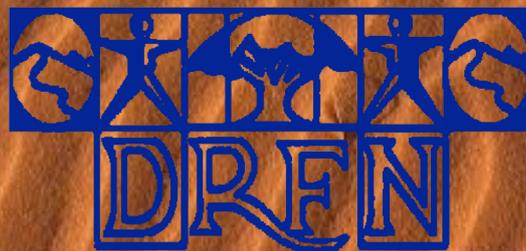


# ANNUAL REPORT

2015



# VISION & MISSION

## DRFN'S HIGH LEVEL STATEMENTS

### **VISION:**

A Namibia in which people  
manage the environment  
for sustainable livelihoods.

### **MISSION:**

To enhance decision-making  
for sustainable development.

### **CORE VALUES:**

Being passionate about  
environmental management  
Remaining fact-based  
Sustainability  
Inclusiveness  
Relevance

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN) remained an important partner in supporting the livelihoods of rural communities and vulnerable groups of society throughout Namibia.

As an implementing partner for various local as well as international partners, DRFN is proud to share its experience and knowledge with the aim to support and supplement private as well as Government initiatives to improve and strengthen development initiatives in a sustainable manner.

Cognizant of the effects of climate change and the severe impact of drought affecting all sectors of the economy, the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia continued to remain engaged in projects aimed to support measures to mitigate the effects of climate change and to support adaptation initiatives.

In support of these initiatives, the DRFN is cooperating with Oxfam GB, the Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Ministry of Land Reform, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and USAID, and the Embassy of Finland. As the accredited National Implementing Entity (NIE) of the Adaptation Fund for Namibia, the DRFN in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, maintains its role as a Namibian partner in support of complementing Government initiatives such as income generation and job creation amongst disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable groups of society. The Desert Research Foundation of Namibia commissioned work for the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, the National Planning Commission, GIZ, Namibia's Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and several Local Government authorities.

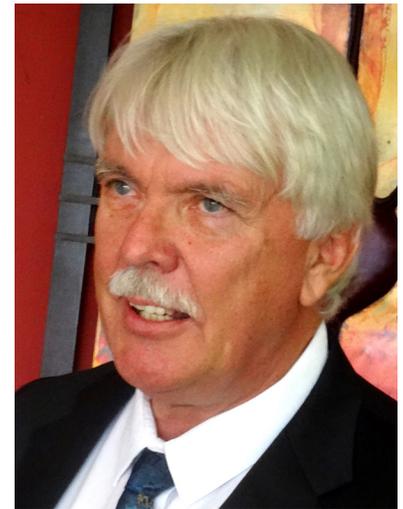
Following a technical audit of the CBEND (Combating Bush Encroachment for Namibia's Development) project during 2015, DRFN and partners remain committed to the rehabilitation and full functioning of this unique and important biomass-to-energy pilot project in Namibia. Equally important remains DRFN's commitment as an active partner of the Gobabeb Research and Training Centre (GRTC) and its support towards research initiatives.

The Desert Research Foundation of Namibia also continued to serve as an important platform for information and research outputs, which are obtainable through its website [www.drfn.org.na](http://www.drfn.org.na). Work published during 2015 relates to biomass quantification, vulnerability and adaptation assessment and the harvesting of biomass and various printed information fact sheets in support of climate change adaptation.

Achieving Namibia's development goals is challenging and requires the combined and continuous commitment of all development organisations, institutions and agencies. Partnerships and co-operations need to be strengthened, and efforts towards poverty reduction and the improvement of general living conditions amongst rural and urban groups within our society needs to be enhanced. Therefore there is ample scope for work in 2016.

The Board of Trustees and staff members would like to take this opportunity to express their gratitude to all associates, consulting partners and organisations whose support constitutes an important part of our work.

*Dr MB Schneider*  
Executive Director



## BUILDING THE CAPACITY FOR PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT FOR IMPROVED ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES

### About the project

The DRFN in collaboration with the International Centre for Water Management Services (cewas) based in Switzerland, received a grant from the Fund for Local Co-operation of the Embassy of Finland in Windhoek for the implementation of a project titled:

“Building the Capacity for Participatory Democracy and Development for Improved Access to Water and Sanitation Services”.

