

# GREEN

VIEWPOINT

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Environmental Investment Fund  
of Namibia | ensuring sustainability



# Table of Contents

01

Editor's  
Note

02

The Green Climate Fund  
(GCF) Secretariat Visits  
Namibia

03

#EIFLeadingLadies

05

EIF Successfully  
Concludes Stakeholders  
Conference and EbA  
Grants Handover  
Ceremony

06

PSC and MAWIR  
Assess Progress of  
Kunene Irema Project

07

Signing of Memorandum  
of Understanding (MoU)  
Between the  
Environmental Investment  
Fund and Erongo RED

09

EIF Successfully Hosts  
the NILALEG National  
PPP Conference on  
Addressing Biodiversity  
Funding Gaps

10

CCBG Meeting on  
Sustainability in the  
Financial System

11

TIDRET  
X Fikile Simposi - Life  
Before Electricity

12

TIDRET – A Dream  
Come True

13

EIF Hosts NAM-  
RS-006 Inception  
Meeting

14

Fond Farewells

14

EIF Participation –  
NBC's Battle of All

15

Collaboration: National  
Clean up Campaign  
Takes Flight

16

New Faces  
at the EIF

17

Promotions  
at the EIF



## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Esteemed Stakeholder,

A warm welcome to both our old and new readers.

This edition offers a range of stories outlining some of our approaches and recent activities. I am however delighted to touch on one such activity. We recently hosted our first stakeholders conference held under the theme "Improving Climate Financing Scale Through Strategic Collaboration."

I have always been of the opinion that "no man is an island", and this event without a doubt highlighted the importance of collaboration and partnership. We saw the offering of new perspectives from our speakers, and shared experiences related to the areas of Namibia's climate change strategy. This also means we further delved deeper into conversations on partnerships and opportunities in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and sustainable developments which are in line with Namibia's Determined Contributions (NDC), the role of public-private partnerships in climate finance and collaboration for development in making Namibia Africa's energy hub - with a focus on the global energy market, carbon markets and Green Hydrogen, to name a few.

This conference provided a helpful structure and raised considerations for stakeholders while also encouraging transparency and accountability, and ensuring consistency in environmental approaches, globally and nationally. It goes without saying that improving the translation of research and

policy would ultimately improve awareness and benefits for the public, increase dissemination of information and possibly create opportunities for funding future projects.

The conference brought together over two hundred and fifty (250) participants drawn from institutions such as international stakeholders who joined virtually, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Development Financial Institutions (DFIs), Namibian public and civic society organisations, donor community representatives, Traditional Authorities, Embassies and Consulates, line ministries, UN representatives from various entities such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), institutions of higher learning, regional governors, regional councils, youth groups, Community Based Organisations (CBOs), woman organisations, commercial banks, research institutions, and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), amongst others.

We look forward to many more fruitful discussions with our stakeholders. This will go down as one of the most notable and highly anticipated events on the EIF's annual calendar. In the same vein, I wish to formally express our gratitude to our partners and employees for their cooperation and teamwork. We look forward to hosting another successful conference in 2024.

Until next time, Cheers!

**Nicole Asino**  
The Editor



**Nicole Asino**  
The Editor



# THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF) SECRETARIAT VISITS NAMIBIA

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Secretariat was in Namibia for a brief visit from 26 June to 6 July 2023. The overall objective of the ad hoc mission to EIF Projects in Namibia was to assess the quality of project implementation of all the EIF approved projects, extract lessons to govern future project implementation and provide recommendations to ensure project results and impacts are achieved.

The secretariat engaged its stakeholders, namely government, civil society organisations, EIF project staff and management, and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) on the implementation of all the Fund's projects, and undertook project site visits and meetings with the project teams, project beneficiaries and other relevant stakeholders. There were numerous interactions with beneficiaries to gain first-hand insight pertaining to engagement, capacity building, access to finance and changes in community level climate change resilience, as well as the adaptation and resilience benefits through all the approved projects. In addition, the delegation also paid a courtesy visit to the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises, and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

The Environment Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) is a direct access entity to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). It was accredited to GCF in decision B.10/06, paragraph (c), in July 2015 and subsequently re-accredited in the year 2021. The EIF is accredited under projects/programme activities of micro size (up to and including USD 10 million).

