

# SASSCAL climate fair opens - Nature & Environment

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## SASSCAL climate fair opened

### Use technology to advantage in the fight against climate change

The climate fair of the Climate Research Service in Southern Africa (SASSCAL) took place yesterday in Windhoek. The focus of the virtual exhibition was on community-based climate change research using modern technology.



The German Ambassador to Namibia, Herbert Beck, opened the SASSCAL Climate Science Exhibition in Windhoek yesterday. Photo: private

By Steffi Balzar, Windhoek

The German Ambassador to Namibia, Herbert Beck, opened the SASSCAL Climate Science Exhibition in Windhoek yesterday. "The aim is to discuss the impact of climate change on southern Africa and to find concrete solutions to specific problems," said Beck. According to the climate research service SASSCAL, the focus of the fair, which was also offered virtually, was to raise awareness of technologies for adapting to climate change that were developed for communities. The managing director of SASSCAL, Dr. Jane Olwoch, pointed out that the energy sector in particular plays a major role in

driving climate change. "That is why 5 SASSCAL members and twelve countries in Africa are currently working on the use of green hydrogen, currently the cleanest energy source," said Olwoch.

SASSCAL is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), among others, and received financial support worth over 23 million euros for various research projects between 2013 and 2018, according to Olwoch. In the coming year, SASSCAL intends to implement the 2.0 research program, which is funded by the BMBF with 10 million euros, and is also in the process of setting up the first study program for integrated water resource management (IWRM) in Namibia, which is supported by the Namibian University of Science and Technology ( NUST) and is funded by the BMBF.

The first panel discussion at the fair focused on the use of technology in the development of measures against climate change. Dr. Lameck Mwewa from the NUST spoke about measures that have been introduced that in the long term do more harm than help to the communities concerned. "These communities have their own knowledge and have used it for decades to deal with climate catastrophes." In his opinion, this should be taken into account and scientific data should complement this rather than suppress it.

Klemens Riha from the Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) spoke about a similar approach. In the area of community-based interventions, it is important to rely on scientific knowledge, but it is just as important to include the perspectives of the people concerned, "said Riha. Due to the persistent drought in Namibia, there is increased competition between humans and animals for water reserves. To mitigate this, GIZ is carrying out various measures with the Ministry of the Environment, among others, especially in the north of the country.