

E-CAP: SUSTAINABLE USE OF NAMIBIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES: CONTRIBUTION TOWARD ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF FUTURE DECISION MAKERS

INTRODUCTION

The E-CAP project, implemented by the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN) with funding from the Finnish Embassy in Windhoek, is designed to enhance capacity of decision makers to address sustainable development in Namibia.

It targets present and future decision makers, being young professionals, managers of Local Authorities, rural residents managing their water resources and parliamentarians through four components:



Assessment of water infrastructure on Odendaal farm in Hardap region, note the kraal just behind the borehole.



COMPONENT 1: Capacity building of incipient national and regional level decision makers

This component involves capacity building of incipient national and regional level decision makers through hands-on management and implementation experience for recent Namibian tertiary level graduates. They, supported by experienced mentors, design, manage and implement the other three components of the project.



Support team discussing how to minimize leakage in water supply system together with representatives from Oskop Local Authority.



Examples of Updates produced between 1996 - 2005

COMPONENT 2: Targeted support to rural decision makers to enhance water and sanitation management

This component focuses on targeted support for rural decision makers to improve their water and sanitation management, working with existing or emergent Basin Management Committees.

The aim is to work closely with selected rural communities to establish current baselines and provide technical support in establishing small-scale infrastructural development to improve water supply and sanitation arrangements.

This may involve relocation of pit latrines and livestock watering troughs to minimize pollution of groundwater sources as well as installation of water meters on boreholes, which, when combined with groundwater level measurements, can help rural community members to understand and manage their groundwater supplies.



Damaged watering trough needing repairs to prevent water losses and pollution.

COMPONENT 3: Team support to Local Authorities to enhance Water and Sanitation Management for associated informal settlements

Component 3 entails involvement of an integrated team of young professionals, together with their mentors, using a hands-on approach to identify challenges faced by Local Authorities and associated informal settlements with respect to water and waste water management.

Spending up to a week in a locality, backed by follow-up visits and on-going communication, the integrated team works with local managers to address challenges. Improved water demand management, particularly with respect to appropriate tariffs and billings, repair of inadequate infrastructure, management of water supply and waste water as well as related practical challenges are addressed.

Component 3 builds on lessons from implementation of similar projects in the Hardap and Karas regions, e.g. LA-CAP.



Support team discussing challenges related to water and sanitation with representatives from Noordoewer Local Authority.

COMPONENT 4: Environmental Updates for Namibian Parliamentarians

Component 4 is based on past experience of the DRFN in working towards enabling parliamentarians obtain a better understanding of sustainability and the environmental relevance of their decisions using Environmental Updates.

Singe-page broadsheets are prepared and distributed to national level decision makers twice monthly.

The Updates are designed to enhance understanding of environmental issues, such as water, land and other natural resources, in relation to rural development and poverty.

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