



The Rössing Foundation



# The Rössing Foundation



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## Acting Chairperson

# Message

**Ms Clara Bohitile**  
*Acting Chairperson of the Board of Trustees*



### Welcome to all our stakeholders.

The role that corporate businesses play in supporting communities through corporate social investment (CSI) activities cannot be underestimated. As corporates seek social licence to operate through their CSI programmes, so communities seek their involvement to improve their livelihoods. It's an interdependence and beautiful symbiotic relationship that benefit both parties.

The partnership between CNNC Rössing Uranium and the Rössing Foundation is an outstanding example that companies and organisations can follow when looking at best practices for their CSI activities.

It is therefore with pride that I serve as the Acting Chairperson of the Rössing Foundation's Board of Trustees. We are extremely proud of what we have achieved thus far in collaboration with CNNC Rössing Uranium and our many partners.

The 2019 Annual Report gives our benefactors and beneficiaries a clear overview of our ongoing activities in supporting education, enterprise development and communities during 2019.

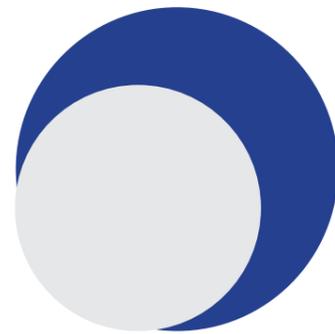
The Rössing Foundation has established a solid reputation as a well-managed CSI vehicle and we are humble that in our small way, the Foundation has made – and continue to make – a real difference in the lives of Namibians.

## Executive Director's Message

M e s s a g e

### Job Tjiho

Executive Director



#### Fulfilling the aspirations of the pioneers and Rössing Uranium mine in Namibia.

In the 2019 Annual Report we are sharing with the entire nation, our partners and benefactors the services the Rössing Foundation has rendered to Namibian communities.

We are aware that all sectors in Namibia, including the public sector, were strained by the

economic downturn during 2019. The economic woes also affected the broader operations of the Rössing Foundation, as many of the benefactors experienced financial challenges and could barely honour their corporate social responsibility commitments. The different Education Directorates were not able to financially honour the memoranda with Rössing Foundation that drive and guide the support to schools in the different regions of Namibia.

As much as the financial challenges were difficult to overcome, the Rössing Foundation continued its commitment to assisting the Government of the Republic of Namibia by contributing to improved primary and secondary education, the development of the workforce and assisting with the diversification of the economy. Further support was provided to small- and medium-scale enterprises, agriculture and the roll-out of the astronomy outreach programme as part of the Africa Millimetre Telescope initiative.

However, with little available in-house resources, as well as smart thinking from the Director of Kavango West Education Directorate, the Foundation was able to support one of the needy schools in that region.

We believe that the best way to have a long-lasting impact in the development of a nation is to have strategic partnerships with companies, organisations and individuals

dedicated and serious committed to serve our communities, especially the most disadvantaged who otherwise would have been left out of development initiatives. Although the economy strained many corporates, some such as Nedbank, Tyre 2000 and the China National Nuclear Corporation Limited (CNNC) Rössing Uranium mine, still supported the Foundation to carry out its mandate.

The Rössing Foundation Board of Trustees and management will fail in their duties if recognition and a great thank you have not been poured to Rössing Uranium who established the Rössing Foundation and to continually providing financial and institutional support.

Furthermore, we wish to thank the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, Nedbank, Tyre 2000, Social Security Commission, Peace Corps, UNICEF, US Embassy and Total Namibia who made it possible for the Foundation to reach out to rural communities and schools through the Mobile Laboratory.

As always, we welcome your feedback on our activities, as well as recommendations in areas that we might have missed. We also invite all possible benefactors and partners to join the Rössing Foundation in supporting the many Namibians who otherwise would not have had opportunities to improve their livelihood in realising their dreams.

# ABOUT THE RÖSSING FOUNDATION

*The first Chairman of Rössing Uranium mine, Mr Ronald (Ronnie) Walker clearly stated that the common loyalty and purpose, without which no nation can survive, depends on having something worthwhile to defend, such as a decent standard of living and individual freedom to enjoy it. He further stated that the one thing a corporate can do for a country is to provide education to the people of that country.*

Historically, many employees of Rössing Uranium mine came from as far as hundreds of kilometres away, from all corners of Namibia, and were housed in Arandis, a town that was built for workers in 1976.

