

ANNEX 6: PROCEEDINGS, VERIFICATION WORKSHOP



**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

Proceedings

Verification workshop on the Capacity Needs Self-Assessment Project

**Held at the University of Namibia
Windhoek**

29-30 September 2004

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Agenda

Day 1

08.30	Welcome	Prof Becker
08.45	Opening	Dep Minister Ilonga
09.00	Introductions	Peter Tarr
09.30	The workshop objectives and outputs	Peter Tarr
09.45	Project overview:	Pierre Smit
10.00	Policies	Johan Malan
10.15	Institutions	Margaret Angula
10.30	Tea / Coffee	
11.00	Regional assessment	John Pallet
11.15	Capacity	Selma Nangulah
11.30	Gap Analysis & Discussion	Peter Tarr
11.45	Introduction to workshop sessions	Peter Tarr
12.00	Workshop 1: Key constraints Groupwork (4 groups)	
13.00	Lunch	
	Workshop 1: Key constraints continued.	
15.00	Feedback – workshop 1	
15.30	Tea/Coffee	
16.00	Workshop 2: Key strategies Group work	
17.00	Close for day 1	

Day 2

08.30	Workshop 2 continues
10h00	Feedback
10.30	Tea/Coffee
11.00	Costed action plan
12.00	Evaluation and monitoring
12.45	Closure and way forward

Welcome

Professor Becker welcomed all the delegates to the UNAM campus, noting that this workshop is extremely important given the enormous challenges faced by Namibia in achieving the goals of NDP2 and Vision 2030.

He stressed the interrelationships between the conventions, noting that climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation all result in negative impacts on people's livelihoods. This is why we need to deal with these issues in an integrated way.

He was pleased to note the good turnout to this workshop and the fact that people from many different levels were represented, including people from the regions. This is good because the successful implementation of the conventions requires a partnership between all stakeholders within Namibia, and between Namibia and the international community.

Lastly, Professor Becker expressed his gratitude for the presence of Deputy Minister Ilonga, which showed the extent to which government is serious about tackling the issues of land degradation and biodiversity loss. He also recognized the presence of a number of senior government officials from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and the Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation.

Opening address

Minister Ilonga thanked Professor Becker for his opening remarks and for the opportunity afforded to him to address the workshop. He reported that considerable progress has been made since Namibia signed and ratified the conventions. Key achievements have been the development of action plans under the CBD, the UNCCD and the UNFCCC. It is clear that there are many areas of overlap between the conventions and that many issues that need to be dealt with are cross-cutting in nature.

The Minister noted with satisfaction the progress made in the NCSA project, and looked forward to receiving clarity on Namibia's capacity needs to implement the conventions. He stressed, however, that action at home is the priority since we must operationalise NDP 2 and Vision 2030. In this regard, it is necessary that people from all sectors of government and civil society work with each other. We can only succeed in meeting our objectives if we adopt a partnership approach.

The Minister concluded by reminding delegates of their responsibility to participate actively, not only during the workshop, but in all spheres of nation building. Those of us in a position to influence strategic planning have a certain privilege and also an important responsibility to our country and future generations.

With these words of encouragement and guidance, the Minister wished everyone well in their deliberations and declared the workshop open.

Introductions

Delegates introduced themselves, providing background about their involvement or interest in combating desertification, and in biodiversity and climate change issues. The workshop noted the presence of people from a wide variety of institutions.

It was pleasing to note representation from MET, MLRR, MAWRD, from various NGOs, regional structures, local authorities, training institutions and conservancies. This combination of people from different backgrounds and levels of decision making is important since it ensures a healthy mix of perspectives and ideas.

