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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Esteemed Stakeholder,

I am excited to present the news from the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia for the first quarter of 2023. As we delve into the remarkable highlights from recent developments, I hope you will join me in looking back at the EIF's 11-year anniversary, which took place on 13 February 2023 under the theme "Celebrating the past while managing for the future."

This volume comes at the conclusion of another financial year. Without a doubt, the 2022/2023 financial year presented several challenges. However, as always, the Fund remained committed to promoting the sustainable use and efficient management of natural resources for the benefit of all Namibians.

In this edition, we highlight the Fund's performance and noteworthy achievements from January to March 2023, with a particular focus on EIF's 11-year anniversary, EIF-GCF programming consultations, field visits of EIF Board and Board sub-committee members to EIF-funded project sites in the Erongo and Kunene Regions, and Namibia's participation at the Africa Energy Indaba.

Our achievements thus far would not have been possible without the unwavering support and compliance of our Board of Directors, the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, as well as our valued clients and stakeholders. We are truly indebted to you for your sense of ownership and participation in the execution of projects administered and implemented through the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia. By playing your role as stakeholders, you enable us to drive customer-centric solutions and strengthen our resolve and ambitions of being a reputable institution that makes a meaningful and tangible impact in the lives of our people.

I want to emphasise the importance of working together to improve the living standards of Namibians by deliberately putting livelihoods at the centre of the development agenda and to contribute to the overall attainment of the global commitment through the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through ongoing teamwork and collaboration, we can ensure that we improve the wellbeing of all Namibians.

The EIF has been successful in the blended financing approach that incorporates the three main pillars of sustainable development, namely social, economic and environmental considerations. As is evident in its 11 years of existence, this has been achieved by implementing livelihood protection actions, financing sustainable business concepts, and ensuring The EIF environmental protection. remains committed to executing its mandate to serve clients with distinction. and upholding its mission of securing the environmental sustainability of Namibia.

In conclusion, I want to thank each of you for exemplifying patriotism by ensuring that sustainable development is at the core of all spheres of life of the Namibian nation. It is through you, the citizens and inhabitants of the motherland, that the Fund derives its mandate. By working together, we can turn our shared vision of a prosperous Namibia into a reality. Your ongoing dedication and collaboration are essential to our success.

We are committed to continue serving you through our core values of professionalism, integrity, transparency and accountability, and teamwork.

To our readers, there is no "we" without "you." We express our unfailing gratitude to you for taking time to read our newsletter. We hope to continue bringing you joy through the life-changing stories we share and welcome your feedback and suggestions for inclusion in upcoming editions.

I wish you pleasant reading!

Lot Ndamanomhata Editor-in-Chief & Manager: Corporate Communications



Lot Ndamanomhata Editor-in-Chief

EIF CELEBRATES 11-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) was established by the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia Act 13 of 2001 and mandated to raise funding for investment into projects and programmes that promote sustainable development. As an institution, the EIF was officially launched on 13 February 2012 by then President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba. It was established with the overall objective of mobilising funding, allocating this funding to activities and projects that promote the sustainable use and efficient management of natural resources for the benefit of all Namibians, and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources.

The EIF celebrated its 11th anniversary on 13 February 2023 under the theme "Celebrating the past while managing for the future." The EIF provides a sustainable source of funding to support environmentally sound development in Namibia in a manner that complements programmes and actions of both the public and private sectors. The EIF is grateful to its Board of Directors and stakeholders for their invaluable input and support since inception, which has been instrumental in the Fund becoming one of the fastest-growing green and climate financing institutions in Africa today. The Fund's multi-stakeholder approach enables it to create and sustain value through its work.

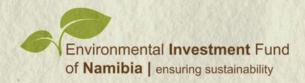
The Fund is committed to rebuilding natural capital as a critical economic asset and source of public benefits, especially for poor and disadvantaged Namibians. It is time that Namibians from all walks of life join the EIF crusade for an environmentally prudent and socio-economically sound populace. The EIF's first Strategic Plan 2012 – 2016 was aimed at positioning the Fund as a key player in environmental and climate change financing to the amount of N\$1 billion, while the second Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 sought to consolidate the Fund's gains and capitalise on mobilising resources, growing financial services, and striving for sustainability. The effective implementation of these strategies has enabled the Fund to mobilise more than N\$3 billion since inception.