The EIF has four (4) GCF approved and funded activities (FP023, FP024, SAP001 and SAP006) which are all adaptation projects in drought-stricken rural communities in Namibia. The total approved funding for EIF projects is \$39.1mn (comprising \$37.7mn in GCF financing and \$1.4mn in co-financing). To date, \$30.9 million of the GCF approved funding amount has been disbursed, which represents 79% of approved GCF funds for all EIF projects under implementation. EIF's engagement with GCF also includes 5 approved readiness proposals which are also under implementation. The projects are at different stages of implementation. Although FP024 closed in November 2022, the project will be considered for the mission to review results achieved as well as for the financial close out.

The secretariat travelled to the Ovitoto Communal Area: Ovitoto Conservancy SAP006 approved project: "Strengthening climate change resilience and adaptation of Ovitoto communal conservancy project"; the FP024 field visit: "Ozonahi Conservancy – Ozonahi Bush-Based Animal Feed Production Project"; the ||Huab Conservancy – "||Huab Conservancy Hydroponics"; the Sorris-Sorris Conservancy – "150KW Solar Power Plant with a view to provide clean power and revenue via offtake agreement"; the Otjimboyo Conservancy: Otjimboyo Resilience Project field visits to SAP001 investments, mainly the Fransfontein Community Garden, goat revolving scheme and Belmond rehabilitated waterpoint; and concluded the field visits with SAP006 approved grants at the Omkhaibasen Farmers Cooperative at farm Daweb-West, 40km north of Usakos: "Water & Solar Infrastructure Development & Restocking", and the Otjimbingwe Independent Development Association: "Enhance horticulture produce through new climate-smart technologies to mitigate climate change effects on horticulture produce."

On the mission was an inter-divisional team composed of the following members:

1. Folasade Ayonrinde, Portfolio Management Specialist DPM (PIMM-FA)
2. Ben Vickers, Sector Senior Specialist, Land-use, Forests and Ecosystem, DPM (Sector)
3. Nathaniel Pappoe, Financial Management Specialist, DSS (Finance)

The delegation departed back to South Korea on the 6th of July 2023.



Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Honourable Pohamba Shifeta is flanked by Ben Vickers (L), Folasade Ayonrinde (R) and Nathaniel Pappoe (R).



## #EIFLEADINGLADIES

### **Meet Katrina Ambunda - A force to be reckoned with**

Katrina Ambunda seems to be having a wonderful start to 2023. She first graduated from her Master of Commerce in Development Finance degree from the University of Cape Town in South Africa, and then shortly after that received the Director's Award in the Management Development Programme (MDP) at the Stellenbosch Business School, which translates into being the top student/best performing student of the year.

The Communications Unit at the Fund had the opportunity to pick her brain and get to know this future fierce finance force.

**Q: What is your full name?**

A: Katrina Kathy Kandiwapa Ambunda

**Q: State your birthplace/hometown?**

A: I was born and bred in Omaalala Village, which is situated between Ondangwa and Ongwediva. I relocated to Windhoek at the age of 17 to pursue my studies.

**Q: Which tertiary institution(s) have you attended and state all your qualifications held to date.**

A: My secondary school was completed at Gabriel Taapopi Secondary School in Ongwediva. After that, I went to the Polytechnic of Namibia before it became the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and obtained a Diploma and Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and Finance.

Furthermore, I have a Diploma in Business Management from the Amity University of India, a Master of Commerce in Development Finance degree from the University of Cape Town, and a Management Development Programme certificate from the University of Stellenbosch.

I think it is worth noting that I am also recognised as a Chartered Development Finance Analyst from the Development Finance Institute after registering to be a member.

**Q: What is your biggest life achievement?**

A: As a Finance Manager with a Master's Degree in Finance, my biggest life achievement to date is successfully accounting for over ten projects at a given time due to project management initiatives. We managed to build good relations with our



*Katrina Ambunda shows off her latest accomplishments.*

donors. This achievement not only strengthened EIF but enhanced our relationship with partners in the market. Furthermore, it showcased my ability to apply advanced financial knowledge and analytical skills to real world challenges – my leadership skills played a crucial role in aligning with other team members. Though we faced challenges and complexity with certain projects, we overcame them by engaging our donors and providing solutions which emphasise the long-term benefits of our efforts. This achievement has been a stepping stone in my career growth as a Finance Manager. It reinforced my commitment to continue improving and it inspired me to stay at the forefront of financial management practices. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity and thank my employer, as well as my team members, who all supported me and contributed to where I am now.

