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# Green Viewpoint

Official newsletter of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia

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Adapt or Die!

*“It is not the most intellectual of the species that survives; it is not the strongest that survives; but the species that survives is the one that is able to adapt to and to adjust best to the changing environment in which it finds itself” – Charles Darwin*

The concepts of natural selection and survival of the fittest though confirmed periodically over the thousands of years of evolution; has never sounded more sincere than in the last quarter century. The world is at the cusps of a changing climate whose adverse impacts threaten the many biological processes that life on earth depends on. Science has taught us that the ability to adapt to changes in the environment has determined the survival of plant and animal species on the planet.

With the continent facing what is termed the worst drought in 30 years, Namibia with its arid nature has its own fascinating adaptation stories. The iconic Camelthorn tree and Welwitschia mirabilis for example have the adaptive ability to grow very deep roots to tap ground water. While some plants have wax-coated leaves to conserve water and minimize water loss others are extremely slow growing, stopping any growth during periods of high temperatures.

Perhaps one of the more notable adaptation stories can be credited to the Oryx (Gemsbok), whose anatomy is specifically geared towards living in arid conditions. It is understood that the animal hardly sweats and regulates its body temperature through nasal panting. Remarkable!

At the Fund, concerted efforts are underway to develop bankable proposals to the Green Climate Fund for the financing of projects dealing with building resilience in heavily affected sectors such as agriculture, energy, water and fisheries. We have also approved projects in the areas of natural resource management and climate adaptation bringing the Fund's total investment close to the N\$ 7 million mark for the year.

Throughout this edition, we introduce you to some thriving green enterprises financed through grants and green concessional loans. Our adaptation strategy at EIF also takes shape in the changes we have made at the Fund in response to financial resource scarcity and competing national priorities – where we chose to rather make lemonade. These additions to the EIF team are featured on page 8.

Choose your adaptation strategy wisely – we have chosen ours!

Grants update

*Catalysts for development and livelihood diversification*

The rapidly escalating and sustained complexity of the challenges pertaining to environmental sustainability have generated an increased level of demand for the financial and technical support provided by the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia.

Over the 1st half of the year the Fund approved over N\$ 1.6 million in grants to 4 projects, and over N\$ 5 million in loans.



Project Name	Location	Approval dates	Total approved budget (N\$)	Focal Area
<b>Grants</b>				
Sustainable land management through debushing of heavily bush encroached land for crop and livestock production on Farm Dempsy	Farm Dempsy (Kunene)	22 Feb. 2016	500,000.00	Natural Resource Management & utilization
Sustainable agricultural practices at Villa-Vandú Community gardening project	Kunene	22 Feb. 2016	320,000.00	Natural Resource Management & utilization
Sustainable agriculture including water and soil conservation at Ehomba Gardening Project	Ehomba Village (Opuwo, Kunene)	22. Feb. 2016	440,978.78	Natural Resource Management & utilization
Reintroduction of Marama Bean for food security and prevention of land degradation	Otjimati, Epukiro (Omaheke)	22 Feb. 2016	350,000.00	Natural Resource Management & utilization
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,610,978.78</b>	

Project Name	Location	Approval dates	Total approved budget (N\$)	Focal Area
<b>Loans</b>				
Animal Fodder production through the aereoponic system	Ondangwa Farmers Market (Oshana)	22 Feb. 2016	1,380,250.00	Green Technology promotion
Reduce the volume of solid waste at municipal land fills through recycling at 3 major Namibian towns	Swakopmund, Walvis Bay & Ondangwa (Erongo & Oshana)	22 Feb. 2016	4,000,000.00	Green Technology promotion
<b>Total</b>			<b>5,380,250.00</b>	



