



Green View Point

Official newsletter of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia

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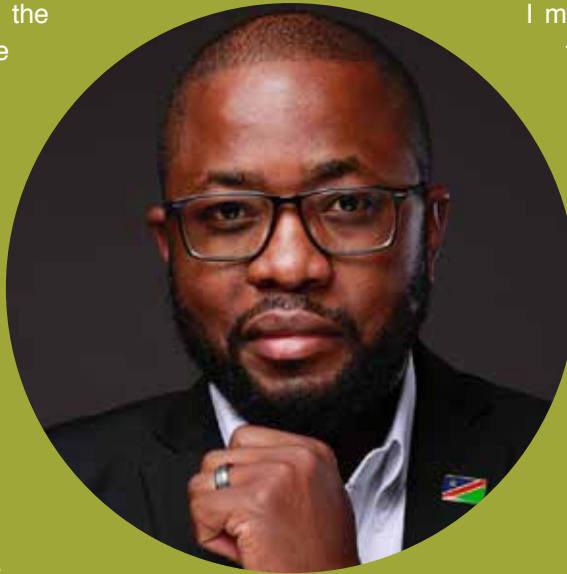
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Editor's Note

I am excited to be pinning down the Editor's note. As we enter 2022, We do so with renewed commitment and hope that will lead to the prosperity and sustainable development of all the livelihoods of the Namibian people.

The year 2021 proved to be a challenging one as Namibia, like all other nations, was faced with the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We lost loved ones and colleagues. May their souls continue resting in eternal peace. Despite the myriad of challenges experienced, we remained resilient, optimistic and hopeful about the future.

The year 2022, as declared by His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob to be a year of reimagining, allows us to closely look at the possibilities and reimagine the new realities of the way in which we do business, the way we work & the way we connect with others. We at EIF are committed to looking at new possibilities for bettering the services we offer and seeing how we can improve our engagement with our stakeholders in the light of the current world we live in.



Lot Ndamanomhata
Editor-in-Chief

I must express my profound gratitude to all the EIF employees for their continuous hard work and the sterling job that they continue to do in the execution of our mandate, and I am certain that in the new normal that we live in, they will continually come up with new ways of delivering world-class service.

I also wish to extend my gratitude to the team that put this informative and information-sharing edition together, which not only outlines the activities carried out by the EIF but also talks about our success stories. It gives me pleasure, therefore, to share the read with our staff, service providers, stakeholders and the rest of the nation.

May the year 2022 be a year of fulfilment, success and yet another opportunity to transform our country, to be the best version of what our founders had striven for.

Happy reading and viewing

Lot Ndamanomhata
Manager: Corporate Communications

Sustainable Development Awards

The Fund successfully hosted the Sustainable Development Awards. Hosted under the theme "accelerating the green economy transformation as we recover from Covid-19". The Sustainable Development awards recognise the outstanding contributions made by Namibians in the field of sustainable development. The 2021 sustainable development awards targeted the private sector and SMEs, community-level natural resource management and utilisation initiatives, research and development, youth action for sustainable development, pioneering journalism in the field of sustainable development, green banks, the school in action for sustainable development, women in action for sustainable development and thought leadership. The Awards recognised the importance of integrating sustainability into the core of business and industry as

well as the daily lives of Namibians from all walks of life. The sponsors for the awards included First National Bank of Namibia, Agribank of Namibia, and Namibia Wildlife Resorts and BDO Namibia. The Sustainable Development Award aims to identify and reward institutions, including individuals who have demonstrated leadership, innovation, and excellence in environmentally friendly practices, while encouraging performance of best sustainability practices.

The Sustainable Development Awards were first held in 2015 and were based on a joint idea of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia and the Sustainable Development Advisory Council. The second edition of the awards were held in 2017. The third edition took place on 21 May 2021.



Dr. Mary Seely was conferred with the Thought Leadership Award by Hon. Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism at the 3rd Sustainable Development Awards. Winner was represented by Dr. Komeine Natanga

The awards were held in conjunction with the Sustainable Development Advisory Council, Environmental

Investment Fund of Namibia and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

IREMA PROJECT DELIVERS IN KUNENE

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia's IREMA Project capacitates farmers on small stock farming

The SAP001 "Improving Rangeland and Ecosystem Management (IREMA) Practices of Smallholder Farmers under Conditions of Climate Change in the areas of Sesfontein, Fransfontein, and Warmquell in Kunene Region. This is a five-year project (2019-2024), funded by the Green Climate Fund through the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF), and it is being implemented in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR). The project aims to reduce vulnerability and build the resilience of smallholder farmers to cope with the adverse effects of climate change in the Kunene region.

In November 2020, the project through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform facilitated the

handover of 425 goats to twenty (20) vulnerable farmers, of which 12 are female. Each farmer received 20 does (female goats) and one buck (a male goat). The value of these goats is estimated to be N\$900 000.00, including a starter pack of remedies that each farmer received. The handover also included the drought relief fodder (grass, Lucerne and licks) valued at N\$1.2 million. This fodder was distributed to farmers (more than 2500 farmers) as part of the IREMA project's interim intervention in supporting farmers to cope with the devastating and prolonged drought experienced in the region.