This situation led Rössing to establish an entity that would serve communities from areas where the miners hailed from. The entity was to provide greater educational opportunities for Namibians in order to impart practical skills that would create better economic opportunities

for them, particularly in rural communities.

It was against that philosophy that Mr Walker and the Board of Rössing Uranium established a Trust known as the Rössing Foundation.

The Rössing Foundation was established in 1978 through a Deed of Trust to serve as a vehicle for overseeing and implementing Rössing Uranium's corporate social responsibility activities in Namibia.



A group of teachers, parents and other community members during the training of School Boards of the Hardap Education Directorate, Hardap Region.

## The Foundation focuses mainly on programmes and projects which are aligned to the four mandates below:

Education	Education Beneficiation	Livelihood and Enterprise Development	General Directives
To further the education of Namibians in order to achieve greater national productivity and to enhance lifelong learning.	To encourage the creation and/or to create opportunities for people to use their education.	To promote the advancement of the living standards of the people in Namibia.	To do any act or thing, which in the opinion of the Trustees shall benefit Namibia or any or all of its inhabitants.

In order to align programmes and projects to these mandates, the Rössing Foundation directs its efforts mainly to the following:

- the improvement of primary and secondary education through the implementation of centre-based and national outreach teacher and learner capacity support programmes;
- the development of the local workforce and of specialised vocational skills through the provision of scholarships, apprenticeship and part-time study opportunities; and
- the diversification and strengthening of the local economy through support to small- and medium-scale enterprises and agriculture.

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

*Benjamin Franklin, one of the eight Founding Fathers of the United States*

## SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH EDUCATION

### Centre-Based Support

The Rössing Foundation continues to strengthen the capacity of teachers and learners through support to Namibian schools in identified challenging subject areas such as the English language, Mathematics and the Sciences at its Education Centres located in Arandis, Swakopmund (Tamariskia suburb) and Ondangwa.

### National Outreach Programme

The Rössing Foundation has recognised that in order to fulfil the mandate and the aspirations of Rössing Uranium according to the original philosophy expressed by Mr Walker, the best action to take was to broaden the educational support footprint in Namibia. Therefore, the National Outreach Programme was established to reach out to those

learners who, due to poverty and long distances, could not benefit from the state-of-the-art English language, Mathematics and Science Centres in Erongo and Oshana Regions.

To answer this need, a Mobile Laboratory support programme was introduced to support rural schools in Namibia.

In addition, a new outreach activity was initiated to introduce the National Planetarium Programme that deals with astronomy under the Africa Millimetre Telescope programme to schools in Namibia. The programme will eventually unlock learners' better understanding of the universe.

The role of the Rössing Foundation in this international undertaking is to roll out the outreach programme component of the Africa Millimetre Telescope programme to many schools in Namibia.

## INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

### Support to Small- and Medium Enterprises (SME) in Erongo Region

The Rössing Foundation, in partnership with the Erongo Development Foundation, continued to provide collateral funding, business development services and marketing linkage to the SME sector in Erongo Region. The support is provided through the constituency offices of the seven constituencies of the Erongo Region.

In addition, the Foundation is still supporting the Ûiba-Õas Crystals Market at the t-junction off the B2 Road to Spitzkoppe, between Arandis and Usakos. To that end, improved solar power provision has been realised. The small-scale miners are now able to have sufficient lighting at the market and are able to cut and polish the semi-precious stones for value-addition purposes.

### Environmental Sustainability

#### Support to Okombahe Community

The Okombahe Community Debushing Enterprise (OCDE) is a community-based organisation that was established with the purpose of harvesting *Prosopis* trees in the Omaruru River basin for wood and fodder for environmental, social and economic gain.

The enterprise has two primary goals: to eradicate the invasive *Prosopis* tree species from the river basin in the Dâures Constituency, Erongo Region, and in doing so, serving as a source of income to the Okombahe community.

The enterprise has been supported by the Rössing Foundation with funding from Namibia's Social Security Commission.

### Food Production and Employment Opportunities

The Rössing Foundation, in partnership with the Social Security Commission, has been supporting two agricultural enterprises in Oshikuku and Ogongo in the Omusati Region.

