

## Community Forests Benefit Schoolchildren

### *FMC Ncaute provides school uniforms for Kawe school*

By Stefan Rechberger and Romanus Karupu, CFNEN

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of July a major achievement in project implementation could be witnessed at Kawe Primary School: The FMC of Ncaute handed over school uniforms to the children of Kawe, Gcana and Makandina. For the first time in the history of Ncaute Community Forest a considerable benefit of about 5000 N\$ was generated through sustainable forest management. 25%

of the benefit was handed over to the Traditional Authority of Shambyu tribal area, 25% was paid to the FMC for their duties and the remaining 50% for village development was spent for school uniforms.

During his speech the senior headman of Ncaute area Mr. Johannes Kangoro emphasized on the protection of natural resources. "This is the prove: if we protect our resources we can generate income and benefit all. Let's continue



that way so that we can generate more and help our people." We congratulate the FMC of Ncaute C.F. for their achievement and hope to see more happy children in future benefiting from sustainable forest management.

*Learners of Kawe Primary school fringed by teachers, principal, senior headman of Ncaute and members of the FMC proudly presenting their new school uniforms. A student getting dressed up with the new school uniform with the help of a FMC member.*



*Romanus Karupu and Stefan Rechberger of CFNEN watching senior headman of Gcwatjinga Matheus Karapo signing the application documents for the Gcwatjinga Community Forest*

## Application for Gcwatjinga Community Forest signed

By Stefan Rechberger and Romanus Karupu, CFNEN

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2006 more than 100 residents of Geigco, Gcwatjinga, Gcama, Muparara and Naingopo gathered at Gcwatjinga primary school for signing the application of Gcwatjinga Community Forest. The FMC used the opportunity of this small celebration to address communi-

ty members and inform them about activities in the C.F. Oxen and a donkey cart can be rented at affordable prices. Producing firewood in 10kg plastic bags is currently the main activity to generate income and the focus should be on quality requirements to get more orders. Senior head-

man Matheus Karapo reminded people in his speech not only to take part in meetings when food is offered but also to support the FMC and take part in community forest activities. Under acclamation 30 residents including the headman signed the application papers to be sent to Windhoek for gazetting.



Directorate of Forestry



Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst



ENTWICKLUNGSBANK

The Project Community Forestry in North-Eastern Namibia (CFNEN) is a cooperation of the Directorate of Forestry (DoF) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, the German Development Service (ded) and the German Development Bank (kfw).

# Production and Marketing of Firewood on the right track

## Firewood harvesting in Gwatjinga and Ncaute

By Stefan Rechberger and Michaela Dotzler, CFNEN

After fruitful negotiations with the timber trading company Timber EX about quality, quantity and delivery schedules the firewood business for Kavango region could pick up in July. For 2006 an amount of at least 60 tons, that will exclusively be collected from dead wood, was ordered.

Ncaute and Gwatjinga were the first villages to take the chance. During July and August a trial to produce firewood in customer friendly 10kg plastic bags was than successfully completed. Many residents were busy collecting, sawing and packing firewood to the demands of the customer. Although a lot of labor is involved in packaging the bags, people eagerly collected firewood and did an excellent job.

With the generous support of a tractor and a trailer by the Hamoye Forest

Research Station it was possible to collect 13 tons of firewood in Gwatjinga and bring it to Ncaute. The residents of Ncaute produced another 7 tons and the new office building was filled with plastic bags to the brim, some even had to be piled outside. A huge truck collected almost 19 tons of firewood in Ncaute. Unfortunately the truck could not access through the deep sand close to the office where the firewood was stored. With many hands helping each other the task of transporting 1900 plastic bags to the truck was finished in 3hours only. The Firewood went directly to



*Firewood, harvested under sustainable practices in community forests, packed in customer friendly 10kg plastic bags*



*Community members of Ncaute and Gwatjinga loading a truck with 1900 plastic bags of fire wood, delivered to a customer in Swakopmund*

the Woermann Brock and Co. Company in Swakopmund. The wholesaler shows great interest in sustainable produced firewood and thus contributing in the protection of Namibia's forests.

Everybody welcomed the opportunity to generate income in this remote area. There is enough firewood available in the Community Forests of Ncaute, Gwatjinga and other community forests to meet large demands. Encouraged

by the successful business operations in Ncaute, Ncumcara community also started to produce the customer friendly packed firewood. Up to now Ncumcara gathered experience in delivering smaller amounts to local lodges and private people. With all community forests participating in the newly established firewood business, they win a good market position and improve their chances to enter into long-term agreements with contractors.

## CFNEN meets nbc



Within the last year, a close cooperation between NBC and CFNEN has been established. Frequently NBC is reporting on project activities in different Radio and TV programmes. CFNEN was topic of talk shows and panel discussions - most notably our colleagues' participation in the NBC "Talk of the Nation" and "Good Morning Namibia" TV-Shows as well as the almost weekly produced and broadcasted Radio

Panel Discussion on CFNEN-topics in the NBC Rukwangali Service. Thanks to all participating colleagues for their commitment in representing the project in Namibia's most relevant media. Special acknowledgement to Romanus Karupu who participated in more than twenty radio discussions.

# Refreshing Beverage From The Forest

## Start of Marula Beer and Marula Oil Production in Katima Mulilo

By Andreas Mench, Katima

One famous product coming out of the forests of Namibia is the Marula Beer (other people call it Marula Wine). This beverage is produced from Marula fruits whereby the Marula trees are quite frequent in some areas in North-Eastern Namibia. Especially in the Ovambo Region the Marula beer is highly requested and the people are willing to pay even higher prices than for the bottled industrial beer available from big breweries.