The project aims to contribute towards the development of participatory democracy and development in the provision of water supply and sanitation services in northern Namibia. The specific project objectives are:

- To facilitate a change process within two Local Authorities/ Regional Councils in northern Namibia to optimise their business models and eventually their performance by integrating integrity considerations into day-to-day operations.
- To build awareness on the merits of a citizen active democracy and how Local Authorities/ Regional Councils may build an enabling environment for civic engagement which fosters integrity, accountability and responsiveness to citizen’s needs, priorities and capacities by 2016.

To strengthen the capacities of local communities to hold authorities accountable for better development results for improved water and sanitation service delivery to the poor and marginalised; and

To lobby relevant Government line ministries to create an enabling environment for improved participatory democracy and efficient operations in the provision of water and sanitation services.

### How was the project implemented?

Prior to project implementation, the DRFN convened a one-day training session with various stakeholders in northern Namibia to assess if there is a demand for this type of project concept. The idea was welcomed by most if not all the stakeholders present. Thereafter, when funding was granted, two northern local authorities were selected based on the previous working experience with DRFN and their willingness to take on this project. The two local authorities chosen for this project are Oshikuku and Oshakati Town Councils. In addition, the DRFN also forged a partnership with Namibia’s Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) which endorsed this project. This institution has provided strategic support to the DRFN for the aforementioned project in line with the ACC’s public education function. The ACC also planned to provide the same training to their partner institutions and as such, this was the perfect marriage between a civil society organisation and a corruption watchdog institution, aimed at improving transparency, accountability and governance in different institutions.

One of the key objectives of the programme is to support the two selected local authorities in initiating an Integrity Change Process based on the Integrity Management Toolbox, which takes account of the policy, legislation and regulatory framework in Namibia. Overall, the goal is to optimise the organisation’s business model and eventually its performance by integrating integrity considerations into day-to-day operations.



*Integrity Management Training in Oshakati.*



*Integrity Management Training in Oshikuku.*

- The main principles of the Integrity Change Process are as follows:
- 
- It follows a systematic approach to address integrity at operational level;
- It creates awareness on integrity and enables an organisation to manage their Integrity Change Process themselves;
- It promotes good management instead of a moralising approach;
- It shows organisations how they can benefit (opportunities!) from a business point of view by implementing integrity management systematically; and
- It supports organisations in optimising their business models with the help of integrity management.

Training the two selected local authorities together with cewas, on the Integrity Management Toolbox.

The roadmap developed at the end of the Integrity Management Toolbox training helped the local authority to incorporate some of these goals in its strategic action plans.

Convening a business breakfast on promoting good governance in the provision of water and sanitation services: challenges, gaps and opportunities.

Training of other institutions which included the Mariental Municipality and the Ohangwena Regional Council on the Integrity Management Toolbox. This training was initiated by the ACC with the DRFN providing a supporting role.

**Achievements**

Partnering with the ACC through its' Public Education Division to roll out training of the Integrity Management Toolbox.

Community dialogues were held in Oshikuku with the aim of establishing Citizen Watch Groups. These groups will enable communities, including vulnerable households, to have insight into the performance of the local authorities in terms of set goals. Strengthening communities' voices in the governance of water and sanitation services, the project will enhance community knowledge and use of conventional mechanisms of accountability through public education.



*The Mayor of Oshikuku Hon. M. Mungangera, facilitating the community dialogue sessions.*

Training of CDC members in Oshikuku with the aim of strengthening their capacity to proactively monitor institutional performance of the Town Council, to engage with the communities and the Town Council respectively, and to follow up community complaints, and relay the same to the Town Council.

## USAID/IUCN PROGRAMME ON APPLYING THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH IN THE ORANGE-SENQU BASIN

### A Water Secure Future for Southern Africa: Applying the Ecosystem Approach in the Orange-Senqu Basin

The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The International Union for Conservation of Nature - Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (IUCN-ESARO) is responsible for project management, implementation and co-ordination of the project in the four basin countries, namely Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Lesotho. IUCN-ESARO is implementing this project in partnership with local NGOs based in the four basin countries including the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia.

biodiversity conservation;

- To demonstrate enhanced social and ecological resilience in hotspots in the Orange-Senqu River Basin by integrating the ecosystem approach in transboundary water management; and
- To enhance the ability of a cross-section of project stakeholders, such as government departments, civil society organisations and communities, to engage effectively in multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs) and negotiate and dialogue towards mainstreaming EA in IWRM.