To ensure that these goats are used for the intended purpose (Revolving Scheme), a revolving agreement was signed between the MAWLR, IREMA and the



Farmers that formed part of the training in Khorixas, Kunene Region

beneficiaries. The agreement plans to ensure the sustainability of the intervention. As per this agreement, the beneficiaries are expected to revolve the first ten does after 18 months and then ten does after 36 months. To ensure the productivity of the small stock received, the project team, together with technical staff members from the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Land Reform in collaboration with Agribank's Advisory Services, offered three days of training that provided both theoretical and practical skills to the beneficiaries.

The IREMA Project will still distribute more than 2000 goats to vulnerable farmers in the Kunene region. Among other things, the project promotes climate-resilient development through supporting adaptation interventions, including sound rangeland management, rehabilitation of boreholes, rehabilitation of the green schemes, provision of fuel-efficient stoves, supply and installation of drip irrigation systems, drought-resilient seeds at the household level and development of an early warning system tailored for Kunene region.

NILALEG Project hands over grants



Beneficiaries of the NILALEG Project receiving their grants.

The Fund together with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism successfully hosted the NILALEG Project grants hand over at the Okatjandja Kozomenje Conservancy, Okorosave Village, Kunene Region.

The Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to Eradicate Poverty (NILALEG) Project handed over ten (10) grants under three investment windows, namely crop and rangeland management agroforestry and nature-based enterprise. The grants handed over have a combined monetary value of Six Million, Eight Hundred and

Twenty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty-Six Namibian Dollars Only (NAD 6,828, 736.51). The project is aimed at promoting an integrated landscape management approach in key agricultural and forest landscapes, reducing poverty through sustainable nature-based livelihoods, protecting biodiversity and restoring forests as carbon sinks, and promoting Land Degradation Neutrality. The project is unique in many ways. It firstly utilises a landscape approach to addressing environmental and climate-induced threats to Namibian livelihoods. This approach seeks to provide tools and

concepts for managing land to achieve social, economic, and environmental objectives in areas where agriculture, forest management, and other productive land uses compete with environmental and biodiversity goals.

Towards the end of last year, the Fund published the Second call for proposals between 10 September 2021 and 31 December 2021. The grants management team is busy evaluating the submissions to award more beneficiaries, and this announcement will be made in due course.

CBNRM EDA Completion Grants Handover Ceremony



Hon. Ipumbu Shiimi, Minister of Finance and Hon. Heather Sibungu, Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism with Mr. Xavier Swartbooi a representative of the Gamaseb and Gawachab Conservancies at the CBNRM EDA Grants Handover Ceremony

The Communities Empowered Through EDA Project The Empower to Adapt: Creating Climate Change Resilient Livelihoods Through Community Based Natural Resource Management in Namibia (CBNRM EDA) Project held a handover ceremony of sixteen (16) completed projects. The Green Climate Fund, through the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) of Namibia's Empower, to Adapt: Creating Climate Change Resilient Livelihoods through Community Based Natural Resources Management in Namibia (CBNRM EDA) Project Grant Facility, financed 31 grants projects to gazetted Community Forests and Communal Conservancies in 12 of the 14 political regions of Namibia. The funded projects have to date contributed towards empowering rural CBNRM communities in Namibia by increasing their resilience to adverse impacts of climate change such as protracted droughts, increased flood events, reduced crop production and livestock losses. Additionally, the interventions implemented by the

projects are directly contributing toward the realisation of Namibia's obligations to national and international climate change goals, objectives, and frameworks.

The sixteen (16) projects handed over are to the value of sixty-six million Namibia dollars (N\$ 66 000 000 and were awarded to the communities located in Otjozondjupa, Omusati, Oshikoto, Kunene, Kavango East, Kavango West, Zambezi, Erongo and //Karas regions. These self-determined community climate change adaptation interventions are aimed at improving livelihoods through the provision of water rehabilitated infrastructures, fire management, renewable energy and energy efficiency, poultry farming, livestock breeding scheme, bush to feed, hydroponics for horticulture and fodder production systems and a flood relief centre with supporting facilities such as a boat and an early warning system.



Hon. Ipumbu Shiimi, Minister of Finance and Hon. Heather Sibungu, Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism with Mr. Lukas Mandema who represented the Ncamagoro and Mbeyo Community Forests at the Grants Handover Ceremony

These community projects have benefited a total of fifty thousand (50 000) beneficiaries, provided more than three thousand (3000) green jobs, and an area of more than five point five (5,500 000) a million Hectares (Ha) of ecosystems have been strengthened, restored, and are protected from climate variability and change. Through the rehabilitation of eighty-five (85) boreholes and four



Mr. Benedict Libanda, Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia delivered the welcoming remarks at the Grants Handover Ceremony.

