



Stakeholder Engagement Plan – N4L

GEF Project: Enduring Earth: Accelerating Sustainable Finance Solutions to Achieve Durable Conservation

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GEF/GCF Agency: WWF US

Lead Executing Agency: The Nature Conservancy

Lead Executing Partner in Namibia: Fund Manager to be determined

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the Project

Since 1993, WWF Namibia has supported the “Namibia National Community-Based Natural Resource Management” (CBNRM) program, which has become one of the most acknowledged CBNRM approaches in the world. WWF support contributed to the Namibian government developing a legal framework for giving back to communities which had been disempowered during the colonial period both, the management and utilization rights, for the wildlife in the areas where they reside (through the establishment of Communal Conservancies). The establishment of Conservancies is driven by community demand and technically supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO), of which WWF Namibia is a key financial contributor. Since 1995, WWF’s support has been uninterrupted for the last 30 years and, presently, through a variety of mechanisms (ranging from financial and technical support through NACSO partners to direct technical support), WWF supports CBNRM in 86 established Conservancies.

Since 2008, the CBNRM partners in Namibia have been aspiring to setting up a long-term sustainable financing mechanism for the local community conservation or “Conservancy” program. In 2018, WWF undertook a pre-feasibility study to scope if Namibia would be ready for a “Project Finance for Permanence (PFP)” intervention, and how such an intervention should unfold. So far, all PFP agreements closed focused on supporting the State Protected Areas Network in Canada, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Bhutan. In Namibia, the pre-feasibility established that this unique sustainable funding mechanism could be applied to community conservation areas outside of the state PA system, complementing and amplifying inclusive conservation approaches in connected landscapes.

The informal PFP preparation period commenced in Namibia in July 2021 and, in March 2022, the country progressed to the official “preparation period,” which can take up to three years and ends with the closing of a conservation financing deal by members of the Enduring Earth partnership, willing supporting donors and the state and non-state conservation actors in Namibia (a “single close”). The PFP preparation team, composed of WWF US and Namibia as well as Zomalab staff members, is currently delivering on the standard procedures for the development of a PFP in Namibia, with the closing of the deal foreseen for December 2024.

This GEF project will contribute to the PFP as a sustainable financing mechanism for the Namibian CBNRM/Community Conservancy program, delivering sustained resources for effective biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation benefits. The financing mechanism will be accessible to all legally registered Community Conservancies which, although currently amount to 86 that cover 20.2% of Namibia’s land area, could increase to 100 conservancies by the time of “single close” in December 2024. A \$10M sinking fund (seeded with project co-financing) will support the provision of extension services and drive conservation impacts during the project cycle. A \$50M endowment will fully-fund the provision of essential extension services in perpetuity to strengthen community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) and deliver community-driven protection and conservation impact in approximately 100 communal conservancies covering an estimated 20M hectares of land.

1.2 The Project Objective and Components

Namibia for Life (N4L) is the PFP initiative designed to meet the long-term needs of the Community Conservancy movement in Namibia. N4L development began in March 2022, through the support of the Enduring Earth partnership, and implementation is planned to begin in 2025, provided all agreed “Closing Conditions” are met.

N4L is evaluating the viability of several financial tools to help provide communities with the support they need. These include two separate but interconnected funds: (1) a permanent endowment, paired with a 5-year sinking fund while the endowment matures, to support conservancy extension services; and (2) a 20-year socioeconomic development sinking fund to promote alternative livelihood projects for Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs). While the endowment fund was deemed viable in March of 2023 and will move forward, the socioeconomic fund is currently undergoing a feasibility assessment. Each is described below.

1.2.1. Extension services fund (\$60M): Conservancies’ reliance on short-term and insufficient funding means extension services are applied unequally. An endowment will provide equitable support for Community Conservancy extension services in perpetuity and ensure Conservancies will be able to meet compliance requirements to retain revenue from wildlife-based tourism. Interest from the endowment fund will be used to fund extension services through the Conservancy support organizations.

However, given the need to begin payments in 2025, the Conservation Trust Fund will rely on a short-term sinking fund for the first five years as the endowment fund matures. The sinking and endowment funds will be managed in accordance with internationally recognized good practices for conservation trust funds. A due diligence assessment of an existing CTF in Namibia is in process at the time of first submission (June 2023).

The sinking fund will be capitalized at \$10M and the endowment fund at \$50M. GEF project funds will contribute almost exclusively to the capitalization of the extension services endowment fund. The critical GEF seed contribution will help to crowd-in support from other donors. Moreover, as in Gabon, the integration of GEF safeguards standards and procedures into fund operations – and dedicated technical support in the lifetime of the project to ensure trust fund staff understand these standards and procedures and how to implement them effectively – will ensure that the trust fund continues to adhere to international good practice long after the project cycle.

This fund will support the following services:

- Natural resource management and monitoring, including management planning, quota setting, hunting concessions, off-take systems, human wildlife conflict mitigation, fire management, anti-poaching systems, game censuses and introductions, and enforcement.
- Institutional development and governance, including legal and policy support, training related to conservancy establishment, stakeholder engagement, conflict resolution, learning exchanges, constitution implementation, financial management and reporting, and advocacy.
- Business, enterprise, and livelihood services, including tourism planning, business planning and feasibility assessments, marketing, environmental assessments, tax assistance, contracts, insurance, product development, and training on finance and administration, communications, negotiations, and infrastructure maintenance.

1.2.2. Socioeconomic development fund (\$10-20M): N4L is undertaking a feasibility assessment of a second sinking fund. The initial assessment confirms the fund aligns with government priorities. If operationalized, this fund would provide grants and soft loans to Conservancy members for green development projects in agriculture, fishing, tourism, and renewable energy sectors. These opportunities will provide Conservancies added economic buffers against future tourism disruptions along with added poverty alleviation support.

