

Community Construction Starts In Style

Report by Ivonn Kramm, CFNEN, Rundu

Construction of community forestry structures has started with two pilot centres. One of the structures will be made out of clay bricks and the other one out of cement. The clay structures, based on local material but improved construction techniques, are being built in cooperation with the Clay House Project Otjiwarongo, who will provide technical supervision. North-South Links Consultants provide construction supervision.

Ncumcara community forest, popularly known as Mile 20, has been earmarked for the first clay structure as it has locally available clay material. Meetings have been held to coordinate construction activities with the Regional Councillor, Mr. Shixwameni, the Mbunza Traditional Authority Chief, Mr. Kaundu and the Community's Forest Management Committee. The community in general has consented to the clay bricks idea.

More than 2000 clay bricks were produced at the start of August. Making the foundation has already started and it is hoped that roofing

of the house will be finished by the end of September.

Ncaute community forest will host the second structure. A similar stakeholder meeting has also been held and the community has equally consented to building with cement bricks. The bricks will be produced by the community members on site. Brick making started at the beginning of September. Once completed, community structures will house community forest offices, storage facilities for forest products and a meeting room which can be used for other community purposes.



Brick making starts at the Ncumcara community forest site.



Admiring a model of the community structures, displayed at Forestry offices in Rundu, left to right: CFNEN Director, Helena Negumbo, CFNEN Programme Coordinator, Rolf Sprung, CFNEN Architect, Ivonn Kramm (in red) and the acting Chief Forester, North Eastern, Simeon Hengari.

Community Forestry Wins At The Caprivi Show 2005

By Britta Hackenberg and Michael Dissinger, CFNEN, Katima

At the just ended Caprivi Trade Fair in Katima Mulilo Town from June 30 to July 2nd, the Community Forestry stand was declared the overall winner in terms of good organisation, exhibition and attendance registered. The Exhibitors, Community Forestry in North Eastern Namibia (CFNEN), received the rotating trophy of the year which is given to the best exhibitor of the show.

The stand exhibited mainly forestry products, both wood and non-wood, and other forest-related activities. On top, there were other attractions for example, the famous log-cutting competition, where fans were required to slice a huge dry log in a matter of seconds. This required not only strength, but also tact. Winning fans received nicely designed "Community Forestry" T-shirts.



Above: CFNEN Katima staff display the trophy and certificate. They are framed by some of their show fans and customers. Right: the log-cutting fun that drew thousands of fans.



Marketing Potentials Of Community Forest Products

By Michaela Dotzler and Haita Andreas, CFNEN, Rundu

Communities in North Eastern Namibia have embraced the marketing potentials of the forest products within their community forests. This follows recent revelations by the Community Forestry project, CFNEN, that most of the products within their community forests have high marketing potentials, and that once utilised, there are good chances of improving the livelihoods of these communities. Already two tons of devils claw have been sold from one of the communities, fetching up to N\$ 23,000.00.

Amazingly this plant has a variety of medicinal uses and is used in curing illnesses like rheumatism, arthritis and hepatitis, to mention but a few. And as there is a growing demand for alternative medicines in developed countries, the market for this plant has grown

bigger. We are thus aware of the treasure we have and it therefore becomes our responsibility to utilise it sustainably and preserve it for future use.

Proper harvesting methods are crucial for the plant's sur-



vival, and so is training which has shown very positive effects in community forests.

Besides this worldwide-known plant, there is a wide range of other edible and useful plants. For some of them,

like Monkey Orange *strychnos cocculoides* (maguni), Manketti (*Schinziophyton rautanenni*) and kalahari Melon, mainly local markets do exist already. Monkey Orange, for instance, is sold along the road

Namcraft Windhoek manufactures beautiful candles and other products from Manketti shells. The shells are still in high demand on European and American markets.

The communities also have plenty of firewood for sale. The main species are Zambezi Teak (*Baikiaea plurijuga*) found in Kavango, Mopane (*Colophospermum mopane*) in Caprivi and Camel thorn (*Acacia erioloba*) in Otjozondjupa region. We encourage environmentally friendly harvesting practices, i.e. focusing on lying deadwood only, but retaining certain amounts in the forest for nutrient re-cycling and as habitats.

