# AFRICA ADAPTATION PROJECT (AAP) AUS COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

## Final Report July 2013





Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF)

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#### **Project Summary**

The Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) Africa Adaptation Project (AAP) Aus Community Garden Project ran from August to April 2013. Despite a delayed start, it managed to achieve its objectives and carried out most of the planned activities. Activities included installing a solar powered pump to enable a sustainable and affordable source of water for the project, providing gardening tools, and giving training to the community on growing and planting techniques. Links were set up with potential local buyers, and information on climate change and adaptation was also given to classes at a local school. A garden project committee, reporting to the Aus Community Conservation Trust (ACCT), was set up to manage the project and ensure sustainability.

## 1. Contractor Details

Name of Contractor: Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF)

Address: PO Box 245, 76-78 Frans Indongo Street, Windhoek West, Namibia

The Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization, established under a Deed of Trust as a charitable and funding institution of a public character, with an independent Board of Trustees. The primary aims of the NNF are to promote sustainable development, the conservation of biological diversity and natural ecosystems, and the wise and ethical use of natural resources for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future. The NNF is one of Namibia's foremost conservation NGOs, and brings a wealth of expertise and practical experience.

NNF has experts in ecology, land use management, CBNRM, natural resource economics, project management, and financial management. It runs numerous projects including the MCA Tourism Conservancy Development and Support Services project in Kunene and Kavango regions, and the EU funded Community Based Fisheries Management project in Caprivi. NNF co-ordinates the CBNRM Natural Resources Working Group and works with Conservancies and communities across Namibia. NNF currently implements or provides financial management for over 60 projects.

Project Title: Aus Community Garden Project

Location: Aus, Karas region, Namibia

Start-up Date: August 2012

Completion Date: April 2013

## 2. Project Background and Objectives

## 2.1 Project Background

The community of Aus travels a minimum of 120km to obtain fresh vegetables from 'neighbouring' towns such as Rosh Pinah, Luderitz and Keetmanshoop. To address this, a community garden was initiated in 2009 with the aim of supplying the community with fresh vegetables throughout the year including market linkages to local tourism establishments. However, the garden project had so far struggled to realise its full potential due to the long distance from the garden site to the village, problems with the water supply, and a lack of community support.

The NNF AAP project therefore aimed to strengthen and support the existing garden project by implementing activities including supplying materials, installing a solar powered water pump, training on water conservation and growing techniques, providing climate change information, and developing markets to generate income for the community as well as addressing local food security.

## 2.2 Project Goal and Objectives

The overall goal of the project was to increase the resilience of the garden project to the impacts of climate change through water conservation, the adoption of technologies, training and capacity building, and formulating market linkages for the produce. The project had two main objectives:

## Objective 1: Intensify vegetable production to address food security and poverty

*Objective 2: Improve the quality of information and its use, develop awareness raising on climate change risks and adaptation options* 

Objective 1: Intensify vegetable production to address food security and poverty					
	Task	De	Deliverable		
1.	Ensure sustainable water supply for the garden by purchasing new equipment and repairing existing equipment	•	Installation of a solar power system for the water pump		
2.	Preparation of the garden using equipment purchased	•	Garden is cleaned and prepared Allocation of plots		
3.	Governance arrangements - establishment of a gardening management committee (reporting to the Aus Community conservation trust); agreement on the use of the land; and transport agreements to ensure community members can reach garden (car rotas, rent of bicycles etc)	•	Management committee in place Land sharing agreement signed Transport plan agreed		
4.	Training on drip irrigation system, water conservation and mulching	•	Training conducted on drip irrigation and mulching Training conducted on water		

Tasks and deliverables for Objective 1:

			conservation
5.	Planting of fruits, vegetables and herbs according to a growing calendar	•	Growing plan and timetable agreed and implemented Training and mentoring conducted; growing calendar provided
6.	Develop a business plan for the garden for income generation and value addition	•	Business plan agreed and implemented Contracts set up with local buyers – hotels and catering services

Tasks and deliverables for Objective 1:

Objective 2: Improve the quality of information and its use; develop awareness raising on climate change risks and adaptation options Deliverable Task 1. Develop data requirements for baseline; collect and Baseline information collected • analyse baseline data, and compile a vulnerability assessment on climate change 2. Climate change information activities - development of a ٠ Climate change day at the school school awareness package for the primary school (in - teaching, materials consultation with school management; community Series of focused group training • trainings on climate change on climate change for the garden project

## 3. Participants and Beneficiaries

## 3.1 Description of beneficiaries

The project has the potential to benefit a large number of the Aus community, both directly and indirectly.

