

Press Release



Name of Press Contact: Disney Andreas
Capacity: Communications Officer (NNF)
Date: 15 March 2022
Phone: +264 (0) 61 248345/ +264 (0) 81 6390153
Email: dandreas@nnf.org.na

Food Security and Habitat Protection in KAZA – KAZA ARISE

[KATIMA Mulilo, NAMIBIA, 15 March 2022] The Namibia Nature foundation (NNF) in cooperation with Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) is glad to announce the launching of the “Food security and habitat protection in KAZA” project in an effort to support communities in the KAZA area in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibia.

This project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), through the Bengo Engagement Global program. It is implemented by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Germany together with in-country partners who are carrying out the planned activities.

In Namibia, this joint project is being implemented by the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) in cooperation with Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) and aims to bring stakeholders together to promote agroecological approaches in crop and livestock production. The successful adoption of these approaches can increase food production on smaller areas without shifting cultivation and thus safeguarding of wildlife habitat and diversifying income through sale of surplus produce. Project activities include crop and vegetable cultivation, livestock production, civil society advocacy and transboundary collaboration (including Zambia and Zimbabwe).

Sustainable crop production will be promoted by mentoring small scale farmers in employing agroecological principles in their fields and backyard gardens. This will focus on increasing soil fertility and thereby reducing the urge for shifting cultivation, but actually benefitting from remaining on the land where the efforts for improving soil fertility and thereby productivity was carried out. In order to achieve a sustainable management change a mentoring approach will be used, whereby lead farmers, who have been successful with these methods in the past mentor attached farmers in implementing these measures. Farmer-to-farmer exchange will be facilitated through exchange visits and other measures. Agricultural value-chain development will also be supported to enable farmers to generate additional monetary income.

“Sustainable rangeland management will be promoted to improve rangeland utilization and reduce human wildlife conflict. General awareness around rangeland management practices and effects of these, as well as practical implementation of grazing plans form part of this project.” – Mrs. Mareike Aufderheide-Voigts, Namibian Project Manager at NNF



Press Release

To support networks around agroecology several activities support exchange between farmers, civil society actors and government in the Zambezi Region, including an anticipated regional Agroecology Forum and policy briefs on this topic. To also enable transboundary exchange on these topics Agroecology will be integrated into TBNRM forums and exchange visits of transboundary partners will be facilitated.

The project will target the conservancies along the Kwando Wildlife Dispersal Area (Kwando, Mayuni, Mashi, Balyerwa, Wuparo, Dzoti, Bamunu and Sobbe) as well as Sikunga Conservancy east of Katima Mulilo. Sikunga Conservancy has not experienced any specific conservancy led agricultural work before.

For more information about the Namibian implementation of KAZA- ARISE contact: Mrs. Mareike Aufderheide-Voigts, Project Manager (NNF), Tel: 081 722 5378, Email: noa@nnf.org.na. and Mr. Mendes Vinte, Project Manager (IRDNC)

About:

The **Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF)** is a registered non-governmental organisation founded in 1987. It is a charitable and funding institution with an independent board of trustees. The foundation initiates, supports and promotes activities that conserve the environment, protect biodiversity and foster the sustainable and ethical use of natural resources. www.nnf.org.na

The **Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC)** established as a trust in 2000 is a registered not-for-profit Trust, governed by an independent (non-remunerated) Board of Trustees. The main objectives of the organisation are to revitalise community governance, increase benefits to members, diversifying and integrating CBNRM, strengthening the constituency for CBNRM and lastly transboundary natural resource management.