



Coordinator's Report

2022



An overview of the year from
the RNF coordinator's desk.

INTRODUCTION

Looking back, the year 2022 presented some challenges, but what stood out more than any of the challenges, were the initiatives to create awareness on the importance of our new drive, the 7 R's under **Rethink Tomorrow** and of course the launch of our mascot, Rubbish Ronnie.

Although financial constraints do always play a role, we managed to welcome several new members on board through joint partnerships and increased visibility that. A wide spectrum of industries and organisations now form part of the membership base of the RNF.

Despite the unexpected (but also envied) departure of our Chairperson, Jose Pretorius for an overseas "sabbatical", the RNF nonetheless continued successfully thanks to modern technology and the assistance of our Management Committee, notably our Deputy Chairperson, Abraham Reinhardt.

Whilst we are proud of the RNF celebrating its 12th anniversary this month, it must be emphasised that this has not been without challenges – not only to source and expand the membership base, but also to retain the current members.

At the same time, the increased visibility of the RNF has led to a number of invitations to present talks, attend workshops, launches and initiatives which is of benefit to the RNF, but at times balancing the admin side did become an issue.

We are delighted that we have finally been able to purchase a financial programme, which should provide for a smoother bookkeeping system, once all glitches have been sorted. Sincere appreciation goes to our RNF Management Committee members for their time and input, as well as their ongoing support. We wish our outgoing Chairperson all the best in his future endeavours!



RNF MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members during the course of 2022:



SHOPRITE



COMMUNITY RECYCLING – Enabling Recycling Efforts

Throughout 2022, the placement of a number of recycling igloos (which the RNF sourced via its contact in South Africa) created valuable awareness for recycling. A number of igloos were purchased by Shoprite Namibia and placed at their outlets, and Coca Cola Namibia also purchased more igloos to hand out to assist in the collection of recyclables elsewhere in Namibia.

Our RNF igloo from Henties Bay Recycling was returned, and moved to the Cosdef Centre in Swakopmund, whilst the two igloos donated by Coca Cola to the RNF, found a home at Promiseland (a charity organisation) in Walvis Bay and the Napa Nawa Recycling Centre in Rundu.

The RNF handed its last recycling igloo to City of Windhoek for use at their Solid Waste Offices, which included the placement of an e-waste collection bin by fellow RNF member, NamiGreen.

Although it is clear that far more education must be done to alert the public on what to place in the recycling bins, it is a considerable step forward towards setting up collection points to enable recycling.



COMMUNITY RECYCLING – Enabling Recycling Efforts



The general public is still reluctant to properly separate waste from recyclables, and the recycling collection bins often contain items that are not recyclable. The concept was presented in early 2022 and approved by the Management Committee to be developed further.

The new RNF Educational concept should slot in well with the National Environmental Education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development Policy, launched in 2020 by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) together with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC). To this end, the RNF was also invited to attend a workshop hosted by the National ESD Task Force in October 2021, where the Strategy and Action Plan (2022 – 2026) was discussed and compiled.

RECYCLING HERO 2022

We are pleased to announce that our Recycling Hero for 2022 is Me Betty Gebhardt, who runs the recycling site of Development Workshop Namibia in Katutura. It has been a success story, so much so that a second site has been developed – and clear proof of the efforts of a community taking hands for a cleaner environment.

Our thanks to our RNF partners and members for their support.



PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

Rubbish Ronnie

The highlight of 2022 was surely the design and making of our new education component: our mascot, Rubbish Ronnie. Not only was the idea to move away from just promoting recycling as part of the 3 R's of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, but to use song and dance to alert the youth to Rethink Tomorrow as part of a circular economy.

Rubbish Ronnie was proudly made in Namibia, and the content of the 7 R's was attractively put together in a song written and performed by local artist, DJ Castro. Rubbish Ronnie was launched at the end of October at Wernhill with Dr Selma Lendelvo of UNAM as our guest speaker. Also in attendance were DJ Castro and the learners from Cimbebasia Primary School, who participated in the making of the film clips.