*Harvesting and processing of Prosopis at Gibeon.*

The overall aim of the project is to ensure that the quality and quantity of water throughout the Orange-Senqu River System meets the short and long-term needs of the ecosystem, communities and economies relying upon the river and its associated resources. This is in line with the DRFN's vision in which people manage the environment for a sustainable livelihood.

**The project goal** is "To build governance capacity by mainstreaming the EA into Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in the Orange-Senqu River Basin".

#### **The specific objectives of the project are:**

- To improve Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) planning and implementation by integrating knowledge, awareness and guidance of and on the Ecosystem Approach (EA) in the Orange-Senqu River Basin thereby improving

To be able to deliver on this, the project is based on an innovative methodology structured around three key objectives which include increasing knowledge, demonstrating how the knowledge can be used in practice and then using the information from practice to inform policy through dialogue and consensus building.

**Pilot project:** Managing invasive alien plant species in the Orange-Senqu River Basin area in Namibia.

#### **Pilot project objectives:**

- To clear Prosopis in selected areas of the pilot site;
- To explore economic uses of Prosopis and livelihood support options for the communities; and
- To explore the potential of wood as a source of fuel and alleviate a critical fuel shortage.

## Key pilot project achievements:

Mechanical methods i.e. chainsaws were used to clear Prosopis in the pilot site. The suitability and effectiveness of the method varies depending on the density, age and size of the plants, the conditions of the area and the species of Prosopis being dealt with.

established in the Fish River catchment area.

The DRFN project team organised and participated in a cleanup campaign in Gibeon along the Fountain next to the Fish River (see Annex 1). The campaign was attended by the Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Honourable Lucia Witbooi, the Gibeon Village Council CEO and



*Harvesting and processing of Prosopis at Gibeon.*

Clearing of invasive alien plant species (Prosopis)

- 3, 12, tons of Prosopis were cleaned, packed and stacked at the Gibeon Village Council warehouse.
- 18ha.
- A total of 30 unemployed community members consisting of 11 men and 19 women aged between 18 and 40 were involved in clearing, packing and storage/selling process.

Students from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) engaged as project interns investigated the best approaches of developing the community project into a sustainable business operation. The outcomes are:

- A business marketing strategy; and
- A sustainability plan.

## Education, and Outreach

The project implemented selected public awareness activities aimed at raising consciousness on the need for more collective action to prevent and control Prosopis in the Fish River catchment area.

### School awareness raising and outreach

Workshops targeting school learners and teachers from the primary and secondary schools in Gibeon were undertaken at three schools. The objectives were to raise awareness on invasive alien species and the negative impact it has on biodiversity, water resources and livelihoods. A total of 109 pupils (66 female and 42 male) and three teachers attended the workshops.

### Information products - poster

During the reporting period the project developed a poster that provides a graphic overview of the Prosopis plant species, how it is spreads and the negative effects of it becoming

the Chief Administrative Officer of the Council Development Committee (CDC) office. Approximately 150 community members (100 females and 50 males) participated in the bush harvesting campaign. What was important to note was the number of community members that took part in the campaign and the efficiency in which they were mobilized for the activity.

Two training workshops on “Applying the ecosystem approach” were held in Windhoek and Keetmanshoop, and targeted government officials, managers, academia, researchers and water and environmental practitioners.

### Objectives:

- Strengthening the capacity of water and environmental practitioners on the functions of ecosystems and their management within an IWRM approach.
- Raising understanding among water and basin managers on the importance of the environment in water resources development, management practices, and implementation processes.
- Exchanging knowledge and good practices in ecosystems based on approaches at river basin level, and how best to transfer such knowledge to water managers.
- Highlighting specific management actions for water and catchment managers that protect biophysical features and provide benefits for sustainable water resources.

