



Namibia National
Commission for
UNESCO



ITTG Press Release

NaDEET launches *It's Time To Grow* educational material

Windhoek, 24 January 2018 – The Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust (NaDEET) in partnership with the UNESCO Participation Programme officially launched the *It's Time To Grow* educational material for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in three local languages namely Khoekhoegowab, Otjiherero and Oshindonga. The project was primarily funded by the UNESCO Participation Programme through the Namibia National Commission to UNESCO and with support from the Hanns Seidel Foundation Think Namibia Project and the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture.

It's Time To Grow was officially launched by the Director of Programmes Quality Assurance in the Ministry of Basic Education, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Edda Bohn and the Director of NaDEET Mrs. Viktoria Keding. The event was attended by representatives from different schools, high level officials from the education ministries as well as various stakeholders and partners of in the ESD field in Namibia. Mr. Roderick April, Secretary General of Namibian National Commission to UNESCO, guided proceedings at the event as the master of ceremonies. He emphasized the importance of Education for Sustainable Development as one of the key focus areas of UNESCO.

The books and memory games which cover the environmental themes of Biodiversity, Energy, Water and Waste are aimed for lower primary teachers and learners and they aim to incorporate these important themes into the minds of young Namibian citizen to ensure the sustainability of Namibia's future. Translation of the books from English into the three local languages was done through workshops held at NaDEET Centre on the NamibRand Nature Reserve in Hardap Region with the help of language teachers from the different regions of the country. Participants from each of the language translation workshops at the event shared their experiences of personal growth and environmental awareness developed during the translation of the books.

The Director of Programmes and Quality Assurance Mrs. Bohn highlighted the importance of developing educational materials in mother tongue which was identified as one of the educational needs in Namibia. She further explained the importance of equipping lower primary teachers with the right materials for the development of children and called on the

teachers receiving the material to share and make good use of the material. She finally called on all the involved stakeholders to work together to achieve the full translation of the book in to all the local languages so that no Namibian child is left out.

For more information about the *It's Time to* sustainability series, visit:

<http://www.nadeet.org/its-time-toseries>