

Progress report Eco-regional Satellite Centers

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September 2005

1. Introduction

The National Agricultural Support Services Programme (NASSP) has agreed in its annual workplan for 2005/06 to fund the development and initial working of a series of regional groups working on developing sustainable livelihood opportunities from indigenous plants. These 'eco-regional satellite centres' (ERSC) would in turn work with the multi-stakeholder Indigenous Plants Task Team to achieve the stated aims of that group. A first effort to establish Eco-regional Satellite Centres of the Indigenous Plant Task Team was made at the beginning of 2004. Stakeholders meetings were held in Outapi, Eenhana, Ongwediwa, Rundu, Katima Mulilo, and Ben Hur, where ERSC co-ordinators were elected. These co-ordinators were subsequently invited to IPTT meetings and an intensive training workshop. In March 2005 a service contract was signed with CRIA SA-DC to allow for the continuation of the support to Eco-regional Satellite Centres. The second phase of the ERSC program runs from March 2005 until December 2006. A capital expenditure budget of N\$ 113'100 had to be finalised before the end of August 2005. This report summarises the progress made between March and August 2005.

2. Terms of reference

The general objective of the work was to design and implement a system of eco-regional focal points for indigenous plant promotion activities, encourage the active participation of local stakeholders in these focal points, facilitate the participation of focal points in national IP activities, and make recommendations to the IPTT about the information, capacity-building and institutional support needs of regional focal points and their local stakeholders. The terms of reference for the ERSC work are:

- a) Reproduce and distribute a basic information pack on IP promotion activities and the aims and activities of the IPTT;
- b) Support potential eco-regional centres as identified in Phase I;
- c) Facilitate cooperation between local stakeholders, between stakeholders and their eco-regional centre, and between the regional centres and the national programme;
- d) Conduct a participatory assessment of the information, capacity-building and institutional support needs of local stakeholders;
- e) Report to NASSP, the IPTT and other relevant stakeholders on the support required by satellite centres and deliver the support required;

- f) Provide, for a period of two years, mentorship on a case by case basis as needed by individual eco-regional centres; and,
- g) During the period of support, working with the centres, develop sustainable action plans so that activities will continue after the period of support.

With regard to the terms of reference, the following progress has been made:

- a) A basic information pack on IP promotion activities and the aims and activities of the IPTT, consisting of (2000 printed) leaflets for the general public and a more detailed introduction for partners, has been reproduced and distributed.
- b) Support to eco-regional centres is being given on an ongoing basis, both with regard to information as to activities and practical support.
- c) Facilitation of cooperation between local stakeholders, between stakeholders and their eco-regional centre, and between the regional centres and the national programme is being done through networking, stakeholders meetings, and regional representation at IPTT meetings.
- d) A participatory assessment of the information, capacity-building and institutional support needs of local stakeholders is being done on an ongoing basis
- e) Regular reports are given to the IPTT, NASSP and other relevant stakeholders on the support required by and delivered to the Eco-regional satellite centers.
- f) Mentorship on a case by case basis as needed by individual eco-regional centres is provided on an ongoing basis
- g) Sustainability is an important consideration in the development of all action plans.

3. Location of the Eco-regional Satellite Centres

Six Eco-regional Satellite centers (ECRCs) have been established:

ERSC Name	Main region served	Location of ERSC	Coordinator
Eenhana	Ohangwena	MAWF-DEES Eenhana	Ephraim Weyulu
Ongwediwa	Oshikoto, Oshana	RDC Ongwediwa	Gabriel Hangara
Outapi	Omusati	DAPP Outapi	Celestinus Ndongi
Rundu	Kavango	MAWF-DoF Rundu	Jonas Mwiikinghi
Katima	Caprivi	MAWF-DoF Katima Mulilo	Werner Mbongo
Ben Hur	Omaheke	RDC Ben Hur	Pendukeni Hamunyela

4. Main focus and species

The general function of ERSCs is to increase the regional knowledge of and participation in indigenous plant development opportunities. Exchange of information, networking, and assessment of opportunities and priorities have therefore been the main focus of all ERSC at this initial stage. Regional variations in focus are shown in the table below. Focal species for the different ERSCs are shown in the table as well. It should be noted that there is a large variation in the amount of work done on these species. This varies from assistance with large-scale marketing (Ximenia in Eenhana, KMS in Ongwediwa),

to resource surveys (marula trees in Kavango, Ximenia in Caprivi), to research into marketability of products (testing strychnine content of strychnos products, market sampling of Bauhinia), to general mobilization and promotion of use and commercialization of indigenous plant resources;