Benefits from the garden accrue through subsistence consumption of the produce (improved food security), and through income generated from sales of the produce. In direct terms, only around 10 people are currently regularly involved in the garden, though it is anticipated that this number will gradually increase as the garden begins to demonstrate tangible results. Assuming an average household size of 5, food and income from the garden will also indirectly benefit family and household members.

Garden project members have also benefited through skills gained from technical training provided by NNF. The skills have increased their productivity while improving their knowledge of sustainable

agricultural practices and the need for water conservation. Up to 20 community members were involved in the trainings.

Children at the local Marmer Primary School benefited from the climate change materials provided and lessons and information given on climate change and agriculture. The materials included the AAP/ MET produced 'Let's Act to Adapt' colour booklets printed in English, Damara/Nama, and Afrikaans as well as educational materials from the NADEET centre. Lessons were given during a day to 35 Grade 7 pupils at the school, designed to fit into their curriculum and agreed with the school principal.

Finally, three local businesses (and their customers) should benefit through the supply of locally available, cheaper and fresher produce. The Bahnhof Hotel, Klein aus Vista lodge, and the Namib Garage shop and restaurant have all confirmed their willingness to buy fruits, herbs and vegetables from the garden. They are likely to make informal, adhoc purchases at first, but would all be willing to enter into formal contracts with the garden committee if regular, reliable supplies are forthcoming. Since most of the income earned from the garden is likely to be spent locally and therefore remain in the local economy, other small businesses could see a small 'multiplier' effect as the income circulates.



Alex Mowa (MET regional office) and local farmer Peter Shimbashike at the project site

#### 3.2 Numbers of beneficiaries

Number of female beneficiaries: 3 (Direct); approximately 15 (indirect)

Number of males: 7 (Direct); approximately 35 (indirect)

(There are five youths who regularly work on the project, though these are counted as adult males.)

Number of children: 35 Direct

## 4. Capacity Building and Training

## 4.1 Number of beneficiaries

15 community members took part in the technical training provided by NNF on growing methods (see 'activities' section).

In addition, 35 learners benefited from the climate change information day at Marmer primary school.

Number of female beneficiaries: 6

Number of males: 9

Number of children: 35



Students from Marmer primary school

## 5. Budget and Finance

## 5.1 Summary of Project budget

Due to the late onset of the project, it was not possible to apply for the third and final installment of N\$62,500 before the end of 2012. Consequently, the project had to finance its activities using a total budget of N\$187,500, instead of the planned N\$250,000. The main impact of this was that a third field trip could not be undertaken, which would have enabled further training, support and supervision of the garden. A full business and marketing plan and additional materials could also have been provided. However, despite the funding shortfall, most of the activities were completed and the two main

objectives were met.

Total Expenditure: N\$187,061.37

Total Amount received under this Agreement: N\$187,500

More information on the project's budget and finance can be found in the financial report in section 10.

#### 6. Activities

## 6.1 Initial project planning

To prepare for the project, NNF analysed previous project reports on the Aus Community Garden as well as other projects with the Community including the Aus Information Centre and hiking trails. Information on the area was also collected e.g. from the regional council office, and discussions were held with the Chairman of the Aus Community Conservation Trust and those who had previously worked with the Aus community. This helped to prepare a draft work plan to be agreed during the first field trip.

## 6.2 Field trips

Two field trips took place on November 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2013. The first trip involved meetings with community management to introduce the NNF team, meet the Aus community Conservation Trust (ACCT) committee and agree on the project approach regional council. Meetings with three local businesses (Bahnhof Hotel, Klein aus Vista lodge and the Namib Garage shop and restaurant). The first field trip identified three main issues as priorities for the project:

- Difficulties with the water supply for the garden
- Distance and lack of transport to the garden
- Uncertainty over management and land issues

NNF recruited an agriculture assisted the project with training, and technical support for the second field trip. The student provided valuable technical support to the project and also had the opportunity to gain significant skills for their own professional and personal development.



