Dear NaDEET friend,

How do you measure the success of environmental education? With NaDEET’s 10 year celebrations this past year, this question again comes to the forefront. For anyone at NaDEET Centre – staff and participants alike – the answer seems easy, “You just know. I have learned so much here. I never want to leave NaDEET. God bless you. We love this place!” This raw enthusiasm converts into action when participants return home, but often only for a while as daily life and the pressure of the status quo become too much and some or all of the good intentions fall away. For many critics this equates to failure. On the contrary, I believe, the pure experience of having been at NaDEET Centre has already made an impact and is not forgotten.

I was eight years old when I went on my first “nature’s classroom”. I cannot remember all the details of course, but I can vividly still remember learning how to measure the age of a tree by using a core sample. I didn’t know that day that I would embrace sustainability as I have, but it most definitely laid the foundation for me and sparked my interest. Luckily, I had the opportunity to read books about nature and spend lots of time outside. Looking back I realise that I actually learned the most from my parents about living sustainably. Although they didn’t always say or do these things because they aimed to protect the environment, they just did them because they saw no logical reason in wasting. My mother would reuse a plastic bag (not just a grocery bag, but all bags regardless of size) at least once if not twenty times. She would keep a shopping list and go once a week and not jump into the car every time something ran out. My father would tell us to put on a jacket if we were cold in the winter instead of over-heating the house. They turned off the lights when they left a room, only watched TV when the programme was truly worthwhile and encouraged us to learn about the world around us through family discussions. Together they managed our family household in such an economically sensible way that the environment just benefitted, we had enough when we needed it and sustainable living prevailed. They still do this today despite the fact that they have the means to do differently.

NaDEET’s programmes embody this down-to-earth lifestyle that eliminates waste, improves efficiency and focuses on our basic needs. NaDEET asks participants to open their eyes to the world around them and to think twice about their daily actions and attitudes. We don’t expect miracles, but aim for the top. NaDEET aims to instill a sense of responsibility towards ourselves, others and the environment. So how do we measure this? We can and do use many different indicators and questionnaires which will give insight, but at the end of the day the enthusiastic feedback and gratitude from our participants still is the clearest indicator of success. With over 9000 participants at NaDEET Centre in 10 years and over 16,000 Bush Telegraph readers all giving a clear signal to continue our work, we are truly on the right track.

As we celebrate the highlights of the past years, NaDEET continues to be a fast-paced, high output organisation. We completed our first three year 2011-2013 European Union funded action which increased NaDEET’s capacity to deliver environmental education. We also completed our “It’s Time to…” booklet series which now encompasses all age groups. NaDEET reached out to several more communities through our expanded outreach activities and has embarked upon its second European Union funded action to intensify support to three local schools and their communities. Our Centre programme remains strong and it is once again fully booked within the first months of the year.

At the beginning of this year, we opened a small head office in Swakopmund. This has been done to improve our ability to make our operations more efficient, develop strategic partnerships and expand our operations to other areas of the country more easily. We say thank you to our trustee Uda Nakamhela who is stepping down after more than five years of service to us to have more time for his family and other commitments.

We thank you for your interest and support and encourage you to live a more sustainable lifestyle – as all of us at NaDEET strive to do.

Best wishes,

Viktoria Keding, Director

**NaDEET’s mission is to protect the natural environment of Namibia by educating its citizens to practice a sustainable lifestyle**
2013 was again a successful year for NaDEET Centre. We had a total of 1136 participants from 39 different schools or organisations. Many of the groups consisted of 2 to 3 different small schools coming together. We therefore were fully booked with 31 week-long programmes. As in the past years, the majority of programmes (61%) were for primary schoolchildren, 16% of groups were secondary schools and the remaining 23% were adult groups including our well-received community programme. Almost 50% of all the groups were returning schools, 1/3 first timers sponsored by the European Union and the remaining were first timers co-sponsored through small grants. This enthusiastic return rate and positive feedback from children and adults alike are a sign of success. For 2014 our Centre is already fully booked within the first months of the year.

Our programmes and facilities are evolving to remain relevant, but our core approach remains the same. Through hands-on learning, NaDEET Centre activities range from theoretical to practical learning and then importantly are applied in sustainable living practices. Here an example of how water conservation is taught at NaDEET Centre in our primary school programme:

Schoolchildren are asked to recall what they have learned in school by drawing a water cycle in their sustainable living journals. Water cycle concepts of evaporation and transpiration are tested out and explored in nature. The importance of saving water and knowing how much we use is practiced during the daily water count. Sustainable living practices are implemented through the use of personal ‘recycled’ water bottle.