In Katima Mulilo, Caprivi Region, the Marula Beer is not very much known so far because it does not occur in the tradition of the local people. Nevertheless, lots of Caprivians have heard about this very refreshing beverage and were keen on trying out the fruity taste.

In May 2006 the production of Marula Beer started in Katima Mulilo. The Marula fruits were collected at Sifuha, an emerging Community Forest located in the floodplains in East Caprivi. In this area lots of these wild fruits are available until May. Unfortunately most of this resource is not utilized and gets rotten and wasted under the trees.



*A group of Marula Beer producers from Katima Mulilo squeezing the fruits with a mechanical press*

The processing of the beer starts with the collection of suitable fruits. The fruits from different trees show different taste and only the best trees should be selected for collecting the fruits. The fruits should be ripe to offer more juice when being pressed. The CFNEN project is planning to mark the best trees with paint and to take the coordinates of the trees with GPS to indicate their position on maps for a better protection of this resource from illegal cuttings.

Before pressing the fruits should be washed and selected again carefully to sort out the rotten ones. The pressing was done in Caprivi with a mechanical press us-

ing a light truck jack. The juice is collected and should be stored in a cool but not cold place for fermentation. After approximate 5 days the Marula Beer is ready to be served or to be sold.

In Katima Mulilo it was possible to sell glasses containing 0.75 liters of Marula Beer for N\$ 10. Altogether, N\$ 1560 could be generated from this business. This amount will certainly increase next year when the processing will start with the beginning of the harvesting season which lasts in the Caprivi Region from March until late June.

But the Marula Beer is not the only benefit of Marula fruits. After pressing the fruits

the peel of the fruits should be separated from the kernels. Peels can be fed to goats which like them very much. The kernels then can be put into water containers for one day whereby the water will be turned into a tasty sweet but as well vitamin rich juice suitable for the kids.

Then the kernels should be dried in the sun for about one week after which they can be cracked with an axe. With a wire the inside of the nuts can be extracted and pressed again with the same but slightly modified press to extract the famous Marula Oil. This very rich oil can be used for own consumption or can be sold on local and international markets. In Windhoek there is already an established market for this Marula Oil and the price for one liter of the oil is about N\$ 120 up to N\$ 150, depending on the exchange rate for the European Currency. In Katima Mulilo 1 kg of these Marula Nuts provided at about 380 ml of Marula Oil after thorough pressing.

In conclusion, it can be said that the Marula fruits are a very promising forest resource which should be further supported for processing and marketing.



### Community Forestry wins at the Caprivi Show 2006

Already the second time in succession the exhibition stand of CFNEN was declared the most attractive one at the annual Caprivi Show by the organizing committee. The trade fair which took place from 29th of June to 1st of July in Katima Mulilo attracted again a huge number of visitors and has once more proved being the most important platform for exhibitors to reach customers and the general public in the region. The rotating trophy for the best stand in terms of decoration, organization and exhibition went, as in 2005, to CFNEN for its perfect presentation of project activities, wood and non-wood forestry products and the famous grown log-cutting competition, where fans were competing to slice a big dry log in a matter of seconds.

*Picture: Werner Mbongo (left) and Davis Mushitu (right) of CFNEN surrounded by spectators proudly presenting the winning trophy and certificate of the Caprivi Show*

## Communities Complete Cutlines Constructed With Strip Burning Technique

By Wolfgang Adamek, CFNEN

Construction of cutlines still remains the main measure to prevent wild fires from spreading. This year in Ncaute and Ncumcara in Kavango region, cutlines surrounding the community forest areas were constructed with the new strip burning technique. Instead of establishing a less effective, normal 10 meter wide cutline, this technique allows the establishment of a more effective 30-metre cutline with less input in labor and lower costs.

Beginning of August the Forest Management Committees of Ncumcara and Ncaute together with community members and staff from CFNEN and the Directorate of Forestry completed the last kilometers of the protective firebreaks.

In the forthcoming fire season field staff of CFNEN is going to undertake a close observation and survey on whether the new cutlines are really as effective as it is expected and an appropriate method applicable in the future.



A 30-metre cutline in Ncumcara community forest constructed with the strip burning technique.

## Exposed Garden Owners



CFNEN garden owners in Mpungu constituency were participating in an exposure tour for two days.

The garden owners traveled to visit their colleagues and discuss the success and problems in managing gardens with similar set-ups.

To reduce dependenc on the project the travelers also visited suppliers of gardening materials, seeds, pesticides etc. in Rundu. The Mashare agricultural research station, the DoF nursery and the Marula nursery were also among the visited sites.

## CRAFT SHOP Ncumcara Community



The unique craft shop in Kavango region (35 km south of Rundu), in the community forest building, offers a fine selection of locally produced handicrafts.

## Community Forestry and Conservancies getting closer



A joint workshop with CFNEN/DoF and MET/NNF on the integration of community forests in the Shamungwa and the Muduvu-Nyangana Conservancies in Kavango took place in June at Ngandu Lodge in Rundu. Major result of the common

effort was the development of an activity plan and timetable for the establishment of community forests in the two conservancies in congruent areas. Together the Shamungwa and Muduvu Nyangana conservancies cover an area of about 185,000 ha.

## Book Recommendation



*There you go!* – written and illustrated by Oren Ginzburg, published by Survival International, 2006 (pp 48)

*There you go!* offers a radical new approach to looking at 'development' and its impact on indigenous peoples, using beautiful illustrations and wry humour to deliver its message. Described by Mashen Ashini, an Innu spokesperson from Labrador as, 'a book that speaks the truth', *There you go!* challenges current development policies and highlights how destructive these can be for tribal peoples.

Online preview and order: [www.survival-international.org](http://www.survival-international.org)