



NNF Newsletter

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NNF aims to:

Promote sustainable development.

Conserve our biological diversity and natural ecosystems.

Promote the wise and ethical use of natural resources.

2012 Recap

In this issue we look back at some interesting projects and activities under the NNF



Chilli Repel Elephants

The will to deter elephants to protect crops in Namibia's north eastern Caprivi Region forced subsistence farmers to look for alternative methods to protect their farming projects, and secondly to generate income without disturbing the region's ecosystem. Broken chillies are combined with an equal portion of elephant dung to form Chilli Bombs. Hot coals are then placed on these bombs and the pungent smell keeps the giants at bay. This technique does not harm the elephants and it has improved conflict with elephants in the community.

Mountain Zebra Project

This is a study that aims to carry out basic and applied research on the population biology and social evolution of mountain zebra in a range of habitats across Namibia. It is carried out by Professor Morris Gosling of Newcastle University in the UK with expert collaborators in a number of protected areas both private and public. Mountain zebra stripe patterns are individually distinctive and Prof Gosling has developed a coding system that can be used for the rapid identification of individual animals from photographs and thus the monitoring of both small and large populations. More recently work has started in the west of Etosha National Park in collaboration with MET scientists and in preparation for a study of hybridization with plains zebra, a problem that has emerged as a potential threat to the species, particularly where populations of the two species are enclosed together.



Devil's Claw

Through the Namibia Nature Foundation, MCA-INP has provided a number of trainings to the PPOs in the Kavango region in areas of devil's claw processing, methods of monitoring during and after harvesting, management and monitoring plans, policy and permits, harvester registration and rules, harvesting practices, negotiating contracts and skills, pricing, benefits and overheads of INPs as well as in managing a buying point. The principal positive social impact from commercial devil's claw harvesting and trade has been the cash incomes and in-kind benefits earned by thousands of resource-poor and often marginalized harvesters in Namibia who typically have few if any other sources of income. Even though the income and benefits derived are very low, they tend to supplement other income sources and diversify livelihoods.



“COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION”





“House of Honey” in Caprivi



In August 2012 the first ever Honey Processing Centre opened in the Caprivi Region – nicknamed the “House of Honey”. After five years of technical and field support the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) with financial support from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, through the ICEMA project finalized the development of the Honey Processing Centre at Kongola. The “House of Honey” was handed over to the Caprivi Beekeeping Association by the NNF Director Dr. Julian Fennessy whilst the event itself was inaugurated by the Honorable Constituency Councillor Mr. David Muluti, Mr. Christopher Buchane from the Ministry of Agriculture, Wildlife and Forestry, Ms. Monica Shikongo from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and Mr. Patrick Cheli from the Caprivi Beekeeping Association.

Africa Adaptation Project Aus Community Garden

Through the Africa Adaptation Project (AAP), funded by the UNDP and administered by the Ministry of Environment and tourism, (MET), NNF received a grant for a project called



‘Supporting Climate Change Adaptation in the Aus Community’ in southern Namibia. NNF visited the Aus community to collect baseline data and meet with the community to discuss the Community Garden to be improved and supported by NNF. The visit to the beautiful small town resulted in a Community Garden Committee being formed and the purchase of various vegetable seeds, bicycles for transportation to the garden, wheelbarrows, a water pump and a generator for the garden by the NNF.

Man & Biosphere Reserve Project

NNF received funding from UNESCO to carry out a viability assessment of MAB reserves in Namibia. MAB is an international programme established in 1971 with over 500 reserves in 117 countries including South Africa, Malawi and Zimbabwe. MAB combines natural and social sciences, economics and education to improve human livelihoods and safeguard natural ecosystems, and provides research and support to areas that are significant for biodiversity conservation.

Go Green Fund - Spotted Hyaena & NaDEET

The Go Green Fund is a Nedbank initiative partnering with the NNF with aims including support to projects that sustain the conservation, protection and wise management of important habitats and indigenous plant and animal species; enhance the understanding of indigenous species and natural ecosystems; promote efficient and appropriate use of natural resources, with the clear aim of ensuring that their long-term use is sustainable. Among the small grants administered one is for a study of spotted hyaenas in Namibia’s Caprivi region. The project’s intensive study area focusing on the population ecology of spotted hyaenas falls within the Bwabwata National Park with particular focus on the core conservation areas of Susuwe and Buffalo. The extensive study area focusing on land use practices and human-wildlife conflict falls within the human settlement areas of the Caprivi, i.e. communities within the Kyaramacan Association of the west Caprivi. Another project funded through the Go Green Fund is the environmental education programmes at Namibia Desert Environmental Education Training centre (NaDEET). The key features of NaDEET Centre is that programme participants not only hear about sustainable living, they actually live it. NaDEET emphasizes the three big ideas of energy, water and waste. Their mission is to protect the natural environment of Namibia by educating its citizens to practice a sustainable lifestyle.



NNF Staff News

NNF bids farewell to Amalia Nangolo, currently employed as a Project Coordinator. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours. NNF would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for the support throughout the year and we hope you continue to help us in our mission to protect and sustain our natural resources.



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