Participating institutions: Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry, Namibia Commission of Science Research and Technology, Namibia University of Science and Technology, Hanns Seidel Foundation, City of Windhoek, Namibia Nature Foundation, Global Environment Facility/Small Grant Programmes. A total of 51 (29 males and 22 females) people participated.

## Trainings key issues:

- It is essential that ecosystem managers work together across sectors and across disciplines to ensure a good, holistic ecosystem approach to management of natural resources. Sectoral divisions (e.g. Water Affairs, Forestry, Environmental Management through the EIA process) generally result in a limited, disciplinary-oriented thinking, with limited understanding of issues affecting other stakeholders. Only with multi-disciplinary working groups a true holistic approach can be implemented.
- Conflicting policies and laws, even under the administration of one ministry, need to be addressed. As an example, the obvious conflicts between the Forestry Act and Water Management Policy, the lack of a policy/ law on the control of alien invasive species, as well as conflicts in the implementing of the Environmental Management Act (in relation to other policies and regulating bodies) were mentioned.
- Stakeholder consultation, especially relating to the “small” stakeholders, is considered problematic. In the discussion, the EIA process was highlighted as one of the regulating processes where stakeholder consultation is extremely problematic - amongst others often through ill-placed and poorly distributed advertisements by the consultants undertaking the EIA (on purpose), but often also because within the EIA process the actual stakeholders are often not known to the consultants. The Environmental Management Act is also relatively vague about this process, which creates loopholes for developers and consultants.
- The concept of ecosystem services was new to most participants. Most understood the concept of provisioning ESS quite well, as they deal with this concept on a daily basis both in a professional and personal capacity. The realisation that other ecosystem functions are important to humans in terms of regulating, cultural and supporting Ecosystem Supporting Services, was an eye-opener. This emphasised the realisation that multi-disciplinary approaches to ecosystem management is important.
- The fact that these ESS can be valued was also a new concept to the participants. However, it was felt that this concept may be a very important tool in future decision-making in ecosystem management, and a request was made that further training on ESS valuation be made available to interested professionals.
- A strong concern was expressed, in particular after closer discussions, that stakeholder consultation specifically at grass roots level, is lacking. Here, the importance of involving the local community in this process was highlighted. The usual method of using stakeholder groups with group representatives, is often lacking, as group consultation in preparation for bigger meetings does not happen.
- The Policy Dialogue focussed on invasive alien species with the aim of sharing lessons from the Prosopis pilot project



*Harvesting and processing of Prosopis at Gibeon.*

in Gibeon and to raise awareness on the negative impacts of these species on biodiversity and water resources in the Namibia. In addition, the Policy Dialogue was aimed at allowing stakeholders to contribute to possible solutions and to guide policy direction towards addressing invasive alien species in Namibia.

Participating institutions: Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Namibia Commission of Science Research and Technology, Namibia University of Science and Technology, Hanns Seidel Foundation, City of Windhoek, Namibia Nature Foundation, Global Environment Facility/Small Grant Programmes. A total of 23 (17 males and 6 females) people participated.

## Challenges and lessons learned

### Regeneration of Prosopis

Controlling Prosopis regrowth is proving to be very difficult. This is largely because the trees regrow from vegetative buds and from massive underground seed banks after mechanical clearing. The current efforts to control Prosopis have been limited to mechanical methods due to the restrictions in the use of herbicides for controlling Prosopis trees. This method has not been effective.

### Fluctuating harvesting rates

The Prosopis harvesting and packaging rates by the community group have are very low. A low harvesting rate could threaten the financial viability of the project. Linked to the low production rate, is the issue of transporting the harvested wood from the clearing site to a safe warehouse.

### Low prices for Prosopis in the Namibian market

The current selling price of Prosopis wood is considerably lower than other firewood options such as Camelthorn. To counter this challenge, the harvesting rate has to increase by 300% if reasonable returns are to be realised.

