



Republic of Namibia



## A COP 11 Poster Story-telling and Photographic Exhibition

Namibia's Country Pilot Partnership and Programme to Combat Desertification Contributions towards the GEF Programmatic Framework on Sustainable Land Management and the UNCCD Ten Year Strategy (2008-2018)



Namibia Pavilion, COP11  
Windhoek, Namibia  
16-27 September 2013



The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the only legally binding international agreement that links the environment and development to sustainable land management. It focuses on the highly vulnerable ecosystems of heavily populated arid, semi-arid and dryland areas. In 2007 the convention adopted a 10-year strategy for the period 2008–2018. The Parties to the Convention further specified their goals as: *to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.*

The eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD (COP 11) was held in Windhoek, from 16–27 September 2013 under the theme ‘A stronger UNCCD for a Land-Degradation Neutral World’. The theme marked the progress of the Parties to the Convention under the 10-year strategy, while encouraging further action for its successful implementation during the remaining strategy period. The COP 11 sessions focused on financing, knowledge brokering as well as the Rio+20 outcomes on land degradation, desertification and drought.

This booklet serves as an *aide-memoire* of the Namibian exhibition at COP 11 and summarises the achievements of the country’s national development plan and programmes towards achieving the goals of the UNCCD 10-year strategy.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE NAMIBIAN EXHIBITION

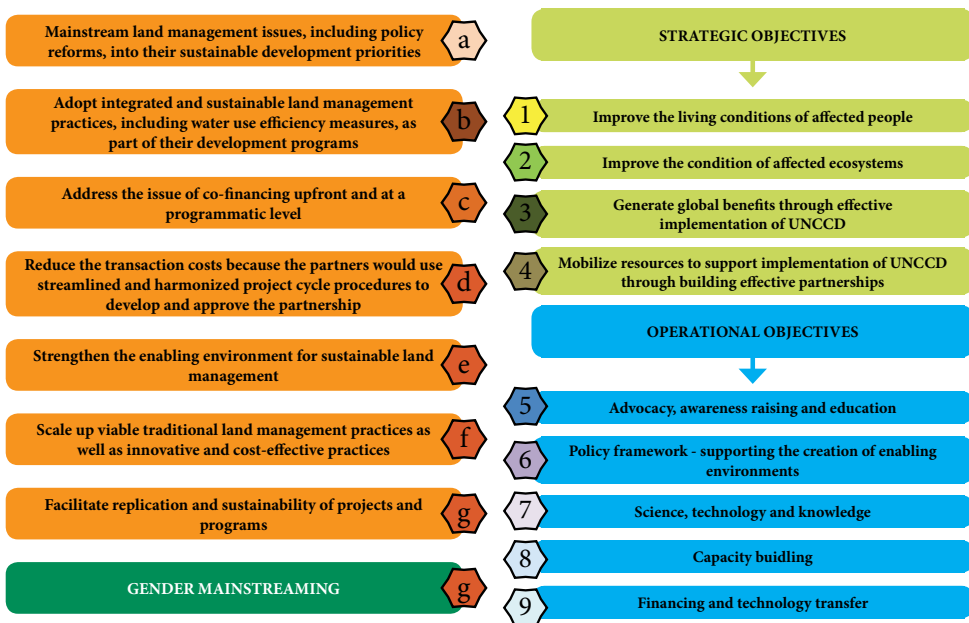
- to share the achievements and progress that Namibia has made towards the UNCCD ten year strategy, using visual materials
- to introduce various options and measures available to combat desertification to the international community and Namibian partners, using the UNCCD COP 11
- to highlight some of the successful pilot initiatives aimed at ensuring sustainable land management at the community-level, for long-term ecosystem integrity security
- to tell a story of positive change and how small investments, partnerships and empowerment can contribute towards this transformations

# THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF) FRAMEWORK FOR PROGRAMMATIC PARTNERSHIP ON SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD) 10-YEAR STRATEGY



GEF Framework for programmatic Partnership on Sustainable Land Management

UNCCD 10 year strategy



## NAMIBIA CPP: NAMIBIA COUNTRY PILOT PARTNERSHIP ON INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT NAMIBIA (CPP-ISLM): PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Country Pilot Partnership (CPP) programme was initiated in 2004, under the MET leadership, officially launched in 2008, by the office of the President, and completed in 2012. It was formulated to serve as a country-driven second National Action Plan (NAP) for implementing the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification in Namibia. Through this alignment, Namibia sought to demonstrate practically, a country-driven and nationally owned NAP, by ensuring that SLM mainstreaming an integral part of the National Development Plan and programming processes. Namibia, as an arid country, faces land degradation issues which are manifested largely in bush encroachment, deforestation, soil erosion and salinisation, and loss of soil productivity. This is compounded by serious vulnerabilities and risks, notably posed through climate change and HIV and AIDS pandemic, compromising food and livelihood security. The CPP sought to address multiple challenges using integrated cross-sectoral approaches to enable Namibia to reach its Millennium Development Goal 7: 'environmental sustainability'. The CPP programme was implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in collaboration with seven government ministries, inclusive of the National Planning Commission, United Nations Development Programme, the European Union, and Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit and the non-governmental organisation community. It was strategically co-financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to pilot the SLM programmatic approaches. The following table highlights the sub-projects, duration and areas of operation carried out under the CPP programme.

**Table 1. Sub-projects of the Country Pilot Partnership**

Sub-project	Duration	Areas of operation
Sustainable Land Management and Adaptive Management (SLM-SAM)	5 years	13 regions
Enhancing Institutional and Human Resources Capacity through Local Level Coordination of Integrated Rangeland Management and Support (CALLC)	3 years	Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto and Ohangwena regions
Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)	3 years	Omusati Region
Promoting Environmental Sustainability Through Improved Land Use Planning (PESILUP)	Project not implemented	

\*Two other regional programmes, i.e. the, Desert Margin and the Kalahari Namib Programmes are not included in this edition.

