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Volume 1, No. 4

# Green Viewpoint

Official newsletter of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia

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## Namibia answers Call to Action

The Fund, just like other public entities in Namibia endured a difficult last quarter of 2016 with a drastic cut in public spending forcing the company to adopt tough austerity measures and cut back on much needed environmental projects.

As a result key financing products such as grants, green concessional loans and bursaries have been placed on temporarily suspension with a short to mid-term view of consolidating the gains made in the previous two years. In this issue we highlight two of those projects; with one chronicling one woman's remarkable sustainable tourism enterprise on two wheels; and the other demonstrating collaborative efforts to empower a rural community towards self-sustainability. These two recently financed projects are profiled on pages 4 and 6.

With the nationwide fiscal consolidation, the focus has now firmly shifted to resource mobilisation, and efforts on the international front have gone into overdrive. The Green Climate Fund Board has approved two proposals by Namibia for financing which are envisaged to benefit close to 100,000 Namibians vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. We profile these projects that are expected to kick off in March 2017 on pages 8 and 10 of this edition.

The Fund continues to find new ways of cooperation to make natural resource utilization and renewable energy financing a reality in Namibia by agreeing to host a technical facility for the SUNREF programme in the country. The full story is on page 2 of this edition.

We continue to take heart of the small successes that have characterized much of 2016 and hope that in 2017 these will be amplified into larger programmes with a larger positive impact for Namibia as the world continues to grapple with the impacts of a changing climate and resource depletion.

It has been proven that integrated planning yields the best results and we therefore look forward to work with all our Namibian partners and stakeholders to ensure that the financial resources mobilized through the EIF make a lasting and sustainable impact in the lives of all Namibians.

## EIF secures climate readiness funds for Namibia *Agreement signed at COP21*

**Marrakech, 16 November 2016** - The EIF signed a readiness grant agreement of up to USD 392,000 with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), making it the first direct access entity to be supported by the Fund's readiness programme. The grant demonstrates the support GCF is offering to direct access bodies to aid them in accessing project funding from GCF. Benedict Libanda, Chief Executive Officer of EIF signed the agreement with Ousseynou Nakoulima, GCF Director of Country Programming, in the presence of

Petrus Muteyauli from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Namibia's National Designated Authority, and Zaheer Fakir, GCF Board Co-Chair, at the UN Climate Change Conference.

"EIF is developing a proposal to support the climate resilience of communities in tourism-reliant areas of Namibia. This readiness grant from GCF will let us carry out local level consultations so that there is community ownership for our approach," stated Benedict Libanda.



## Climate Financing for Namibia takes shape *CRAVE agreement signed*

At its Board meeting in Samoa in December 2016, the GCF has signed an agreement with the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) to help low-income farmers in northern Namibia by providing them with greater access to climate-resilient agriculture and renewable energy. Karl Aribeb, the Fund's Director of Operations signed the USD 10 million compact which will see small scale farmers in the north-eastern regions of Namibia benefit from best practice agriculture in the face of escalating droughts caused by a changing climate. The CRAVE project is highlighted on page 8 of this issue.



## SUNREF Namibia programme to launch in 2017

*Promoting Sustainable utilization of natural resources and renewable energy*

**Paris, November 2016:** The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) signed a letter of intent with the French Agency for Development (AFD) worth N\$675 million over a 3-year period. The signing took place during the state visit to France by His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia. Benedict Libanda Chief Executive Officer of EIF, and AFD's Director for Africa, Jean-Pierre Marcelli, signed the letter of intent for their respective institutions.

Business and investment opportunities in the environmental sector were a key focus during deliberations between the Namibian business delegation and their French counterparts, as highlighted by President Geingob. "Investments in wind and solar energy are central to Namibia's quest to secure a reliable and sustainable power supply to spur industrialization. We

recognize that issues of environment and climate change adaptation feature highly in the country's development strategies, which is also the reason why Namibia was one of the first countries to ratify the Paris Agreement on Climate Change", the Head of State exclaimed during the business discussions.

The letter of intent is a precursor to a formal agreement between the EIF and AFD, which will see the Fund providing a technical facility for a green credit line through the launch of the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Energy Finance (SUNREF) Program. Under the program, selected financial institutions will provide concessional loans to finance renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and tourism businesses.

Speaking after the signing EIF's Libanda was optimistic of the impending and immediate

impacts of the SUNREF Program, "preliminary estimations show us that the targeted sectors could contribute in the range of 3000 – 4000 decent jobs while steep gains on Pillar 4 of the Harambee Prosperity in terms of locally produced clean energy infrastructure could become a reality", he exclaimed. He further called on Namibian entrepreneurs to start identifying bankable projects in the areas of sustainable agriculture, tourism and renewable energy with the first call for financing envisaged for March or April 2017.