Sincere appreciation goes to the team at **Brand X** for conceptualising and bringing Rubbish Ronnie to life, and to **Pick n Pay Namibia** for donating the proceeds of the sale of carrier bags to RNF which made this project possible.



PROJECTS & INITIATIVES continued

As Rubbish Ronnie is aimed at the junior primary levels, we have already introduced colouring pages but more content must still be created. The song and dance routine appeals to junior primary and secondary school learners, enabling our mascot to convey educational information to all ages.

This evident universal appeal led to Rubbish Ronnie being invited to form part of one of our corporate members' green office initiative.



Rubbish Ronnie is also present in the artwork on our social media pages.

We would need to look for a partner for him. The NBC news team suggested *Rubbish Ronda* in a live interview just after the launch!

PROJECTS & INITIATIVES continued

Trivia Competition

As part of our 11th RNF anniversary in June, we again hosted a trivia competition via social media.

Although this was unfortunately on a smaller scale than 2021, we were still happy with the results, and were able to hand over prizes sponsored by our members, to our three lucky winners.



RNF TRIVIA

Enter and you could win one of

3 HAMPERS

11th ANNIVERSARY

RECYCLE NAMIBIA FORUM
Taking hands today for a cleaner Namibia tomorrow

The graphic features a collection of various items including bottles of Fanta, Coca-Cola, and TOS water, bags of STAR snacks, and boxes of VOIT products, all arranged to represent the prizes available in the competition.



YOU COULD WIN ONE OF

3 HAMPERS

Answer the questions correctly and you could be a winner!

RNF TRIVIA 11th ANNIVERSARY

GIVE-AWAY

COMPETITION DETAILS

Starts 29 July, 8:00
Ends 12 Aug, 18:00
Ts&Cs apply

Packed with goodies!
Win a hamper filled with useful products, sponsored by our amazing members.



RNF TRIVIA

OUR 3 WINNERS

Nelago Muhapi

Nadia da Silva

Chantelle Shikongo

11th ANNIVERSARY

RECYCLE NAMIBIA FORUM
Taking hands today for a cleaner Namibia tomorrow

The graphic displays three portrait photographs of the winners: Nelago Muhapi, Nadia da Silva, and Chantelle Shikongo, each with their name printed below.

PROJECTS & INITIATIVES continued

Clean Up Campaigns

Although the responsible ministry, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, was fairly late in announcing the official date and launch of the project, many communities and organisations organised their own clean up campaigns prior to and on National Clean Up Day.

Again we are pleased that our members are always available to assist and support these and we extend our sincere appreciation to them for their ongoing support.



PROJECTS & INITIATIVES continued

Food Waste Challenge

The RNF was invited to serve on the Judging Panel of Capricorn Foundation's Food Waste Challenge.

The final entries reflected innovation and inspiration to combat this very challenging world-wide problem.

As part of winning the challenge, Ms Ekondo of Awana Foods received a one year membership of the RNF, courtesy of Capricorn Foundation.

Linking up to this event, the photography students of the College of the Arts also focused on this topic, with the main angle being that "ugly food is still good food".

The artworks formed part of the annual students exhibition in December 2022.