TRUSTEE PERSPECTIVE

NaDEET’s Invaluable Investment into Society

Think global, act local. NaDEET very effectively operates by this principle. The influence of NaDEET’s work, with regard to increased environmental awareness and sustainable living becoming part of people’s everyday lives has grown far beyond the institution’s locality at the training center in the Namib Desert and the surrounding towns in the Hardap Region, but are now reverberating throughout the country. With the increasing mobility of new entrants into the labour market, the principles taught and internalized at NaDEET training events will soon influence policy and awareness on a global scale. This is a very important part which NaDEET is playing, in saving our planet from the unsustainable corporate-led consumerism, which an ever increasing part of the world’s population falls victim to.

NaDEET is highly effective due to a small but highly dedicated staff and management team and a very committed directorate, the husband and wife team of Viktoria & Andreas Keding, who have led the organization with a very hands on approach through at times difficult periods to institutional and financial sustainability. The support of all the donors is also indispensable for the success of the desert education programme, as well as the growing good cooperation with the Government of Namibia, especially the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Environment & Tourism.

I am most proud of NaDEET’s commitment to the education of our children and youth, and for giving many youngsters who attend the training courses, a life changing experience which opens their eyes to issues which they have never been confronted to think about and to act upon. The value which NaDEET is investing into society with this work is just immeasurable but immensely great.

It was a privilege to be part of the board of trustees of NaDEET for five years, and to benefit just as much from the learning and gaining of new experiences. I thank my fellow trustees, the staff and management, the donors and the directors for the good cooperation we had. I wish you all the best for the future. Uda Nakamhela
Environmental auditing at NaDEET Centre has been part of our programmes since the beginning. Participants learn the skills in collecting data and processing it that meaningful information can be deduced. It is also an important tool for NaDEET staff to observe any fluctuations in usage that may show signs of a technical problem or an inadvertent change in teaching methods or activities. Last year NaDEET staff took on the challenge to audit the whole of our operations including all staff accommodation and support functions such as the workshop, office and garden.

**Water**

Our comprehensive water audit was implemented with a total of seven meters. Using our solar electric water installation, NaDEET pumped a total of 1345 m³ in 2013. NaDEET Centre’s average water use per person remained similar as in past years with 15.29 litres/person/day. The water usage chart illustrates key facts that we have learned:

- Centre water usage is only 7% of our overall usage.
- The highest percentage of water is used for wildlife waterholes.
- Our eco-friendly “Staff Valley” accommodation using dry sanitation and bucket showers truly saves water.
- Our traditional “Base” accommodation using flush toilets and normal showers uses more even with staff educated in sustainability.
- Hot temperatures push consumption up as plants, wildlife and humans alike need more water.

![Water Usage Chart](chart.png)

**Energy**

This audit measured the areas of cooking energy, electricity production and vehicle usage. The key facts that we learned:

- NaDEET Centre once again used less than one 19 kg gas bottle as almost all cooking was on solar or with fuel-efficient stoves for our over 13,000 plates of food prepared.
- Staff kitchens on the contrary used approximately 140 kg of gas illustrating that solar cooking requires good time management and sunny weather.
- NaDEET Centre and Staff Valley’s electricity was 100% solar-powered.
- Base (including accommodation, office and workshop) used 222 litres of fuel. This was all during the rainy season prior to the solar electricity upgrade mid year.
- All hot water is 100% solar.
- We drove just under 30,000 km divided evenly over our three single-cab bakkies.
  - Just under 1/3 of this was driving for NaDEET Centre.
  - 2/3 was around Namibia for environmental education activities and staff and supply trips.

We would like to reduce our vehicle fossil fuel usage at NaDEET Centre, but would need an all-terrain vehicle capable of transporting luggage and supplies that runs on electricity.

**Waste**

We have divided our waste production into three main categories: compost, burnable waste and recycled waste. The expanded audit has illustrated to us:

- Auditing by kilogram only gives a limited understanding as recyclable materials such as paper and plastic weigh little but have a large volume.
- Food scraps are still our main waste product which we compost.
- Burnable waste that we cannot recycle is much higher at NaDEET Base and needs further inquiry to see how it can be reduced.

![Waste Management](waste.png)
OUTREACH

In 2013 we embarked on several outreach activities including two community outreach trips focussed on energy and energy efficiency workshops in Rehoboth and the Kavango East Region. Together with the “It’s Time to Grow” educational material outreach, these have all been reported on in the previous newsletter.


In January 2014, we actively started with our new three-year intensive outreach programme in the Hardap Region which builds upon our previous activities and experiences. Three schools and their immediate communities are participating in this European Union funded action. The schools will be fully supported for three years to become leaders in the Hardap Region by integrating environmental learning and action taking at all ages to create a sustainable community. The action has three main components including:

- Centre based programmes,
- Community based activities
- Environmental literacy and assessment actions.

These activities build upon each other every year with the aim of achieving the overall objective to improve living standards for rural Namibians through sustainable living education and practices on a local level.

