



the leading non-profit Forum coordinating  
recycling initiatives in Namibia.

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **RNF celebrates a successful year of clean-up campaigns throughout the country**

Windhoek, 14 November 2017

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The emphasis on the importance of cleanliness and proper ways to dispose of waste collected, saw several successful clean-up campaigns taking place during the course of 2017. The Recycle Namibia Forum (RNF), and its members supported a number of such campaigns – not only with sponsored items, but also in guiding the organizers on how to plan, and organize a successful clean-up campaign, and encouraging the three R's of Reducing, Reusing and Recycling.

In all the clean-up campaigns, according to RNF Coordinator, Anita Witt, the organizing teams include community leaders, representatives from the local town councils, schools and other educational institutions, thus bringing together the entire community. Witt: "During 2017, the RNF and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) also joined forces with clean-ups held in Kongola and Omuthiya earlier this year. At the Omuthiya clean-up in May, the Deputy Minister of MET, Tommy Nambahu and Environmental Commissioner Theofilus Nghitila both participated in the event, which saw two bags short of 400 of refuse collected, and resulting in 1 ton of recyclables transferred to the Rent-A-Drum facility in Oshakati. This was followed by a clean-up in the Otjozondjupa Region in June, with the Okakarara Town Council, and approximately 400 volunteers which saw 300 bags of refuse assembled. However due to no recycling facility close by, no refuse could be collected, and was thus taken to the local dumpsite."

Witt went on to say that in August, the Omaruru community hosted a large-scale clean-up campaign, with 700 participants collecting 1 500 bags of refuse – which resulted in 6 tons of waste picked up during the four hour period. Here too, the waste was separated into recyclable and non-recyclable waste. In the South, the Fish River clean-up campaign took place in September and was organized by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET). Close to 40 volunteers collected 83kg of waste from the Canyon. Witt: "It is a concern that nature lovers are responsible for littering in the Fish River Canyon with items ranging from used beverage containers to broken shoes."

At the coast, several clean-ups were hosted said Witt, as part of the annual Biodiversity Week organized by NACOMA (Namibian Coast Conservation and Management project) during the month of September. Coastal towns from Lüderitz to Henties Bay actively participated by organizing individual clean-ups. In Swakopmund,

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350 volunteers collected 187kg of recyclables, which according to Witt is indicative that the area from Tiger Reef to Platz am Meer, is relatively clean. Witt: “The final event for this year, and possibly the largest clean-up campaign in the country, took place recently in Ondangwa. The week-long clean up saw the business sector, educational institutions and community leaders all take part by cleaning different sections of the Ondangwa town and surroundings, with prizes on offer for the most successful teams. Close to 3 500 refuse bags were collected during the week-long clean up, resulting in 43 trips to the local dumpsite. A total volume of 480kg of recyclables were sourced from the waste collected.”

RNF Chairperson, Gloudi de Beer expressed pride in a successful year of clean-up campaigns ticked off. De Beer: “In total, the RNF and its members contributed generously towards these events, with each clean up receiving at least 1000 refuse bags from Plastic Packaging, at least 40 cases of soft drinks and mineral water courtesy of the Ohlthaver & List Group through its subsidiary, Namibia Breweries Limited (NBL) - and Coca Cola Namibia, whilst Rent-A-Drum assisted with making available transport, skips and clear bags for the recyclables.

De Beer continued to highlight the challenges faced by the RNF. De Beer: “Although we are encouraged by the keenness and commitment of local authorities and the communities to clean up in and around their towns, the challenges faced with waste management in the majority of towns remains a concern, pending the implementation of the new Waste Management Act. This notably refers to the lack of proper dumpsites and landfills, as well as the absence of recycling facilities, and equipment to transport to the closest recycler. Once implemented, clean-up campaigns should then become more sustainable.”

During the course of the year, a booklet: *How To Organize a Clean Up* has been compiled by the RNF, and contains useful hints and tips to host such an event. The booklet can be downloaded from the RNF website – [www.rnf.com.na](http://www.rnf.com.na). “The RNF would like to thank its members for their ongoing support and commitment towards a cleaner, greener Namibia”, concluded De Beer.

## **Ends,**

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These children gladly participated in the clean-up campaign at Henties Bay in September. At the coast, several clean-ups were hosted as part of the annual Biodiversity Week organized by NACOMA (Namibian Coast Conservation and Management project) during the month of September. Coastal towns from Lüderitz to Henties Bay actively participated by organizing individual clean-ups.



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Ubasen Primary School was the overall winning school during the Omaruru clean-up. They collected 710 bags of waste (this was equivalent to 3611 kg of recyclable waste).



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Another successful annual Fish River Canyon clean-up campaign was recorded from 26 to 30 September, organized by the Ministry of Environment & Tourism (MET) and supported by the Recycle Namibia Forum (RNF). The total amount of waste collected was approximately 82.5 kg.