Our notable customers include Jon Oliviera of RSC Supermarket who buys around N\$4.00 a bundle of 4,5kg. Special thanks to him for his support in our sustainable utilisation efforts.

from Rundu to Grootfontein or on the local market places for N\$0,50 to N\$1,50 (depending on the size of the fruit). Nevertheless, opportunities to use it for additional purposes do exist.

Fire, Environmental Awareness and Marketing - Media At The Forefront



A poster on fire describing its protective use.

Students receive awards of T-shirts, fruit trees and certificates for winning in a schools environmental competition.



A live radio fire discussion on NBC Kavango Service in Rundu and listeners of the programme.



T-shirts are some of the awards given for protecting forests against veld fires.



Leaflets on marketing and orchards

Forest fire and cut lines: Focus on Ncumcara, Mbeyo and Ncamagoro community forests

By Faustinus Mutangara and Carsten Schusser, CFNEN, Rundu

The communities of Ncumcara, Ncamagoro and Mbeyo spent the biggest part of July making cutlines to protect their forest areas from veld fire. They were surprised when at the beginning of August fire broke into their forest areas coming from the direction of Ncamagoro, through a point where the cutline was not yet finished.

The three communities were joined later by officials from the "Community Forestry" project (CFNEN) and DoF to fight the fire. The fire was enormous and took several days to extinguish completely.

It affected forest areas of Ncumcara, Ncamagoro and a small part of Mbeyo.

This tragedy coincided with the awareness on fire that was run by CFNEN/DoF. There was a common consensus in the discussions that construction of cutlines in these communities started late and that next year cutlines should be ready by end of July, because waiting until August has high risks of fire as most of the vegetation has already started getting dry. It was agreed that CFNEN/DoF provide more training to communities on fire management.



Community Forestry in Western Tsumkwe

Developments In M'kata Community Forest

Report By Karsten Feuerriegel In Kanovlei

With the help of Community Forestry in North-Eastern Namibia project eight communities in NE-Namibia could establish community forests and are being granted

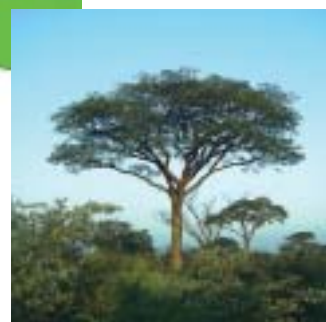
Currently, three communities are involved in the collection and preparation of firewood. Based on a new permit system, hundreds of tons of dry Kaneeldoring (*Acacia erioloba*) can be sawn and packed for export to South Africa.

High quality (grade A) boards and planks are sawn from dry Kiaat/Dolf (*Pterocarpus angolensis*). The trees are care-

conditional use rights for timber and non-timber products. These activities aim to create social and economic incentives for the local communities on the basis of a sustainable forest management plan.

At present, the only community forest in the Otjozondjupa region is located in Western Tsumkwe. With an area of 86765 ha, M'Kata is the biggest community forest in Namibia. The Forests and woodlands comprise many valuable tree species that are managed by the communities of M'Kata and M'Parara.

The major income generation activities in the M'Kata community forest, apart from hunting, veldkost and medicinal plant gathering, focus on the utilisation of deadwood.



fully chosen and only the large ones ($\varnothing > 45$ cm) will be used for commercial harvest.



Fire wood production in M'Kata community in Western Tsumkwe.

Value adding activities such as pitsawing are supported in order to increase benefits generated for communities. Whole tree logs are therefore not available for sale. Other community members are involved in the maintenance of bush roads to ensure appropriate access to the important natural resources.

Most of the above mentioned activities are carried out in cooperation with private entrepreneurs located in Grootfontein, Otjiwarongo

and Tsumeb. In the near future five new community forests will be established in the region. Therefore CFNEN is planning to extend the marketing of forest products, looking for more diversity in supplied products, increased benefits to local communities and attractive conditions for new customers.

Link up with
new ventures

Inquiries regarding
marketing
opportunities for
forest products
around
Western Tsumkwe
can be directed to

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