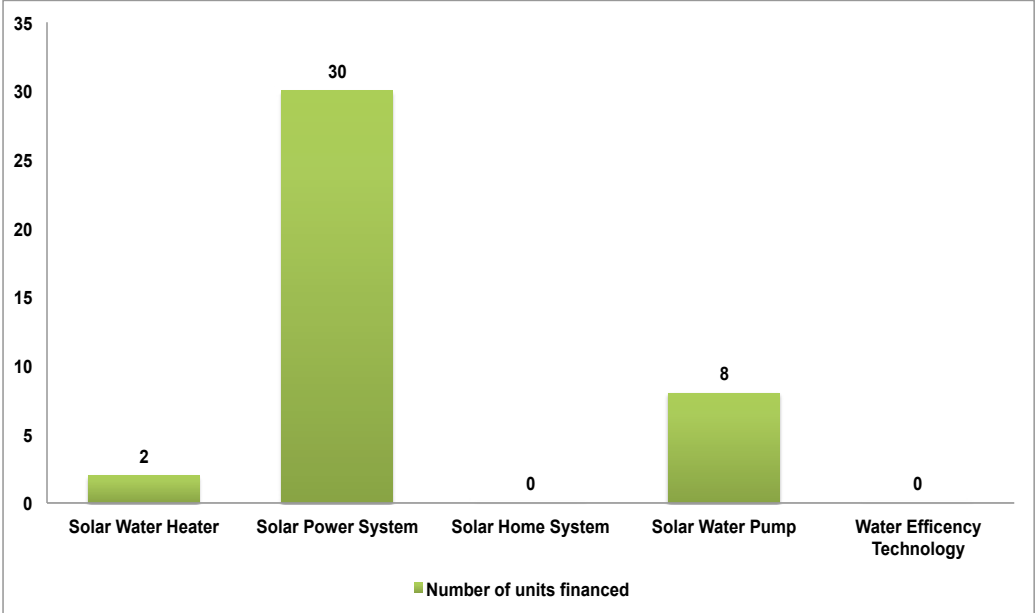
Green Soft Loans

*Promoting clean energy production at household level*

The Green Soft Loan scheme, administered in collaboration with the SME Bank, provides a subsidized lending facility for households, farmers and individuals to gain credit to acquire energy and water efficiency technology. The soft lending scheme makes it possible for qualifying

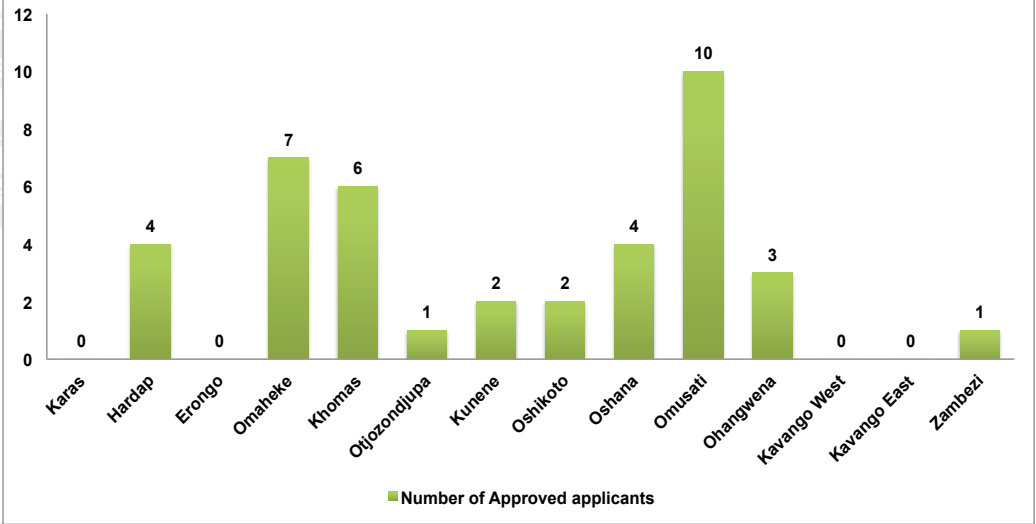
individuals to obtain loans to purchase and install renewable energy technologies such as solar home systems, energy efficient technologies, solar water heaters, solar water pumps, LPG gas devices, and conversions for vehicles to LPG systems.

Between December 2015 and July 2016, loans valued at more than N\$ 1,2 million were approved bringing the total number of current loans to 160.



Renewable technologies

During the first half of the year, 75% of the approvals were made for the purchase and installation of Solar Power Systems.



Regional distribution

Omusati Region recorded the highest number of approvals (40%), followed by Omaheke and Khomas Regions.





“On one end you have a clean environment and on the other you make money ...”

