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**DAPP NAMIBIA**

**April 2020**

**Summary of national level consultations with stakeholders in Namibia,**

 **with regard to the validation of the Concept Note on the proposed ADSWAC project,**

 **to be submitted to the Adaptation Fund.**

**Background:**

Procedures for submission of the concept note requires the validation with core stakeholders. Additional to local consultations and a Regional workshop hosted by OSS, national-level stakeholders have been consulted.

This has been achieved as follows:

The following documents were shared with respective respondents for familiarisation prior to the telephonic interview, or potentially a virtual meeting.

1. Project summary
2. Project outline
3. Project log frame
4. Guideline for validation

Due to various circumstances relating to the COVID 19 lock-down in Namibia it was practically impossible to held virtual meetings. Resultantly feedback as requested was received either telephonically or per email. In total, more than 4 hours of talk time were recorded for the telephonic interviews.

Feedback provided and opinions shared firstly affirmed to proposed project and its value to communities and government ministries and secondly brought up valid points for consideration.

This report summarises the feedback received, mostly repeated or emphasised by different stakeholders without making individual reference to them.

A detailed list of stakeholders, which can be grouped into government representatives, community representatives and community members is attached to this report.

It also should be noted that the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) requested the final draft concept note for evaluation and familiarisation, which was extensively done as reported. A detailed list of comments and questions was returned with reply meeting the requirements of MEFT. MEFT agreed to issue the endorsement letter. Mrs Bernadette N. Shalumbu-Shivute, Senior Conservationist Scientist Climate Change Projects and Mr Peter Muteyauli, Deputy Director for Multilateral Environmental Agreements, were part of the evaluators and commentators.

In addition, it is worthwhile to mention that various other stakeholders were consulted and informed about the proposed project during the initial consultation process. They all equally supported the projects and their contributions were integrated in the Concept Note. A detailed report on the consultation process was submitted and is published on the website of ADPP Angola.

**General comments on the Concept Note:**

All respondents indicated that they fully support the proposal as outlined in the summaries of the concept notes and the log frame submitted. The cooperation on the same proposed intervention with neighbouring Angola was highly valued, especially as it is based on close cooperation with OKACOM.

All stakeholder committed to fully support and cooperate with the implementation of the project, especially in consideration of the time frame and budget allocated to this initiative.

Selected stakeholders appreciate the potential for close cooperation with the proposed project especially as it directly and indirectly supports them to achieve their development objectives which can be strategically interweaved in order to optimise on potential synergies. These potential organisations are listed later in this report.

Although, some general concerns and recommendations were raised and include the following:

* Various community projects established in the past were not sustainable beyond the duration of the project Instead of establishing new community gardens it should rather be focussed on reviving existing but dormant ‘projects’ and to build on past experience relating to these projects
* With strategic planning of envisaged community activities, it is recommended to also work in closed collaboration with existing producer organisations and other organised agriculture associations. The Namibia Association for Horticultural Producers (NAHOP) and the Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU) was mentioned in this regard. The NNFU representatives mentioned that they would like to see them included in the organigram included in the Concept Note.
* Focus on electronic media is suggested for Climate Change awareness and environmental sensitisation and education, especially for reaching the youth (younger generations familiar with technology).
* The office of the Governor (Kavango East) requested a detailed presentation of the proposal at their monthly meetings prior to finalisation and submission of the project proposal.

In addition to the general feedback respondents were requested to provide more specific information and suggestions with regard to the following:

1. **Identify possible priority intervention or activities in the target areas, namely the areas along the Kavango river in Kavango East and Kavango West regions (constituting the cross-border area)**

Overall sentiments shared on priority interventions included a practical approach supported by the required infrastructure as well as applicable measures and technologies addressing drought resilience and adaptation, demonstration of achievements resulting from adaptation measures and the active inclusion of the youth with specific reference to learners and youth with an agricultural vocational qualification.

