

CONSERVATION CATCH-UP WITH



Welcome to the first edition of “**Conservation Catch-up with CCFN**”, our quarterly newsletter. Through this publication, we will keep you updated on our activities, operations, achievements, as well as challenges and through short stories share our impacts in CBNRM. You can also expect regular updates on the results of our resource mobilization initiatives as we pursue our long-term goal to sustain the future of CBNRM. We trust that each edition will be progressive, informative, and enjoyable. We urge you to visit our website or call us should you require any additional information.

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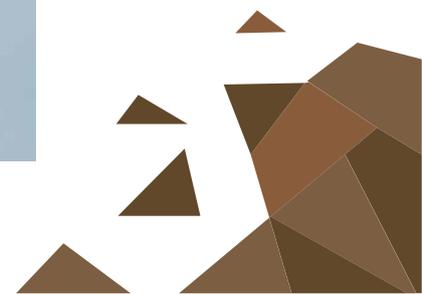
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SUPPLY OF COVID-19 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

Through the CCFN implemented Poverty Oriented Support to Community Conservation in Namibia Project and its collaboration with the Conservation Relief and Resilience and Recovery Facility, CBNRM stakeholders (government, donors, NGOs, individuals) have stepped up to avail support to various Community Based Organizations within Namibia's registered conservancies and community forests.

In an effort to ensure continued game guarding, patrolling, conflict investigations, and other operational activities are done in a COVID safe manner and are compliant to the WHO and Namibian government guidelines, the project committed to provide disposable and reusable masks, alcohol-based hand sanitisers and sanitiser stands to conservancies, community forests and related business centres linked to CBNRM.



A study carried out by the University of Namibia and Bath Spa University two months after the first case of the virus was detected in Namibia indicated a severe loss of income and the decrease of capacity to tackle poaching and human-wildlife conflict as some of the immediate key effects.

Culturally unlike urban areas, communal households rely on daily interactive activities for their upkeep. The correct and consistent use of PPE would form the backbone of the community's protective measures. At a time of reduced income and in communities where the majority live below the poverty line, additional hygiene requirements placed an additional burden on the people's pockets. It is for these reasons that this external support to provide PPE was critical.

To date, in addition to about 10 000 disposal masks, a total of approximately 187, 000 re-usable masks and buffs have been distributed to all 86 conservancies and 43 community forests. This is to ensure that game guards, conservancy employees and community members go about their necessary daily routines in a COVID safe way. Furthermore over 13,400 liters of sanitiser have been distributed to conservancy and community forest offices, schools, traditional authorities, clinics and other places of potential gatherings in rural Namibia. Of the estimated 227, 941 residents in Namibia's communal conservancies, this support has directly reached at least 187, 000 people at grassroots level, benefiting over 82% of the total conservancy members. The support has to date come at a cost of N\$ 4,9million and has carried these vulnerable societies through the various COVID-19 waves the country has experienced. Communities continue to be supported on a regular basis and at the time of writing the project team was assessing the need for another round of supply of sanitisers.

The effort to support conservancies with PPE has also resulted in extended benefits to conservancy members and other locals due to the procurement mechanisms used in producing re-usable masks.



OVER 200 TAILORS MOSTLY ELDERLY WOMEN

The project stakeholders saw that it was necessary to distribute materials required to produce masks such as fabrics, thread, needles, and sewing machines for some local tailors in communities including to informal business and vocational colleges, as a contribution to helping their businesses and enhancing their livelihoods. Consequently, over 200 local tailors, mostly woman have benefited from the tender through this initiative. "When COVID-19 hit hard, my business slowed down rapidly, and I was left hopeless with no means to provide for my family. The request from CCFN to produce masks brought my business back to life and the income

"The fund was established to ease the problem of limited funding for community conservation efforts in Namibia through 3 main business lines, Critical Support Services, Human Wildlife Conflict and Payments for Eco-system Services"

LOCAL TAILORS RECEIVED MATERIALS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF FABRIC FACE MASKS AS AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF INCOME.

