



THE GOLDEN MOLE

NaDEET's Endemic Newsletter



Emergency update #3

June 2006

REBUILDING NaDEET

It is now exactly two weeks since the devastating fire at NaDEET Centre. Although it has been an extremely emotional time, we have worked very hard to be able to recover and rebuild as quickly as we can. This has only been possible with the enormous support we have received from so many NaDEET friends since the fire. Below is an update on what has happened in the past two weeks and our plans for the coming month.

Insurance

NaDEET Centre was insured in four categories for fire: building, 'stock in trade' (contents), solar equipment and our data projector. We had hoped to receive a settlement of N\$313 000 for all of the damages. Due to our 'stock in trade' and 'buildings' being underinsured we are to receive a settlement of N\$234 221. We also will hopefully receive all of the 'salvage' as this includes several things that we can 'recycle and reuse'. Unfortunately the assessor, who visited the site last week, was unable to determine the exact cause of the fire except that it started in the kitchen. We are still waiting for the insurance to officially offer us this settlement and to transfer the funds into our account. Needless to say we have learned a lot from this insurance procedure and will spend a considerable amount of time in the near future to improve our whole insurance coverage.

Rebuilding-designs

On Monday this week, Richard Dreyer, who has agreed to be our building manager for the reconstruction, visited the site. Richard has previous experience from rebuilding Wolwedans Lodge, our neighbour on NamibRand Nature Reserve, after their fire in 2003. We discussed all the possible options of the NaDEET fire to develop a design for the new main building that would be safer. In addition we discussed what aspects of the Centre had worked very well and what should now be improved upon to avoid previous mistakes. In regards to making the kitchen safer, we are slightly increasing its size to allow for more space. Many items in the kitchen were very close together and cramped. We are also moving the gas bottle for the stand-by oven, rubbish/recycling area and solar electricity control panel outside. All will be properly sheltered from sand and rain. We also plan to build a small cement area away from the building to contain our fuel-efficient stoves and recycled fire bricks. These had previously been used in the sand a few meters away from the building.

There are two major improvements planned for the whole building to address previous mistakes— the roof and the floor. The original roof was made with only two layers of shade cloth as we assumed it would only rain approximately 80 mm per year. In the past two years we have very good rains. From January to May this year alone we had 210 mm at the Centre. We did upgrade the roof in July last year by adding a plastic sheeting between the two layers of shade cloth. At the time this was the easiest and cheapest option, however although it did keep rain out, it made the Centre considerably hotter. During the fire, the plastic sheeting also

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The *Golden Mole* is produced by

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NaDEET is a registered non-profit trust in
Namibia.

Trust Certificate #: T168/ 2003

Trustees: C. Berker, E. Dürr, D. Klein
Director: V. Keding

If you would like to make a financial contribution to rebuild NaDEET Centre, donations can be made as a cheque (all major currencies accepted) or bank transfer to:

Bank transfer in Namibia

NaDEET
First National Bank Windhoek-Namibia
Branch Code: 280 172
Account No: 620 451 071 68
SWIFT: FIRNNANX

Bank transfer in Germany

NaDEET
Sparkasse Rosenheim
Bankleitzahl: 711 500 00
Konto Nr.: 102 520 855
SWIFT: BYLA DE M1 ROS

Or send a cheque to (easiest for US donors):

NaDEET, PO Box 31017, Pioniers Park, Namibia



burned very quickly and helped spread the fire into the classroom. To address this problem we will put on a corrugated iron roof with insulation sheeting. Although this will change the look and feel of the Centre it is very much needed. As our accommodation houses also only have shade cloth, visitors must sleep in the Centre if it rains. Since the beginning of this year more than 30% of all our groups have had to do this. The corrugated iron roof will give the extra protection that is needed in these situations. In order to increase air flow and cool down the building during the hotter times of the year, the position of the building will be turned 45 degrees from where the original building stood. This will allow the more dominant wind to flow through the shade cloth side walls instead of being pushed over the roof.

Secondly, the original floor was made of fishnet which was wonderful in principle. It kept the sand out and it was a recycled material. Unfortunately it was impossible to clean as slightly bigger pieces did not fall through it and oils and fats from the kitchen left a permanent stain. In the new building we therefore intend to put in a wooden floor using shutterboards. This will be much easier to clean and everything will stand straight for the first time instead of slightly sinking into the sand.

Lastly, we will also add a third storeroom to house many of the materials we need for our recycling projects. These materials were previously stored on top of the kitchen and classroom storerooms and again helped spread the fire to the area that contained the majority of our valuables.

Rebuilding-logistics

The truck with the majority of the supplies is due to arrive from Windhoek Saturday morning. Wolwedans Lodge has been very kind to lend us some tools and materials and to help organize carpenters and workers for the building. The team is due to arrive on Monday and begin construction on Tuesday morning. We hope that the majority of the construction will be finished in three weeks and that everything will be done by the 1st August.

Temporary Classroom and Kitchen

During the construction period we have three groups booked to come to NaDEET Centre starting on 10 July. Electro Repairs has kindly lent us a large tent that we will use as our temporary main building for that time. In our second update, only sent to local Namibian NaDEET friends, we sent out a list of items that we need to be operational again. Thank you to all who have donated something from the list. We will pick up any donated items in Windhoek and Swakopmund early next week. We are also extremely grateful to Cymot-Greensport's generous donation of the 11 tables and 52 chairs that we need for our classroom/ dining area to become functional again.

Fund Raising Needs

The following is an estimation of the funds needed to rebuild the main building and to re-stock our kitchen and classroom. Without the generous assistance and donations in kind we have received this amount would be much higher.

Construction of the new main building (including materials, labour and transport) = N\$160 000

Electrical solar system, low energy fridge and low energy freezer = N\$96 000

Kitchen (food, cooking supplies and cleaning supplies) = N\$30 000

Classroom- (tables, chairs, learning materials and equipment) = N\$65 000

TOTAL= N\$351 000

Expected Insurance settlement= N\$234 221

Difference = N\$ 116 779

Donations and Assistance

On behalf of everyone at NaDEET, I am extremely grateful for all of the donations and assistance we have received in the past two weeks.

A special thank you to all of our private individuals in Namibia and around the world who have already donated to NaDEET for the rebuilding of the Centre.

In addition a special thank you to the following companies/ organizations for their donations and assistance: NamibRand Nature Reserve, Wolwedans Lodge, Sossusvlei Mountain Lodge, CC Africa, Rotary Club Windhoek, deSTEEN, Elso, Electro Repairs, African Marketing and Cymot/ Greensport.

We do however still need your help. If you would like to make a financial contribution to help rebuild NaDEET, please see the banking and contact details on the previous page.

Thank you!
Viktorja Keding- Director

