

COORDINATOR'S REPORT



Recycle Namibia
Forum

Prepared by
Anita Witt

2023



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NAMIBIA FORUM

Taking hands today for a cleaner Namibia tomorrow

<https://rnf.com.na>

Introduction

01

We were pleased to celebrate the Recycle Namibia Forum's 13th anniversary in July 2023. And, given the growth of the Forum albeit challenging at times, the commitment from the wide variety of members we currently have on board bodes well for the future.

Although it was the first time that the RNF had no Chairperson for the major part of the year (following the departure of Jose Pretorius) nor a Treasurer (Marilize Cohen), this fortunately changed when Johan Oosthuizen and Chantel Voigt made themselves available to fill these two important positions.

Our appreciation goes to our Vice Chairperson Abraham Reinhardt for keeping the RNF on course until Johan could take over.

Introduction

Continued

Another unexpected loss was the resignation of our web designer, Ida Blaauw of Innovative Design Arts, who was responsible for the new “look and feel” of the RNF, both on our website and also on social media and all other work related items. We will miss her special “green” flair but are in good hands with Wayne Esterhuizen of Multi IT at present.

We are also pleased that we finally have obtained a financial system, although for me it presented some challenges, but these are being ironed out with the assistance of our Treasurer – and will make financial reporting much easier.

2023 also saw an increasing number of events, projects and information sessions which we attended to, plus a very active Rubbish Ronnie travelling across Namibia. More under projects.

Members

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We are pleased to welcome the following new members on board during the 2023 financial year:

- Lindholm Farm
- Grootfontein Recycling
- Rossing Foundation
- Multi IT
- Namibia Breweries Ltd / Heineken
- Advanced Tech
- Meyers Recycling cc

COMMUNITY RECYCLING

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Recycling Heroes 2023

The highlight of 2023 must be the development, implementation and launch of our Recycling Heroes initiative – a project partnered by Development Workshop Namibia and sponsored by Coca-Cola Beverages Namibia. In short, it involves training and upskilling unemployed ladies to correctly sort and manage their recyclables.

This project has a considerable positive impact, as not only do they get the training and certificate of acknowledgement, but safety and protective gear is emphasized with the distribution of gloves, hats, reflective jackets and sanitisers. The training took place in Windhoek, Walvis Bay and Otjiwarongo. The project will be continued to other regions in 2024.



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It was very much an eye-opener as well to firsthand realise the challenges these ladies have to cope with – from spending hours in all kinds of weather on the dumpsites, to lack of storage space for their recyclables and especially whom they can sell their recyclables to at a fair price.



Igloo Project Feedback



A number of igloos were distributed in Namibia (courtesy of the RNF, Coca-Cola Namibia and also Shoprite). One of the igloos donated by Coca-Cola Namibia to the RNF in 2022 was handed to a charity organization, Promiseland in Walvis Bay. The below mail highlights the appreciation and value of such a gesture. It is encouraging to see that schools are actively going “green”, with clean ups and starting vegetable gardens to complement their food needs.

Hi good morning Anita,

Thank you once again for your generosity and support. These photos showcase the positive impact your donation has had on our community and highlight the importance of your support and the impact of our environmental club.

We've decided to move the igloo next door of our soup kitchen, over to Tataleni Primary. It now joins other recycling bins at the school, and the recycled material is being collected by a local company that the primary school arranges.

We recently also received 4 old donated PCs and got them fixed up, got it connected to the internet and hosted our first online workshop which was about hygiene awareness, which connects well with the environment, especially in the poorer areas like Kuisebmond where hygiene is a luxury because of all the pollution. We also had a beach clean up campaign and joined a desert cleanup during 2023.

Tataleni Primary is not only the location of our soup kitchen but also where our greenhouse was built. The move has been a positive step, and we're excited about the impact it's having on the local school and community.

Thanks for the exceptional difference you make in our environment. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you in the future.

