



The Golden Mole

NEWS @ NaDEET

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Learning and Living for a Sustainable Future

Dear NaDEET friend,

The solitude of dark nights, the burning sun at midday, the soft dune sand under feet. Such characteristics make the desert appealing and perhaps a bit unsettling? As much as the desert appeals to me, I know it is not for everyone. Despite this NaDEET Centre is a place that recharges people's batteries. Nature has a way of doing that! What's it like to stay at NaDEET? Well it can be anything from "roughing it in the outdoors" to "a luxury hotel", depending on your perspective and background. When asked if children enjoy it, I can whole-heartedly say yes. And when further asked if it makes a difference in how participants live, it is a much harder question to answer. Real change not only requires an understanding of issues, but a desire for change on an individual and societal level - and each participant is different.

I am currently completing my MSc in Sustainable Development, which includes a case study of Rietoog and Maltahöhe, two of our long standing partner communities. Looking at levels of sustainable living practices in adult participants, years after them visiting NaDEET Centre, revealed many things - some of them unexpected - about how participants have applied what they learned, how it makes sense in their daily life, and what challenges they face. Interestingly, almost everyone said that before coming to NaDEET they never knew about sustainability – reminding me why environmental education remains so vital. Without knowledge, how can we expect a change in behaviour?

Recently, a principal took the time to write me a thank-you note after her school children attended NaDEET Centre. She wrote, "*It is truly amazing to see the change this outing has brought about in them...they do not leave a paper around, keep their area clean and inspire the rest of the learners to do the same*". - I feel inspired!

Viktoria Keding, Director

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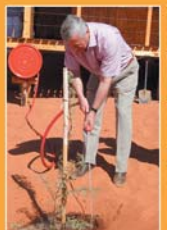
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Thank you to our donors



NaDEET Centre

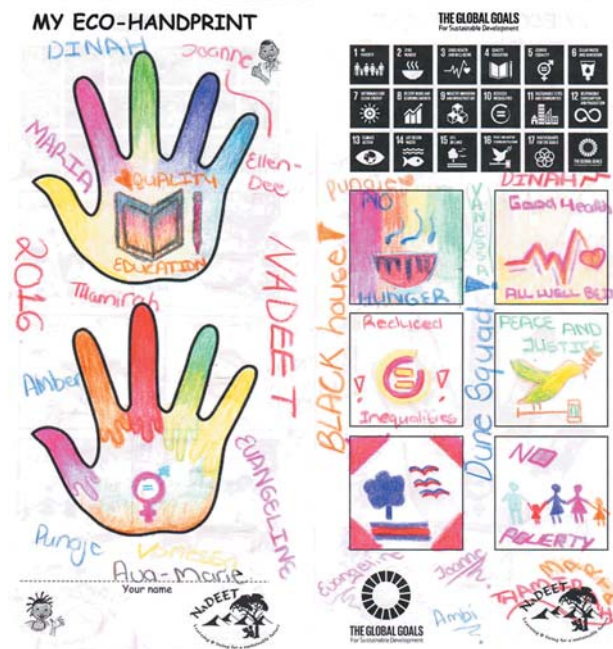
Handprints, Not Just Footprints

With the signing of the 17 UN Sustainable Development goals in September 2015, the international community has finally outlined clear goals for sustainability. Commonly known as the Global Goals (www.globalgoals.org) we have embraced teaching about these goals during our programmes. The globalgoals.org initiative has developed many fun and age-appropriate materials to make these goals more understandable for all. These include music videos, short films, comic books, posters and activities. Here are some of the ways NaDEET Centre has adapted to teaching about the goals:



Taxi Talk

During this role play, teachers from the Hardap Region, jumped into a taxi and started to engage in conversation about the global goals. Through the interactions teachers voiced which issues they believed were most pressing to address. Afterwards a comparison was made to the 17 Global Goals.



My Eco-Handprint

Primary school learners watch a short film featuring Ivorian soccer star Kolo Touré teaching about the Global Goals after which they participate in the weekly "Measuring our Environmental Footprint" exercise. Then they use the knowledge gleaned throughout the week to make an "Eco-Handprint" pledge, where they highlight five things they will do for a sustainable environment.

In the secondary school programme we revised our bookmark activity to link directly to the Global Goals and taking positive action. Participants complete the bookmarks while listening to the hit single "Tell Everybody" written, recorded and produced by African musicians.