Special reference was made to the following:

* Practical tools and basic infrastructure as well as technical support services required for production must be freely available to farmers (irrigation infrastructure, ploughing services and fencing to protect crops from livestock damage)
* Consider urban agriculture and home gardens in addition to community gardens.
* Establish orchards as they a have a huge potential in the area which is greatly frost free
* Teach people how to propagate trees either for own use or in form of a SME nursery
* Attend to the multiplication of suitable certified seeds to be availed to farmers in sufficient quantity when needed.
* People should be capacitated with focus on practical hands-on activities enhancing resilience to climate change
* Improved technologies should be integrated as far as possible (ref ploughing, irrigation, water pumps, pest control) and moving away from traditional farming practices especially if this is not supportive to resilience to Climate Change
* Pest & vermin (also birds and insects) control should form an integral part of the process with emphasis on suitable biological and organic methods as per Ecological Organic Agriculture principles (EOA). The use of chemical substances in subsistence agriculture should be minimised.
* Capacitating people to increase food production is by far more important than creating awareness on climate change, which is rather intangible.
* Enhance and motivate surplus production for marketing and support this by considering savings
* Awareness on climate change should be linked to practical and tangible adaptation measures with a clear focus to drought mitigation measures/drought resilience.
* Research and trials to be integrated to show and demonstrate to farmers the benefits, and to share this information as widely as possible.
* Environmental Education Club (EEC) activities involving dryland cropping and gardening should be integrated in Producer Organisations (PO) activities as this enhances sustainability, support continuation during the school holidays and addresses generational gaps (thus learners, youth and elders working together) = supports community dynamics. This equally includes the activation of existing school gardens by integrating them into PO activities and programmes.
* Integrate poultry and rabbits in horticulture (garden) projects at PO level and expose learners to these agricultural production systems
* School projects focussing on vegetable production should be linked to school feeding programmes providing a daily food supplement to learners, especially those in need
* Empowerment of teacher in charge of or driving the EECs as per Namibia Environmental Education Network (NEEN) guidelines need to be continuously supported. This includes financial support of activities and infrastructure and equipment. In this regard, rain water harvesting and refuse collection (sorting) infrastructure was mentioned as well.
* The youth, especially agriculture VTC graduates, should be engaged by making horticulture attractive by using advanced technologies such as greenhouses, hi-tech irrigation systems, etc. delivering good and secure returns and thus income
* Attend to land registration and applicable rights as this is regarded as a prerequisite.
* Actively involve all relevant stakeholders and keep them updated and developments and challenges experienced.
* It should be strongly focussed on long-term sustainability of interventions and projects so that they continue after completion of the five-year project.
* Transfer all equipment and moveables after completion of project to government as it might ‘get lost’ if transferred to communities. Government is a better custodian thereof facilitating fair access to beneficiaries in need.
* Establish only small (4-6 members) Saving Groups to establish a revolving fund. It seems that too big groups do not function well and are not sustainable.
1. **Indicate pertinent challenges and needs of the target area and its rural farming communities**

All stakeholders confirmed that there are a wide range of challenges with the implementation of projects which need to be addressed. Most challenges relate to the human factor while there are some others as well as listed below:

* Green Schools Programme / Environmental Education Clubs face the challenge of:
	+ Continuity of teachers due to transfer, retirement, loss of interest
	+ Lack of experience and knowledge transfer and sharing with other teachers at the same school
	+ Limited or lack of financial resources required the various EEC activities
	+ No funding available for environmental education related excursions (such as visits to various Environmental Education Centres available in Namibia)
	+ Teachers work on voluntary basis and this should be supported by related travelling allowances, required permissions and support by principals to have time for these activities
* It was clearly stated that NEEN is a non-profit organisation/association and external funding is required to source requirements such as tools, seed, infrastructure and to cover other EEC related expenses.
* Access to cash when needed by farmer club members for farmer club activities such as purchase of production inputs or payment for required repair and maintenance. This can bring a project to a standstill with crops in production being lost and production activities being stalled.
* Innovative approach to marketing is required to enable farmers to sell small quantities of surplus produce, which is mostly in season and when an oversupply exists
* Generational challenges and various community dynamics pose a real challenge when working with big(ger) groups. This might include witchcraft, jealously and related developments which can turn out in a serious social hampering factor.
* Entitlement and a hands-out approach, also referred to the historical dependency syndrome, might hinder desired independence and sustainability of projects.
* The full support and motivation by TA’s (headmen) is required, and the support of regional governments; is this is not given the projects stand a limited chance to become independent and sustainable.
* Continued support by capacitated resource people guiding farmers beyond scope of project is required. The challenge is that this is often not planned for.
* Environmental challenges referred to is the lacking management of deforestation, too little real efforts for re-forestation, rangeland deterioration due to decreasing rainfall (without reducing cattle numbers or adjusting rangeland management), pest and vermin as well as problem animals such as elephants and hippos.
* The challenge with applied CA intervention is that good rains are required to prove real benefits, which is unfortunately often not the case.
* Adoption of new methods and technologies is only achieved if results are evident for farmers to observe. Unless succeeded, farmers will be slow to adapt.
* Livestock damage to crops is regarded as a real challenge. Fencing is regarded as the only solution, but this requires substantial funding which is neither available nor feasible.
* Availability of river water for production (crops and horticulture) in times when river levels are very low poses a real challenge.
* Selection of suitable crops and varieties based on soil characteristics (as per soil samples) and determining optimal levels of required soil amendments.
* Attach higher/stronger value to trees (do no allow to cut for N$200.00 without verification) – apply stricter control with giving permission for cutting.
1. **Identify potential social, economic and environmental risks of proposed interventions and possible mitigation measures**

Respondents identified a number of risks which need to be proactively addressed: They are as follows:

* Water availability and sustainable extraction from the river and boreholes, especially if the river runs low and in years following a drought with limited underground water recharge.
* Defect water supply and distribution equipment and infrastructure not being fixed immediately, which might lead to the loss of the entire crop. This applies to irrigated horticulture.
* The optimal performance (also referred to underperformance) of extension technicians (DAPEES) is hampered by sufficient resources, expertise & competence
* Failure of EEC due to interrupted water supply, saline water, lack of funding for activities and transfer or termination of teachers, especially if linked to individuals.
* Diverse community dynamics countering optimal cooperation, especially if strong leadership is lacking (this was listed in further detail under challenges)
* Land disputes, especially with regard to ancestral land claims, clear demarcation and lacking documentation of allocation (to groups) by traditional authorities.
* Pest and plant diseases, as well as vermin and wildlife (elephants and hippos) related crop damage
* Marketing of produce with regard to access to a fair market, or a lacking market due to seasonal oversupply and low producer prices. Transport of produce to markets was equally mentioned as a risk of loss of income in this regard.
* Conflict of interest between community groups, individuals, traditional authorities and regional governments.
1. **Recommend suitable organisations and stakeholders and their respective roles and responsibilities with regard to project implementation**

A wide range of suitable partners organisations for cooperation with the implementation of the project were identified. These include the following:

* Namibia National Farmers’ Unions (NNFU) and its affiliated regional farmer’s unions and producer co-operatives and/or farmers’ associations.
* Namibia Association of Horticulture Producers (NAHOP)
* GIZ, currently implementing the Agribusiness and Capacity Development (ABCD) and Communal Land Development Programme (CLPD) which comes to an end in due course. A continuation programme (project) including relevant components is scheduled to take off in October in the Kavango regions.
* GIZ is regarded as a suitable organisation to funds various supportive programmes in addition to existing development initiatives implemented
* Agribank’s Agricultural Advisory Services Division (AASD) offering mentoring and coaching services in all regions of Namibia including the Kavango regions
* Agribank as a government supported funding organisation providing micro- and group loans to farmers and organised farmer groups at special terms and conditions
* Agricultural vocational education and training centres (ATVET) in the region (there are two) for combining in-service training, job attachments or apprenticeship with PO’s or the project implementor DAPP.
* Organised youth groups affiliated to National Youth Services,
* NADEET – a pacemaker in Namibia in Environmental Education supportive to school-based initiatives
* EduVenture (<http://eduventures-africa.org/eduventures/> )
* Legal Assistance Centre with its special programme focussing on human wildlife conflict, which is relevant to prevention of crop damage by elephants and hippos
* Hand Seidel Foundation, who are supporting the development of the national policy document: Environmental Education Policy for Sustainable Development in Namibia
* The local corporate sector supporting additional project activities financial through their Corporate Social Responsibility programmes, especially in the field of climate change and environmental education
* CRAVE = Climate Resilient Agriculture in three (3) vulnerable northern crop growing areas, based within n MAWLR and supports with ploughing services and horticulture projects (individual and group based)
* Various government ministries were mentioned, with the Ministry of Education with regard to the school programmes and environmental education.
1. **Suggest critical roles and responsibilities with regard to the implementation of the project by:**
	* Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)
	* Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)
	* Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) including Regional Governments
	* Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service (MSYNS) ref National Youth Council (NYC)
* Stakeholders were requested to highlight the critical roles of Government Ministries playing a significant partnership role with the implementation of the proposed project.

General comments on selected government ministries:

It was a repeatedly recommended that a platform for a regular exchange of information is established, such as a steering committee accommodating representatives of all government ministries as well as other critical stakeholders and organisation representatives.

The expectations with regard to the following ministries were mentioned as such:

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism:

* to play a rather a secondary role as custodian of the project addressing the impact of climate change
* to fully support and drive climate change and environmental awareness campaigns
* to efficiently and effectively take over the role and responsibilities of the Department of Forestry as now integrated in this ministry
* to drive reforestation and tree planting campaigns by raising and distributing suitable trees at local level, guide planting and nurturing and capacitating rural communities to propagate a wide range of suitable trees
* to support Environmental Education Clubs at school level through the NEEN project with teachers training, learning materials and funding required for both project activities and transport costs for attendance of conferences and similar as well as for school groups to visit environmental education centres. It is noted that fundraising initiatives need to be facilitated to secure the required funding.
* to address human wildlife conflict experienced in parts of the target area. This especially refers to elephant corridors and hippos along the river.
* to provide for well-trained and committed environmental and Climate Change awareness officers

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:

* Agricultural Production, Extension & Engineering Services (DAPEES) is regarded as the most critical and important partner with the actual implementation of the programme
* Roles and responsibilities of DAPEES should strongly focus on:
	+ Supply of suitable seeds, and this in a timely manner (need to attend to seed stocks)
	+ Offer timely and sufficient ploughing (field cultivation) services with appropriate equipment and sufficient tractors in working conditions. This also required working in shifts and pay overtime to tractor operators
	+ To capacitate (train/teach), advise, mentor and coach farmers during critical time of production
	+ To communicate seasonal (rainfall) projections to farmers and give related advice
	+ To sensitise on climate change matters through awareness creation in close cooperation with other similar interventions
	+ To mobilise farmers as required
* It was clearly mentioned that the respective Government Ministry need to allocate the appropriate budget for this purpose
* I addition, it was suggested that DAPPEES expands their extension services at school level; this includes sharing relevant information on agricultural production with learners, assists with agricultural projects at school level and provide schools with same services as applies to farmers.
* Concern was expressed with the current expertise as well as attitude and motivation of extension personnel. Budget restriction were although acknowledged. One respondent indicated that extension capacities for dryland cropping are ‘high’, for horticulture ‘moderate’ and for livestock ‘low’. It was suggested to give attention to these shortcomings.
* The number of farmers benefitting from existing extension services should be increased by developing and implementing appropriate strategies.
* Strengthening Regional and National Fora Coordination with linkages by DAPP is critical.

