

skolefokus

BRANDBERG, Namibië uit die hoogste rakke.

Dié berg toring meer as 2 000 meter bo seevlak en is bekend vir sy asemrowende natuur én verskeie plekke waar rotskuns aangebly is. Een van die bekendstes natuurlik die Wit Vrou.

Sy hoogste piek is Königstein wat 2 606 meter bo seevlak is. Hoewel dit die hoogste is in Namibië, is dit maar die derde hoogste in Afrika. Die hoogste berg is Kilimanjaro in Kenië, en die tweede hoogste is die piek van die Drakensberg in Suid-Afrika.

Die Brandberg is egter nie net die beste bestemming vir bergklimmers en avontureurs nie, maar dit het ook bekendheid verworf vir 'n klein insek, die Gladiator, wat daar aangotref word. Dit maak die berg ook een van die lekkerste plekke om insekte en ander organismes te versamel.

Dit is vir dié rede dat die Nasionale Museum van Namibië met 'n groep leerlinge van die Immanuel Shifidi Sekondêre Skool na die berg is om organismes vir die museum te versamel.

Die geologiese geskiedenis van die Brandberg het veel te make met vulkane. Die Brandberg is nie 'n vulkaan nie, maar 'n granietprop wat deur 'n vulkaan se pyp

bo die aarde se oppervlak uitgestoot is. Dit het sowat 120 miljoen jaar gelode gebeur.

Elfens suid en na die weste van die Brandberg is die Messumkrater. Naby dit is die Doriskrater wat byna dieselfde tyd aktief was. Beide die kraters reflekteer 'n tydperk waarin buitengewone geologiese rusteloosheid op aarde verbaar is.

Volgens aanduidings is dit deel van die Drakensberg en verder dui lava tipes wat in Suid-Amerika versamel is daarop dat dit eens deel kon wees van dié lava tipes wat in Namibië versamel is. En dan kon Afrika en Suid-Amerika een wees.

Dié is maar net die geologiese agtergrond van die Brandberg en is hoofsaaklik geoloog wat daarmee bemoeid is.

Die Brandberg is meer bekend vir sy rotskuns en graverings, soos die Wit Vrou.

Dié tekening is in die Tsisab Ravine en is ongeveer 2 000 jaar oud. Dit is in 1918 deur dr. Reinhard Maack ontdek en hy het gesê dit is die mees goddelike tekening wat hy ooit gesien het.

Meer as 43 000 individuele tekeninge op die Brandberg by sowat 1 000 verskillende lekke gevind.



■ Die plantegroei op die Brandberg is ook iets om te beïel. Hierdie is die groep van die Immanuel Shifidi Skool wat in die vakansie na die berg is. Hulle staan by 'n reuse asilwyn. Lees berg oor die uitlog na die berg op bladsy 11. Foto: Nasionale Museum van Namibië.

Edu-Venture a bomber!

Twenty learners from the Immanuel Shifidi Secondary School in Katutura have completed what they described as a very exciting educational expedition under the auspices of the National Museum of Namibia.

The event, or rather Edu-Venture as it is officially known, was the third and last of its kind for the Shifidi learners, as it will in future take Grade 10 students from neighbouring Jan Jonker Afrikaner Secondary School.

The expedition involved excursions and mountain hiking at Swartbank, Goba-beb, Sossusvlei as well as

an educational trip into the Namib Desert which turned out to be the highlight of the tour.

And apart from the wonderful experience they gained, participants also had the opportunity to learn about the fascinating habitats and lifestyles of the different animals, plants and reptiles they come across.

"What is most important from these adventures in the desert," explained Tharina Bird, who is in charge of the spider collection at the National Museum, "is that the learners also collect specimens for the museum to

sustain its stock supply."

The project was initiated by the National Museum, due to the tremendous interest shown in the insects and reptiles by learners from the different schools during their visits to the museum.

