



**NACOMA | Namibian Coast
Conservation and Management**
Caring for the coast – Caring for the future

MATCHING GRANTS

CONFIDENTIAL

a). Cape Cross EcoTourism Project: Construction of a walkway at the Cape Cross Seal Reserver

The Cape Cross Seal Reserve protects one of the largest colonies of Cape fur seals (*Arctocephalus pusillus*) in Southern Africa, between 80000 and 100000 seals. At the site, the tourist view point is separated from the seal enclosure by a seawall constructed with rocks and cement.

Each year, the East wind causes an accumulation of sand behind a wall and this build-up of sand puts an enormous pressure on the wall, causing it to break in certain areas. The accretion of sand behind the wall over the years has also changed the parameters of the wall and in some sections the sand has risen to the same level as the wall. Consequently, this encourages tourists to climb into the seal enclosure for a better view and at the same time causing massive disturbance to the seal colony.

Objectives

At the site, the tourist view point is separated from the seal enclosure by a seawall constructed with rocks and cement.

The targeted activities:

- removal of sand dune behind the wall;
- removal of a 100 metres section of the wall and erection of a fence between the seal enclosure and the current view point;
- Construction of the walkway.

Benefits expected

The walkway would be beneficial to:

- Tourism: offer a partially aerial view of the seals enclosure which will be very well suited to photographic purposes;
- Seals: less disturbance from tourists that would normal cross over the wall. With the removal of the wall and the space under the walkway deck, seals may also be encouraged to encroach back into past habitat areas of the beach;

Park Authorities: managing the view point will be less demanding as the East winds will drive the sand under the walkway deck and into the ocean.



b). Khorixas Cultural Heritage and Interpretative Centre (KCHIC)

Background

The Kunene region inhabitants have no or little access to their 500 km long coastline due to the terrain, ruggedness and hostility of the Namibian coastline. A huge number of the inhabitants, especially the active population group have limited exposure, and knowledge about their coastline.

Objective

- To educate and expose Kunene inhabitants to their environment whilst creating a sustainable business platform for entrepreneurs, SME and craft makers and improving the economic cycle in the area.
- Encourage community-owned ventures at the KCHIC.
- To develop an in-door coastal environment for Kunene inhabitants.

Targeted Activities

- Earthworks
- External works
- Construction of a Café
- Construction of ablution facilities
- Appointment of a project coordinator
- Construction of a makeshift curio shop

Benefits expected

The matching grant is to benefit the whole region, more specifically the 5 – 59 years age group which makes up about 74% of the population. It is envisaged to benefit the tourism industry, craft makers and entrepreneurs.

Government institutions and other relevant stakeholders will have the opportunity to use the KCHIC as a platform for their out-reach programmes.





c). Walvis Bay Bird Paradise (WBBP)

Background

The Walvis Bay Bird Paradise (WBBP) is a community based eco-tourism project which offers guided birding and nature walks, boat tours, cultural tours, crafts and refreshments. It is located on the eastern periphery of Walvis Bay along the main road to the airport, 1,300m from the traffic circle between the road to Swakopmund and the Walvis Bay airport. Birds Paradise is a freshwater wetland, created by the Walvis Bay municipal sewage works through pumping semi-purified wastewater into artificial ponds. Over the years, this practice created a large strip of fertile land covered with a number of plant species reeds, especially the *Phragmites Australis* which forms the majority growth and today supports a number of bird and animal species. About 2 000 birds have been recorded at the site during winter and even more during the summer and spring seasons. The wetland ties in with the Walvis Bay Lagoon which is protected under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971.

Objectives

To promote the wetland through eco-tourism as a means to generate an income while conserving biodiversity.

Targeted activities

- Construction and equipping of the craft and information centre
- Provision of freshwater
- Wetland conservation through research, bird counts and guided tours

Benefits expected

The project will be beneficial to:

- Tourisms: tourists will experience and enjoy birding through guided tours, boat tours and selling of crafts
- Local Authority: conservation and management of the wetland

- Education: information on number and species of birds through bird counts, environmental awareness and guided educational tours

d). Kuiseb Delta Development Trust (KDDT)

Background

The Kuiseb Delta Development Trust has secured a Concession area within the Dorob National Park in the Erongo region which is an ideal tourism location with unique site seeing opportunities in Namibia. It is ecosystems of biodiversity importance and is aligned with the national priorities such as empowering rural communities through consumptive and non-consumptive rights over natural resources. KDDT operates guided tours, tented camps, cultural villages and overnight facilities while conserving the area and the archaeological sites.

Objective

- The objective of KDDT is to manage the tourism activities within the Kuiseb Delta Concession on behalf of the trust members and the Topnaar community as well as to conserve the landscape, the ancestral delta and surrounding areas.