**Q: What is your favourite pastime?**

A: I must admit that I am really invested in self-development and, to an extent, consider myself a workaholic. But when I am not working, I try cooking new recipes and reading inspirational books. I also love reading my Bible and learning new dance moves.

**Q: When did you join the EIF?**

A: I joined the Fund in April 2016.

**Q: What are all the positions you have held at the Fund since starting?**

A: When I started at the Fund, it was as an Assistant Project Accountant, and then, when the Project Accountant position was advertised, I applied and went through the interview process to attain the role. After that, I moved up to Manager: Finance and Administration, which is the role I hold now. In addition, I also previously served as a Shop Steward for a period of two years.



## #EIFLEADINGLADIES (CONTINUED)

**Q: What is the most challenging aspect of your role and how do you deal with these challenges?**

A: Dealing with diversity means you are dealing with different people from different environments, backgrounds and characters. It is a challenging one.

One must find a way to deal with everyone uniquely. So, I try to read books that help enhance my knowledge on leadership. And, additionally, I just pray and ask God to help me in taking action.

**Q: How has the EIF contributed to the attainment of your personal growth or development?**

A: In my time with EIF, I have found support and opportunities that have significantly contributed to my growth and development goals. The Fund has fostered the kind of environment that encourages continued learning, collaboration and personal achievement. First and foremost, the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Benedict Libanda, has played a crucial role in my developmental journey. He has taken a keen interest in my studies. The EIF has also invested financially in my Masters – they even took it a step further by supporting me in pursuing the Management Development Programme, which has been instrumental in boosting my confidence and expertise. I am grateful for the experience and resources provided by the EIF as this has played a significant role in shaping my professional journey.

**Q: Why did you choose the field that you are in?**

A: I have loved accounting since junior grade. In grade 8, I was awarded as the overall top performer in accounting, within the entire school. My interest in accounting just grew over the years. This field also developed my thought capacity, because you really must think a lot. It was my calling. It also enhanced my analytical skills. It is almost like accounting chose me.

**Q: What do you love most about your job?**

A: It can be personally fulfilling when I see my team members succeed and grow. Even though my role can be very demanding, it keeps me focused as an individual. Additionally, my job gives me an opportunity to meet different experts who have contributed to my knowledge.

**Q: What is your five-year plan?**

A: First, it would be to strengthen relationships with my key stakeholders, do more professional networking and spend time with a financial community to exchange knowledge. I also want to share my experiences and stay connected with financial peers.

Secondly, I plan on having an established financial organisation that will contribute to a global agenda such as the Sustainable Development Goal number eight (8) which promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. So, this institution will also contribute to employment creation in Namibia.

Another one would be to open a foundation that is focused on youth mentorship programmes and aimed at assisting the most underprivileged to complete their studies. I personally feel that there are youth out there who lack direction and guidance, and this mentorship programme will assist them with making informed decisions and guiding them for the future.

**Q: Which person(s) has largely contributed to your life's successes?**

A: My dearest lovely mother. I am getting emotional just speaking on this. My mom has really been so supportive. Life has sent me rocks and bricks; however, I am grateful to have a supportive and prayerful mother. Even during times when I feel discouraged, she would say let's wake up and pray my daughter. That's how my mom is. She has really been the greatest and showed her unwavering support throughout my journey.



## EIF SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE AND EbA GRANTS HANDOVER CEREMONY

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia successfully hosted its Stakeholder Conference on 25 July 2023. The conference was held under the theme “Improving Climate Financing Scale Through Strategic Collaboration.” The hosting of the conference was to inform, engage and source inputs from its stakeholders, beneficiaries and partners with regards to its mandate, targeted interventions and new areas for possible engagement. The conference was drawn on the historical background of the Fund, what it has done up to this date, and the shared lessons, opportunities and outcomes of its just-ended 2018-2022 strategic plan in terms

of interventions in ensuring sustainability. The stakeholder engagement in climate finance was imperative for fostering cooperation, achieving meaningful impact and accelerating progress towards a more sustainable and climate-resilient future. By involving stakeholders, climate finance strategies can be fine-tuned and better aligned with local needs and priorities. This will lead to more targeted and impactful investments, as projects are designed with a deep understanding of the specific challenges, and opportunities, faced by communities.



Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Karl Aribeb, addresses attendees at the Stakeholder Conference.



