

## **GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop CSO Meeting Windhoek Country Club – 16th February 2015 Windhoek, Namibia, Southern African Region**

### **REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS**



Prepared by Victor Kawanga, RFP, GEF CSO NETWORK, Southern African Region, 2015

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### Acknowledgements

In coordinating the CSOs participation at the ECW Workshop, I had to take the help and guidelines of GEF CSO Network members in Southern Africa, who deserve the greatest gratitude. I would like to show my gratitude the CFP (Faizal and Adelaine) for providing good guidelines for this assignment throughout numerous consultations. I would also like to expand my deepest gratitude to all those who have directly and indirectly contributed to the success of the ECW.

*In addition, a thank you to William Ehlers, Susan Waithaka and Oreste Pedro Maia Andrade for the underlying contributions and support rendered as this had a lasting effect on the success of this programme.*

I would also like to thank Operational Focal Point (OFP) Mr Godwin Fishani Gondwe who attended as a council member representing the Southern African constituency.



*Participants discussing during a plenary Session*



*William Ehlers, making a presentation on behalf of GEF Secretariat. Next to William is Susan Waithaka followed by GEF SGP Coordinator for Namibia Nickey Gase.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The GEF Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECW) are held annually and are aimed at keeping the GEF national focal points, convention focal points and other key stakeholders, including civil society, abreast of GEF strategies, policies and procedures and to encourage coordination.

Although this report covers deliberations during the CSO Meeting that took place on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 it shall also include some activities covered during the main ECW Meeting from 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015.



## **2.0 ORGANISATION OF THE WORKSHOP**

### **2.1 *Workshop Duration***

One day of deliberations for CSOs from the member countries in the Southern African Sub-Region represented by Namibia, Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland, South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

### **2.2 Evening Reception**

This was generously offered by GEF Secretariat on the first day of the ECW Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

## **3.0 PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS**

(a) The Host Country through the SGP Coordinator, Mr. Nickey Gase, CSOs from within Southern Africa and representatives from international organisations.

4.0 GEF Secretariat through William Ehlers-Head External Affairs, Susan Waithaka, Country Relations for Africa.

5.0 Council Member, Mr Godwin Fishani Gondwe, Director-Environment and Natural Resources

## **6.0 LOGISTICS**

6.1 Oreste Pedro Maia Andrade , GEF Secretariat

## **7.0 FACILITATORS**

- GEF Secretariat
- GEF CSO Network

## **8.0 RAPPORTEURS**

1. Victor Kawanga- Zambia
2. Malintle C.M. Kheleli-Lesotho
3. Wesley Litaba Wakunuma-Hivos, Zambia

## **9.0 APPROACH**

- Paper presentations
- Plenary Session and Demonstration
- Visual presentations through PowerPoint and Charts

## **10.0 CHRONICLE OF EVENTS**

### **10.1 Arrival and Registration of participants: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

### **11.0 Introduction to Namibia, the host country of the Expanded Constituency Workshop**

Namibia continues to invest in biodiversity conservation and major accomplishments have been made in the reporting period since the submission of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2005. Government, international partner organizations such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the private sector and civil society engagement and commitment have driven the accomplishment of major outputs set out in Namibia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which was published in 2002 and which laid out a comprehensive range of biodiversity conservation and management actions. The support from the GEF has guided investments and priority actions in GEF Focal areas, and is making significant contributions to global environmental management. Namibia enjoys significant support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and well-designed projects addressing key areas of the NBSAP, have made major contributions to its successful implementation and the application of CBD guidance at the national and local level.

## 12.0 Welcome remarks

In his opening remarks, the GEF CSO Network RFP, Southern Africa, Victor Kawanga, welcomed the delegates to the workshop. He wished all participating individuals a warm welcome to Namibia.



*Victor Kawanga, making welcoming remarks during the GEF CSO Network*

12.1 The meeting was then followed by personal introductions.

## 13.0 Overview of GEF CSO Network

The above was presented by Malintle C.M. Khelelias itemized below:

- The GEF CSO Network was established in 1995 to link civil society organizations accredited to GEF and facilitates input to GEF policy-making (as further strengthened in 2011-12)
- GCN is an independent/autonomous network with nearly 500 member organizations with experience and expertise in GEF's areas of work from all regions around the world.
- It is governed by a Coordination Committee Comprising 16 Regional Focal points and three Indigenous Peoples' Focal points and a Central Focal Point
- It has been recognized by the GEF Council and GEF Secretariat as a key entity in the work of the GEF.
- Engagement with private sector and development of GEF Policy on Indigenous Peoples
- Supporting GEF Public Involvement Policy, Principles & Guidelines



*Ms Malintle Kheleli, GEM, Lesotho making a presentation*

## 14.0 Objectives

## TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN SAFEGUARDING THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT:

### **14.1. Support outreach and awareness on global environment.**

- Undertake outreach programs and campaigns to raise awareness on key global environment issues in partnership with Network members and other CSO/IP Networks.