(4) earth dams, a total of more than two hundred and forty thousand 240,000 livestock (both cattle and small stock), as well as wildlife, now have access to reliable and safe water supply despite climate shocks and stresses. These 16 community projects will save 7,285,918.31 tonnes of CO2 from avoided emissions through renewable energy sources.



EIF GCF Experience report

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) managed to produce a publication on the experience it has in working with the Green Climate Fund (GCF). This report describes this journey from the perspective of the EIF as a direct access entity (DAE), detailing the experiences, both positive and challenging, and documenting the lessons and best practices that have been gleaned along the way. It identifies several recommendations for other developing country institutions, as well as for developing country governments and for the GCF.

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) was accredited to access the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in 2016 and has to date seen the approval of four GCF projects, for a total funding amount of nearly USD 40 million. The EIF was one of the first institutions to access the GCF through the “direct access” modality, whereby developing countries’ institutions can access funds without international intermediation. It was also the first

accredited entity to pilot the GCF’s “enhanced direct access” (EDA) approach and one of the first to make use of the “simplified approval process”. These projects are now well into their implementation, with the first two nearing completion, and many lessons have been learned along the way.

The EIF’s journey with the GCF has been a rewarding and transformational one, significantly scaling up adaptation finance to Namibia and enabling a paradigm shift in the way in which adaptation projects are conceived and financed. The CBNRM EDA project has been particularly transformational in devolving adaptation finance and decision-making to local communities.

For developing country’s institutions seeking access to GCF funding, the report sets out lessons and recommendations on that process.

EIF develops a Corporate Profile

Simply put, a company profile is a professional introduction. It aims to inform people (primarily prospective clients and stakeholders) of an institution's founding, activities, mission, goals, products, services, strengths, and status. The company profile serves as an excellent opportunity for the Fund to market itself and differentiate

itself from other institutions that are in a similar sector and serve as a point of information for prospective clients and stakeholders. The corporate profile was publicised, shared with stakeholders, and uploaded on the website and social media platforms.

EIF Exhibit on behalf of MEFT at COP26 Virtual Digital Expo

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism applied for participation at the COP 26 virtual exhibition. The secretariat selected it, and the invitation was extended to the Fund to exhibit. The COP is the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It stands for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. UNFCCC is the United Nations entity tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change. The Convention has near universal membership (197 Parties) and is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement. The UNFCCC is also the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. MEFT is the focal point of the ministry to UNFCCC (Climate Change Unit).

The Fund managed to produce and submit five (5) video clips every 3 minutes (180 sec) as per the requirements stipulated by the secretariat of COP 26. The Fund also managed to share various pictures for display and illustration of its various projects and activities.

The videos and pictures submitted illustrated how the Ministry and Fund are helping to tackle climate change and how the activities that are being displayed relate to the goals of COP 26 and the full implementation of the Paris Agreement, such as securing a global net zero by 2050 and keep 1.5 degrees within reach; adapting to protect communities and natural habitats; helping to mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year, and working together to accelerate action.

The Fund's submission covered areas such as Gender and Climate Change and Food Security and Climate Change, Biodiversity and Ecosystems (including Agriculture, Food Security, Forests), Capacity Building and Sustainable development and nature-based solutions, amongst many others.



The CEO of the Fund, Mr Benedict Libanda, took part in the International Emissions Trading Association pavilion during COP 26.

EIF embarks on Knowledge Management exercise in Kunene Region



Kunene Regional Council delegation led by Hon. Marius Sheeya together with the EIF team during the knowledge management exercise.

Knowledge management is critically important to any project implementation and institution at large. This is a multidisciplinary approach that assists the institution in documenting, sharing, retrieving, evaluating, and managing the information. The aim is also to profile targeted project sites as part of institutional knowledge management. The collected information is expected to build the institutional memory and capture institutional performance as well as the experienced challenges to improve future performance—profiling of targeted project sites as part of institutional knowledge management.

The purpose of the third phase of the knowledge management project was to capture the current status quo of some project activities being implemented under the EDA and IREMA GCF-funded project. Primarily, the documentation will record the current production/performance and subsequently after sometimes to capture the progress that will form part of the before and after the intervention.

The exercise entailed that all Fund's stakeholders, all persons interested in climate change, climate-smart agriculture, and livelihood diversifications, are engaged during the project recording and production. The project is also about interacting with beneficiaries, community leaders and key stakeholders that are engaged through

brief interviews. To date, the Green Horizon show that focuses on agricultural, sustainable and environmental matters on NBC has broadcasted eight (8) episodes and these episodes are available on the EIF websites and social media platforms. The recently completed knowledge management in the Kunene will produce four (4) episodes that will be broadcasted on the Green Horizon show and will be further distributed on our website, social media platforms and YouTube channel. The knowledge management exercise was carried out in conjunction with the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation in the Kunene Region.