2. Regulations and Requirements.

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan presented here applies to the Namibian Component of the global GEF7 project *“Enduring Earth: Accelerating Sustainable Finance Solutions to Achieve Durable Conservation”* (WWF ID: G0038; GEF ID: 11014). The GEF project in Namibia primarily focuses on the endowment of a long-term funding mechanism through a WWF-US led “Project Finance for Permanence (PFP)” approach managed by the Enduring Earth¹ team and drawing on a decade worth of experience with such an approach and lessons learnt.² As required by the GEF, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan requirements laid out in this document will apply to the entire scope of the endowment fund. As such, this Plan will provide details on how to comply with Stakeholder Engagement standards throughout the life of the fund, which will extend beyond the funding timeline of this project.

The content presented here for the stakeholder engagement plan has been prepared for the overall N4L initiative, and for the GEF component specifically. It shall guide stakeholder engagement during development/design, planning, implementation and closure of the project. In this regard, the plan lays out standards, guidelines and concrete activities for the project to ensure transparency, inclusion, accountability, integrity, and effective participation of all affected parties by the project.

The development and implementation of this stakeholder engagement plan is guided by GEF Policies and Guidelines, WWF-US policies (as GEF Project Agency) and the Government of Namibia requirements. The principal requirements in this regard are summarized below.

It is noted that Namibia’s CBNRM program is well established and regular consultations and stakeholder engagement are routinely taking place. Governance structures are operationalized to ensure that local Community Conservancies engage with their members and local communities, regular meetings are taking place, representatives are democratically elected, bi-annual member meetings are taking place. Service providers under NACSO take part in these and regular audits are being conducted by MEFT and other supporting partners on compliance.

2.1 GEF requirements

¹ [Earth for Life | Initiatives | WWF \(worldwildlife.org\)](https://www.worldwildlife.org/initiatives/earth-for-life)

² [Project Finance for Permanence: Key Outcomes and Lessons Learned | Publications | WWF \(worldwildlife.org\)](https://www.worldwildlife.org/publications/project-finance-for-permanence-key-outcomes-and-lessons-learned)

The GEF has in place two instruments on stakeholder engagement: Standard on Stakeholder Engagement (2017)³, and Procedures for Implementation of the Standard on Stakeholder Engagement (2018)⁴, which further define the policy and resources necessary for implementation. These instruments include mandatory requirements and procedures for GEF Partner Agencies, executing agencies and recipient government agencies to ensure transparency, inclusion, accountability, integrity, and effective participation of stakeholders and public for all projects financed by the GEF. As spelled out in the policy, the intention of these instruments is two-fold: to strengthen the design and implementation of GEF-Financed activities through effective stakeholder engagement thereby reducing risks and addressing the social and economic needs of affected parties; and to ensure country ownership of the project and developing stronger partnerships with civil society, local communities, private sector through harnessing their knowledge, experience and capabilities of affected and interested individuals and groups throughout the project cycle.

The policy outlines 6 requirements for governments and other executing partners implementing GEF financed activities, which are:

- Stakeholders are identified early in project and engaged throughout the project cycle
- The engagement of stakeholders should include mechanisms that allow stakeholders to express their views and receive feedback on project plans, benefits, risks, impacts, and mitigation measures that may affect them.
- The engagement of stakeholders should be gender responsive; free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation; and responsive to the needs and interests of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.
- Throughout the project cycle, a public register of stakeholder engagement is developed, maintained and disclosed. In cases where confidentiality is necessary to protect stakeholders from harm, statistical information is recorded and made publicly available.
- Stakeholders to the project are given access to timely, relevant and understandable information about activities implemented, and there are clear procedures in place to request information.
- Where GEF-financing supports an activity implemented by the Agency, such support is clearly identified and related non-confidential information is made publicly available and easily accessible.

2.2 WWF-US requirements

The WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement ensures that WWF is committed to meaningful, effective and informed stakeholder engagement in the design and implementation of all GEF and GCF projects. WWF's commitment to stakeholder engagement arises from internal standards such as WWF's Project and Program Standards (PPMS), as well as WWF's commitment to international instruments such as United Nations Declaration on Indigenous People (UNDRIP). Stakeholder engagement, in this regard, is

³ <https://wwfgeftracks.com/sites/default/files/2019-02/Standard%20on%20Stakeholder%20Engagement.pdf>

⁴ <https://wwfgeftracks.com/sites/default/files/2019-02/Procedures%20for%20Implementation%20of%20Standard%20on%20Stakeholder%20Engagement.pdf>

recognized as a range of activities and interactions with stakeholders throughout the project cycle and is an essential aspect of good project management.

In addition to WWF's Standard on Stakeholder Engagement, WWF has developed and adopted a comprehensive Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) to ensure consistent, comprehensive application of safeguards across all projects supported and implemented by the entire WWF Network. To comply with the WWF ESSF, the project will follow the policies, standards, guidance and procedures as detailed in the Environmental and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP⁵). Specifically relevant for the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is the Standard on Stakeholder Engagement⁶ and the associated Procedures for Implementation of the Standard on Stakeholder Engagement⁷.

The ESSF framework requires all WWF supported projects to commit to consult and engage potentially affected stakeholders (or parties) and to disclose information related to the project in a transparent manner. This commitment extends the requirement for the project to have grievance mechanisms in place for stakeholders to lodge concerns and receive feedback.

The ESSF framework requires projects to initiate stakeholder consultation at a very early stage of project design and put mechanisms in place that allow communication with affected stakeholders in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to diverse groups.

Other WWF instruments that emphasize stakeholder engagement are: WWF Policy on Poverty and Conservation (2009) which reaffirms WWF's commitment to ensure that communities affected by the project take part in defining problems and solutions in the development and conservation; and WWF Gender Policy (2011) which require projects to taken into account gender perspective in stakeholder engagement.

2.3 Government of Namibia requirements:

In Namibia the requirements for stakeholder engagement plans are guided by the following legislation.

