



## REPORT OF THE ANNUAL NAMIBIA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION NETWORK

(NEEN) CONFERENCE HELD AT THE HARDAP DAM NWR

6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023



**Compiled by:**

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NEEN Coordinator**

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NEEN Deputy Coordinator**

**Date: 18 October 2023**

## **Introduction and background**

The 2023 annual Environmental Education Conference hosted by the Namibia Environmental Education Network (NEEN) took place from **06-07 October 2023** at **Hardap Dam NWR, Hardap Region**. The conference was held under the theme: ***“The role of learning and Agency in the Transition to the Decarbonization of the Namibian Economy and the attaining of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”***.

The 2023 NEEN conference was attended by 125 participants, of which 44 were teachers and 56 were learners, 12 environmental educators such as NaDEET, CCF, B2 Gold, EduVentures, GCF, 3 Ministry of Environment staff, Forest, and Tourism representatives including the Deputy Environmental Commissioner, 2 University of Namibia (UNAM) students, 1 UNESCO representative, 6 NEEN executive committee chaired by Prof Alex Kanyimba from UNAM, and 1 renowned journalist of Namibia. On day one, the welcoming address was delivered by Mr Hiskia Tyapa, in the capacity of Acting Deputy Director for the Division of Environmental Information and Natural Resources Economics. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Caroline Garus-Oas, the MEFT Deputy Environmental Commissioner.



In the **keynote** address the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of promoting quality environmental education in Namibia and beyond, encouraged participants to enhance the prolife of environmental education and promote the use of the materials available on the NEEN website to increase environmental education awareness. Thereafter, the NEEN chairperson, Mr. Domingos introduced NEEN and provided a brief background where he highlighted its progress over the years. Another plenary presentation on Environmental Education (EE)/ Education for



Sustainable Development (ESD) in Namibian Schools was then delivered by the UNESCO representative, Mr. Ehrens Mbamanovandu.

On the first day of the conference, 18 presentations were delivered by different schools (**see Appendix C**) from all the 14 regions of Namibia. There were also presentations from the EE organizations such as the Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust (NaDEET), Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF), Edu-ventures, Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) and the Namutoni EE Centre. The presentations delivered were in various formats, such as PowerPoint presentations, drama, poems, songs, as well as dancing to captivate the audience. Various Namibian schools presented own perspectives relating to EE/ ESD topics and practices such as tree planting, gardening, fish, and pig farming, selling natural resources products like Camelthorn pods for communities, how they generate income for the schools, how they make fireballs from recycled papers/newspapers, how their practices reduce

environmental footprints through the monitoring of both water use, waste management and electricity usage at schools.



The highlights of day one was the amazing perspectives of young Namibians between the ages of 10 and 17 pertaining to how they assist communities to save the fragile environment.



The EE organizations' presentations focused primarily on their expository work, the sharing of experiences and how they promote the art of networking. This was a great opportunity for schools, especially the first-time participants, to network and learn about the different EE programmes in the country.

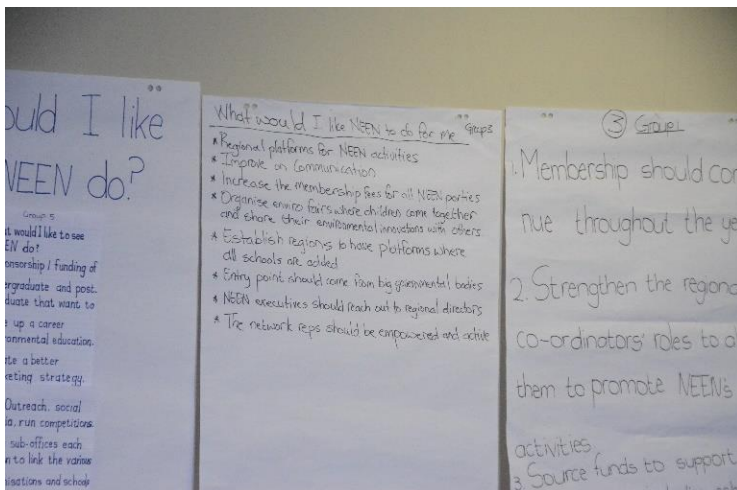


The first session of second day started with a session of learners from various schools who provided a reflection of the events of the previous day. This was an educational endeavour meant to promote the idea of empowerment in the development of quality EE/ESD leadership skills among learners. The learners were also tasked to report back on their experiences of day one without the help of the teachers.

