

GREEN

VIEWPOINT

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Lot Ndamanomhata
Chief Editor

It is always a great pleasure to pen down my Editor's Note for Green Viewpoint, the official newsletter of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF). The previous edition covered activities from the first quarter of 2022. In this edition, we put forth our activities for the second and third quarters of 2022.

The first quarter of 2022 was quite an incredible one in our quest to carry out our mandate with zeal and utmost commitment, the highest level of integrity, accountability, prudent professionalism, teamwork and transparency. We remain hopeful in our endeavours to ensure the prosperity and sustainable development of the livelihoods of all Namibians.

Like other nations around the world, Namibia is still recovering from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We remain resilient and optimistic as we navigate the prevailing circumstances and adapt to the new way of life.

The year 2022 – declared by His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob to be a year of reimagining – gave us an opportunity to closely look at possibilities and reimagine the new realities of the way we do business, the way we work and the way we connect with others. At the EIF, we are committed to looking at new ways to better our services and

improve our engagement with our stakeholders in light of the current world we live in.

I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to all our staff members for their continuous hard work and sterling performance in the execution of our mandate. I am certain that in the new normal, they will continue to come up with new ways to deliver world-class service.

I have the highest regard for my colleagues in the editorial team, who once again did an impeccable job at putting together yet another informative, educational and insightful edition which covers a series of EIF activities and success stories. Hence, it gives me pleasure to invite our staff, service providers and stakeholders to enjoy the read – and to share it with the nation.

As we complete the 2022/2023 financial year, let it be on a good note. We can look back with pride at our accomplishments and perseverance, while we look ahead to more fulfillment, success and opportunities to transform our country into the version envisioned by our founders.

Have a splendid read.

Lot Ndamanomhata
Chief Editor & Manager:
Corporate Communications

IREMA HOSTS TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON COMMUNITY-BASED EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (EWS) IN KHORIXAS



Participants of the EWS Training

The Kunene Region, situated in the north-western part of Namibia, is one of the regions most vulnerable to and severely affected by climate-related shocks, such as recurrent droughts. Over the past decade, small-scale farmers in the Kunene Region have endured recurrent drought and flood events that have culminated in the loss of their primary livelihoods. Many people in the region depend on livestock farming, community-based natural resource management (conservancy and community forest-related tourism) and the use of biodiversity products to meet their daily needs. The natural resource-based livelihoods are vulnerable to climate change to some extent. Namibia continues to observe the ongoing natural variability and changes in rainfall patterns, which have led to the extreme weather conditions in recent years.

At the opening of the training-of-trainers workshop, EIF Manager for Corporate Communications, Mr. Lot Ndamanomhata, highlighted that “In order to be prepared for looming adversities brought about by climate variability, there is a need to shift from being reactive to becoming more proactive. The development of an early warning system (EWS) tailored to the circumstances of the Kunene

Region will not only assist communities and public institutions in their planning, but will also help to preserve essential financial resources in the long run, thereby protecting the local and national economy. Early warning information empowers people to take action before disasters occur.”

Although it is not possible to predict what effect future climate changes will have, it is of utmost importance to explore and utilise relevant tools that enable the capturing and dissemination of accurate information in order to manage extreme climate risks. A well-functioning early warning system is an adaptive measure for climate change, which uses integrated communication systems to help vulnerable communities to prepare for hazardous climate-related shocks. Such a system comes with wide-ranging benefits, such as saving lives and livelihoods and safeguarding productive land and infrastructure, and supports long-term sustainability. This conforms to the mission of the EIF to promote the sustainable economic development of Namibia through investment in and promotion of activities and projects that protect and maintain the natural and environmental resources of the country.

The EWS will alert communities under threat of an imminent disaster to take proactive steps built on the four EWS components: (i) hazard detection, monitoring and forecasting; (ii) analysis of risks and incorporation of risk information in emergency planning and warnings; (iii) timely dissemination of “authoritative” warnings; and (iv) community planning and preparedness. This will address adaptation needs of small-holder farmers through access to accurate and up-to-date climate information to enhance adaptation responses. The intervention will go a long way towards minimising current steps or procedures undertaken before early warning messages reach the populations at risk.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Charlie Mwaetako, Chief Agricultural Scientific Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform for the Kunene Region, noted that the training presents the opportunity for communities to learn how to implement and maintain an effective EWS, with the objective of strengthening the resilience of local agricultural farming systems for enhanced food and nutrition security in the Kunene Region.

EIF MEETS NAMRA

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia held a consultative meeting with the Namibia Revenue Agency on the matter of environmental taxes. The two entities discussed the coordination of stakeholder engagement and public education on the issue of environmental taxes. The engagement session was graced by the presence of Environmental Commissioner, Mr. Timoteus Mufeti.



Meeting with NAMRA

IREMA HOSTS HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION TRAINING OF TRAINERS

The IREMA project held a training-of-trainers workshop on horticulture production in Khorixas, Kunene Region.



IREMA horticulture production workshop

As the agricultural sector remains central to the lives of a large part of Namibia’s population, agricultural production and a lack of timely access to quality certified seeds and farm machinery/equipment, necessary for effective land preparation, planting, weeding, harvesting and transportation, have hugely impacted the livelihoods of Namibians in general and, more specifically, in the drought-stricken Kunene Region. The training highlighted techniques to reduce vulnerability and improve food security through drought-tolerant crops.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Charlie Mwaetako, Chief Agricultural Scientific Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform in the Kunene Region, welcomed participants to the training and thanked the Environmental Investment Fund and the IREMA project for availing funding for the training of lead farmers. He highlighted that crop production in the Kunene Region is critical as the region is vulnerable to hazards, with poor and vulnerable farmers not having access to the traditional sources of seed of their preferred varieties and not being well acquainted with planting. As such, the training provided a valuable opportunity for farmers to learn and become lead farmers.

