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MEDIA RELEASE

National Policy on Climate Change for Namibia, National Workshop, 22 September 2010

In partnership with the UNDP and Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), the Government of the Republic of Namibia held a final National Climate Change Policy stakeholder's workshop on the 22nd of September 2010. The workshop was organized to engage a wide range of stakeholders from all regions to solicit, contribute and incorporate information that is relevant for including in the draft policy on climate change. During, August 2010, three similar workshops were held earlier this year at Oshakati, Otjiwarongo and Walvis Bay to solicit for inputs into the policy from regional stakeholders. This was a final of such workshop where national inputs were sought from stakeholders for inputs into the draft policy

The UNDP Country Office through the Africa Adaptation Project Namibia (AAP-NAM) assisted the Government in planning and mobilizing resources to hold the stakeholders as one of its key climate change activity. The draft policy once adopted will serve as a guiding framework for Namibia in addressing national issues related to climate change.

The Minister of Environment and Tourism, Honorable Nandti-Ndaitwa opened the workshop. She put emphasis on crafting a policy which is all inclusive of sectors effected by climate change, responsive to the needs of the stakeholders, practical and implementable at different levels of decision making. Climate Change specialist from the AAP NAM (Africa Adaptation Project Namibia), a project dealing with "building institutional foundations for climate change at National level gave presentations on the policy and the stakeholder consultative process followed thus far. During this session a presentation on the draft policy on climate change by MET followed by a presentation on outcomes of the regional consultative workshops. Key issues that were raised from the regions that needs to be

incorporated into the draft policy was addressed in this presentation. Plenary session will were held for final inputs with regards to the issues raised from the regional workshops as well as inclusion and exclusion of some points to the draft policy will be finalized. Further deliberations of the workshop were done through group discussions under different thematic groups.

Comments from this workshop and the regional workshops will be used to finalize the policy. It is expected that the policy will be finalized by mid October and sent to Minister for further deliberations at higher decision making.

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