AFD is a financial institution and the main implementing agency for France's official development assistance to developing countries and overseas territories. The SUNREF Program has been set up by AFD as a green finance label with the aim to offer significant economic development potential through Environmental integration. SUNREF is currently implemented across 3 continents with over 40 projects successfully realized. The program offers a unique financing approach that integrates technical support and financing in order to meet the demand of partner banks and project initiators.

<https://www.sunref.org/en>

Namibia's Minister of Environment and Tourism, Hon. Pohamba Shifeta (left) oversees the signing of the intent compact between AFD's Jean-Pierre Marcelli (centre), and EIF's CEO Benedict Libanda (right)







## Around Katutura on two wheels ...

### *The KatuTours story*

The suburb on Windhoek's northern outskirts was established in the 1950s; today, Katutura is a diverse, lively and historical place to visit. With numerous interlinking networks of roads and avenues leading to places of interest such as the Old Cemetery, Single Quarters, a number of open markets, sheebeens and cuca shops one might just miss a few highlights when on conventional transport mode like a car or bus. Not anymore!

KatuTours and Safaris now gives visitors the opportunity to learn about the history, development and people of Katutura on a close to 4-hour ride on bicycle through the township.

This scenario is beginning to change with the community project KatuTours, a sustainable local initiative created by Anna Mafwila. Her idea was simple: to take tourists on bike rides through the streets, markets, fairs, and even the bars of Katutura, with a local guide on hand to offer a fascinating narrative about national, local and personal histories, both before and after apartheid.

From start to end in this the five mile journey, visitors are shown through a network of township ties that render KatuTours a true community initiative. The bikes are repaired

at King's Daughter's bike shop, a social project that aims to support and create jobs for former sex workers. The departure and arrival spots are in the center of Penduka, the site of entrepreneurial project for women in the region. And during the tour, cyclists visit at least three local markets, thus supporting local vendors.

At the markets the possibilities to experience the flavors of the township are ad infinitum. For starters, there's vetkoek, a sweet, delicious variety of local bread. In Soweto Market, the longer stop in the tour, you can try Kapana, a type of fresh meat which is cut, grilled and seasoned to taste. There, cyclists can also buy traditional Namibian condiments and spices, mostly from the Oshiwambo region. These include li-yugulu, a twig that vendors claim performs whitening miracles when used instead of toothpaste, or omunkuzi, another twig from another tree that, in the absence of a refrigerator, helps conserve milk for weeks. And, finally, to refresh the cyclists for rest of their township tour, there's oshikundu, a popular drink made from mahangu grain.

KatuTour's riding fun begins in the early morning in a special atmosphere conducive to adventure. From there, there are almost four hours of immersion in local culture. You see men polishing cars, women selling vegetables in the street, craft vendors lining the sidewalks with hundreds of pieces of art spread across colorful cloth, and traditional dressmakers showing off their fine designs. A visit on two wheels through the Katutura township is a great way to see how the locals live, to get to know them, and perhaps, who knows, even be invited to a game of pool.

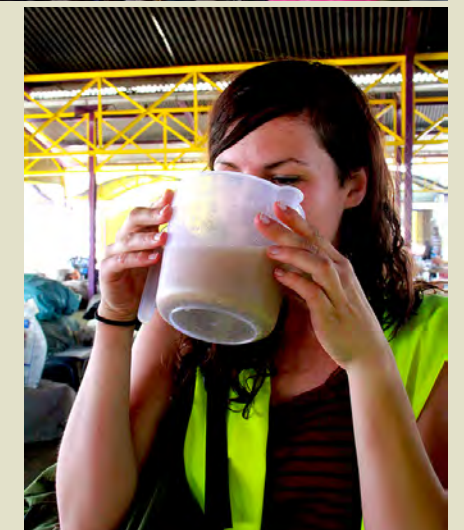
“  
***My idea was to simply take tourists on bike rides through the streets and markets of Katutura and offer fascinating narratives about the place's history before & after independence***  
”

**KatuTours**  
Windhoek township tours on two wheels

- Anna Mawfila  
KatuTours Owner

### The KatuTours - EIF relationship

KatuTours was given a grant of N\$ 75,000 by the EIF in order to procure a new fleet of bicycles to replace some of the older worn-out sets. Under the agreement eleven (11) new bicycles were bought and Anna was happy at the prospect of having the luxury to employ two additional assistants.



