

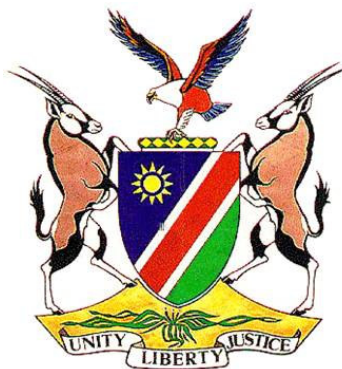
## The National Forest Facility Programme

### Workplan and Budget 2005-2009

**Country:** Namibia

**Title:** Awareness raising, improved knowledge, and forest management and utilization in support of Namibia's Forestry Strategic Plan (National Forest Programme)

**Executing Agency:** Namibia Nature Foundation on behalf of the Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Namibia



Windhoek, Namibia

## 1. Background

The Directorate of Forestry (DoF), then under the Ministry of Environment and Tourism submitted a concept note in 2002 to the National Forest Programme Facility (the Facility), seeking assistance to implement the Forestry Strategic Plan (national forest programme). Specifically the Facility support is aimed at addressing 3 main components, namely:

- Raising awareness and increasing participation in the national forest programme (nfp);
- Improving forest management and utilization; and
- Improving knowledge management.

The overall theme of the partnership with the Facility has been developed through participatory planning meetings and wide consultations with key stakeholders in the country.

### 1.1 Problems facing the forestry sector In Namibia:

The consultations identified the problems facing the forestry sector in Namibia and grouped under three main headings: production; protection; and participation.

#### a) Production

- Forest products in Namibia are harvested almost exclusively from natural forests. Production is constrained by harsh climatic conditions, a lack of knowledge about appropriate silvicultural techniques and poor inventory data. The scope for forest plantation development is negligible and is limited to the moister eastern part of the country. Furthermore, despite the scarcity of wood, there is no culture of private sector tree planting.
- Linked to this, forest processing also suffers from low product recovery rates, a lack of appropriately trained people, inefficient equipment and poor marketing. There are possibilities to increase the production of non-wood forest products such as Marula (*Sclerocarya birrea*), Mangeti nuts (*Schinzophyton rautanenii*) and other indigenous fruits and nuts. However, this would require improvements in understanding about the propagation, storage, promotion and marketing of these products.
- In terms of the production of environmental benefits, poverty and low-income levels result in very little interest in environmental protection. There is potential for income generation in forest recreational use and eco-tourism, but this is underdeveloped at the moment.

#### b) Protection

- The two main problems in the area of forest protection are forest fires and uncontrolled cutting of wood. About 4 million hectares of forest and veld are burned each year, mostly due to fires started deliberately to improve grazing and to clean hunting grounds. The rate of deforestation is not known with any certainty, but is believed to be quite high.
- These problems are caused by high population pressure in the communal land areas, the inadequate participation of stakeholders in forestry activities and policy failures in other sectors. Additionally, the poor carrying capacity of a big portion of the land and the unfair land distribution in the colonial era caused an unequal geographical distribution of the population.

#### c) Participation

- Until recently, stakeholders from outside the forestry sector had very little involvement in the development of the sector. Given that forestry is a land-user that

is intimately linked with agriculture, tourism, environment and wildlife management in Namibia, it is crucial that stronger linkages should be made between people working in each of these sectors. In addition, given the levels of rural poverty in Namibia, it is important that local people have a greater say in how forest resources are managed and share the benefits of properly managed forest resources. This will require increased participation and consultation with other stakeholders both at the level of the local communities and at the level of the national policymakers.

### 1.2 Objectives of the partnership:

The Facility is expected to support the processes that will lead to the launch, co-ordination, and monitoring of the implementation of the forestry strategic plan. It will, in particular, facilitate raising awareness and increasing participation in the national forest programme; Improving forest management and utilization; and Improving knowledge management. The outcome will be strengthened collaboration among forestry stakeholders and to participation of the communities in the wise use of forest resources.

### 1.3 Implementation of the partnership:

The Directorate of Forestry (DoF) in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) has mandated Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), a Namibian NGO, to be the implementing agency for the Facility funded activities. NNF was established in 1987 with the aim of promoting sustainable development, to conserve biological diversity and natural ecosystems, and to promote the wise and ethical use of natural resources for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future. NNF will be supported by a steering committee comprising the Directorate of Forestry, NGOs, University, private sector and donor representatives (who will attend meetings in observer status. FAO - Namibia will also participate on the steering committee.

## **2. Description of Activities**

The proposed activities to be carried out in 2005 – 2009 are a reflection of the views of the stakeholders who showed a keen and deep interest in forestry development in Namibia. They are categorised under each component as follows:

### **Component 1: Launching of the Facility in Namibia and follow-up**

#### **1.1. Organise the call for proposals for activities to be carried out by the non governmental forestry stakeholders in Namibia**

- 1.1.1 Conduct inception workshop/meetings to popularise the Facility among the non-state actors and launch the call for proposals
- 1.1.2 Coordinate and administer the project
- 1.1.3 Organise regular meetings of the National Steering Committee of the project

#### **1.2. Undertake regular project monitoring and foster information sharing among the Implementing stakeholders**

- 1.2.1 Undertake field-monitoring visits and participate in partners' activities
- 1.2.2 Organise annual partner's lesson-learning sharing events