Three months after the programme, NaDEET delivers the bookmarks back to the learners at school as a reminder of their own commitments. *Viktoria Keding*



It's Easy to Teach Here

It is easy to teach here, because it's hands-on. NaDEET has created this good learning environment where learners actually see and experience what they are being taught in the classroom. So many times learners get bored and lose interest because there is nothing practical to relate to. That is never the case at NaDEET because the environment naturally arouses interest and often even gives answers.

Elia Shikukumwa



The Universe, Light Pollution and Discovering Fun Facts

Our astronomy programme has just gotten even better. We are the educational core of the NamibRand International Dark Sky Reserve so teaching about the night sky and its main threat, light pollution, is important to us. The activity now starts in the classroom with a short video, "Losing the Dark", which participants watch sitting on a large painted cloth of our universe. Using large sized models of celestial bodies such as planets, stars and galaxies, everyone gets a much better idea of what these actually look like. The highlight remains adventuring up to the top of the dune at night for real stargazing. Here everyone soaks in the beauty of the dark sky.

In addition, we now have a new short film about NamibRand made by Alexia Germain that highlight the dark sky and many other fun facts about the Reserve. You can view it here: www.nadeet.org/our-surroundings



NaDEET Reaches Out in the South

Solar Cooking Workshop @ Little Bugs

Little Bugs School, is a small, newly established farm school at NamibSky, a concessionaire of NamibRand Nature Reserve. They invited NaDEET to present a solar cooking workshop to parents of Little Bugs



School, as part of a series of workshops aimed at educating parents and giving them access to programmes that support and strengthen both parenting and life skills. Five of the participants went home with a brand new solar cooker, sponsored by Namib Sky Community Trust in collaboration with UNICEF. *Manuela Schmid*

Kutenhoas Primary School's New Solar Cookers

Kutenhoas Primary School, a small but vibrant school, may not feature on many maps, but it is making a big impact in its community. NaDEET recently delivered four large solar cookers to the principal, Mr Goeieman. The cookers will be used to help with a more sustainable energy mix for the school feeding programme. This donation was made possible by the facilitation and funding received from ACS Cobham International School in the UK, who have been supporting Kutenhoas Primary School and community for several years. To date, NaDEET Centre has hosted two groups from Kutenhoas so we know that there is expertise within the community to use and care for the cookers properly. We are excited to be able to help and contribute to the good partnership between ACS Cobham and Kutenhoas and look forward to hosting more participants in the near future. *Andreas Keding*



NaDEET Reaches Out at the Coast

NaDEET educates about recycling at Henties Bay Clean-up

NaDEET staff took part in the Henties Bay clean-up campaign, organized by the Henties Bay municipality. A large number of people from the National Youth Service, the University of Namibia and Kamwandi Junior Secondary School participated. Rent-A-Drum provided trucks for recycling the waste collected.

To teach about the importance of proper waste management, NaDEET set up an information table including posters about the impacts of litter on the ocean and the how to recycle. Our recycling game was a big hit with the children. As educational members of the Recycle Namibia Forum (RNF), we also provided information about the work of the RNF. Of course, we also helped out picking up the litter. The town definitely looked cleaner at the end of the day!



Schoolchildren equipped with gloves, masks and rubbish bags, set off to clean up town

NaDEET Pilots Another EE Model in Swakopmund

NaDEET's dream of developing an environmental education programme for Swakopmund has moved one step further. To date our day-long activities attracted new participants each time they were carried out. This time a three-day activity about the coastal biodiversity at the Swakop River mouth was designed and tested with the help of environmental clubs from two local schools. Two lessons were classroom based, while the third was a field trip to the Swakop River. Despite living in Swakopmund, many of the learners had never visited the Swakop River mouth before and did not know what they could find there. This pilot provided valuable lessons regarding implementation, all of which will inform the further development of a permanent programme for the coast.



Westside High learners delighted to learn about biodiversity at the Swakop River mouth.

Ndapanda, Toivo, Elia and the Swakop River Beach

Toini Amutenya, a student from the Namibia University of Science and Technology worked as an intern in the NaDEET Swakopmund office for 5 months. She wrote a delightful book for the coastal biodiversity programme. It boasts super illustrations and is about three children who learn about caring for the environment whilst visiting the Swakop River.





European Union (EU) funded three year action

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

It has been two and a half years since the “RUG for Sustainability” project got off the ground and we find ourselves fast approaching the end of this EU-funded action. We are in full swing with all our outreach activities in the three communities of Rietoog, Uibes and Gochas, and relish that many projects are being realised. The adult and upper primary programmes, which were hosted at the NaDEET Centre have been completed. The “Long-Term Sustainability Projects” are more than half way done and more sustainable living equipment is reaching participants.