#### KatuTours routes vary greatly but include most of the following:

- A visit to the Kings Daughters Bicycle Shop where you get to meet the women working there and learn about their empowerment project.
- The lively meat market in Single Quarters
- The busy commercial center of Soweto Market
- Notorious Eveline Street – the street that never sleeps.
- The tranquility of Penduka where women are producing and selling beautiful Namibian handcrafts.

For more information on the KatuTours project or grants for sustainable tourism contact EIF at [amiteta@eifnamibia.com](mailto:amiteta@eifnamibia.com) or +264 61 4317700





## Moringa “the Superfood”

*Kaisosi Cultivation project handed over to the community*

A moringa tree cultivation project started by the Komeho Namibia Development Agency was last week handed over to the community of the Kaisosi settlement in Rundu. The Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) funded the project, which is now considered to be self-sufficient.

The community of Kaisosi will continue working on it to generate an income for themselves. Speaking at the official handing over of the project, Director of Operations at the EIF, Karl Aribeb said he was happy with the progress of the project over the two years. The main objective of this project is to support initiatives that directly address the issues of poverty alleviation,” Aribeb said.

Komeho Namibia, a non-profit organisation, received N\$ 500,000 from EIF to cultivate the moringa trees over two years. The project included the setup of a one-hectare garden for the tree plantation, which employed more than 30 people from Kaisosi. The final report by Komeho indicated that about N\$ 150,000 was generated through the sale of moringa products. The moringa tree is classified as a ‘super food’. The tree grows naturally in some parts of Namibia, and parts of the plant are said to be safe for human consumption.

Max Musongo, the chief administrator of Komeho Namibia, told Nampa Wednesday the flowers, which grow on the moringa tree, are sold to an organisation known as the Senior Experts Association in Germany. The oil in the seeds is sold locally for use in hair food, anti-aging gel and shampoo. The leaves from the tree are dried and turned into a powder for human consumption as well as animal feed. The powder can be incorporated into bread and other food.

Aribeb said over 1 500 people at Kaisosi have benefited from the nutritional value of the moringa tree since the inception of the project. Komeho Namibia was formed in 2001 to contribute to Namibia’s national development objectives by promoting economic growth, local value addition, and job creation. The organisation also promotes sustainable management of natural resources, capacity building, reduction of income inequality and alleviation of poverty in rural and urban areas.



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

### The Moringa Project in figures

36

Total number of Kaisosi residents that have developed their own Moringa gardens as a result of the project.

1,500

Estimated number of beneficiaries from moringa nutrition in Kaisosi since inception of the project

150,000

Total revenue in N\$ generated from the sale of Moringa products since inception of the project



### Building a sustainable livelihood model

Komeho Namibia has effectively capacitated a substantial number of residents in Kaisosi in taking up Moringa cultivation as a livelihood activity. Starting out with only 23 beneficiaries at inception the number of participating residents has now grown to 36.

The organisation used the bulk of the N\$ 500,000 grant from the EIF to set up a 1 hectare garden which was used for training; and a nursery from which all beneficiaries were supplied with seedlings. The project also supplied the farmers with gardening tools such as water storage cans, fencing material and gardening tools.

While notable challenges such as keeping smallstock from encroaching the moringa gardens, the benefits far outweigh those challenges with the revenue raised from the plant particularly proving sustainable. At the moment Komeho buys the harvest from the farmers at an average of N\$ 100 per 50 kg bag. Annually the organisation also buys seeds from the farmers.

Currently UNAM buys moringa from Komeho for livestock feed purposes however greater value addition such as venturing into medicines and other health products remain Komeho’s and Kaisosi’s pipeline projects.

“The Moringa powder can be incorporated into bread and other food.”

- Max Musongo  
Chief Administrator  
Komeho Namibia

### Moringa’s Rich Nutritional Profile\*

Moringa leaves are loaded with vitamins, minerals, essential amino acids, and more. One hundred grams of dry moringa leaf contains:

- 9 times the protein of yogurt
- 10 times the vitamin A of carrots
- 15 times the potassium of bananas
- 17 times the calcium of milk
- 12 times the vitamin C of oranges
- 25 times the iron of spinach

\* Source: Food Chem Toxicol. 2009 Jun;47(6):1109-16







### Increasing the climate-resilience and reducing the food insecurity of subsistence farmers in Namibia

Namibia's northern small-scale subsistence farming communities are vulnerable to climate-related challenges as incidents of drought and high temperatures increase. The communities in Zambezi, Kavango East and West are dependent on primary production and natural resources, rely on rain-fed (dry land crop production) agriculture, and have limited livelihood options and employment opportunities.