Workshop objectives and outcomes

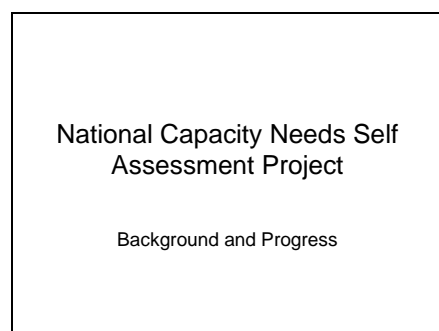
The aim of the workshop is to obtain feedback on the consultancy report produced by the University of Namibia, entitled *National capacity self assessment regarding the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Namibia*.

Two workshops have already been held over the past five months, mostly to solicit information and opinions from delegates. This third and final workshop is intending to focus primarily on verifying the results of the work completed to date, and to add to current knowledge.

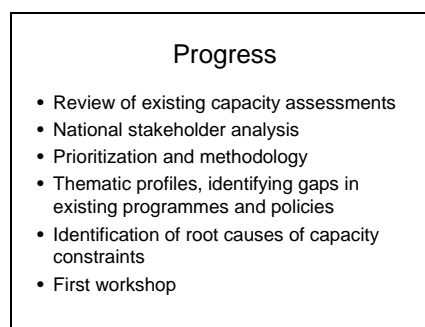
The results of this workshop will help UNAM to finalise its report.

Project overview

Dr Pierre Smit (UNAM) provided an overview of the project, which began in June 2004, and is scheduled for completion within the next few months. His presentation is attached verbatim:



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Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic profiles • Cross-cutting issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – HIV/AIDS – Decentralization – Poverty • Second workshop • Evaluation of capacity constraints and opportunities

3

Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth analysis of cross-cutting issues • Synergies • Draft recommendations • National verification workshop • Implementation strategy and cost action plan • Final report

4

Overview of policies and laws

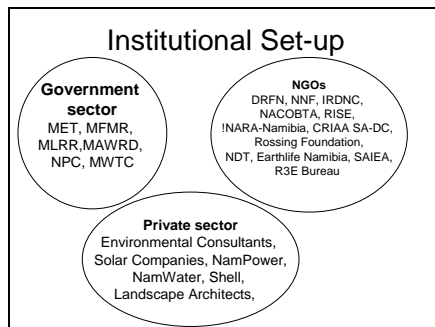
Mr Johan Malan (DEA – MET) briefed delegates about the key policies and laws that currently exist or are in the process of being developed. The most important in the context of this workshop include the Environmental Management Bill, the Pollution Control and Waste Management Bill and the Parks and Wildlife Management Bill. All of these are in an advanced stage of compilation and it is expected that they will be tabled in Parliament by mid 2005.

During the ensuing discussion, it was clarified that ratification of the conventions does not by itself constitute enactment – for this, Namibia must pass its own enabling legislation. This is why the various Bills are being prepared. It was also noted that the absence of legislation was not a reason for delaying activities relating to the conventions. On the contrary, Namibia has undertaken a number of activities, including National Action Plans, strategies, country studies and official communications relating to the conventions. It was noted during the discussion that Namibia is in many respects regarded as leading the field when it comes to implementing the conventions. NAPCOD, and especially the FIRM approach, are examples of innovation in Namibia.

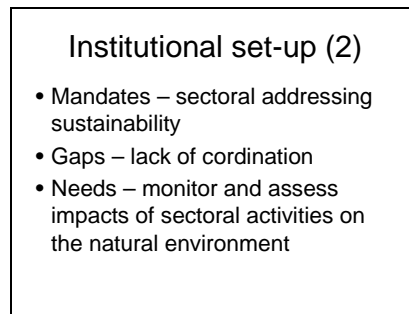
Overview of national level institutions

Ms Margaret Angula (UNAM) presented delegates with a brief overview of the study into the key institutions involved in administering, or in some other way, being involved in the conventions.