Climate smart agriculture underway at Huab conservancy

Sustainable Development Goals Impact Facility (SDGIF) Champions for Development Fundraiser Gala Dinner and Expo



Hon. Lucia Ipumbu, MP , Minister of Industrialisation and Trade with Mr. Wilmot Reeves, UNDP Economic Advisor, launching the Namibia SDG Investor Map Report at the SDGIF Champions Dinner

The Champions gala dinner and Expo was aimed to market, mobilise funds and raise awareness of the SDGIF Facility that the Fund manages as facility manager. The Champions dinner also saw the awarding of grants to some beneficiaries and testimonies of those that have been funded and shared their success stories since receiving funding from the facility.

The expo allowed some SMEs to display products that they offer and market their products and services to potential customers and share their experiences with the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Standard Bank of Namibia (SB) and the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF). The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia's partners considered the Fund as the delivery partner for the Sustainable Development Goals Impact Facility (SDGIF). This partnership provides an excellent opportunity to scale up financing for sustainable development in Namibia.

The SDGIF facility was jointly established by the UNDP Namibia, Standard Bank Namibia (SBN), the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) and the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF). The Sustainable Development Goals Impact Facility (SDGIF) - is a multi-stakeholder financial and capacity-building platform that bridges entrepreneurship, social innovation, and blended capital to create sustainable economic and social returns. The facility comprises a match grant facility that is divided into 2 Tiers, with the remainder to be matched by own contribution or funds from a financial institution. The SDGIF was used to provide mentorship grants and

debt financing to women and youths in business, social enterprises and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to address the challenges of the financing gap in MSMEs. The impact investment fund platform is aimed at accelerating the implementation of SDGs with the support of the private sector. Through dynamic partnerships, the program intends to encourage the private sector to transform their traditional corporate social responsibility (CSR) into modern corporate social investments (CSI) that have a more significant and standardise measurable impact. This partnership will allow corporates to invest in social impact micro and small enterprises to turn them into potential suppliers for local and regional value chains. At the local value chain level, such investments are expected to result in enhanced technical capacities for the commercialisation of social innovations.



Mr. Wilmot Reeves, UNDP Economic Advisor, officially opened the SDGIF champions Expo

Never Walk Alone



Mr. Tim Ekandjo, the founder of the Never Walk Alone project and some of the beneficiaries of the project in Windhoek

The Fund supported the Never Walk Alone initiative which is aimed at socially uplifting initiative that will provide barefooted Namibian school going children with brand new pair of shoes.

The Environmental Investment Fund strategy is designed to complement Namibia's overall development agenda and that includes educating the nation on projects, partnerships, and programmes. The "Project Never Walk Alone" was inspired by the Namibian children "we have forgotten, who walk barefoot every day and who have never owned a pair of shoes in their lifetime." The project aims to raise an amount of N\$2 million per annum over the next 5 years to provide 6000 children with brand-

new pairs of shoes across the country. The Project has entered into a partnership agreement with Shilongo Leather Works Cc, a 100% Namibian owned company, that will make the project's shoes. "Project Never Walk Alone will be a reminder to these children that they are not forgotten, and that their lives, dreams and aspirations matter and that poverty is a state of mind that they can walk out from, given the right pair of shoes.

The Never Walk Alone Initiative has managed to handover shoes to school going children in various regions such as the //Kharas Region, Omaheke Region, amongst others. The fund sponsored the initiative to the tune of N\$ 20,000.00.

Oshana Gardens Handover

In 2020, the Fund came across a story that was published in a local daily newspaper that highlighted the struggles of women and gentleman who had backyard gardens and needed assistance. The Fund responded by supporting these activities as it promotes the sustainable use of natural resources and that contributes to the economic development of the country.

These recipients in the past struggled with water and expanding their gardens, and now they are all benefiting from their harvests. They grow sweet potato, maize, and butternut, which they sell to community members in surrounding areas and beyond. For example, Mr Ileni Nandjato has a broad market base spanning into Walvis Bay. This kind of assistance will greatly improve the lives of not only the beneficiaries but the whole community as



Infrastructure set up at Mr. Ileni Nandjato at his residence, Oshana Region

a new source of food has arrived, and the community members will also see a new form of income because of the support the Fund rendered to these beneficiaries.

The sponsorship saw upgrades ranging from having water tanks with 2500-litre capacity installed to increasing irrigation pressure in the garden without the need for pressure pumping machines. Nurseries were constructed, gardens were fenced off to protect the

gardens from unwarranted entries, and a reliable water supply system was established. A water tank base fabrication was installed. A three-section (25 by 10M) drip irrigation system, which will enable the planting of three or more different crops at the same time, was made available to these small-scale farmers, which will allow for multiple watering ways. Also included were seedlings and NPK fertilisers. In total, the Fund sponsored the gardens to the tune of N\$ 150 910.00.

EIF assists Think Namibia Aquaponics Systems Project



Berton Julius from Think Namibia Aquaponics Initiative demonstrates how the system works.

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia joined the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Parliament of the Republic of Namibia, Embassy of Finland, Think Namibia Aquaponics at the HSF Aquaponics Project and the first pilot aquaponics system at Aris Primary School, which is located approximately 20 km from Windhoek in the Khomas Region.

