



# NEWS @ NaDEET



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



## Learning and Living for a Sustainable Future

Dear **NaDEET** Friend,

Our bookings are cancelled. Our volunteers have gone home. We miss being able to do our core work. We miss having our Centres full of schoolchildren eager to learn or teachers ready to share and engage with the difficult challenges of sustainable development.

Schools closed in Namibia since the State of Emergency was declared on 17 March 2020. Shortly thereafter the borders were also closed and tourism, one of Namibia's main economic pillars, came to a grinding halt. Despite lockdown measures, only now, are the COVID-19 cases in Namibia increasing. The situation is rapidly changing and it is difficult to plan.

We are worried as to when our programmes may take place again. As education institutes around the world are adapting to the impact of COVID-19 by going online, hands-on, experiential learning has taken a big hit. It seems at times a bit ironic as the wide-open spaces of the Namib Desert offer plenty of space for social distancing!

While our core programmes are on hold, we are focused on taking direct environmental action with the resources we have. Our new garden is advancing at NaDEET Base and we have embarked on an exciting new native tree planting project in partnership with NamibRand. Our Urban Centre team is continuing to develop programmes and activities.

We are doing what we can with the resources we have.

Thank you to our donors and supporters.

Viktoria Keding, Director



UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education  
for Sustainable Development  
Laureate 2018



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and make a  
**DONATION!**





# NaDEET Centre



## Centre on NamibRand

2020 began with a great start! As in previous years, we had a high number of bookings, a well-prepared staff, and a well-maintained Centre. The team had updated the secondary school activities and developed a much-improved monitoring and evaluation system for the primary school programme. These were being tested with the first groups of the year. Starting in February, we hosted six groups including

a UNESCO Windhoek Office staff retreat, teacher's workshop, three primary and a secondary school group. On the morning of Friday the 9th of March, we bade farewell to 39 amazing grade 8 students, the first of two St. Paul's College groups, with hopes to see their classmates on the following Monday. This never happened. By Sunday night, the government had closed all schools and education institutions and it was the beginning of the COVID-19 restrictions in Namibia. For almost four months already NaDEET Centre is closed with no prospect of groups returning soon as only now our cases are increasing. This is the longest time we have been closed since our opening in 2003.

**Here the fortunate groups that completed their programmes before the lockdown:**



Reverend PA Schmid schoolchildren conducting the daily water audit with help from environmental educator Theofilia.



Schoolchildren from AA Denk PS playing the "What is the Environment?" game.



Kalkrand PS exploring the Milky Way galaxy during the astronomy activities before going outside to see the real thing.



One of the chameleons seen on the dune walk during the UNESCO staff retreat. A rare sighting in recent years!



Hardap Region teachers giving feedback on environmental problems: The soccer ball represents the Earth. The more problems that hang on it, the more it will be pulled down!



Thank you to Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and Woermann & Brock for donating these reusable shopping bags. The bags are given out to secondary school participants as prizes for doing well in the environmental quiz.



# Urban Sustainability Centre



**Urban  
Sustainability  
Centre**

## Erongo Region Teacher ESD Workshop in Swakopmund

In February 2020 the Urban Centre in Swakopmund at Namibia's coast hosted its first teachers' workshop. Fifteen energetic and enthusiastic teachers from various schools in the region participated. The workshop unpacked Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) with a focus on how to teach ESD in the classroom and implement it in practical ways to improve school sustainability.

Teachers learned from interactive classroom lessons, explored the different learning areas of the Urban Sustainability Centre and went on a nature walk to the Swakop River mouth. During the five-day workshop, teachers also engaged with several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through activities such as global citizenship, urban sustainability, consumerism, climate change and nature. The workshop participants discussed the challenges that impede teachers and schools in achieving their ESD goals and plans and therefore, appreciated learning through new activities, such as "Building a Sustainable Community" as tools for implementation. In addition, exploring the Urban Sustainability Centre, especially the EcoHouse, was of particular interest as it illustrates how to adopt sustainability at the household level.

At the end of the workshop, teachers shared their enthusiasm for the new Urban Centre and looked forward to bringing their classes for educational programmes. Shortly after the programme, the teacher from Ebenhaeser Primary School in Karibib already came for a day visit with her learners. We are grateful for the constructive feedback from the participants to help us improve the new activities and facilities. Unfortunately, now we have a long break due to the COVID-19 lockdown measures before we can host another group.

*Panduleni Haindongo*



*NaDEET Urban Sustainability Centre and NaDEET Centre both hosted teachers' workshops with the sponsorship of the EduLink project. The EduLink project trained teachers in ESD at various EE Centres around the country. NaDEET was a key partner of this project which finished in April 2020.*

## Internship experience @ NaDEET



As a person that is interested in environmental education (EE), being placed at the NaDEET Urban Sustainability Centre was one of the best places to be for my 5 months internship. EE is one of the key skills we need to learn and it is of particular interest to me.