The Fund remains confident that it is on the right track towards improving the living standards of our people through deliberate government interventions that put livelihoods at the centre of the development agenda and the overall attainment of the global commitment towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As we celebrate 11 years of existence and our relentless pursuit for excellence, we look to the future with optimism and invite our fellow citizens to be formidable partners in the sustainable development of our country's resources for the benefit of all Namibians.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, the Fund published articles and announcements in various newspapers, including the Windhoek Observer, The Brief, Confidente, The Villager, and The Namibian Sun, and EIF Chief Executive Officer, Benedict Libanda, appeared on the Evening Review.







ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating the past while managing for the future

EIF 11-year anniversary announcement



EIF AND EEF STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

As a continuation of the benchmark visit of the Eswatini Environment Fund (EEF) to the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, the two institutions held several virtual meetings to draft

the EEF's strategic plan. The EIF also offered strategic and programmatical assistance to the EEF. Finalisation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions is pending.

EIF HOSTS GCF PROGRAMMING CONSULTATIONS

The signing of the Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) between the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) in Songdo, South Korea on 15 September 2022, signalled the official pursuance of the EIF's programming pipeline. The agreement is in line with the Fund's vision to be a recognised leader in the development and application of innovative financing mechanisms to support environmentally and climate-resilient development pathways in Namibia.

On 18 January 2023, various stakeholders attended a GCF programming consultation at the Windhoek Country Club Resort to discuss the first project in the EIF pipeline to be submitted to the GCF.

The aim of the project is to establish a sustainable financing facility that supports value chains and market penetration of agricultural production to enhance longterm adaptation capacities within periurban environments. This sustainable financing facility will be key in creating jobs, upskilling workers, expanding service provision in areas underserved by the government, and increasing the tax base to fund important social and economic development objectives. The objective is to create a blended financing facility in the form of a green guarantee scheme that will de-risk the EIF Green Credit Line and attract additional investment from the private sector and capital recycling.



Participants of the GCF programming consultations hosted by the EIF at the Windhoek Country Club Resort in January 2023

CAN SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES VENTURE INTO ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS?

The age-old proverb that "If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime" is the mantra many fishermen and women live by. While many Namibian fishers were born and raised in coastal towns and scraped by on meagre incomes from artisanal fishing, a significant number of fishers were drawn to the coastline of the rough and cold Atlantic Ocean in pursuit of better opportunities, such as jobs on fishing vessels, at fish factories or at mines. Many of these women and men see fishing as their only option for income generation.

Yet climate change has left Namibian fisheries vulnerable to external economic and ecological shocks that make catch volumes unpredictable due to climate-change induced fluctuations of the Benguela current. Preliminary scientific evaluation indicates that climate variability influences the distribution of marine species due to changes in temperature, which in turn has negative impacts on employment, income and government revenue. Clearly, such variations have severe consequences for the fisheries sector and pose an enormous challenge to fisheries management. Several reports conclude that small-scale and artisanal fisheries tend to be the most vulnerable to environmental change and variability.

These fisheries engage many people who are heavily dependent on fisheries and marine resources for their livelihoods. Many live in conditions of poverty and most have limited ability to adapt to reduced catch volumes and rates. While the sector as a whole is adversely affected, the vulnerable fishing communities with low adaptive capacities are the worst affected. As an institution responsible for mobilising and allocating funding to projects that promote the sustainable use and efficient management of natural resources for the benefit of all Namibians, the EIF is committed to assisting these artisanal small-scale fishers to build not only their resilience, but also to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

By October 2023, the EIF intends to submit a proposal to the GCF for building resilience and reducing the vulnerability to climate variability and change of the marine fisheries and mariculture sectors in Namibia through strengthening adaptive capacity and implementing participatory and integrated strategies to ensure food and livelihood security.

In preparation, the EIF team comprising of Karl Mutani Aribeb, Chief Operations Officer, Shalumbu-Shivute. Manager Bernadette Programmes and Programming, and Talitha Litwayi, Assistant Climate Change Programme Specialist, engaged with various fishing industry stakeholders from 15 - 17 February 2023 to assess whether the proposal and the recommended interventions would have scope within the sector and to explore feasible alternatives to fishing in the face of climate change. Climate change is an unavoidable fact, and the only way to cope with it is to build the resilience of the sector, starting with smallscale fisheries.