Left to right: EIF Board Chairperson, Mr. Titus Ndove; Deputy Minister of Finance, Ms. Maureen Hinda-Mbuende; project beneficiaries; Hon. Pohamba Shifeta, MEFT; and EIF CEO, Mr. Benedict Moore Libanda



Grant recipients of the EbA project from the Khowarib Small Stock Association receive their grant to the tune of N\$2,500,000.



# PSC AND MAWLR ASSESS PROGRESS OF KUNENE IREMA PROJECT

Members of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia Project Steering Committee (PSC) - representing the project for improving rangeland and the ecosystem management practices of smallholder farmers under conditions of climate change in Sesfontein, Fransfontein and Warmquelle (IREMA), and the Climate Resilient Agriculture in three of the Vulnerable Extreme northern crop-growing regions (CRAVE) project - as well as senior leadership from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), began a three-day mission to familiarise themselves with the progress of the Kunene IREMA project interventions.

On the first day, the team visited the Fransfontein Community Garden, a small stock revolving fund beneficiary and rehabilitated borehole at Springbokvlakte. On the second day, the group adapted themselves specifically to learn about the project at the Sesfontein Community Garden, Warmquelle and Khowarib Green Schemes. On the third day, the delegation proceeded with an engagement meeting with the Honourable Marius Sheya, Governor to the Kunene Region. The group engaged on the various impacts of the project interventions and opportunities for further cooperation. The visit also served as an opportunity to engage with beneficiaries and assess the project impact thus far.





## SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENT FUND AND ERONGO RED

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) and Erongo Regional Electricity Distributor Company (Pty) Ltd. (Erongo RED) electrified thirty-two (32) homes on Thursday, 31 August 2023.

The MoU was signed by the Chief Executive Officer of Erongo RED, Mr. Immanuel !Hanabeb and Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Karl Aribeb of the EIF, on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Benedict Libanda. The MoU is a formal commitment towards complementing each other's duties and functions pertaining to the solar electrification drive across three (3) earmarked windows to provide identified communities in the Otjozondjupa, Kunene and Erongo regions with concessionally funded solar installations, along with mentoring, capacity building and technical development training to MSME owners in the regions.

“It is a reality that post-independence, a significant portion of the Namibian rural and peri-urban population still does not have access to modern energy technologies and services. The existing supply of electricity cannot cover its demand, especially in times of a changing climate and increasing requirements for clean and sustainable energy solutions. Meeting this increasing demand, particularly in vulnerable rural communities and peri-urban (informal) settlements, is presenting a challenge because sustainable economic development and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 (access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all) is only possible if sufficient energy is available. Due to the increasing urgency of preventing and mitigating the impacts of climate change, the Paris Climate Agreement and SDG 13 (action to combat climate change and its impacts) require,

in addition, that economic growth and sustainable development be powered by renewable energy, which also takes into consideration the needs for an inclusive and equitable development and access to energy,” said the Governor of the Erongo Region, Neville Andre Itope.

He further added that through this initiative, an electrification benchmark of up to 300 households and five (5) SMEs will be achieved. “We will establish a working concept for the installation and supply chain function that speaks to current market needs. This collaboration will develop an alternative financing model that addresses a gap in the renewable energy financing segment, such as developing and applying funding models, like concessional loans or results-based funding/development, in particular targeting women-led, vulnerable households,” said the Governor.

“The electrification drive further targeted individual households within the identified communities, of which 50% are women-led households and MSMEs looking to pilot and scale their inclusive business models. Solutions are enterprises that include low-income people as customers, owners, employees, producers and entrepreneurs at various points within the value chain” said Aribeb. The community identified under Erongo RED for the TIDRET rural electrification component were the Shack Dwellers Community Houses in Swakopmund in the Erongo Region. Aribeb said that the homeowners are low-income working individuals who cannot afford to purchase supply equipment to connect to the grid due to the costly pricing of electrical installations.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) identified priority communities for electrification via extensive stakeholder engagement and recommendations from



## SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENT FUND AND ERONGO RED (CONTINUED)

the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development – the custodians for development in rural and peri-urban Namibia – as well as the respective regional energy distributors. The criteria used to affirm recommendations were the proximity of the said areas from the grid and the demographics of said communities.