- the Environmental Management Act (EMA) of 2004 has set a number of requirements that provides legal rights to the public to be informed timely of development of any project; to participate in decisions of project design; and to present oral and written comments on proposed projects.
- Nature Conservation Amendment Act (1996) and National Policy on CBNRM (2013) promotes inter-sector collaboration to manage landscapes with conservation and natural resource management as a recognized approach; public and political awareness of CBNRM and its positive effects on the environment, natural resources and local institutions; and win-win situations in natural resource management and utilization based on sound environmental and socio-economic principles. Furthermore, participatory management as an approach is recognized as a critical element in promoting the constructive and substantive engagement of stakeholders, particularly community groups to manage and benefit from natural resources. Also, devolution of rights to access, use and even own resources has to go

⁵ [Safeguards_Manual.pdf \(rackcdn.com\)](#)

⁶ [Standard on Stakeholder Engagement.pdf \(wwfgeftracks.com\)](#)

⁷ [Procedures for Implementation of Standard on Stakeholder Engagement.pdf \(wwfgeftracks.com\)](#)

with responsibilities that are both in the managers and public interest. Finally, the participation of communities and other stakeholders requires a dynamic system of incentives which responds to socio-economic, political and environmental changes but respects sustainability principles.

3. Project Stakeholders

Government and Ministries

- Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)
Responsible for developing and overseeing national policy related to the environment, forestry and tourism. MEFT is the Government's authority on CBNRM, responsible for directing the implementation of the national CBNRM policy. The Ministry is a project development team member for the PFP preparation in Namibia and specifically serves on the GEF 7 project DT. The MEFT is engaged in the PFP design as a key partner and will participate in relevant consultations and workshops. MEFT extension services, i.e. of the CBNRM Unit, will potentially benefit from the sustainable financing opportunities, as government services are – to some degree – considered as beneficiaries of the funding mechanism.
- National Planning Commission (NPC)
National authority coordinating development partners and priorities.
- Other relevant line ministries (Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPEWS), Ministry of Marine Resources & Fisheries (MMRF), Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWL), among others)
Various line ministries deliver services in community conservation areas, such as water provision, agricultural advice and support, legal framework on land use etc. Coordinated and needs-based service delivery in rural communities, including community conservation areas. Specifically, are consulted and collaborated with in terms of the potential socio-economic fund of the PFP and for technical support to local community needs and service delivery. Advise on PFP development.
- Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) Namibia (@ Ministry of Finance)
Government environmental fund that engages in PFP design, potential set up and operationalization of PFP mechanism.

Local community groups

- 86 Community Conservancies registered in Namibia and two related residents associations (inside national parks), formally registered
A Namibian communal conservancy is a community-based institution that has obtained conditional rights to use the wildlife occurring within a self-defined area. They are self-governed, democratic entities managed by committees that are elected by their members. To establish a conservancy, all the requirements given in the 1996 amendment of the 1975 Nature Conservation Ordinance need to be met. To date, 86 conservancies have been gazette. The conservancies are the key beneficiaries of the PFP and this GEF project.

National and international Civil-Society/Non-Governmental Organizations

- Namibian Association of Community-Based Natural Resources Management Support Organizations (NACSO) - Secretariat and working groups (IDWG, NRWG, BEL)
The Namibian Association of Community-Based Natural Resources Management Support Organizations is an umbrella organization coordinating local NGOs and individuals with expertise in the CBNRM sector, providing coordinated support rural communities in the management and utilization of their natural resources in a sustainable manner. This work is in support of and collaboration with MEFT, the Government's authority on CBNRM. Beneficiaries of PFP incl. GEF project. NACSO Sec & WGs support local CCs with technical work such as conducting game counts, institutional audits, provision of trainings. NACSO is busy establishing the Community Conservation Academy through which it will render accredited training programs and award professional qualifications to conservancy staff / members.
- NACSO member organizations
NACSO members are categorized as either full members or associate members. Associate members include international organizations and Namibian individuals. Member organizations include: IRDNC, NNF, SRT, CCF, EHRA, UNAM-MRCC, LAC, NDT, NNDFN, OAT, Rossing Foundation, NEWS, Tosco, WWF, SKRA, ORCA, KRCA, KCCA. Members coordinate and collaborate in community conservation in Namibia, and are partners in PF delivery
- CCFN
CCFN's mission is to promote the sustainable development of communal conservancies, community forests and related natural resource management entities with a similar legal mandate that contribute to: conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment and biodiversity, including the sustainable use of natural resources; and relief of poverty and the improvement of livelihoods for the benefit of the members of communal conservancies and community forests. Potential manager of PFP once established, subject to due diligence process outcomes.

Private sector

- Tourism Joint Ventures (JVs)
Investors in conservancies. Potential business partners for socio-economic development
- Hunting partners
Investors in conservancies. Potential business partners for socio-economic development

Academia

- UNAM & NUST
UNAM provides socio-economic research support relating to CBNRM as opportunities emerge; and currently serves on the Management Committee of NACSO. Institutional partner to facilitate the development and implementation of Environmental and Social Safeguards in project areas, including IPPF.

Development partners

- GIZ, EU, KfW, GEF Ias/partners (UNDP, FAO, UNEP), AfD
Cooperation partners in Namibia with focus on community conservation/ environment. Potential co-financiers of/ investors in PFP

- WWF Network partners
Support conservation programs across the globe. Learning and sharing of relevant experiences.
- EE global team; Team of 6 (incl. WWF, TNC ZomaLab, PEW Charitable Trust)
Identify and motivate the development and financing of PFP initiatives across the globe. Match funding partners and collaborators with WWF.

4. Summary of previous stakeholder engagement activities and PPG activities

The engagement of stakeholders during project design is key in ensuring successful project implementation. Below is a summary of project related engagements held with key stakeholders since project identification phase through project preparation phase.

August 2021 – March 2022 (PIF stage):

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) were engaged from the onset to ensure government support for the PFP and GEF-7 project, in support of the PFP. Key issues discussed and agreed to with the MEFT include: the need to revisit the conservancy extension services, as conservancy support needs may have evolved as conservancies are maturing; and the importance of engaging conservancies directly, and not only through the field-based supporting partners.