These communities experience high levels of poverty, and climate change is expected to lead to reduced crop yields, loss of ecosystems services (such as water purification and biomass energy) and ecosystem degradation.

The CRAVE project, approved by the Green Climate Fund Board in October 2016 to the tune of N\$ 150 mil-

lion over 5 years; will reduce food insecurity by allowing beneficiaries to acquire abilities to adopt conservation agriculture and climate-resilient agricultural practices to produce food, as well as providing them with access to renewable energy.

The project will scale up the adoption of adaptive measures such as conservation agriculture and micro drip irrigation. A centre of excellence, the Mashare Climate Resilient Agriculture Centre of Excellence (MCRACE) will also be established, which will carry out demonstration pilots including a fertilizer mixing plant, organic manure and guano trials. Farmers will be provided with sustainable access to off-grid solar energy technologies including water pumping for small-scale micro horticultural systems, and refrigeration for harvested food, reducing the dependency on imported fuels.

#### CRAVE's two sub-objectives:

1. To strengthen the adaptive capacity, scale up adoption of effective coping mechanisms and measures (for example comprehensive conservation agriculture and micro drip irrigation), and implement on-the-ground adaptation actions and practices that assist vulnerable subsistence farmers to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change, erratic weather patterns, seasonal rainfall shifts, heat and drought.
2. To provide rural crop farmers with alternative sustainable access to off-grid solar energy technologies (water pumping for small-scale micro horticultural systems, and refrigeration for harvested food) and reduce the dependency of increasingly expensive (and environmentally unfriendly) imported fuels by promoting solar water pumping in the agricultural sector.

#### CRAVE's three main activities:

1. Establishment of the Mashare Climate Resilient Agriculture Centre of Excellence (MCRACE) i
2. Farmers Training and Adoption of Comprehensive Conservation Agriculture plus Good Agricultural Practices (GAP);
3. Solar Energy Technologies for adapted agricultural diversification purposes (including water pumping and greenhouse infrastructures).

### CRAVE presents an inter-agency approach to reducing food insecurity

#### Accredited entity:

Environmental Investment Fund

#### Executing entity:

Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry (MAWF)

#### Critical Sustainability Stakeholders and Partners:

- Agro Marketing & Trade Agency (AMTA);
- AgriBank;
- Agric Business Development Agency (AgriBusDev);
- University of Namibia (UNAM) – Faculty of Agriculture,
- NASRIA
- NAMIBRE.

#### Beneficiaries:

Small-scale crop & vegetable farming communities in the vulnerable extreme northern regions of:

- Kavango West,
- Kavango East
- Zambezi

# 21,000

approximate number of people due to benefit from the CRAVE project



# Empower to Adapt:

Creating Climate Change Resilient Livelihoods through Community Based Natural Resource Management in Namibia

Featured National Project

## Creating Climate-Change Resilient Livelihoods through Community-Based Natural Resource Management in Namibia

This Enhance Direct Access (EDA) Pilot is built on the strong institutional foundation of the Namibian Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) network, which consists of communal conservancies and community forests in the rural communal areas of Namibia. It comprises 8 Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and the University of Namibia. These existing institutions are ideally placed to be the conduits for the implementation of local-level climate action.

It is expected that the project improve land management of an area of 7,200,000 hectares. The project will run over five years and consists of two complementary components that will empower rural communities to respond to climate change in terms of awareness, adaptive capacity and low-carbon rural development.

### Component 1: Capacity Building and Community Support:

This component is essential for the success and sustainability of community-based climate action. It comprises;

- awareness raising,
- capacity building and;
- support to development and implementation of climate investment plans at the local level.

### GCF results areas

- Health, food and water security
- Livelihoods of people and communities
- Ecosystems and ecosystem services

### Gender benefits

This project will enhance the trend of increasing participation by women in Community Based Organization decision-making.

### UN Sustainable Development Goal

#11 Sustainable cities and communities

### Component 2: Resilient Grant Facility:

This component empowers rural CBNRM communities to increase their resilience to climate change through direct access to climate finance. It comprises a ring-fenced grant facility that will focus on the development and strengthening resilient CBNRM livelihoods through grants in three defined investment areas:

- Climate Resilient Agriculture,
- Climate Resilient Infrastructure,
- Ecosystems Based Adaptation and Mitigation

### For more information on the Empower to Adapt project contact:

Mr. Karl Aribeb  
Tel: +264 61 4317701  
karibeb@eifamibia.com



## The stakeholders in the Empower to Adapt project:

### Fund management:

Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia

### Executing agencies:

- Communal Conservancies,
- Community Forests,
- Ministry of Environment & Tourism,
- Namibian Association of Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Support Organizations (NACSO)

### Beneficiaries:

Rural communities from registered Communal Conservancies and Community Forests in Namibia

76,500

approximate number of people to have benefited from increased resilience by the end of the project



## New EIF Board appointed

**WINDHOEK, August 22, 2016:** - Minister of Environment and Tourism, Hon. Pohamba Shifeta announced the new Board of Directors of the Environmental Investment Fund at a Press briefing in the capital.

