

EAPAN CONFERENCE, 19 October 2012

Polytechnic Tourism Training Centre, c/oBeethoven and Brahms Street, Windhoek West

APPENDICES:

- Appendix A Minutes of AGM
- Appendix B Keynote Address
By Hon Minister of Environment and Tourism, read on her behalf by
Deputy Director Mr. Ulrich Boois
- Appendix C Presentation
Enviro Dynamics –Jonas Hausiku: *Lessons learnt in Construction Monitoring
Example MCA projects*
- Appendix D Presentation
Enviro Dynamics –Norman van Zyl: *How have Environmental Assessments
in Namibia influenced decisions? A critical look at three selected projects*
- Appendix E Presentation
John Pallett: *Monitoring collisions of large birds with power lines in
Namibia*
- Appendix F Presentation
NamPower - Horst Mutschler: *What developers need from Environmental
Assessment Professionals (EAPs)*
- Appendix G Presentation
MCA Namibia- Timo Mufeti: *Our Experience*

Conference Theme: Role of EA in promoting Sustainable Development in Namibia
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Proceedings:

10h00 – arrival and registration

10h30 – 12h30: AGM

Chairperson's report, Financial report, Constitution, Membership categories and fees, Code of Conduct, Disciplinary proceedings, Election of Office Bearers (Appendix A)

12h30 - 13h15 Lunch

During lunch, EA Practitioners noted the projects they are involved in on cards, and pasted them on a board. The objective was information sharing and networking.

13h15-13h30 - Keynote Address: Deputy Director of Parks on behalf of the Minister of Environment and Tourism (Appendix B)

13h30 – 15h00: Presentations and discussions -

1. Enviro Dynamics – Jonas Hausiku – MCA projects (Appendix C).

Mr Hausiku presented his experiences of monitoring the implementation of EMPs at 47 schools construction projects funded by MCA Namibia. His presentation stimulated an excellent discussion about the implementation of EMPs monitoring practices. Key issues: Practical EMPs, Accessible, simple, enforceable, specifications in tender documents, fines/penalties – large enough amounts, training/induction of all levels of construction staff, preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS on construction sites.

2. Enviro Dynamics – Norman van Zyl– three selected projects (Appendix D).

Mr Van Zyl presented three case studies of projects which are examples of how the EIA process has influenced decision-making in Namibia. A) The proposed development of a golf estate at the Von Bach Dam – the proposed site was moved based on a recommendation to avoid the sensitive dam catchment. B) The proposed Diaz Wind Park site layout near Luderitz was changed to accommodate sensitive vegetation zones, archaeological sites, bird flight paths, and brown hyena migration routes and dens. C) Langer Heinrich Uranium (LHU) water supply improvement project – the outcome of this study was generally that the use of groundwater resources should be discouraged and specifically that the groundwater resources investigated near LHU did not yield sufficient volumes of water to supply the mine of its demand.

Mr van Zyl encouraged the fraternity to stand firm and press on for sound recommendations that best serve the environment.

3. John Pallett – Power lines and birdstrikes (Appendix E)

Mr Pallett, in partnership with NamPower –NNF Strategic Partnership have embarked upon a monitoring programme to trace bird mortalities along some power lines in the south of Namibia. The results of this survey confirm frequent collisions of bustards with power lines. It is estimated that one large bird collides with a power line per km per year, which is clearly a threat to the Ludwig's Bustard population, a species which has recently been uplifted to a "Vulnerable" conservation status.

Mitigation measures are currently unknown, but marking the lines to be more visible seems to be the way forward.

15h00 – 15h30 Tea

15h30 – 16h00: What developers need from EAPS: Nampower and MCA share their expectations of EAPS

4. Horst Mutschler – Nampower (Appendix F)

Mr Mustler listed a number of practices which according to NamPower need improvement or careful consideration during the EIA process. Key issues: Funds/affordability of project vs. cost of mitigation; practical recommendations which consider knock-on impacts and trade-offs; EAPS must understand technical aspects of projects for sound and practical recommendations; baseline info must be: project-specific not "googled", based on facts, current and free from personal opinions; cohesion, agreement, consistency between specialists is needed; public participation methods must be relevant to the project and community characteristics; the costs of the EIA must be realistic, taking into account previous work done; sustainable development requires: balance between the developer's requirements, society's needs and long term environmental impact.

