



Bush Telegraph Promotes the Night Sky

"Protect our night sky, reduce light pollution" is the theme of the most recent *Bush Telegraph* magazine.



The Namibian night sky and in particular NaDEET's sky over the NamibRand Nature Reserve (NRNR) is of exceptional quality. Here one can see the whole southern and most of the northern sky very well as we have minimal light pollution and extremely dry air.

Many visitors to Namibia are in awe of the millions of stars they can see here which they cannot at home. Most Namibians however are unaware how unique their night sky is and therefore are not aware of the potential threat due to increased development and related light pollution.

A little cartoon star guides readers through this issue of the *Bush Telegraph* by teaching about unique features in the night sky, dangers of light pollution and how one can take action against it. NaDEET also includes these topics in our programmes at the Centre.



This issue was sponsored by stakeholders of NRNR and the Namibian Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS) and is in conjunction with NamibRand's current application to become an International Dark Sky Reserve.

To download a PDF copy and for more information about the dark sky and light pollution visit the following websites:

www.nadeet.org/educational-material

www.darksky.org

Viktoria Keding

NaDEET Plants a Tree for Every Day of the Year – 365 Trees Project



Tree #284 planted at Christina's house in Maltahöhe

The 365 Trees Project, NaDEET's 2011 LIME Green (Less Impact, More Education) initiative was designed to support the UN International Year of Forests and Billion Trees Campaign. Inspired by the late Professor Wangari Maathai who was a patron of the Billion Trees Campaign, the founder of Kenya's Green Belt Movement and a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, over 12 billion trees

have been registered and planted around the world since the campaign began.

So far this year, NaDEET has planted 294 indigenous trees which have all been registered with the UNEP Billion Trees Campaign. This compares with the 629 tree plantings Namibia has registered with the UNEP to date in 2011. The remaining 71 trees in NaDEET's project will be planted by year end in Rehoboth and at NaDEET Centre.

What is so special about NaDEET's 365 Trees Project?

This project is different as trees are planted primarily around people's homesteads to improve neighbourhoods on a house-by-house basis.

In addition, only indigenous trees have been used in the project including: Camel Thorn (*Acacia erioloba*), Monkey Thorn (*Acacia galpinii*), Wild Plum (*Berchemia discolor*), African Wattle (*Peltophorum africanum*), Ana Tree (*Faidherbia albida*), Shepherd's Tree (*Boscia albitrunca*) and Wild Ebony (*Euclea pseudebenus*). NaDEET grew some of the seedlings and received many others as a donation from the Directorate of Forestry for which we are grateful.

In October 2011, in recognition of the programme, NaDEET received an award from the Namibian Botanical Society. The Society was particularly impressed with how the programme provided seedlings to individual families who will continue to be responsible for the care and maintenance of their trees. This is important from an educational perspective and for the



Manuela Schmid receiving award from Louise Hoffmann at the Botanical Society

(Continued on page 2)



Have you bookmarked www.nadeet.org?

NaDEET's website has recently been re-launched with a new look and many new features thanks to the volunteer work of Olaf Keding. It includes many new features such as a video gallery and guest book.



development of a sense of individual responsibility. It also shows all of us that taking action for the environment is easy and that everyone can make a positive difference for our families, communities, country and for the global environment.

How did we do it?

We contacted representatives of communities and schools that have participated in the NaDEET programme to help plan and to be our guide on the planting day. On location, NaDEET staff and volunteers dug holes, planted and watered approximately 30 seedlings per day with the help of local residents. In many towns, residents pre-dug holes making it easy for seedlings to be planted. Community members greeted NaDEET staff warmly and were very happy to have trees planted around their homesteads. Most of our plantings have taken place in southern Namibia.

Why does planting trees matter?

At NaDEET we know planting trees goes hand-in-hand with energy efficiency. One of NaDEET's main objectives is to empower Namibians to save energy in their households. Participants learn skills like using solar cookers and fuel-efficient stoves to prepare food. The 365 Trees Project gets participants to take action to further reduce carbon dioxide through absorption by trees and also helps to combat deforestation. Forests and trees are also part of many cultural and religious beliefs and rituals, provide housing and shelter for living things, provide the ingredients for life-saving medicines, produce oxygen and firewood, as well as products like oils, gum and cork, food and building material.



Trees and forests also help to clean the air and regulate climate and temperature, maintain clean water quality and flow, maintain stable soils and, for many of us, provide inspiration, peace and beauty. This is a very impressive list and certainly makes it worth the effort to plant trees in our own local environments.