One impressive aspect of the exercise was the depth and breadth of information that the learners had absorbed from all the precedent presentations and their commitment to how they would use such information at schools, commitment to sharing with other learners who did not attend the conference and commitment to the application of learned environmental knowledge and skills at their respective schools and communities. It appears that the ideal to have young environmentally literate

Namibians who can make informed decisions and take the right initiatives to protect the environment was being advanced and realised.

Another significant achievement from the conference was the realisation of a workshop that led to concretising ideas that will inform the NEEN strategic plan. The stakeholder workshop took place on the second day, and this was led by Mr. Panduleni Haindongo from NaDEET. The workshop solicited views from all the stakeholders (NEEN participants) while learners were taken on the exploratory excursion to the Hardap Dam. All in all, the purpose of the workshop was to solicit input and views from the NEEN stakeholders that will help strengthen the future of the NEEN strategic plan. The workshop



was very engaging, and all participants provided valuable inputs and views on how they would like NEEN to evolve to become a functional and futuristic organization dedicated to the promotion of

quality EE. These views as per foregoing will inform subsequent strategic plan workshops.

At the end of the workshop, the participants nominated and subsequently elected new regional representatives including the new Deputy Coordinator and Deputy Chairperson for NEEN (**see appendix B**). The main reasons for electing the new Deputy Coordinator and new Deputy Chairperson were to offer an opportunity to these newly elected office bearers to learn from current incumbents of these office bearers. The end of the conference was marked by a cultural evening, where all

participants displayed their cultural attires and dances as a way of showcasing the different cultures that make up NEEN and the Namibian Nation in general.

This appeared to send a message that, that even though we are from different cultures, we are all striving for the same goal, which is to protect our planet.



The overall conference was a success, and we would like to thank all our sponsors who made this conference possible (**see Appendix A**)

### **Appendix A Sponsors of the 2023 NEEN conference**



### **Appendix B: Elected office bearers of NEEN**

#### **a) Regional NEEN Representatives**

1. Omusati Region: Ms Eeva-Liisa Shituula

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3. Ohangwena: Junias T. Nghishoongele

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4. Omaheke: Chris Tengovandu Karumendu

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8. Zambezi: Patricia Lutibezi

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9. Kunene: Gerry Sheende

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10. Otjozondjupa: Jona Shingana

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11. Khomas : Hihanguapo Nelago

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12. Hardap: Joseph A .Paulus

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13. Erongo : Hilma Nuule (Urban)

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14. Hileni Kamati (Rural)

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**b) NEEN Chairman: Mr Zacharias Domingo**

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**c) First NEEN Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Junias Nghishongele**

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Ohangwena Region

**d) Second NEEN Deputy Chairperson: Mr. Therens Ndisiro**

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Khomas Region

**e) NEEN Coordinator: Ms Liina Nantinda**

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**f) Deputy NEEN Coordinator: Ms Naemi Antonius**

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**g) NEEN PRO: Social Media**

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Khomas Region

**h) NEEN Adviser: Prof Alex Kanyimba**

University of Namibia

Main Campus

## **Appendix C: List of schools participated in the 2023 NEEN Conference**

1. Ambrosius Amutenya PS - /Kharas Region
2. Flamingo Secondary School - Erongo Region
3. Tobias Hainyeko Primary School - Khomas Region
4. Kayengona Combined School - Kavango East Region
5. Likwaterera Primary School - Kavango East Region
6. Aranos Primary School Hardap Region
7. Sikaunga Primary School - Zambezi Region
8. Ehambo Combined School - Kunene Region
9. Etoshapoort JSS - Kunene Region
10. Nikodemus Nashandi Combined School - Oshikoto Region
11. Vooruitsig Combined School - Hardap Region
12. Vergenoeg Primary School - Omaheke Region
13. Onghala Combined School - Ohangwena Region
14. Ongenga English Private School - Ohangwena Region
15. Oshikunde CS - Ohangwena Region
16. Maria Mweengere SS - Kavango East Region

17. Sakaria Ngikembua Primary School - Ohangwena Region
18. Ubasen Primary School - Erongo Region
19. Usiel Ndjavera Primary School - Omaheke Region
20. Nossobville Primary School - Omaheke Region
21. Motsomi Primary School - Omaheke Region
22. Nossob Combined School - Omaheke Region
23. Ankambo Primary School - Oshana Region
24. Omashekediva primary School - Oshana Region
25. Hochland High School - Khomas Region
26. Katji na Katji Combined school - Kavango West Region
27. Jan Mohr High School - Khomas Region
28. Oshakati English Private School - Oshana Region
29. Dawid Bezuidenhout High School - Khomas Region
30. Uukule Secondary School - Oshikoto Region