EIF CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2023/2024 BUDGET STATEMENT

On 22 February 2023, the Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, Honourable Ipumbu Shiimi delivered the 2023/2024 National Budget – themed "Economic Revival and Caring for the Poor" – and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework for 2023/2024 to 2025/2026.

The Minister indicated that the government is fully aware of the continued hardships endured by most citizens from all corners of our beloved country. "While I express gratitude for your forbearance, particularly over the difficult economic times, I would also like to express that your government has not forgotten you and your government is a caring government," Shiimi said.

As the EIF celebrated its 11-year anniversary under the theme "Celebrating the past while managing for the future," thereby reaffirming its commitment to and relentless pursuit of excellence, the Minister announced that the EIF will roll out a green concessional loan facility for youth entrepreneurs wishing to undertake economically viable investment that integrates low carbon and climate adaptation instruments. The facility aims to deploy N\$72 million over the next 12 months and is expected to grow to N\$300 million by the 2024/2025 financial year. Honourable Shiimi said, "Moreover, during the 2023/2024 financial year, the Environmental Investment Fund, through an

Ecosystem-based Adaptation Project funded by the Green Climate Fund, will provide grants amounting to N\$120 million to at least thirtysix different community-based organisations for climate change adaptation, resilience and capacity building."

This announcement highlighted the Fund's commitment since inception to rebuilding natural capital as a critical economic asset and source of public benefits – especially for poor and disadvantaged Namibians. The Fund is one of the few state-owned enterprises that has successfully blended a financing approach that considers the three main pillars of sustainable development, namely social, economic and environmental considerations. As is evident in its activities over the past 11 years, this has been achieved by implementing livelihood protection actions, financing sustainable business concepts, and ensuring environmental protection.

The Fund's green concessional lending product aims to avail sustainable capital for SMEs wanting to access green financial mechanisms. An increasing number of SMEs is seeking to capitalise on green and sustainable strategies, incorporating them into business strategies and aligning funding mechanisms to sustainable development commitments.

EIF HOSTS FUND MANAGER MEETINGS

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia held green concessional lending product meetings with fund managers with the aim of availing sustainable capital for SMEs wanting to access green financial mechanisms. The green concessional loan facility will target youth entrepreneurs wishing to undertake economically viable investments that integrate low carbon and climate adaptation instruments. The facility aims to deploy N\$72 million over the next 12 months and is expected to grow to N\$300 million by the 2024/2025 financial year.

The meetings focused on standardised agreements for entities that will be responsible for the disbursement of funds to the increasing number of SMEs seeking to capitalise on green and sustainable

strategies, by incorporating them into business strategies and aligning funding mechanisms to sustainable development commitments.

To achieve its objective, the facility's strategy is to target investments that have the potential to make a tangible long-term development impact on the lives and livelihood of rural communities, thereby unlocking significant economic activity and value; to provide credit financing to individuals, SMEs and farmers to be extended over loan terms ranging from 12 – 72 months; and to invest in other loan products designed to avail access to finance for poverty alleviation, employment creation and rural development.

EIF ENGAGES AMTA

The Fund engaged with the Agro-Marketing & Trade Agency (AMTA) on how to deliver service to the Namibian people, particularly small-scale farmers. The need to collaborate as public entities cannot be over-emphasised. The EIF manages various projects that support agri-businesses and climate management to create a well-balanced environment that is conducive for food production.

The two entities are looking forward to signing a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance joint efforts and support similar existing agreements with other partners, such as the World Food Programme. The entities further deliberated on the produce from EIF-funded projects and targeting government feeding programmes to ensure that public entities focus on sustainability.



EIF and AMTA staff members at the AMTA Head Office in Windhoek, Namibia

INTERSECTORAL COORDINATION AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGE WORKSHOP

The Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Investment Fund Namibia, Benedict Libanda, participated in the Intersectoral Coordination and Technical Exchange Workshop on Food Security and Agronomic Support Initiative Towards a Resilient and Coordinated Agri-Food Sector. The conference focused on efforts to improve food security through production. increasing agricultural generating incomes through social grants, employment or entrepreneurship, reducing unequal access to factors of production (land, labour, capital), caring for the environment and building resilience. Conference participants also deliberated on the Revised National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, which aims to reduce the prevalence of undernourishment and obesity among

children by facilitating the provision of adequate food and nutrition for mothers and children, and to ensure optimal health and productivity of the people of Namibia throughout their lifecycle.