5. Timo Mufeti – MCA (Appendix G)

Mr Mufeti provided an overview of his experiences of the work delivered by EAPS as part of the MCA programme for Namibia. Key issues: EAPs not "going the extra mile"; cut and paste; lack of ownership; generic; desk-top based; bulky and complicated documents; not focussed on key issues; consultation done to satisfy requirements; but not real engagement; EMP training and monitoring needs to be based on the needs of the contractors understanding.



16h00 – 16h30: Card capture and clustering – attendants were asked to write down: What needs to be done for EA to better promote Sustainable Development in Namibia? (Photo 2)



Photo 2: What needs to be done for EA to better promote sustainable development in Namibia?

The outcome of the card clustering exercise will be used by the committee to plan the activities and strategic inputs for next year. An action plan has been drawn up for this purpose; see Table 1 overleaf.

17h30 – 17h45:
Wrap-up and concluding remarks

17h45 – 20h00:
Snacks and drinks.

Table 1: EAPAN Action Plan for 2013

Outcome	Sub-bullets	How to achieve?	Who?
1. Improved performance of DEA in managing EA system	§ Revise EMA and Regs (inconsistencies and inappropriate clauses)	Legal revision – already initiated by DEA/MET	• MET – EAPAN could support
	§ Inadequate monitoring and enforcement	• Honorary Environmental Officers?	• MET
	§ Inadequate capacity to guide and review EIAs	• DEA should outsource reviews more regularly – EMA allows this with payment by proponent	• MET. SDAC should encourage DEA in this regard
	§ Poorly worded Clearance Certificates (too generic, un-auditable and often impractical)	• EAPAN could assist the DEA – perhaps SDAC ¹ could facilitate?	• MET – support from EAPAN
	§ Inability to distinguish projects that don't need an EIA vs those that do – too many EIAs for minor projects with little or no environmental impact	• Revision of regulations - need common sense • Fast-track system for small projects	• MET – supported by EAPAN. SDAC could be influential
2. Improved transparency in EA processes	• Mechanism for 'whistleblowing' when a developer/consultant short-circuits EA process	• Perhaps EAPAN could provide a forum for this	• EAPAN – though MET is the only one that can actually act on this
	• Ensure information is freely accessible (e.g. reports, reviews, studies, EIAs, SEAs, EMPs)	• May need revision of the Act – original clauses requiring full transparency no longer in the EMA • Make EIAs, SEAs & EMPs available on internet	• SDAC should use its influence to improve information accessibility • MET and EAPAN work together to set up on EIS
	• Public participation needs to be consistently better	• Include minimum standards in Regs • training course to EAPs • guidelines	• SAIEA's Calabash project produced plenty of guidance materials – all freely available on www
3. Mutually-supportive relationship between Env. Com & EAPs	• Commissioner (i.e. GRN MET) and EAPs have a common agenda – to ensure that Namibia has a properly functioning EA&M system in place, where SEA, EIA, EMP and related tools are respected by all stakeholders	• Regular meetings between EAPAN and Env. Commissioner	• EAPAN to maintain contact and request meetings till the idea is 'institutionalised'
4. More SEA	• SEAs needed for key growth sectors will help streamline subsequent project-level EIAs	• GRN should initiate, but MET must champion	• SDAC should help DEA champion this in GRN
5. Standardized formats for EIA, EMP and specialist reports	• Currently too much variability in standards. • Standard formats will not solve this per se, but may help raise standards	• Could be contained in guidelines issued as an accompaniment to the EMA and Regs	• SDAC should encourage DEA • EAPAN can draw up the templates
6. Improved implementation of EMPs	• EIAs usually done for administrative purposes, as EMPs are seldom carried forward into real action	• Developers need dedicated officer to oversee EMP implementation	• Developers – need to be prompted by EAPs and DEA
7. Better quality EA process and reports	• Standards highly variable at present – this undermines the integrity of the environmental profession • Problem often starts with inadequate Terms of Reference (ToR) for the EIAs	• Two-pronged system needed: Professional Certification and the proper EIA Guide (including better ToRs) and Review	• DEA is the responsible authority • EAPAN can support • SDAC can pressurise MET
8. Grow next generation of EAPs	• Not enough youngsters entering the profession	• Raise profile of the profession • Market forces should sort this out	• Maybe EAPAN members can offer career guidance? • EAPAN could offer internships & mentoring
9. Showcase best practice EIAs	• Inspirational case studies will stimulate better practice	• Develop case study template and invite EAPs to submit their case studies	• EAPAN could solicit case studies from members and place materials on website

¹ SDAC = Sustainable Development Advisory Council