



# Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia | ensuring sustainability

## INTRODUCING EIF's REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Review Committee ("RC") is a sub-committee of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia Board of Directors ("Board") established as per Section 10 of the Environmental Investment Act 13 of 2001 ("Act"). The Review Committee consists of seven (7) experts from multidisciplinary backgrounds. The RC is supported by a staff member from EIF (an Internal Auditor), who serve as secretariat to the committee. The objectives of the RC is to review, investigate and inquire into any activities and processes by any person employed by the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia ("EIF") in taking decision(s) and/or following procedure(s). In terms of Chapter 7 of the EIF's Operations Manual, the Chief Executive Officer of the EIF ("CEO") shall refer grievances made by members of the public (aggrieved) to the RC ("Referral(s)"). The Chairperson of the RC is a substantive member of the Board, as prescribed by the Act and as appointed by the Board, from time to time. In terms of the guidelines and composition of the Board of Directors, EIF Management level staff members may not serve on the RC. Any member of the RC who may have any interest cases are not involved in any way in the hearing leading to the review of applications. The Board authorises the Review Committee to investigate any activity within its terms of reference; a) to seek any relevant information, it requires from any member of staff and/or any relevant third parties, and all members of staff are required to cooperate with any reasonable request made by the RC; b) to obtain guidance, if it considers it necessary, from the CEO or any other Senior EIF staff member or to obtain legal or other independent professional advice and, if it considers it necessary, to secure the advice or attendance of those with relevant experience; and c) to investigate and inquire into any misconduct, mismanagement and maladministration by any person employed by the EIF.

The Review Committee is guided by a charter that stipulates the process and guidelines in convening its meetings, receipt of a referral, convening review hearing after receiving the Referral, reporting procedures, secretarial duties, and review adjudication procedures.

### Current Review Committee Members

1. Ms. Desiree Theunissen (RC Chairperson)
2. Adv. Clement John Daniels (Legal Practitioner)
3. Mr. Dawid (Gawaseb) (Social Scientist)
4. Ms. Vesoraune Mbaha (Risk Management Expert)
5. Mr. Awonke Mwellie (Civil Engineer)
6. Ms. Selma Nangolo (Grants-Making and Development Finance Expert)
7. Dr. Romie Nghitevelekwia (Anthropologist and Sociology of Environment Expert)
8. Mr. Leonard Ambuga, an Internal Auditor of EIF serves as the secretariat of the Review Committee.

Below are the profiles of the review committee members:



**MS. DESIRE SJ THEUNISSEN**

Ms. Desiree SJ Theunissen is a visionary leader with over 15 years of experience in Local Government Administration, Public Administration, Corporate Communication, Public Relations, Human Resource Management, Financial Management, Strategic Planning, and Organizational Development in the Local Government Fraternity ranging from Part 1 Municipality to Village Council level.

Currently employed as Public Relations Officer and Divisional Head Corporate Affairs, and serving on the EIF Board amongst others, Ms. Theunissen comes with vast experience in community development, public administration, human resource, and financial management. Having established sound relations through serving on various Committees, Boards, and Management positions Ms. Theunissen is a seasoned leader in both the private and public sectors. Throughout her career, Ms. Theunissen worked on projects and programmes in land management, biodiversity conservation, waters resource management, and has been involved in project design, support to project coordination, and monitoring and evaluation in various fields in the Regional and Local Government Sector.

She has a strong background with proven track records and achievements with excellent leadership, administrative, project management skills, with the ability to thrive under pressure, hardworking, and committed to serve and improve service delivery with efficiency and effectiveness.

Being a skilled Communicator and Public Relations Expert in local Government Ms. Theunissen comes with sound experience in administering and developing Policies and Procedures, Strategic Plans, Communication mediums, PR Campaigns, Organizational Development, Training and Capacity Building, and community liaison and stakeholder management. She is a holder of a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Media Studies & Industrial Psychology amongst others, currently studying towards a Professional Certificate in Life Coaching and Transformational Leadership, bringing 15 years' experience in Public Relations and Corporate communications, Local Authority Administration providing strategic operations leadership in uniquely challenging situations.



**MS. VESORAUNE MBAHA**

Ms. Vesoraune Mbaha is a Principal Risk Officer at the Bank of Namibia responsible for the facilitation of Risk Management, Compliance and Business Continuity Management. She has over 10 years experience in Banking with over 5 years' intensive training and experience in Internal Auditing. Previously, worked for Standard Bank Namibia as an Internal Auditor. In addition, she serves on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Central Banks IT Governance and Business Continuity Management Sub-committee. She is a "Certified Risk Management Expert" through the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management and a certified ISO 22301:2012 Business Continuity Management Systems: Lead Implementer and Lead Auditor through the British Standard Institute (BSI). Furthermore, she holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and a Post Graduate Diploma in Internal Auditing from the University of Namibia (UNAM). She is currently studying for her MBA at the University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB).