The outgoing Board's term ended in March 2016 and was characterized by achievements in organizational developments across Human Resources, Operations and Financial management at the Fund. The Minister thanked the outgoing Board members for their service to the institution over a period that saw the development of innovative financing mechanisms such as the Green Soft Loans scheme for renewable technologies, Green Concessional enterprise loans and grants.

"The Fund has benefited more than 21,000 Namibians directly and indirectly in livelihood activities closely linked to natural resource management, green technology, eco-tourism and research focal areas", he remarked.

The institution also earned international recognition for innovation in green financing at the Sustainable Financing Awards and recently got accreditation to the Green Climate Fund. The new Board has the challenge of mobilizing further financial resources for environmental protection and sustainable development in Namibia - starting with the planned environmental levies.



Standing (left to right)  
Mr. Israel Hasheela  
Ministry of Mines and Energy

Ms. Johanna Andowa  
Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry

Ms. Karen Nott  
Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation  
(Vice Chairperson)

Mr. Teofilus Nghitila  
Ministry of Environment & Tourism (Chairperson)  
(Chairperson)

Benedict Libanda  
EIF (Chief Executive Officer)

Mr. Titus Ndove  
Ministry of Finance (absent)

Seated:  
Hon. Pohamba Shifeta  
Minister of Environment & Tourism

## New staff appointment

**Nesley Xarageb**  
Accountant & Administrative Officer

The Fund wishes to welcome Nesley Xarageb who has filled the vacant position of Accountant and Administrative Officer. He is a financial accounting and audit specialist bringing with him a wealth of experience in the corporate sector.

He joined the Fund's setup in December 2016 and is expected to build on the institution's financial management framework and processes in the wake of increased climate investment portfolios it is meant to manage.



## Talking Environmental Economics

**WINDHOEK, September 29, 2016** — The Fund participated at the 6th After-Work-Talk, an initiative of the Environmental Economics Network Namibia (EENN). The EENN is a not-for-profit, member-governed, network dedicated to advancing understanding of the relationships among ecological, social, and economic systems.

At the event, EIF CEO, Benedict Libanda shared with the audience the Fund's legal set-up and its approach to resource mobilization. Discussion items included amongst other issues capitalizing on new partnerships to increase impact and potential revenue generation from harmful economic practices.



The Environmental Economics Network of Namibia (EENN) cordially invites you to the

### 6th After-Work-Talk

On "Mobilising Financial Resources for Environmental Investment"

With Mr Benedict Libanda,  
Chief Executive Officer, Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia

• Date: 29th. September 2016  
• Time: 17h30  
• Place: NUST Hotel School, Beethoven St. Windhoek

Contact and registration:  
Tulonga Shiweda Tel: 061 - 28 42 05 2; tulongashiweda@rocketmail.com

EENN - Environmental Economics Network of Namibia

## A Namibian Green Climate Fund Country Strategy

**WINDHOEK, November 28, 2016** - In an effort to access resources from the Green Climate Fund, the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism, in collaboration with Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia and the financial support from the United Kingdom Government hosted a national workshop with the following aims:

1. to develop a country strategy and;
2. to review of projects to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund.

The review process was based on the pipeline that Namibia developed during 2014 - 2015 with the support of the Germany Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, through the German Development Bank (KfW).

As part of the workshop, EIF Director of Operations, Karl Aribeb provided participants with an account of the Fund's roadmap to GCF accreditation.





**WINDHOEK, November 3, 2016** — The Fund sponsored the Free Your Mind show in Windhoek, a monthly stand-up comedy show dedicated to entertaining Namibia's populace through raw humour.

While the Fund normally does not directly sponsor the Arts, the opportunity presented a chance for the Fund to reach out to young people on issues such as climate change and further provide brand awareness through TV, Radio and Social Media.



## Upcoming important dates and events

World Wildlife Day	3 March 2017
Earth Hour	19 March 2017, 20h30 - 21h30,
World Water Day	22 March 2017
World Mine Awareness Day	5 April 2017
Earth Day	22 April 2017
Namibia Tourism Expo	27 May - 3 June 2017