The Oshikuku enterprise is run by women, striving to achieve success with producing and selling produce to the local market, while the Ogongo project is currently in its infant stage.



“A big business starts small.”

*Richard Branson, entrepreneur and adventurer, head of the Virgin Group*

# HIGHLIGHT: VISIT TO STATE HOUSE



The Rössing Foundation has been implementing programmes and projects in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Namibia since independence.

The partnership approach is based on the Deed of Trust that directs the Rössing Foundation Board of Trustees to seek partnership and funding from private and public sectors, including national and international donors to broaden its mandate in improving quality of life of Namibians through capacity strengthening in education, agriculture,

local authority support, small-scale mining and small- and medium enterprises.

Therefore, in 2019, the Rössing Foundation Board of Trustees, with the support from the Department: Partnership, Communication and External Affairs of Rössing Uranium mine, paid a courtesy visit to His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia.

The objective of the visit was to sensitise State House on the role the Rössing Foundation plays

in supporting Government programmes, as well as to sensitise State House on the possible impact of Rössing Uranium's sale to China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC).

The reaction of the team of State House officials that attended the briefing with the President was: "We knew that the Rössing Foundation has been working with communities in Namibia, but what we did not know is the extent of its work and impact."

The event was covered extensively by both electronic and print media, attesting to the success of the visit.

The President further engaged the former Chairman of the Rössing Foundation, Hon. Asser Kapere, after the courtesy visit and reiterated to him that Rössing Foundation remains a core partner with the Government of Namibia in the development of Namibians.



Learners of the Usakos Secondary School during holiday classes.

# Education Development Programmes

In 2019, the Rössing Foundation Education Development Programme focused on the furtherance of education to Namibians in order to achieve greater national productivity and to enhance lifelong learning through capacity strengthening of teachers and learners. The support was geared towards improving capacity of teachers so that

the efforts and newly acquired knowledge and skills remained at schools and in the regions. Once this has been achieved, schools will experience improved teaching and better end-of-the-year examination results.

## Centre-based Education Programme



Learners performing experiments in the Science Laboratory at the Tamariskia Centre.

Teacher Support Programme: Number of teachers supported through the centre-based programmes

Subject	English	Mathematics	Physics & Chemistry	Biology & Life Science	Natural Science & Health Education	Library Services
Annual target	50	50	50	50	50	50
Arandis	4	3	30	8	8	17
Ondangwa	153	37	51	4	1	105
Tamariskia	12	26	16	5	5	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>135</b>

## Teacher Support Programme

The Rössing Foundation regards support for teachers to be vital, as a single, well-equipped teacher is able to benefit a minimum of 30 learners. The teacher support programmes are either conducted at centres or through the mobile unit on school visits to rural areas as part of Rössing Foundation's National Outreach Programme.

Overall, the three Rössing Foundation Centres supported 498 teachers during 2019. This is the highest number of teachers to have been supported at the centre level. The support is significant, as it strengthens knowledge and skills of teachers and it enables them to provide needed quality education delivery

to benefit learners. Furthermore, it is quite satisfactory that for the first time support to the English teachers have increased at all the centres, but more so at the Ondangwa Centre, a good sign since the English language has been found to be a challenge in some schools in the northern regions of the country.



*Learners at the Tamariskia Centre, participating in the Master Maths class.*

## Learner Support Programme

The Rössing Foundation's three education centres remain popular among learners. In addition to on-going support provided to learners from different schools in the English language, Mathematics and the Sciences, many learners flocked to all the centres the last few months of the year for examination preparations.

The focus of the Rössing Foundation support to the Junior Primary level was to strengthen the reading competencies of the learners in Arandis, Ondangwa and Tamariskia. In total, 335 Junior Primary learners were supported through literacy and numeracy programmes and they improved reading and numerical competencies. In addition, 107 Pre-primary learners benefitted from the reading programme in Arandis.

On Senior Primary level, 6,868 learners benefitted from the

programmes offered at the three Rössing Foundation Centres. It should be noted that some learners attended classes on a regular basis throughout the year, while others attended sporadically and according to specific needs.

On Junior Secondary level, 3,082 learners acquired new knowledge and skills in the English language at all the centres.

The centres received fewer Grade 8 learners compared with other grades. This is an indication of learners adjusting to difficult content as the subjects are becoming more challenging.

