

## A Introduction

### Introduction

The Namibian approach towards Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), is embedded in an initial policy and legal framework, that grants rights over wildlife and tourism management and uses to communities on their lands once they are organized as “conservancies.” A *communal conservancy* consists in setting aside part or all of the land of a given community, with the intention to conserve and valorise wildlife through its sustainable consumptive and non-consumptive uses within nature-related activities. Namibia is leading this kind of enterprise even though other neighbouring countries have embarked in similar ventures.

The national CBNRM/Conservancy programme responds to national development and environmental priorities by:

- supporting sustainable use and conservation of Namibia’s unique ecosystems and related biodiversity (the majority of biodiversity is found outside the National Park network);
- promoting appropriate land management schemes in an environment where availability of water and suitable rangeland as well as land degradation are the key limiting factors to sustainable management of scarce resources;
- contributing to reduce poverty in rural areas by providing diversified livelihood strategies through responsibility over local resources, thereby addressing the root causes of threats to unsustainable ecosystem management; and
- promoting participatory, accountable and democratic systems of local and regional governance.

### Purpose of ESMF

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) details agreed policies, guidelines, and procedures to be integrated into the implementation of the ICEMA Project in target conservancies and community forests in Namibia. The Project will support the Government of Namibia, through its Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), with development of CBNRM to improve the livelihoods of rural people by enabling ecosystem-based income generation activities and conservation. The project is expected to be implemented over a five-year period. The project has been prepared in accordance with the World Bank’s *Operational Policies re: Indigenous People’s Safeguard Policy (OD 4.10)*, *Environmental Assessment (OP/BP/GP 4.01)*, and *Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)*.

The project consists of 4 components and will support: (i) ecosystem-based income generating activities; (ii) sustainable ecosystem management; (iii) targeted institutional support (MET and conservancies) and; (iv) project management. The ICEMA Project is also being supported by the French Global Environment Facility<sup>1</sup> with funding directed toward high-value plant and animal species’ interventions.

Good environmental and social management practice is a well-established element of project preparation and implementation. It is important in the context of a community-based project where technical skill is required for guidance in subproject planning and implementation and, impact and strategic assessments of environmental and social impact. Development of the ESMF therefore, attempts to provide a framework, covering all World

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<sup>1</sup> Fonds Français pour l’Environnement Mondial

Bank policies relevant to ICEMA, which must be used by MET officials, conservancies and support organizations during Project and subproject planning and implementation. The ESMF aims to:

- a. Set the scene for implementation of World Bank Safeguard Policies relevant to ICEMA;
- b. Enhance positive and sustainable environmental and social outcomes associated with Project implementation;
- c. Support the integration of environmental and social aspects (associated with the subprojects) into the planning and decision making process;
- d. Support the development of the San in conservancies and community forests and facilitate their improved roles and advancement in CBNRM and, benefits from CBNRM;
- e. Avoid or minimize negative environmental and social impacts;
- f. Minimize environmental degradation as a result of either individual subprojects or their cumulative effects;
- g. Minimize/ avoid involuntary resettlement;
- h. Protect human health;
- i. Minimize impacts on cultural property.

Implementation of the ESMF in Namibia supports and assists with the achievement of compliance with applicable laws and regulations and with relevant Bank policies on environment and social development issues.

#### **Objectives of ESMF**

The Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) provides an independent assessment of the ICEMA Project. The ESMF is based on recommendations from the ESA and incorporates the legislation of Namibia and the Operational Policies of the World Bank.

The ESA was requested by the Bank to ensure that the proposed project is carried out in line with Namibia's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) policy, the emerging Environmental Management Bill, and the applicable World Bank Safeguard Policies. An initial internal review by the World Bank classified the project as a *category B* project according to Bank standards. Impacts of category B projects are likely to be site-specific, relatively easy to mitigate and reversible within reason.

At the time of the ESA, ICEMA had not begun and on-the-ground activities (subprojects) had not yet been identified hence; the most sensible approach taken by the ESA report was to make rather generic recommendations and to provide an ESMF from which more detailed management plans (and mitigation actions) can be developed for subprojects. It remains the responsibility of the MET, as project implementing authority in Namibia, to ensure that necessary plans are developed, and the project implementers to ensure that they are adhered to.

The objectives of this Environmental and Social Management Framework are:

- a. To establish clear procedures and methodologies for the environmental and social planning, review, approval and implementation of subprojects to be financed under the Project;
- b. To specify appropriate roles and responsibilities, and outline the necessary reporting procedures, for managing and monitoring environmental and social concerns related to subprojects;

- c. To determine the training, capacity building and technical assistance needed to successfully implement the provisions of the ESMF;
- d. To establish the project funding required to implement the ESMF requirements;
- e. To provide practical resources for implementing the ESMF.