So, what can you do?

It's not too late! There is still time for you to contribute to the UN Year of Forests and the Billion Trees Campaign by planting trees near your homesteads or in your communities. It is so easy to do and yet has so many benefits. Every tree counts, so log on to the Billion Tree Campaign website and register your tree planting: www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign.html To view photographs of all 365 Trees Project recipients and locations, have a look at NaDEET's website (www.nadeet.org). If you do plant a tree, we would love to hear from you, so leave a message on the Guestbook page.

Anne Maree O'Neill



Tree #5 - Mariental



Tree #118 - Bethanie



Tree #147 - Uisib



Tree #225 - Stampriet



Tree #223 - Kamelberg

Investigating Fuel-Efficient Stoves

A key component of making sustainable living successful is by using a variety of alternatives. Fuel-efficient stoves used with recycled fire bricks or wood are therefore a necessary part of alternative cooking methods and are used at NaDEET Centre in the early mornings and when there is insufficient sunshine. Most Namibians still use an open-fire to cook their food and can benefit tremendously by saving fuel and time when using a fuel-efficient stove.



Nature Conservation intern, Absalom Vilho, conducted a research project to investigate the efficiency and usability of various fuel-efficient stoves with different fuel types.

The outcome of the research is that although a manufactured stove, the Vesto stove, was the most efficient if used correctly, it is also the most expensive. As a result, the simple home-made fuel-efficient stove, which was the second most efficient, was the most user friendly and affordable. These fuel-efficient stoves are a good transition between open fire and solar cooking as they do not require major changes in current household cooking routines.

Absalom Vilho

School Subjects Come Alive for Children

NaDEET Centre offers environmental education programmes for schoolchildren based on the Namibian school curriculum and tailored to various age groups. Children stay at NaDEET Centre for four days (mostly Monday-Friday). During this time NaDEET Centre staff engage children in hands-on, experiential, outdoor learning in a desert environment. Many Namibian schools struggle to teach the designated curriculum, and environmental education is inevitably neglected. At NaDEET, we complement and support school learning, while also teaching first-hand about the vital link between humans and the environment. The Namibian school curriculum core skills include communication, social/ interpersonal, personal, cognitive, numeracy and learning to learn. At NaDEET, these core skills and school subjects such as Natural Science and Health come alive and learners grasp practical applications between theory and practice.

In our last newsletter we highlighted our new secondary school programme. Below we introduce some of the schoolchildren and teachers from our primary school programme as it still remains our most popular programme. With the generous financial support of various donors, especially the European Union, we hosted many primary schools this year that have never attended NaDEET before due to financial constraints. Schools come to NaDEET in two ways: they self-initiate the trip or we directly invite them. Through our Outreach Trip at the beginning of 2011, we visited many of these schools to inform them of NaDEET Centre and sponsorship opportunities.



Oan//Ob PS: With an extremely supportive principal and teacher, Mr. Beukus, schoolchildren stop for a quick photo shot as they climb their way to the top of the dunes to finish off their week full of experiential learning.

Mariental PS: Close encounters with all kinds of animals, like this lizard helps children to appreciate nature for its uniqueness and beauty. "If we just could have more centres like NaDEET..." Ms. Petrus, teacher



D.D. Guibeb PS: Intrigued by how plants in the desert save water, children see how and why plants in the Namib have a waxy layer to save water.



Witkrans PS (Stampriet): Using newspapers to pack around pots taken off the solar cooker, learners learn an alternative way to save energy and keep their food warm!



Mutschuana PS: Science is the foundation to understanding solar cooking. "The implementation of the NaDEET programme blends nicely into the Namibian School Curriculum as it has cross-curricular topics which we deal with at our schools." Mr. Jossop, teacher



Ruimte PS: "It's easy, Miss" comments one of these children as he learns to solar cook.

Gibeon PS: KAI AIOS!
(Thank you in Nama language)

Karley Drumm



Community Members Absorb Skills and Knowledge

NaDEET's Community Education Programme continues to flourish with four more groups participating in the programme. Funded by the European Union, NamibRand Conservation Foundation and the COV Fund, approximately eighty community members joined us to learn skills, knowledge and most importantly the practical application of sustainable living in their daily lives. Our Community Education Programme remains focused on promoting alternative energy and energy efficiency in households together with water saving and waste management. Although many participants want us to do even more, we have found that practicing sustainable living starts on a household by household basis. A workshop at NaDEET Centre, away from daily life and amenities such as cellphone reception, allows participants to focus and open their eyes to new ways of doing everyday household tasks.