### **14.2. Document and disseminate experience and best practice to address global environment issues.**

- Develop a knowledge exchange platform on the role of Civil Society in safeguarding the global environment.
- Collate and disseminate results and lessons learned through GEF and non-GEF related activities to address key environmental challenges.

### **14.3 Encourage civil society contributions to the negotiation and implementation of Conventions.**

- To promote and support involvement of civil society organizations in negotiation and implementation of environmental conventions.
- Organize regular dialogues at convention meetings in partnership with GEF Secretariat and Agencies, network members and other partners.
- Channel ground level experiences from GEF programmes with civil society to convention meetings and implementation processes.

### **14.4. Strengthen capacity of civil society to address global environment issues through engagement in policy making dialog at the national, regional and global level.**

- Organize network expertise and capability to support capacity building programs and facilitate involvement in design and implementation for GEF projects.



- Organize periodic training and other capacity building activities for CSOs/IPs and other civil society organizations in partnership with GEF agencies and projects.

#### **14.5 Support promotion of GEF programs and activities to Civil Society.**

- Disseminate information materials on GEF programmes to civil society in partnership with GEFSEC and Agencies.
- Document Civil Society involvement with GEF activities for use in information and outreach programs.
- Collaborate with GEFSEC in the implementation of the GEF communication strategy.
- 

#### **14.6 Enhance Civil Society involvement in GEF Country, regional and global Projects.**

- Work with GEF Focal points and GEF Agencies to identify opportunities for civil society involvement in the preparation and implementation of GEF projects and programs.
- Promote and facilitate the inclusion of Civil society representatives in country program consultations and GEF project and program governance mechanisms.

#### **14.7 Provide strategic input to GEF policy making, planning and reviews.**

- Maintain regular contact with network members to solicit feedback on specific and /or general policy and programs of the GEF.
- Collate experience and lessons learned from Network members and other civil society organizations on GEF programme implementation.
- Undertake policy analysis and review in relation to the key technical, managerial and governance issues related to the operation of the GEF through operation of task forces on focal areas and conventions.
- Facilitate input to the GEF through input to council, constituency and technical meetings.

- Establish effective and formal linkages between the Network and the GEF Independent Evaluation Office to contribute to the evaluation of projects distill best practices and make the evaluation process more transparent and accountable to public.

#### **14.8 Enhance Governance capability of the GEF CSO Network.**

- Enhance Network activities at the national levels.
- Strengthen communication between the RFPs and their constituency.
- Enhance focus and activities at the regional and country levels to assess GEF activities and implementation of projects.
- Prepare a financial management framework including budgeting process to manage and administer CSO Network funds and budget.

#### **15.0 Key Strategic/Focal Areas**

- Ensure that projects address the overall objectives and needs to address local and global environmental impacts.
- Provide strategic input into GEF Council deliberations
- Provide an opportunity for CSOs to learn first-hand of key GEF initiatives and challenges including
- Key issues related to environmental and social safeguard standards
- Engagement with private sector and development of GEF Policy on Indigenous Peoples
- Supporting GEF Public Involvement Policy, Principles & Guidelines

#### **16.0 Gaps Identified by CSOs during Meeting affecting the ability to interpret GEF Mandate at Country to Country level**

- Focus is not on poor and vulnerable communities - literacy challenges to completing applications – 1<sup>st</sup> stage Concept Doc + 21 page application – (Catch word: How can we develop best practices to include all communities?)
- Country ownership – link to its national steering committee – challenges exist across countries

- Standing Committee – how to ensure that CSOs have oversight regarding standing committee’s applied criteria and/or performance criteria?
- Is there a possibility to increase SGP \$50Kper CSO provided at country level?

### **17.0 Indigenous Peoples in GEF**

- GEF to work more closely with CSOs within country engagement platforms to encourage traditional and/or indigenous knowledge systems and practices in today’s global environmental challenges
- GEF can help provide a supporting role to facilitate the establishment of “Best Practices” knowledge library for other communities to benefit from
- GEF/National Dialogues

### **18.0 Platforms**

- Country Support Programme – Operational Focal Point Work Programme; Expanded Constituency Workshops
- GEF Council Meetings
- Engagement through GEF Agencies
- The GEF Independent Evaluation Office
- Indigenous People Programme

### **19.0 Report backs and Discussions**



*Plenary Session in Progress by Group 1*

Participants asked questions or sought clarifications as itemized below:

How is GEF expected to do business differently and achieve Impact?