## Finding the money in waste ...

### The Ngunga Investments Story

Cleaning solid waste and sorting it for recycling is not a glamorous business. Ngunga Muyenga has never been disillusioned about this particular area of waste management and started his cleaning company with the knowledge that his services would be needed by local authorities. Ngunga Investments operate waste collection sites in Okahandja, Windhoek, Rundu, Grootfontein, Rehoboth and the settlement of Groot Aub. Not bad for someone that started out with 16 staff members.

“The benefits to green cleaning are two-fold. On one end you have a clean environment and on the other you make money”, exclaims Mr. Muyenga. He has been able to use the Green concessional loan from EIF to expand his operations with much-needed

equipment and hire more staff. “We are almost 60 staff members now”, says Ngunga. The company works in partnership with local youths and town councils to collect and sort solid waste at landfills. The recyclables are worth a lot of money. Ngunga’s clients for returnable bottles are Namibia Breweries Ltd, SAB Miller, Coca Cola and Distillers. Aluminium and metal cans also fetch revenue when transported to South Africa. In some towns he operates central depots where people can bring their recyclable waste especially bottles.

Ngunga is confident that this level of cooperation between private sector and the local authorities is what will eventually lead to clean and sanitary living spaces in Namibian towns and that decent jobs will be created in the waste management sector.



### Waste fact check!

Ngunga’s average monthly waste collected for recycling

Glass	283.5 tons
Cardboard	97 tons
Cans & Tins	71 tons
Soft plastic	7 tons
Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)	9 tons

### What is PET?

PET or PETE refers to bottles made of polyethylene terephthalate. These can also be recycled to reuse the material out of which they are made and to reduce the amount of waste going into landfills.



## Olushandja’s golden harvest

... as Greenfields organic fertilizer proves a success

In 2014, the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia launched its Green Concessional Loans scheme with the aim of spawning a green economy and cleaner production techniques in the Namibian economy. These loans are characterised by an interest rate subsidy of prime minus 4.25%, but also include a 12-month grace period while the applicants have up to 10 years to repay their loans. To this end, loans to the value of N\$17,956,926 have been awarded to projects. The loan scheme has thus far created 163 permanent employment opportunities and 185 temporary jobs.

One such green enterprise is Greenfields Namibia, a company that specializes in the manufacturing of organic fertilizer for use in garden as well as well as large-scale commercial crop production. The organic fertilizer manufactured using chicken and cattle manure, Mushroom Peat, Organic Carbon and Namibian, does not contain any chemicals known to destroy soil fertility and quality and posing threats to human health. The Fund approved financing to Greenfields to set up an Organic

Fertilizer manufacturing plant at Hochfeld, just 10 km outside Okahandja. While the facility aims to improve the Namibian value chain in terms of food production, nutrition and income security it has also employed 24 Namibian men and women in various areas of the production system.

To date the production facility supplies the Olushandja Horticultural Farmer’s Association, a network of more than 50 small-scale crop producers in Omusati region with organic fertilizer; and has opened an outlet in Outapi to meet the demand there. The factory opened officially on 20 May 2016.

“the fertilizer from Greenfields is very good. My crops, especially cabbage, are responding very well to it.”

- Paulus Amutenya  
Epandulo Farm Manager



For more information on the Greenfield Organic fertilizer project or Olushandja farming project contact EIF at [amiteta@eifnamibia.com](mailto:amiteta@eifnamibia.com) or +264 61 4317700





## Breathing life into indigenous fruit

*Auguste breaks value addition mould with Ground Muffins*

Close your eyes and imagine the taste of your favourite natural fruit found Namibia – eembe, oondunga, eenyandi, marula nuts etc. Then imagine the taste of freshly baked muffins – chocolate, blueberry or plain vanilla flavours. Now imagine both sets of ingredients in a muffin – and open your eyes. Welcome to Ground Muffin Bakery.

Auguste Lisias is a young Namibian woman with huge ambitions. Ground Muffins Bakery is her baby which she helped wean in its infancy with the assistance of FabLab business incubation services. The Bakery, firmly built on the idea of incorporating indigenous fruits into baked products such as muffins, cupcakes and biscuits has recently taken off with a business grant from the Environmental Investment Fund.