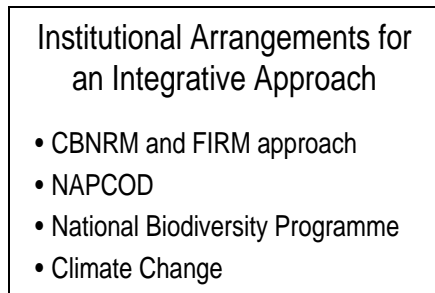
She found that there are a number of key stakeholders who need to work together in order to create the required synergy and to make progress in a given direction. The report contains a full list of these, whilst the following slides summarize some key points:



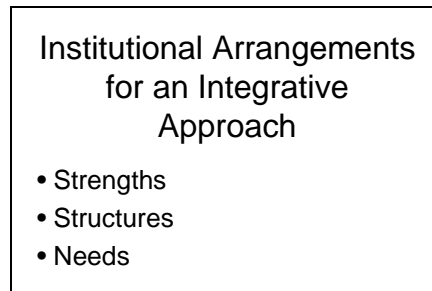
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In the ensuing discussion, it was noted that an important methodological oversight needed correction – namely assessing current capacity against future requirements. It was pointed out that this assessment needs to establish what Namibia *actually* needs to do in order to meet its national, sub-regional (SADC) and international obligations regarding the conventions. Only then could a proper gap analysis be done.

Overview of regional and local level institutions

Mr John Pallet (DRFN) provided the meeting with an overview of this component of the project, the details of which are as follows.

Methodology

- Conducted in 3 regions: Erongo, Hardap, Oshikoto
- Stakeholders identified by brainstorm with DEA, UNDP, DRFN team
- Couldn't hope to cover all stakeholders, so used targeted sample
- Stakeholders categorised into 11 different groups to simplify analysis

Knowledge about Conventions

- Level of knowledge about Conventions very variable. Many people have quite good, 'working' knowledge of their environmental situation, but do not know much about how this ties in to the UN conventions.

- Many people know about existence of conventions but do not know or understand their content. Least known and understood is UNFCCC.
- Examples of activities mentioned by stakeholders:
 - Improving rangeland practices e.g. rotational grazing, off takes of livestock
 - EIAs done for rural water supply projects
 - Setting up Water Point Committees
 - Recycling waste
 - Promoting fuel-efficient stoves

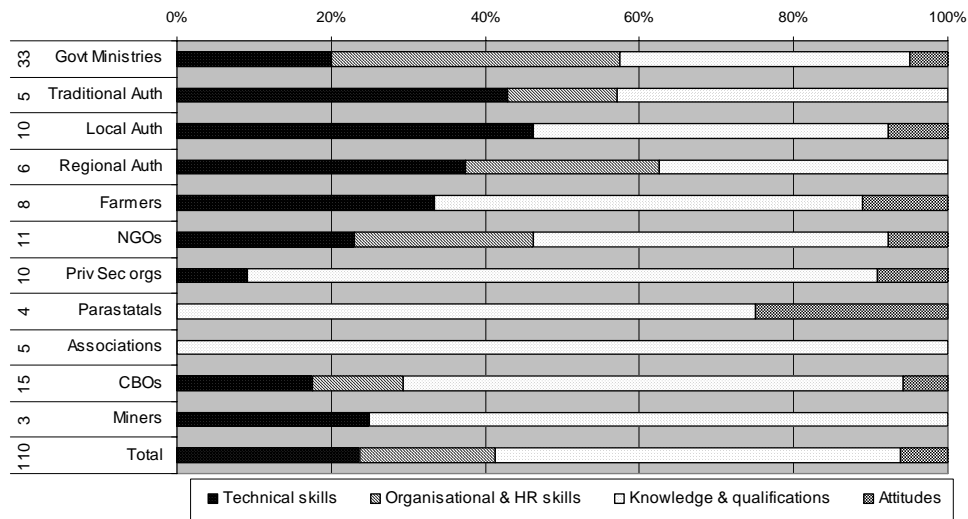
Capacity assessed at 3 levels:

- Individual capacity - skills, knowledge, attitudes, qualifications
- Institutional capacity - staffing, equipment and infrastructure, funding, reporting procedures and monitoring
- Systemic capacity - policies, legislative framework, collaboration, partnerships between organisations

Individual capacities

It is difficult to quantify the results but one can get an impression of the priority issues from Graph 1.