- a. The GEF seeks to achieve Global Impact – global benefit in our work done in different countries of the world
- b. Use opportunities such as ECWs, Council Consultations and other forato talk about how to work together with the GEF
- c. Idea of inviting Civil Society provides an opportunity and access to sitting together with government on the same table as well as establishing links together and when people get home can work together

**What are the projections of scaling up the CSO activities?**

- a. To promote active membership.**
  - Maintain and strengthen membership base.
  - Strengthen communication within and across local regional and international levels.

**b. Improve the Network Communication and procurement of funding.**

- Enhance communication channels between the various stakeholders and the regional/ country/ SGP / and Central Focal Points and also with the GEF SEC.
- Developing and building up Communication and Network resources for the GEF CSO Network.
- Establish and support a communication strategy to ensure that all global regions have adequate representation at Council meetings.
- Assess opportunities and activities to utilize capacity of the GEF CSO Network members.
- To secure adequate resources for the network from international donors.

A participant from Botswana (Chigedze) noted that issues of Gender link were missing from the presentation to which William (GEFSEC) answered that there is a gender policy within GEF which was approved by the GEF Council and added that:

- a. There is deliberate focus on recruitment of participants focussing on mainstreaming gender in GEF programming
- b. The SADC – protocols and agreements on gender mainstreaming has addressed the issue and decisions made at council of ministers level where gender issues are highlighted and focus on 50:50 representation

Thelma Munhequete, Mozambique: Shared on their experience of undertaken a IUCN funded Gender and Climate Change Validation and this included:

- a. A Project development supported by IUCN – Meant to develop validation process on Climate Change and Gender in Mozambique driven by the Department of Environment
- b. An engagement with government – Which culminated in a GEF CSO Network Member from Zambia (JCF) being sent to Kenya whose deliberations centred on the involvement of grassroots' women in issues of climate change
- c. Three regional workshops were conducted which validated the strategy and action plan is being finalized.

Overall, the validation process opened up links for policy action. Although there is already a policy on gender in Mozambique, there is need to strengthen links with



international organisations such IUCN and others. There is also need for policy analysis and engagement at all sectors of government.

## **20.0 Main CSO Workshop Summary Recommendations**

The CSO Meeting was a useful platform to share experiences from all stakeholders within the GEF mandate. The gathering recognized the need for:

Harnessing cooperation between state actors, CSOs, private sector and other stakeholders in fostering participatory action and generating needs in environmental protection and preservation as an important step to translating the GEF mandate from the ground up.



*Mr Godwin Fishani Gondwe, Council Member, Southern African Region making a presentation on behalf of the Southern African Constituency*

## **21.0 Challenges**

Some of the challenges to the effective operationalisation of GEF mandate in the region were identified as:

- Weak cooperation between CSOs and their respective governments
- Lack of democratic and enabling environment in many countries
- Weak institutional infrastructure poor capacity in many organisations to undertake their mission
- Policy shifts at government level
- GEF (similarly with CSO) needs a higher profile of awareness – as a partnership meant to serve as a financial instrument to affect local and Global environmental benefits
- Country government structures differ from country to country–GEF should use its mandate as a source of funds to help foster relationships and support of CSOs– Through SGPs, national dialogue mechanisms/ environmental platforms/ECW/Council meetings as well as through both political and operational focal points?
- Governments, their line departments, inter-governmental organizations, and CSOs have great experience in outreach and engagement of local communities as well as technical areas related to all GEF focal areas.
- In most countries in the region –historically there has been little direct involvement of CSOs in the development of country plans and projects.
- The Small grants programme has been important in many countries to support CSOs but there have been few opportunities of involvement of CSOs in medium and full sized projects.
- There is not enough coordination between CSOs and Government and few joint projects.
- Meetings between GEF Focal Points - CSOs regular are not being organised in most countries and until recently there has been no option for regional CSO meetings.

### **21.1 Analysis of Stakeholder's Institutional Strengths**

- There is significant potential in public institutions in the region in development and implementation of GEF projects – both SGP and full sized projects

- Continue increasing level of information on the Convention issues to CSOs and network members

## **22.0 Recommendations**

A range of recommendations to overcome the challenges were identified including:

- Enhance the collaboration between environmental CSOs and related government agencies through dialogues and joint activities and oblige governments to involve CSOs in medium and full sized projects with certain percentage.
- GEF should provide support for regular Regional meetings and other knowledge sharing and technical exchange opportunities among stakeholders in the region
- Increase the GEF SGP budget in the region and strengthen SGP outreach and capacity building activities for CSOs; strengthen existing GEF SGP networks link them to the GEF CSO Network. SGP should consider support for joint projects between CSOs in adjacent countries to facilitate sharing and joint capacity building
- Annual meetings should be held in each country between CSOs and the GEF Operational focal points (as agreed by GEF Council Nov 2010).
- Action should be taken by members of the GEF CSO Network together with the government focal points to help inform civil society stakeholders on opportunities for involvement in the development of full-sized projects.
- GEF Public Involvement policy needs to be fully implemented in this region especially in the development of government led projects. In particular –
  - a. Early engagement of CSOs in national consultation and portfolio development processes.
  - b. Development of clear guidelines for Civil society engagement – both generic and country specific
  - c. Effective participation of civil society in project development and formulation.
  - d. Special policy/mechanisms for engagement of indigenous and local communities

e. Enhanced consideration of gender and social issues

- Specific guidelines or tools/learning materials (eg documentation of lessons learned and good practices should be developed to stimulate enhanced stakeholder engagement in GEF project and programme development in the region.

### Closing

The ECW Meeting was officially closed by William Ehlers on behalf of the GEF Secretariat.







CSO Participants pose for a group photo: Photo, courtesy of Hotel Staff

## Appendix I: List of CSO Attendants (CSO Meeting and Main ECW Workshop)

N o	Name	Organisati on	Contac ts	Country	E-mail
1	Raili Hasheela	PASS Project		Namibia	<a href="mailto:rhasheela@met.na">rhasheela@met.na</a>
2	Christopher Mwambene	CURE		Malawi	<a href="mailto:Cmwambene@gmail.com">Cmwambene@gmail.com</a>
3	Thelma Munhequet	AFSD		Mozambi que	<a href="mailto:Thelma.munhequete@africa-foundation.co.za">Thelma.munhequete@africa-foundation.co.za</a>
4	Judith Kateule	JCF		Zambia	<a href="mailto:judychikofoundation@gmail.com">judychikofoundation@gmail.com</a>



5	Kinnear Mlowoka	Phunzirani Developme nt Organisatio n		Malawi	<a href="mailto:phunziranidev@yahoo.com">phunziranidev@yahoo.com</a>
6	Mantopi Martina Lebofa	Technologie s for Economic Developme nt		Lesotho	<a href="mailto:mantopi@yahoo.com">mantopi@yahoo.com</a>
7	Garikamose ToCSOwom a	Aqua- Culture Zimbabwe		Zimbabwe	<a href="mailto:garikaimose@gmail.com">garikaimose@gmail.com</a>
8	Wesley Litaba Wakunuma	Hivos		Zambia	<a href="mailto:wwakunuma@hivos.org">wwakunuma@hivos.org</a>
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10	Chigedze V. Chinyepi	AWEP- Botswana		Botswana	<a href="mailto:Chigsvee3@gmail.com">Chigsvee3@gmail.com</a>
11	Shepard Zvigadza	ZERO		Zimbabwe	<a href="mailto:szvigada@gmail.com">szvigada@gmail.com</a>
12	Kathlego Munonyane	Ghetto- Artists- Botswana		Botswana	<a href="mailto:ghettoartists@yahoo.co.uk">ghettoartists@yahoo.co.uk</a>
13	Mhlabo Mbame	NEOVGO		South Africa	<a href="mailto:neovgo@yahoo.com">neovgo@yahoo.com</a>

14	Harvey Keown	Africa Foundation for Sustainable Development		South Africa	<a href="mailto:h.keown@af-sd.com">h.keown@af-sd.com</a>
15	Malintle Kheleli	GEM		Lesotho	<a href="mailto:kmalintle@yahoo.com">kmalintle@yahoo.com</a>
16	Victor Kawanga	GEF CSO Network		Zambia	<a href="mailto:kawagavik@yahoo.co.uk">kawagavik@yahoo.co.uk</a>
17	Camilo Nanhone	Kuwuka JDA		Mozambique	<a href="mailto:caconhae@yahoo.com">caconhae@yahoo.com</a>
18	Godwin F. Gondwe	MLNREP, GEF, OFP		Zambia	<a href="mailto:figogmel@gmail.com">figogmel@gmail.com</a>
19	Jeremy Schlickenrieder	Humana People to People		Southern Africa (Spain)	<a href="mailto:jeremy.schlickenrieder@humana.org">jeremy.schlickenrieder@humana.org</a>
20	Erik Schurmann	ADPP		Mozambique	<a href="mailto:tsgediso@lamosa.org.za">tsgediso@lamosa.org.za</a>
21	Nickey Gase	SGP Coordinator		Namibia	<a href="mailto:nickeyg@unops.org">nickeyg@unops.org</a>