ERSC Name	Main focus of ERSC at this stage	Current (and potential) species
Eenhana	Formalising producer groups, assisting them with intakes, and increasing their organizational capacity	Ximenia sp.,Kalahari Melon Seed (KMS) (Mopane, Makalani, IGLV, marula)
Ongwediwa	Strengthening the production capacity by assisting existing and emerging producer groups.	Marula, KMS (Ximenia, Mopane, makalani, IGLV)
Outapi	Starting the process of organic certification, mobilizing new producer groups	Marula, KMS, Baobab (Ximenia, Mopane, IGLV, Makalani)
Rundu	Resource surveys, investigating marketability of strychnos and manketti	Strychnos, Manketti (Parinari, marula fruit, devil's claw, IGLV)
Katima	Mobilising communities and service providers to get involved in the production and commercialisation of indigenous plants	(parinari, trichilia, Ximenia, marula fruit, Devil's claw)
Ben Hur	Promoting the cultivation and commercialization of indigenous plants. Investigating the market for Bauhinia.	Devil's claw (Bauhinia, KMS, marula, strychnos, manketti)

5. Activities

In the period March-August 2005, field visits were undertaken to all Eco-regional Satellite Centres. The main aims of the field visits were:

- To confirm that the ERSCs and coordinators that were elected by the stakeholders in the previous year were still willing and able to carry out that task.
- To clarify the role and functions of relevant institutions like the IPTT, ERSCs, CRIAA SA-DC, Phytotrade Africa, and Aldivia.
- To inform the stakeholders about new developments with regard to the commercialization of indigenous plants, elaborating on the species found in the respective areas
- To inform the stakeholders about the importance of organic certification, and the role of conservancies and community forests within this process
- To identify, with the stakeholders, a set of priorities for each eco-region
- To design, with the stakeholders, an initial plan of action with regard to the sustainable use and commercialization of indigenous plants for each eco-region
- To address any needs and problems brought up by stakeholders with regard to indigenous plants

Other activities included:

- Printing of a leaflet aimed to inform the general public about the IPTT and the possible role of the regional stakeholders.
- Strengthening the capacity of the ERSCs / co-ordinators, by updating them with information, reports, discussing practicalities, and assessing their current and future needs.
- Responding to queries from regional stakeholders regarding markets, prices, and processing technologies.
- Complete a list of stakeholders in each area
- Follow up on priorities and activities of the eco-regional satellite centers, as conceptualised during the stakeholders meetings. This included;
 - Participating in the planning of setting up systems for organic certification.
 - Assisting the ERSC in Eenhana in organising communities around the commercialisation of Ximenia
 - Having analysis done on the strychnine content in products made from Strychnos fruit. Providing information on strychnine
 - Organising the ERSCs to get samples of Makalani and manketti fruit, and seeds of parinari, trichilia, Bauhinia, and different types of Ximenia for processing trials
 - Organising the analysis of the nutritional value of jams made with the support of DoF Rundu
 - Providing melon seeds to the ERSC in Ongwediwa, in order for them to promote the planting and sales of KMS to communities

6. Members and beneficiaries

Estimating the number of current, potential, direct, and indirect beneficiaries of the work done within the Eco-regional Satellite Centers is an impossible task. Some stakeholders were already involved in indigenous plant development before the existence of ERSCs, and potentially all inhabitants in the regions could benefit in one way or the other from the work done through the ERSCs. Below is a table of stakeholders within each region, and the people or communities they represent:

ERSC Name	Stakeholders / partners	Representing or benefiting:
Eenhana	Tulongeni Twahangani Producers Organisation	400 members organized around the commercialization of Ximenia (and KMS)
	MAWF-DEES (Eenhana, Epembe, and 10 other extension offices)	All communities the extension offices are working with
	MAWF – DoF	All community forestry groups in the area
	Community development office (MLGH)	Communities around Eenhana
	Acacia Grassroots Development network	Not sure if still active
	Ohangwena Forest Trust	Not sure if still active
	Ohangwena Regional youth enterprise	Youth groups in Eenhana
	Meameno, Lyeendongula, and	Association members

	Diinina Associations (EWC)	
Ongwediwa	Rural Development Centre	All communities they are working with
	MAWF – DEES (Ongwediwa and other extension offices)	All communities the extension offices are working with
	MAWF – treeplanting project	All communities they are working with
	MAWF – DoF	All community forestry groups in the area
	Rossing Foundation	All conservancies in the NCRs
	King Nehale Conservancy	Conservancy members, KMS marketing group
	Onankali Community Trust	All communities they are working with
	Eudafano Women’s Co-operative (factory and 5 associations)	5000 members of EWC, other communities selling
	Oontanga Oil Producers	Individuals selling KMS and Ximenia
	Cosdec Ondangwa	Trainees
	Trees for the world	All communities they are working with
Outapi	Development Aid from People to People (DAPP)	All communities they are working with
	MAWF – DEES (Outapi, Onesi and 8 extension offices)	All communities the extension offices are working with
	MAWF – Mahanene research	All communities they are working with
	MAWF – DoF	All conservancies and community Forests in the area
	Rossing Foundation (Ondangwa)	All conservancies in the area
	Uukwaluudhi Conservancy	Conservancy members
	Forest Management Committee	Community Forests in Omusato region
	Okahulo, Pendapala, Gwamiitayi, & Mangundu associations (EWC)	Association members
	Northern Namibia Forest Committee (NNFC)	All stakeholders in the NCRs involved in Forestry
	Women Action for Development Ogongo Agricultural College	Women’s groups in Mahenene
Rundu	MAWF – DoF	All community forestry groups in the area
	MAWF – Forestry research Hamoye	Communities surrounding Hamoye
	MAWF – DEES	All communities the extension offices are working with
	MAWF – Mashare Development Centre	Communities around Mashare
	MAWF – STEAR	All communities they are working with
	MET – CBNRM	All conservancies and communities they are working with
	NAB / MMIU	All communities they are working with
	Community Development office	Communities in and around Rundu
	Namibia Nature Foundation	All conservancies and communities involved in the “every river has its people” project
	Okavango Wild Fruit Processing / COSDEC	Indigenous fruit processors and suppliers
German Development Service	DED volunteers, mainly working with	