Dr. Lydia Ndinelaio Horn, Senior Lecturer and Researcher at the University of Namibia, facilitated the training. She noted that “there is a need to diversify crop production, depending on seasons.” She also alluded to the fact that in order to increase resilience of farming systems to the various natural disasters or human-induced hazards, farmers need to be provided with the opportunity to access seeds of various crops that can perform under the challenging climate conditions experienced in the Kunene Region.

The training aimed to empower farmers with knowledge of horticulture production and to improve their cropping practices. The following sub-topics were covered: The easiest way of growing vegetables, Reasons for owning your garden, Different ways of planting vegetables, Ideal conditions for creating a vegetable garden, Soil management, Insect/pest management, Weed management, Water management, Harvesting, Post-harvest and storage, Grading and packaging, and Marketing of produce.

One of the attending farmers, Mr. Charles Boois, was ecstatic about the training, saying, “I will make sure that I empower surrounding farmers in my area and know that, with my new skills, I can improve my plantation practices and move towards planting seasonal crops, instead of the same crops over and over again.”

The training brought together forty-five farmers from the Sesfontein Constituency and Khorixas District, who were trained as lead farmers capable of training other community members upon completion of the programme. The training also included five extension officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, as the ministry is jointly implementing the IREMA project with the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, which is accredited with the Green Climate Fund.

The farmers who attended the training received agroforestry seedlings and will receive drip irrigation materials to support their horticulture production this year. The training also shared mechanisms and techniques for enhancing crop varieties that produce higher yields after a shorter growth period and encouraged participants to use cowpea to add nitrogen to the soil. This practice will boost soil fertility for

a more sustainable crop yield and reduce the need for nitrogen fertilisers.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Lot Ndamanomhata, EIF Manager of Corporate Communications, thanked all participants, workshop facilitators and stakeholders, and encouraged the lead farmers to ensure that they share the knowledge gained during the two-day training with their communities. He further stated that the farmers should procure goods from each other in order to ensure that the proceeds of their produce remain in their communities, which will not only improve their own livelihoods, but also potentially generate income for other individuals and homesteads.

The training concluded with a demonstration at the garden of Mr. Charles Boois. This practical demonstration gave farmers an opportunity to apply their new knowledge of how to plant seeds in a practical setting, which is vital for lead farmers to be able to effectively teach others.

EIF MEETS UNDP NAMIBIA

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Namibia paid a courtesy visit to the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia team to discuss existing areas of mutual cooperation and possible future engagement in the new year and beyond. EIF and UNDP Namibia have joint strategic partnerships in several projects, including NILALEG and SDGIF.

The meeting took place at the offices of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia.



Meeting with UNDP Namibia

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, through the Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) project small grants facility sent out a call for proposals under the theme “Building resilience of communities living in landscapes threatened under climate change through an ecosystem-based adaptation approach.” The call for proposals encompasses two funding windows, namely (Ecosystems) Restoration and Climate Proofing, and Eco-Enterprise Adaptation Investments.



PLANNING AND REVIEW SESSION – 2022/2023 WORK PLAN AND ANNUAL STRATEGIC STAFF ENGAGEMENT



Annual planning and review session

EIF ROLLS OUT URBAN AGRICULTURE GRANT E-VOUCHER CARD

On 14 March 2022, the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia implemented the Urban Agriculture Grant e-voucher card issuance and terminal roll-out in Windhoek, Khomas Region, one of the four regions identified to benefit from the initiative under the project titled “Strengthening Namibian food systems to recover from emergencies and disease-related shocks through the Build Back Better (BBB) programme.”

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, as a responsible party, launched the urban agriculture concept – Build Back Better (BBB) programme with financial support from the Japanese Government. The e-voucher system terminal was set up in the four participating regions and cards were issued to beneficiaries. The EIF will use the platform to issue grant contracts to beneficiaries. The initiative was implemented in collaboration with the Windhoek Municipality (Khomas Region), Swakopmund Municipality (Erongo Region), Rundu Town Council (Kavango East Region) and the Daweb Constituency in Maltahöhe (Hardap Region).

The programme will support a total of fifty-six beneficiaries, of which thirteen are from Windhoek, thirteen from Swakopmund, seventeen from Rundu and thirteen from the Daweb Constituency in Maltahöhe. To determine the eligibility of applicants, the programme took the following into account: This facility is ring-fenced exclusively for the residents of the above-stated local and regional authority areas; and eligible activities are limited to horticulture, backyard gardening, poultry production, fodder production, agroforestry, orchards, vermicomposting, and smart agricultural concepts (hydroponics, aquaponics, etc.).

The ceremony concluded with the roll-out of the e-voucher system, registration of beneficiaries, issuance of the voucher card and signing

of contracts by identified beneficiaries. The e-voucher system will allow beneficiaries to access goods and services from specific retailers in the various towns to support the successful implementation of their various projects.



Roll-out of the Urban Agriculture Grant E-Voucher Card



OFFICIAL CLOSURE OF SUNREF FACILITY

The Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) and the French development agency, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), officially closed the Sustainable Utilisation of Natural Resources and Energy Financing (SUNREF) Facility. The four-year facility, funded by AFD, consisted of a 45-million-Euro credit line disbursed in Namibian dollars to three local commercial banks, namely Bank Windhoek, First National Bank of Namibia and Nedbank Namibia. The EIF hosted the technical assistance facility for the SUNREF project.

During his welcoming remarks, EIF Executive: Business Strategy and Performance Management, Ms. Aina-Maria Iteta, noted that “Since inception, the aim of the SUNREF Namibia facility was to afford access to affordable green technologies, thereby improving climate-change resilience for Namibian companies, while guaranteeing the development of a low carbon footprint and contributing to the reduction of the causes of climate change and other environmental disturbances in Namibia. It is the verdict of the EIF that this objective has been firmly achieved.”