Graph 1: Needed individual capacities



Comments were grouped into themes: Technical skills; Organisational and HR skills; Knowledge and qualifications; and Attitudes. Graph 1 shows stakeholder groups on left and the number of comments from each group. Bars of the graph show percentage of comments in each theme.

Technical skills, knowledge, and qualifications together are the most pressing need identified by all stakeholder groups. Examples of skills required are:

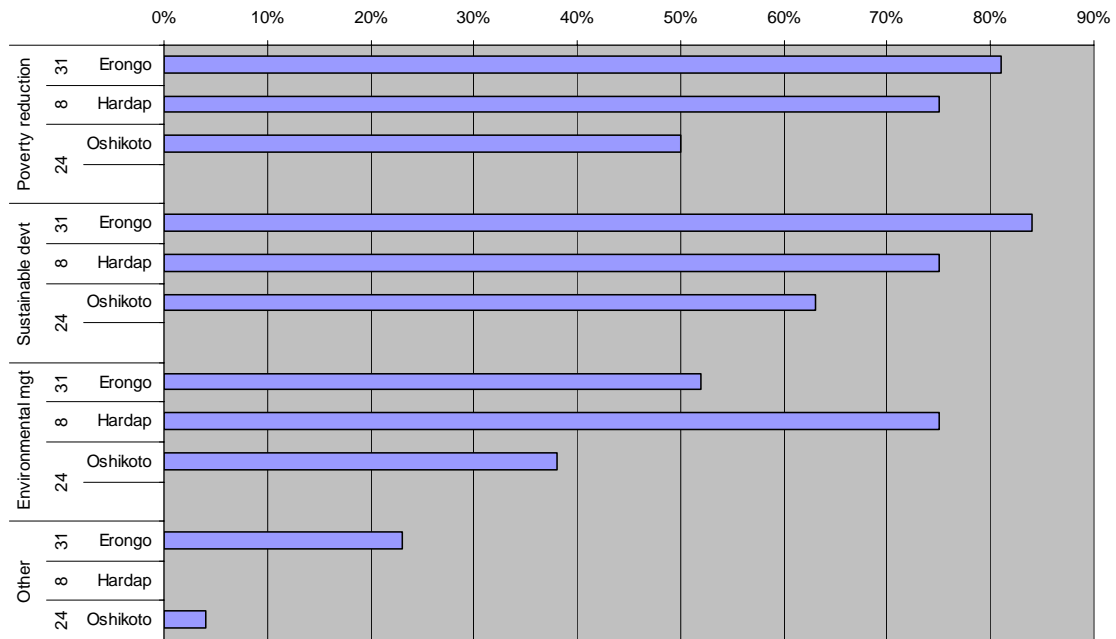
- How to improve rangeland management on the ground, e.g.: rotational grazing, monitoring of rangeland quality, using more appropriate livestock, how to match livestock numbers with rangeland conditions;
- Practicalities of water demand management; and
- Skills for improving tourist-attracting facilities in conservancies.

Also mentioned frequently: need for more person-person skills, human relations in rural community work. Difficult to provide effective services to communities if basic conflict-resolution, 'diplomacy' skills not good.

Institutional capacities

Mission statements and visions from all institutions assessed for their commitment to environmental management, sustainable development, poverty reduction. Fairly high level of institutional commitment (See Graph 2).