"The museum decided to sponsor an expedition for the learners who, apart from receiving first hand experience of the completely different environment and exposure to the desert and mountains, also collected specimens and other biological items for the museum," explained Bird.

- Conrad Angula.



NEW EXPERIENCE ... Immanuel Shifidi High School learners and their guides, Tharina Bird from the National Museum of Namibia and the school's science teacher Nicholas Krone in the Namib Desert during their latest Edu-Venture with the museum (See page 10).

Jan Jonker ontdek en leer speel-speel

BIODIVERSITEIT sluit alle lewendige organismes en die omgewing waarin hulle woon in en is van uiterste belang om te verseker dat lewe op aarde kan aangaan.

Om ons biodiversiteit beter te kan verstaan, moet wetenskaplikes monsters van al die verskillende gewerwelde en ongewerwelde organismes versamel en by die Nasionale Museum van Namibië vir toekomstige navorsing berg.

Die museum is die bewaarder van Namibië se natuurlike erfenis en is toevertrou om omgewingsleer te bevorder deur kwessies van biodiversiteitsondering aan te spreek, monsters van organismes bymekaar te maak en minderbevoorregte kinders die geleentheid te gun om daarby betrokke te wees.

'n Algemene onbewustheid van die biodiversiteit heers onder mense en dit hou ernstige komplikasies vir die bewaring daarvan in. Die natuurlike omgewing word so vinnig deur die mens vernietig dat sekere spesies uitsterf nog voor hulle ontdek word. Daarby is dit

nie altyd maklik om monsters op afgeleë plekke bymekaar te maak nie, aangesien dit tydrowend is en gewoonlik logistieke probleme inhou.

Dus het die museum verlede jaar met die Edu-Ventures Program begin waardeur die bogenoemde aangesprek kan word. Leerlinge tussen 16 en 18 jaar word op ekspedisies van tien tot twaalf dae na afgeleë plekke met 'n ryk biodiversiteit geneem om 'n verskeidenheid spinnekoppe, skerpioene, slange en ander insekte te help versamel.

Verlede jaar is leerlinge van die Sekondêre Skool Immanuel Shifidi drie keer op sulke ekspedisies geneem en vanjaar het skollere van die Sekondêre Skool Jan Jonker Afrikaans gegaan.

Sewe leerlinge van die skool het gedurende die Mei-vakansie hul rugtas gepak en saam met die museum se kurator van spinagtiges en veelpotiges, me. Tharina Bird, 'n wetenskaponderwyser van Sekondêre Skool Eldorado, mnr. Nicholas Krone, en hul assistent,

mnr. Benson Muramba, op hul eerste besoek aan die Brandberg vertrek.

Hulle het putvalle gebou, gekleurde borde in die grond ingedruk, klippe omgedraai en bosse geskud en geslaan om insekte bymekaar te maak. Hulle het agter skerpioene aan gegrawe, laat in die nag na die Gladiator, 'n insek wat twee jaar gelede op die berg ontdek is, gesoek en ook grondmonsters geneem om plantparasitiese nematodes (piepklein, wurmagtige organismes wat plantwortels eet en naby plantwortels lewe) te kry. Dié is na Suid-Afrika vir ontleding gestuur.

Die jongspan moes dae lank stap, steil hellings uitklim, sojaveis eet, met min water en slaaptyd klaarkom en van hul grootste vrese in die gesig staar om die ekspedisie suksesvol te voltooi. Hoewel van hulle soms "bang vir die hoogtes was" en "nie altyd van die kos gehou het nie" het almal saangestem dat hulle enige tyd weer sal gaan.

"Ek was later moeg gestap, maar dit was die moeite werd en nou kan ek met trots sê dat ek die eerste en enigste een van my familie is wat al op die hoogste bergpunt in die land was," spog die 15-jarige Delton Nuseb oor sy ondervinding.

"Dit was beëlis insiggewend. Ek sal nooit weer goggas en spinnekoppe sommer net so doodmaak nie en is ook nie meer bang vir skerpioene nie."