The MoU coverage is further focused on strengthening efforts for joint advocacy supporting the achievement of the ambitious targets under the NDC and green economy agenda, which will directly tackle the several systematic barriers that have been identified in terms of the NDC implementation, including addressing the gaps in implementing NDCs. It also includes institutional, human and technical capacity, inadequate financial resources, the need for stronger stakeholder engagement to address the challenge of lack of access to electricity in rural and peri-urban areas, and specifically the need to investigate innovative financing and support mechanisms for the electrification of these areas. Aribeb said that although much progress has been made, it remains a reality that more work needs to be done and called on other stakeholders to work together to share developmental ambitions and national progress.

The signing ceremony took place in Mondesa, Swakopmund and was attended by Swakopmund council representatives; Ministry of Mines and Energy representatives; the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism; the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) representatives; and European Union team members, with performing acts by the DRC community members and the Swakopmund Acapella Youth Group.



Chief Operations Officer Mr. Karl Aribeb delivers the speech on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Benedict Moore Libanda, at the ceremony.



Chief Executive Officer of Erongo RED, Mr. Immanuel !Hanabeb, and Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Karl Aribeb of the EIF, seal the deal.



The Governor of the Erongo Region, Hon. Neville Andre Itope (centre), poses for a group picture after the signing of the MoU.



# EIF SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS THE NILALEG NATIONAL PPP CONFERENCE ON ADDRESSING BIODIVERSITY FUNDING GAPS

The Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to Eradicate Poverty (NILALEG) Project hosted the national Public Private Partnership conference on Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) Funding based on gaps and opportunities, and aimed at maximizing the economic potential of scaling up integrated landscape management and nature-based enterprises in the country. The overall objective of the conference was to explore potential ways to enhance access to finance, technical assistance and market information to pilot and scale up the integrated landscape management approach and sustainable enterprises. The conference further sought to strengthen institutional coordination and governance mechanisms for integrated landscape management, addressing sustainable financing to drive green economic growth and socio-economic development in Namibia.

The challenge rests in insufficient investment, both public and private, for scaling up integrated landscape management approaches due to risks and land tenure insecurity. To overcome this, the conference pursued to harness the potential of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) as a collaborative force for achieving sustainable development. The conference is part of the NILALEG project's activities to promote sustainable finance mechanisms for integrated landscape management and bring together various stakeholders to develop a shared consensus for the implementation of Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) strategies for addressing biodiversity funding gaps, creating a landscape investment platform, and addressing obstacles to private sector investment in biodiversity value chains and green businesses. The conference was officiated by Hon. Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

In his address, Shifeta highlighted that “Namibia’s rich natural heritage is at the heart of our identity, but it is also an invaluable resource that, if managed wisely, can lead to prosperity for all. The NILALEG Project’s mission is to reduce poverty, protect our forests, and promote sustainable nature-based livelihoods, which aligns perfectly with our vision for a more resilient and thriving Namibia.”

Shifeta further conveyed that “this gathering is not just a conference; it is a testament to our shared commitment to the sustainable future of Namibia’s landscapes, its people and its biodiversity. The NILALEG Project, which we proudly support, embodies the spirit of integrated landscape management—a holistic approach that recognises the interdependence of nature, communities and economic development.”

The conference brought together sector actors from government, the private sector, technical specialists, civic society and commercial banks, to develop a shared consensus for coherent implementation of the ILM initiatives in the state and regional forests. The conference theme was based on discussions around Forging Collaborative Capitalisation Strategies, De-risking Nature-Based Investments and Leveraging Integrated Landscape Management.

The conference recommendations were strong on the creation of a forum for dialogue and collaboration between different stakeholders, and to identify actionable strategies for integrated landscape management that can be implemented at different levels. A generated report from the conference will be shared with key decision-makers and stakeholders to inform policy and practice.

The NILALEG PPP was held under the theme “Fostering Prosperity Through Public-Private Collaboration: Pioneering the Integrated Landscape Financing Approach” and enfolded our shared commitment to leaving no one behind, a principle deeply woven into our national ethos.

The NILALEG National Public Private Partnership (PPP) Conference on Addressing Biodiversity Funding Gaps was held on 5 September 2023.





## CCBG MEETING ON SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Our CEO, Benedict Moore Libanda, was a panel member at the Committee of Central Bank Governors (CCBG) meeting held in Swakopmund on 8 September 2023. His talk was centred around the critical theme of 'Sustainability in the Financial System'. The discussion further

held details about EIF Namibia's progress in green financing in Namibia, its outlook and how central banks can support such approaches. This was broadcast live on the Bank of Namibia Facebook and Instagram platforms.