Graph 2: Mission statements

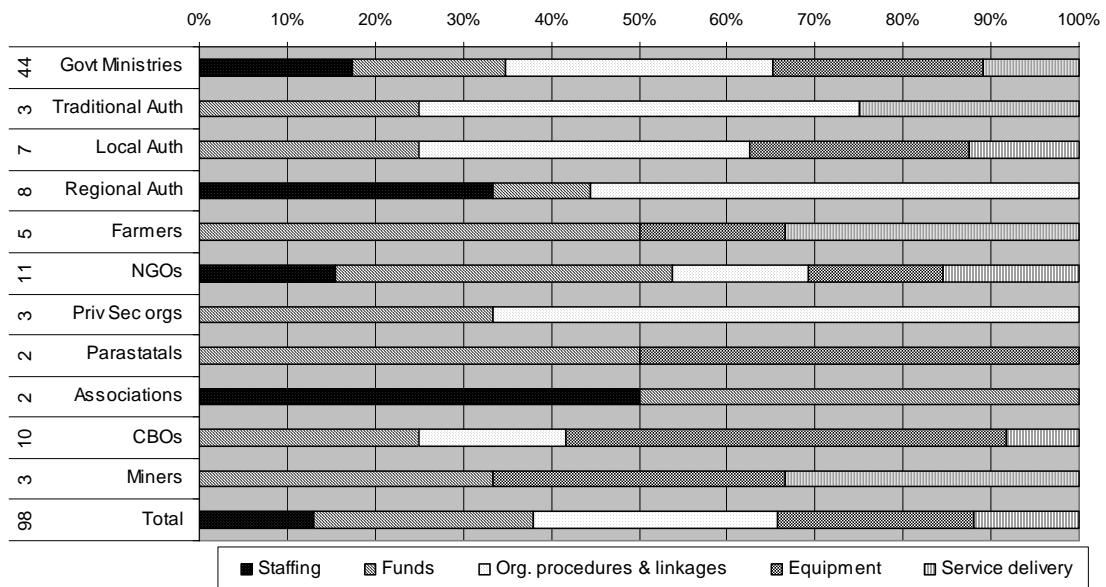


Graph of needed institutional capacities:

It is difficult to pull out any striking trends from Graph 3. Almost all stakeholders mentioned inadequate funding and limitations on their travel to do field work. No surprise! Improved organisational procedures and reporting mechanisms required in govt, TAs, Las, and RCs identified.

Most important institutional need an environmental coordinating desk in Regional Councils and the ability to draw up environmentally sound land-use plans in regions.

Graph 3: Needed institutional capacity



Systemic capacities

Policy and legal framework is fairly robust, but needs to be tightened up. It needs harmonisation to remove some contradictions between policies. There is a lot of misunderstanding about framework policies and acts, both about content and about enforcement. Needs simple interpretation at Local/Regional level.

The greatest capacity strength is good collaboration, partnerships, linkages between organisations, and individuals. Serves as a very strong basis for integrating activities that impact environment.

- BCLME - integration across 3 countries
- FIRMs - good cooperation of range of stakeholders at local-regional level
- RACOCS (Regional Aids Coordinating Committees)
- Land Boards

In some cases, just one individual's dynamism and enthusiasm can make a big difference, e.g.: influence of a high-energy Agriculture Extension Officer in Omutiyya helped to set up a FIRM there.

Decentralisation

Happening slowly from government downwards, but is being demanded and forced from local and regional level.

AIDS

People have little knowledge of how to plan for impact of AIDS. Loss of skills from AIDS deaths emphasises need for sharing skills in forums such as FIRMs.

Next steps

- Set up Environmental Coordination Posts in Regional Councils
- Build on existing, issue-based forums and planning structures (e.g.: FIRMs, Land Boards) to improve coordinated planning.

Overview of institutional constraints

The workshop proceeded with its work by tackling specific issues in four groups. The groups undertook two exercises, the first aimed at identifying key challenges and opportunities, followed by a second session that focused on the development of strategies that, if implemented, would yield acceptable results. The results of these sessions are described below.