“We are very proud, as Team France, to have made a significant contribution of €45 million to green finance, climate resilience and an improved self-sufficiency in terms of energy, through the banking system and for the private sector. The SUNREF programme has been a cornerstone of French development activities in Namibia, and the AFD Group subsidiary for the private sector is present to continue this cooperation,” said His Excellency, Mr. Sébastien Minot, Ambassador of France to Namibia.

The Executive Director of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism delivered the keynote address on behalf of Honorable Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. He stated that “the SUNREF programme has been an important driver of our transition towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, and we thank our developmental partner, the French Development



SUNREF closure

Agency for their support.” He thanked the AFD for the realisation of innovative mechanisms to build capacity and resilience to climate change as Namibia transitions towards equitable and sustainable development. In closing, he said, “It leaves me satisfied to know that the mission has been accomplished and that the impact on energy generation and supply from our abundant renewable solar resources has been met.”

The facility benefitted fifteen projects across various industries through the donation of funds as well as rendering of technical assistance.

SUNREF highlights included the following:

- Sustainable tourism industry – **N\$3.8 million** for the installation of a solar power system at Vingerklip Lodge in the Kunene Region
- Sustainable smart agriculture – **N\$10 million** for Avagro in the Erongo Region
- Sustainable renewable energy sector – **N\$111 million** for the construction of a 5-MW solar power plant in Rosh Pinah in the //Kharas Region

During the closing ceremony, renewable energy experts and the participating commercial banks had the opportunity to make presentations. The ceremony was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, a delegation from the European Union, the Ambassador of France to Namibia, AFD personnel, commercial banks that participated under the facility, team members of the Proparco AFD Group subsidiary, EIF staff, and stakeholders from the renewable energy sector.

ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION CONCLUDES NATIONWIDE TRAINING WORKSHOPS

The Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA – SAP006) project held a nationwide training in Keetmanshoop (//Kharas Region), Otjiwarongo (Otjozondjupa Region), Khorixas (Kunene North Region), Opuwo (Kunene East Region), Ondangwa (Oshana Region), Rundu (Kavango East Region) and Katima Mulilo (Zambezi Region).

The Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) project, the first of its kind to be approved in ecosystem restoration, is a project of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism guided by the proposal “Building resilience of communities living in landscapes threatened under climate change through an Ecosystem-based Adaptation approach in Namibia.” The project is implemented by the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia through a Project Management Unit (PMU) and spearheaded by a multi-stakeholder Project Steering Committee (PSC).

The EbA workshops are a testament to the EIF’s and Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism’s commitment to address climate change. They further highlight the two parties’ contribution towards the realisation of Namibia’s obligations to national and international climate change frameworks. The aim of the workshop was to inform Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and participants about the project objectives and to activate participants to identify the most pressing priorities in their respective communities, as well as to familiarise them with technical tools for

planning and climate change related issues.

Project Manager, Mr. Bryan Gaomab, who facilitated the workshops, emphasised the need to develop feasible solutions for addressing known gaps and challenges in the different landscapes. He said that the objectives of the workshop were to increase knowledge of the EbA project and the roles of the different stakeholders, to ensure better understanding of technical terms, to seek community input on adaptation mechanisms, to highlight matters related to environmental and social safeguards and gender mainstreaming, and to introduce the EbA grants and application procedures.

Approved by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) on 28 February 2019, the EbA project is implemented under the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and funded by the GCF through the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia to the tune of U\$8,904,000. The project aims to increase landscape productivity across eight targeted landscapes across Namibia to strengthen social and ecological systems that sustain livelihoods at local levels and facilitate natural resource value chains.

According to the Technical Expert on climate change from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Mr. Johannes Munango, Namibia’s vulnerability to the impacts of climate change stems from the fact that Namibia is one of the driest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Namibia faces problems like water scarcity coupled with the changing climate, making the country more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. “During the vulnerability assessment that we conducted in 2020 for the regions in Namibia, we found that most regions are

The EbA workshops are a testament to our commitment to address climate change

dependant on ecological-based enterprises for their livelihood and are thus more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change,” Munango said. He stated that vulnerability to climate change is region-specific and that the ministry looks at a variety of contributing factors, such as livelihood income per household, including women led households, and services in that region, like school facilities, to determine a region’s specific vulnerability to the impact of climate change.

“We used four indexes to inform our measures of vulnerability. Firstly, there is the exposure index, where we look at the impacts of climate change and how the regions are exposed to those impacts. Secondly, there is the sensitivity index, which determines how that region is sensitive to the impacts of climate change, and thirdly we looked at the adaptive capacity, that is, how the region can cope with the impacts of climate change. Those three indexes in turn inform the last index, which is the national vulnerability index,” he said. Further studies found that regions in the north, in particular to the north-east, are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, because these regions are mostly dependent on rain fed agriculture and rearing of animals as a livelihood, making them more sensitive to the impacts of climate change. In comparison, the drier southern regions are already more adaptive to those conditions, with or without climate change.

The EbA project aims to increase climate change resilience of productive landscapes in Namibia through implementation of Ecosystem-based Adaption actions that strengthen social and ecological systems to sustain livelihoods at local levels and facilitate value chains of natural



Participants of the EbA workshop

resources. The project actions respond to declarations and processes of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which promotes investing in low emission and climate-resilient development with a high impact on local development and community livelihoods, while increasing conservation of the ecosystem. Munango urged the nation to read up on Namibia’s Fifth National Communication found on the UNFCCC website.

The regions of Namibia are clustered into eight landscapes, namely the Southern landscape, Kunene South and Daures landscape, Kunene North landscape, Lower-eastern landscape, North Central landscape, Kavango East and West landscape, Zambezi East and West landscape, and Ovitoto and Otjimbingwe landscape.

In 2015, the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia obtained accreditation from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The GCF is a unique global fund, established within the rubric of the UNFCCC, as a response to climate change for investing in low-emission and climate-resilient development. The accreditation status makes the EIF eligible to access climate change funding from the GCF.

