



Science Week

Better Health through better Understanding

22-26 November & 6-11 December 2021

Windhoek & Swakopmund

1. Introduction

Science plays an important role on building an inclusive and creative society. It stands at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contributes greatly to the economic advancement in the Harambee Prosperity Plan. In November and December 2021, UNESCO, the Goethe Institute, Ministry of Mines and Energy and Swakopmund Museum is organizing the Science Week under the theme 'Better Health through better Understanding'. Participating schools and members of the public will have the opportunity to be entertained and enjoy science hands on while interacting with local scientists.

The Science week is an opportunity to reach out to a wider audience, especially the public. This year's theme on the on better health considers the effects of Covid-19 on scientists, schools and the public, and it looks at scientific ways of improving well-being such as mental health.

In Namibia there is a strong demand for science outreach. Exposing young children to science in different ways and showing them the importance of inclusive science will contribute towards responsible science in the future.

The Science Week is a melange of entertaining, hands-on educational activities by local scientists and non-commercial science films that promote science literacy and facilitate awareness of contemporary scientific, technological and environmental issues. The overall aim of the initiative is to communicate science in a more accessible way to support advance inclusive science and quality education for all.

The objectives of the Science Week are to:

- Promote science in an educational and entertaining manner.
- Strengthen public awareness on the role of science for sustainable societies.
- Promote and foster awareness of inclusivity and wellbeing in science.
- Draw attention to the challenges faced by science and raising support for the scientific endeavour

2. Workplan

The Science Week will be held in Windhoek (22-26 November) and Swakopmund (6-11 December), targeting the general public, schools and young researchers. The UNESCO-MME team consists of 3 team members to facilitate and conduct the activities.

The activities include:

- Panel discussion on the Wellbeing of Scientists (Hybrid)
- Sand Play Therapy
- Coding (Covid-19 simulation) and Robotics
- Doodle video on the Science of Happiness and workshop

- Social media challenge on a science experiment
- Screening of non-commercial, Goethe Science Festival Films

The panel discussion on the Wellbeing of Scientist will be held at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and will focus on the conditions needed to conduct science in a right-based environment and how the well-being of scientists is key to good research. The panelist, young Namibian scientists will discuss their experiences of doing science in Namibia. Young researchers face unique challenges to conduct their research and the pandemic compounded the challenges. The discussion is an opportunity to advocate for the rights of scientists and raise awareness of the Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers (RSSR) at national level.

In addition to the activities listed above, a brochure on the RSSR focusing on the 10 key areas, targeting young scientists and university researchers, will be produced. The brochure will be disseminated to local universities and youth organisations to raise awareness of the implementation of the RSSR and promote the underlying values of right-based research among young scientists and university researchers.

