



Funding of CuveWaters II granted - Implementation phase is ready to start

The Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) has approved the second phase of CuveWaters. The joint project aims at sustainably improving water access in the central north of Namibia.

In southern Africa, 288 million people live without access to clean drinking water. Especially Namibia, the driest country in Sub-Saharan Africa, is threatened by water shortage and the consequences of climate change. CuveWaters is developing innovative solutions to sustainably supply people in the northern Cuvelai-Etосha Basin, home to nearly half of the Namibian population, with water. The transdisciplinary joint project cooperates with numerous German and Namibian partners.

Over the last three years, the project has developed innovative concepts on water access in close cooperation with the local population. Now, with CuveWaters II, the three-year implementation phase lasting until 2012, in which the pilot sites will be constructed, begins. CuveWaters supports the development of an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) promoted by the BMBF. This development implies that water is gained in a so-called multi-resource-mix from various local sources and with different technologies. Depending on its quality, it is used for different purposes – in high quality as drinking water, in lower quality for irrigation of gardens.

Simultaneously CuveWaters will introduce strategies for capacity-building in order to reduce poverty and unemployment by job creation and strengthening subsistence farming. "Through this transdisciplinary approach, we are integrating adapted concepts for resource management and the different technology lines as well as the participating actors," explains project manager Dr. Thomas Kluge from ISOE.

The scientists from the interdisciplinary German team have been for years working closely with their cooperation partner in Namibia including the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF), Directorate of Rural Water Supply (DRWS), Iishana-sub-Basin Management Committee (IBMC), German Development Co-operation (GTZ), Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) and Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN).

The problems of water access in the Cuvelai-Etосha Basin result primarily from the highly varying water supply in this area. Floodings and droughts alternate, hence a sufficient amount of water is only available in the rainy season. Accessible groundwater is mostly too salty to be used as drinking water. Thus drinking water for the region is supplied through a distance transmission system which brings water from the Kunene River on the Namibian-Angolan border to the central north, making Namibia strongly dependent on political and economical circumstances in Angola.

Hamburger Allee 45
D-60486 Frankfurt/Main
Phone: +49 69 707 69 19-30
Fax: +49 69 707 69 19-11
info@isoe.de
<http://www.isoe.de>

Frankfurt/Main
August 5, 2009