	(DED)	community forests
	Kavango Farmers Union	Union members
	CASOMAP	Not yet operational
	Africare	Communities they are working with
Katima	MAWF - DoF	All community forestry groups in the area
	MAWF – DEES	All communities the extension offices are working with
	MAWF – Kafasepco	All communities they are working with
	NAB / MMIU	All communities they are working with
	IRDNC	Kwandu, Mashi, Mayuni, Wuparo, and Salambala conservancies
	Touch the Needy	Set-up stage, not yet operational
	Africare	All communities they are working with
	Likwama Farmers Union	Union members
Ben Hur	Rural Development Center	All communities they are working with
	Omaheke San Trust	San communities in the Omaheke region
	MAWF – DoF	All communities they are working with
	MAWF – DEES	All communities the extension offices are working with
	Omaheke Environment Youth Club	Youth Group in Gobabis

7. Expenditure:

No	Budget item	Budget N\$	Expenses N\$	Variance N\$
1	Transport fieldwork	45'000.00	11'481.00	33'519.00
2	Local transport	1'000.00	1'000.00	0
3	Communication costs	5'000.00	5'000.00	0
4	Printing and copying costs	12'000.00	12'000.00	0
5	Support local meetings	7'200.00	230.00	6'970.00
6	Contribution DAPP running costs	14'000.00	14'000.00	0
7	Transport & DSA DAPP rep.	3'000.00	1'220.00	1'780.00
8	Refreshments Windhoek meetings	2'000.00	250.00	1'750.00
9	Various IP activities	23'900.00	67'853.26	-43'953.26
	TOTAL	113'100.00	113'034.26	65.74

8. Capital Equipment:

- Some equipment and materials, in particular with regard to cultivation and post-harvest handling were bought in anticipation of activities that have not yet started.
- Capital equipment will remain property of MAWF / NASSP and will be kept by the NBRI when not in use (currently all capital equipment is still at CRIAA SA-DC offices)
- Small equipment and materials of low value and with short life-span are not considered as capital equipment
- List of capital items purchased:

Payment Date	Description	Invoice	Purchase value N\$	Status
24/08/05	5 x 100 kg hanging scales	Namcas no 503991	1'541.00	Currently at CRIAA SA-DC office
24/08/05	1 x platform scale	Sasco Africa no 60000571	3'565.00	Currently at CRIAA SA-DC office
25/08/05	6 x GPS E-trex legend	Radio Electronics no 1826	9'300.00	Currently at CRIAA SA-DC office
25/08/05	6 x Atlas of Namibia 4 x Profile of Northcentral Namibia	Gamsberg Macmillan no 16182	2'420.00	Currently at CRIAA SA-DC office
25/08/05	2 x Field guide to trees of S.A. 1 x the Kalahari and its plants 1 x trees of the Okavango 2 x Peoples plants 1 x Gardening indigenous trees	Bucherkeller no 56949	1'407.95	Currently at CRIAA SA-DC office
25/08/05	5 x Field guide to trees of S.A. 3 x peoples plants	Book Den no P034725	1'747.00	Currently at CRIAA SA-DC office
25/08/05	1 x Atlas of Namibia	Book Den no P034726	271.00	Currently at CRIAA SA-DC office
25/08/05	1 x Sony digital video camera DVD 602e	HiFi Corporation no 4044	5'719.95	Currently at CRIAA SA-DC office
25/08/05	6 x calculators Casio MS10V	Waltons no SSSCS318684	729.00	Currently at CRIAA SA-DC office
29/08/05	1 x camera bag 2 x calculators 25 x recordable DVDs	Game no 752061	604.80	Currently at CRIAA SA-DC office
29/08/05	2 x sieves	Pupkewitz Catering no 429841	574.60	Currently at CRIAA SA-DC office
29/08/05	2 metres sieve wire 14 x protection gloves	Pupkewitz Megabuild no 2092045	950.90	Currently at CRIAA SA-DC office
29/08/05	6 x storage boxes large 16 x storage boxes medium	Trade centre no 1019-004-02390	1'578.90	Currently at CRIAA SA-DC office
29/08/05	6 x hosepipes 26 metres shade cloth	Baines Hardware no 31544	1'198.40	Currently at CRIAA SA-DC office
18/08/05	3.6 metre gumpole	Bargain Building supplies no 72493	1'240.00	RDC Ben Hur
18/08/05	Various materials for setting up nursery at Ben Hur	Agra no 1252077378/9 & no 1252077401	9'890.52	RDC Ben Hur
Total:			42'739.02	