The scenic surroundings of the garden

## 6.3 Preparing the garden

As the garden had not been used for many months prior to the start of the project, a first task was to clear and prepare the land for planting. NNF organised and arranged for about 25 people from the community to assist with tasks such as weeding and clearing away debris. This also involved repairs of shade nets and fences.



Community members clearing the garden to prepare for planting

## 6.4 Provision of gardening equipment and bicycles

Spades, hoes, bicycles, wheelbarrows and seeds were provided to the Community. These were received and signed off by the Chairman of the ACCT and NNF project staff. The five bikes were kept in safe storage at the local school with keys given to the ACCT Chairman and the Garden project Chairman. Bicycles were to be returned after use and were not to be used for riding through the nearby residential areas. The signed handover document is attached as an annex.

## 6.5 Training on drip irrigation, mulching and composting process

The drip irrigation system is an essential part of the garden, though it was in need of repair. During the first week the system was reconnected and the pipes realigned. However, it became apparent that the water supply was not sufficient despite the irrigation system being restored.

Training on mulching and composting was done on a daily basis for a week in March. The community was taught on the importance of mulching, composting and intercropping, with a focus on leguminous plants.

Training took place during the second field trip. The garden was visited twice a day throughout the week and once per day on weekends, and trainings were arranged around the planting and other activities. The adults were transported by Mr. Titus Plaatjies, while Paulus from NNF and the young garden project members used the bicycles to get to the garden.



Preparing the seed beds

#### 6.6 Garden work plan and seasonal sowing calendar

NNF devised a seasonal sowing calendar for the garden committee, who had expressed interest in knowing specifically as what to plant, and during what time. NNF also advised on the various stages of development for the garden, the risks present at each stage, and strategies for selling and marketing the garden produce.



Paulus lita from NNF

#### 6.7 Planting

Seeds were firstly germinated in seed trays to check their suitability for planting. After four to five days and it was then decided to continue sowing throughout the garden. As the seeds started emerging, visits were made to the garden twice a day to check on the emerging and germination rates and for watering and general maintenance. The choice of seeds provided was based on discussions with the community and the local businesses to ensure that there would be demand.

The following winter vegetables planted were planted: cabbages, cauliflower, beetroots, carrots, onions, broad beans. Summer vegetables included: corn, squashes, green peppers, sweet melons, pumpkins, tomatoes and green beans. Herbs such as chives, thyme, coriander, mint and parsley were also planted.



Seed beds with cabbages

#### 6.8 Administrative and institutional arrangements

The various positions for a project committee were firstly agreed upon, then committee members were voted for during a specially convened meeting. The three positions were:

Chairman: Mr. Titus Plaatjies

Treasurer: Mr. Willem Friedrick

Secretary: Mr. Hamser

Regarding transport arrangements, NNF had intended to devise a regular transport plan, but it was agreed to keep things flexible. Instead, three people offered to provide regular transport to the garden site – Mr. Alex Mowa from MET regional office, Mr. Elias from the Council office, and Mr. Titus Plaatjies, the Chairman of the garden project committee.

After consulting with the local Karas regional council office, clarity was reached on the land use issue. The council is the owner of the land where the garden is situated as well as the surrounding farm land, and grants the community and two local farmers permission to use the land. However, land sharing arrangements were unfortunately not formalised for example in the form of a Memorandum of Association.



#### Clearing the garden

6.9 Climate change information day at the local school

NNF met and discussed with the Marmer school principle, Mr Franz, about the most effective way to teach the learners. Talks were given on climate change and sustainable agriculture.

The learners were interested in the topics and participation was good, with many questions being asked such as how they can become involved in environmental projects. The Principle distributed some of the materials to the science and social studies teachers for them to incorporate the materials into their syllabus.