The pilot project initiative was launched in Windhoek with assistance funding from the Embassy of Finland. The Aquaponics project aims to support improving local knowledge, training skills, and human capacity development in the field of climate-resilient aquaponics with the overall objective of promoting food security and creating new livelihood opportunities in Namibia's rural communities. The Fund assisted the Think Namibia Aquaponics System project with N\$ 50 000..

The Aquaponics project Namibia is aimed at contributing to food security in Namibia. The system presents a climate-smart agriculture alternative practice that has the potential to enhance agricultural production, boost food security and improve living standards in rural Namibia. The ongoing challenges of COVID-19 have also imposed new hardships, and aquaponics will pave the way to achieving food self-sufficiency and economic sustainability for the people of Aris and, more specifically, the Aris primary School.

The Aris Primary School caters for 116 school-going pupils, and 107 of those are in the hostel providing a decent meal for them daily was a challenge, and the fund is confident that the arrival of this Aquaponics system will boost the food security of the school and expose the learners to practical skills when it comes to growing their own food.



Mr. Benedict Libanda, CEO of the Fund took part in the Global Financing -Means of Achieving Global Climate Goals plenary discussion. The plenary focused on the importance of climate financing landscape & business sustainability during the 2020 Dubai Expo.

The Fund partnered with the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) toward the NIPDB's participation at the Dubai Expo and Fund's participation. The Dubai Expo 2020 was slated for 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 and was held under the theme Connecting Minds, Creating the Future.

The Fund is of the view that the sponsorship towards the NIPDB would be of a worthy course as Namibia will benefit from it, and more so, the EIF would, by extension, be able to benefit in the context that it would be an opportunity for resource mobilisation and partnership to be formed. The Chief Executive Officer of the Fund has been participating in the preparations for the Dubai Expo through webinars sessions through the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) and the NIPDB. The Dubai expo also served as a platform where major entities such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), European Union (EU) and Developmental Finance Institutions could be potential partners in sustainable development financing. The CEO's participation in earlier webinars for Namibia's participation also created the opportunity for the Fund to prepare for engagements in side events that the

NIPDB coordinated, and this will serve as an opportunity to engage existing and new developmental partners where the EIF can source funding to exploring sectors of interests to the Fund that will ensure inclusive growth and sustainability of resources for the people of Namibia.

The Dubai Expo brought more than 192 exhibitors and attracted an estimated 25 million visitors, with 70% of this number anticipated to be from across the globe. By sponsoring the participation, the Fund enjoyed promotional benefits such as its logo being placed on the Business to Business App, its name appearing and being mentioned at all events hosted by Namibia at the Dubai Expo, promotion of the Fund's services to investors on screens of NIPDB One-stop Centre (1 year). It is part of the NIPDB's marketing campaigns amongst many other fringe benefits that will come with the Dubai Expo 2020.

The CEO participated in various engagements and platforms at the Dubai Expo in October 2021. The Fund committed N\$ 50 000 towards the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)'s participation at the Dubai Expo 2020.

Basic Needs Project

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility, the Fund unveiled funding towards the Basic Needs Project. The overall objective of the Basic Needs Project is to provide decent sanitation to all Namibians. According to statistics, 14% of citizens living in urban areas practise open defecation, while 77% of people living in rural areas do the same. Open defecation can be detrimental to public health, further spreading diseases such as hepatitis E, with the Samora Machel and Moses Garoëb constituencies that were most affected. Hepatitis E is mainly transmitted through drinking contaminated water. The Basic Needs Project under the Innv8e (Pty) Ltd is a social enterprise. Innv8e (Pty) Ltd designed the Basic Needs project with the vision to provide a sustainable, affordable, and homegrown sanitation solution that innovatively caters to the management of human excreta, greywater, and waste, contributing to meeting the backlog of 150 000 toilets required which impacts around 66% of the Namibian population practising open defecation in the informal sector.

According to a 2015 research report on open defecation status in Namibia by the Agriculture Ministry, only a third of the country's 2.2 million people have access to improved sanitation facilities. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) listed Namibia among the countries with the lowest sanitation coverage in Eastern and Southern Africa. Poor sanitation has caused disease breakouts such as hepatitis E, which Namibia is currently battling.

The Fund strongly believes that sustainable sanitation systems make productive use of waste to safely boost agriculture, reduce and capture emissions for greener energy. Both the national government and, in particular, the City of Windhoek have done so much. Still, so much more investment needs to be done to create sustainable housing, which can then be linked to a sewage system that can generate income and revenue for the city as it would be part of the services offered to the city that citizens would have paid and we all get to benefit.

It is worth noting that climate change is getting worse. Flood, drought and rising sea levels are threatening sanitation systems – from toilets to septic tanks to treatment plants. Everyone must have sustainable sanitation that can withstand climate change and keep communities healthy and functioning. Sustainable sanitation systems also reuse waste to safely boost agriculture and reduce and capture emissions for greener energy.