While she still operates alone, Auguste has big plans for her business in the product development, enhancement and marketing spheres and hopes to employ 2 or 3 people in the very near future. “At the moment I am very happy that the muffins have found a market with orders

**“ I plan on expanding the business so I can offer more products made from Namibian fruits. ”**

for birthday parties and office catering increasing by the day”, says Auguste. She is hopeful to expand marketing and sales by finding keen retailers, bistros and coffee shops willing to stock her product.

Ground Muffin flavours come in 4 distinct flavours at the moment. She continues to experiment with other fruit in order to expand her range of muffins.

Auguste’s business address at the moment is situated at Bokamoso Entrepreneurial Centre on Hans Dietrich Genschner Street in Windhoek.

### Quick facts about some of Auguste’s ingredients

- **The Makalani fruit (Ondunga/Onduga)** is a versatile fruit. It grows on the Makalani trees that are predominant in large parts of north central Namibia. It can be eaten and can also be used to brew Ombike/Owalende: the Oshiwambo brew that looks and taste similar to Whiskey.
- **Eembe, Ombe or Bird Plum (Berchemia discolor)**, is high in sugar and contains Vitamin C. It is eaten fresh, or dried and stored for the dry season. Fresh fruit can be fermented to make traditional brews.



## Climate-smart agriculture key

*... as Oshali Community records a harvest amidst drought*

In the Endola constituency of the Ohangwena region, lies a small community – Oshali; whose members are steadily waking up to the impacts of climate change. Tauno Shikomba, farmer and prominent community leader at the helm of this transformation applied for a grant from the Environmental Investment Fund in order to establish a community garden with the purpose of contributing to household food security in the face of climate calamities.

The project uses drip irrigation methods to irrigate crops such as cabbage, onion, tomatoes, spinach, green pepper and fruit trees. Mr. Shikomba also uses Greenhouse tunnels in order to control temperatures and provide ideal conditions for seedlings.

It therefore comes as no surprise that while large parts of Ohangwena region suffered crop failure due to the prolonged drought, Oshali Community garden has achieved a relatively good crop harvest this year.

While water availability remains a challenge, the project has managed to maximize the little available water efficiently in the production process.

“People are catching on to what we are doing”, remarks Mr. Shikomba, making reference to two community gardens in nearby villages, which he provides assistance to in the form of seedlings for transplanting in order to improve their operations.

The project also sources its fertilizer (goat and cow manure) locally, providing much-needed income for livestock-rearing farmers and contributing to a very unique value chain among the community members.



For more information on the Oshali Community garden project contact EIF at [amiteta@eifnamibia.com](mailto:amiteta@eifnamibia.com) or +264 61 4317700





**Dr Jacob Nyambe**  
Technical Advisory Panel

Dr. Nyambe joined the Fund's Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) to replace the late Dr. Jon Barnes. He is an Economist that brings vital financial modeling skills to the Panel.



**Taleni Katoma**  
Technical Advisory Panel

Taleni Katoma has been appointed to the Fund's Technical Advisory Panel after the resignation of Mr. Jefta Goreseb. She is a Credit Manager in the AgriBank Lending Department and will be called upon for her lending expertise when assessing financing proposals.



**Kathy Ambunda**  
Assistant Project Accountant

Kathy comes with a pedigree in project Accounting and expects her new role providing accounting services to the Game Products Trust Fund to be a challenge she's more than willing to meet head on. "I would like to experience a different side to accounting for resources".

She joined the Fund in March 2016 and aims to grab every opportunity, in order to learn, improve and excel in life.



**Charity Sihope**  
Grants Officer

Charity joined the Fund in March 2016 taking up the demanding position of Grants Officer. Her interests are in Integrated ecosystem management, land management, GIS and climate change adaptation in developing countries. Her aspirations for the future is to advocate for a sustainable change and work on programs that inform the country's policy development, by engaging in research that offers viable policy alternatives for government action in addressing environmental problems and improve livelihoods.



**Hilja Angula**  
Systems Administrator

Hilja joined the Fund in March 2016, becoming the first female Systems Administrator at the institution. Her biggest motivation for joining the EIF was to be in a small team of driven individuals and build and maintain a sound and efficient IT infrastructure.



## EIF wins at African Excellence Awards

**CAPE TOWN, April 21, 2016** — The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia walked away with the trophy for Best Annual Report on the African continent at the inaugural African Excellence Awards, hosted by Communication Director, a leading global PR and Communications magazine.

