



Games for Our Common Future

→ A Game Jam Event for Young Namibians



Games for Our Common Future

Since Greta Thunberg refused to attend classes on August 20, 2018 and instead moved to the Swedish parliament building in Stockholm where she staged her daily protest, a global movement started at a blazing pace. The »Fridays for Future« movement rapidly reached other European countries, the US, India and many other Asian and African countries. In Windhoek, a first tentative attempt by schoolchildren to protest in front of the Parliament of Namibia took place at the beginning of May 2019.

Since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting societies and economies at their core. While the impact of the pandemic varies from country to country, it will most likely increase poverty and inequalities at a global scale. Without urgent socio-economic responses, global suffering will escalate, jeopardizing lives and the livelihoods of many for years to come. Immediate development responses in this crisis must be undertaken with an eye to the future.

Since 2013, the »Black Lives Matter« movement and its related organizations advocate against police violence towards black people, as well as for various other policy changes considered to be related to black liberation in the US. The movement gained international attention after George Floyd's murder on May 25, 2020 by a police officer in Minneapolis. Since then, the issue of structural racism has been exposed and discussed worldwide.

→ **Games for Our Common Future** is going to support the slowly emerging spirit of active participation and responsibility in Namibia for topics such as climate change, sustainability, global interdependencies and equality, amongst others, by organizing a **Game Jam Event**. We would like to make a contribution by actively supporting serious concerns of the younger generation in terms of methodical research and the development of meaningful game ideas.

Games for Our Common Future is initiated by Berlin based art association urban dialogues and the Goethe-Institut Namibia. The NGO urban dialogues, has been active in Southern Africa for several years and has been dealing with urban flux and social change for more than 20 years. It has a track record and expertise in implementing arts and education programs. The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute operating worldwide. The Game Jam Event will take place at Wolwedans. It will be the initial step of a new established innovation and inspiration lab right in the heart of the Namib desert.

Our Game Jam in a Nutshell

- A Game Jam is an agile and participatory product development approach that stems from software development. It is more and more used for innovation and change in other fields of society.
- Game Jams are intensive learning and research arrangements. They allow individual, emotional, as well as cognitive, but above all experience-based knowledge production. In particular, Game Jams are suitable for the development and acquisition of knowledge by the participants themselves, while game structures are mutually developed.
- Game Jams create their own spirit and dynamics based on time limitation and goal orientation within the teams. They are based on competitiveness and team-work. All teams work and organize themselves independently in order to reach the individual goal - a playable beta-version of an analogue game.

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- Our Game Jam Event is a 72-hours-nonstop workshop for 4 teams from different organizations and will take place from 8–11 October 2020. Each team consists of 4 to 6 members. It will take place at Wolwedans, right in the middle of the NamibRand Nature Reserve. Transport, boarding and lodging are included.
 - Four facilitators will be involved with various expertise in Game Design, Graphic Facilitation, Product Design and even Sound Design. All of them are experienced in the implementation of projects in the field of arts and education. They will support and facilitate the overall game development process.
 - During the Game Jam Event, three 'playtest events will take place in order to boost the game development process. The facilitators will support the teams around the clock. A final presentation will be held at the end of the Game Jam. The final outputs will be celebrated.

urban dialogues coordinated and directed a three-years cultural program entitled »LABOURGAMES - the playful world of work« in four European countries and dealt with the future of the working world. Six game jams were organised in Berlin, Rome, Amsterdam and Athens, more than 60 game ideas were developed and finally seven fully-fledged games were produced. The entire process is illustrated on the blog of our project's [website](#) and on our [YouTube Channel](#).

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Who can apply?

Teams consisting of 4-6 members. Young Namibians aged 16-27, such as High School learners, University students or members of Civil Society Organizations interested in the design-thinking processes and want to take the world upside down for the sake of our common future.

When does it happen?

→ Arrivals Wednesday 7 October 2020 at Wolwedans

Start 8 October 10 am

End 11 October 10 am

→ Departures Sunday 11 October 2020 from Wolwedans

Where does it happen?

At Wolwedans, located in the heart of NamibRand Nature Reserve south of Sossusvlei. NamibRand is one of Southern Africa's largest private landscape conservation areas and a globally recognized model of holistic biodiversity conservation. Wolwedans is the heart and home of '»The Arid Eden Project« – a bold vision for the future, comprising a more sustainable, happy and inspiring way of living, working and learning. And importantly, conducting business in a more balanced way – in harmony with nature.

What does it cost?

Transport, boarding and lodging are fully covered – No additional financial contribution required but participating is not costless. Each team pays back with its full commitment to the Game Jam.

How to apply?

Send us an email at gamejamnamibia@urbandialogues.de and tell us about your group and the reason why you are interested in participating in the Game Jam and we will get back to you.

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