Ministry of Urban and Rural Development – with special reference to Regional Governments:

* The active inclusion or senior representatives from the Governor’s offices is critical for the successful implementation of the project as they directly report to the office of the president and thus can lobby for the needed support at ministerial level. In addition, they are regarded as the political custodians and thus have valuable authority.
* Equally, should senior representatives from the Governor’s offices actively serve on the steering committee and be well informed on progress of project implementation, including successes and challenges.
* The regional governments are advised to include project related development needs in support of the project in the annual budget (to make additional funding available)
* The role regional governments can play in mobilising and supporting the coherence and consistency of groups, as well as the link between community stakeholders and government ministries is well acknowledged
* With regards to the Green Schools Programme (Environmental Education Clubs) the Governor’s office should:
	+ Actively motivate and (financially) support EECs at school level – and maintain an open-door approach for drivers of this initiative (including MEFT and teachers)
	+ Motivate learner-teacher-parent involvement and commitment and the active involvement and support of the Ministry of Education, especially with regard to formalising environmental and agricultural learning
* As a concern,potential self-interest of Regional Government office bearers was mentioned, with special reference by giving preferential treatment to extended family members and personal rewards.

Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Services – with special reference to National Youth Services (NYS)

* Focus on actively involving the youth in agriculture-based initiatives as this provides the only viable means of maintenance and income generation through self-employment
* Closely cooperate with the Ministry of Education, especially with regard to school leavers in order to incorporate them in a supportive and developing structure (thus facilitation the transition from learners to youth)
* Incorporate Climate Change resilience and adaptation in all youth programmes
* The NYC operates agricultural vocational training centres and their graduates should be actively included in the programme, either grooming them as farmers or accommodating them as resource people for the project. This was repeatedly mentioned as a critical component
* One respondent mentioned that it was the most rewarding experience working with a group of NYS VTC students due to their discipline, commitment and willingness to learn.
* Sensitise the youth that there are no jobs for all, but that they have the opportunity to become successful food and fodder producers in the region given the availability of land and water and the active support available, especially through this potential project.
* On a critical not it was mentioned that the youth is averse of hard labour and working long hours in the sun as required for dryland cropping; and the other side they have proven to be much more effective with horticulture production.
1. **Advise on critical measures enhancing project sustainability beyond the five-year implementation plan**

Respondents were requested to share their opinions on enhancing the sustainability of interventions beyond the scope of the project, and the following points were mentioned.

* Community members need to become the drivers of the project and take ownership and pride in it. External project drivers should be strong in the beginning but timely and gradually phase out and be substituted by community leaders
* The traditional authorities need to become an integral part of all related projects and initiatives and a perception that this is ‘their initiative and success’ needs to be facilitated
* Each ‘project’ such as POs or WUA should be led by a paid person with management capacity (a manager) to organise and control activities. It is regarded a key priority that a committed person with a defined responsibility (based on a job description) remains in charge. Sources of sustainable funding need to be clarified.
* It is advised to work with rather small groups (5-10), especially with those who are really dependent on the project to make ends meet and/or see the potential to make a good living out of it. Thus, there must be a clear and achievable motive or objective.
* The active and committed long-term participation of DAPEES is critical with continued support of farmers addressing diverse and situational needs.
* Progress of this initiative need to be observed and recognised. This will be achieved by pointing out comparisons and by visually documenting (aerial and other photos) progress and use this as a means of demonstration and communication. Varying weather conditions (rainfall) need to be accounted for.
* Committed youth groupings are regarded as the most critical component in support of sustainability, whereas the close cooperation with the elderly in this regard is equally important.
* The sustainability for dryland cropping intervention seems to be given, but this might not apply to horticulture due to costly operational and maintenance requirements which might be hampered by lack of money (cash or funding)
* Land rights and access to lands needs to be secured and documented, especially if infrastructure development applies