The workshop was attended by Community Based Organisations, chairpersons, treasurers, secretaries, administrators and company representatives who make up the team of facilitators of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, the Namibia Development Trust (NDT), and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

EIF AND MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT SIGN MOU

The Kunene Region in the north-western part of Namibia is one of the regions most vulnerable to climate change and is severely affected by climate-related shocks, such as recurrent droughts. Over the past decade, small-scale farmers in the region have endured recurrent drought and flood events that have culminated in the loss of their primary livelihood. Many people living in the Kunene Region depend on livestock farming, community-based natural resource management (conservancy and community forest-related tourism) and the use of biodiversity products to meet their daily needs. Natural resource-based livelihoods are vulnerable to climate change to some extent. Namibia continues to observe the ongoing natural variability and changes in rainfall patterns, which have resulted in extreme weather conditions in recent years.

In order to mitigate the impact of systemic risks, the development of an early warning system (EWS), which is an adaptive measure for climate change that uses integrated communication systems to help vulnerable communities prepare for hazardous climate-related events, is extremely important. A well-functioning EWS has wide-ranging benefits, such as saving lives, jobs, ecosystems and infrastructure, and supports long-term sustainability. In addition, early warning systems can assist in planning, saving money in the long run and protecting economies. Thus, EWS supports people's livelihoods in a dignified manner.

The Fund, through the IREMA project, which is implemented in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, finalised the development of an EWS for the Kunene Region valued at N\$950,000. Furthermore, through its partnership with MTC, the Fund procured four automated weather stations valued at N\$800,000, which will be installed at the project's anchor project areas, including Warmquelle, Fransfontein, Kamanjab and Bergsig in the Kunene Region.

The EWS is in line with the mission of the EIF to promote the sustainable economic development of Namibia through investment in and promotion of activities and projects that protect and maintain the natural and environmental resources of the country. The EWS will alert communities under threat of an imminent disaster to undertake proactive actions built upon the four EWS components: (i) hazard detection, monitoring and forecasting; (ii) analysis of risks and incorporation of risk information in emergency planning and warnings; (iii) timely dissemination of "authoritative" warnings; and (iv) community planning and preparedness. These components address the adaptation needs of small-holder farmers through access to accurate and up-to-date climate information to enhance adaptation responses. This intervention will greatly minimise current steps or procedures undertaken before early warning messages reach at-risk populations.



Signing of MOU between EIF and Ministry of Works and Transport



The development of an EWS tailored to the Kunene Region will not only assist communities and public institutions in their planning, but will also help preserve essential financial resources in the long run, thereby protecting the local and national economy. Early warning information empowers people to take action prior to disasters.

During the signing ceremony, Mr. Benedict Libanda, EIF Chief Executive Officer, noted that “Today we witness the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding between the Namibia Meteorological Services under the Ministry of Works and Transport (MWT) with the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) to develop an Early Warning System tailored to the needs of the Kunene Region. The MoU seeks to bind collaborative climate information services.” He further stated that early warning systems and action saves money, lives and livelihoods, and supports people in a dignified way. “Therefore, it is extremely important to convert this MoU from a commitment on paper to a reality of making a meaningful impact in the lives of the people we serve,” Libanda said.

Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Works and Transport, under which the Namibia Meteorological Services is a division, Mrs. Esther Kaapanda, Executive Director of the Ministry of Works and Transport, stated that “This ministry, through its Meteorological Service division, plays a fundamental role in the production of an early warning system. As the custodians of climate and weather information interpretation and communication, the role of this ministry in the project is to provide the necessary expertise in terms of information (daily and seasonal forecasts including extreme events) and capacity building.” In conclusion, Kaapanda stated that her ministry is excited to be a part of this project which aims not only to invest in the improvement of an integrated early warning system, but also strengthen public-private cooperation to reduce the detrimental effects of extreme weather events in the region through early detection, warning and action.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Karl Aribeb, EIF Chief Operations Officer, indicated that the MoU presents an opportunity to strengthen the

resilience of local agricultural farming systems for enhanced food and nutrition security in the Kunene Region.



EIF BROADCASTS KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTARIES ON NATIONAL TELEVISION

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia and the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (nbc) collaborated on a third series of the knowledge management exercise. The partnership emerged from a high stakeholder meeting between EIF and nbc management. The main aims of the project are to capture the current status quo of some project activities being implemented under the Green Climate Fund (GCF)-funded projects. The two parties signed an agreement for a three-series, once-off production of twelve episodes of the ‘Green Horizon’ show to be broadcast on nbc. Primarily, the documentation recorded the current production performance and subsequently, after some time, captured the progress that will form part of the ‘before’ and ‘after’ intervention. Knowledge management is crucial for any project implementation and institution, in general.

The Green Horizon show focuses primarily on agricultural, sustainable and environmental matters. Footage was recorded in the Kunene Region at the “Improving rangeland and ecosystem management practices of small-holder farmers under conditions of climate change in Sesfontein, Fransfontein and Warmquelle areas of the Republic of Namibia” (IREMA) project and “Community Based Natural Resources Management – Enhanced Direct Access” (CBNRM-EDA) project.

EIF CELEBRATES 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In celebration of its tenth anniversary, the Fund shared a series of videos highlighting the growth of the Fund and its achievements over the last ten years. The anniversary was celebrated under the theme “10 years of ensuring inclusivity.”

In Video 1, Chief Executive Officer, Benedict Moore Libanda, went down memory lane and shared his personal and professional experience of the past ten years.

In Video 2, Honourable Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, spoke about the EIF journey. The Fund worked parallel with its line ministry from inception in 2011 up until 2021. The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism is responsible for safeguarding and ensuring the sustainable utilisation of resources and tourism development, for maintaining ecological processes, and for the conservation of biological diversity. While the Fund was established with a mandate to be a sustainable source of funding for the development and implementation of environmentally sustainable development projects and programmes in partnership with both public and private sector organisations, it was clear that the institution would complement the efforts of the ministry and government, and not be a substitute for government activities.

