



Coordinator's Report

2021



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

INTRODUCTION

Despite the impact of the Covid pandemic continuing throughout 2021, we are nonetheless confident that we have faced the challenges head-on (and grateful for staying healthy) during this year. We even notched up some considerable achievements.

It was apparent, given the loss of four of our larger corporate members, that the economic challenges were considerable during this time. We are appreciative of the fact that the majority of our members continued their support towards the RNF and keenly participated in the projects and initiatives we were able to host.

As no AGM was held during 2020, we were most grateful to the management committee for committing to another year. In 2021, Ms Gloudi de Beer stepped down as Chairperson, and we welcomed Jose-Luis Pretorius into this position.

The sustainability and ongoing business plan for the RNF is a vital component for this year to ensure that we are in a position to continue with our work, and here we are very much reliant on the input of our members.



RNF MEMBERS

The effect of losing some of our larger corporate members due to financial constraints during the pandemic impacted greatly on the financial resources of the RNF during the year 2021.

On a positive side, there was an increase in young entrepreneurs and start-ups approaching the RNF for enquiries, information and membership, mostly in the Micro category.

This may have been as a result of the employment crisis during this time.

What has become apparent is that we need to re-assess our membership categories and the criteria around it, as having members primarily in the Micro category does not contribute to the sustainability of the RNF.



Members who joined in 2021

SCHOOLS EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Education and creating awareness is one of the most important components of the work of the RNF, and we remain committed to our objective to “teach them young”.

After our Schools Recycling Competition, hosted for more than 10 years, concluded in 2020, we were able to make headway in conceptualizing our new project in the latter part of 2021.

We have tasked Weathermen & Co to draft a new concept focusing on the 7 R's in a fun way with the use of a “Rubbish Mascot”.



Weatherman Concept Proposal

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.

SOCIAL MEDIA & VISIBILITY

With less face-to-face contact, we decided to focus on stepping up our social media visibility which took the form of featuring and highlighting our members, celebrating our 10th anniversary and hosting three quizzes with a selection of prizes sponsored by our members.

The increased social media visibility resulted in much more interaction between the RNF and the general public, which was noticeable with a significant increase in enquiries, and especially individuals becoming more creative and interested in recycling / upcycling initiatives.

RNF Member Features



RNF 10th Anniversary Trivia Competition



PROJECTS & EVENTS

Community Recycling Initiative

During 2019, the RNF purchased three recycling igloos from South Africa, in an effort to support community recycling initiatives.

We were delighted to hand over the first igloo in celebration of Global Recycling Day, 18 March 2021, to Development Workshop Namibia (DWN), forming part of their sanitation initiative in the Samora Machel Constituency.

City of Windhoek Solid Waste has constructed a refuse collection point at this site and it thus offers a central point for sanitation and waste management in this informal area.

From the outset, the efforts by CoW and DWM teams to educate the community on waste management and sanitation saw rapid results as the igloo soon proved to be too small and a larger area was needed for the collection of recyclables.



Ms. Betty managed to collect and fill more than 100 one ton bags of recyclables during 2021, a truly commendable feat.

PROJECTS & EVENTS continued

Looking around the area, there is a drastic improvement in cleanliness with residents bringing both their refuse and recyclables to this site. The teams also regularly host clean-ups in their area.

Our appreciation goes to Coca Cola Namibia for providing shade at this site, and Rent-A-Drum for the logistics of removing the recyclables.



The second igloo was donated to Henties Bay Recycling as this small coastal town managed to sustainably collect recyclables over the past year (2020/21).

The igloo was placed at Skubbe Bar, making it accessible for residents. The Mayor of Henties Bay, Lewies Vermaak, and Henties Bay Municipality officials attended the handover in September 2021.

PROJECTS & EVENTS continued

Clean-Up Campaigns

Our ongoing support, made possible with the sponsorships of our members, continued during 2021. However with fewer clean-ups taking place as a result of Covid, the National Clean-Up Day was also on a much smaller scale, with the launch taking place in Okahandja.

We serve on the MEFT national clean-up committee, and act as liaison to source sponsorships and encourage the retrieval of recyclables from the waste collected.