NaDEET Centre Activities

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Educators' Programme

“It opened my eyes and made me realise I can do more for my community! Change starts with me and it is actually possible”. This was just one of the positive sentiments that teachers from the February Educator's Programme shared with us.



The RUG teachers requested that NaDEET organise a specialised programme for them. Through consultation with the Ministry of Education Hardap Regional office, it was decided to extend the invitation to other teachers in the region as well. This programme provided an unique opportunity for teachers, from a very large and sparsely distributed region, to come together. Here, the teachers from the participating RUG schools could share their experiences about Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) with others. The positive energy was infectious and we hope that the teachers have taken this energy back and are finding ways to spread the word of ESD in their work place and communities.

Primary School Programmes

As always, attendance from the primary school learners

was splendid, thanks to the on-going transport support from the Regional Directorate in the Ministry of Education. All three groups had positive experiences although those who did not understand English were at a disadvantage. Teaching in Khoekhoegwab, or Afrikaans, whilst using English activity books is one of the largest challenges we face. Despite this, during the environmental quiz, one of the groups stunned everyone, including their principal by showing that they had understood and learned far more than we had thought. This is one of many examples of how communicating through hands-on experiences speaks louder than words. Many learners were able to earn Eco-Rug points towards owning a solar light and charger.



During his second return visit since 2012, former weltwärts volunteer Nick Heinke helps out with the N. Mutschuana Primary School programme.

Community Programmes

Despite this being the last time that RUG community participants can be sponsored to a NaDEET Centre programme through the EU initiative, the turn-out for our adult programmes was not as well attended as expected - one community failed to send any participants at all, despite indicating they would.

Whilst the NaDEET staff was disappointed we used the opportunity to learn. Change in behaviour and enthusiasm to participate in new activities does not just happen because money is provided. There are many other individual and societal challenges that need to be taken into consideration too and we shall endeavour to understand these elements.

As for the programme? NaDEET staff pulled out all stops to make sure that the 35 participants who did attend the two programmes would have a meaningful experience. Cheer, laughter and comments such as *“this is an eye opener, it's time to change”* were our reward. As with all our community programmes, each participant earned and received a solar cooker to take home. They also made their own fuel efficient stove and a cover for their new solar cooker.



Woman participants learning how to assemble the solar cooker.



This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of NaDEET and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

European Union (EU) funded three year action

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



School and Community Outreach

Implementation of School's Environmental Policies



“Ensuring sustainability and meaningful action for improved quality of life” – this is the aim of our third and final year of the “RUG for Sustainability” project. Early on in the project we assisted the primary schools in drafting their own environmental policies. This year we tasked one of our university interns, Esme Hoëses, with finding out how well these policies have been implemented at the schools. Results of the survey indicated that only one of the three schools was fully implementing its policy, whilst in the other two schools most staff did not know the environmental policy existed or how to use it. This suggests that the teachers who wrote the policy did so on their own and did not communicate the outcome with others.

To address these short-comings, a teacher workshop was held at each school, to create awareness of the environmental policy and to help identify and implement activities which will allow the school to meet policy commitments through simple management plans. We also engaged the learners to make sign boards to encourage implementation of the policy.

Sustainable Living Technologies @ the RUG Schools

From years of experience, we at NaDEET know that solar cooking is environmentally sustainable and effective, but it can be a challenge to implement when preparing food for large groups. Knowing that solar cooking can compliment conventional cooking technologies, each school received two large parabolic solar cookers to add to the solar ovens distributed in 2015.



Edward Frederick Primary School only has 48 learners in their hostel – this is the same number of learners that are accommodated at the NaDEET Centre, where all meals are prepared without electricity or gas. If the schools are truly committed, it is believed that the hostel meals could be prepared using the solar cookers, leaving only the school feeding programme meal to be prepared on the fuel-efficient stove. If this is achieved, the school will have made a radical leap towards a more sustainable lifestyle.

WJD Cloete Junior Secondary School has found the use of recycled firebricks a very useful addition. The principal, Mr Cloete, reported that “We used to go at least every month to the farm to collect wood, but since using firewood and recycled firebricks, the trips have been reduced to a maximum of two trips a trimester”. This is a great move towards a more sustainable lifestyle as less wood is being burnt, less fuel is being used as fewer trips are being made, and less time is being spent collecting wood – freeing up the principal’s time for other activities.



Long-Term Sustainability Project



N. Mutschuana Primary School is determined to give solar cooking a go and chose it as their “Long-Term Sustainability Project”. A solar deck made from wood of the alien invasive *Prosopis* was constructed near to the school’s kitchen. It provides a place to prepare meals using all their sustainable living technologies including the solar ovens and solar cookers. NaDEET’s technical team spent two

days, with enormous help from the community, erecting the deck. By the time the team left the equipment was in place and ready for use.



