

Empowering Local Communities

Community-Based Development Initiatives

By Wycliffe Nabaasa in Rundu

On Thursday March 03 2005, the German Ambassador, Dr. W. Massing visited the Mbeyo community forest and handed over an assortment of tools to be used in forest management. The tools included four oxen, a donkey-cart, two horses, a plough, slashers, spades and beehives.

Mbeyo community forests is one of the 14 communities benefiting from the programme "Community Forestry in North Eastern Namibia" (CFNEN). This is a cooperation of the Directorate of Forestry (DoF), the German Development Service (ded) and the German Development Bank (kfw).

The programme supports communities in managing their forest. It encourages communities to use improved forest management practices in managing forest operations.

The tools are used in demarcating forest boundaries, constructing cut lines and fire breaks.

The horses will be used in patrolling the forests against illegal harvesting while the donkeys and oxen will be used to pull the carts which transport forest products to the markets. The tools can also be put to commercial use and let out to people from outside the particular community.



In the picture, the German Ambassador, Dr. W. Massing (white cap) displays some of the tools donated to the Mbeyo Community Forest, South of Rundu.

Any revenue collected from such initiatives can be used for community development purposes. These are community-based development initiatives that benefit the majority members of the community, many of whom have low incomes.

Who was On The Earth First? The Carpenter, The Electrician Or The Brick-layer?...

A bricklayer, a carpenter and an electrician argued about who was on the earth first. "We built the Pyramids of

Giza," said the bricklayer, "so we must have been here first." "No," said the carpenter. "We built Noah's

Ark long before that." Hearing this the electrician chuckled to himself. "What's so funny?" asked the carpenter.

"On the first day of creation God said, 'Let there be light,'" explained the electrician. "And we'd already laid the cables."

Rural Women Are A Main Key To Conserving The Environment

By Hirut Terefe, CFNEN, Rundu

Close your eyes and imagine a forester, farmer or gardener. Most of us are likely to picture a man controlling the forest, ploughing the field or pruning the tree.

You probably did not think of a young woman with a baby on her back, collecting firewood, gathering fruits, planting trees or sowing vegetables. Such role perceptions are still widespread, not only in African countries but also in the western world.

But many women do possess extensive knowledge about plants and how they can be used for food, medicine, fodder and crafts. Women farmers and gardeners sow, weed, apply fertiliser and pesticides, harvest and conserve plant products. After harvesting, rural women are responsible for storing, processing and marketing the product.

In addition, women help to protect 'genetic resources'. For example, in Mbeyo village women are collecting seeds and grow indigenous plants in their gardens. Women know where to collect firewood and fruits, and how to sell products on local markets.

Women are therefore the key to environment conservation, more efficient production and distribution of food, better nutrition and improved livelihoods of rural communities.

The importance of rural women as food providers and for environment protection is also increasing

as fewer and fewer men are willing to engage in farming activities.

Men are leaving rural areas in search of employment and income opportunities in cities and towns. In contrast, employment opportunities for rural women are often severely limited due to lack of access to education and training.

Consequently, rural women are an important target group of the CFNEN project and are involved in the planning and implementation of forest management and horticultural activities. Women participate as permanent members in Forest Management Committees and 90% of all established gardens in Kavango Region are managed by women.

In addition, rural women are taking part in training courses and income generating activities. At present, most of the forestry and agricultural technicians in Kavango Region are men. Among field staff the male proportion is even 90%. This may lead to the wrong perception that men can do a better job.

A higher proportion of female technical advisers is likely to facilitate communication with rural women and to bring about greater sensitivity for their problems and needs.

True, if we want to protect and improve our natural environment and contribute to resource management and food security, we'd better ask and listen to rural women first.

A Welcome Gesture



It was all surprises when on Monday 25 April, 2005, as the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Dr. Nicky Iiyambo, made a surprise visit to the offices of the Directorate of Forestry (DoF) in Rundu. He was guided around the premises and gardens by the District Forest Officer Rundu, Mr. Jonas Mwiikinghi. In the picture above, left, Dr. Iiyambo displays a Community Forestry calendar produced by the Media Unit of CFNEN. Far right, in specks, is Permanent Secretary, Min. of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Mr. K.S.M. Kahuure.

Firewood For Immediate Sale

Unlimited stocks of nicely bundled firewood available for immediate sale, at Ncumcara Community Forest, (Mile 20), 35 km Rundu-Grootfontein Road.

Bulk buyers are especially welcome.

Contact:

**Michaela Dotzler or Andreas Haita,
on Tel: 066 265450
or Fax: 066 255944.**

Kindly forward this advert to someone you think is interested in purchasing firewood

Schools Embrace Environmental Education

By Wycliffe Nabaasa in Rundu

Schools in Kavango region have embraced the on-going Environmental Education, which is part of the activities of the CFNEN project. CFNEN encourages communities to conserve their forest Environment through sustainable utilization.

