



INCEPTION WORKSHOP

At the Launch of the Building resilience of communities living in 8
landscapes threatened under climate change through an
Ecosystem Based Adaptation Approach in Namibia (EBA)

And

Grants Handover Ceremony for 12 Community Based Natural
Resource Management Organisations

Benedict Libanda, Chief Executive Officer

06 November 2020

Keetmanshoop, Namibia

Director of ceremonies-

- Hon. Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forest and Tourism
- Honorable Aletha Fredericks, Governor for //Kharas Region
- Honorable Salomon April, Governor for Hardap Region
- Chief Regional Officers
- Heads and staff members of Namibian Government Line Ministries
- Members of the media
- Distinguished guest
- Ladies and gentlemen
- All protocol observed

1. Let me express my humble gratitude to deliver my remarks in the presence of Hon. Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forest and Tourism. I am equally honored and delighted to be part of this remarkable event.
2. Ladies and Gentlemen. Allow me to start by providing the journey of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia and our accreditation process to the Green Climate Fund. In 2015, barely two years in operation as an entity, we were directed to apply for accreditation to the Green Climate Fund, a task seemingly unattainable at that moment.
3. Accreditation certifies an institution to access climate financing on behalf of a country or countries. The criteria are based on presenting strong fiduciary standards. In other words, our standards should be commensurable with that of the World Bank, European Investment Bank, Deutsche Bank, and the UN family. I'm proud to report that we were among the top 20 global institutions to be accredited by the Green Climate Fund and the second only on the continent.
At that time:
 - a. Our staff compliment stood at merely 11 and we have since grown to 56;
and
 - b. Our assets was at N\$35 million and we are now over N\$1.3 Billion portfolio, accumulatively;

Ladies and Gentleman

4. According to the projections by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it illustrates that at 1.5 degrees' increase, the impact of climate change in Namibia is greater than the global average. This is because Namibia is already stressed from different misfortunes. Notably I would like to point out some of the impacts of global warming at 1.5 degree in relation to Namibia. That implies;
 - a. Annual rainfall will continue to reduce up to 4%;
 - b. Evaporation rate will increase by 10%;
 - c. Cereal and livestock production will reduce by 10%;
 - d. Number of hot days will increase by 21 per annum;

5. So, imagine these impacts at worst-case scenario that is projected at 3 degrees global warming by the turn of the century, the results are devastating for Namibia. At the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia, we see these challenges as opportunities to be transformative and introduce a paradigm shift to business unusual.

Ladies and Gentleman

6. The Ecosystem Based Adaptation project aim to increase climate change resilience of productive landscapes in Namibia through implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation actions that strengthen social and ecological systems to sustain livelihoods at local level and facilitate value chains of natural resources. Eight landscapes covering 225,689 Square Kilometres were identified. The mean carbon stocks of the eight landscapes under this project is 17 tons per hectare, this translates that the combined landscapes sequester about 3.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide per annum.
 - a. Standing forests keep carbon from entering the atmosphere, slowing temperature increases, and providing homes for wildlife ensuring biodiversity survives.
 - b. Health ecosystems and rich soil organic carbon pools provides basis for enhanced primary production.

Ladies and Gentleman

7. Many of us here are fully aware of the difficulties involved in promoting more sustainable natural resource utilisation. When our aim is as ambitious as overhauling the way we produce, consume and finance natural commodities the very idea can seem overwhelming. But it's important to take a step back and consider what has already been achieved, by many of you here, including the enabling environment created by the Namibian Government.
8. Our good partnership between the Green Climate Fund, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Tourism, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, and other government organs will help bring about the desired change that we are seeking. This will be achieved through convening diverse stakeholders around a common vision and agenda for action; and by backing our Government to fortify their support to farmers, as well as enforcement systems.
9. Let me just emphasize how promising this project is. Indeed, if we get it right, it has a real potential to tackle some of the greatest challenges of our time, including those identified in our national climate change strategies, biodiversity plans, and poverty reduction plans.

Director of Ceremonies

10. Let me turn the page to the grant's handover ceremony under the Enhanced Direct Access Project, the second part of today's event. The projects that will be unveiled today by the Hon. Minister of Environment, Forest and Tourism went through a rigorous approval process. It commenced with the initial assessment by the Project Secretariat, followed by further adjudication by the Fund Management Committee, then a review by the Technical Advisory Committee, and then finally endorsement by the Project Steering Committee. As a quality assurance mechanism, due diligence site trips were also undertaken. Let me further highlight that as a redress mechanism, we have

established an Independent Review Committee that will investigate grievances and appeals from the public.

11. The time to act is now, and the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia is committed to ensure and continue being a global leader on climate financing and innovative adaptation measures. We also look forward to strengthen our relationship with the Green Climate Fund - to this end, we have already mobilized N\$680 million from the Green Climate Fund. As we pursue our reaccreditation, we intend to unlock a further N\$800 million for climate change interventions in Namibia.

12. I would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the staff members of the Environmental Investment Fund of Fund, the Project Implementation Units, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Tourism, Ministry of Finance, Office of the Attorney General, National Planning Council, Civil Society Organizations and all stakeholders and partners for their continuous support to the Fund.

I thank you