The Fund's 2015 Annual report was recognized for its uniqueness, strong stakeholder focus and impact-oriented coverage of the Fund's initiatives with a clear link to the broader national strategies in Namibia's environmental sector.

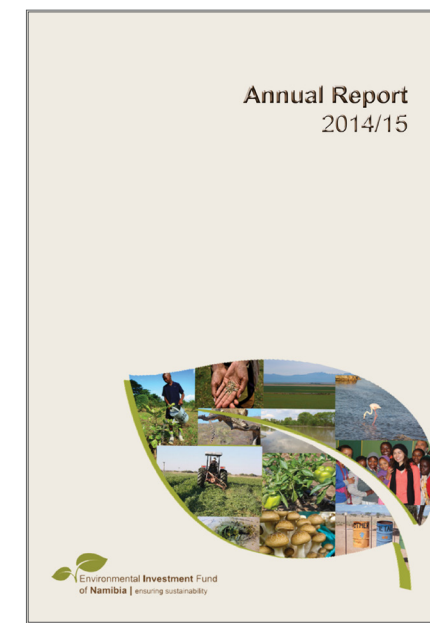
The African Excellence Awards celebrate exceptional work of public relations, communications and media practitioners across the continent. Those honored received their awards at the Winner's ceremony in Cape Town, Radisson Blu Waterfront Hotel on 21 April 2016.

Receiving the award, Head of Communication and Corporate Affairs at the Fund, Lazarus Nafidi, emphasized the increasing role of strategic corporate reporting in developing and maintaining shareholder support, advancing research-based decision-making and as an essential key to unlocking opportunities for mobilizing additional resources, new business and new partnerships for any company operating in any sector in the world.

"As a State-owned Fund that is predominantly Section 21 in mandate than anything else, compliance with financial reporting to the shareholder has been a constant. As a development entity however, we have transitioned to a reporting approach that serves as an expression of our current and future investment needs. Impact-based reporting has in this instance has proved more useful to our stakeholders and us. It also bodes well with how the current government would like to see contributions to poverty alleviation, food and livelihood security by State-owned Enterprises". Nafidi stated.

It is because of communication tools like this annual report that international stakeholders such as the Green Climate Fund have fully acknowledged the Fund as an institution capable of producing shareholder returns on investments, both financial and environmental impacts.

The report is available at the Fund's offices in Capital Centre, 2nd Floor, Independence Avenue, Windhoek and electronically on the Fund's website, [www.eifnamibia.com](http://www.eifnamibia.com).







## Bursaries and study assistance

In February 2016, the EIF handed out bursaries to deserving students for the 2016 academic under its Bursary scheme, conceptualized in 2014.

This year, from a total of 154 applications, the Fund committed itself to supporting 8 students, after a rigorous selection process based on academic merit, course relevance and special social considerations.

Student name	Gender	Region	Course of Study
Vezepa Mbahuma	M	Khomas	B.Sc, Agriculture
Loretha Haraes	F	Kunene	B.Sc, Honours, Natural Resource Management
Sheelagh Ndahepele	M	Ohangwena	Bachelor of Science Marine Biology
Ndamononghenda Hamunyela	F	Ohangwena	Msc Resource Conservation Biology
Matti Nghikembua	M	Otjozondjupa	PhD in Forestry and Biological Resources
Sioni Iikela	M	Oshana	Masters Integrated Water Resource Management
Kauna Schroder	F	Karas	Masters Project Management
Ruusa Gottlieb	F	Oshikoto	Msc Environmental and Geographical Science
<b>Bursary total for 2016</b>			<b>N\$ 856,021.00</b>

11

Total number of students to date that have completed their tertiary education with an EIF Bursary

33

Total number of students currently studying on an EIF Bursary

**N\$ 3.4 million**

EIF's total investment in bursaries and research assistance since 2014.



## Calendar of upcoming events

African Drought Conference	15 - 18 August 2016, Windhoek Country Club, Windhoek
3rd Green Building Convention	26 - 30 September 2016, Habitat Centre, Windhoek
Green Climate Fund Board meeting	3 - 4 September 2016, Songdo, South Korea
Electricity Africa Conference	13 - 14 October 2016, Windhoek Country Club Resort
2016 Namibia Sustainable Development Awards	Date tbc, venue tbc