The poster features a circular portrait of Mr. Benedict Libanda on the left. To the right, the text reads: 'OPENING SESSION SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM'. Below this, it identifies him as 'Mr Benedict Libanda, Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia'. The event details are 'DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2023' and 'TIME: 09:00'. At the bottom, it says 'Watch live on the following platforms:' with icons for Facebook and Instagram. Logos for the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia and the Bank of Namibia are also present. The background includes a map of Namibia with images of a city, a construction site, and hands planting a tree.


**57<sup>TH</sup> CCBG**  
Committee of Central Bank Governors Meeting


**OPENING SESSION**  
**SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM**


**Mr Benedict Libanda**  
Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia

DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2023  
TIME: 09:00

Watch live on the following platforms:  

 Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia | ensuring sustainability

 Bank of Namibia





## TIDRET X FIKILE SIMPOSI LIFE BEFORE ELECTRICITY

Fikile Simposi will never forget the day she was told she would be receiving electricity from the TIDRET project.

This life-changing event brought endless joy to the community but more so to her family of two. Until recently, Simposi was a housewife, but everything seems to be going in her favour lately as she will be starting a new job soon. “God has not forgotten me. I have been staying in the Federation’s house without electricity for two years, and now we finally have electricity. And I start a new job in the coming days. No words can explain the joy in my heart.”

Days and nights were long without electricity she said. They would use other people’s fridges to store meat, and go elsewhere to charge mobile phones and do laundry, which didn’t come cheap. Normally she would pay N\$100 for a batch of laundry and N\$2 to charge her mobile phone, which has a battery life of about 2- 3 days. “I am extremely happy that I can now use my own fridge, do my laundry and charge my phone. I can now say that I have everything at home” said Simposi.

Life before electricity also meant that when her house would run out of gas, they would have to make a fire outside. “In Swakopmund, it is hard because firewood is hard to come by, so we had to opt for pallets, but getting hold of that was also a struggle, or we needed to fork out more money to buy wood,” she proclaimed. “So my husband is very happy about this change too.”

Further expressing herself, she said they no longer need to look for matches to light a candle when they wake up. Now it is just a click of a button and there is light. “Also, gone are the days I do laundry with my hands which brought me blisters and bleeding hands. My hands can rest now” she stated.

Fikile said that they are equally excited for the next batch of people who are yet to receive electricity. She urges them not to give up hope and reminds them of how long they waited for the houses. “We waited for 17 years for these houses, until we finally got them. Just be patient. It will come.” When asked if she had a message for the implementing partners, Fikile said: “To the partners who made this possible, thank you for all your efforts and to Erongo RED who allowed the TIDRET project to put electricity for us.”

The TIDRET Project is an initiative lead by the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) under the European Union’s Climate Change and Inclusive Use of Natural Resources Project (CCIU-EU) of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), administered through the GIZ.





## TIDRET – A DREAM COME TRUE

The 'Towards an Inclusive Design of the Renewable Energy Transition' (TIDRET) project recently launched an electrification campaign that benefited thirty-two (32) households, in collaboration with Erongo RED.

The community identified under Erongo RED for the TIDRET rural electrification component were the Shack Dwellers Community Houses in Swakopmund in the Erongo Region. One such recipient was Ms. Iilonna !Hoa-khaos.

Ms. !Hoa-khaos is a single mother who works as a front desk reservations officer at a hotel in Swakopmund. She moved into her house in December 2022 and has been without electricity since. Managing her day-to-day housing exercises meant that she had to use a gas stove and a gas geyser for hot water, solar lights, and she had to charge devices at her mother's house. But one of the most challenging encounters was being fridge-less.

Upon hearing that she was selected as a beneficiary of the TIDRET project, her immediate response was "Thank God; finally it has happened." She further said: "This will change a lot of things for me and my son. He will be able to sit up late and study. We no longer have to chase the daylight or the sun or worry about candlelit nights." Among other personal struggles, she looks forward to being able to cook on the stove again. She added that gas tends to damage pots very easily. "My son is equally as excited as I am by this new progress. He is happy that the lights are on and that we no longer have to worry about charging anymore," said !Hoa-khaos.