A total of 9,896 learners on Senior Secondary level benefitted from the Rössing Foundation English, Mathematics and Science programmes at the Arandis, Ondangwa and Tamariskia Centres in 2019, surpassing the targeted number of learners.



The table below shows the number of learners supported in 2019.

Senior Primary Learner Statistics												
Subject	English				Mathematics				Natural Science and Health Education			
	4	5	6	7	4	5	6	7	4	5	6	7
Annual Target	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
Arandis	186	83	125	29	613	639	488	381	230	31	390	261
Ondangwa	12	63	70	48	124	113	187	165	15	32	63	141
Tamariskia	55	33	105	26	2	489	454	414	142	133	360	166
Total	253	179	300	103	739	1241	1129	960	387	196	813	568

Junior Secondary Learners Statistics										
Subject	English		Mathematics		Physical Science		Physics & Chemistry		Life Science	
	8	9	8	9	8	9	8	9	8	9
Annual Target	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
Arandis	65	92	297	183	187	145	3	5	159	146
Ondangwa	0	143	78	111	152	205	0	0	0	155
Tamariskia	28	11	543	283	33	27	4	6	12	9
Total	93	246	918	577	372	377	7	11	171	310

Senior Secondary Learner Statistics												
Subject	English				Mathematics							
	10	11	12	12*	10	11	12	12*	10	11	12	12*
Target	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
Arandis	6	141	506	4	172	196	275	0				
Ondangwa	97	237	1030	127	86	5	524	94				
Tamariskia	104	199	776	38	302	298	625	81				
Total	207	577	2312	169	560	499	1424	175				

\* = Grade 12 High Level

Senior Secondary Learner Statistics												
Subject	Physics/Chemistry				Biology							
	10	11	12	12*	10	11	12	12*	10	11	12	12*
Target	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
Arandis	434	66	122	0	127	295	223	1				
Ondangwa	62	20	557	148	66	73	577	112				
Tamariskia	95	90	427	0	105	87	286	0				
Total	591	176	1106	148	298	455	1086	113				

## August 2019 School Holiday Support Programme

A total of 598 learners from different regions in Namibia attended the August 2019 school holiday classes at the Rössing Foundation Centres. These learners came from Kunene and Kavango West regions, some from schools in and around the Ondangwa Centre, while the rest came from Khomas Region. In addition, local schools in Swakopmund also benefitted from the holiday classes at the Tamariskia Centre.



Learners from the Westside High School in Swakopmund attending holiday classes at the Tamariskia Centre.

Holiday support classes: Schools and Region	No. of Learners	Grade
Bunya Secondary, Kavango West	39	12
Oshana schools	174	7, 8 and 12
Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Omusati, Kavango East, Khomas, Otjozondjupa and Karas regional schools	345	10, 11 and 12
Schools in and around Swakopmund	40	10 and 12
Total Number of Beneficiaries during the August 2019 holiday classes	598	7-12

Three schools, namely Westside High School, Okakarara Secondary School and Okanguati Combined School who attended holiday classes at the Tamariskia

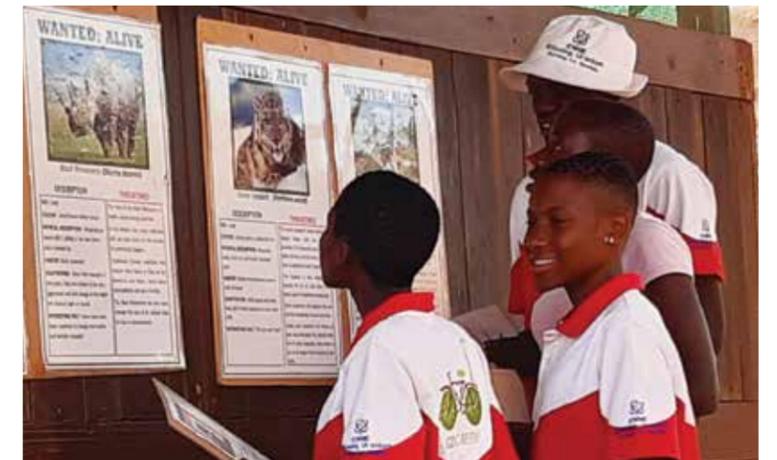
Centre, had an opportunity to visit the Telemetry Tracking and Command Station on the outskirts of Swakopmund where they were introduced to space technology

and astronomy by two Chinese astronauts, Liu Yang and Chen Dong. Liu Yang is China's first female astronaut to venture into space.