Targeted activities includes

- Provision of fresh water at the site
- Construction of a storage room
- Management of archaeological sites and erection of information board and signage
- Maintenance of the camping sites

Benefits expected

The project is beneficial to:

- Tourism: coordinated and controlled tourism activities within the concession area
- Park authorities: managing the activities by park authorities will be less demanding within the concession area because the trust will oversee the protection and conservation of the area.
- The local community: all the trust members will benefit either directly or indirectly from the project through the Benefit Distributions Plan
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Progress to date:

KDDT activities are expected to be completed by October 2015. The campsites are available and bookings can be made directly with the KDDT office.

e). Support to communal conservancies: Ohungu Conservancy pilot project-

Background

The Ohungu Conservancy pilot project was initiated through office of the Daures constituency by the Erongo Region councilor requesting support on preventing human wildlife conflicts between desert elephants (seeking foraging and water) and local communities living along/near the Ugab River.

Objective

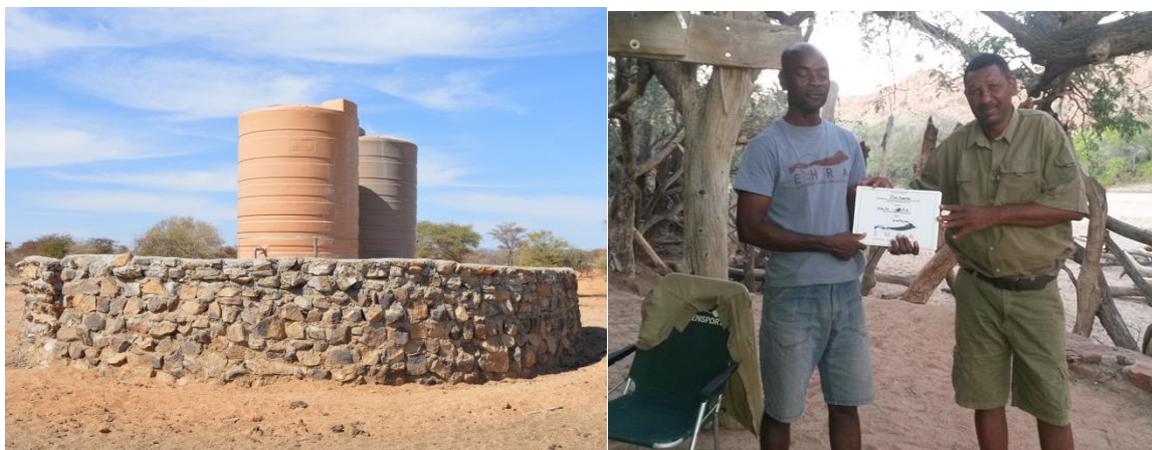
- To empower the conservancy on how to deal with human wildlife conflicts (HWC)
- To establish physical infrastructure to deter elephants from effected settlements/homesteads and water points
- To ensure sustainability of Ohungu onservancy

Targeted Activities

- Capacity building: educational field trips, training on Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), HWC, Project management and Strategic planning
- Development of conservancy benefit distribution and management plans
- Infrastructure development: erection of protective barriers around water points, construction of elephant dams

Benefits expected

This initiative is envisaged to reduce human wildlife conflict, build capacity amongst conservancy committee and members at large thus improving management of the conservancy.



f). Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET)/Dorob National Park (DNP) Development

Background

An extension from the MET signage project executed under NACOMA phase 1 is to address challenges such as litter management, lack of capacity within park staff, inadequate park signs and information materials as well as park plans.

Objectives

- Build capacity within the MET (DNP) park staff and develop the DNP Tourism Development Plan
- Increase awareness amongst park visitors
- Develop, pilot and implement litter management mechanisms

Targeted Activities

- Develop the Park Management
- Develop the Tourism Development Plan
- Law Enforcement
- Acquire signage
- Improve litter management
- Capacity building amongst park staff
- Improve permitting system
- Raise awareness

Benefits expected

- Tourism Development plan for Dorob National Park
- Better management of the Dorob National Park
- Employment creation
- Increased awareness on the Dorob National Park (rules & regulations, habitats, flora & fauna etc.)



g). Namibian Islands Marine Protected Area (NIMPA)

Background

The Namibian Islands Marine Protected Area (NIMPA) is located in the southern Atlantic within Namibia's EEZ, between 24°29'10S 14°30'00E and 27°57'34S, 15°28'05E. It was gazetted on the 16th of February 2009 under category VI of the IUCN. The area was designated as an MPA in order to ensure protection of this unique, highly fragile marine ecosystem, endangered and endemic species and their habitats as well as commercially important species found on these islands.

Objective

The investment provided support towards strategies and activities that are crucial to the successful implementation and management of NIMPA

Targeted Activities

- Design and print NIMPA brochures
- Procure research and monitoring equipment
- Field work and transport expenses for students and post doc collaborators
- Aerial surveys
- Procure computer equipment for survey data analysis and data banks

Benefits expected

- Availability of key equipment to allow the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) staff to conduct surveys and implement other vital conservation action measures
- Public awareness
- Biodiversity monitoring within NIMPA is expected to provide additional tools and ecological indicators to contribute to the sustainability and ecosystem based management of several important commercial fisheries taking place partially within NIMPA