## CIVIL SOCIETY FOUNDATION OF NAMIBIA, JOIN TO SERVE PROJECT IN DRIMIOPSIS RESETTLEMENT FARM

The Join To Serve (JTS) intervention commenced in June 2014 thanks to EU funding through the Civil Society Foundation of Namibia (CSFN) as a project within a wider framework of DRFN/MLR's Livelihood Support Programme to group resettlement farms in the Omaheke Region. As such the intervention built upon eight years of capacity building in agricultural production, community organisation and income diversification by the DRFN in three resettlement projects in the region. Through the Water and Sanitation Project from 2009-2012, there was prior experience with water and sanitation management in these resettlement projects on which the JTS intervention built.

JTS built capacity focused on strengthening water and sanitation management at a local level, which led to large improvements in WASH standards. The intervention strengthened the delivery of water and sanitation services to the resettled San and Damara population by means of improved inter-agency co-ordination, though Government commitment to various issues could still be improved. Efforts in implementing the project focused on:

- The establishment of a Regional and a Local Co-ordination Group including Government line ministries and civil society;
- Strengthening systems of revenue collection for water supply services, as well as payment for delivered (constructed) dry sanitation units;
- Strengthening local capacity in basic water infrastructure maintenance;
- Raising awareness on sanitation and health through community-led total sanitation techniques; and
- Addressing open defecation and promoting the use of dry sanitation units.

When the project drew to a close in July 2015, the following results were seen:

1. 125 innovatively designed Namibian dry toilets (Otji-toilets) were installed at individual households at Drimiopsis.
2. Water meters were installed in the resettlement farm in a bid to increase payment from households and to reduce waste.

3. Based on an average payment of N\$10 per household per month, more than 60% of beneficiary households pay towards their monthly water and sanitation fees.
4. Hand washing facilities were installed and used at all dry toilets and training given in hygiene practices. Sensitisation was also carried out at schools.
5. A reduction of men and women of the resettlement project who defecate openly, was seen by community committees.
6. Menstrual hygiene amongst girls in the secondary school was promoted by the DRFN and partners, including the distribution of washable sanitary pads.
7. 230 waste drums were distributed to households and refuse collection is now carried out twice a month, and improvements have been noted in built-up areas.

### Embassy of Finland, Green Enterprise Development (GED) (Donkerbos-Sonneblom)

The Green Enterprise Development project (2014-2016) primarily aims to strengthen local capacity for animal husbandry and sustainable rangeland management in Donkerbos-Sonneblom, by engaging local workers in goat production, husbandry, grazing and herding practices. A secondary aim is to pilot marketing of the goats and enterprise development, and provide a case study for livestock training with the San, an area acknowledged to present many challenges in Namibia.

The project has faced various challenges including the ongoing drought in the area and the increased presence of poisonous plants in August and September 2015, which many goats and cattle in the area ingest leading to illness and often death. However, during the project, local skills and capacity has improved greatly in livestock management, though confidence levels in dealing with disease issues as they arise needs further attention.



*Veterinary training and treatment of livestock.*



The marketing of goats has not yet begun. Due to a lack of projected expansion in herd size, this will have to be realised further into the project. However, some older male goats not used for breeding have successfully been sold to local buyers, bringing income to the project. A group bank account has been opened for this purpose. In the meantime, the project will continue into 2016 with an increased focus on training and inclusion of more female participants.

## Ministry of Land Reform's LISUP 3 Project: Support to Drimiopsis, Donkerbos-Sonneblom and Skoonheid Resettlement Farms

Support from the Ministry of Land Reform (MLR) carried on from 2014 into 2015, in the form of the continuing Livelihood Support Programme (LISUP phase 3) with a majority of San resettlement farms in Omaheke. The DRFN continued co-ordination, technical and infrastructure support to those farms under MLR funding, which also provided co-funding for the JTS and GED projects.

LISUP funding has ensured the ongoing provision of seeds and training amongst other agricultural inputs, while continued improvements seen in conservation mean that agriculture techniques are becoming more widely practiced on the farms under the DRFN's advice. LISUP also facilitates regular community meetings and monitoring visits between the DRFN and communities on the farms.

In-depth discussions between MLR and the DRFN led to the LISUP project being extended in November 2015, with funds provided up to 2020 for the DRFN's continued co-ordination and technical support role to these farms.

