

**Message from**

**eco awards Namibia**

Welcome to our first newsletter from the **eco awards Namibia** team. We are delighted to establish this regular line of communication with you. Our aim is to keep you informed on progress within the eco awards Namibia programme, to share with you some of the latest thinking, good ideas and best practices in sustainable tourism, and to provide a forum for you to share your ideas and good practices with us. These newsletters will be kept short and sharp. This first newsletter focuses mainly on what the eco awards Namibia programme and Alliance is all about.

**What is eco awards Namibia?**

eco awards Namibia is a partnership of eight organizations (see names and logos below), both civil society and government, that have come together to form an Alliance to promote, support and facilitate the development of environmentally friendly and sustainable tourism in Namibia, specifically through the **eco awards Namibia** programme, making Namibia a destination of choice for environmentally conscious tourists and setting international standards of excellence in the industry.

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**News from the eco award Namibia winners**

At the recent H·A·N Gala Event at the Safari Conference Centre in Windhoek the following establishments were awarded with their Desert Flowers for the second consecutive time:

with :

Düsternbrook Guest Farm  
Eningu Clay House Lodge

with 

Damaraland Camp

and 

Etendeka Mountain Camp

**Skeleton Coast Camp wins Imvelo Award**

The 2007 Imvelo Responsible Tourism Awards programme is organised by the Federated Hospitality Association of Southern Africa (FEDHASA) in partnership with Absa and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT).

Running for the sixth year, Imvelo recognises tourism and hospitality businesses that make a real, measurable and sustained contribution to responsible tourism.

Skeleton Coast Camp, a 5 flower eco award winner in 2006, walked away as the winner in the category Best overall environmental management system.



**Eningu Clay House Lodge wins & wins**

The Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Institute



(REEEI) at the PolyTechnic of Namibia organized a Energy Efficiency in Tourism Competition this year. Kate Dunsten of Eningu carried home with her the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the category 'rural establishments'.

Last but not least Eningu also received the H·A·N Award of Excellence in Silver for 2007.



**Congratulations to the Winners above!**

It seems it pays to be striving towards an eco award Namibia!



**By The Way – other eco award Namibia awarded establishments are:**

Hakos Guest Farm

as well as the following previous winners (pending the outcomes of their their renewed assessments):

Huab Lodge, Skeleton Coast Camp and Sossusvlei Lodge



**The eco awards Namibia flowers must be earned – they cannot be bought!**



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### **What are the main objectives of eco awards Namibia?**

- to promote the concepts and practices of eco-friendliness and sustainability within the tourism sector,
- to create economic and social incentives for sustainable tourism,
- to identify and share best practices in eco-friendly and sustainable tourism through the industry,
- to demonstrate that eco-friendly approaches to sustainable development create financial benefits for participating establishments or companies,
- to help establish the highest standards of professionalism regarding eco-friendly and sustainable tourism,
- to recognize and acknowledge tourism enterprises that have achieved high standards in eco-friendly and sustainable tourism,
- to help promote Namibia as a world-class destination for eco-friendly tourists,
- to serve as a national professional body of expertise for eco-friendly and sustainable tourism and, where relevant and appropriate, to advocate on behalf of this subject.

### **What are the main functions of eco awards Namibia?**

The general powers and functions of the Alliance, as set out in its Constitution, are:

- to promote the eco awards Namibia programme locally, nationally and internationally by advocacy, information dissemination, promotion and other appropriate mechanisms;
- to establish criteria for eco-grading tourism operations and to revise such criteria from time to time as may be appropriate;
- to grade tourism operations, on request, and to make the resultant grades public knowledge;
- to review best practices in sustainable tourism, and to disseminate such information;

- to market the eco-awards Namibia programme and its participants who have been successfully graded;
- to suggest policy guidelines for eco-friendly and sustainable tourism in Namibia;
- to undertake or commission monitoring, research or another forms of information collection and analysis on the subject of sustainable tourism, to help inform and improve the work of the Alliance.

More on the eco awards Namibia in the next ecoLetter



### **Did You Know**

... That 1 recycled plastic bottle would save enough energy to power a 9W CFL light for 20 hours!

... Replacing 50 incandescent 60W bulbs with 50 CFL bulbs of the equivalent 9W, with each light burning 6hrs a day and 240 days per annum will save you N\$2220.00 in the first and N\$ 2909.00 in every following year!

### **Best Practices Tips**

! Electric lighting adds heat to a space that must be removed in the summer by air conditioning. Turn lights off when not in use.

! Wash full loads when using the washing machine or clothes dryer.

! Use the economizer cycle on the dishwasher and let the dishes drip dry instead of using electric heat to dry them.

! Don't block the supply air or return air ducts to the air conditioning system with furniture or drapes.

! Shop around for energy efficient computers, monitors and accessories. Look out for Energy Efficiency ratings such as the European A+ or the US Energy Star rating.



### **Do You want to be a recipient of the eco awards Namibia too?**

Just send us an email and we will forward all relevant information to you!



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