Broader national level consultations started with a briefing meeting with the Executive Committee of the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO), who agreed to collaborate in organizing PFP stakeholder meetings. During the first such stakeholders meeting on 2-3 March 2022, the participants agreed to the scope of the PFP overall, including an Endowment Fund to support Critical Extension Services to conservancies, which will be the focus of this GEF-7 project. The participants further agreed that the Critical Extension Services Plan will be jointly developed with all key stakeholders over multiple sessions as needed. Stakeholders were also engaged during a joint Environmental and Social Safeguards workshop on 14 March 2022 to update each other on their different ESS processes, activities and plans. They agreed to working towards a coordinating structure to help streamline ESS management amongst our different organizations; and to update a broader reach of staff in our organizations on the need for and application of ESS management frameworks.

Field level consultations, specifically targeting conservancies were held by attending and presenting on the PFP overall, and the GEF-7 project at their existing fora. The first such was the Zambezi Regional Conservancies Biannual Meeting in February 2022, that was attended by 98 participants from conservancies, traditional authorities, government, NGOs (including WWF), private sector, KAZA partners. In the Kunene region, initial briefings were held during a familiarization visit to the Ombonde People's Park from 17-20 March 2022, where WWF met with the Chairperson for Ehi Rovipuka Conservancy, Chairperson for Omatendeka Conservancy, IRDNC Kunene People's Park/Landscape Coordinator, IRDNC Assistant Director and IRDNC Executive Director.

May 2022 – May 2023 (Project Development stage):

National level stakeholders' meetings to develop the Critical Extension Services Plan started with a kick-off meeting of all stakeholders on 16 May, followed by several planning sessions with a core team of 10 people representing NGOs and MEFT to prepare for a national workshop. This core team agreed to propose adoption of the existing National CBNRM Vision as the Vision for the PFP; drafted a PFP goal and

a goal for the Extension Services Plan; agreed to propose the draft components of the PFP; drafted an area-based disbursement condition; drafted a purpose and agenda for the national workshop; and provided guidance on logistics. The National Extension Services Plan Workshop, held from 26-29 September 2022 involved over 70 participants from conservancies, government, NGOs, (the latter two including a mix of national and regional / field level staff). The participants agreed on a vision statement and goal for the Extension Services Plan; area-based disbursement condition and draft detailed written descriptions of each activity / extension service and how it supports the Extension Services Plan goal.

The outcomes of the national workshop were further shared for continued discussion at various national and regional level meetings, including during the NACSO WGs Coordination and Annual Planning Week from 5-9 December 2022, that was attended by 40 representatives from MEFT, NACSO partners, and Projects, to provide progress updates/feedback on 2022 activities by the regional field-based staff and working groups; and develop a common work plan for supporting conservancy Governance, NRM, and Enterprises. During the work session on GEF ESMF, IPP and Gender Plan, the participants provided inputs into the ESMF, IPPF and Gender Action Plan. An update on the GEF-7 ProDoc development, ESMF and IPPF was also shared during the NACSO Heads of Organization meetings and AGM in February and March 2023. It was agreed that in preparation for the project validation meeting, the full ProDoc with annexes will be shared with the stakeholders for their review.

Thirty participants representing MEFT, various NGOs, thematic Working Groups, Conservancies, CCFN, EIF and WWF participated in an online session from 30-31 May 2023 to review the Extension Services Plan (ESP) drafted during the Extension Services Plan workshop in September 2022 and the subsequent contributions by the workstream leads. The financial modelling process was also introduced to the participants; resulting in a small group of volunteers working closely with the Financial Modeling Specialist at WWF over the coming months and periodically checking in with the broader stakeholder group as needed.

Twenty-one participants representing MEFT (including PDT member), UNAM and various NGOs including WWF (and GEF Agency) and thematic Working Groups met online on 15 June 2023 to validate the design of the GEF 7 Enduring Earth project. Following presentations and discussion on the Overview of the Enduring Earth (EE) GEF 7 Global Project; N4L update; Project Components, M&E Frameworks and outcomes of Namibia's GEF 7 project and safeguards findings/recommendations, the participants endorsed the project document by show of hands.

Field level stakeholder consultations continued with the attendance of: the Zambezi Regional Biannual Meetings in July 2022 and February 2023 that were attended by over 100 participants each, from 16 registered and 4 emerging conservancies; Traditional Authorities in Zambezi; 2 visiting conservancies from Kavango East; support agencies, including MEFT, IRDNC, NNF, WWF, UNAM, Kwando Carnivore Project, NCE; and visitors from neighboring countries. The Kunene Regional Biannual Meeting in January 2023 was attended by over 50 participants from conservancies, Traditional Authorities, and technical support staff from NGOs and government. During attendance and briefing at the Ombonde People's Landscape Board meeting on 5-7 September 2022, and in response to the point about conservancies needing to make a permanent commitment towards conservation, i.e., area under conservancy management, it was highlighted that it is important to engage Ministry of Mines and Energy to better understand potential impact of Exclusive Prospecting Licenses (EPLs) on conservancies and alleviate/mitigate potential negative impacts as identified. Also, a question was raised on how conservancy commitment to the initiative will

be “documented”, in a similar manner that funding partner commitment will be documented? Who / how will conservancies become “signatory” to the Deal? It was agreed that this question still needed to be explored for a clear answer. Online updates were also shared with the Kavango East and West Regional Conservancies during their Green Economy Vision workshop on 31 August 2022; and the North Central Regional Conservancies during their Community Conservation Landscape Peer Review Learning and Sharing Workshop on 12 October 2022.

In the Otjozondjupa region, the N#ajaqna and Nyae Nyae conservancies were visited from 10-12 May. Following the N4L update, the conservancy representatives in both conservancies replied that it is a positive initiative, and they look forward to co-designing it. They all committed to sharing the information they received at upcoming village / district level meetings and conservancy AGMs.