**Appendix II: AGENDA FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIONAL CSO MEETING**

**Windhoek Country Club, Windhoek, Namibia –16<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
	Session One
9:00 – 10:00	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome, Victor Kawanga, GEF CSO Network RFP, Southern Africa</li> <li>• Self-introductions</li> <li>• Objectives of meeting</li> <li>• An Overview of GEF and the GEF CSO Network, (Malintle Kheleli, GEM, Lesotho)</li> </ul>

10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 – 11.00	GEF-CSO Network and its Strategic Plan, Victor Kawanga, GEF CSO Network RFP, Southern Africa)
11.00 – 12.00	GEF6 and CSO engagements  Dialogue with GEF SEC: Sharing the results of the review of the PIP and the guidelines prepared by the GEFSEC (Pilar or Susan, GEF Secretariat)  (Moderated by Harvey Keown, AFSD, South Africa)
12.00 – 13.00	Panel Discussion:  1. GEF6 and options for CSO engagement in GEF 6 projects  2. Seeking feedback from CSOs in the region on GEF 6 engagement  Moderated by (Wesley Litaba Wakunuma, Hivos, Zambia)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
	Session Two
14:00 – 15.45	Strengthening CSO engagement at country/regional level: Discussion of options to enhance CSO engagement in GEF programmes at country and regional level:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Annual meetings with GEF OFP (Fishani Gondwe, Director, Environment and Natural Resources, MLNREP, Zambia (OFP and Council Member)</li> <li>○ Dialogue with GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) Coordinator, Namibia,: Enhancing CSO Participation in GEF Activities</li> <li>○ Proposed CSO-Government Policy Dialogues proposed to be organized by SGP and GEF CSO network and funded by GEF SGP( Coordinator, SGP, Namibia)</li> </ul> (Moderated by Thelma Munhequete, AFSD, Mozambique)
15:45 – 16.00	Coffee break

16.00 – 17.00	<p>The Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity strengthening needs and opportunities for CSOs (Moderated by Chigedze, Chinyepi, African Women`s Entrepreneurs Programme, Botswana)</li> <li>• Enhancing CSO engagement in GEF CSO Network in the region (Moderated by SherpardZvigadza, ZERO Regional Environment Organisation)</li> <li>• Development of CSO Statement to the ECW (Garikaimose Togowona, Aqua Culture, Zimbabwe, and Judith Kateule, JCF, Zambia)</li> <li>• Summary of Deliberations (Wesley Litaba Wakunuma, Hivos, Zambia)</li> </ul>
17.00	Closing: William Ehlers, GEF Secretariat

February 2015 Windhoek, Namibia, Southern African Region |



Deputy Minister, Namibian Ministry of Environment Opening the main ECW Workshop on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015

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### **Appendix III: About the Host Country Namibia**

Key policy advancements have been made in Namibia over the past years, which are mainstreaming environmental concerns into other sectors and related processes and instruments. It is clear that CSOs, CBOs and CSOs play a vital role in providing links to local communities and increasing social capital through the capacity building interventions they sponsor. At regional and international level, CSOs, CBOs, and CSOs are being recognised for their valuable contribution to development. In Namibia, CSOs, CBOs, and CSOs have been doing commendable work since independence in 1990 and have been active in funding and implementing development programmes and projects.

The hosting of the GEF ECW by the Namibian Government offered an opportunity for the GEF CSO Network to understand capacity shortcomings of CSOs participation with the network over the longer-term and that increased participation actions are needed. It is recognised that encouraging membership, local level management as well as policy-level encouragement capacities by government institutions be strengthened.

#### **Genesis of the CSOs Sector in Namibia**

According to the Namibian government, CSOs play a vital role in providing links to local communities and increasing social capital through the capacity building interventions they sponsor. At regional and international level, NGOs, CBOs, and CSOs are being recognised for their valuable contribution to development. Some Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states like Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa have embarked on a process to formulate a policy on NGOs. The Fiji Convention, the successor of the 4 Lome Conventions that lasted for 40 years until 29 February 2000, will open this partnership to civil society and NGOs/CBOs/CSOs participation for the first time. In Namibia, NGOs, CBOs, and CSOs have been doing commendable work since independence in 1990 and have been active in funding and implementing development programmes and projects.

In 1999 the Government of the Republic of Namibia undertook the national capacity building exercise. This process was undertaken in a way consistent with catalysing and enhancing the capacity building objectives of Namibia and involved consultations with senior officials closely involved in current capacity building initiatives both inside and outside Government were consulted. The study revealed that there is currently no legal framework in place for the registration of NGOs and civil society and that NGOs that decide to register, do so under the existing general provisions for Company Registration, under Companies Act of 1973. Some NGOs do register with respective ministries depending on which sectors they are operating. This means that not all NGOs are

registered officially even though they may receive foreign aid and may execute projects that may positively affect the lives of communities. Certainly there is need to establish a framework for the operation of NGOs and the Government as partners. It was therefore recommended that:

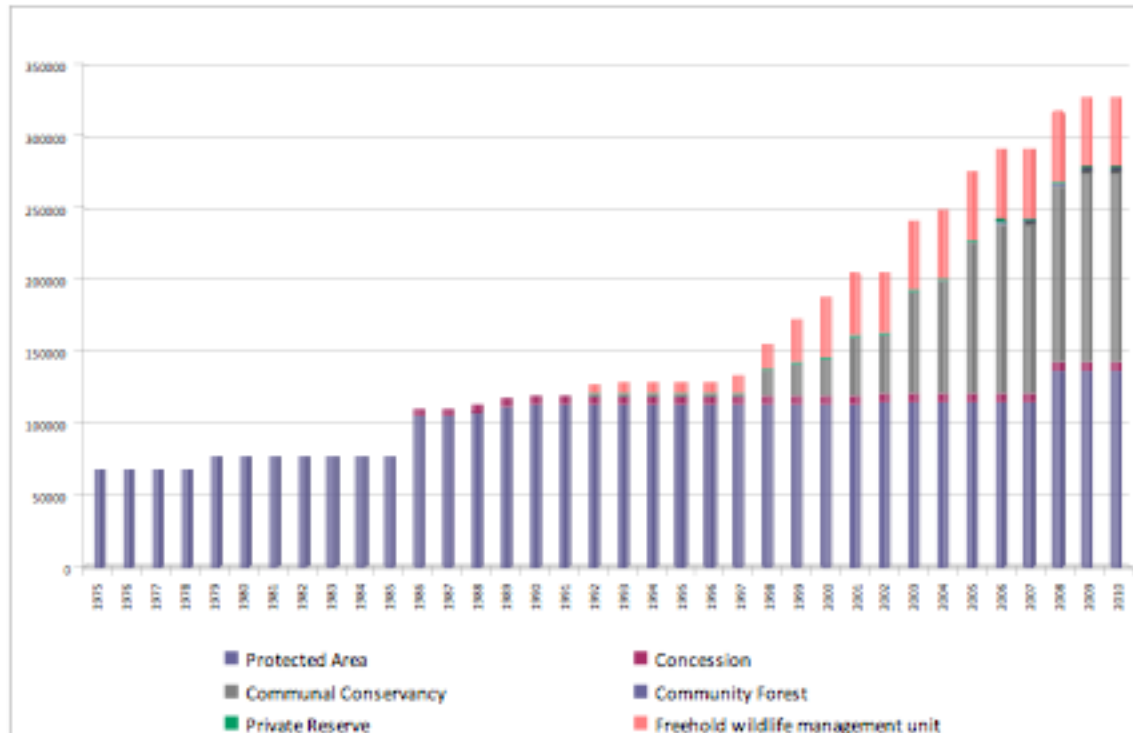
The Government and the NGO sector should formulate a policy framework for the operation of development activities and provision of support services in the civil society. The policy formulation process should be based on research on various aspects of NGO operations in the country, consultations and dialogue with all NGOs and their co-operating partners, views and opinions of the Private Sector, Government and communities. In addition, the policy should address issues on registration, management, code of conduct, agreement with foreign donors, Government collaboration, transparency and accountability, impact assessment, de-registration and discipline, among others.

## **Status and Trends of and Threats to Biodiversity**

***Status of Biodiversity:*** Over the reporting period, Namibia has made significant advancements in establishing new protected areas and promoting conservation of biodiversity outside of formal state-protected areas. Encouragingly, the entire coastline is now under some form of conservation status, while the entire country is home to 20 state-protected areas, covering 140,394km<sup>2</sup> or some 17% of the total land mass. While the century old Namib-Naukluft and Etosha National Parks are the most famous, all of Namibia's protected areas represent symbols of active conservation success. An expanding network of conservancies and community forests is improving the conservation of biodiversity in areas outside of state-protected areas and in many cases they adjoin these areas, which is reopening wildlife corridors and creating opportunities for collaborative management approaches. Conservancies and community forests are also proving a useful vehicle for promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity in terms of indigenous plants and non-timber forest products.

