

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR A GREENER NAMIBIA



On 14th January 2025, the Namibia Nature Foundation celebrated a significant milestone in its journey towards sustainable development with the launch of the European Union (EU)-funded project designed to empower community-based organisations (CBOs). The project signing event, held in Windhoek, was graced by the EU Ambassador, Ms. Ana Beatriz, who announced the funding, alongside the Executive Director of the National Planning Commission (NPC), Dr. Michael Humavindu, representatives of the awarded grantees from civil society and community-based organisations and key members from the media sector. The N\$42 million grant will support three

innovative projects under its portfolio; the "Towards Inclusive Green Growth in Namibia – Support Measures for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)" initiative. Along with, the other grantees include Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) and Deutsche Welle Akademie (DW) in collaboration with the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), Namibia Media Trust (NMT), and the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC). These projects aim to promote sustainable development strengthen civil society engagement and empower communities to actively participate in decision-making processes related to natural resources management.



Community-Based Organisation Strengthening Programmatic Lead and Environmental Social Safeguards Specialist, Priscilla Mundilo, signs the project cheque on behalf of the Namibia Nature Foundation during the project signing event.

Ms. Ana Beatriz remarked, “The three projects we are launching today are the results of successful bidding in a highly competitive call for proposals conducted by the EU delegation last year. These promising initiatives will be funded under our bilateral program, designed to enhance civil society engagement in national development. Today’s commitment also marks a milestone in EU-Namibia relations and our strategic partnership on sustainable raw materials and renewable energy. This partnership is supported by the Africa Global

Gateway Investment Initiative, which is endowed with EUR 150 billion for Africa over five years until 2027.”

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Alignment with National Goals

As one of the three successful grantees, the Namibia Nature Foundation will lead a project focused on strengthening the capacity of Namibian CBOs in communal conservancies to actively participate in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process. . By targeting the Kunene South, Kavango and Erongo regions, the project addresses crucial gaps in community participation and advocacy.

NNF's strategy revolves around equipping CBOs with the knowledge and tools necessary for meaningful engagement with stakeholders and policymakers. Training programs will focus on EIA processes and environmental rights and advocacy techniques to ensure that communities can address the environmental and social implications

of extractive industries. Additionally, the project incorporates capacity-building workshops, mentoring, and technical support as the core initiative

Namibia's communities, particularly those in resource-rich areas, have often expressed concern over being sidelined in decisions affecting their livelihoods and the environment. This project directly addresses these grievances by enabling communities to participate in EIA processes as Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs). Tools such as the EIA tracker, developed by the Namibia Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS), will be maintained to monitor environmental management processes.



Group Photo: EU Ambassador, Ms. Ana Beatriz, alongside the Executive Director of the National Planning Commission (NPC), Dr. Michael Humavindu, and representatives of the awarded grantees from civil society

Alignment with National Goals

The project aligns with Namibia's Harambee Prosperity Plan II, which emphasises green growth and community engagement. By building the institutional and technical capacities of regional conservancy associations, the project ensures that communities have a platform to voice their concerns and advocate for sustainable practices.



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Implementor



Funded by



Implementing partners