Om skerpioene op te grawe was blykham nie so erg nie, maar die kinders was almal doodbang om dié insekte vas te hou. Me. Bird het hulle mooi gewys hoe om die diertjies "versigtig te hanteer" en aan die einde van die dag was dié ondervinding een van die hoogtepunte van die ekspedisie.

"Ek het besef dat insekte eintlik baie bang vir ons is as ons vir hulle," vertel Delton opgewonde. Sy makkers het almal ook gesê hulle kyk nou anders na insekte en dat "elke goggatjie vir 'n rede daar is en sy plek in die natuur het."

Verlede jaar se groepe het ook na Brandberg gegaan, maar op ekspedisies na die Hunsberge en Namibwoestyn gegaan. Vir volgende jaar beplan me. Bird om dowe en hardhorende kinders op 'n Edu-Venture te neem.

Die rugsakke, slaapsakke en matrasse wat op die avontuur gebruik is, is deur die Rössing Stigting voorsien. Die Nasionale Biodiversiteitsprogram het die kinders se kos- en vervoerkostes gedek en vir hul reünie 'n paar maande later betaal, waar hulle almal bywoningsertifikate ontvang het.



■ Delton Nuseb was een van sewe gelukkige leerlinge wat aan een van die Nasionale Museum se Edu-Ventures na die Brandberg kon deelneem. Die kinders het monsters van verskeie gewerwelde en ongewerwelde organismes vir navorsing versamel.



■ Een van die versamelingsmetodes wat die kinders gebruik het om insekte bymekaar te maak, was om gekleurde borde in die grond te druk.

Vat die wetenskap se spoor...

Al ooit gewonder of dit in jou broek sit om 'n wetenskaplike wees? Lees hier, want dalk kan jy vinniger een word as wat jy wil glo...

EduVentures is 'n program wat in 2003 deur die Nasionale Museum van Namibië begin is en een van hul hoofaktiwiteite is om hoërskoolleerlinge op verkenningsekspedisies van twee weke na die Namibiese landskap te neem.

Dié avonture kikker leerders sielkundig en geestelik op deur hulle aan afgeleë en onbekende plekke voor te stel.

Tydens die uitstappies word jong wetenskaplikes aangemoedig om allerlei dinge uit die natuur bymekaar te maak wat dan by die museum se versameling gevoeg word.

Tot dusver is ses van dié EduVentures-jolle al aangebied en word daar

reeds kliphard aan die volgende een in Augustus beplan.

EduVentures se organiseerders het *Skolefokus* trots vertel van die laaste uitstappie, wat van 30 April tot 14 Mei geduur het, se sukses.

"Ons het die Chowagasberg in die Namib-Naukluttpark met 16 leerlinge, verbonde aan Windhoekse skole, aangedurf. Twaalf van dié kinders was doof of gehoorgestrem, terwyl die ander vier van die St. George's College was," het me. Tharina Bird vertel.

Die berggebied kan nog sommer baie interessanhede oplewer, maar dit is nog uiters onbekend wat biodiversiteit aanbetref. Die groepie, vergesel deur agt grootmense, het meer gaan uitvind oor die geheime wat daar versteek lê.

Behalwe die magdom kennis en ondervinding wat die leerlinge opgedoen het, is meer as 'n duisend voorwerpe uit die natuur bygemaak gemaak.

As jy in graad tien is en jy of jou skool dalk belang

sou stel om deel te wees van hierdie program, kan jy gerus met me. Tharina Bird by 276 829 of 276 800 in Windhoek in verbinding tree.

Maar wees gewaarsku: hierdie uitstappie is uitputtend. Om dié rede word

naweekuitstappies vooraf gereël waar kandidate getoets word wat vir so 'n ekspedisie in aanmerking wil kom. Oorwin jy dit, kan jy uitsien na 'n onvergeetlike ondervinding wat jy vir die res van jou lewe sal onthou.

