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Supplement of

**“Everything is scorched by the burning sun”: missionary perspectives
and experiences of 19th- and early 20th-century droughts
in semi-arid central Namibia**

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	Droughts										
	1850-1851	1858-1860	1865-1869	1877-1879	1881-1882	1887-1890	1895-1896	1900-1903	1907-1908	1910-1911	1912-1913
Reported consequences											
Hunger	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Starvation/human deaths	*		*	*		*	*			*	
Barren wasteland		*		*	*	*					*
Grasslands degraded / no grass	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*		*
Trees/bushes bare		*		*							
Trees died				*						*	
Crop failures/no crop yields		*		*				*	*	*	*
Lack of wild foods				*	*	*		*		*	
Livestock deaths ¹		*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
Wells dried up		*		*			*	*	*	*	*
Springs stopped flowing		*	*	*				*	*		
Concomitant phenomena and human responses											
Population dispersal (vacated mission stations) ²	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Low school attendance ³	*			*		*		*	*		
Livestock thefts & social tensions ⁴			*	*	*	*	*			*	
Farms vacated								*			*
Closure of mission stations								*			
Begging for food at stations				*		*		*			
Prayers for rain				*	*		*			*	
Indigenous rain making ⁵			*								
Food aid from the Cape		*									
Fund raising for food aid				*				*			
Colonial/governmental support							*	*			
Collapse of transport system				*			*		*	*	
Search for deeper wells			*	*							
Digging/construction of deeper wells				*				*	*	*	*
Construction of water reservoirs								*		*	

Notes

1. Livestock deaths during droughts between 1895 and 1913 are due to the combined impacts of the cattle plague (Rinderpest) and drought
2. Population dispersal during some drought events was also due to social tensions/war
3. Low school attendance was at times due to the combined factors of drought and social tensions/war
4. Drought variably (directly or indirectly) caused social tensions and theft (i.e. as either a primary or secondary causative factor)
5. Indigenous rain making is only referred to during the 1865-69 drought in our documentary records - this does not imply that the practice was absent during other drought events