NaDEET Networking

Increasingly, visitors from near and far visit NaDEET Centre to learn about our environmental education concept. During an hour-long tour, we display our facilities and allow visitors to observe a programme in action. They see participants engaged in hands-on activities such as preparing food on the solar cookers or making recycled fire bricks. Many visitors compliment us on the enthusiasm and interest of the programme participants and how well we implement the 'practice what we teach' approach. Everyone leaves better informed about sustainable lifestyles in a Namibian context. We believe in the multiplier effect of shared knowledge - it is critical to bring changes towards a more sustainable society. We see this potential in every participant, guest or visitor that passes through our Centre and it inspires us to continue.

Manuela Schmid

Freundschaft mit NaDEET Travel Group 2016



For the fourth time, NaDEET has hosted a group of 24 Germans, led by *Freundschaft mit NaDEET*'s founder, Reinhard Keding on an educational tour of Namibia. The focal point of the tour is a week at NaDEET Centre. For many this is an inspiration as they "go back to the basics" and are reminded of the value of idealism. This year's group enjoyed solar cooking, nature walks and drives, and making recycled fire bricks. They also helped us to plant several of the camel-thorn trees that are strategically placed to absorb the grey water from the new WaterWiseWashrooms showers.

German Ambassador Inaugurates WaterWiseWashrooms



In May, NaDEET was honoured by a visit from Ambassador Schlaga and his wife. The couple travelled to NaDEET to inaugurate the six new WaterWiseWashrooms, sponsored by the German Embassy in Namibia as part of its micro-project fund. This is the third time that this fund has generously supported NaDEET. Andreas and Viktoria Keding took the Ambassador and his wife on a tour of the NaDEET Centre. Together with the visiting group from *Freundschaft mit NaDEET*, a tree planting ceremony marked the end of the official visit.

Center for Global Education and Experience (CGEE)



The CGEE is an exchange programme hosted by Augsburg College, USA, in Windhoek, where US university students spend 4 months on a semester programme. As part of their environmental studies course, 19 students took part in a weekend programme at the Centre. They were inspired to make the CGEE in Windhoek more sustainable! We hope to hear about some outcomes in the near future.

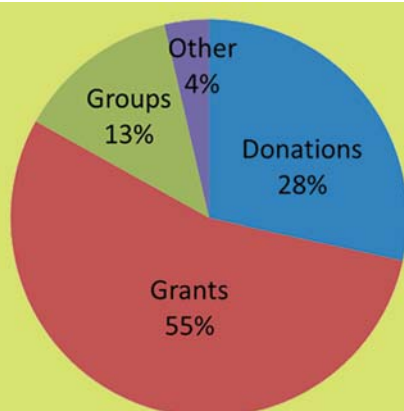
Director guides an Eco-Tourism and Sustainability Tour

As a follow up to last year's fundraising tour in the US, we hosted the assistant director of the UNL Center for Great Plains Study from Nebraska together with two graduate students, for a two week "Eco-Tourism tour". The aim of the tour was to familiarise the group with possibilities in eco-tourism designs to promote conservation with an emphasis on sustainability. Of course NaDEET Centre and the NamibRand Nature Reserve were the main stops. Numerous evening discussions explored the pros and cons of various approaches to infrastructure, food, tour guiding and the behind-the-scenes sustainability.

Viktoria Keding

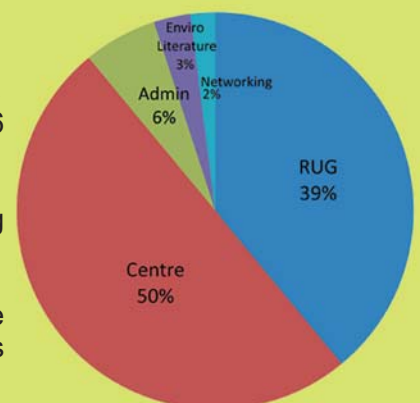


NaDEET Finances and Funding



Financial Overview 2015/2016

NaDEET's finances continue to be positive thanks to the generous support of our donors and to controlling a tight budget. The 2015/16 financial year was the second year of our European Union grant, which comprises a significant portion of our overall budget. During this time we were able to accomplish the WaterWiseWashroom project, which significantly increased overall spending at the Centre. Our income sources and expenditures have remained stable since last year.



NaDEET thanks our on-going donors and supporters

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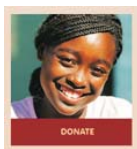


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