Who were the community education participants in 2011?

Stampriet: After our visit to the Stampriet village council during our outreach tour in February 2011, 20 residents participated in the programme in July. It was our first time working with the community members from this area in the western part of the Hardap Region. The participants were mostly unemployed younger men and women.



Maltahöhe: This is our local village 150 km from NaDEET. Since working with one group of community members last year, NaDEET has begun to build a closer relationship with community members. We have planted 75 trees at residents homes this year. Another group of 20 mature men and women participated in this year's programme.

NamibRand Nature Reserve and its neighbours: Although NamibRand Nature Reserve's staff members have often been to NaDEET and have assisted us with several projects, this is the first time that they have come as participants for a sustainable living workshop. The group consisted of employees and their family members and our neighbour's workers. As most participants are working, it was a weekend course.

Orange Babies: This is a Dutch non-governmental organisation's operating in Rehoboth, Windhoek and Okahandja. It aims to help infected women to keep their babies HIV free. During one of our previous Rehoboth community groups we learned of this organisations work and invited them to come on the programme.

What happens after the programme?

After successful completion of each programme, participants return home equipped with skills, knowledge and the equipment needed to live sustainably in their households. Providing equipment such as fuel-efficient stoves, recycled fire bricks, solar ovens and parabolic solar cookers are a key component to creating meaningful change within local communities.

What are some challenges and lessons-learned by NaDEET staff in implementing this programme successfully?

This year we have identified several key factors that determine programme outcomes. The first challenge remains ensuring that the programme participants are correctly chosen by the organiser(s).

The programme is designed for mature men and women who are well established in their communities and are the heads of their households.

Programme participants would like to stay longer and it is essential that we include an evaluation visit several months after the programme. Working with the same communities is beneficial to building a relationship and a momentum within the community.

Viktoria Keding



Sustainable Living Training for Field Workers: Training of Trainers



NaDEET has taken another step forward by hosting its first official Educator Programme. For several years, we have planned to expand our programmes to provide training opportunities for trainers. Thanks to our three-year project funding from the European Union we have been able to launch the Educator Programme and reach new people in ways we had not anticipated. In October, 19 educators and community workers led by Jackie Park and Lorna Shalyefu from Anglican AIDS Programme attended NaDEET Centre. As community workers, they currently work in remote villages to educate about HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and the use of mosquito nets to prevent malaria. The group sought out the NaDEET programme as they saw the need to provide more education about sustainable living to villagers to

further improve the quality of life of people who face social and financial disadvantages as a result of their status. Most of the educators work in northern Namibia and were very excited by the prospect of introducing the use of fuel-efficient stoves, solar cooking and ways to use water and electricity more efficiently. As always NaDEET Centre provided an excellent platform for the participants to get a hands-on experience and deeper understanding of what sustainable living really is about.

A highlight of the programme were role-plays performed by the participants to show how they would try to encourage communities to adopt new ways of doing things. These role plays showed the importance of respecting tradition and culture before introducing new concepts and also illustrated to NaDEET staff that the field workers already had a good relationship with their villages. One participant reflected on the programme:

I am feeling great as this is my first time to learn about sustainable living and I [will] utilize my skill to share with others.

getting feedback from group members on how successful they have been in promoting sustainable living techniques to the people they support.

Anne Maree O'Neill and Viktoria Keding



Outreach and Other Programmes

Climate Change Youth Fair

In July, NaDEET staff participated in a "Climate Change Youth Fair" in Windhoek with presentations and an information stand. Several hundred youth from throughout the country attended the fair and gave input into how Namibia can mitigate and adapt to a changing environment. NaDEET's stand was well attended including a visit from the Minister of Environment and Tourism.

"Solar Cooking: What are the barriers?" Presentation

In September, NaDEET's Director, Viktoria Keding, gave a talk about solar cooking at the Scientific Society in Windhoek. The talk was well attended, especially by people who are already solar cooking and are interested in seeing it practised more widely in a larger number of households. Many people voiced the sentiment that solar cooking is for everyone regardless of income.



IWAN participant solar cooking

International Women's Association of Namibian (IWAN) Weekend

In October, the International Women's Association of Namibia (IWAN) participated in the NaDEET Centre programme for a weekend. Consisting of adults and families from Windhoek and Swakopmund, the group enjoyed living sustainably in the Namib Desert. One of the participants said, "NaDEET with its fabulous surroundings will make you feel special. NaDEET is in a way, a small step back to nature and its beauty, a fusion with the environment and a feeling of harmony. In the middle of the desert with the sun as your best friend, this friend who will take care of you by warming your water for the shower and cooking your food, NaDEET is definitely a special place to be in!"