- EduVentures bedank graag hul borge wat hierdie ekspedisies moontlik maak en doen ook 'n beroep op ander persone of instansies wat 'n bydrae kan lewer in hierdie ontwikkelingsprojek van die jeug.



■ Patrick Rieckert gebruik dié dassieskedel om die ekspedisiegangers meer oor die natuur en lewensomstandighede in die woestyn te leer.

Krone se groter plan leef voort

"KOM ons vat kinders."

"Maar Nicholas, wat van die vervoer?" vra Tharina.

"Ons vat my bakkie."

"Wat van die toerusting?"

"Jong, ja, ek het 'n paar plekke waar ek kan gaan vra."

"Wat van die geld?"

"Ons soek dit."

Tharina sê toe hulle terugkom was dit die begin van 'n gereelde instelling. "Die ding het 'n plek! Kom ons doen dit elke skoolvakansie en ons kry 'n naam en 'n logo daarvoor. En ons gee vir die kinders sertifikate. En 'n menete toekenning vir die beste een," het Nicholas laat hoor.

En só is die projek van die Nasionale Museum van Namibië, genaamd Edu-Ventures, gebore.

Tot dusver het sowat 60 leerlinge van Windhoek al aan dié ekspedisies deelgeneem en 'n ommeswaai in die aanbieding van dié projekte is vanjaar te wagte.

Op 1 Mei 2003 het sewe leerlinge van die Sekondêre Skool Immanuel Shifidi na die Brandberg vertrek om amptenare van die

museum te help om versamelings spinnekoppe (arachnida) en insekte (invertebrate is die kollektiewe naam) te doen.

Die idee om skoliere op só 'n versamelings-tog saam te vat, was dié van 'n onderwyser by Immanuel Shifidi, mnr. Nicholas Krone.

Tharina Bird, kurator van Spingagliges en Veelpotiges by die museum, het aan Skolefokus vertel die plan was van die begin af om verafgeleë plekke te besoek, om op plekke te versamel waaroor daar nog nie baie inligting beskikbaar is nie en om na interessante gebiede te gaan.

"Dié tweeweeklange ekspedisies is nie net harde werksessies nie, maar 'n mens kom as 'n ander persoon terug. Dit is nie net fisies veeleisend nie, maar ook geestelik verg só 'n ekspedisie baie," het Tharina gesê.

Die museum het al leerlinge van Immanuel Shifidi en Jan Jonker saamgeneem. "Ons het ook besluit om in die program op leerlinge uit voorheen agtergeblewe gemeenskappe te fokus sodat hul ook die geleenthede kan kry om meer van Namibië te sien."

Dit is ook die aspek van voorheen agtergeblewenes wat mnr. Krone met die voorstel

laat kom het om studiebourse vir van dié leerlinge te gee. Dié projek is nou in sy proeflydperk deurdat een van die meisies nou haar hoërskoolloopbaan by St. Paul Kollege gaan afdandel.

Gedurende dié Mei vakansie gaan leerlinge van die skool van gehoorgestremdes van die Nasionale Instituut vir Spesiale Onderdig (Nise) saam met 'n paar leerlinge van St. George op 'n tweeweeklange ekspedisie na die Chowagaberg in die Namib Naukluftpark.

'n Aspek wat egter 'n effense demper op die opwindung van die volgende ekspedisie plaas, is dat mnr. Krone nie deel daarvan sal wees nie omdat hy aan die begin van die maand oorlede is.

Me. Bird het gesê die volgende ekskursie vind in Julie plaas en dat dit 'n naweek ter nagedagtenis van mnr. Krone is. "Almal wat tot nou toe aan Edu-Ventures deelgeneem het, gaan in Julie vir 'n naweek na Nicholas se familieplaas, Arcadia, in die Otiwarongomgewing. Dit sal 'n motiveringsnaweek wees

en ons sal op maatskaplike en geestelike vaardighede fokus."