Some of the ablution facilities funded by the EIF

The Fund funded twenty (20) toilets to the value of N\$ 345 000. The toilets were erected at various locations within the City of Windhoek based on needs as identified by the City of Windhoek in terms of area and population density. The EIF is committed to being a sustainable partner towards ending open defecation and for Namibia to be defecation free. Ending this kind of practice enhances and restores the dignity of our citizens.

EIF collaborates with the art industry

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, for the first time, collaborated on the Pamwe Project of Visual Arts at the Omba Gallery. At least five visual artists showcased their very expressive work on cardboard print and linocut. Linocut is a printmaking technique in which a sheet of linoleum is used for a relief surface, and one cannot go without noting that cardboard printing originated in Namibia.

Mr David Amukoto, the event organiser, highlighted that this exhibition is aimed at sharing ideas and expressions of talented and creative artists. "The presence of creativity showcased here today is the route of culture modernised experiments of our subject, and is seen as a critical change of healing minds and on our environment to enhance our accountability." These experienced artists are from the John Muafangejo arts school and the College of the Arts. Mr Amukoto thanked the EIF for providing the necessary support to help make the exhibition a reality and for realising the importance of art, artists and creativity.

Some of the work presented depicts climate change and relatable images of nature. We all know too well about the struggles and dire financial situation COVID-19 has left most sectors in, but mostly how it has severely affected the arts and entertainment industry. It is for this reason that the Fund made a financial commitment

that is aimed at supporting these visual artists and this exhibition. These positive monuments remind us about the value and power of creativity. The Fund therefore, encourages other corporate companies to help weather this storm by supporting such dedicated initiatives for individual artists, collective admiration for arts and the expressions it represents.

According to Shireen Thude, the Manager and Director of the Omba Gallery, art is not necessarily a recognised profession in Namibia, and that is further demonstrated by budgetary allocation towards the industry art and, more specifically, the creative sector in general. She also stressed the importance of paying an artist what they are worth because of the time, talent and creativity invested into pieces and encouraged people to come out in numbers to support these Namibian artists and the Omba Gallery.

The Omba Gallery is the most visited in Namibia, and this was the first exhibition of the year at the Omba Gallery. The exhibition is titled "Ongano the Presence of Creativities" and will be open to the public for viewing from 1- 30 March 2021. Omba Gallery is situated at the Namibia Craft Centre in Windhoek. The Fund assisted the Pamwe Project of Visual Arts at the Omba Gallery to the tune of N\$ 15 000,00.



Some of the visitors to the Pamwe Project of Visual Arts viewing the artwork at the Omba Gallery

Rapote Women Sponsorship



A group of farmers at Okounduve Farm

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia joined Rapote Investments CC for a day which celebrates women crop farmers in the Omaheke Region. The women's crop farmer's sensitisation day was hosted under the theme of "crop farming to mitigate the effects of climate change and Covid-19". This one-day event saw the gathering of 45 women, of which some were existing farmers and others aspiring farmers.

According to the founder and organiser, Ratonda Katjivikua, Rapote Investment CC is a newly established farm venturing into crop/vegetable production, operating in the Omaheke Region at farm Waldhohe (Okounduve). Rapote Investments CC is a recipient of the UNDP SDG Impact Facility, which was launched in November 2020. UNDP Namibia, Standard Bank Namibia (SBN), the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade (MIT) and the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) have jointly established the Sustainable Development Goals Impact Facility (SDGIF). The SDG Impact Facility provides grant financing to women and youths in business, social enterprises, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). While experimenting with a variety of vegetables on a small-scale basis, she said that she has learned a lot about her environment and which crops to grow and in which season. During this period, Katjivikua also highlighted that she encountered

many challenges and is trying by all means to address these challenges. Hence it necessitated the reason for this event. "Some of the challenges we face here are lack of enterprise, skilled manpower, finances, industry support and access to local markets." It is for this reason that she saw the need to invite other women and engage in these similar challenges facing them, as she was not the only one experiencing these difficulties as a crop farmer.

Representing the Fund was Corporate Communications Assistant Nicole van Wyk. Considering the nature of the event, Van Wyk briefly touched on the EIF's commitment to the policy on gender mainstreaming. Ms Van Wyk further uttered that Namibians must promote this empowerment to close gender gaps and applauded Katjivikua for hosting such an event which allows for dialogue and addressing issues faced by female farmers. Other educational topics that made up the programme were matters concerning organic fertilisers, compost preparations and usage, types of irrigation systems and considering different crops for different seasons. Furthermore, soil preparation, seed preparation and seed planting. The Fund assisted Rapote Investments CC for a day which celebrates woman crop farmers in the Omaheke Region to the tune of N\$ 10, 000.00

Parliamentary Committee on Management of Natural Resources

The Fund facilitated a policy brief with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources. The briefing was on the EIF's mandate and the role of the Fund

towards sustainable development in the country. It was the first time that the EIF was invited or participated in the parliamentary standing committee level engagement.

EIF Board pays courtesy visit to the Minister of Finance



Members of the board of directors of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia with the Minister of Finance.