Namibia for Life updates were shared with representatives from the existing 9 regional conservancy associations who met on 20 June 2023 to discuss/affirm the establishment of a National Conservancies Association, following sharing of the results of a survey that was commissioned by NACSO to solicit conservancy opinions on the matter. The regional associations agreed to work towards the formation of a National Conservancy Association, including drafting of a constitution, while reactivating and strengthening the four dormant or weaker regional associations. WWF will monitor this development as it is very relevant for N4L in determining Parties to the Deal.

Representatives from 8 Indigenous Peoples’ organizations met during an Indigenous Communities and CBNRM meeting on 21 June 2023 to share their experiences including focal areas, achievements and challenges. This was the first meeting of its kind, and the organizations agreed to maintain contact through agreed next steps of joint commitments they wish to collaborate on. WWF attended the meeting and will monitor these developments as it is very relevant for the IPP development under this project and N4L ESMF development.

Namibia for Life updates were also shared during the inception meeting of the Leading the Change: Civil Society, Rights and Environment Program, a WWF Sweden/Sida funded 5-year program aimed at strengthening CSO capacities, that will commence during 2023. The meeting was held on 22 June 2023, and attended by representatives from MEFT, NGOs, UNAM and conservancies. WWF will draw on the outcomes of the CSO capacity assessment that was just completed under this program for the benefit of the GEF 7 EE project.

5. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The purpose of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan is to ensure appropriate and consistent involvement of project stakeholders in every stage of the project implementation, supporting effective communication and working relationships. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will ensure that the views and inputs of stakeholders are taken into consideration throughout project implementation.

Stakeholder Type	Name	Frequency of Engagement/ Project Years	Engagement During Project Implementation
Government of the Republic of Namibia	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)	Ongoing, quarterly, as need arises throughout project term.	Government stakeholders at the senior technical and political levels will be engaged / consulted through regular project update briefing meetings and / or briefing notes / write ups. Government technical staff will be invited as participants at all project planning, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting meetings.
	National Planning Commission (NPC)		
	Other relevant line ministries (e.g. Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPEWSW), Ministry of Marine Resources & Fisheries (MMRF), Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWL))		
	Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) Namibia (@ Ministry of Finance)		
Communities and Indigenous People	Communities and Indigenous People in conservancies and park residents associations.	Ongoing, quarterly, biannually, as need arises throughout project term.	Local communities and Indigenous Peoples are the primary beneficiaries and most important stakeholders for this project and Namibia for Life PFP. Project staff will request to be invited to all their meetings at national, regional, conservancy and sub-conservancy levels to share project updates and plans for verification and endorsement.
Community Based Organizations	All registered Community Conservancies (currently 86) and two related residents associations (inside national parks), formally registered	Ongoing, monthly, quarterly, biannually, as need arises throughout project term.	Community conservancies and related associations are the most important stakeholders for this project and Namibia for Life PFP. Project staff will actively request to be invited to all their meetings at national, regional, conservancy and sub-conservancy levels to share project updates and plans for verification and endorsement.
NGOs	Namibian Association of Community-Based Natural Resources Management Support Organizations (NACSO) - Secretariat and working groups (IDWG, NRWG, BEL)	Ongoing, monthly, quarterly, biannually, as need arises throughout project term.	The NGOs are the primary technical service providers to community conservancies and related associations, alongside MEFT technical staff. They will be invited as participants at project planning, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting meetings.
	NACSO member organizations (IRDNC –		

	Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation, NNF – Namibia Nature Foundation, SRT – Save the Rhino Trust, CCF – Cheetah Conservation Fund, EHRA – Elephant Human Relations Aid, UNAM-MRCC - University of Namibia Multidisciplinary Research and Consulting, LAC – Legal Assistance Center, NDT – Namibia Development Trust, NNDFN- Nyae Nyae Development Foundation of Namibia, OAT – Omba Arts Trust, Rossing Foundation, NEWS -, Namibian Environment and Wildlife Society, Tosco - Tourism Supporting Conservation, 9 Regional Conservancy and Community Forests Associations from Zambezi, Kavango East and West, North Central, Kunene, Southern Kunene, Erongo, Southern, Omaheke and Otjozondjupa regions)		
	CCFN		
Private Sector	Tourism Joint Venture partners Hunting partners	As need arises throughout project term	The private sector contains key business partners to the community conservancies and related associations. They will be engaged either directly or through their representative associations as participants at project planning, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting meetings.
GEF Multilaterals	UNDP, FAO, UNEP	As need arises throughout project term	They will be engaged / consulted through regular project update briefing meetings and / or briefing notes / write ups.

- The project will utilize (and strengthen where necessary) existing processes of stakeholder engagement in planning and implementation of project activities at all levels. Particular attention will be paid to ensure that the views of women and other relevant groups (minorities, elderly, youth other marginalized groups) are considered, and their participation ensured and facilitated. For instance, the selection of meeting venues and dates should be carefully considered to avoid inadvertently excluding some segments of community

members. The existing practice (in some conservancies) of holding pre-AGM⁸ meetings at area/block level to solicit broader conservancy member inputs in preparing the AGM agenda and discussion points should be continued and/or strengthened and expanded as necessary. This is helping vulnerable groups that may not be able to attend AGMs that are held at a central location to share their inputs for consideration during the AGM. There may also be a need to arrange transport to ensure that all members are able to attend meetings. The sharing of technical information or new knowledge should be done in formats and languages that all members are able to understand.

- The CTF Administrator will refer to the Communications Strategy developed as part of the National Services component of the Critical Extension Services Plan when considering methods to receive feedback and facilitate ongoing communications with stakeholders (outside of a formal consultation meeting).
- The CTF Administrator will seek to update the Communications Strategy referred to above, in a participatory manner, to ensure it makes provision for engagement activities that will be undertaken, including participatory processes, joint decision making, and/or partnerships undertaken with local communities, NGOs, or other project stakeholders (e.g. benefit sharing programs, stakeholder led initiatives, training and capacity building/support programs).