Video 3 highlighted the growth of the Fund through a series of visuals.

In Video 4, Mr. Karl Mûdanî Aribeb, Chief Operations Officer, shared his extensive experience in matters relating to sustainable development and his journey since joining the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia in 2013.

In Video 5, Ms. Aina-Maria Iteta shared her extensive knowledge of and experience in the fields of climate change and gender mainstreaming. Since joining the Fund in 2014, she has been vocal about the policy on gender mainstreaming, ensuring that it is widely implemented across the various projects at the Fund. Ms. Iteta also highlighted the importance of

the monitoring and evaluation policy framework, institutional planning, project development, compliance of projects with environmental and social safeguards, corporate governance, agricultural management, and international business.



Benedict Libanda
EIF Chief Executive Officer



Pohamba Shifeta
Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism



Karl Aribeb
EIF Chief Operations Officer

EIF-GCF EXPERIENCE REPORT

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) recently published the EIF-GCF Experience Report to increase awareness of the relationship between the two institutions among stakeholders and other interested parties. The report talks about the EIF's journey with the GCF and the impact of the projects implemented as a result of the partnership.

The report also documents the experiences, lessons and best practices gained along the way, and makes a number of recommendations for other developing country institutions and governments that may be seeking to access climate finance from the GCF. In addition, the report outlines several recommendations for how the GCF could improve support for developing country institutions in their quest to drive sustainable and climate-resilient development.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2022

Celebrated under the theme 'Only One Earth' with a focus on 'Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature'

World Environment Day is celebrated on 5 June every year to encourage people to take action and protect the environment. It was first observed some 50 years ago in Sweden under the slogan "Only One Earth." Five decades later, this slogan holds true, as the earth is still our only home, and as such, we must safeguard its finite resources.

Thus, "Only One Earth" was once again the theme of World Environment Day in 2022. The main commemoration was hosted in Sweden as part of the Stockholm+50 Conference under the theme "A healthy planet for the prosperity of all – Our responsibility, our opportunity" to discuss urgent and bold actions needed to secure a more sustainable future.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on governments to "shift to a circular and regenerative economy," claiming that GDP is no longer a correct way to measure richness in today's world. "We must place true value on the environment and go beyond Gross Domestic Product as a measure of human progress and wellbeing."

Mr. Benedict Moore Libanda, Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia echoed the 2022 theme by highlighting that "Living in harmony with nature is the only choice we have. On this day, let's be reminded that we have only one earth and that nature is at the heart of development and a strong enabler for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, we must do all we can to protect it and live sustainably – because when you take care of nature it takes care of you."

The 1972 Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment states that "Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and wellbeing, and he bears a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations." Responsible citizenry requires rethinking the way we live and consume, as well as the role that each of us can play to protect the environment. Scaling up efforts to sensitise and empower citizens to act and make smart choices is thus vital to this process. This is particularly true for the youth who, due to higher education and increased exposure, for example, through social media, are more sensitive to sustainability issues.



CRAVE AND IREMA PROJECTS HOLD JOINT BOARD MEETING

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia's Green Climate Fund (GCF)-funded "Climate resilient agriculture in three of the vulnerable extreme northern crop-growing regions" (CRAVE) project and the "Improving rangeland and ecosystem management practices of small-holder farmers under conditions of climate change in Sesfontein, Fransfontein, and Warmquelle areas of the Republic of Namibia" (IREMA) Kunene project held their Project Steering Committee (PSC) (Board) meeting on 16 May 2022, in Katima Mulilo, Zambezi Region. The trip was combined with field visits to become familiar with selected project activities on the ground. The aim was to enable PSC members to gain a basic understanding of the project outputs and impact, and to motivate farmers through the presence and interest of PSC members.

The CRAVE project aims to reduce climate vulnerability, and to increase the adaptive capacity and resilience of vulnerable small-scale farming communities in crop producing regions in the extreme north that are threatened by climate variability. The total GCF grant amounts to US\$9.5 million, with the Government of the Republic of Namibia contributing a further US\$500,000 to the project. The project is being executed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) through an agreement with the EIF. The five-year investment covers the implementation period from 2016 to 2022.

The IREMA Kunene project, which also runs over a five-year period, from 2019 to 2024, is exclusively ring-fenced for the drought-stricken Kunene Region. The project aims to reduce the vulnerability of small-holder farmers under climate change conditions by safeguarding natural capital that generates ecosystem services to sustain agricultural production systems. The GCF investment for this project amounts to US\$9.3 million, which was supplemented by a US\$700,000 contribution from the Namibian Government. The MAWLR is responsible for executing the project under an agreement with

the EIF. Some of its notable activities include the development of an early warning system for disaster risk management, solar-retrofitting and rehabilitation of selected boreholes/water points, development of backyard gardens and rehabilitation of the Warmquelle and Khowarib green schemes.



Field visit of Project Steering Committee

As a standard process, the aim of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting is to provide members with a platform to interrogate and discuss issues pertaining to project implementation and to make harmonised decisions for accurate implementation of project activities. Among other things, the PSC deliberated on the sustainability of the two projects beyond their implementation periods, and the challenges inherent in the effective sustainability of the projects beyond completion. The PSC members also discussed the incorporation of the two projects into the MAWLR annual work plan for ease of implementation and execution.

A field excursion was organised for the PSC members to visit several project sites and farmers in the Zambezi Region under the CRAVE project. The delegation visited Mr. Mulyokela's garden, situated approximately 40 km south of Katima Mulilo on the main road to Ngoma Border Post. Mulyokela grows tomatoes on two plots of 0.25 ha each and cabbage on three plots of 0.15 ha each. The nursery houses about 5,000 tomato seedlings and 7,500 cabbage seedlings ready for transplanting. Mulyokela ensures that he is able to produce a constant supply of fresh produce as per his agreements with suppliers, such as Choppies Stores and Shakar.