The first female Chinese astronaut, Liu Yang, flanked by Natumutange Uusiku held by his father, Lysias Uusiku of the Rössing Foundation.

# LEARNING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT



In December 2019, 20 Grade 10 learners from the Kahenge Combined School in the Kavango West Region went on a week-long excursion to the Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust (NaDEET). It is a vibrant environmental education site located in the Namib Desert.

The tour was a culmination of the combined efforts of the Rössing Uranium Mine, the Rössing Foundation and the Kavango West Education Directorate through Kahenge Combined School.

The excursion took place during the December holiday period and the learners showed great appreciation for the activity. Due to the long distance, the group had to overnight in Windhoek, and as it was the first time the learners visited the capital city of Namibia, it offered them a valuable opportunity to familiarise themselves with Windhoek and other towns along the way.

The activities were enriching to both the adult and young adult participants. They encouraged environmental awareness

and promoted a symbiotic relationship between people and the environment. The general philosophy of NaDEET was that the learners had to take part and do things for themselves, as nothing was done for them. This ranged from meal preparation of a variety of dishes, cleanliness and time management. The learners had to maintain a journal of the activities for the duration of the tour. The activities were varied and included the following:

- Shopping in an environmentally conscious way

- Exploring sustainable energy
- Exploring environmental problems and solutions
- Measuring their environmental footprint
- Waste management and recycling
- Conservation of the giraffe
- Exploring biodiversity (the Dune Walk)
- Family lifestyle-solar cooking
- Environmental games
- The dark sky reserve
- Development decision (time/ climate change), and
- Having fun with dune boarding.

Issues of environmental impact assessment were topical in all of the activities. There were both indoor and outdoor activities, which enriched the learners. There were also simulations of real life day-to-day human activities and real life governmental/ institutional activities that prepared the learners for an environmentally conscious life at home and later in life as decision makers.

## Library Services

“

Today a reader.  
Tomorrow a leader.”

Margaret Fuller  
(1810-1850), American  
journalist, editor,  
critic, translator,  
and women's rights  
advocate

The main purpose of the Rössing Foundation's libraries is to ensure that learners, teachers and other community members have access to information through print and electronic media.

In total, 36,475 learners used the library services during 2019 and

765 became library members. The library was also used by 400 teachers, while a total of 13,120 general community members benefitted from the library.

In terms of book usage, 2,836 books were borrowed.

2019	Learners				Teachers		Others				Books Circulation	
	Visits		Membership		Visits		Assignments		Projects		Borrowed	Returned
	Target	Actual	Target (annual)	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual		
Arandis	5,000	7,939	300	156	50	33	1,000	3,938	300	1,172	677	398
Ondangwa	6,500	11,800	300	209	500	322	5,000	3,714	300	69	1,465	859
Tamariskia	5,500	16,736	300	397	50	45	1,000	5,468	300	2,020	964	763
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>36,475</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>13,120</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>3,261</b>	<b>2,836</b>	<b>2,020</b>



The Rössing Foundation libraries benefitted the teachers, learners and community members by providing access to books and electronic media.

# National Outreach Programme



*During 2019, the Rössing Foundation National Outreach Programme support to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture was reduced to one region, namely the Kavango West Education Directorate, more specifically to the Kahenge Combined Secondary School.*

The specific support to Kahenge Combined school was the result of an earlier intervention during June 2019 when it was discovered

that the school can benefit much by focused support in ensuring effective teaching and learning is taking place. Therefore, an

additional visit was sponsored by the Rössing Foundation and a total of 23 teachers and 992 learners were supported.

Learners and Teachers Supported during the Mobile Outreach Programme

Focus Groups	Grades	English	Mathematics	Physical Science	Biology/Life science & Natural Science & Health Education	Total
Learners	4-7	168	134	35	35	372
	8-10	202	112	71	235	620
Teachers	4-7	7	2	1	1	11
	8-10	6	2	2	2	12
Total Learners		246	106	270	992	1,614
Total Teachers		4	3	3	23	33



(Left) Group work in progress during Training of School Board Trainers of Kunene Education Directorate in 2019. (Right) Mr Fillemon Nangolo, representing the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, during the Training of Trainers in Kunene, in discussion with Mr Beans Ngatjizeko, one of the Master Trainers.