Best wishes,

Jenny

OTHER PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

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Rubbish Ronnie

Our mascot had a very busy first year – and a summary of his activities has been uploaded on our website. Kicking off 2023 he visited All Nations Christian School, was present and hosted a colouring competition at the Local is Wernhil promotion, followed by a visit to the north. Courtesy of Grootfontein Recycling, he visited schools in this town followed by B2 Gold hosting him as part of Plastic Free July, visits to the mine and the schools in Otjiwarongo. Thereafter, Rubbish Ronnie visited the town of Oranjemund, where Debmarine / Namdeb involved him in activities at both schools (they are also active in recycling).



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Although aimed at the youth, Rubbish Ronnie was also popular within the corporate sector, being involved in Paratus' office greening campaign and social media posts.



Paratus Namibia

April 22 at 9:04 AM · 🌐

Today we celebrate Earth Day!

At Paratus, we are committed to taking small, actionable but achievable steps to making our impact on this planet a positive one.

This Earth Day, Rubbish Ronnie is here to show you how we take care of the planet going about our daily routines at the office. These are things you can do, too!

#paratusnamibia #alwaysprepared #expansion #earthday



The project will in 2024 see expansion of the activity sheets and also to consider an additional mascot. After a very busy year, the wear and tear is evident (children want to touch him) and although light, he is bulky to transport.



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Recycling / Upcycling competitions

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We formed part of the judging panel for City of Windhoek's "solution to plastic pollution" competition in celebration of World Environment Day, as well as Solid Waste Division's schools recycling competition.

The creativity and enthusiasm displayed by our youth is commendable.





1. Finnish Embassy: Panelist and assisting coordinating the Finnish Embassy's side event for World Circular Economy Forum 2023 – with the theme being Opportunities and Challenges on circular economy in Namibian context. An article in The Brief followed, summarizing the challenges raised during the panel discussions.



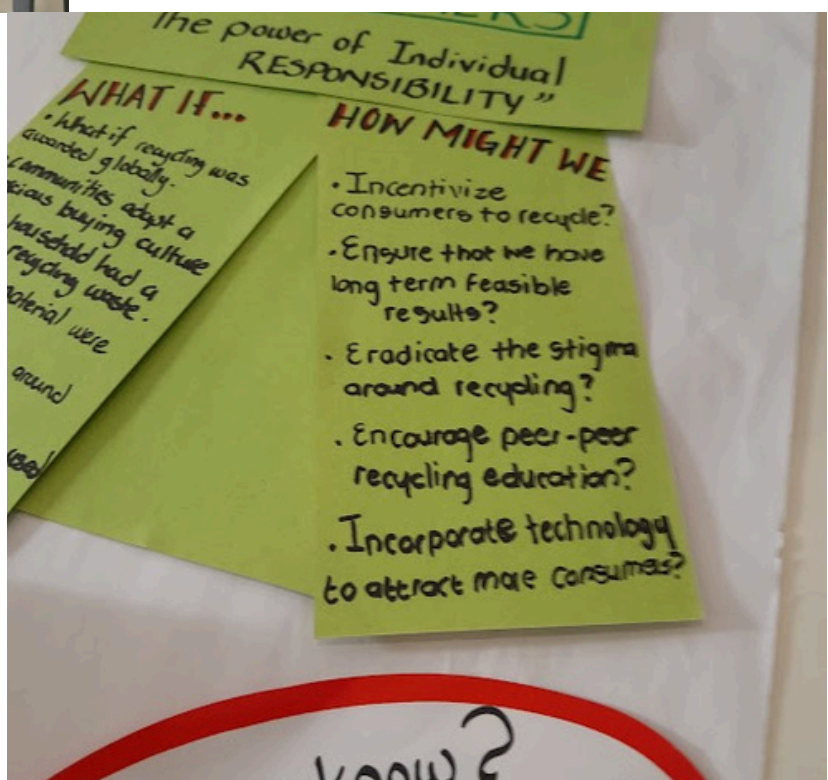
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2. During October, we were invited by NUST (Namibia University of Science and Technology) to attend their Demola projects presentation: Innovation Fusion: Innovative Ideas and Networking Platform”.