#### CPP Outcomes

- Harmonised policies for sustainable land management and production
- Promoted enabling institutional mechanisms and linkages that support coordinated community-led SLM
- Placed effective monitoring and evaluation system of adaptation management at local and national levels
- Strengthened individual capacity to implement SLM at all levels
- Identified and tested management methods, models and best practices for SLM
- Best practices are shared and their replicability tested



## CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR NAMIBIA'S SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY REFORM

**T**he programme brought together different line ministries and organisations which reviewed policy documents dealing with natural resources management as well as land use. A key achievement was a Cabinet Directive to CPP partner ministries: 1) to allocate funds; 2) to absorb and upscale pilot activities and best practices for replication across the country, and 3) for liaison between Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the National Planning Commission. The Sustainable Development Advisory Council was established as the main official advisory body to the Namibian Environmental Commissioner under the Sustainable Land Management and Adaptive Management Programme.





## BUILDING CAPACITY FOR A LAND-DEGRADATION NEUTRAL NAMIBIA

**P**ast efforts to combat land degradation and mainstream sustainable land management have been hindered by lack of capacity and knowledge. The CPP ISLM Programme responded to these problems by addressing policy harmonisation; mainstreaming sustainable land management into policy development; developing individual and systematic capacity; testing economically attractive approaches to sustainable land management, and disseminating information on sustainable land management best practices. Institutional capacity was developed through an inter-sectoral planning and implementation approach across nine government ministries, five NGOs and a number of communities across Namibia.







## IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS THROUGH PILOTING SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

**T**he *Innovative Grants Mechanism for Integrated Sustainable Land Management* was a component of the Country Pilot Partnership Programme. It offered financial and technical support for community-based projects aimed at ensuring sustainable land use. These included the production of natural resource commodities, and activities that generated improved livelihoods. The initiative's aims were to promote public/private partnerships in integrated sustainable land management, and activities that mainstreamed biodiversity priorities into land-use planning and policy making. Twenty three communities across Namibia benefited from this initiative.





## ENHANCING THE ROLES OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES

**T**he involvement of women and youth in environment and development decision-making and in the implementation of programmes is critical for sustainability. Women have long been discriminated against in many developmental activities despite their important role in agriculture and the management and use of indigenous plants. Thus, their role in natural resource management needs to be clearly documented. This programme recognised women and youth as agents of change and actively encouraged them to participate in innovative approaches to natural resource management. The youth were encouraged to participate in a variety of projects through school activities such as gardening, opportunities for research, and other projects driven by the Innovative Grants Mechanism.







## BUILDING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO FIGHT LAND DEGRADATION IN NAMIBIA

**T**he Integrated Sustainable Land Management Project brought together a variety of international, regional and local partners, who, through a participatory and consultative process, engaged in planning, funding and initiating programmes that addressed land management. Amongst others, public/private partnerships were developed through the Innovative Grants Mechanism to promote and develop sustainable livelihoods and activities that preserve and restore biodiversity in areas with greatest land-use pressure. Partnerships form one of the most important aspects in community development especially when it comes to addressing issues of sustainable natural resource use.





## THE GENERATION OF KNOWLEDGE THROUGH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**V**aluable practice-based knowledge was generated through the CPP Programme, ensuring that Namibian young professionals and practitioners applied scientific theories on the ground. Two PhDs and four Masters Degrees were funded through the CPP in order to add valuable knowledge on sustainable land management practices in Namibia. Science and technology has brought about improved land management practices as well as appropriate and cost effective technologies. Young Professional Research Associates (YPRA) was also developed and community members benefited from the community training and exchange programmes.





## THE WAY FORWARD

As a pilot, the Namibia CPP Programme has demonstrated that having a programmatic approach to ensure ecosystem integrity is vital when multiple pressures and threats are being experienced. CPP Namibia has been instrumental in laying a long-term foundation to mainstream integrated sustainable land management from policy, institution and system levels in Namibia. Programme activities and pilot approaches have been well received by partners, concerned communities and other key stakeholders, especially learning platforms through south-south exchanges. A great deal of knowledge has been generated and individual and institutional capacities have been developed and enhanced for sustainable land management and safeguarding ecosystem services and goods. Namibia CPP demonstrated that long-term consecutive periods, more than five years, are necessary although not sufficient enablers for land rehabilitation and restoration to address degradation of ecosystems with multiple demands and pressures.

Recommendations include the need for expansion to benefit more communities by ensuring that sustainability, and up-scaling of successful pilots, is at the centre of all future projects. It is vital that partnerships built throughout the project are maintained to enable projects to expand and continue using the built platforms like Ministerial Forum and Livestock Auction Kraals. Any ongoing or future programmes on sustainable land management should tap into the outcomes of the activities generated as well as the research carried out through the CPP, by engaging with all trained individuals and institutions. Overall, the CPP Namibia demonstrated that with small catalytic services, changes towards environmental safeguarding are possible, when long-term predictable resources (individual, financial, policy reforms and technologies) are available. Namibia CPP has great foundational means to demonstrate leadership towards the *Future We Want*, that is a land degradation neutral world.



*The Minister of Foreign Affairs , the Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (r), with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Mr Luc Gnacadja (c) and the Minister of Environment and Tourism, the Honourable Uahekua Herunga (l) after the signing of the host country agreement in July 2013*



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In Partnership with:

