



Learning and Living for a Sustainable Future

Dear **NaDEET** Friend,

Exhilarating...rewarding...pleasantly surprising ...these are some of the emotions that the **NaDEET** Teach for ESD team shared upon returning from visiting the participating schools throughout the country. An important part of Teach for ESD is our visit to each of the teacher teams' schools, offering them an opportunity to present their work to us first-hand. These visits took us to all corners of Namibia from the far South in Lüderitz to the banks of the Kavango and Zambezi rivers. From what we have seen and heard, we can report that our programme, Teach for ESD, is a roaring success! We have met numerous principals and regional educational officers who have testified to Teach for ESD's impact, at their schools and for their learners.

"Thank you NaDEET for ESD, education, awareness and the change you brought into Namibian schools and our communities. We are privileged to have been part of this journey. Climate change is real and most of us have witnessed it. We will continue with our ESD activities! Thanks Team NaDEET!"

Domingo Zacharias, Teach for ESD teacher participant

We too are thankful to all of the Teach for ESD teachers for their effort and have learned from their feedback and experiences. We look forward to continuing to develop the programme.

I am immensely proud of all our accomplishments this year which are highlighted in our photo collage and throughout this newsletter!

Sustainability, a love for nature, a clean and healthy school- these should be accessible to all. I can actively feel the "**NaDEET**-family" growing which gives me a great sense of fulfilment and a hope for Namibia.

From the whole **NaDEET** Team, thank you for your support this year.



Viktoria Keding, Director

UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education
for Sustainable Development
Laureate 2018



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Thank you to
our Donors!



NaDEET Centre



**Centre on
NamibRand**

2022

24
groups

767
participants

54% female
46% male

675
solar
cooking hours



NaDEET Centre was very active in the second half of the year with a large variety of programmes. We welcomed back our regular visitors as well as new schools including Gammams PS, Acacia PS and Willem Borchard PS. Our university programme continued and for the first time we hosted conservancy members from the Zambezi Region.

Experiencing the Glory of Nature

First time visitors to the Namib expect dry conditions, however, the drought from the past years has had a significant impact. However, since our excellent rainfalls in March, the desert has been very exciting for the biodiversity component of the NaDEET programme! With a focus on identifying and studying the biodiversity through a nature walk and nocturnal catch and release trapping, participants have seen many animals. One of the groups even caught a golden mole in their pitfall traps, one of the endemic species of the Namib! Other animals that were caught by the learners were the Koch's barking gecko, wedge snouted lizard, different species of tok tokkies, ants, spiders, Namib dune gecko, hairy footed gerbil, and short-tailed gerbil. Many species of plants and animals were spotted on the nature walks such as the Namib sand snake and a Cape hare. Some participants also saw a Spotted Eagle Owl, which was laying eggs, and the eggs were eventually hatched successfully! After many years of drought, this abundance of wildlife has been very rewarding to witness.

Theofilia Ndahalele



"The implementation of this well-aligned curriculum was well executed, simply because it was done in a hands-on fashion. I am sure the experience gained here will stay with our learners for a very long time."

Teacher, Gammams Primary School - Windhoek

UNAM Katima Mulilo students host campus event



Following their visit, the wildlife ecology students were inspired to promote the importance of environmental education on their campus. They aimed to improve environmental literacy among their fellow students to make more informed decisions about the environment by developing an outdoor information display. The event held in November shared awareness on contemporary environmental issues and principles of sustainable development.

Panduleni Haindongo
Through support from the NNF / Go Green Fund, NaDEET provides mini-grants to the university students for these events.

Intern for ESD programme concludes

At the end of the 8 month programme, we celebrated it's successful completion and asked our interns, "Looking back, what were your highlights?" Here is what they said: *"Teach for ESD site visit, solar cooking, teaching, planting trees, dune walks and living sustainably!"*



F.I.t.r: Veronica, Elizabeth, Festus and NaDEET's Operations Manager, Jonah.

We are thrilled that Festus and Elizabeth are joining us as environmental educators in 2023 at NaDEET Centre.

Urban Sustainability Centre



**Urban
Sustainability
Centre**

2022



groups



participants

61% female

39% male

350
day visitors

The Urban Sustainability Centre has delivered in 2022, with incredible feedback from our participants and partners! We have gained perspective and identity, have realized potential, and we have built relationships along the way! Our Senior Primary School Programme has been our focus, as we have overcome the many obstacles COVID-19 had left in its wake.

Connecting the classroom to the streets of Swakopmund

In developing the Urban Centre Senior Primary School Programme, we consciously focused on the urban environment instead of the ocean and dunes iconic to the Namibian coast. In our drive towards practical ESD, the **NaDEET** team drew outside the lines and this 'urban' programme took to the streets to connect our participants with what they have learned in the classroom to their own city surroundings on the Urban Centre's signature Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Walk!

Here are some of the highlights of the SDG Walk:



Zero Waste Store

Learning about how food is sold using less packaging and why it is important to support local markets.



The Swakopmund Aquarium

Understanding more about local marine life and the effects of plastic pollution.



Waste Management Systems

Taking part in Swakopmund's different waste management systems, such as recycling and deep collection bins.



"It's a place where you learn about the environment, ecosystem and biodiversity. You might say you already know but you will learn it on another level trust me."

Learner, Tamariskia Primary School - Swakopmund

Urban Biodiversity: Learning about birds

One of the core environmental themes NaDEET programmes teach about is biodiversity and the critical role it plays within the environment. Biodiversity in Swakopmund is no less important, despite it being an urban area. Integrated into the school programmes we explore biodiversity through plants and birds we find in our own garden! The coastal area is a very important habitat for many Namibian birds, which have added a beautiful perspective to nature in the city!



NaDEET was very fortunate to again team up with the YourTern Project, which aims to create awareness for nature conservation around birds, and specifically Namibia's Damara Tern! The team joined us in August to test out their newest educational board game, Take Your Turn! The collaboration gave us an amazing opportunity to observe and collect data in order to understand the different ways our learners are engaging with the materials. The YourTern Project team shared their expertise in birds with us and our groups, which enhanced our programmes.

Inspired with new ideas we further collaborated for our annual Sustainability Summer Day Camp to develop a fun filled week of activities for junior primary aged campers based on this year's theme, Birds! Going into their summer, 23 children are now well informed on Namibian birds and actions they can take to help protect them!



Damaris Braune



TEACH for ESD

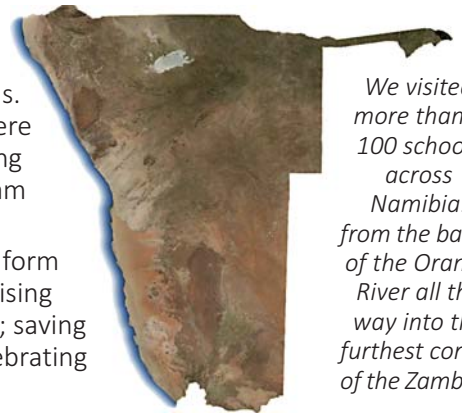
NaDEET visits Teach for ESD teachers at their schools

By September 2022, our Teach for ESD participants had close to a year's time to implement Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) activities at their schools. Through their badge applications, we only had a glimpse of how our teachers were "getting practical". But what else were they doing? What impact were they having on their learners and larger school community? Needless to say, the NaDEET team was very curious and eagerly set off to meet our teachers at their own schools.

More than 50% of teachers have done 5/10 (or more) ESD activities!

At every school we visited teachers were doing ESD, in one form or another! The majority of teachers had focused on raising awareness about reducing, reusing and recycling waste; saving water; planting trees; starting food gardens and celebrating environmental days.

At the end of our site visits we could verify that **more than 50% of our teachers had done 5 (or more) of 10 ESD activities** - which means that we have met our project goals! This alone is reason to celebrate! But, here we would like to celebrate one of the greatest successes of the Teach for ESD programme: *those teachers and schools that showcased ESD excellence.*



We visited more than a 100 schools across Namibia: from the banks of the Orange River all the way into the furthest corner of the Zambezi.

A Recipe for ESD Success & Excellence require a few 'key ingredients':

Teamwork

If fellow staff members and management are not informed, implementing ESD can feel like 'swimming upstream,' but it is much easier to 'swim upstream as a team'! That's why it was a requirement for teachers to work in pairs. Teams that consistently worked, planned and dreamed ESD together, motivated and inspired one another and made things happen!



Dominkus Kapirika and Sebastian Mangundu from Mbambi PS in Kavango East (left), Eva Kachitomwa and Sansindi Mwala (right) from Kasika CS in Zambezi have accomplished so much through their exemplary teamwork.

"It is wonderful to work in partnership, it is of great advantage that we do. We learn so much from one another since we teach different subjects. Creating and brainstorming projects together gives so much 'flavour' to our projects."

Amalia Hailkali, Uupindi Primary School - Oshikoto

Good structure

Many of our teachers started environmental clubs. We found that the most active clubs had learners with responsibilities in decision-making processes (e.g. planning environmental days they wanted to celebrate) and where they felt they were making a positive difference. This goes hand in hand with structure: meeting regularly and a long-term plan.



"It's a new school year and a lot of learners wanted to join the Environmental Club, so we conducted a Treasure hunt to give equal opportunity to anyone who picks a token to become a member. Tokens were placed close to litter to see whether our learners will pick the litter as well. A variety of snacks were also placed all around the school, for fun and also to observe what they do with the wrappings. 40 learners found tokens and became registered members of the club."