Operationalized in June 2018 and officially launched in February 2020, CCFN has hit the ground running in its endeavors to provide some needed support to CBNRM institutions, and its impact is already being felt on the ground. "The long-term objective of CCFN is to finance CBNRM's long term sustainability and step into the existing funding gap. The pandemic has undoubtedly made our targets more challenging and at an opportune time, we have to take stock of its effects and reassess the

needs for recovery and resilience. Whilst a challenging situation to find ourselves in just 1.5 years after operation, a situation like this is one of the reasons why there was a need for an institution like CCFN and the necessity to build longer term and sustainable solutions within CBNRM. As we continue to pursue our long-term goals, we are proud to have responded to the immediate critical support needs in these and other many small ways. We hope this and other activities we are currently undertaking will aid Namibia's CBNRM program to come out of the COVID situation intact, with minimal losses and having preserved not only the health but also the livelihoods of the communities", said CCFN's CEO Mr. Tapiwa Makiwa.

has made a huge difference in our lives. From the money that I got I paid my children's school fees and bought food. I also bought a double size freezer from which I am now selling ice lollies to make extra income and a car washing machine which will be invested to start a carwash business for my husband to make extra income". Says Erica Kamendu from Erongo Region.



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3rd Quarter, September 2021

CRAFTERS' SUPPORT

Promoting sustainable use of resources through COVID times

“14 500 Job losses between March and September 2020”

It is well-known that the tourism sector is one of the biggest contributors to employment in Namibia - That was until the first quarter of 2020 when international tourist arrivals came to halt due to Covid-19 related travel restrictions and bans as a measure to contain the virus. Recent reports have indicated of the reported 14 500 job losses between March to September 2020 the majority were in the accommodation, travel, tourism and hospitality industries.

As tourist numbers dwindled in early 2020, a number of communal conservancies and their related business enterprises began to struggle financially. Households were not spared, especially those of local crafters who are reliant on the “sale of the day”. While most formalized establishments have some form of capacity in the form of reserves to rely on in the short to medium term, the situation differs for community members.

In response to this specific need, the Poverty Oriented Support to Community Conservation in Namibia as managed by CCFN, in collaboration with the Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF) stakeholders allocated funding to support artisans and crafters in communal conservancies to subsidise lost sales income. In addition to the beautiful pieces they produce from the sustainable use of mother nature's provisions, this group plays an important role in preserving the culture and heritage of communities and communicating in their unique ways the value and

beauty of our wildlife and landscapes through art. This initiative was rolled out in December 2020 and approximately N\$800,000 has been distributed in exchange for artwork to crafters in conservancies through Mashi Crafts in Mayuni Conservancy and Omba Arts Trust in Windhoek. To date, a total of 358 crafters have received an income directly from this initiative, 94% being elderly women.

The two outlets market crafts and other natural resource products made and supplied by local community members. These enterprises provide important revenue and employment to community members, opportunities that entrench the value of the natural resources and provides an alternative to illegal hunting, poaching and other land use opportunity costs. In addition, Mashi Crafts Centre has a formal joint venture agreement with the Mayuni conservancy and pays an additional monthly rental fee to the conservancy that contributes to the community's annual costs and benefits. The enterprise also supports crafters from the neighboring countries such as Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Omba Arts Trust on the other hand supports approximately 400 rural artisans in 9 regions of the country, particularly San living on resettlement farms. Socio-economic empowerment and greater gender equality are two important results of community conservation as most of the crafters are women headed householders who solely rely on producing crafts and selling to the center to support their families in paying of school fees, supporting orphans, clothing, food and clinic fees. Craft making can be fitted into women's daily routines without taking them away from the homestead. As self-employed entrepreneurs, they feed into larger craft projects, and other community-based enterprises, while lodges are also important sales outlets.

“With the income received, the crafters were able to support themselves during the pandemic. They are still working and will continue with the supply of their products to the center. Their wish is for the grant to be extended to continue supporting them to sustain themselves until the craft centers start to receive some visitors and business goes back to normal.” Janet Matota (IRDNC-Zambezi region) on behalf of the crafters. At the time of writing, CBNRM stakeholders were pursuing ways to extend the initiative and hopeful in these sustained tough times continue to provide a little festive cheer in the coming months through the initiative.



PROJECT UPDATES

CCFN Conservancy Legal Assistance Fund

This facility is revolving, with an expectation that grants paid out shall be paid back for access to future beneficiaries where the beneficiary has won its case and has received a payout

From the inception of this facility to date, 4 conservancies have applied and have been assisted with Legal fees to defend their contractual rights.

Conservancy 1 have successfully used the legal support to claim their rights. IN addition to getting

paid their dues, the conservancy managed to also recover legal fees paid and thus honored their commitment by payingback into the Fund. Conservancy 2 has received judgement in its favor from the courts based on the legal support provided. The Fund has extended further support to the Conservancy in efforts to successfully execute the judgement. The case of conservancy 3 is ongoing with negotiations for a settlement agreement underway between the defendant and the Conservancy.

The case of the 4th Conservancy is still before courts and is set to test some of the key laws and guidelines within the CBNRM related statutes in respect of Core Wildlife areas.