The areas visited in Swakopmund were thirty-two (32) Shack Dwellers Foundation homes in Olutweni, located in the Northern part of Swakopmund, which are distributed and built as per Municipal town plans and regulations. The Shack Dwellers Association houses located in Olutweni are permanent structures. The owners of these homes are low-income working individuals and, due to circumstances and costly pricing of electrical installations, cannot afford to purchase supply equipment to connect to the grid. The owners

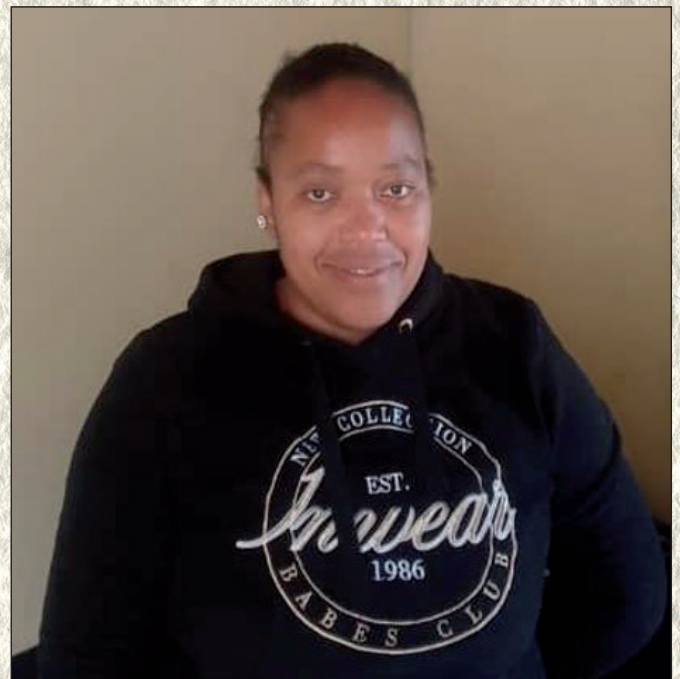
of these homes have deeds of ownership or are legally registered with the Municipality as owners of these erven.

As for !Hoa-khaos's message to the stakeholder that made this dream a reality, "I just want to say thank you. It may seem small to extend a mere thank you, but thank you, we do appreciate it. Thank you to everyone who was involved".

The electrification drive further targeted individual households within the identified communities, of which 50% were women-headed households and MSMEs.

The drive is a partnership between the TIDRET Project component serving as project administrator and financier, and the respective Regional Energy Distributors (REDs) assuming ultimate project ownership whilst further providing technical expertise.

The TIDRET Project is an initiative led by the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) under the European Union's Climate Change and Inclusive Use of Natural Resources Project (CCIU-EU) of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), administered through the GIZ.





## EIF HOSTS NAM-RS-006 INCEPTION MEETING

The support for Accreditation of Direct Access Entities in Namibia programme on 7 September 2023 was led by the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia as the implementing entity. The programme is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to the tune of USD 326,542.

The one-day meeting's objective was to create awareness on the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, while communicating the implementation arrangements and familiarising stakeholders with the project's objectives, intended activities and governance. It also served as a platform for the relevant stakeholder's analysis and for them to provide inputs on the envisaged approach. The meeting further sought to strengthen institutional coordination.

The Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme is funded by the GCF with an objective to increase countries' entities access to climate finance for funding of its NDC ambitions. In Namibia, this is achievable through strengthening capacities of local institutions that can serve as Direct Access Entities (DAEs) for the Green Climate Fund and enhancing country ownership. As such, national institutions, namely the Agricultural Bank of Namibia (Agribank), Development Bank of Namibia (DBN), Bank Windhoek (BW) and Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) were nominated for accreditation as DAEs by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, with its aim to serve as a Delivery Partner (DP). All the nominated entities are at varying stages of readiness mainly due to differing institutional capacities.

The rationale for nominating the four (4) DAEs was to assist as many Namibian entities accredited by the GCF as possible, and enhance the potential of accessing financing for investment in larger climate change infrastructure investments such as renewable energy and resilient infrastructures. This programme is also intended to increase private sector visibility in climate change financing and, as such, if accredited, Bank Windhoek would potentially access funds from the GCF's Private Sector Facility for on-lending purposes, while Agribank would potentially access funds for on-lending too, but with a focus on the agricultural sector. The Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), one of the oldest environmental NGOs in Namibia, would take up access to fund ecosystem management-related projects. EIF will provide the support to the Executing Entity through the implementation duration, which is expected to last for at least 18 months.