Environmental education evolves around learner participation in activities pertaining to the environment. It addresses crucial aspects of the environment such as deforestation and reforestation.

The awareness activities in Kavango region started by

running an environmental competition in five senior secondary schools in Rundu District. The theme of the competition was "deforestation and its effects on the environment".

Schools included Rundu Secondary, Doctor Romanos Kampungu Secondary, Romanos Kamunoko Secondary, Maria Mwengeri Secondary and Nord Grens Secondary, all situated around Rundu. Teachers, principals and heads of departments were very instrumental and cooperative.

Winners will be awarded prizes by CFNEN at their respective schools.



Selecting the winners... Winners of the environment competition were selected by a jury made up of teachers from the five senior secondary schools around Rundu, together with CFNEN/DoF staff in Rundu. The District Forestry officer Rundu, Mr. Jonas Mwiikinghi (right, standing) also participated in the selection.

The Tree's Prayer

By Mr. Mukonda, Kanovlei

Ye who would pass by and raise your hand
against me;
hearken dare you harm me.
I am the heat of your hearth
on the cold winter's night,
the friendly shade screening you
from the summer's sun
and my fruits are refreshing draughts,
quenching your thirst as you journey on.
I am the beam that holds your house,
the board of your table,
the bed on which you lie.
And the timber that builds your boats.
I am the handle of your hoe and the door of
your homestead, the wood of your cradle
and the shell of your coffin.
I am the gift of God and the friend of man.
Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer.
Harm me not.

Focus On Ncaute Community Forest

By Romanos Karupu, Hamoye, Rundu.

Ncaute Community Forest is situated about 60 km South East of Rundu, on road D3425 that connects Rundu to Ncaute Village.

Ncaute community forest has two main areas, area one being the pilot area, on the dunes and is 500 ha.

Area two is towards the village centre and covers 11,500 ha.

Ncaute Community Forest is one of the 13 communities that signed forest management agreements with the Minister. The community has been getting logistical, administrative and technical support from CFNEN. The support has been reflected in the construction of cut lines and fire breaks, donation of four donkeys and a cart, identification T-shirts for



Forest Management Committee of Ncaute together with visitors

FMCs and fencing materials for the office area, training and exchange visits.

The Ncaute Forest Management Committee consists of Mr. Hamba Petrus, chairman, Mr. Walter Hausiku, Vice chairman, Ms Hamusira Elizabeth, secretary, Ms Kudumo Elizabeth, vice secretary, Ms Amutenya Maria, Treasurer, Mr. Mbamba Berthold, Vice treasurer and Mr. Hausiku Damian, stock controller.

Community Forestry At A Glance - Focus On Caprivi Region

Perspectives By Werner Mbongo, CFNEN, Katima

Backed up by legislation, community forest areas are established in the region like in many other parts of the country, to devolve forest user rights and management responsibilities to local communities. With the German government's assistance, pilot community forest activities were initiated late 2000 in Bukalo first and later in Lusese and Kabbe by the Community Forestry in North-Eastern Namibia (CFNEN) project. Several activities were undertaken such as pole improvement trials of *Colophospermum mopane* and *Terminalia sericea*, establishment of fire cut lines to protect pilot forests, timber harvesting of dead wood resources, FMC training on wood measurement, bookkeeping workshops, and many others.

The project (CFNEN) activities were extended to other communities mainly Masida and Lubuta in 2003 and 2004 respectively. Like in the other communities, boundary demarcations, forest resource assessments, land use planning and mapping were done with the communities. Unfortunately for Kabbe and Lusese, they could not have all requirements to apply for community forest management agreement (or Gazetting) due to unclear boundaries of their proposed community forest areas.

However, Bukalo, Masida and Lubuta entered community forest management agreements with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) in November 2004. Besides these three, other communities who were assisted by the sister project, Namibia Finland Forestry Programme (NFFP) namely Sikanjabuka and Kwandu also signed forest management agreements with MET. Like Kabbe and Bukalo, Zilitene community as initiated by NFFP was late with the gazetting application.

Nevertheless, other com-



Pit sawing workshop in Kabbe, Caprivi Region

munities have requested cooperation and assistance to establish community forest areas; these are Sifuha, Imukusi, Sachona, Lizauli, Ngonga, Sibbinda/Makanga and three (3) communities in West-Caprivi.

If all communities become operational, it is expected that about 18 community forests will be in Caprivi region.

Ground work and more specific activitiesin the next news letter. So, don't dare miss it!



Participatory Rural Appraisal– Ranking of Natural Resources in Katima