The team working on recycling presented some very thoughtful ideas to incentivise awareness and volumes.



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3. We were invited as a speaker (together with other RNF members) at the Hage Geingob Campus goes Green” event. The theme we presented was “how to become a Conscious Consumer”, whilst two of our RNF members also highlighted e-waste and the importance of recycling.



4. We briefed / held info sessions at a number of schools / groups / interested individuals and students during the course of the year – such as the info session with the Labyrinth Gap Year students pictured below.



Clean Up Campaigns

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We continued to support a number of smaller clean up campaigns throughout the year, with the donation of refuse and clear bags by Plastic Packaging. Where possible, we link the organisers with the closest recycler to encourage the separation of the refuse collected. Our clean up booklet has proven valuable for this purpose.

We continue to serve on the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism's "National Clean Up Committee" although it was again on a smaller scale (possibly due to lack of timeous notice) than the previous years. It is encouraging to see that some organisers (notable schools) have become "regulars" in so far as they are often in contact for assistance with their clean ups.



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Awareness

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In celebration of Global Recycling Day, we did a series of short articles in an online publication, the Windhoek Connection.



The Windhoek Connection

March 18, 2023 · 🌐



#GlobalRecyclingDay

Rent-A-Drum Recycle Namibia Forum City of Windhoek Ohorongo
Cement Namibia Plastic Packaging BEE Energy Efficient Namibia



What can NOT be recycled?



- Windowpanes, mirrors, and vehicle glass
- Wine / beer / drinking glasses (they are made of plated glass)
- Glass bottles that were burnt on dump and landfill sites
- Ceramic and porcelain crockery such as plates, cups and mugs
- Pots, pans and steel household items (knives, garden forks, etc)
- Clothing, fabric, shoes
- Paint cans
- Used pizza boxes (contaminated)

Global Recycling Day
18 March 2023

The Windhoek Connection | hello@windhoekconnection.com.na | 081 237 3003

DID YOU KNOW?



You cannot recycle shiny Christmas or birthday wrapping paper. It contains certain chemicals and dyes, and sometimes even glitter, that cannot be removed during the recycling process.



Global Recycling Day
18 March 2023

The Windhoek Connection | hello@windhoekconnection.com.na | 081 237 3003

In celebration of Global Recycling Day, we did a series of short articles in an online publication, the Windhoek Connection.

Together with DWN we also compiled a Recycling Guide for the participants in our Recycling Heroes project – where the focus is visuals of recyclables, how to sort these, and listing the contact details of recycling businesses in Namibia.

Both booklets are available on our website under downloads.



The image displays the cover of a 'RECYCLING GUIDE' booklet. The top section features three photographs of individuals in blue uniforms and masks, likely recycling workers, in various settings. Below these is a central graphic of a green recycling symbol surrounded by icons of various recyclable items like paper, plastic bottles, and cardboard. The title 'RECYCLING GUIDE' is prominently displayed in green, with the subtitle 'A guide to collecting, sorting, and selling recyclables in Namibia' underneath. The bottom section of the image shows a hand holding a raspberry-flavored yogurt drink, with a green recycling bag in the background. To the right, there is a green box containing the 'RECYCLE NAMIBIA FORUM' logo and the text 'Informational Booklet', 'RECYCLING AND WASTE', and 'A handy introduction to recycling and waste'.

RECYCLING GUIDE
A guide to collecting, sorting, and selling recyclables in Namibia

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Informational Booklet

RECYCLING AND WASTE

A handy introduction to recycling and waste

CONCLUSION

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Again, without the input of our members, the RNF cannot be successful, and we greatly appreciate the support we have received during the past year. A special thanks also to our Management Committee for keeping us on track – and looking forward to a productive 2024!

Anita Witt
Coordinator