Students and the Principal with Paulus lita from NNF

#### 6.10 Solar pump installation

Eduard Drotsche from HPS Engineering met with NNF, the garden committee, ACCT members, and other stakeholders such as the local farmer to discuss the installation process. To ensure that the water supply primarily benefits the garden project (it will be shared with the cattle farmers), a tap and valve were installed so that water from the borehole firstly fills the garden tank before the tank for the livestock.



The new solar powered water pump

#### 6.11 Market linkages developed

Meetings were held with the three local businesses to determine demand for the various garden produce, and to try to formalise an agreement. This confirmed that there was indeed demand, and helped to inform choice of seeds and garden planning. However, all three were reluctant to enter into discussion of quantities and possible contracts, advising instead to have small, informal 'trial' periods. If supply is found to be regular, volumes could then be increased and contracts could be entered into, though there was some scepticism among the establishments over whether the garden supply would be reliable. Unfortunately a full business and marketing plan was not developed due to timing and funding issues, though guidance and advice on marketing and pricing was provided. Should the garden prove to be initially successful, marketing activities could form part of a future project.

#### 6.12 Ongoing support

NNF has remained in contact with the garden project chairman and the ACCT committee and will continue to provide advice and support as required.

## 7. Results

## 7.1 Objectives

The objectives were all met, though a challenge will be to ensure that the garden continues without funds and support available from NNF. Through the creation of a project committee and the engagement of local stakeholders such as MET and the regional council office, NNF has given the project the best chance of becoming sustainable. However, the long term success of the project is contingent on community relations, and the commitment of the garden project members.

During the first week there was much enthusiasm for the garden, with over twenty community members attending the garden daily to assist. Around half of these remained committed - currently between 5-10 community members are regularly working on the project.

## 7.2 Benefits

As indicated earlier, the benefits can be assessed in direct and indirect terms. 15 community members benefited from the technical training provided on growing and planting techniques and the use of the drip irrigation system. The 5-10 garden project members still actively engaged in the project are benefiting from the food supply and will start to receive income from sales of the produce.

We estimate that the garden could generate up to N\$3,000 per harvest as well as providing at least a 25% share of the harvest for subsistence needs. With three harvests per year (based on the growing calendar), the garden could generate up to N\$9,000 per year. This assumes up to 90% germination rates, and takes into account the costs of additional seed purchases and operational costs such as petrol. However, this does not consider risks such as theft, crop damage from livestock, weather, and pests. It also assumes that all surplus production (i.e. production over and above subsistence needs) can be sold locally and at reasonable prices based on comparable garden sales in Windhoek.

There are also other indirect beneficiaries of the project, such as local farmers who now have a more sustainable water supply due to the installation of the solar pump, and the local businesses who receive locally sourced and sustainable produce.



Handing over the bicycles

## 8. Difficulties and problems encountered

#### 8.1 Delayed start

The project was delayed for two main reasons. Firstly, there were contractual issues between MET and NNF. Secondly, there was a lack of NNF staff available to implement the project. NNF employed an agriculture student from the Polytechnic and recruited a Project Coordinator to oversee the project so that the project could commence.

## 8.2 Budget issues

Due to the late start, not all the envisaged funding could be received. This meant that fewer activities were carried out and less time in the field was possible. NNF should have ensured that it had an adequate number of staff available to implement the project as soon as funding was received, while both NNF and MET could have resolved the contractual issues at an earlier stage.

#### *8.3 Community disputes*

The Community of Aus has a rich and varied mix of cultures and backgrounds, with many ethnic and tribal groups in Namibia represented. However, there are unfortunately some divisions along these lines and these prevent the community being as cohesive as it could be. This has had a negative impact on

the project, for example some groups claiming they had been excluded. The issue of community relations again occurred due to a dispute between a local farmer and the solar pump installer.

#### 8.4 Transport

One of the main issues raised at the initial kick off meeting with the community was the lack of transport in getting to the project site, some 7km from the village of Aus. To address this, as suggested by many at the meeting, bicycles were provided. In conjunction, three individuals with cars agreed to provide regular lifts.

#### 9. Remarks and lessons learned

#### 9.1 Travel costs

The budget underestimated the travel and accommodation costs. These should have been fully coasted in more detail to ensure that adequate time would be spent in the field. Another field trip could have allowed more support to be provided to increase the project's chances of long term success.