**Stakeholders contacted with respect to the validation the ADSWAC Concept Note**

**to be submitted to the Adaptation Fund.**

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|  | Organisation  | Person and designation contacted  | Details of validation process  |
| 1 | Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)  | Bernadette N. Shalumbu-ShivuteTitle: bn.shalumbu@gmail.com0812964043 | Studied full Concept Note and Submitted comments with question for clarity which were address to her satisfaction. She attends to issuing the endorsement letter  |
| 2 | Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) - Division of Environmental Information and Natural Resource Economics (EINRE)Subdivision: Environmental Education and Awareness (ref NEEN and EECs)  | Ms.Linna Nantinda National Coordinator: Namibian Environmental Education Network (NEEN)0811491547liinanantinda53@gmail.com | Interview: 07 Apr, 16:22, 37min  |
| 3 | Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)  | Ms. Mildred Kambinda Director DAPEES Tel: +264 61 208 7458/7459 Email: mildredkambinda@gmail.com | Email reply to Bryan, 14 Apr, with a follow up meeting with her and her team on 15 April (11:00 – 12:30)  |
| 4 | The permanent Okavango River Basin Management (OKACOM) | Ms. Cynthia OrtmannDeputy Director :Water and Environment 0811435585cynthia.ortmann@mawf.gov.na | Email reply to Gunther, 31 March  |
| 5 | Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) Also representing NAHOP (National Association of Horticultural Producers) & NNF (Namibia Nature Foundation) | Manjo Krige Namibian Project Manager, Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture 081 129 5575noa@nnf.org.na |  Interview: 08 Apr, 15:10, 27min  |
| 6 | Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU)  | Beata Xulu NNFU Executive Director 081 633 5325 beata.xulu@gmail.comTel 061 271 117info@nnfu.org.na  | Interview and telephonic conversation with Kirsten, 3 Apr  |
| 7 | Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU)  | Mr **Timmohteus Kativa** - Secretary for the Kavango East Farmers Regional Union and Agribank AASD Mentor 081 274 5984 | 09 Apr, 11:21, 22min  |
| 8 | Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU)  | Mr Johannes Hausiku - Secretary for the Kavango West Regional Farmers Union 081 443 8612 | 09 Apr, 9:23, 32min  |
| 9 | Communal Land Development Programme (CLPD) Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Tino Hess, Auftragsverantwortlicher (AV) Communal Land Development Project (CLDP), M: +264 (0) 81 2576 475, T: +264 (0) 61 215 600, E-mail: tino.hess@giz.de Website: [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de) | Interview: 07 April, 14:11, 21min  |
| 10 | National Environmental Education Network (NEEN) | Johannes Nyandu – NEEN representative & Teacher at at Katjinakadi Secondary School – Kavango West 081 231 4980Nyundum16@gmail.com |  Interview: 07 Apr, 15:11, 29min |
| 11 | Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)  | Deputy Director: Extension- North Eastern Division Mrs. Berfine Antindi Tel: +264 66 255 666 Email: berfine.antindi@mawf.gov.naaberfine@gmail.com  | Communication with Bryan, supported by briefing of Mrs Kambina, Director: DAPEES |
| 12 | Regional Government Kavango East  | **Chief Regional Officer****Office of the Governor** Mr. Ludwig Thikusho**081 128 0561** lthikusho@kavangorc.gov.na | 09 Apr, 10:55, 5min |
| 13 | GIZ Project: Promotion to Vocational Education and Training, attached to Rundu Vocational Training Centre, AgriculturePreviously: Chairperson: NAHOP (National Association of Horticultural Producers)Mentor: Farmers Support Programme and Agribank Advisory Service Division – Kavango and Zambezi region  | Patrick HilgerLocal expert and resource person 081 288 1038philger@integration.orghilgerp@iway.na |  08 Apr, 14:11, 41min  |
| 141516 | Community representatives interviewed by Francis Chimudzi, Regional Coordinator for Kavango East & West, DAPP Namibia081 632 7618 francischimudzi@gmail.com  | Mbambi village: Mr MukuveKasivi village: Mr. Tjakamba and Mr. Tjambati  | 09 Apr  |