Benedict Libanda, CEO of the EIF, at the Intersectoral Coordination and Technical Exchange Workshop on Food Security and Agronomic Support Initiative Towards a Resilient and Coordinated Agri-Food Sector

FUND PARTICIPATES IN TRANSFORMATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The Capricorn Foundation (CF) in collaboration with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Namibia conducted a workshop on "Transformative Food Systems for Sustainable Development." The forum was convened under the shared CF and WFP values of enhancing food and nutritional security, improving livelihoods, and accelerating socio-economic outcomes in Namibia, and at an opportune time when food systems and their transformational potential are gaining prominence.

A food system refers to a range of activities across the value chain, from production, storage, processing, distribution, aggregation and consumption, to a web of actors and institutions that are involved in food production. A sustainable food system is key to achieving long-term food and nutritional security, ensuring environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation and

restoration, climate change adaption and mitigation, job creation and the transformation of rural livelihoods.

Namibia's current food system faces challenges in achieving these goals; thus, the aim of the workshop was to investigate and innovate various pathways towards transforming the country's food system to upscale local food production and achieve sustainable development. Discussions focused on the creation of a sustainable and resilient Namibian food system that is inclusive, responsive and adaptable to shocks and stressors, and the use of sustainable agricultural practices to produce sufficient and affordable food for all.

Aina-Maria Iteta, EIF Executive for Business Strategy and Performance Management, represented the Fund at the workshop.

ACC PRESENTATION ON COMPLIANCE EDUCATION

The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia hosted the Anti-Corruption Commission of Namibia (ACC), which presented a compliance overview as part of the ACC education outreach campaign.

FIELD VISITS OF EIF BOARD AND BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES TO PROJECT SITES

From 20 to 24 February 2023, the EIF Board and Board sub-committee members undertook field visits to EIF-funded project sites in the Erongo and Kunene Regions.

During the visit, the Board and sub-committees had an opportunity to tour IREMA and CBNRM EDA project sites and various EIF community developments, interact with beneficiaries and project staff members, and learn about the impact of EIF projects on the surrounding communities.

In addition, the delegation witnessed the IREMA, CBNRM EDA and EIF's community-lead work in action, thereby gaining an appreciation for the vital role the Board and sub-committees play in assisting the EIF to impact the lives of Namibians.

Several sites were visited, including the following:

- 16-hectare Fransfontein Community Garden, a horticultural production and infrastructure development project
- IREMA Small Stock Revolving Scheme: Beneficiary who received 20 ewes and one ram
- Rehabilitated borehole, which was converted to a solar-powered system, at Belmond Post
- Fire cutline constructed as part of rangeland management to protect grazing areas in the Morewag area

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FIELD VISITS OF EIF BOARD AND BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES TO PROJECT SITES (CONTINUED)

- Solar Power Plant at Sorris Sorris Lodge in the Sorris Sorris Conservancy
- Warmquelle Green Scheme, an infrastructure development and horticulture production project: Agroforestry seedling and gardening tool beneficiary
- Beneficiary of an energy-efficient stove
- Otjimboyo Horticultural Project in the Otjimboyo Conservancy
- Spitzkoppe Water-Softening Project



EIF Board and sub-committee members with beneficiaries of the EIF-funded project at Fransfontein Community Garden, Kunene Region



EIF Board and sub-committee members with beneficiaries of the EIF-funded Otjmboyo Resilience Horticultural Project in the Otjimboyo Conservancy, Daures Constituency, Erongo Region

NAMIBIA PARTICIPATES AT THE AFRICA ENERGY INDABA

The Government of the Republic of Namibia hosted an in-depth conversation on the latest developments in the Namibian energy sector and the exploration and exploitation of the country's comparative advantages across four key areas, namely the recent oil and gas discoveries, the green hydrogen value chain, world-class renewable energy resources and international carbon markets.

Namibia, which is well positioned to become the energy hub of Africa, aspires to become the first carbon neutral country on the continent by 2040. In addition, due to the significant discoveries of oil and gas, Namibia's economy is set to expand in the coming years.

The Fund's Chief Executive Officer, Benedict Libanda, and other speakers from the private and public sectors discussed current developments in the Namibian energy sector, emerging investment opportunities and the various interventions being implemented to catalyse the attainment of Namibia's bold ambitions to become the sustainable energy capital of Africa.