Intussen sal die museum hom altyd dankbaar wees vir sy insette. "Hy het altyd gesê as 'n mens erkenning vir iets soek, moet jy dit liefste nie doen nie. En dit is ook hoo hy gelewe het. Van die begin van Edu-Ventures af het hy gesê dit gaan oor die kinders en die program en so sal ons dit hou," het me. Bird gesê.

Deel van die uitbreiding van die program is om die impak daarvan te verbeter. Me. Bird het gesê die plan is om Edu-klubs by die skole in Windhoek te begin wat absoluut deur die kinders beheer sal word.

"Op dié stadium is ons enigste probleem om geld te kry. Danksy 'n skenking van die Globale Omgewingsfonds (GEF) se kleinskenkingsprogram, onder leiding van die Namibiese Natuurstigting (NNF), kan ons die program uitbrei. Ons het egter nog baie nodig om die program ten volle te laat vlot."

Vir enige hulp kan me. Bird by 061 276 829 geskakel word.



■ Mnr. Nicholas Krone wie saam met Tharina Bird van die Nasionale Museum van Namibië die eerste Edu-Ventures aangebied het. Dié foto is tydens een van die ekspedisies geneem en die onderwerp van bespreking is 'n slang.

Foto: Nasionale Museum van Namibië



IN MEMORIAM

It is with shock and despair that we learnt of the sudden and untimely death of teacher, colleague and friend Nicolas (Nico) Krone. In the space of three months we have come to appreciate him as a most conscientious teacher, totally committed to the task of teaching. We celebrate his versatility: member of the Cantare Audire Choir, Volleyball coach, lover of nature and researcher. We will long remember how he organized field trips for the learners at the schools where he taught and how he enriched their lives. He expressed concern about the shortage of textbooks and the deterioration of good-mannerliness among certain learners. He also recognized and praised talent and dignity in many learners. We will long cherish his memory. May the family find solace and comfort in the fact that his life was not lived in vain. He touched the future... he was a teacher.

From: Staff and Learners of
Jan Jonker Afrikaner High School.

rep7/5/4

Nature trail between the cultures

"At first our hosts probably thought that we weren't quite right in the mind. What could possibly be the good of collecting insects, spiders and scorpions? But suddenly everyone in the village, young and old, joined in."

Biologist Samanta Mapfumo is still visibly delighted with the latest EduVentures excursion. But other students also beamed with joy as they presented the slides and the results of their expedition to the Baynes Mountains in the far north-west of Namibia.

Each of the 13 students who had participated in the excursion, as well as the nine teachers and scientists in charge, attended the closing session, held last Friday evening at the Habitat



■ Never use a bottle for drawing water from a well, but only a cup – otherwise the water might dry up, the Tjimba say.

Research and Development Centre (HRDC) in Katutura.

Representatives of the main sponsors – Nedbank, Global Environment Facility (GEF), Kaokohimba Safaris, Epupa Camp, Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), and the Rössing Foundation – had also been invited. EduVentures is an initiative of the National Museum of Namibia. The aim is to get young people enthusiastic about nature's diversity and promote contacts between the country's population groups.

The students, aged 15 to 18 years, were away in the Baynes Mountains from 15 April to 1 May – four of them were from Deutsche Höhere Privatschule (DHPS), six from A. Shipena High School and three from Omuhonga Mobile School in Kaokoland. They were accompanied by scientists of the EduVentures team, a biologist from Germany and a teacher from the mobile school.

Led by Tjajandjambi 'Jan' Tjumbus, a Tjimba who knows the area inside out, and with three donkeys for carrying equipment and water supplies, the group made its way through the rocky terrain. Sleeping bags were rolled out in the open at night, but three nights were spent in Tjimba guest quarters which usually are reserved for visitors or travellers from other villages. In contrast to the Himba, the Tjimba people on the mountain plateaus used to live on what they call bag by hunting and on the fruits and tubers of their 'gardens'. It is only recently that they started farming with cattle.

