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Attention: The News Editor

MEDIA RELEASE

NCRST Awards Research Grants to the Gobabeb Research & Training Centre

The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) has awarded grants to researchers at the Gobabeb Research and Training Centre under the Namibia/South Africa Joint Bilateral Collaboration Research Programme.

NCRST, as the authority responsible for coordination and development of research, science, technology and innovation in Namibia has given three researchers from the Gobabeb Research and Training Centre, a centre for dry land training and research in the Namib Desert, grants to the value of over N\$ 550,000 for the period of two years, 2014 and 2015.

“The NCRST believes in strategic alliances for a coordinated approach to research, and as such have awarded the Gobabeb Research and Training Centre with the research grants. We believe in the work the Centre is doing and want to remind researchers to conduct their research with the end goal in mind of yielding innovative products and services that will benefit Namibian communities.” Said NCRST Manager: Resource Mobilization and Grant Management, Mrs Alushe Nditya.

The grants were awarded to the Centre to conduct the following research topics:

1. Testing climate change responses of fauna of a fog-dependent desert, using lizards as indicator species
2. Tracking impact of climate change on the West Coast of Southern Africa
3. Do environmental and anthropogenic stressors affect plant health in the Namib Desert?

“We are truly grateful for the funds from the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology, and are positive that this cooperation will lead to further work in research and development. It is our hope that this opportunity will enable the Gobabeb Research and Training Centre to continue strengthening our network and linkages locally and regionally in Africa, to further promote science and development in Namibia.” Said Executive Director of the Gobabeb Research and Training Centre, Ms Gillian Maggs-Kölling

The purpose of the research calls was to provide opportunities for joint, collaborative research between researchers in the two countries, thereby establishing the foundation for building a critical mass of researchers and scientific capacity for both countries.

Grants run for a period of two years, with the next call for research proposals expected to take place in 2015. After the two year funding period, researchers are expected to provide a report on their findings, detailing the outcomes of the research. Significant results are expected to trigger further ongoing research or an examination therefore, which in turn is expected to drive the transition of the research results into innovative, technological products and or add value and quality to services.

Ends:

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