Being based at the Urban Centre gave me the opportunity to meet many new people and it was always fun and educational to give them a tour around the Centre. During the workshop for teachers, I can personally relate from my own school days to the different challenges that Namibia faces in achieving EE at school level. Due to COVID-19, I

spent the second half of my internship at NaDEET Centre where I learned more the technical and practical aspects of nature conservation, such as tree planting, building and the maintenance of facilities. The nature reserve offers so much to learn and is fun to live for any nature lover.

Lastly, NaDEET has taught me cooperation is key as I had the chance to work with other staff, interns and volunteers from outside Namibia. This has shown me the value of working in teams as more is achieved and we learn to develop good communication skills. As my internship has ended, I am grateful for the learning experience and the people that have been part of it.



*Salom Haiduwa*



# Monitoring & Evaluation of Environmental Literacy



## Environmental Literacy Projects

### What is the *It's Time to Grow* Environmental Learning Pack?



The learning pack consists of:

- 📖 four activity booklets for schoolchildren (sun, water, recycling and animals & plants)
- 📖 one "Big Book" for teachers with the same content
- 📖 four memory card games to accompany each of the topics



The learning pack is designed for teachers to use in pre-primary and junior primary school grades.

Distributed in a large box it has 50 copies of each of the booklets for schoolchildren together with an introductory letter to teachers.

***It's Time to Grow*** is part of the **NaDEET *It's Time to...*** Sustainability series. It is now available in the following languages:

- ♦ Khoekhoegowab
- ♦ Oshindonga
- ♦ Otjiherero
- ♦ RuKwangali
- ♦ Silozi
- ♦ English

They are available as a PDF download here:

<https://nadeet.org/its-time-to-series>

Individual copies may also be purchased at the NaDEET Urban Sustainability Centre.

### Measuring Impact of *It's Time to Grow* Environmental Learning

**NaDEET** staff members conducted a two-week long trip to monitor the distribution and usage of the ***It's Time To Grow*** Environmental Learning pack in Namibia's Northeast regions.

The ***It's Time To Grow*** Environmental Learning pack had been translated into two of the prominently-spoken languages in these regions, Rukwangali and Silozi, by teachers in ESD workshops at **NaDEET** Centre in early 2019. The finalised packs were then distributed to the 39 workshop participants and 10 additional schools with the support of the Ministry of Education, Arts & Culture in September of that year.

The **NaDEET** team drove over 4000 km to visit 19 schools in the Zambezi and Kavango East & West regions during which 19 teachers and 219 junior primary schoolchildren were interviewed. Initially, it had been planned to conduct these surveys electronically which would be more cost effective, but due to a very low feedback rate, it was decided to embark on the journey to meet teachers and schoolchildren face-to-face.

To monitor and evaluate the ***It's Time to Grow*** project, two surveys were used to compare its effectiveness in increasing environmental awareness and actions by learners and teachers.

There were several visible environmental practices that participants had learned during the **NaDEET** Centre workshops. These included making recycled fireballs, constructing tippy taps and teaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals. One of the teachers had developed her own school energy audit based on the **NaDEET** Centre "Measuring our Enviro Footprint". Another teacher had made her own memory card game based on the ***It's Time to Grow*** cards. These were very positive findings.

Although there were delays with the delivery of the materials for most teachers, the team was now able to see this within the context of the local conditions which include overcrowded classrooms, temporary constructions, flooding and slow delivery of all types of materials. Teachers who had already applied it, gave helpful ideas as to how **NaDEET** could further support them. One suggestion was to make a short video to explain how the materials are to be used while another was to ensure that the materials are given out at the workshop directly to participants. These suggestions will be incorporated in our future teacher programmes.

*Vicki Endjala*

Nature Conservation intern, Mupiri Thadeus reflects on what he saw:

*Most learners had a positive attitude towards the environment. Some learners in rural areas use water wisely as they have to walk long distance to get water to use at school while as those in town who just get water at their taps. I could tell that the teachers are really doing their part as some learners gave good responses. Most learners said they enjoyed tracing and matching images in the ITTG books.*



Group interview at Mbeyo PS



Handing over materials at Isize Combined School



Kaisosi PS made recycled fire balls



The new tippy tap at Ngewze PS



# Tree Planting Project on NamibRand & Communities

One of **NaDEET's** strategic aims is to implement direct environmental action. Planting trees has always been close to the heart of **NaDEET**. Back in 2011, **NaDEET** planted 365 trees, one for each day of the year. This was a great project at the time to celebrate the UN International Year of Forests. Many tree planting projects have been started on much larger scales to offset carbon around the world by companies, organisations and even governments. One of the key aspects to tree planting is to monitor the long-term survival rate and the actual positive ecological impact that has been achieved. At the onset of COVID-19, **NaDEET** received generous funding to plant over 1000 trees on the NamibRand Nature Reserve in partnership with the reserve. This enables us to take action and keep our education staff whilst the COVID-19 imposed regulations have forced us to close **NaDEET** Centre.