The Fund held another brief policy discussion with the office of the Minister of Finance, Hon. Ipumbu Shiimi. The meeting was aimed at discussing policy and a strategic

intervention between the board and the Minister since the EIF was transferred from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and now to the Ministry of Finance.

Engagements with LPM

The Fund held a policy brief and discussion with the Landless People Movement (LPM) on the issues about the IREMA project in Kunene Region. The meeting was centred around the concept of the IREMA

project, execution rate, status report on the project and information sharing between the two entities with regards to the project and the Fund's mandate in general.



Delegation of LPM lead by Hon. Hennie Seibeb, Deputy Leader of LPM engagement with EIF.

Bioeconomy Multisectoral Working Group of the NCRST and FAO United Nations.

The Fund participated in the Bioeconomy Multisectoral Working Group of the Namibia Commission on Research Science and Technology and Food and Agricultural Organisation office in Namibia to embark on the drafting of the National Bioeconomy Strategy of Namibia. Bioeconomy is defined as the production, utilisation and conservation of biological resources, including related knowledge, science, technology, and innovation, to provide information, products, processes and services across all economic sectors aiming toward a sustainable economy.

The Bioeconomy Strategy will set the passage for bio-innovations in Agriculture, Health, Environment, Indigenous knowledge, and related sectors with a particular focus on infrastructure development, technology transfer, and human capital development in line with national priorities. To draft a representative national document with wide stakeholder reach, the NCRST and the FAO constituted the Bioeconomy Multisectoral Working group to serve as an interagency working group that will facilitate the drafting of the National Bioeconomy Strategy.

Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) and Agence Française De Développement (AFD) signed agreement to Support the Design of Sustainable Financing Solutions Benefiting to The Conservation Ecosystem.



H.E. Sébastien Minot, Ambassador of France to Namibia, Mr. Benedict Libanda, CEO of the EIF and Mr. Bruno Deprince, AFD Regional Director for Southern Africa at the signing ceremony of the agreement

This agreement will focus on the needs of the conservancies to pursue a more diversified portfolio of income-generating projects, especially looking at how the conservancies have been heavily impacted by COVID-19. The agreement primarily focuses on the design of sustainable financing solutions benefitting the conservation ecosystem in Namibia. The AFD is committed to supporting Namibia in the identification of financing solutions that ensure a steady stream of benefits to conservancies. The € 200,000 (approximately N\$ 3,3mn) grant agreement was therefore signed with the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia to design an innovative and effective national Payment for Ecosystem Services mechanism. At its core, this mechanism looks to align the interests of local communities with external factors interested in the conservation service being provided by establishing a market for the exchange of ecosystem services.

The signing ceremony of this agreement was held with the participation of Mr Benedict Libanda, CEO of the EIF; HE Sébastien Minot, Ambassador of France to Namibia; Mr Bruno Deprince, AFD Regional Director for Southern Africa, as well as different representatives from entities invited to join the steering committee of the project (Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism; World Wildlife Fund; Namibian Association of Community Based Natural Resource Management Support Organisations; Community Conservation Fund of Namibia).

This project will contribute to the SDGs 8 (decent work and economic growth), 13 (climate action), and 15 (protect and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems).

Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) signs a Memorandum of Agreement with Mobile Telecommunications Company (MTC)

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Mobile Telecommunications Company (MTC) to work together in future on the Corporate Socially Responsible, and Investments program specifically focused on environmental sustainability and nature.

The two entities confirmed the partnership during a signing ceremony – initiating the start of the new journey. The MOA is focused on the IREMA Projects development of the Early Warning System (MBEWS) for the Kunene Region, the Development of the Seed Bank and the funding of the Sustainable Development Awards. Discussions are at the advanced stage, and the Fund is optimistic that tangible results will be seen in the 4th quarter of 2021/2022.

This MOA will amplify EIF's ability to improve the accessibility of environmental and climate change information. If appropriately applied, through Information and Technology Communication (ITC), the Fund can empower local people to make informed decisions regarding environmental issues, thus enhancing



Mr. Benedict Libanda, CEO of the EIF and Mr. Tim Ekandjo, Chief Human Capital and Corporate Services Officer of MTC at the MOA signing ceremony

conservation. The Fund is hopeful that the alliance with one of Namibia's most recognised brands will become a torchbearer of resilience and sustainable development in Namibia.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the World Food Programme (WFP) and Environment Investment Fund (EIF)

The Memorandum of Understanding serves as a collaboration for the management of Programmes under the Sustainable Development Goals: 2 (Zero Hunger), 13 (Climate Action) and 17 (Partnerships).

To achieve the SDGs by 2030, it is paramount that industries, as well as individuals, harness their knowledge of materials and financial resources to ensure the safety and prosperity of people and natural environments in our country. For this reason, the EIF is ready to partner with entities such as WFP as a demonstration of the commitment to championing SDGs. We need to work together to find solutions that are sustainable, durable and that recognise the interdependence as institutions.