Results of workshop session 1: Challenges and opportunities

Group 1: Policy and legislation

CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of legislation • Outdated laws • Jurisdictional overlaps in policies and laws, leading to confusion and sometimes, to contradictory messages from government • Extend community rights to the full spectrum of natural resources • Policies and laws are not easily accessible (written in difficult language, only available in English, documents not readily available) • No guidelines that explain the reasons behind the policies and laws, and what ones needs to do to abide by them • The monitoring of changes in the environment, and thus the effectiveness/lack thereof, of policies and laws, is inadequate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRN is generally consultative in the way it develops policies and laws, and legal reform is an ongoing process • The new Environmental Management Act makes provision for improved coordination • There is local capacity that can make policies and laws more accessible to the people

Group 2: Institutions

CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of the overlaps mentioned above – there are many institutions trying to achieve the same thing, or competing with each other. As a result, sectoralism remains strong and there is inadequate coordination and synergy within government • In spite of Vision 2030 and NDP 2, there is still not a common vision in Namibia about sustainable development – what it is and how it can be achieved. • Namibia lacks a strong institution that can be the champion for sustainable development • There are insufficient environmental planners in government, especially in the NPC – which is regarded as a key ministry in the achievement of sustainable development • There is inadequate understanding of the Rio Conventions and what we need to do to implement them • There is too much antagonism between civil society organizations and government – this must be addressed • Delegates that represent Namibia at international meetings (e.g. relating to the Rio Conventions) sometimes lack the knowledge about the conventions or the ability or authority, to negotiate with confidence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Environmental Management Act makes provision for improved coordination (through the envisaged Environment Advisory Council) • Vision 2030 enjoys high-level political support, and sustainable development issues are well articulated. This might improve the profile of environmental issues. • There are many training opportunities for Namibians, so skills can be developed • It is generally easy to get key stakeholders together in Namibia – this enables regular dialogue

Group 3: Finances

CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRN departments do not internalize and deliver on the commitments made in NDP2 • Institutions do not have the necessary skills to write project proposals that will attract funds • Environment is too low on the political agenda • GRN needs to have a rolling fund that enables longer term approach to projects and that reduces vulnerability to donor withdrawals • Donors sometimes impose unreasonable or inappropriate conditions • Too much reliance on GRN funding • Financial administration in GRN is inadequate • Financial mechanisms in GRN are such that budgets are spent inefficiently • Sectoralism in GRN leads to wastage/duplication in spending/financial management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-year rolling budget approach is more realistic • There is some in-country expertise in writing project proposals • Decentralisation should help to improve spending efficiency • GRN-NGO partnerships do exist – models could be built upon

Group 4: Human Resources Development

CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate technical skills in Namibia – mainly because of difficulty in retaining expertise within GRN and the country • Not enough transferring of knowledge • Inadequate awareness of environmental issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various studies and processes have identified key environmental issues in Namibia, which provides a foundation for targeted training • Tertiary training institutions exist, which can be used for capacity building • Though small in number, there are some skilled people in the country who could train others • There is considerable traditional knowledge, which could be used.

Having identified the key constraints and opportunities, the workshop then developed strategies relating to the implementation of the conventions. The results follow:

Results of workshop session 2: Strategies and action plan

Group 1: Policy and legislation

WHAT MUST BE DONE	BY WHOM	SUPPORTED BY	WHEN	COST?
Establish an effective high-level body that will	Cabinet must establish this intersectoral committee	All institutions that have knowledge	By end 2005	GRN costs already covered – ask

integrate natural resource management and sustainable development strategies	that includes representatives from various ministries, the private sector, NGOs and key resource persons.	and expertise		others to volunteer
Policies and laws need to be simplified so that they are understood by all levels of society	Line ministries	Attorney General's office, LAC, NID, other NGOs and parastatals	As soon as the new laws are passed	? - GRN, through MET budget
Develop comprehensive policies relating to the CBD, UNFCCC and CCD	MET	Other line ministries, NGOs, donors, convention secretariats	Beginning 2006	? – depends on whether MET will do this in-house or outsource
Improve enforcement of legislation, and stiffen fines	All relevant line ministries	MoJ	Ongoing	Theoretically – no extra cost
Monitor impacts of laws and policies	All the line ministries	NGOs, LAs, RCs, parastatals, private sector	Ongoing – link with NDPs	Theoretically no extra cost