## **Component 2: Raising awareness and increasing participation in nfp**

### **2.1. Awareness raising about the Forest Policy, Strategic Plan and Forest Act**

- 2.1.1 Summarize and translate the forestry policy into local languages in simpler format that can be easily understood by communities
- 2.1.2 Make publication of the translated policy and disseminate it to the rural communities
- 2.1.3 Organise awareness meetings with traditional leaders and other stakeholders

### **2.2. Training community and community leaders in fire issues:**

- 2.2.1 Provide training of trainers on veld fire management
- 2.2.2 Design pamphlets, materials on forest fire management and distribute them
- 2.2.3 Conduct awareness campaigns among the public and schools on veld fire management in the Caprivi Region and the western and central-southern parts of Namibia
- 2.2.4 Undertake studies on causes of forest fires, fire prevention mechanisms for enriching a training manual on fire fighting

### **2.3. Support to Regional Forest Committees:**

- 2.3.1 Strengthen the Northern Namibia Forest Committee in the North-west region

### **2.4. Strengthening participation in forestry at the community level in South-Central, North-West and North-East:**

- 2.4.1 Organise study tours for communities to other regions of Namibia to learn and increase their experiences
- 2.4.2 Facilitate dialogue among communities and learning from each other in terms of forestry and agro-forestry activities.

## **Component 3: Improving forest management and utilization**

### **3.1. Community-based awareness raising and product survey for fuel-efficient biomass stoves:**

- 3.1.1 Undertake impact assessment and study on lessons learnt in use of tso-tso stoves in the Northern region
- 3.1.2 Organise regional and national workshops to share lessons learnt and generate a strategy for further dissemination of the stoves in other regions
- 3.1.3 Train local artisans and community trainers on making tso-tso stoves and monitor them

### **3.2. Development of Basin Committee for Ephemeral Rivers Riparian Forest Management in SC Region:**

- 3.2.1 Establish a Basin Committee for Ephemeral Rivers Riparian Forest Management in SC Region to foster sustainable management and utilization of riparian forests

## **Component 4: Knowledge management**

### **4.1. Survey of traditional knowledge on forest management in NE, NW and SC Regions:**

- 4.1.1 carry out surveys of traditional/indigenous knowledge on forest management to improve the forest management methods and to empower the local communities
- 4.1.2 Study the current utilisation of forestry resources in the Otjozondjupa region

### **4.2. Website development for the Directorate of Forestry:**

- 4.2.1 Design and launch a Website for the Directorate of Forestry

- 4.2.2 Collect and upload new forestry data regularly
- 4.2.3 Train DOF staff in the maintenance of the website

#### **4.3. Development of GIS database on permits:**

- 4.3.1 Set up the GIS database on permits
- 4.3.2 Train Staff in use and maintenance of GIS database

### **3. Definition of Outputs**

#### **a. The Facility activities are publicly announced (through an inception workshop/ meetings) to all the non-government forestry stakeholders**

- Report documenting the launch for proposals
- Per activity (or set of activities) reception of several proposals
- A summary report of these proposals, together with a recommended ranking
- After decision of the Facility Management, establishment of contracts with the stakeholders
- The activities are well coordinated and managed

#### **b. There is more increased participation of forestry stakeholders in implementation of the Namibian nfp**

- Forestry policy translated, published and disseminated
- Awareness raising workshops held
- Capacity built for the Northern Namibia Forest Committee in the North-west region
- Study tours and dialogue workshops for communities undertaken to broaden their perspectives in forestry

#### **c. There is increased knowledge of efficient utilisation of forest products and utilisation of the Riparian forest**

- Information on effectiveness and impact of tso-tso stoves obtained
- Strategy for tso-tso stove dissemination in other regions of Namibia developed
- Community trainers in place to further disseminate the tso-tso stove technology
- Basin Committee for Ephemeral Rivers Riparian Forest Management in SC Region in place

#### **d. Traditional/indigenous knowledge on forest management in Otjozondjupa region documented and used to influence national forestry strategies**

- DoF has a website developed
- A GIS database in place at DoF

#### 4. Management of the project

The management of the project, including the contract award process, will be implemented by Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), as mandated by the Directorate of Forestry. NNF will thus assure the best value for money in regard to efficient and effective delivery of the project in compliance with Facility standards.

The Project Steering Committee in Namibia will be responsible for internal quality control, ensuring that the application process will be open and transparent, allowing and stimulating all non-profit non-state actors to participate in the competitive bidding.

##### Managing the competitive bidding process

The following are proposals of the step-by-step process that will be followed in managing the bidding process.

- a) Namibia Nature Foundation will launch the bidding process during a workshop that will be open to a cross-section of forestry stakeholders.
- b) The Steering Committee will ensure that the call for proposals and application process is transparent, allowing and stimulating all non-state actors to participate in the competitive bidding.
- c) In order to maintain independence and objectivity, any steering committee member whose organisation has applied to deliver a service under the Facility grants, will declare a conflict of interest and will consequently not form part of discussions related to the evaluation and ranking of these applications.
- d) The bidding process will be documented in detail by NNF, who will also send all the individual proposals to the Facility Management, together with the opinion of the steering committee and suggested ranking.
- e) The Facility Management will review the documents sent and make a final decision on awarding individual contracts.
- f) After receiving Facility Management's decision on the ranking of the proposals, NNF will make contractual arrangements with the successful stakeholders. A copy of the contracts with these stakeholders will be sent to Facility Management as proof that the activities are ready to start.

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