Namibian Academy for Tourism and Hospitality (NATH) Desert Guiding Course

The annual desert guiding course was held at NaDEET Centre in November. This is the third course for the year and is the 6th year that the course has been held at NaDEET Centre. NaDEET continues to provide the facilities free of charge in exchange for two of our staff members participation and certification.

Infrastructure Improvements at NaDEET

We have made several infrastructural improvements at NaDEET in the past few months to accommodate our increasing number of activities.

New Accommodation: Staff Valley and Little House



In a dune valley directly south-west of NaDEET Centre there is new accommodation for permanent and short term staff thanks to a generous donation from the Wolwedans Foundation. The four bedroom "Staff Valley", as it is known, is built in a traditional Wolwedans style with canvas and wood. Keeping with NaDEET's sustainable living approach, the bathrooms are equipped with bucket showers and solar hot water, there is a dry sanitation toilet and a solar cooker and oven for cooking. With the finishing touches almost complete, we are very grateful to the Wolwedans Foundation for this generous donation and look forward to the official opening in early 2012.

Thanks to donations from private sponsors, staff valley

gets solar powered electricity from NaDEET Centre via a 400 metre armoured cable dug into the dune sand. NaDEET Centre's solar system was upgraded by adding six 85 Watt panels and a second-hand 4000 VA inverter.

At NaDEET Base our new Development Associate now also has a one room house with en-suite bathroom a few meters from the office with an uninterrupted



Karas Youth Club helping to make the recycled newspaper insulation



view of springboks and oryx at the waterhole. The wooden and canvas house is insulated with a layer of crumpled newspapers and has windows and doors



recycled from other house renovations.

Workshop

For years NaDEET's technical and maintenance team have worked without a proper workshop and have worked wherever there was some shade. With our new accommodation, we combined one of the existing bedrooms at NaDEET Base with the adjacent workshop storage room. The technical team now have sufficient room for storage and four people can easily work at the same time in the shaded workshop area.

Andreas Keding



Staff Updates

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Lammert**, our Sustainable Living Kitchen Manager on her wedding to Fortune Tjituiza on 10 December 2011 in Windhoek.



We welcome **Maria Alweendo** as our second Sustainable Living Kitchen Manager. Maria has completed the Bleks Foundation Hospitality programme and has previous experience working at lodges.



Much of NaDEET's work and achievements are possible through the hard work and dedication of volunteers. Thank you to all of our recent volunteers and to those who continue to give your time and effort even after the official volunteer period is finished. One of our recent volunteers said goodbye to us in song:

Heat, Dust and Dreams-Song for NaDEET (Tribute to Mary Rice and Craig Gibson) - some excerpts:

Chorus:
 They set out across the land
 Solar cookers on their van
 Claiming any convert they can find
 For they're warriors through and through
 Each day brings something new
 Oh heat, dust and dreams
 It's easy to live sustainably

And if you ever chance to meet, the people of NaDEET, No greater friends you'll find, with a vision for our time

NaDEET thanks our on-going donors and supporters



Our 1 August-31 October 2011 donors were:

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Monika Diehl, Dr. Sandra Dantu



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to:



... and all of its donors!

WE NEED YOUR HELP



NaDEET depends on individual donations to fund our environmental education projects. Most Namibian school children and their families cannot afford to cover the cost of a **NaDEET** Centre programme. It is however one of **NaDEET's** core principles to provide environmental education for everyone, regardless of their financial means. We are also in need of funding to renovate the Centre's houses to provide comfortable and safe accommodation for our visitors.

Please help us with a donation today!

One child for one day N\$165 (€17, US\$22)

One child for one week N\$660 (€68, US\$88)

One school group for one week N\$22,000 (€2,200, US\$3000)

New accommodation N\$35,000 (€3,500, US\$4700)

YES, I would like to support NaDEET!

My donation: (amount)

Send us your contact details to receive our newsletter and to thank you!

Surname:

Name: **Title:**

Address:

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Your help is greatly appreciated!

Donations can be made as a cheque or bank transfer to:

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NaDEET's electricity aims to be 100% wind- and solar-powered

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NaDEET Structure and staff

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GIZ "weltwärts" Volunteers: Nick Heinke

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Absalom Vilho



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