

# Revitalizing Waste, Reshaping Futures: A Finnish-Namibian Initiative



## Turning Trash into Treasure

Turning Trash into Treasure rethinks, resues and reinvents waste materials to bring about **sustainability** and **positive change**. A collaboration between **the University of Eastern Finland** and **the University of Namibia**, this project showcases how transforming waste creates **environmental, social, and economic benefits** – turning challenges into opportunities.

In **2021**, a skills audit conducted in **9 Namibian Correctional Facilities** uncovered artistic talents amongst inmates. With **high unemployment** and **poverty** fueling crime in Namibia, this initiative provides **social entrepreneurship** and **circular economy training** to empower inmates, break cycles of poverty and support their integration into society.

Through a circular economy approach, these institutions transform solid waste into valuable art and crafts.

**Promoting positive change in prisons leads to better outcomes not only for individuals but society!**

## Empowering Through Entrepreneurship and Resilience

The project highlights the importance of **rethinking, reusing, and reinventing** discarded materials. This transformative approach boosts creativity and resilience while promoting **community-wide positive change**.

Our project captures Namibian inmates' experiences in solid waste management, framed by a **community education model** and **eco-social sustainability**. Through education and engagement, the project encourages sustainable practices and social transformation.

Equipping inmates with skills promotes **successful reintegration**, reduces recidivism, and contributes to **safer communities** and a **sustainable future for all**.

Read more on our blogpost [here](#).

## MORE INFORMATION

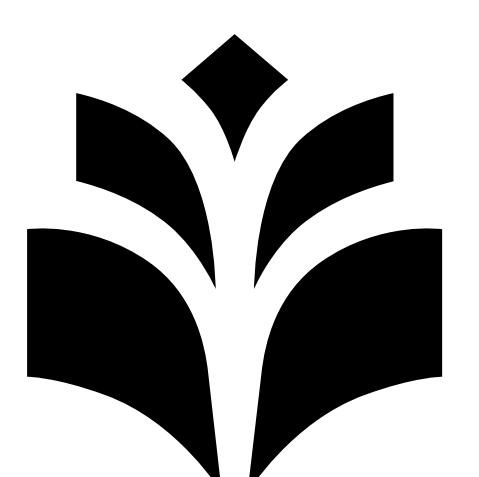
See our project website [here](#).

**Natalie Joubert** // Department of Social Sciences, University of Eastern Finland

**Professor Rachel Freeman** // UNAM Cares, University of Namibia



This project is implemented under the umbrella of the Finland Africa Platform for Innovation funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland.



UNIVERSITY OF  
EASTERN FINLAND