## SSOAN

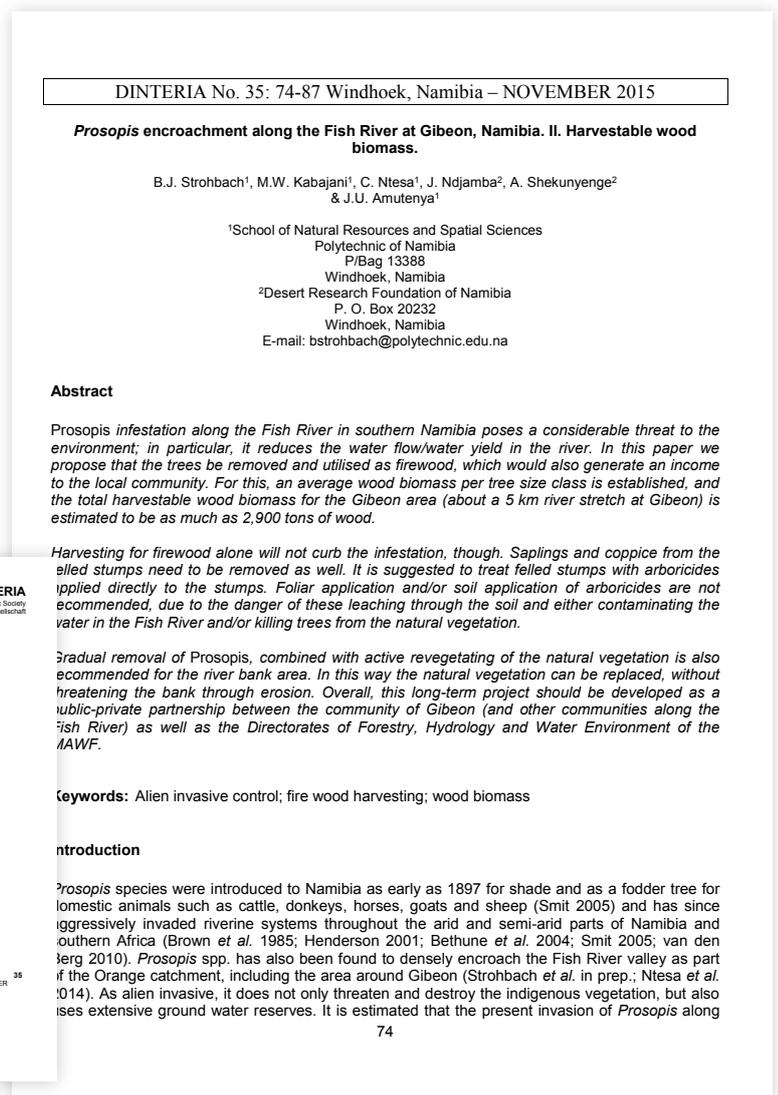
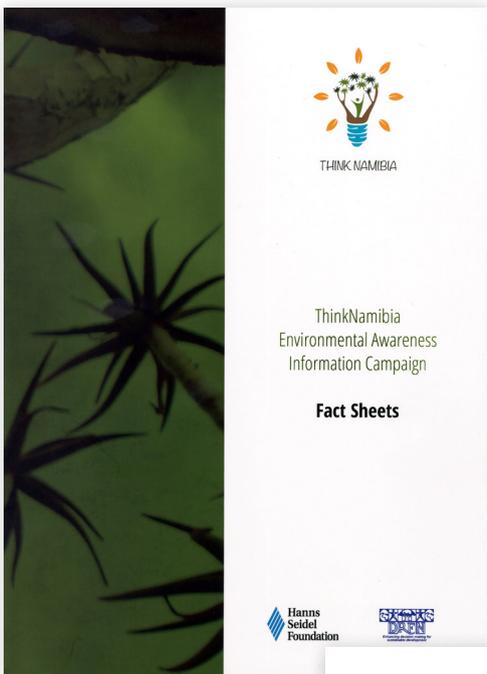
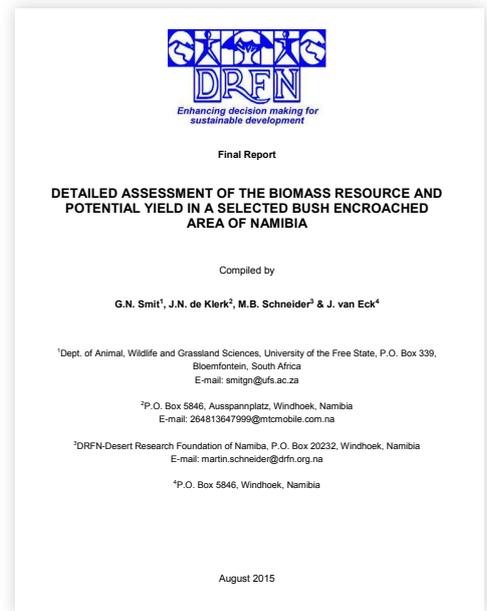
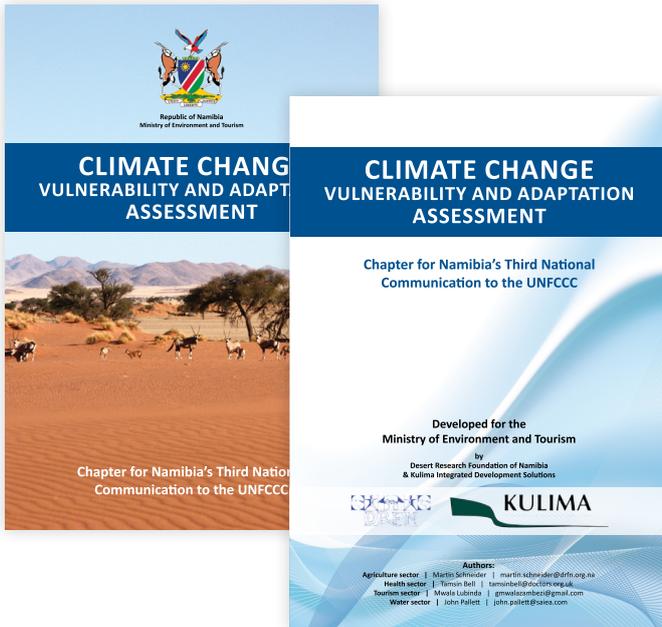
The DRFN has continued to support the San Support Organisations' Association of Namibia, which improves the co-ordination of various San support initiatives in civil society and Government, and harmonises the approaches to San development. As well as being an active member organisation, the DRFN Land and Livelihoods manager is the SSOAN Chair, and the DRFN provides free meeting space for the organisation.