CCFN COVID Emergency Crisis Fund (In collaboration with Poverty Oriented Support to Community Conservation in Namibia Project and the CRRRF)

CCFN manages approximately 82% of funds of the estimated N\$ 130m currently committed to the CRRRF related activities.

An additional US\$ 520 000 for an extension of the COVID mitigation activities from the current initial target of January 2022.

With the approval of and in partnership with MEFT, we are also pursuing additional funding for COVID mitigation with a target of assisting the CBNRM sector until December 2024 to facilitate post COVID recovery and aid resilience.

Poverty Oriented Support to Community Conservation in Namibia Project (KfW Human Wildlife Conflict "HWC" Project)

Through funding received from the German Government via KfW Development bank, a HWC Funding window was created. CCFN is the Project Implementing Agency for the HWC oriented project entitled Poverty Oriented Support to Community Conservation in Namibia.



The 4-year project was started in January 2020 and is currently set to run until December 2023. Despite the various COVID related challenges the Following key activities and results have been achieved.

Data analysis to identify the top 43 conservancies affected by HWC incidents. The report can be viewed on CCFN's website.

An Emergency Call for HWC Conflict proposals was made. 7 proposals committing an estimated amount of N\$ 11m have been preliminarily approved and are expected to be finalized in Q4-2021 with an immediate implementation focus. A second call for proposals dependent on the status of HWC MAP is expected in 2021. Watch this space.

Support has been given to the Kunene Lion Ranger Programme. Amongst other, the project has financed a Lion Ranger Fly camp, 14 predator proof kraals, the collaring of 15 lions, 100 camera traps and provided gear and camping equipment for over 100 Lion Rangers in the region. In addition, Lion Rangers has also been assisted with the allowances during 2020 and 2021 calendar years.

Partners and consultants to facilitate the development and update the landscape visions and Conservancy specific Human Wildlife Conflict Management Action Plans have been identified through a tender process and negotiations are in place accordingly. A "Train the Facilitator" workshop is currently scheduled for October 2021.

CCFN NATIONAL WILDLIFE CREDITS SCHEME



• As of September 2021, existing wildlife credits contracts valued at approx. N\$ 300 000.00 have been taken over by CCFN. Evaluations of the results were carried out and all 5 contracts were found to have performed well. Unfortunately, participating conservancies have experienced some compliance and financial management challenges and were requested to address them prior to the release of the payments. It is expected that through the newly established National Wildlife Credits Committee (comprising of various CBNRM stakeholders) the Wildlife Credits concept, related products and the scheme will be scaled in the coming period. An amount equivalent to about N\$ 3 000 000 was secured from the Lion Recovery Fund in 2020 to aid in the development and financing of performance payments aligned to lion related conservation outcomes, whilst a total of N\$ 7 000 000 is available from other ongoing projects implemented by CCFN towards the scheme.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION DASHBOARD



The CCFN has managed to raise Seed Funding of close to N\$ 1.1m towards its targeted Endowment Fund of US\$ 33m. Together with the support of key stakeholders we are looking to embark on a Project Finance for Permanence Initiative to raise the current gap in the next 5 to 7 years. In the meantime, we continue to pursue other funding opportunities based on our Resource Mobilization Strategy. Through successful investment mechanisms the mobilized funds are currently valued at approx. US\$1.5m from Inception to date

CCFN has managed to mobilise approx. US\$12m in sinking funds towards HWC, PES and CSS related activities. Notable in these efforts is over US\$5.5million raised for critical support for Emergency COVID related initiatives.



Having set its foundation, tested its systems and demonstrate capacity, the fund is geared and will soon be embarking on a upscaled resource mobilization drive for its Endowment fund. Initial contacts with large scale potential funders have indicated notable interest (in some cases commitments). A potential Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative aims at bringing all potential players in achieving the long-term target together to align the expectations. We trust you will join us in support of this journey in your own special ways.

GET TO KNOW US

MEET OUR PATRON AND FOUNDING MEMBER, HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH



Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah is a seasoned diplomat who has been the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia since March 2015 to date. She is also the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation. Among other positions, she served as the first Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs after independence, Director-General of the Department of Women Affairs in the Office of the President, Minister of Women Affairs and Child Welfare, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and in 2008, Minister of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism. She holds a graduate degree in diplomatic studies and a post-graduate diploma in international relations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 18 - 21 October: Train the Trainers workshop
- 05 November 2021: CCFN AGM
- 28 November- 07 December: Project Field visits
- Dec 2021: Stakeholder Engagements

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Stay In Touch



Community Conservation Fund of Namibia