**MR. AWONKE MWELLIE**

Mr. Awonke Mwellie is a Solutions-oriented Civil engineering professional (Bsc Hons Civil Engineering) from Kingston University, Surrey, United Kingdom. He has over 10 year's professional working history in the UK and Namibia varying from the construction, telecoms and finance industry. Mr Mwellie also possesses a Postgraduate Certificate in Engineering Management from Brunel University (Uxbridge, London) with a strong emphasis on the complex and interdisciplinary nature of engineering management/production and project management. He also holds a Btec in Electrical and Electronics engineering from Thames Valley University (Formerly Reading college and school of arts & design, UK)



**ADV. CLEMENT DANIELS**

Adv. Clement Daniels is a legal practitioner with human rights, media law, and labour law, and governance compliance experience. He holds BLuris and LLB degrees from the University of Western Cape and an Advanced Diploma in Labour Law from the University of Johannesburg.

He was admitted as a legal practitioner of the High Court of Namibia in 1996. Mr. Daniels was employed with the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC), a public interest law centre in Windhoek for approximately fifteen years and served for five years as Director of the LAC. He also served as a temporary magistrate in Windhoek between 2006 and 2008.

Mr. Daniels served as the Legal Advisor / Company Secretary for the Namibian Standards Institution for three years and is now in private legal practice, focusing primarily on human rights research, labour law practice, mediation, and arbitration since 2011. He also conducts training on issues such as labour law, mediation, arbitration, negotiations, discipline, and grievance handling, and media law.



**MR. DAVID GAWASEB**

Mr. Dawid Gawaseb is a passionate seasoned youth worker with moreover 18 years of experience in the field of youth and community development work. Evidently, he has made significant contributions in his line of work over the years. The work he has done to date has solidified his ambition to forge a path in becoming a leading public policy formulator and implementer with a vast practical experience in the public service particularly youth services. He is currently working as a Senior Youth Officer with the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service as the head of the Khomas Region Youth Office. He has a strong background in Integrated Rural Youth Development and is renowned for being determined, hardworking and target driven. In addition to his strength in youth and community development he has a decent background in corporate governance, as he served on various boards and structures mainly as youth representative. He is currently pursuing his MA in Sociology and holds a BA Hon in Sociology and Industrial Psychology, Commonwealth Diploma in Youth and Development Work, Management Development Program Certificate, Urban Sociology and statistics/ Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) among others.



**DR. ROMIE NGHITEVELEKWA**

Dr. Romie Nghitevelekwia is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of Namibia, responsible for courses on sociology of development, environment and rural areas. She has over 10 years of professional experience in projects and programmes related to environmental management, and in particular focusing on the linkages between human-physical environment relations. She previously worked for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Namibia country office), where she served as a programme analyst in the Energy and Environment Unit. At UNDP she worked on projects and programmes in the focal areas of climate change, land degradation, biodiversity conservation, international waters, and has been involved in project design, support to project coordination and monitoring and evaluation. She has undertaken commissioned projects on stakeholder engagement and gender analysis for projects under the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Forestry supported by UNDP and Global Environment Facility. She holds a Ph.D in Social Anthropology from the University of Freiburg in Germany. Her doctoral research focused on communal land reform in Namibia and its implications for people's lived realities and social equity, centralising topics of security of tenure, land rights and land use in the communal land areas. She is an author of the book titled Securing Land Rights: Communal Land Reform in Namibia.



**MR. LEONARD AMBUGA (SECRETARY)**

Mr. Leonard Ambuga is an experienced Auditor focused on improving business compliance, workflow, and processes through detailed audits and optimization recommendations. He is familiar with lending, audit/ risk management, project management, and analysis. Mr. Leonard possesses a successful track record of fully evaluating information, structures, and procedures and initiating corrective actions and has a clear understanding of job responsibilities and training in working with people and Corporate communications, Advocacy and community development in the Regional and Local Government fraternity, Superior interpersonal skills, capable of resolving multiple and complex public relations, corporate affairs, human resources, legal, financial, operational issues and motivating staff to peak performance.

Expert in transforming Strategic Plans into tactical initiatives with excellent political, stakeholder and investor connections and networking developed over the years in the National, Regional & Local complex public relations, corporate affairs, human resources, legal, financial, operational issues and motivating staff to peak performance.

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**MS. SELMA TUEUMONA NANGOLO**

Ms. Selma Tueumona Nangolo is currently the Project Manager at the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN). Before that she carved out a progressive career in Development Finance: Community Based Tourism and Natural Resource Management. She is a highly experienced Project and Grants Manager with more than 15 years of experience working in the field. She has worked with multi-faceted institutions including Governments, Non-Governmental Institutions, the Private sector, and international donor agencies (such as the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)). She serves as a member of the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) Board's Review Committee, has served on the National World Heritage Committee, and was a Steering committee member of the CESP (Community Based Natural Resource Management Enterprise Support project) funded by the EU. She has a Master of Science degree in Environmental Management specializing in Biodiversity Conservation a Diploma in Commerce, Prince 2, and ITIL project management certification.