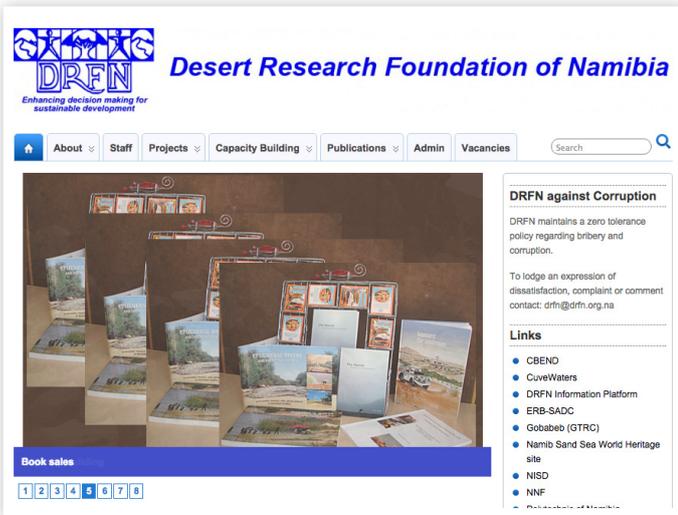


*Establishing community gardens.*



*Harvesting at community garden.*





*A digital library is a managed collection of information, with associated services, where the information is stored in digital formats and accessible over a network.*



[www.drfn.org.na](http://www.drfn.org.na)



## OUR PARTNERS INCLUDE:





Enhancing decision making for  
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