We have also given our clean-up booklet a facelift, and circulated it extensively on social media and via email to organisers and event hosts.

PROJECTS & EVENTS continued

Ditch Plastic Project

We participated in a webinar towards the end of 2020, hosted by Ditch Plastic in collaboration with UNAM to “identify gaps, opportunities and barriers as well as co-create solutions with stakeholders regarding transition to a circular plastic waste economy in Namibia.”

In 2021, the team leaders from UNAM, Dr Selma Lendelvo and Ms Mechilde Pinto, planned a survey in Windhoek regarding plastic waste management and to do a comparison between informal settlements and high earning/suburb residential areas. The research was also extended to other parts of Namibia.

The RNF assisted enumerators in setting up appointments with schools, waste companies and other relevant parties, and the survey commenced towards the end of April.



DITCH Plastic Network

May 14, 2020 · 🌐

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DITCH Plastic Network is excited to announce the launch of a new project designed to accelerate the growth of Circular Plastic Economy (CPE) across Africa through the application of digital innovation.

The project is in partnership with [De Montfort University Leicester \(DMU\)](#), [Chatham House](#), [Co-creation Hub Nigeria \(CcHUB\)](#), [Plastic Oceans](#), [iHub](#), [BongoHive](#), [University of Warwick](#), [Aston University](#), [University Of Lagos](#), [Kigali Collaborative Research Centre](#), and [University of Namibia \(UNAM\)](#)

Read our press release: bit.ly/2T6hUn0

Learn more about DITCH Plastic Network: ditch-plastic.org/



Ditch Plastics also came on board with clean-up campaigns, joined by RNF members, Development Workshop Namibia and Let's Do It Namibia, however again due to social distancing, this was not as extensive as was hoped for.

PROJECTS & EVENTS continued

College of the Arts

The second year photography students at the College of the Arts in Khomasdal were tasked to focus on **Thinking Green**.

The RNF assisted by arranging visits to a number of our members, notably those active in recycling, upcycling, and other “green” activities.

The end result will be a photo exhibition which is planned for the first half of 2022.

All students agreed that they were totally unaware and suitably impressed with the range of innovative and important efforts highlighting the 7 R's that are taking place in Namibia.



Photos taken by Jose Claasen at Rent-A-Drum.



PROJECTS & EVENTS continued

Goethe Institut: Upcycle Competition

The RNF was invited to be on the judging panel of an upcycling competition hosted by the Goethe Institute for sub-Saharan Africa.

After working through around a 100 entries, we were pleased to see that three of our nominations ended up amongst the final 8 winners.

The two entries from Namibia unfortunately were not amongst the top 8.



Goethe-Institut Namibia

November 3, 2021 · 🌐

After a careful consideration and deliberation of over 100 applications, an independent jury had selected the following 8 participants in this year's upcycling competition. Congratulations to the winners

Lauréats Winners Appel-Call Upcycling-Surcyclage

Lambaye Learning Center (Sénégal)

Teddy Kinyanjui (Kenya)

WasteArt (Nigeria)

Lucien Trazié (Côte d'Ivoire)

Nkululeku Mthembu (South Africa)

Expert Boda (Uganda)

Jean David Goualé (Côte d'Ivoire)

Goodlove J Mbwiloo (Tanzania)



Ensemble, sauvons notre planète!
Together, let's save our planet!

👍👎 Anita Witt and 5 others

3 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

It was inspiring to see the concepts and ideas submitted by entrants, and it is indeed hoped that with the assistance of the prize monies, the winners can materialize their ideas and dreams for upcycling waste materials into new, valuable objects.

CONCLUSION

Looking back, the ongoing impact of Covid and the reduced face-to-face interaction at times proved to be a challenge.

Technology fortunately assisted, and we could have some of our meetings via Zoom, whilst we managed to host our AGM and one Management Committee meeting in person.

For the year ahead, I envisage that the RNF will become more involved in community recycling initiatives and to support and encourage awareness on the 7 R's in an effort towards a cleaner Namibia.

My appreciation goes to our Chairperson, and the Management Committee for their encouragement and support during 2021. Also, the willingness of our members to share their expertise and knowledge greatly assisted me and is much appreciated.



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