6. Resources and Responsibilities

Considering that stakeholder engagement will largely be associated with the implementation of the Critical Extension Services Plan, the service providers that are engaged for the implementation of the Critical Extension Services Plan will be primarily responsible for carrying out the bulk of the stakeholder engagement activities. The CTF will still be responsible for some stakeholder engagement, particularly in what pertains to socializing the available funds and managing the project-level GRM and ensuring that the service providers are complying with all the safeguards requirements laid out here and in the respective ESMF. These tasks and/or arrangements should be outlined in the written agreements between the CTF Administrator and the service providers.

The budget for stakeholder engagement will be included in the costing of the Critical Extension Services Plan. The Financial Model development to specify these costs will be finalized at the time of the single close. Following the time of the single close, resource allocation decisions will be made by the Fund Manager for furthering of the Critical Extension Services Plan per procedures and protocols described in the Operations Manual, ensuring equitable allocation across – i) the agreed four thematic areas, i.e. National level, Natural Resources Management, Institutional Development and Governance, and Business, Enterprises and Livelihoods; and – ii) all geographic regions targeted for support.

The WWF GEF Project Agency is responsible for oversight. The lead Executing Agency is responsible for executing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and overall compliance with the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement.

⁸ AGM – The Annual General Meeting is the highest decision-making meeting in conservancies, where the members present receive and approve / reject annual workplans and budgets, annual financial reports, annual benefits distribution plans and reports; consider constitutional amendments; and elect new conservancy committee members.

7. Grievances Mechanism

Overall, under the Enduring Earth GEF-7 Project, there will be four Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM) available to those impacted by the project, which should be accessed in the following order depending on the type of grievance being raised: 1st country/project-level (Gabon PFP and Namibia PFP), 2nd project-wide (TNC PMU-level), 3rd WWF US, and 4th the GEF Secretariat mechanism.

These GRMs are designed to enable the receipt of complaints of affected women and men and public concerns regarding the environmental and social performance of the project. In short, their aim is to provide people fearing, or suffering, adverse impacts with the opportunity to be heard and assisted. As such, the mechanisms are designed to address the concerns of the community(ies) with a particular project, identify the root causes of the conflicts, and find options for the resolution of grievances. Therefore, they constitute an essential tool to foster good cooperation with project stakeholders and ensure adequate delivery of previously agreed-upon results. This mechanism is designed to:

- Address potential breaches of WWF's policies and procedures;
- Be independent, transparent, and effective;
- Be accessible to project-affected people;
- Keep complainants abreast of progress of cases brought forward; and
- Maintain records on all cases and issues brought forward for review.

The CTF will be responsible for informing project-affected parties about the grievance mechanisms. Contact information of the staff member responsible for the grievance mechanism in the CTF will be made publicly available.

1. Project-Level Grievance Mechanism

The project will have a direct and tangible effect on local communities and individuals residing within or in the vicinity of project sites in 86 Community Conservancies throughout Namibia. There is thus a need for an efficient and effective Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that collects and responds to stakeholders' inquiries, suggestions, concerns, and complaints.

Until a Fund Administrator is established, the GRM of the WWF Namibia office (included in ANNEX 1 of the ESMF for the Namibian component of the GEF 7 Enduring Earth project) will be applicable to this project. However, within the first six months after the establishment of the CTF, said Fund Administrator will establish a project/country-level GRM. Grievances against activities undertaken in Namibia can be lodged through the following channels:

- Grievance Focal Point, WWF Namibia, 19 Lossen St, PO Box 9681, Aussspanplatz, Windhoek, Namibia.
- Tel: +264 61 389 400.
- Email: complaint@wwf.na
- Websites:
 - www.wwfnamibia.org
 - <https://wwfus.ethicspoint.com>

The outline of the GRM to be established by the CTF in Namibia is as follows:

1. Disseminating information about the GRM: It is essential that community members understand and have confidence in the grievance mechanism, which is why materials describing the GRM will be made publicly available early on, both digitally on the websites of the CTF, TNC and WWF, and in physical form as part of the project stakeholder engagement activities. Through this, the process of lodging and handling grievances will be made clear to all project participants, especially what constitutes a grievance, right to raise grievances, methods for raising grievances, how complaints are handled and responded too and timeframes
2. Submitting complaints: Project affected people, workers, or interested stakeholders can submit grievances, complaints, questions, or suggestions in verbal or written form, via email, mail, phone call or in person. The appropriate addresses and phone numbers will be identified after the CTF has been established (within the first 6 months of its operation).
3. Processing complaints: All grievances submitted to the CTF shall be registered and considered, and a tracking registration number should be provided to all complaints. The CTF shall determine the best way to categorize or otherwise sort complaints received, such as based on their nature, the specific matter to which they refer, etc.
4. Acknowledging the receipt of complaints: Once a grievance is submitted, the designated official or the Safeguards Specialist at the CTF shall acknowledge its receipt, brief the complainant on the grievance resolution process, provide the contact details of the person in charge of handling the grievance, and provide a registration number that would enable the complainant to track the status of the complaint.
5. Investigating complaints: The Safeguards Specialist at the CTF will gather all relevant information, conduct field visits as necessary and communicate with all relevant stakeholders as part of the complaint investigation process. The CTF should ensure that the investigators are neutral and do not have any stake in the outcome of the investigation.
6. Responding to complainants: A summary of the complaint raised, actions taken, conclusions reached, follow-up plan and timeframe for completion will be written and communicated to the complainant withing 15 working days. If further investigation is required, the complainant will be informed accordingly, and a final response will be provided after an additional period of 15 working days. Grievances that cannot be resolved by grievance receiving authorities/office at their level should be referred to a higher level for verification and further investigation.
7. Appeal: In the event that the parties are unsatisfied with the response provided by the GRM, they will be able to submit an appeal to the CTF within 10 days from the date of decision. In the event that the parties are unsatisfied with the decision of the appeal committee, the parties can submit their grievances directly to TNC, the GEF Agency or the Court of Law for further adjudication.
8. Monitoring and evaluation: The Safeguards Specialist at the CTF will compile a quarterly report with full information on the grievances they received. The report shall contain a description of the grievances and their investigation status. Summarized GRM reports shall constitute part of the regular project progress reporting and shall be submitted to the PMU, PSC and WWF GEF Agency.