## SCHOOL GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME

### Social Accountability and School Governance Programme



“UNICEF has been collaborating with the Rössing Foundation since 2011 to support the implementation of the Social Accountability and School Governance Programme (SASG) in the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC). The programme is being implemented within the framework of MoEAC to strengthen the performance and standard indicators and to ensure meaningful parental and community involvement in the education of their children through the motto: “Education is a shared responsibility”.

To date, Rössing Foundation has trained School Board Members to have an informed understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities for effective school governance training which also included understanding the importance of data for better planning and budgeting, resource mobilisation, addressing issues related to school health and safety, children with special needs and disabilities, as well as improving learning through physical education and school sports.

Both UNICEF and the Ministry of Education continue to value partnership with Rössing Foundation, especially through the ongoing professional support from Mr Job Tjiho, Fillemon Vatillifa and Edmund Swartz.” Dr Aune Victor, Education Specialist

**Dr Aune Victor**  
Education Specialist,  
UNICEF



## TRAINING OF MASTER TRAINERS

A training of the Master Trainers of School Boards was conducted in September 2019 in Windhoek.

The objective of the training was to enable the Master Trainers to use the Social Accountability and School Governance Tools to empower School Board Trainers to be able to capacitate school boards in their regions, circuits and schools.



Group work in progress during Training of School Board Trainers of Kunene Education Directorate in 2019.

The Master Trainers included three consultants and three Rössing Foundation staff comprising of the Executive Director, Chief Education Officer and Coordinator of the Outreach Programmes. Two UNICEF and one 'Star for Life' staff members also attended the training

in an observation and support capacity. During the training, all presentations for the Training of Trainers were prepared and trial runs were conducted to ensure that no grey areas were left unattended to.

## TRAINING OF SCHOOL BOARD MASTER TRAINERS

The School Board training for the Kunene Directorate of Education was conducted in October 2019 in Khorixas. In the Oshana Region, the training for the two Oshana School Boards groups were conducted in November 2019 in Oshakati and Ondangwa respectively.

The objective of the training was to capacitate the Regional School Board Trainers to enable them to roll out the training of the School Boards in their clusters. It also aimed for School Boards to have a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities to use the social accountability tools and model systems, to monitor school performance

and inform education sector monitoring at local, regional and national level.

Attendance of participants of the Training-of-Trainers in Kunene and Oshana Regions

Region	Date	Participants		Total
		F	M	
Kunene	07 - 11.10.2019	12	28	40
Oshana	04 - 15.11.2019	26	37	63
Total		38	65	103



## Piloting the Mobile Planetarium of the Africa Millimetre Telescope

The Educational Outreach programme aims to expose and educate teachers and learners from many schools in Namibia by means of a mobile planetarium, developing and offering associated curricula and teachers training. Given the size of Namibia and the widely-spread population in the country, this may require approximately four to five years to roll out the full programme.

The mobile planetarium in Namibia offers unique opportunities for education, as it will help the learners to gain a better understanding of the universe.

The planetarium can also be used for a wide range of school subjects, as programmes and lessons will be developed for science subjects such as



Learners of the Mokganele Thlabanelo Senior Secondary School participated in the piloting of the Mobile Planetarium.

Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Geography and Biology.

Cooperation with both universities in Namibia will help to create local staff capacity for the future of the overarching Africa Millimetre Telescope (AMT) project. The Mobile Planetarium was piloted at the Mokganele Thlabanelo Senior Secondary School in the Omaheke Region, and at the Kahenge Combined School in the Kavango West Region. It will assist teachers and learners to explore astronomy (planets and stars), thereby making abstract concepts more concrete and, in doing so, encouraging learners to pursue scientific careers at tertiary institutions.

In total, 1,588 learners from different schools in Namibia, including students from the University of Namibia, were

given the opportunity to test the Mobile Planetarium in April 2019.

Learners and students who participated overall were drawn from UNAM (250 students), while 125 learners from Windhoek High School, 500 from Mokganele Thlabanelo Senior School at Drimiopsis, including a primary school and kindergartens and 722 learners from Kahenge Combined School participated, while additional learners from the following schools were also exposed to the facility:

- Kanuni Combined Schools
- Himalwa lithete Senior School
- Namavambi Primary School
- Kandjimi Murangi Senior School
- Simanya Combined School
- Tondoro Combined School, and
- Nkurenkuru Combined School.