After just two days friendships were

formed between participants from different schools. Samanta recounts: "The three Kaokoland students, two Tjimba and a Himba, were in great physical shape and enjoyed their 'home advantage' by scouting the way and sharing their knowledge about nature with their new friends."

The group was given a warm welcome in the villages, Samanta says. "News of our expedition spread like wildfire. People actually came over from other villages to join us for a chat at the fire in the evening. When help was needed with translating Afrikaans, teacher Olga Kasoona acted as an interpreter."

The result of the 11-day excursion: all the participants learnt a lot. They now know, for example, which shrub is used by the Tjimba for making an aromatic tea, which hydrous roots are suitable for quenching one's thirst, or which plants serve as remedy for diarrhoea, flu and other aches and pains.

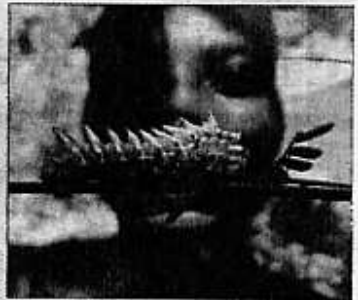
But the scientific collections of the National Museum and the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) benefited as well. More than 4 000 plant and animal samples were collected: 2 822 insects classed with 26 of the 32 known orders (including a few 'gladiators', discovered in 2002), 1 132 spiders and scorpions (the largest one had the size of a man's hand), 118 millipedes and centipedes (among them one with feather-like appendices – the most peculiar centipede the scientists had ever seen), 5 worms, 15 amphibians, 21 reptiles, 1 bird and 71 plants.

The culmination of Friday evening's closing session was the ceremonial awarding of prizes to outstanding participants. Fenny Tjiposa from

Omuhonga Mobile School received a Merit Award for commitment to and commitment in the group; Tim Holch from DHPS was chosen as Best Collector. Expressions of thanks to the main sponsors – Nedbank, GEF, Kaokohimba Safaris, Epupa Camp, NNF, and Rössing – who supported the excursion with more than N\$ 60 000 in total, were also important, of course.

EduVentures has plans for at least one more excursion this year. Not only sponsors are needed, but also teachers and scientists to accompany the students. Contact: Tharina Bird (Engl/Afr.) or Samanta

Mapfumo (Germ/Engl.) at 061 276-809 or email info@eduventures-africa.org. For more information visit www.eduventures-africa.org. (Contributed by Sven-Eric Kanzler of Bush Telegraph)



■ This caterpillar has adapted its shape exactly to that of the leaves it feeds on.



■ Perfect camouflage: A praying mantis which looks like a leaf and moves like a leaf stirred by the wind.



■ Meeting of cultures: A Tjimba woman in front of her homestead.



■ Students and group leaders of the EduVentures excursion in front of the Baynes Mountains.



■ Prize-winners and some of the sponsors of the EduVentures excursion (l.r.): Jonas Nqishidi (GEF and NNF), Fenny Tjiposa (Omuhonga Mobile School), Lucy Ockhuizen (Tré Supermarket), Tim Holch (DHPS), Heide Beinhauer (Kaokohimba Safaris), Thomas Libuda (Africa traveller from Dresden who assisted with transport and a tent) and Cathleen Barker (Tré Supermarket).

Students practise Science

AFTER thoroughly examining the insect under the microscope, Aina Mwalya types "predatory spider" into the computer list. Next to her, Johannes Mayumbelo excitedly compares the entry with his own list. Both lists are extensive and contain many names of the insects and arachnids which were collected in a study area close to the new uranium mine, the Langer Heinrich, in the Namib Naukluft Park. The question which Aina and Johannes are dealing with is: will they be able to find two comparable areas, one of them in the vicinity of the mine, the other close to Blutkuppe, a little further away?