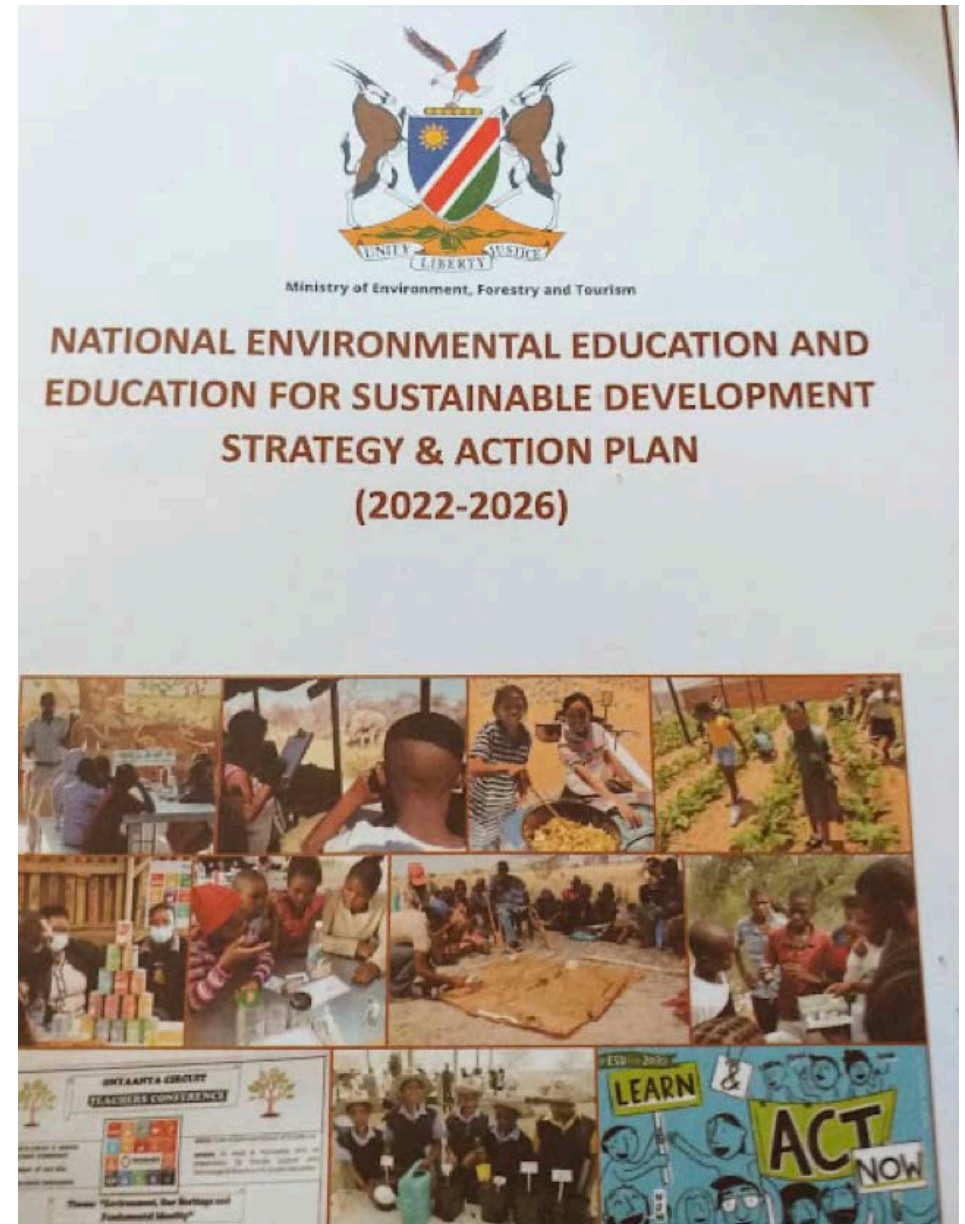
RIGHT: Food Waste by College of the Arts photography students. Theme: Thinking Green.



COMMITTEES/ORGANISATIONS

We have continued to build on our relationships and partnerships, which include:

- Serving on the committee for the annual National Clean Up Campaign of MEFT;
- Serving on the Advisory Panel for the implementation of the National Solid Waste Strategy
- A stakeholder for the implementation of the Environmental Education / Education for Sustainable Development, and attended the launch in March at MEFT;
- A committee member of Eco Awards Namibia and also serving on their assessment team for the allocation of their awards;



CONCLUSION

Again, without the input of our members for projects and events that we are involved in, I remain appreciative to those of our members who are always at the ready to assist!

We are looking forward to a productive 2023!



GET IN TOUCH

Contact me if you need any information or have any projects planned for the upcoming year that you need assistance with.

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RECYCLE
NAMIBIA FORUM

Taking hands today for a cleaner Namibia tomorrow

*We must become
the change
we wish to see
in the world.*

~ Mahatma Gandhi ~



TAKING HANDS TODAY TOWARDS
A CLEANER, GREENER NAMIBIA TOMORROW