The delegation also visited Mr. Klemens

Makumbi, whose farm is located in Kopano area, about 3 km north-east of Katima Mulilo on the main road to Wenela Border Post. Crops currently under production are cabbage (0.25 ha), onion (0.1 ha), potato (0.1 ha) and tomato (0.15 ha). Makumbi produces throughout the year, with the types of crops depending on the season. He has agreements with retailers such as Shakar and Pick n Pay.

The last site visited was the Makanga demo plot, located about 70 km west of Katima Mulilo on the main road to Kongola. By the time the PSC members visited the site, harvest had already taken place. However, the members were able to inspect the water source (borehole) at the site.

The farmers expressed gratitude to see high-level officials of the sister projects visiting their sites, and demonstrated their ability and willingness to continue their farming activities beyond the project tenure.

GERMAN GREEN HYDROGEN ENVOY VISITS EIF

Germany's envoy for Green Hydrogen, Mr. Rainer Baake, and Presidential Economic Advisor and Namibia's Green Hydrogen Commissioner, Mr. James Mnyupe, recently paid a courtesy visit to the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia.



Discussions during the visit focused on Namibia's potential to develop Green Hydrogen and ammonia for export to Germany and other parts of the European Union. Baake expressed his country's keen interest to support Namibia's

potential and ambition of developing low-cost renewable energy and its ability to sustainably maximise fiscal revenue from Green Hydrogen.



Mnyupe highlighted that the Government of the Republic of Namibia has flagged Green Hydrogen as a national development priority in the Harambee Prosperity Plan II, and has established the Green Hydrogen Council to position Namibia as a potential global leader in the export of low-cost Green Hydrogen products. He further highlighted that the EIF's capacity in terms of project management and its accreditation and re-accreditation experience with an international entity such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) puts the EIF in a unique position to help mobilise blended financing for the Green Hydrogen economy in Namibia.



Speaking on behalf of the Environmental Investment Fund, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Libanda, gave a brief description of the inception of the Fund, its experience with projects such as the N\$800 million credit line under the SUNREF Namibia project, opportunities that arose through the Fund's GCF-accreditation, its experience with project management and its role in the scaling of a Green Hydrogen economy in Namibia. Libanda noted that the Fund has to date raised N\$1.7 billion from development and multilateral partners for sustainable financing projects in Namibia. In closing, he stated that the EIF is party to the SDG Namibia One Concept, which is mandated to be a one-stop shop for connecting and blending multiple capital sources with green projects in Namibia.

EIF CONDUCTS CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

The EIF customer satisfaction survey conducted in 2022 afforded customers, service providers and key stakeholders the opportunity to indicate their level of satisfaction with the Fund and its services. The survey was designed to identify gaps between customer expectations and actual service delivery, to better understand the needs of the customer, and to inform the Fund's continuous efforts to improve the delivery of its services.

The results of the survey provided tangible and concrete data, which will enable the Fund to devise solutions tailored to the customer's exact needs and to find ways to enhance customer satisfaction. As such, the survey supports the improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations of the Fund.

IREMA KUNENE PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS AND BENEFICIARIES CAPACITATED IN GENDER MAINSTREAMING

From 12 to 15 July 2022, the "Improving rangeland and ecosystem management practices of small-holder farmers under conditions of climate change in Sesfontein, Fransfontein, and Warmquelle areas of the Republic of Namibia" (IREMA) Kunene project conducted a training-of-trainers workshop on gender mainstreaming in Opuwo and Khorixas. The project, funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), is being implemented by the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform. The main aim of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of IREMA staff, key stakeholders and beneficiaries to address gender inequalities in the various project interventions, and to appreciate social inclusion as a strategy required for enhancing effective project implementation.

Gender equality is a cornerstone of effective climate action

In her welcoming remarks, Ms. Mirjam Kaholongo, IREMA National Project Manager, encouraged trainees to openly unpack gender issues affecting them. She said that such information can aid project implementers to identify and address key bottlenecks to gender inequality in order to ensure gender considerations when planning project activities. In addition, she emphasised that gender equality and women's empowerment are cornerstones of effective climate action, making it imperative to enhance understanding

of the vital connections between gender, social equity and climate change.



IREMA Kunene Project stakeholders and beneficiaries

Ms. Kredula Shimwandi, EIF Gender Young Professional and main workshop facilitator, highlighted the Fund’s commitment to promote gender equity and equality between women and men throughout the project implementation period. “The gender policy is imbedded in all policies and programmes of the Fund to integrate the objective of gender equality in policy partnerships, advocacy and dialogue, public engagement and communications in order to address the gender gaps and unequal power relationships that exist,” she said.

According to Gender Expert Dr. Immaculate Mogotsi of the University of Namibia, male and female entitlements, duties and responsibilities are divided along gender lines, with men making most decisions and women being responsible for most of the household chores, yet having limited or no decision-making power within their households and communities. The gender division of labour, coupled with unequal decision-making power and control over household, land and community resources provides men and women with unequal opportunities to adapt to climate change. Mogotsi further stressed that involving both women and men in all processes of climate action is a significant factor in the ability to meet climate challenges. “Teach your boys and girls how to carry out daily activities without discriminating based on gender roles to build resilience and ability to address climate change,” she said.

Mr. Sakeus Shilomboleni, EIF Environmental

and Social Safeguard Officer, closed the workshop by stating that it was an important opportunity to highlight the gender gaps and barriers that exist in the Kunene Region and to inform participants about what is expected of them in terms of gender mainstreaming through the IREMA project. While gender mainstreaming is clearly essential for securing human rights and social justice for both men and women, it also increasingly recognises that incorporating gender perspectives into different areas of development ensures the effective achievement of other social and economic goals. Shilomboleni encouraged the project beneficiaries to become champions of gender mainstreaming upon returning to their respective communities, with continuous guidance from key stakeholders in their localities.