The workshop was attended by government officials, EIF representatives and officials of the nominated entities for accreditation. Presentations at the inception meeting ranged from an overview of the Green Climate Fund, NDA's role in Readiness Programmes, and an introduction of the Readiness Programme, Logical Framework & Implementation arrangements, workplan, budget plan, procurement plan and procedures.



## FOND FAREWELLS

The team hosted a farewell party for former colleagues, Joseph Elagon, who held the position of Procurement Officer, and Victor Muyoba, who

was the Human Resource Practitioner. We wish Joseph and Victor the best of luck in their future endeavours and all the best for what lies ahead.



*Bernadette Shalumbu-Shivute, Manager of Programmes and Programming, hands over a certificate of appreciation to Joseph Elagon.*



*Victor Muyoba received his certificate of appreciation from the Manager of Finance and Administration, Katrina Ambunda (left) and Bernadette Shalumbu-Shivute, Manager of Programmes and Programming.*

## EIF PARTICIPATION – NBC’S BATTLE OF ALL

Team EIF showed up with guts and glory on 2 September at the Eros Primary School sports field for the NBC Battle of All. The team participated in volleyball, soccer and tug-of-war. Although there

were no wins for the team, spirits were high. This is the second time the team has participated in the tournament.



*This is the second time Team EIF has participated in the NBC Battle for All tournament.*



*The Team EIF soccer squad deliberates before their first match of the day.*



## COLLABORATION: NATIONAL CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN TAKES FLIGHT

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, together with its developmental partners, hosted the official opening of the National Clean Up Campaign on 16 September 2023 at Ombika, Okaukuejo, Etosha National Park.

The campaign was held in line with World Clean Up Day, which is an annual, global voluntary event that was adopted by almost all nations around the globe. It brings together governments, organisations and individuals to tackle the global waste challenge and build a sustainable world. The campaign was aimed at raising awareness of all types of environmental waste crises by mobilizing everyone to participate in clean up actions and find solutions to tackle waste mismanagement.

Namibia is a responsible nation and has a mandate to protect the environment. In 2018, the president of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, launched and nationalised the Clean Up Campaign under the theme **“Namibia, Healthy and Clean.”** The initiative involves a myriad of stakeholders, including everyone from the army to the police and all citizens across the country, who come together in the spirit of Harambee, with a clear and common objective: a Clean and Healthy Namibian House. His Excellency encouraged every Namibian to keep their surroundings clean in their villages, towns and cities. Since 2018, the National Clean Up Campaign has become an ongoing event in Namibia each year, spearheaded by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

During his statement, Hon. Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, said “My hope is that the youth of today will show

up in numbers because they are the future leaders of the land and inheritors of the environment.”

Namibia commemorated National Clean Up Day under the theme **“Namibia, Healthy and Clean.”** The campaign launch saw the official handover of waste collection materials to the Etosha National Park and participants who attended.

The National Clean Up Campaign was proudly sponsored by the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, GIZ, European Union, EduVentures, Rent-A-Drum and the Recycle Forum of Namibia.



*Hon. Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, officiating at the National Clean Up Campaign*



## NEW FACES AT THE EIF



**Alma Munalula**  
Personal Assistant to the  
Chief Financial Officer



**Vicky Gawases**  
Young Professional  
Intern and Personal  
Assistant to the Chief  
Operations Officer



**Delphina Finicky  
Sakupaula**  
GEF SGP  
Communications Intern



**Treasure Kahitu**  
EIF Project Accountant –  
NILALEG



**Anitha Malobela**  
Project Accountant:  
TIDRET Project & Game  
Products Trust Fund



**Tjingeje Tjipueja**  
Young Professional  
assigned to the Executive  
of Business Strategy  
and Performance  
Management



**Martha Ndove**  
GPTF Finance and  
Administration Manager



## PROMOTIONS AT THE EIF



**Yvette Hausiku**  
Business Development and Portfolio  
Management Officer  
(from Business Development Officer)



**Waltraud Uises**  
Human Resource Practitioner (from  
Human Resource Intern)



**Kgomotso Mokgatlé**  
TIDRET Project Support Officer  
(from Young Professional)



**Salome Naivela**  
Project Coordinator, GCF Readiness  
Programme (from Young Professional,  
NILALEG Project)



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