The GRM seeks to complement, rather than substitute, the judicial system and other dispute resolution mechanisms. All complainants may therefore file their grievance in local courts or approach mediators or arbitrators, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Namibia. For more information on this GRM, please refer to the ESMF for this project component.

2. TNC PFP-wide Grievance Mechanism

After the project/country-level GRM, the next GRM available to complainants is the one established by TNC, as global PMU, which is applicable to all the PFP geographies under this project. It will operate as follows:

1. Disseminating information about the GRM: All materials describing the GRM, once approved by the PMU and cleared by WWF US, will be made publicly available through posting them on the WWF/TNC websites and disseminated as part of the Project stakeholder engagement activities. The GRM will be communicated with all communities and stakeholders by the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer, whose responsibilities include safeguards duties, and who will also develop GRM materials (brochure, flyers, etc.). Materials will include basic information on GRM and contact information on all grievance uptake locations, including:
 1. Name of location/channel to receive grievance.
 2. Address of location.
 3. Responsible person.
 4. Telephone(s).
 5. Email.
 6. Days and hours for receiving verbal grievances.

The materials will also include a summary of the process for registering, reviewing and responding to grievances including the estimated response time. The information about the GRM will also be presented as a chart to make it easy for people to view. The materials will be produced in the following languages:

PFP	Languages
Gabon	English, French
Namibia	English
Eastern Tropical Pacific PFP	English, Spanish

2. Submitting complaints: Project affected people, workers, or interested stakeholders can submit grievances, complaints, questions, or suggestions to the TNC PMU through a variety of communication channels, including phone, regular mail, email, text messaging/SMS, or in-person.
3. Processing complaints: All grievances submitted to the TNC PMU shall be registered and considered. A tracking registration number should be provided to all complainants. To facilitate investigation, complaints will be categorized into four types: (a) comments, suggestions, or queries; (b) complaints relating to nonperformance of project obligations and safeguards-related complaints; (c) complaints referring to violations of law and/or corruption while implementing project activities; (d) complaints against authorities, officials or community members involved in the project management; and (e) any complaints/issues not falling in the above categories.

4. Acknowledging the receipt of complaints: Once a grievance is submitted, the M&E Officer at the TNC PMU shall acknowledge its receipt, brief the complainant on the grievance resolution process, provide the contact details of the person in charge of handling the grievance (which should be said M&E officer), and provide a registration number that would enable the complainant to track the status of the complaint. Please note that, although the personal identifiable information of the grievant should remain confidential to the M&E Officer in all cases, this anonymity should be furthered maintained by the M&E Officer if the complainant does not want to file a grievance with their identifying information.
5. Investigating complaints: The M&E Officer at the PMU will gather all relevant information, conduct field visits as necessary, and communicate with all relevant stakeholders as part of the complaint investigation process. The PMU should ensure that the investigators are neutral and do not have any stake in the outcome of the investigation.
6. Responding to complainants: A written response to all grievances will be provided to the complainant within 15 working days. If further investigation is required, the complainant will be informed accordingly and a final response will be provided after an additional period of 15 working days. Grievances that cannot be resolved by grievance receiving authorities/office at their level should be referred to a higher level for verification and further investigation
7. Appeal: In the event that the parties are unsatisfied with the response provided by the GRM, they will be able to submit an appeal to TNC within 10 days from the date of decision. In the event that the parties are unsatisfied with the decision of the appeal committee, the parties can submit their grievances directly to the GEF Agency or the Court of Law for further adjudication.
8. Monitoring and evaluation: The M&E Officer at the PMU will compile a quarterly report with full information on the grievances they received across all PFPs. The report shall contain a description of the grievances and their investigation status. Summarized GRM reports shall constitute part of the regular project progress reporting, and shall be submitted to the PSC and WWF GEF Agency. These reports should also be available on the websites of TNC and WWF GEF Agency

3. WWF GEF Agency Grievance Mechanism

Project-affected communities and other interested stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time to the WWF GEF Agency. Contact information of the WWF GEF Agency will be made publicly available.

A grievance can be filed with the Project Complaints Officer (PCO), a WWF staff member fully independent from the WWF GEF Agency, who is responsible for the WWF Accountability and Grievance Mechanism and who can be reached at: Email: SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org.

Mailing address:
Project Complaints Officer Safeguards Complaints,
World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

Complaints may be submitted in the Affected Party's native language and should include the following information:

- Complainant's name and contact information;

- If not filed directly by the complainant, proof that those representing the affected people have authority to do so;
- The specific project or program of concern;
- The harm that is or may be resulting from the project;
- The relevant Environmental and Social Safeguards policy or provision (if known);
- Any other relevant information or documents;
- Any actions taken so far to resolve the problem, including contacting WWF;
- Proposed solutions; and
- Whether confidentiality is requested (stating reasons).

The PCO will respond within 10 business days of receipt, and claims will be filed and included in project monitoring.

Stakeholders may also submit a complaint online or over the phone through an independent third-party platform at <https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/59041/index.html>

4. GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner

In addition to the country-level, PFP-wide and WWF GEF Agency GRMs, a person concerned about a GEF-financed project or operation may submit a complaint to the GEF Resolution Commissioner, who plays a facilitation role and reports directly to the GEF CEO. The Commissioner can be reached at:

E-mail: plallas@thegef.org

Mailing Address:

Mr. Peter Lallas
 Global Environment Facility
 The World Bank Group, MSN N8-800
 1818 H Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20433-002

Complaints submitted to the Commissioner should be in writing and can be in any language. The complaints should provide at least a general description of the nature of the concerns, the type of harm that may result, and (where relevant) the GEF-funded projects or program at issue.