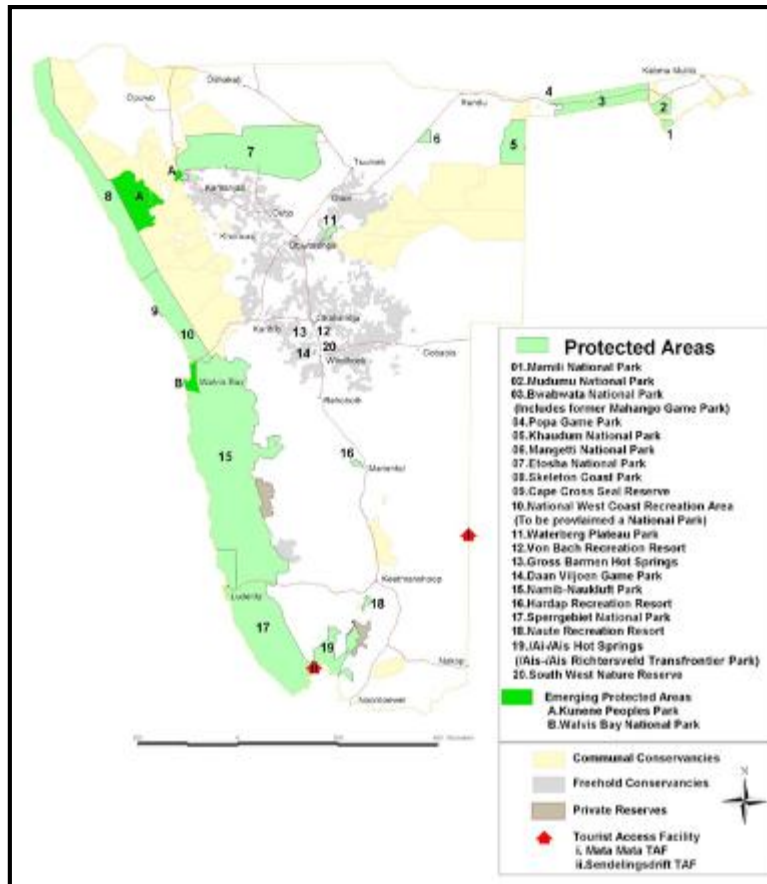
### ***Trends in Biodiversity***

Active efforts have been made over the past five years, to improve the biodiversity representativeness of Namibia's protected areas, with targeted protection of ecosystems as well as indigenous and endemic species occurring outside of the protected area network. Significant conservation efforts have been focused on high endemism areas, as an essential means to reduce the global loss of species. Namibia is fully aware that the greatest potential for limiting biodiversity loss is to be achieved by preventing the degradation of semi-natural ecosystems, which are currently under sustainable use, in areas outside of formally protected areas.



***The contribution of different types of conservation management to Namibia's protected-area network (Source, Government of Namibia)***

The following conservation areas can be distinguished in Namibia and combine to ensure that approximately 40% of Namibia is under some form of conservation management: (1) Protected areas on state land, (2) Communal Conservancies; areas in which communities in communal areas gain rights to use, manage and benefit from the consumptive and non-consumptive use of wildlife within defined boundaries, (3) Freehold Conservancies and private game reserves; established by private landowners to dedicate their land to wildlife management for wildlife tourism, trophy hunting and the sale of live game and meat, and (4) Tourism Concessions; these cover rights to conduct tourism activities and/or commercially use wildlife resources on business principles and (5) Community Forests; these offer communities the rights to sustainably manage forests and their associated natural resources. The Government of Namibia is pursuing an innovative and effective approach, which seeks to integrate the different types of conservation areas mentioned above to shore up the overall protected area network and to test novel collaborative management approaches.



***The coverage of Namibia by the different forms of conservation management (Source: Government of Namibia)***

Three national parks, Bwabwata, Mangetti and the Sperrgebiet were proclaimed in 2007 and 2008, and the Dorob National Park has been proclaimed in 2010. These have added considerably to the state-protected area and have placed a variety of different biomes under the highest possible form of conservation management. Of these developments, the proclamation of the Sperrgebiet has been the most significant. It became the country's second largest national park covering an area of 22,000km<sup>2</sup> and importantly it places almost the entire Namibian part of the Succulent Karoo "biodiversity hotspot" under protection, which constitutes a major contribution to global biodiversity conservation efforts.

The growth in communal conservancies in Namibia has been rapid and these represent a very important addition to the protected area network as they place a sizeable percentage of the sensitive Namib escarpment hotspot under conservation. Communal conservancies are also heavily concentrated in the mammal rich north-eastern areas of the country. Many conservancies lie next to other conservation areas and thereby enlarge conservation management areas and this facilitates improved connectivity, more open systems and broader wildlife corridors. As of March 2010, there were 59 registered conservancies in Namibia covering some 12 million ha with 42 of those located immediately adjacent to protected areas or in the corridors between them. This has further created opportunities for collaborative management options between the respective conservancies and state

protected areas such as Etosha, Khaudum, Bwabwata, Mudumu and Mamili National Parks. Freehold conservancies are also well established in the Acacia tree and shrub savannah biome, which is home to the world's largest population of cheetah.

