

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

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Desert Research Foundation of Namibia
Rossini Street
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04 February 2000

Dear Madam/Sir,

UCT M.Phil study group – visit to Windhoek 14th to 18th of February

We are a group of five final year M.Phil students in environmental management at the University of Cape Town. For our final year project, we have chosen to work in Namibia on a study commissioned by the Department of the Environment and Tourism (DET). A contract has been drawn up to undertake an Environmental Situation Analysis in the Orange River Catchment area, which has been approved by the Department of the Environment and Tourism (DET). This situation analysis will provide the necessary data and information to form a framework for a possible future Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Orange and Fish River catchment area.

The main objective of our study is to investigate issues surrounding the current and future use and management of land and water in the two catchments. We will look at the causes and effects of land degradation, the potential for sustainable resource exploitation and will provide a possible framework for a future Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Even though our study is to be guided by principles of social equity and sustainable resource utilisation, we stress that we have been commissioned and empowered only to undertake a Situation Analysis. This means that our role should be seen as preliminary to any official action, policies or programmes which may be undertaken by DET or any other relevant state department at any later stage.

Our study has been phased into two visits to Namibia. The first will take place in the period between the 13th and 25th of February. The primary aim of the first visit is to gather as much information in Windhoek as possible, and then to spend a few days driving through the Orange and Fish River catchment areas to familiarise ourselves with the region.

We plan to spend the week from the 14th to the 18th of February in Windhoek, and would be very pleased to meet with anybody in your department who may be at some assistance in helping to focus our research. Specifically, we would appreciate to meet anybody in your department who has nay interest or experience in desertification, resource management, land degradation or social sustainability issues in our above defined study region.

In line with the nature of this visit, the meetings we are hoping for would be on a rather informal basis, and mainly in order to establish contacts and to introduce the study purpose and ourselves.

At this stage, we would appreciate if you could contact Alexandra Speiser under the following phone, fax or e-mail numbers to inform us whether you (or any representatives of your office, etc.) would be able to meet us at any time during our stay in Windhoek.

Alexandra Speiser
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During our stay in Windhoek we will confirm our final arrangements by telephone.

Yours sincerely,



Alexandra Speiser
(Project co-ordinator, logistic)