ZAMBEZI FARMERS TAUGHT TO INCREASE CROP SHELF VALUE

The “Climate resilient agriculture in the three vulnerable extreme northern crop-growing regions” (CRAVE) project facilitated a post-harvest handling workshop for farmers in Katima Mulilo in the Zambezi Region. Local farmers often produce too much of the same crop, causing crops to rot and go to waste. The workshop trained farmers in methods to preserve surplus crops for future use. These methods will enable farmers and CRAVE beneficiaries to extend the shelf value of their respective produce.

FUND HOSTS SADC SECRETARIAT DELEGATION ON EU GCCA+ PRET PROJECT IN ZAMBEZI REGION

From 18 to 22 July 2022, the Project Management Unit for the EU GCCA+ “Promotion of renewable energy technologies as a catalyst to improve local communities’ livelihoods in the Zambezi Region of Namibia” project hosted a SADC Secretariat delegation in the Zambezi Region.



SADC Secretariat delegation

As the donor administrator for the project on behalf of the EU GCCA+ programme, the SADC Secretariat undertook the project monitoring and expenditure verification mission to ensure effective project management and quality control. The pivotal mission was conducted in conjunction with the Regional Council Offices in the focal landscapes under the project, namely the Makanga and Muyako Villages.

LAUNCH OF THE CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN IN WINDHOEK

An EIF partnership with City of Windhoek, NamibRe and MTC Namibia

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, together with its partners Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC), Namibia National Reinsurance Corporation (NamibRe) and City of Windhoek, launched the three-month “Windhoek Clean-up Campaign.”

The collaborative campaign, which took place from August to October 2022, was designed to reignite and instill a cleanliness culture in Namibians, to restore Windhoek to its former glory and to reclaim its status as the cleanest city in Africa. Through the campaign, the EIF reaffirmed its message of environmental sustainability by ensuring that the capital city is a leader in terms of cleanliness and by encouraging the use of clean energy sources, restoration and tree planting, creating a clean and healthy environment, improving sanitation, green growth and promoting the use of biodegradable plastic bags. The Fund committed N\$100,000 towards the campaign.



Launch of Windhoek Clean-up Campaign

PARLIAMENTARIANS VISIT TO EIF-FUNDED PROJECTS

Between 7 and 22 August 2022, the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) in collaboration with the parliaments’ Standing Committee on Natural Resources conducted site visits to seventeen projects funded under the EIF, including the “Improving rangeland and ecosystem management practices of small-holder farmers under conditions of climate change in Sesfontein, Fransfontein, and Warmquelle Areas” (IREMA) Kunene project, the “Community Based Natural Resources Management – Enhanced Direct Access” (CBNRM-EDA) project, the “Climate resilient

agriculture in three vulnerable extreme northern crop growing regions” (CRAVE) project, the “Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to Eradicate Poverty” (NILALEG) project, and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism Adaptation Fund project.

As per the mandate of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources, the main aim of the visits was to oversee activities at the selected project sites. The visits included face-to-face meetings with the relevant stakeholders, including the project committees, project beneficiaries, supporting entities, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, traditional authorities, Project Management Unit members and key EIF staff. The field assessments also included engagement with various stakeholders, such as beneficiaries, community members and courtesy visits to regional governors.



Parliamentarian site visits at EIF-funded projects



Parliamentarian site visits at EIF-funded projects



Parliamentarian site visits at EIF-funded projects



Parliamentarian site visits at EIF-funded projects

EIF PUBLISHES CONSERVATION RELIEF, RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY (CRRRF) UPDATE FOR QUARTERS 4 – 8

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism remains committed to addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic within the Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) sector in Namibia. COVID-19 has devastated the global economy in all sectors that contribute to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of many countries. Tourism is the third largest economic sector in Namibia and one on which communal conservancy areas depend. Communal conservancies, community forests and tourism joint venture (JV) partners are custodians of natural resources, particularly the conservation of wildlife within their jurisdictions. At the same time, conservation-related sectors support poverty alleviation in communities. When

Namibia went into its first nationwide COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020, most tourism-related businesses were impacted by international border closures and travel restrictions. As a sector that is directly dependent on the tourism industry, the CBNRM sector needed urgent assistance to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

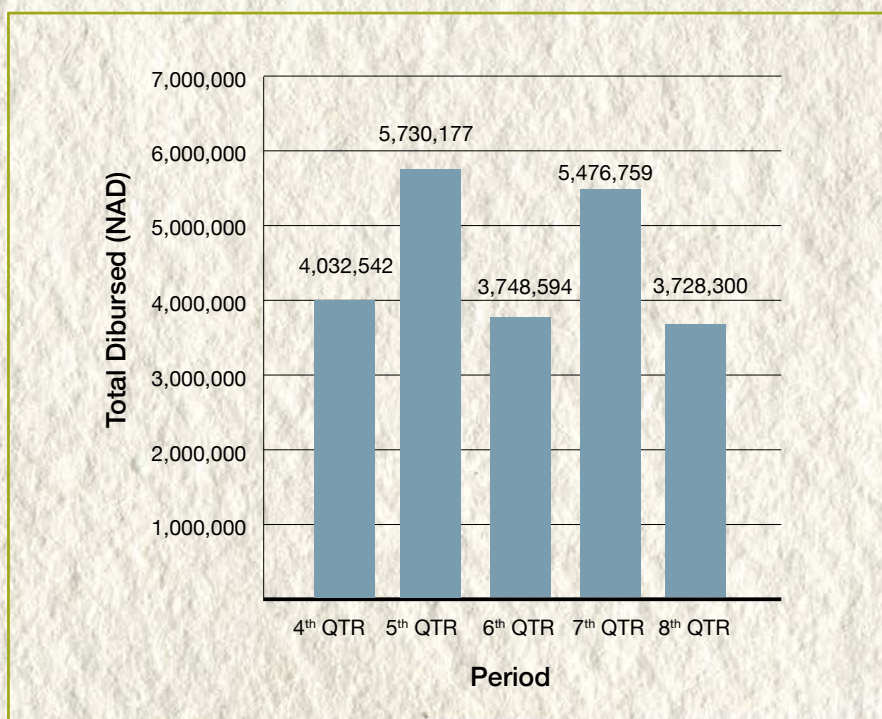
Namibia Chamber of Environment, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), KfW Development Bank, Tourism Supporting Conservation Trust (TOSCO), Nyae Nyae Development Foundation of Namibia (NNDFN) and Laurie.