The roundtable discussion, held under the theme "Namibia: Becoming the sustainable energy hub of Africa," took place on 8 March 2023 at the Africa Energy Indaba at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in South Africa.



Benedict Libanda, EIF Chief Executive Officer, at the Invest in Namibia Roundtable at the Africa Energy Indaba in Cape Town, South Africa



Namibia pavilion at the Africa Energy Indaba in Cape Town, South Africa



Panellists of the Invest in Namibia Roundtable at the Africa Energy Indaba in Cape Town, South Africa

EIF AND MAWLR SIGN MOA ON WATER-SOFTENING SYSTEMS

In a culmination of ongoing collaboration across numerous projects, the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) signed a landmark Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on water-softening systems for rural communities throughout Namibia. As a national entity mandated to mobilise funding for community projects to improve the lives of Namibians, the Fund's involvement in projects such as this one remains vital for addressing the dire needs of rural communities.

In September 2022, the MAWLR and EIF witnessed the handover of reverse osmosis units installed at three community waterpoints at the communal farms Vrede, Goeiegeluk Pos and Santamab Pos 1 in the Spitzkoppe area of Erongo Region. These technologically-advanced facilities have greatly improved community livelihoods at the communal farms.

As per the MOA, the Ministry will transfer N\$15 million to the EIF for water-softening system pilot projects in ten regions, namely Erongo, Hardap, //Karas, Oshikoto, Kunene, Kavango East, Kavango West, Ohangwena, Omusati and Zambezi Regions. The project will be implemented in collaboration with the decentralised function of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination. The agreement between the EIF and Ministry is set to continue until 31 December 2024.

The water-softening systems are mini desalination plants that will improve water quality to make it suitable for human consumption and irrigation purposes. The pilot projects at Goeiegeluk Pos and Santamab Pos 1 also include theft proofing, securing and reinforcing the solar panel infrastructure with appropriate fencing, and converting windmills into solar-powered systems.

The signing ceremony, which took place in Swakopmund, was attended by the Regional Governor of the Erongo Region, Honourable Neville Andre Itope, the Regional Governor of the Kunene Region, Honourable Marius Sheya, the Executive Director of the MAWLR, Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata, and the Deputy Executive Director of the Water Affairs Department of the MAWLR, Dr. Elijah Ngurare.

At the occasion, Benedict Libanda, Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, said, "As a Fund, we do all we can to support the transition to a more sustainable future and we want this transition to come as quickly as possible. It is my firm belief that the water-softening facilities that we are going to put up at various community waterpoints will enhance the resilience of the communities to the impacts of climate change and enable them to diversify their livelihoods by growing vegetables in their backyards and achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all."



Benedict Libanda (CEO EIF Namibia), Hon. Marius Sheya (Governor of Kunene Region), Dr. Elijah Ngurare (Deputy Executive Director: Department for Water Affairs, MAWLR), Hon. Neville Andre Itope (Governor of Erongo Region) and Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata (Executive Director: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform)

CBNRM EDA PROJECT HOSTS WEBINAR

The EIF, Triple Capital and Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) hosted an online webinar to reflect on the lessons learned through the EIF and Green Climate Fund funded projects, implemented by Namibian conservancies and community forests. The webinar was attended by various guests and speakers from

conservancies, including the support entities that assisted communities with project implementation. Participants learned from each other's experiences and drew lessons to support direct access project implementation in Namibia and increase the resilience of communities against the impact of climate change.



Poster promoting the CBNRM EDA Project Webinar

EIF PARTICIPATES IN VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

As part of its Staff Wellness Day, the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia took part in the

Volleyball-for-All tournament at the DTS sports grounds in Windhoek on 4 February 2023.



The EIF team at the Volleyball-for-All tournament in Windhoek



The EIF team at the Volleyball-for-All tournament in Windhoek

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief

Lot Ndamanomhata Manager Corporate Communications

Articles and Photography

Lot Ndamanomhata

Published by:

Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia Corporate Communications and ICT Unit comms@eif.org.na



- 8933 Heinitzburg Heights c/o Heinitzburg & Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab Streets, Klein Windhoek, Windhoek, Namibia
- +264 61 431 7700
- www.eif.org.na
- EIF Nam
- in Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia
- info@eif.org.na
- **f** EIF Namibia
- EIF Namibia@Green_Viewpoin
- EIF Nam