#### 9.2 Timing

Due to prolonged contractual negotiations between MET and NNF, the project start was delayed. It was further delayed due to a lack of NNF staff available to work on the project. The late start meant that not all funding was received, limiting the time spent in the field. It also meant that there were not many months for the garden to become established before the onset of winter.

#### 9.3 Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation for the project could have been more robust to enable problems to be identified and resolved. An M&E strategy could have been included in the project proposal, continuing after the end of the project activities.

#### 9.4 Recommendations for future work

The Aus Community has a lot of potential that future projects could support. These include activities related to the garden as well as the surrounding area.

- Expanding the garden: if the garden proves to be viable over the next year, there is an option to expand into the surrounding area. This was discussed with the council, who own the land and have the right to extend the area used for the community garden.

- Marketing and business plan: although NNF set up links with local buyers, and provided advice on prices and marketing, a full marketing and business plan would be beneficial to take the garden to the next level.

- Garden infrastructure: materials could be provided to construct a shelter for equipment, as well as a basic shelter/ room for those working on the project equipped with a tap and toilet. A durable fence would be useful to keep the animals out, and more tools and seeds would also be welcome.

- Develop the Aus Community Centre: the Aus Community Centre, the result of a previous project, could generate much more income for the Community since it is on the road to Luderitz and all tourists visiting here must pass through. Signposts, marketing strategies, and a management plan could mean that the centre is open every day and attracts more visitors and earns more income.



The Aus Information Centre signpost

- Tourism: the area close to the site would be an ideal location for a new campsite, and Aus is a popular stopping point to and from Luderitz. There are currently no community run campsites in the area. Aus is applying to become a Conservancy, which would make the process of entering into joint venture agreements simpler. Similarly, the world's only wild desert horses live 20km down the road from Aus, and charging a permit or fee could bring a healthy income for the community.



Desert horses near to Aus - another potential source of income for the community

#### 10. Reports on the use of funds

**Project Title:** Aus Community Project: Climate Change Capacity Building and Piloting adaptation measures

Reporting Period: May 2012 to April 2013

**Total amount of Funds under the Agreement:** N\$187,500.50

Date of signature of the agreement: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012

## PROJECT BUDGET

CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURES	MAY 2012 TO AUGUST 2012	SEPTEMBER 2012 TO DECEMBER 2012(N\$)	JANUARY 2013 TO APRIL 2013(N\$)	TOTAL(N\$)	REMARKS
Manpower/Labour	0.00	12,922.70	10,469.05	23,391.75	
Equipment/Materials	0.00	14,944.22	86,819.04	101,763.26	
Contractor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Others: Travel and Administration Fees	0.00	33,349.38	28,556.98	61,906.36	
TOTAL		61,216.30	125,845.07	187,061.37	

Total amount advanced: N\$187,500.50

Less: Total Expenditure: N\$187,061.37

Balance: N\$438.63

Prepared by: Ms. Cisla Seraera, Accountant, NNF

Signed: Cisla Seraera



#### Annex 2: Minutes of project initiation meeting held in November 2012

#### NNF AAP Community Garden Project Initiation Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012 Venue: Aus Information Centre Agenda: NNF AAP Community Garden Project activities and objectives

#### Attendance

Chris Thompson, Hileni Heita & Lio Kariko (NNF Staff – Africa Adaptation Project)

John Mayumbelo - Aus Community Conservancy Trust (ACCT) Chairman

Mr. Alex Mowa (MET regional office and Sperrgebiet Park Manager)

Ms. Annecia Kaffer – Community member

Mr. Franz – Deputy Chairman ACCT

Mr. Loubser – ACCT member

Mr. Titus Plaatjies – ACCT member

Mr. Gert – Aus Information Centre

Ms. Hendrina Kamanda – Garden project member

Mr. Jenrid Siester – Community member

Mr. Maradona Siester – Community member

Mr. Peter Shimbashike – Farmer and garden project member

#### **Current Situation**

- Garden is far from community (5-7km out of town) transportation is needed
- Water pump is broken
- Generator is too small to pump water
- Garden situated on state land temporarily hired by a private individual
- There is no remunerations to motivate the community payment would only come after a long period after the harvest and sales of garden produce
- There is a perception that the project is Tate Peter Shimbashike's rather than the community's, since the garden is situated on his land
- Risk of young men being accused of theft of animals if they are at the garden (one member of Aus community was shot by a farmer)

