

Landscapes Conservation

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**KLEIN KARAS GARDEN SPROUTS
GREATER WATERBERG LANDSCAPE HOLDS A SUCCESSFUL AGM**

- EDITOR'S NOTES 3
- KLEIN KARAS GARDEN SPROUTS 4
- GONDWANA LODGES BUY FROM KLEIN KARAS 4
- WASTE MANAGEMENT AT /AI-/AIS RESORT
AWAKENS SOCIO-ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES 5
- GREATER WATERBERG LANDSCAPE HOLDS A
SUCCESSFUL AGM 6
- FAREWELL MR. CHAIRPERSON 6
- NAM-PLACE PROJECT SITES WIN BIG AT THE
PARKS SERVICES AWARDS 7

Landscapes Conservation

General News	■
Mudumu Landscape	■
Greater Fishriver Canyon Landscape	■
Greater Sossusvlei Landscape	■
Windhoek Greenbelt	■
Greater Waterberg Landscape	■

Editor's Notes

Editor's Notes

This edition is on the footnotes of the project closure as it reports on the progress of the activities implemented during the project. Activities that have been initiated during the project are fast coming to a halt. As we enter the phase of sustainability and continuity, it is also time to measure the success in our implementation efforts.

We visit the landscapes to see some of the project achievements towards addressing biodiversity. Notably, there are success stories in all landscapes while there are also activities that still need extra push to bring them to the same level with the rest of the project.

While members of any given landscape are not equally challenged, strengthened and experienced, balanced management of the landscape is always key to achieving common goals. The landscape members in the Greater Fish River canyon landscape demonstrate this notion very well. Gondwana lodges have offered to help the Klein Karas projects in an attempt to boost take off and potential growth in what they are doing. (Gondwana empowers other members of the landscape, pg4)

The community garden project which was started by NAM-PLACE was met by various challenges, some of which were time consuming and threatening progress. The effort has however proven worthy now that the garden has shown improvements. Read about how the Klein Karas community turned the process around to make their community garden a success. (Klein Karas Sprouts, pg4)

The Greater Waterberg landscape has come of age. Also, facing challenges that could hamper implementation of the NAM-PLACE mandate, they managed to elect new leadership that will ensure success for the benefit of all parties. With news plans ahead, the LMC is set to be ready for taking the landscape to the next level. (GWL elects new leadership, pg 6)

Wildlife poaching is still rife in the landscapes, in the next issue, read about recent interventions by the projects and other stories.

Until the next issue, enjoy your reading!

M. Kandume

Klein Karas Garden sprouts

In the past two years, NAM-PLACE invested resources in developing a garden for the people of the small community of Klein Karas. With time and challenges encountered, the garden seems to be shaping up. In the project's recent visit, the team working at the garden has given a promising report.

The main challenge encountered by the previous project was the fact that water was full of calcium and therefore not able to sustain the garden. With time the pipes clogged up and ultimately blocked water from spraying the crops. Eventually all plants died and there was not enough funding to revive the garden. Through the intervention of NAM-PLACE, the garden is back on track and will soon be yielding vegetable benefits.

In the past, a similar project was started with the same community; it however did not succeed due to inadequate research before

launching and unstructured lines of operations and management beyond closure. NAM-PLACE would like to have it different, that when the project closes, there should be continuation and a sustainable programme for the community continued beneficitation.

Part of the plan is to have local businesses buying their vegetables from the project garden. In this manner, effective management can only mean that the project will continue to grow and serve the community of Klein Karas.

The vegetables grown in the garden may not be in large quantities at the moment but are definitely what the lodges and other surrounding businesses do procure from outside the area. The businesses in the landscape are willing to assist the development of the garden and buying the garden produce is just one of the ways.



Spinach



Carrots

Gondwana lodges buy from Klein Karas

As a step to making a success of the landscape, the Gondwana Lodges have agreed to try out some on the products offered by the Klein Karas Community garden and sewing projects. Many a times Tourists who visit the lodges are seeking local wares and memorabilia they take with back to their home countries.

The sewing project has sold some of the produced dresses to the Gondwana Roadhouse Lodge. With the capital raised, they bought more material and are producing more items.

We all wait in anticipation!

Waste management at /Ai-/Ais resort awakens socio-economic opportunities

As one of its mandates, the NAMPLACE project looks to strengthen protected area networks by promoting landscape management for biodiversity through co-management with local stakeholders. At landscape level, this means among other things, to improve local relationships in conservation by providing opportunities that empower communities. Environment conservation is tightly linked to socio-economic development and to maintain a balance, the two should be equally upheld.

NAMPLACE partnered with the /Ai-/Ais Hot springs resort in 2012, to clean up the dirt that had been piling for over 60 years. The dirt was significantly big and consisted of various types of waste. Glass, plastic, paper, wood and building debris, were among those recorded. Illegal dumping had become a norm and cleaning up became hard and costly over the years. The clean up initiative received support from resort workers, unemployed local residents, MET and NAMPLACE personnel. Through this campaign many other opportunities began spiraling out, to the benefit of the business savvy individuals involved. First was the employment of two volunteers as Waste Management Officers at the resort, second was the business prospect for the waste collecting company in Keetmanshoop and local recycling resident, Martin Rooinasie

Martin Rooinasie is a local entrepreneur who transforms dirt into products that are popular with tourists. Namplace intervened to assist Mr. Rooinasie improve production time and quality so that he can sell better products. The project has bought equipment and tools that will catapult his work and his determination to uplift other unemployed people in his community. His ambition is to “work with people coming from jail as a way of continually rehabilitating them, as well as children who live in the streets, to teach them a sense of responsibility and decent ways of earning a living”.

The Namibian Wildlife Resort is working on a sustainability plan for continuation of the waste management initiative. We hope to see it grow and become successful in the near future.



Mr. Rooinasie collecting rubbish for his business



Mrs. Nghitila inspecting the waste management process at the resort

Farewell Mr. Chairperson

Harry served the LMC from inception of the project. Even though he remains a member of the LMC, his direction and guidance will be missed.



Greater Waterberg Landscape holds a successful AGM

On the 05 August, the Greater Waterberg Landscape once again held an annual General Meeting. At this meeting, a new leadership was elected. The positions of Chairperson, vice-chairperson and representative of the Project Steering Committee was elected to guide the Landscape Management committee (LMC) for the next 12 months.

At a closed meeting, voting session that was conducted under the watchful eye of the election officer, of NAM-PLACE, resulted in the following people being elected.

- Chairperson – Kandinda (Unanimous vote)**
- Vice-chairperson – Katjiveri (Uncontested)**
- PSC Representative – Karita (Unanimous vote)**

The new leadership was then introduced at the event that was held at a hall later in the afternoon. At the hall, the members of the landscape community were present to see their leaders and to register any of the inhibitions or satisfactions they may have with the LMC.

Even though there were grievances, mostly, people in attendance were more interested in seeing the results of the project in their

area. Since inception, not much has been done and the communities would like to see that aspect change.

In his final speech as outgoing chairperson, Mr. Harry Schneider-Waterberg reported on the activities that were carried out under his leadership. He emphasized the importance of the committee working together in taking full advantage of the opportunities that are presented to the landscape through NAM-PLACE project. He worked tirelessly towards ensuring that the people of the landscape benefit from the project and that issues of biodiversity are understood and addressed accordingly.

NAM-PLACE is satisfied with the process that took place and welcome new faces on board. As the NAM-PLACE representative, Ms. Laudika Haluuendo on the LMC gave a financial report on the previous financial yeas, she also reiterated that the project is looking forward to working with new minds that will enhance operations and continue the base that was set by the previous office bearers.

On a very jovial note, Mr. Schneider handed over the reigns to the new chairperson and wished him well in his venture.



Newly elected leadership of the Landscape Management Committee: Right to left are Mr. Ebenhard Karita PSC representative, (Okamatapati Conservancy), Mr. Abiud Kandinda Chairperson (African Wilddog Conservancy) and Mr. Kapena Katjiveri Vice-chairperson (Otjituuo Conservancy)

NAM-PLACE project sites win big at the Parks services awards

Outstanding performance and diligence with which the park managers, rangers, and other administration staff approach their work in the department of division of Parks services were awarded in Windhoek recently.

The event was attended by the minister, who has praised his staff with the professional and matured manner in which they display to their country and other countries, how determined Namibia is in upholding the best environmental practices, particularly with regard to Human-Wildlife conflict and empowering conservancies for their own benefit.

The Minister reiterated the importance of environment and parks personnel to be exemplary to other people outside the environment fraternity and encourage them to adopt the patriotic approach towards protecting the wildlife and report any suspected wrongdoing.

The award ceremony is annual and encourages excellence in the environment.

MUDUMU LANDSCAPE



Minister of Environment and Tourism, Uahekua Herunga, Chief Control Warden of Zambezi Region Morgan Saisai and Deputy Director Northeast Region, Cletius Maketo

GREATER FISH RIVER CANYON LANDSCAPE



An official of the NWR receiving an award on behalf of Mr. Vinte Mendes for good work he did in the /Ai-/Ais National park. The awards is presented by Minister Uahekwa Herunga and Permanenet Secretary, Mr. Negumbo



—————> *Next Edition*

IN THE NEXT EDITION

- Rhino Protection in GSNL
- Developments with local coordinators in the Landscapes
- Handovers to Landscapes