Group 2: Institutions

WHAT MUST BE DONE	BY WHOM	SUPPORTED BY	WHEN	COST?
Establish the Environmental Advisory Council	MET	Cabinet	As soon as EMB is passed	Theoretically no extra cost
Develop mechanisms to implement the environmental aspects of Vision 2030	NPC, through the Environmental Advisory Council	Should be driven by the Office of the President, supported by all of GRN and civil society	2005-2030	Difficult to determine, could be as high as N\$55 million over 30 yrs.
Increase and maintain vitality in the National Adaptation Plan	DEA	Donors, ministries, NGOs, private sector	2005	N\$3 million
Build capacity in institutions so that they can capture data, negotiate effectively and address the legal aspects relating to the conventions	DEA	Consultants, NPC, MFA and NGOs and especially the UN system	2005	N\$2 million
Strengthen NGOs, farmers unions and Regional Councils	GRN	As above	ASAP	Unknown

Group 3: Finances

WHAT MUST BE DONE	BY WHOM	SUPPORTED BY	WHEN	COST?
People need to be trained so they can have skills in writing project	NGOs (e.g. Rossing Foundation, DRFN, WAD, NACSO and	GRN and other stakeholders	Ongoing	?

proposals	NACOBTA) already have some skills			
GRN-NGO cooperation policy must stress cooperation rather than competition	GRN and NGOs	Donors	Once this specific policy is in place	?
Find mechanisms to ensure that revenues generated in a region, remain there	GRN	Traditional & Local authorities must pressurize GRN	As prescribed in the decentralization policy	?
Improve the use of existing communication channels within GRN to enable better use of budgets	GRN	GRN	Ongoing	?
Promote products for local goods and products (e.g. !Nara, Marula)	GRN	CRIAA	Ongoing	?
Use opportunities under CDM to raise funds	GRN (DEA)	NGOs and UNFCCC secretariat	ASAP	Net gain!
Make budgetary provision to enable Namibia to continue with projects relating to UN conventions	GRN	NGOs, service providers	ASAP	?

Group 4: Human Resources Development

WHAT MUST BE DONE	BY WHOM	SUPPORTED BY	WHEN	COST?
National level - short courses are needed to raise awareness and knowledge about MEAs	Tertiary institutions – UNAM, Polytech, DEA	MEA secretariats	Ongoing	?
National level -revive DEA seminar series	DEA	Invited experts	Ongoing	?
Regional level – develop information materials	DEA (INFOCOM)	MET, MAWRD, MLRR, MRLGH, others	Early 2006	N\$150 000
Train Regional Councils re. MEAs	Tertiary institutions	As above	Start in mid 2005	N\$300 000
Local level – King Nahale Conservancy, together with others develop a radio series on their experiences with NRM	King Nahale Conservancy	MET, NACOBTA, NBC, etc	Start early 2005	N\$15 000
Local level – strengthen existing community development centres so that they become information hubs	MBEC should identify a pilot centre	Various GRN agencies	Start 06/2005	N\$150 000
Local level – Local Authorities must	Local Authorities	Various GRN agencies, NGOs,	Ongoing	?

WHAT MUST BE DONE	BY WHOM	SUPPORTED BY	WHEN	COST?
implement LA21 programmes		civil society		

Next steps

It was agreed that the logical next step was writing up the proceedings from this workshop and distributing this to delegates for their comments. Once it can be verified that the proceedings are indeed an accurate reflection of proceedings, then UNAM will deliver them to MET for official distribution.

It is up to MET and its partners to then decide on how best to implement the suggestions made.

Closure

Mr Sem Shikongo thanked everyone for their time and input, and assured delegates that the outcome of the workshop would be received with interest by MET.

He then officially closed proceedings.