Sem Imene, Cimbebasia Primary School - Khomas

TEACH for ESD

Support

We found that those teacher teams who had enthusiastically shared their ESD training experiences with fellow staff members and management, and who had convinced them of the value and potential of ESD, were able to make great strides in mainstreaming ESD into school activities (e.g., environmental school policies, informing and involving parents and other community members, and 'greening' school programmes and events).



At Akunihole Primary School, Hilda Nakaambo together with her partner has gotten her entire staff and school management involved, to take ownership of their school's ESD projects. Teach for ESD is seen as a project done by the entire school, not just by the teachers who received the training.

Passion & enthusiasm

Passion is what keeps teachers going and enthusiasm is necessary to positively inspire and motivate others to join them in their ESD activities. Teachers passionate about ESD have explored the resources that NaDEET has provided (in the Teach for ESD Toolkit). They identify ESD opportunities in informal learning moments (the 'hidden curriculum') and look at how they can transform their classroom and larger school environment into an 'ESD setting'.



The love for our country's biodiversity and the hope for a sustainable future for the Namibian child is what drives teachers like Amalia Haikali and Fiina Amadhila to ESD action and to go the extra mile.



Creativity & Innovation

Teachers that take ESD to another level are those that have the creativity to incorporate ESD into subjects that are not obviously linked to environmental topics (e.g., Entrepreneurship, Mathematics, History and Languages) and to do things differently. They come up with innovative and creative ways to solve environmental issues.

The classrooms at Elim Junior Secondary School (Omusati) did not have any bins. Instead of waiting for funds to purchase new bins, Thresia Nepolo and Shekupe Ambole-Shivute come up with a creative solution to the problem: each class would make their own bin from waste materials - saving both money and the environment!



What's next for Teach for ESD?

December marks the end of the Teach for ESD implementation phase, but we hope that our participants will continue to put what they have learned these past 18 months into action for the rest of their teaching careers! In February 2023, we will host the Teach for ESD End of Programme Conference in Swakopmund, where all of the successful participants will come together one last time to share and learn from one another, and to celebrate each other! The next intake of teachers for Teach for ESD will be in 2024.

Alisa Volkman



National and Regional Activities

Annual EEASA Conference hosted in Windhoek

A strong NaDEET delegation actively took part in this year's Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) conference. This is the highlight of regional networking and sharing of expertise and was the first held in person post-COVID. NaDEET contributions were far reaching including these main highlights:

ESD Policy Panel

Pandu led a panel discussion on the National ESD Policy which attracted attention from other southern African countries seeking to develop their own policies. Three speakers shared their input on EE/ESD in Namibia focused on the history of the early EE/ESD days, the important roles of the key stakeholders in developing the policy and on how the ESD Task Force is translating the policy into action.



Sponsorship of Tree Planting

Six indigenous trees were sponsored by NaDEET as nature-oriented 'thank you's' for the speakers in lieu of purchasing gifts. These have been planted on the UNAM campus.



Teach for ESD Presentation

The highlight was Damaris and Pandu's presentation on our teacher professional development programme. Words of support were received during the presentation from the Oshana Regional Director of Education, Mrs Amukana who highlighted the significance of NaDEET's choice to strategically extract EE from the curriculum and link it to activities that teachers can implement as a strength of the curriculum, which was perceived to be poor. Teach for ESD teachers added to the weight of the presentation as the audience could link and interact with them directly.

Viktoria Keding

NaDEET celebrates with NatCom at 30 year gala



NaDEET gave testimony at the Namibia National Commission (NatCom) for UNESCO 30 Year Gala celebration. Viktoria Keding gave her remarks of gratitude to NatCom for their openness to partnership and vision to achieve ESD in Namibia. It is through NatCom that NaDEET was nominated for the 2018 UNESCO Japan ESD prize. The Gala Dinner was well attended by dignitaries including the Honorable Vice President and ministers, as NatCom is a well respected government body within the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation.

We look forward to many successful years ahead!



Zambezi Region gets injection of ESD activities

We have been working with various partners in the Zambezi Region; an area of the country that does not yet have its own environmental education centre and is faced with many pressing environmental issues. Through a newly developing World Wildlife Fund (WWF) led initiative in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Area (KAZA), we have joined to implement activities with schools. To date, we have started with two activities to generate some common understanding around the concept of ESD and to familiarize ourselves more with the needs of the region.

Viktoria leads the Zambezi Regional Strategy Workshop in September which included over 64 participants.



KAZA conservancy managers and representatives take part in a hands-on sustainability training at NaDEET Centre and help develop ideas to improve linkages between conservancies and schools in the region.

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

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We need YOUR Help!



One child at NaDEET Urban Sustainability Centre:

€ 30
US\$ 30
N\$ 495



One child at NaDEET Centre for one week:

€ 65
US\$ 65
N\$ 1,080



Co-sponsorship for a two-year teacher training programme:

TEACH for ESD

€ 150
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