As a group of committed partners, EIF and WFP envision providing capacity strengthening to the government of Namibia in the journey towards Zero Hunger by 2030. Specifically, WFP is mandated to ensure vulnerable populations in Namibia enhance evidence of food systems in Namibia since:

Currently, most households' diets are associated with high levels of nutrient deficiency. This is evident in the high levels of stunting at 24% and wasting and 6% among children 0-54 months.

- Lack of diversification in terms of food production, the local food production is dominated mainly by the production of staples such as maize, millet, and sorghum and very limited other nutrient-dense crops.
- High dependence on food imports, where the country imports 60% plus of the total needs in the country. Given that, on average in Namibia, 70% plus of Namibians rely on market access for food.
- Climate change impacts food production. This is very evident in Namibia, where for the past 10-15 years, the country has continued to experience drought and floods, which have led to a significant reduction in food production and turn, fueling the dependence on food imports.



World Food Programme Namibia Country Director, George Fedha and Benedict Libanda, Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia at the MOU signing ceremony.

- Limited access for smallholder farmers to markets has impacted a lot on the commercialisation process of smallholder farmers whose product has a very limited market, and they are unable to compete on an equal footing with the commercial farmers. This has disincentivised farmers and, in turn, discouraged increased production.
- Smallholder farmers are more vulnerable to climate shocks. This vulnerability results from 100% dependence on rainfed agriculture. This has been evident when the country has experienced drought, where the average yield per hectare cultivated has significantly dropped for those in the communal agriculture sector leading to a drop in the local food production.

EIF and MTC collaborate on the establishment of Community Seedbank in the Kavango West Region

Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF), jointly with the Mobile Telecommunications Company (MTC), announced the sponsorship of the National Gene bank EIF/MTC Partnership "Establishment of Community Seedbank in the Kavango West Region, Ncuncuni Constituency, Sarukwe Village".

This announcement comes after the Memorandum of Agreement with Mobile Telecommunications Company (MTC) to work together in future on the Corporate Socially Responsible and Investments Program – specifically

focused on environmental sustainability and nature that was signed in September 2021. The memorandum of agreement will cover three areas that being the Seed Bank initiative, Cleaning Campaign and Early Warning System in the Kunene Region. The EIF and MTC have jointly availed N\$ 400 000 for the establishment of the seed bank.

Doing the welcoming was the new Director of Forestry at the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Mr John Ndokosho. He welcomed all and narrated the



Mr John Ndokosho, Director of Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Mr. Benedict Libanda, Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, Mr Timoteus Mufeti, Environmental Commissioner and Mr Tim Ekandjo, Chief Human Capital and Corporate Services Officer, Mobile Telecommunications Company (MTC) at the sponsorship announcement of the establishment of Community Seedbank in the Kavango West Region, Ncuncuni Constituency, Sarukwe Village under the National Botanical Research Institute

importance of the National Botanical Research Institute and the role that it plays in preserving generic natural resources.

Delivering remarks on behalf of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia was the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Benedict Libanda. The latter denoted that "We are of the view that the seed bank must be supported, as it is about safeguarding tomorrow's biodiversity. It is of paramount importance to ensure that humanity's future depends on the diversity of the species living on our planet, as they provide present and future generations with a food source and a healthy environment". Mr Libanda also announced that the EIF would be contributed N\$ 200 000 as sponsorship towards the establishment of the community seed bank in the Kavango West Region in Ncuncuni Constituency, Sarukwe Village.

Representing the Mobile Telecommunications Company (MTC) was the Chief Human Capital and Corporate Services Officer, Mr Tim Ekandjo highlighted that "MTC believes that environmental sustainability is everybody's responsibility and because MTC wants to preserve and sustain life and this can only be done through initiatives of this kind".

Representing the community of Sarukwe Village that will be benefitting from this initiative was Mr Asser Sitareni.

They encourage Namibians to go back to the old ways of preserving our seeds and heritage as our elders did by securing them.

Delivering the keynote address was the Environmental Commissioner, Mr Timoteus Mufeti, who reiterated against the Government of the Republic of Namibia's commitment to the conservation of our natural resources and, more specifically, the nation's generic resources and indicated that this partnership would go a long way in assisting in building on the 5000 generic seeds that are already stored at the National Botanical Research Institute. He also highlighted that it is our collective responsibility to ensure that we protect and look after these resources that have been entrusted to us as Namibians.

In delivering the closing remarks was Mr Steve Carr, Head of the National Botanical Research Institute. He thanked and called on other stakeholders and the private sector to come on board to emulate the examples of EIF and MTC that have demonstrated through their commitment that they are serious about conserving and preserving our generic and natural resources that will lead to food security. He was hopeful that this initiative would be extended to other regions so that we have many more seedbanks in the country as there is a variety number of generic and natural resources to be preserved.

New Faces at the Fund:



Mr Leonard Ambuga - Internal Auditor



Ms Justina Andreas - Procurement Intern



Mr Victor Muyoba - Human Resources Practitioner



Mr Wilbard Amunime - Project Accountant EbA Project



Ms Kredula Shimwandi - Gender and Data Management Intern



Mr Wilbard Kozosi - Project Accountant CBNRM EDA & NILALEG Projects



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