#### Ideas and discussion

- Keep and upgrade the current garden while searching for new land closer to the community within the Aus town to which the garden will be moved;
- Have two gardens (A & B)

- Peter Shimbashike, land owner & Garden Project member on which the garden is currently situated, and Alex Mowa of MET, Sperrgebiet National Park manager, offered to give lifts with to the garden workers whenever they are in town and available.
- Provide bicycles as a means of transportation for people working on the garden

## Possible issues of moving the garden into town

- Land application procedures may delay the project as funds need to be used within a specified period
- Removal of already installed garden equipment will be a difficult process and will require assistance
- Garden will acquire water bills to be paid to NAMWATER, while at the moment water is currently sourced from a borehole on the land where the garden is currently situated.
- Community members to build the new garden may require payments,
- Garden may need to be guarded from theft and destruction; hence the guards may require payments as well.
- Other options could be shared use of government property guards, a Police patrol, and Community Garden member guards on rotation.
- Nursery project is situated in town yet has not been maintained

## Actions and Way Forward

The community agreed on a 'dual approach' compromise, whereby improvements are made to the garden at the existing site in the short term while the possibility of moving the garden nearer the community in the medium term is investigated

- Aus Community to elect Garden Project Committee at the coming Karas Regional Council (KRC) meeting with the Aus Community 11<sup>th</sup> November 2012
- Aus Community to also brief local Councilor, Jan Scholtz, of the garden project discussion, at the KRC meeting and to inform NNF
- Aus Community Conservation Trust (ACCT) to go ahead and request a piece of land for possible relocation of garden within town during the upcoming Karas Regional Council meeting with the Aus community
- NNF to buy a new bigger generator or alternatively buy a solar panel to ensure sustainable water supply for the garden
- NNF to buy a 50m Water Pipelines
- NNF to buy a few bicycles for the community members working for the garden
- NNF to buy an Electrical Pump of medium size
- NNF to buy an Electrical Cord of approximately 150m
- NNF to buy various vegetable seeds based on local hotel requirements and community preferences
- NNF to organize a marketing strategy for the Aus Community Garden Project

Name	Occupation			
Mr. John Mayumbelo	Aus Community Conservation Trust (ACCT) Chairman			
Mr. Franz	ACCT Deputy Chairman			
Mr. Titus Plaatjies	ACCT Committee Member			
Mr. Loubser	ACCT Committee Member			
Mr. Alex Mowa	MET regional officer and Sperrgebiet Park Manager			
Ms. Annecia Kaffer	Community member			
Ms. Hendrina Kamanda	Community member and Garden Project member			
Mr. Jenrid Siester	Community member and Garden Project member			
Mr. Peter Shimbashike	Community member, garden project member and			
	farmer on land adjacent to garden project			
Mr. Denever Vlees	Community member			
Mr. Menete Joseph	Community member			
Mr. Karna Shikelepo	Community member			
Mr. Lahja Leornard	Community member			
Ms. Anna Andries	Community member			
Ms. Rauha Alweendo	Community member			
Ms. Veronica Shau	Community member			
Mr. Simon Angala	Community member, local businessmen and farmer			
	on land adjacent to garden project			
Mr. Maradona Siester	Community member and Garden Project member			
Mr. Petrus Beukes	Community member			

## Annex 3: Community members involved in the garden project and key contacts

#### **Project Contacts:**

Mr. John Mayumbelo, Aus Community Conservation Trust (ACCT) Chairman Tel: 081 487 7388 Email: lunyinde@gmail.com

Mr. Titus Plaatjies, Garden project Chairman and ACCT member Tel: 081 645 7981

Aus Settlement Office Tel: 063 25 8155

Mr. Eduard Drotsche, HPS Engineering (solar installation) Tel: 063 223399 Email: hpseng@mweb.com.na

Aus Information Centre Tel: 025 63 8151