The first phase of the action was to select the three participating schools and communities. Throughout the first few months of the year an extensive selection process was undertaken including consultations with key stakeholders, gathering data from schools and communities and identifying key criteria. The first workshop for the three schools and their communities was held in Mariental at the Ministry of Education.

Meet the shools and communities taking part:

WJD Cloete Junior Secondary School, Rietoog
This well-established school is in a small settlement between the Naukluft Mountains and the main tar road (B1). It has:
- ±800 residents including:
- 260 learners (pre-primary - grade 10)

N. Mutschuana Primary School, Gochas
Located in the far eastern part of the region in the Kalahari, Gochas is a small village about 110 km southeast of Mariental. The school is located in the Gomxab-Inâus neighbourhood. There are:
- ± 1000 residents including:
- 342 learners (pre-primary - grade 7)

Edward Frederick Primary School, Uibes
Located 40 km outside of Maltahöhe down a steep hill, this community is very rocky and has few trees. It has:
- ± 400 residents including:
- 132 learners (pre-primary - grade 7)

Integrated school-centred community approach
In many rural settlements, the school is at the heart of the community. This action therefore places the school at its core and includes every member of the school from the principal to institutional workers to the learners. It then branches out to include community members that have a direct stake in the school such as the parents and/or guardians of the learners, extended family members, school board members, neighbours and any other relevant stakeholder. This approach assumes that these actors all have a significant stake in the success and sustainability of the school, the future of the learners and the environmental viability of the settlement as a provider of a good quality of life.

We are grateful to the European Union, Ministry of Education - Hardap Region and the COV fund for their support of this action.

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.
This past year, NaDEET had a healthy financial year. Almost half of our total income for March 2013–February 2014 is from the European Union (EU). This amount includes pre-financing for both “action-bound grants” of which the second grant contract was signed in July. This depicts our income without the EU contribution and highlights the importance of our private donors for our overall operations. We are fortunate to have received some smaller grants as well especially for co-funding for schoolchildren to attend NaDEET Centre programmes.

Percentage-wise curio sales are small, but local sales of our booklets is nearing cost-recovery that we can fund a new print run of selective booklets as they run out.

The majority of our funding is directly used for our environmental education programmes. We had minimal capital expenditure projects last year. We struggle to reduce our administration costs as this includes the high cost of internet in Namibia. Despite very slow service, we pay considerable amounts per month for communication. In general many basic items are relatively expensive in Namibia as they are not locally manufactured and weakening exchange rates influence prices upwards.

Financial Consulting Services (FCS) is NaDEET’s accounting firm.

In-Kind Support
It is difficult to give a monetary value to all donations, especially volunteer time. Although these donations are not directly reflected in the above charts, they are extremely important to keeping our costs as low as possible.

Thank you to all who have given their time to raise money through events large and small and to companies and individuals that have given an in-kind donation. We are also especially grateful to those who have given their expertise and services free of charge.

Here are some examples of recent in-kind donations in action. Photos shown here include light bulbs, meat, paint drums, telephonic expert advice, soap and fundraising presentations.

Swakopmund Head Office
In January we moved into a small head office in Swakopmund. This has been done to facilitate developing strategic partnerships, expanding our work and reducing time lost to challenging logistics of the Namib. Once every few months the office is bustling with everyone reporting in, but the majority of time it is quiet as staff are on outreach or at the Centre doing environmental education. Feel free to come visit us:

3 Antonius Gardens, Nathanial Maxuillili Street

NaDEET Staff 2014
(Front left: Viktoria Keding, Elizabeth Lammert, Rosina Shilungu, Vicky Endjala. Back left: Andreas Keding, Rosemarie Pauly, Manuela Schmid, Priscilla Kuzeeko and Martha Kambidhi. Not pictured: Tobias Thull and Elizabeth Lukas)
THANK YOU

Our donors from 1 March 2013 to 28 February 2014 were:

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Ein besonderer Dank geht an

To our founding supporters:

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Mayda & Bernard de Winter

A special thank you to ... and all of its donors!

Ein besonderer Dank geht an ... und allen deren Spendern!
WE NEED YOUR HELP

Education is the key to sustainable development.

Please support our grassroots efforts today!

One child for one week: N$800 = US$80 = €60
A school class for one week: N$32,000 = US$3,200 = €2,400
Choose your own amount: Every contribution makes a difference.

Donations can be made as a bank transfer to our account in:

Account holder: NaDEET
Bank name: Bank Windhoek - Kudu Branch
Bank address: Independence Avenue, Windhoek
Branch Code: 482 172
Account number: 3000659951
SWIFT: BWLINANX
IBAN: Not available

Account holder: NaDEET
Bank name: Sparkasse Rosenheim
Branch Code: 7115 0000
Account number: 3106 520 855
SWIFT: BYLA DE M1 ROS
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Donations may also be made by cheque. Due to, at times, slow postal service, please email or fax a short message that we know there is a donation on the way.

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