Namibia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan serves as the country's strategic plan of action for the period 2001-2010 to promote sustainable development through biodiversity conservation. It was borne out of Namibia's National Biodiversity Programme (NBP) (1994-2005) and was shaped by a wide variety of stakeholders including government ministries, research organizations, NGOs, private businesses and community-based organizations. A multi-sectoral National Biodiversity Task Force (BDTF), set up during the NBP, coordinated the functioning of 21 technical working groups. These working groups provided much of the technical input into the formulation of the NBSAP, while senior ministry representatives provided political guidance through roundtable meetings and other direct forms of contact.

The overall objective of the NBSAP is to protect ecosystems, biological diversity and ecological processes through conservation and sustainable use, thereby supporting the livelihoods, self-reliance and quality of life of Namibians in perpetuity. It contains some 55 strategic aims and associated targets to achieve its overall objective. These are grouped into 10 key strategic themes which include (1) biodiversity conservation in priority areas, (2) sustainable use of natural resources, (3) research and environmental change monitoring, (4) sustainable management of land, (5) wetlands, and (6) coastal and marine environments, (7) integrated planning, (8) Namibia's international role, (9) capacity building, and (10) mechanisms for implementation. Explicit activities to be implemented to achieve the strategic aims are included in action plan logframes, which were formulated to allow for ease of tracking progress in implementation of the NBSAP.

Although no formal monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for tracking implementation progress ever took place on Namibia's NBSAP, a review as part of this 4<sup>th</sup> National Report indicates that a good deal of strategic aims and associated targets have been met, and that the majority of planned activities were addressed – in original or revised form within the GEF focal areas.

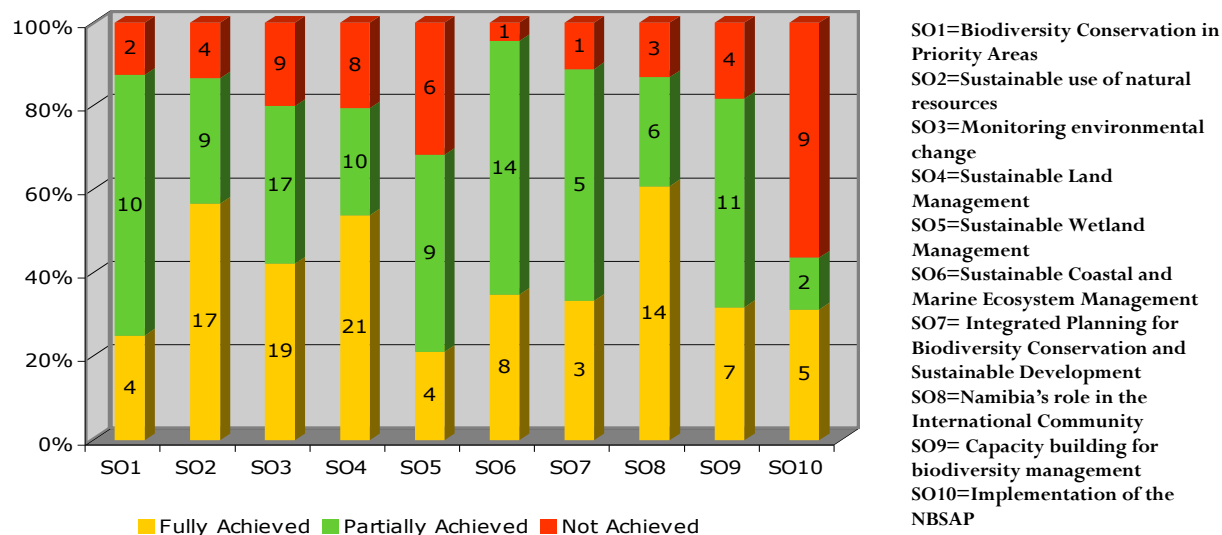
<b>NBSAP Targets reached</b>	<b>No. of Targets</b>	<b>% Breakdown</b>
Fully Achieved	102	42.2
Partially Achieved	93	38.4
Not Achieved	47	19.4
Total	242	100

***Summary of NBSAP targets achieved.***

Based on an initial assessment, it can be stated that the NBSAP has been effectively implemented in Namibia. Over 80% of all targets were at least partially achieved. The achievement of so many of the targets, in the absence of an official monitoring and



evaluation mechanism, represents a remarkable success. In addition the NBSAP was the first of its kind in Namibia and laid out a very ambitious and wide-ranging set of specific targets, which required close cooperation and action from a very diverse number of stakeholders. A number of MET and other government activities have been implementing elements of the NBSAP and a suite of internationally supported programmes have been directly implementing the key priorities and activities as laid out in the NBSAP.



***Breakdown of NBSAP specific targets achieved as per strategic objective (SO).***