if they were not for his age group. Congratulations!



*Baking the first bread in the newly made solar ovens.*



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# European Union (EU) funded three year action

*Building Sustainable Education and Practices in Communities through an Integrated School-centred Approach*



## School and Community Outreach



### Mural Paintings

*Let us paint the world to create awareness about sustainability. Let us leave colourful handprints instead of footprints.*

This October the schools in the RUG communities put their ideas from paper onto the school walls. The schools were tasked with collecting ideas that addressed appropriate environmental and sustainability issues that are appropriate and needed to attract attention to problems and, more importantly, to solutions. The outreach team travelled to the three communities, bringing paint, brushes and a lot of fun and enthusiasm. Each of the schools had their own way to transform their ideas into murals. While N. Mutschuana PS chose to show a sustainable world by creating a picture showing people dreaming of peace, education and a clean environment, Edward Frederick PS and WJD Cloete JSS came up with illustrations that presented the development from a problem to a solution. Edward Frederick's images are telling a story of how to clean a polluted river and Rietoog's paintings present how to deal with rubbish in a responsible way. The mural



paintings were painted by the kids themselves, with help

from the NaDEET staff, making it a great collaboration. They made their school walls colourful while engaging with the environmental message from the beginning to the end.

*Nina Grahl, our current weltwärts volunteer, provided the artwork to bring the concepts alive. Nina and Vicky outlined the murals in the evening*



### Plant a Tree, Heal the World

National Tree Planting Day is celebrated annually every second Friday of October. This year the RUG communities also joined the rest of the country in celebrating this day. Ninety seedlings donated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in Mariental made their way into the soils of Gochas, Uibes and Rietoog. Some community members were happy to get their own tree as acknowledgement for their special interest in the RUG work. Most of the seedlings, however, were planted at the schools. Each class, from pre-primary to grade 9, planted either a fruit or shade tree. It is now the learners' responsibility to look after their tree; to give it food, water and shelter. This also reflects the spirit of National Arbor Day's theme this year: *"Our Environment is our Future. And our Future is our Responsibility"*. We hope that on our next visit, the seedlings have survived and in a couple of years, they provide pupils, teachers and community members with plenty of cool shade and delicious fruit!



### Long-term School Projects Starting to Take Shape

Cornelia Bernade, Rietoog's Community Liaison Officer, is seen inspecting the garden that is being prepared in the school yard. NaDEET activities are again aligned with the national government's objectives, as all schools nationwide are encouraged to start gardens to improve food security for schoolchildren. Another school is also working on a garden, while N. Mutschuana would like to build a solar cooking area for the school.





# NaDEET Networking

NaDEET participated in several networking opportunities locally, nationally and internationally. All of these events addressed the need to upscale activities as declared in the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP).

- **UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development**

NaDEET participated in the strategy and networking meetings for the GAP nationally in Windhoek and in Harare, Zimbabwe, on a regional level. As one of only seven African members of the Key Partner Network, NaDEET is actively involved to motivate the Namibian government to move forward with its strategies.

- **33rd Annual EEASA Conference- Matshapa, Swaziland**

Vicky Endjala represented NaDEET at the 33rd Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) Conference in September. Key deliberation of the conference was the GAP whereby NaDEET was presented as one of the leading environmental education organisations. Vicky's presentation outlined NaDEET's "RUG for Sustainability" action as our GAP commitment on local level.

- **Cuvelai- Etosha Basin Environmental working group - Swakopmund**

An environmental education study group visited the coast to gain ideas and learn from the region's approach to environmental education. NaDEET gave a presentation on all of our resources available to schools.



## NaDEET in the USA

We have re-ignited fundraising and educational activities in the US through establishing a US Advisory Board and with a two week fundraising and "friend" raising tour. The Keding family added several stops onto their US family reunion in September, covering Chicago, Nebraska, Connecticut, New York and Virginia. The tour went very well and raised lots of interest and support for NaDEET, as well as some much needed funds. Key highlights of our US based activities are:

- **Establishment of US Advisory Board:** Consisting of four members, each brings different skills and expertise to support NaDEET's aims. Their profiles can be seen at: [www.nadeet.org/ourteam](http://www.nadeet.org/ourteam)

- **Hosting of NaDEET Events:** Various events were organised by supporters, friends and former NaDEET volunteers, including house parties and school presentations. The highlight was a presentation for the "Great Ideas, Great Plains" Olson lecture series at the University of Nebraska- Centre for Great Plains Study. The presentation can be heard here: [www.unl.edu/plains/viktoria-keding-9.9.15.mp3](http://www.unl.edu/plains/viktoria-keding-9.9.15.mp3)

- **Tax-deductible Collective Giving Fund:** The US Advisory Board has established a collective giving fund through a fiscal agent. All US donations therefore are now tax-deductible. More details are provided on the back page and on our website.



*The Keding family with long time supporters Rich and Margot Bittenbender at a fundraiser "Cocktails for a Cause" at their home. At all house parties, beautiful photo wall collages and posters brought the Namib to the US. Rich is one of the new advisory board members.*

## International visitors

**Former weltwärts volunteer** Samuel Pfenning returned with an educational tour group from Switzerland and Germany to NaDEET Centre. The group joined in with the Namibian schoolchildren and learned from them as the children learned from NaDEET.

Martin Fellner, a videographer from **Flutlicht-Film GmbH**, filmed NaDEET Centre in action for a German television report which will be aired in 2016.

Former **IGS Wilhelmshaven teacher** Gisela Welle and her husband Mathias Dietrich from Germany paid a friendly visit to NaDEET Centre as part of their tour through the country which also included regular NaDEET visitor #Oan//ob Primary School. The visitors joined some classroom sessions to observe programme activities, praised NaDEET's approach to hands-on learning and commented that all schools need to come.



## Staff training

NaDEET gives our staff as many learning opportunities as possible. In the past months Vicky Endjala attended a fully sponsored Climate Change Adaptation course in South Africa and Priscilla Kuzeeko attended the NACOMA Environmental Education Course in Swakopmund. This is what they said:

*I was glad to represent NaDEET at this training although I felt a bit out of place at the beginning as I am still gaining knowledge on environmental education. I am glad that*

*I participated and got to learn more. - Priscilla*  
*Although I already know about climate change, this course reminded me of climate change basics and was done in a practical way that gave me some great new activity ideas. - Vicky*

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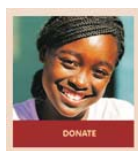
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