



Legal Assistance Centre

Presentation at the
MET – Environmental NGO Forum
13th June 2011



Legal Assistance Centre

- ▶ **Mission:** We, being a public interest law centre, collectively strive to make the law accessible to those with the least access, through education, law reform, research, litigation, legal advice, representation and lobbying, with the ultimate aim of creating and maintaining a human rights culture in Namibia.
- ▶ **Four units:** Gender (GR&AP); AIDS (ALU), Land, Environment & Development (LEAD), Human Rights (HURICON)



**LEAD –
Land, Environment and Development**

Approaches

- ▶ Policy and legislative review and development
- ▶ Litigation
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Education & Training
- ▶ Advocacy



LEAD: Environment

Focal areas

Strengthening jurisprudence in Namibia

- ▶ Input to policy and legislation development

CBNRM support

- ▶ Constitution development and review
- ▶ Legal support
- ▶ Integration of sectoral CBNRM programmes



LEAD: Environment

Main Achievements

Strengthening jurisprudence in Namibia

- ▶ Valencia
- ▶ Publications on water & mining
- ▶ Environmental Management Act
- ▶ Protected Areas and Wildlife Management Bill
- ▶ Water Resource Management Act



LEAD: Environment

Main Achievements

CBNRM support

- ▶ Constitution review (Kunene / Caprivi, KA)
- ▶ Integration of Conservancy / Community Forest Constitutions
- ▶ Legal support to Joint-Venture Agreements
- ▶ Training of Land Boards on CBNRM



LEAD: Environment

Main challenges

- ▶ Limited capacity (human, financial resources)
- ▶ Regular engagement with GRN
- ▶ Access to GRN officials
- ▶ Coordination with other stakeholders
- ▶ Continuous back-up support needed by communities



LEAD: Environment

Opportunities for the future

- ▶ Research for a nuclear vs. renewable energy policies for Namibia
- ▶ Creating environmental awareness
- ▶ Further broadening and integration of CBNRM