The Rössing Foundation has been selected as a partner with Radboud University and NOVA, both from the Netherlands, and the University of Namibia in the implementation of the Mobile Planetarium of the Africa Millimetre Telescope Outreach programme.

The roll-out of the project will commence in September 2020 and will form part of the Rössing Foundation National Outreach programme. The project will run over five years with the vision of covering many of the schools in Namibia.





Visitors to the Dreamland Garden project in Arandis.

# Enterprise Development Programme



*One of the important parts of the Rössing Foundation's activities is the diversification and strengthening of the local economy through providing support to small- and medium-scale enterprises.*

## Support to Arandis-based Dreamland Garden Enterprise

Rössing Foundation continued to work with the Dreamland Garden members to improve the day-to-day operations of the community garden. The enterprise is now flourishing as water becomes reliable and the project members continue to sell their produce to local shops and individuals in Arandis. However, the sustainable water supply needs to be formalised and the team is busy with engagement of the Arandis Town Council in this regard.

## The Rössing Foundation in collaboration with COSDEC on Training Entrepreneurs

The aim was to empower women with job applications and interviews skills. Several Arandis-based SMEs were trained in the following activities at the Community Skills Development Centre (COSDEC) in Swakopmund:

- SME Basic Small Business Development: 13 Arandis SMEs attended, and
- Empowering Erongo Young Women Project: Job-ready workshop for eight participants.

## Oshikuku Project

The Rössing Foundation supported the establishment of the Oshikuku green schemes enterprise in Omusati Region. The purpose of the Green Schemes enterprise is to create employment opportunities, reduce poverty and vulnerability among small scale farmers through sustainable agricultural initiatives. The planting and transplanting of seedlings continued throughout the year, with an additional 200m<sup>2</sup> plot



(Above) Mr Namboga, the owner of a vegetable garden, sharing his practical experience and gardening techniques with the Oshikuku project members. (Far right) A project member from Oshikuku vegetable garden selling spinach at the local *cuca* shops.



of maize completed. The ten project members harvested the first produce and sold it to the community in the town of Oshikuku and the surrounding villages.

## Support to Okombahe Debushing Project

Through funding secured from the Social Security Commission Development Fund, the Rössing Foundation has been supporting the Okombahe Community De-bushing Enterprise (OCDE). The OCDE is a community-based organisation that was established with the goal of harvesting *Prosopis* trees in Omaruru River basin for woods and fodder for environmental, social and economic gain.

The enterprise has two primary goals: to eradicate the invasive *Prosopis* tree species from the Omaruru river basin in the Dâures Constituency, Erongo Region, and in doing so, serve as a source of income to the Okombahe community.

During 2019, the Rössing Foundation and the Erongo Regional Council (Dâures Constituency Office)

organised a study visit to Omaheke and Otjozondjupa Regions for the enterprise beneficiaries. Four project representatives participated and were exposed to various bush value chain activities at four different operations.



The official launch of the Okombahe Community Debushing Enterprise was held in November 2019. (From left) Honourable Clara Bohitile, Acting Chairperson of the Rössing Foundation Board of Trustees; Honourable Governor of Erongo Region, Cleophas Mutjavikua; Ms Milka Mungunda, Executive Officer of Social Security Commission and Li Youliang, Vice President of China National Uranium Corporation (CNUC).

## Study Tours for the Okombahe Enterprise members

Farm Langbeen, a private farm outside Dordabis

Production benefits: Production of fodder from bush as animal feed and general production of pellets.

Learning outcomes: Harvesting bush to feeding cattle as a business to assist farmers.



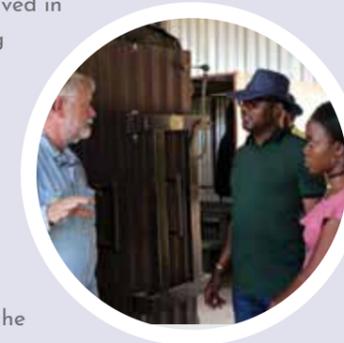
Vergenoeg Project east of Gobabis, a community-based project

Production benefits: Wood harvesting, processing and packing. Learning outcomes: Possible business for the Okombahe enterprise as an income-generating activity to members and community.



Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)

Production benefits: CCF is a conservation organisation located outside Otjiwarongo, and is also involved in wood processing using modern technologies. Learning outcomes: Possible future business consideration for the Okombahe enterprise as an income-generating activity to members and community.



## Machineries Operation and Safety Procedures for the Okombahe Debushing Enterprise

Nine members of the Okombahe Debushing Enterprise were trained by Rössing Foundation and Rössing Uranium mine's Health and Safety Department in how to safely operate a chipper, hammer mill and chain saws. After the practical training and demonstration, participants were able to operate the equipment and apply safety procedures.



The new trainees commenced with wood production, fodder, poles and fencing poles (droppers) in Okombahe and the target is to produce 40 bags of chipped materials per day for the first three months. A sample of pure *Prosopis* tree fibre was taken to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry's laboratory for nutritional analysis and the laboratory results revealed that the *Prosopis* fibre is rich in crude protein and other important basic nutrients, although poor in metabolised energy. The requirement for crude protein for maintenance of cattle condition is 8 per cent while the Okombahe *Prosopis* has 10-13 per cent. However, the rate can be improved by adding molasses into the fibre and the farmers can feed their animals, especially during drought.





## Ûiba-Ôas Crystal Market

The Foundation, in collaboration with the Ûiba-Ôas Cooperative, continued its support to the Ûiba-Ôas Crystal Market at the t-junction off the B2 Road to Spitzkoppe and during 2019, improved solar power provision has been realised. Teams from both the Foundation and the Ûiba-Ôas Cooperative have worked together to establish an improved electrical power supply to the small-miner settlement. To this end, the Embassy of the United States provided funds to purchase a solar power supply system. The installation of new solar power has been completed and is operational. The small-scale miners are now able to have sufficient lighting at the market and to cut and polish the semi-precious stones for value-addition purposes.

Furthermore, the Cooperative has worked with a Namibian architect to develop a multi-purpose community centre that will house a kindergarten and serve as a venue for cultural events and community gatherings.

In addition, the Ûiba-Ôas Cooperative, supported by the Rössing Foundation, continued to investigate feasible options to bring water supply to the market, which is crucial to the further development of the community. Discussions were held with various stakeholders to identify the best long-term solution to the community's continual water challenges.



## Erongo Development Foundation Partnership

The Rössing Foundation, in partnership with the Erongo Development Foundation (EDF), continued to provide collateral funding and business development services and marketing linkage to the SME sector in the Erongo Region. The support is provided in collaboration with the Erongo Regional Council, particularly through the seven constituency offices of the region.

The Erongo Micro-credit Scheme provides loan guarantee for SMEs that are unable to access loans from commercial banks, due to a lack of collateral. During 2019, the EDF loans overall performance was below average, as the repayment stood at 38 per cent. The low repayment rate may be attributed to the current economic downturn. However, the EDF board and the regional leadership need to investigate, assess and plan new strategies to assist the entrepreneurs with the challenges they are facing. Failure to do so, the current defaulting rate would put more pressure to the guarantee fund as the EDF guarantees 60 per cent of the total loans.

# Community Support Programme



Architectural drawing of the envisaged amphitheatre in Arandis.

## Community Involvement Activities in Arandis

Eight Arandis-based entrepreneurs were supported in business development and counselling. Record-keeping of income and expenses, including mixing personal and business finances, remain a challenge among the small- and micro entrepreneurs. During business site visits, it was evident that many Arandis entrepreneurs were struggling to keep their businesses afloat due to the economic climate in 2019. The SMEs were, however, determined to adopt new strategies that will help them to cope with the situation to ensure businesses sustainability.

The Rössing Foundation does not only work directly with SMEs, but also recognises that indirect help through community involvement is key to developing and maintaining a strong SME environment.

The Rössing Foundation team has been working closely with the Arandis Town Council on plans to renovate the amphitheatre in Arandis, as well as to re-establish an urban park in the town. Further suggestions were also made to turn the defunct swimming pool into a fountain park attraction.



The Rössing Foundation



The Rössing Foundation strives to assist in improving education delivery, developing of the local workforce and strengthening the local economy through innovation and enterprise development.

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