As a result, the Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, set up the Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF). The goal of the CRRRF is to mobilise and provide financial relief to CBNRM institutions in order to support their operations. The government consulted several local and international development partners to mobilise resources and contribute to the facility, while working closely with organisations within the CBNRM sector for implementation in the communal conservancies and community forests. These partners included the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, the Namibia Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO), the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN), the World Wildlife Fund Namibia (WWF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Nedbank Namibia, Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), B2Gold, Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC),

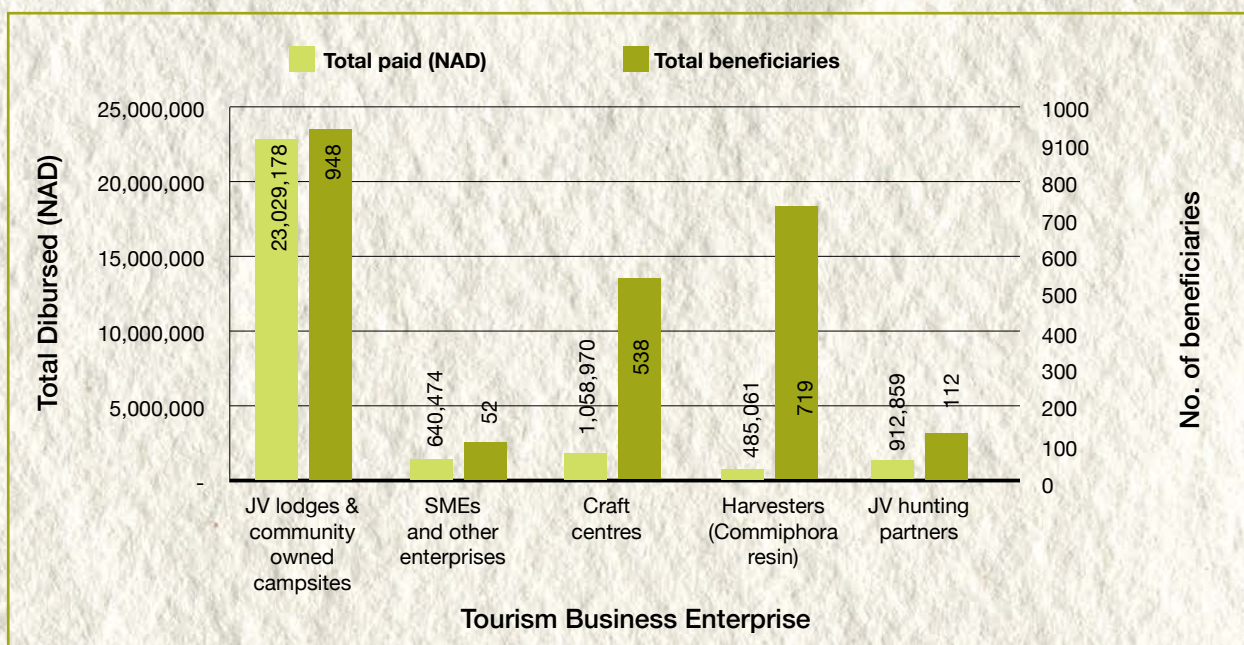
The facility disburses COVID-19 relief grants to conservancies, community forests and tourism business enterprises on a quarterly basis. Over the past five quarters, from February 2021 to April 2022, the facility disbursed over N\$21 million to conservancies and community forests and over N\$26 million to tourism business enterprises in conservancies. Quarterly grant reports submitted by the beneficiaries indicate the impact these grants have had on the operations of these CBNRM entities. Beneficiaries have expressed immense gratitude for the CRRRF initiative and all key players.

“The CRRRF grants assisted our conservancy to continue to operate, monitor wildlife and conduct patrols, and kept all our staff employed during the pandemic.”

Lorna Dax
Former Manager: #Khoadi //hoas Conservancy



Quarterly disbursement of grants to conservancies and community forests



Disbursement of grants to tourism business enterprises

The assistance provided through the CRRRF will facilitate medium- to long-term recovery and resilience of CBNRM entities, and thus enable them to safeguard the environment, secure their

income from tourism and other natural resource-based enterprises that pay for conservation costs and generate livelihood benefits.

Other COVID-19 Mitigation Related Support			
Measures	No. of entities	No. of people	Funds (N\$)
Support to alternative income (Astrotourism research – Nyae Nyae Conservancy)	1	-	48,162.00
Procurement and delivery of COVID-19 PPE to conservancies and community forests (disposable masks, sanitisers, sanitiser stands)	86		
Production and delivery of reusable masks and buffs	50	200,000	5,949,808.43
Construction of the Hobatere Concession Boundary Fence (#Koadi //hoas and Ehi-rovipuka Conservancies)	2	16	1,597,629.00
Construction of predator-proof kraals in Puros and Doro Nawas Conservancies	2	10	73,983.10
Support for implementation of COVID-19 related measures to NASCO secretariat, working groups and field-based NGOs	5	20	8,999,800.00
Total	146	~204,028	16,669,382.53

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Ms. Carol-Lee Pick
Corporate Secretary, Legal Advisor and Compliance Officer



Ms. Margaret Nashandi
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