Aina and Johannes go about their task like seasoned scientists, even though they are only 14 and 17 years old and still at school. They are two of 18 students from five schools who are taking part in the first Science EduVentures project. The basic issue is the impact of the new uranium mine on the environment.

EduVentures is an initiative of the National Museum of Namibia which aims at raising enthusiasm for nature and the natural sciences in young people; at the same time valuable data as well as plant and animal specimens are gathered for the scientific collections of the National Museum and the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI). EduVentures participants found the Gladiator insect, which was only discovered recently, for the first time at the Fish River Canyon in September last year, and near Aus they came across two spider species which so far had not been known to occur in Namibia.

With Science EduVentures the initiative is taken one step further: participants do not merely collect data, but complete all the scientific tasks which are necessary to answer a particular research question.

18 students who had already gathered some experience on a previous EduVentures expedition were chosen from among the many applicants. A meeting during the weekend of 17 to 19 February prepared them for the project. The basics of scientific work were among the main topics: What is the aim of science? What is the meaning of ethics in science, what is 'unethical' conduct? What methods are available to a scientist and why does he have to consider them? The participants were also given an introduction to the study area and the Langer Heinrich uranium mine.

Experts of the University and the Polytechnic of Namibia in the fields of biology, chemistry and social science acted as lecturers and mentors.

The mine had caused headlines; environmental initiatives criticized that permission has been granted to mine uranium in a national nature conservation area and warned of irreparable damage to the environment. "This is a highly controversial issue", admits Tharina Bird, a

co-founder of EduVentures and an arachnologist (expert on spiders) at the National Museum. "But for this very reason it suits our project extremely well: the students have to learn to approach issues as neutrally as possible instead of being guided by emotions."

The main question concerning the environmental impact was divided into six sub-sections and corresponding sub-projects. Can the mine's overburden be rehabilitated again? Which plants and animals in the area concerned live in potholes and their surroundings? What are the consequences of extracting large amounts of groundwater? How do mining operations affect the camel thorn trees which sustain numerous animals? How do plants in the area react to abiotic (chemical) substances and what does it mean for rehabilitation after the mine closes? And the question which Aina and Johannes are looking into: are there similar areas close to the mine and further away (at Blutkuppe)? The purpose of this last question is to monitor both areas over an extended period of time so that possible changes in the vicinity of the mine can indeed be attributed to mining activities.

Work on site started one week after the introduction. During their eight-day excursion the 18 students gathered data for their research questions. They measured temperatures and wind speeds, took soil samples, collected plants and caught insects. The samples were also needed for the scientific collections at the National Museum and the NBRI.

During the excursion the students also learnt that on a field trip things do not always work out as expected: reptiles and small mammals did not cooperate and could not be trapped.

Work in the Science Lab

Back in Windhoek the material was eagerly evaluated. For this particular purpose EduVentures has set up a laboratory, equipped with microscopes, computers, internet access and essential textbooks, in a room of the National Museum.

"Many schools do not offer computer classes yet," says Samanta Maptumo from EduVentures. "We show the students how to use the internet for research or how to compile Excel tables and charts, so that later at university they do not find themselves at a complete loss."

The participants of Science EduVentures got together for another meeting from 24 to 26 March. This time the focus was on how



Dr. John Mwanza, 205-yearly lecturer at the University of Namibia, helps Frans Abraham with microscope work. Photo: EduVentures

Evaluating material in the new lab: Monica Henghali (front), Hilma Ntulo (left) and Karen Mutota. Photo: EduVentures

scientific results are presented. Because this part of scientific work is practiced as well: participants in the project will start to present their findings and conclusions this evening at 18:00.

The actual reason for the public event is, however, the official inauguration of the Science Lab and thanking the donors.

Renovating and equipping the lab would have been impossible without the support of the Embassy of Germany, Builders' Warehouse, WORX and the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN).

EduVentures needs continued support in future as well: another two Science EduVentures projects are planned for this year.

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