NamibRand has always been blessed with certain areas of high tree density; especially Camel-thorn *Acacias*. This project specifically aims to increase the number of trees and shrubs on the reserve that are adapted to survive predation and animal impact during drought times and to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

To improve the success rate of the planting in the dry desert area, we are using the Cocoon tree planter, which we had tested successfully two years ago. The Cocoon increases the survivability of younger plants by providing water and protection over the crucial first few weeks after planting. In addition, we then also added a protective fence that is visually unobtrusive in the distance around each tree. This will allow us to also plant trees further in the field away from areas that can be watered regularly.



*Planting around NaDEET Base with the cocoon and mesh fence*

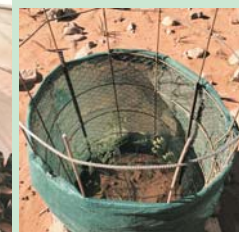


*Planting at Nabisib Primary School and Hostel*



*Our tree nursery*

A monitoring system using the EpiCollect App has been put into place that we can track and monitor the success rate. We hope that we have developed a good working model that is repeatable and could be also used in many other situations.



*Planted & protected Moringa tree*

*Andreas Keding*

## Tree planting at Nabisib Primary School & Hostel

Located 80 km north of Maltahöhe in the Naukluft mountains, Nabisib Primary School is the first community to take part in the new tree planting project. As one of the regular visitors to **NaDEET**, the school knows the role of tree planting in fighting climate change, food insecurity and deforestation. The tree planting initiative meets three essential needs under the theme; one for food, one for shade and one for nature.

As the day before the planting the area received heavy rainfall, the ground was well soaked and the planting holes already prepared by the schoolchildren were full of water! With help from their neighboring guest farm, BullsPort, each hole was prepared with compost. Tree planting commenced by planting 12 trees in the school yard and 18 more in the in the school hostel area. The trees were planted according to the t(h)ree-fold approach comprising of:

- 10 trees for food (5 Guava and 5 Orange)
- 10 trees for shelter (5 Mopane, 5 Bird Plum)
- 10 trees for nature (5 Buffalo thorn, 5 Camel-thorn acacia)

The five orange trees were sponsored by African Bush Bird and the Mopane and Bird Plum were donated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in Rehoboth. The other 15 trees were sponsored by the Saffier Foundation who is the main sponsor of the Cocoon Tree Planting Project.

*Melba Van Wyk*





# Making the Best of the current Situation

Life at **NaDEET** has truly changed since the middle of March. Normally all activities revolve around our participants at the Centre's Monday to Friday programmes. There is normally little free time yet lots of interaction with visitors. But following the Government's regulations towards preventing the spread of COVID-19, all our operations took an unexpected twist. We had to abruptly say goodbye to our volunteers who returned home and we entered into a period of uncertainty.

The team at **NaDEET** Centre remains well-isolated from COVID-19 and is now focused on outdoor work including the garden and tree planting project. Since the first strict lockdown at the end of March, the team based in Swakopmund is scattered throughout town in their home offices. In the past three months the restrictions have relaxed and then tightened again as the cases are only now increasing in Namibia; in particular in the coastal towns. Schools remain closed for face-to-face teaching. As an unexpected positive aspect of the situation, Viktoria and Andreas have had the opportunity to spend significant time together on NamibRand after the initial lockdown was lifted. Here some snapshots of life at **NaDEET**!

**Thank you and good-bye to our volunteers!**



*Lukas (right) spent the year at NaDEET Base as part of the tech team. He just finished his volunteer year as the pandemic began.*



*Aron was our NaDEET Centre Assistant and had to go home four months early. Luckily he had the chance to experience rain in the desert. Above he cleverly used the rain water to soak the paper for recycled fireballs.*



*Cedric (left) and Selina (right) had a great week with the teachers group at the Urban Centre. Cedric just finished his volunteer year in time while Selina had only arrived and needed to again return home.*

## Our interns - doing the best to gain practical experience!

Despite not gaining lots of experience in environmental education programmes at the two Centres, our Namibian Nature Conservation interns adapted to the situation.



*Salom and Mupiri helping in the garden.*



*Melba, our Centre Assistant at the Urban Centre, is working from home in Rehoboth. Luckily, she had the chance to work at both Centres.*

## Time to develop the new food management system

With no groups, the kitchen team is learning new computer and stock-taking skills. They are now updating and improving the food management system to adapt to changes in our financial management and to include the new garden produce.



*Lea (above) working in the NaDEET Base office on a cold winter day and an aerial view (below) of the new garden houses.*

The **Swakopmund team** in their home offices during the initial lockdown. Everyone is dependent on a good internet connection.



*Viktoria*

*Andreas*

*Priscilla*

*Panduleni*



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

*Our donors from 1 January 2020 - 30 June 2020*

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