8. Monitoring and Reporting

Progress against the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be monitored and reported on throughout implementation.

The following comprises the monitoring and reporting activities to be undertaken with respect to stakeholder engagement by the CTF:

- The SEP will be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary at an annual Reflection Workshop. The review will ensure that the list of project stakeholders and methods of engagement remain appropriate.

- Activities related to stakeholder engagement will be documented and reported by the CTF, in collaboration with TNCs PMU, every 6 months in a Project Progress Report (as part of regular reporting). The project Results Framework and Annual Work Plan and Budget will track beneficiaries of the project and activities related to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- Stakeholder Engagement activities and progress will be monitored through the following indicators:
 - GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment
 - Indicator SEP 1: Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis

Stakeholder Engagement will be evaluated by independent consultants recruited for the project midterm and terminal evaluations.

The WWF GEF Agency will undertake annual supervision missions to ensure compliance, and report on progress against the Stakeholder Engagement Plan annually to the GEF through Project Implementation Reports.

Appendix 1: Project Stakeholders

Government Ministries (National/Central & Local)

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)

National Planning Commission (NPC)

Other relevant line ministries (e.g. Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPESW), Ministry of Marine Resources & Fisheries (MMRF), Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWL))

Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) Namibia (@ Ministry of Finance)

Local Community Groups (LMMAs, CBOs, Traditional Authorities, etc)

86 Community Conservancies registered in Namibia and two related residents associations (inside national parks), formally registered

National and international Civil-Society/Non-Governmental Organizations

Namibian Association of Community-Based Natural Resources Management Support Organisations (NACSO) - Secretariat and working groups (IDWG, NRWG, BEL)

NACSO member organisations (IRDNC – Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation, NNF – Namibia Nature Foundation, SRT – Save the Rhino Trust, CCF – Cheetah Conservation Fund, EHRA – Elephant Human Relations Aid, UNAM-MRCC -University of Namibia Multidisciplinary Research and Consulting, LAC – Legal Assistance Center, NDT – Namibia Development Trust, NNDFN- Nyae Nyae Development Foundation of Namibia, OAT – Omba Arts Trust, Rossing Foundation, NEWS -, Namibian Environment and Wildlife Society, Tosco - Tourism Supporting Conservation, 9 Regional Conservancy and Community Forests Associations from Zambezi, Kavango East and West, North Central, Kunene, Southern Kunene, Erongo, Southern, Omaheke and Otjozondjupa regions)

CCFN

Private Sector

Tourism Joint Venture partners

Hunting partners

Research Institutions

UNAM - University of Namibia

NUST – Namibia University of Science and Technology

Development partners

GIZ, EU, KfW, GEF Ias/partners (UNDP, FAO, UNEP), AfD

WWF Network partners

Enduring Earth: WWF, TNC Zoma Lab, PEW Charitable Trust

Appendix 2: Systematic Documentation of Stakeholder Consultations

Dates	Participants	General Concerns and Commentaries	How concerns were addressed
August 19, 2021	Director of Wildlife and National Parks, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT); with WWF Namibia.	The Director confirmed MEFT involvement in the CBNRM Sustainability planning process since 2007 and appreciated the status update on the PFP since July 2021. He recommended that MEFT needs to be fully reengaged in the PFP development process. He highlighted the need to revisit the conservancy extension services, as conservancy support needs may have evolved as conservancies are maturing.	Agreement reached to use existing platforms to engage stakeholders, e.g., the National CBNRM Forum (when reactivated, post-COVID); MEFT Senior Management Team (incl. Executive Director (ED), Deputy ED, Directors of - Wildlife and National Parks, Forestry, Tourism, Scientific Services, Environmental Affairs; and Deputy Directors from six MEFT regions.
August 30, 2021	NACSO Executive Committee; with WWF Namibia.	PFP status update and overview shared with the NACSO Exco. They appreciated the engagement and agreed to collaborate in organizing the first broader PFP Stakeholders Meeting.	
October 8, 2021	Director of Wildlife and National Parks and Deputy Executive Director (MEFT); with WWF Namibia.	It is important to closely coordinate synergies between the PFP and related initiatives, e.g., GIZ funded project “Climate Change and Inclusive Use of Natural Resources” (CCIU). It is important to engage conservancies directly, and not only through the field-based supporting partners. Advised to conclude the CCFN Stakeholders consultancy before the proposed PFP Stakeholders briefing.	Patricia will participate in the planning of CCIU activities, i.e., CBNRM Stocktaking exercise; and National CBNRM Forum. Agreed to engage conservancies directly. Agreed to delay PFP Stakeholders briefing until after the CCFN Stakeholders Feedback meeting.
February 23-24, 2022	Zambezi Regional Conservancies Biannual Meeting - 98 participants from conservancies, traditional authorities, government, NGOs (including WWF), private sector, KAZA partners.	Appreciated update and one-pager brief on the PFP. They need time to discuss internally; and continue engaging in planning process.	PFP team members will continue attending conservancy meetings, at regional and individual conservancy levels, for continuous engagement.
March 2-3, 2022	Over 20 participants, incl. NACSO members, MEFT, CCFN, and WWF (5).	Participants agree with the proposed scope; assuming the socio-economic development component includes livelihoods. MEFT is onboard with the project and will work closely with all partners to meet the commitments. Re question on specific commitments and obligations from government, it	Partners will be engaged through serving on a reference group / sounding board to help oversee / guide the development of the socio-economic component. The Conservation Plan will be jointly developed with the partners, over multiple sessions on a weekly

		<p>was indicated - Continued commitment to maintain and / or improve as needed by the rights holders, the existing legal framework; Maintain and / or improve existing support services to conservancies; make public statement in support of PFP.</p> <p>The GEF 7 project was briefly mentioned as a funding opportunity for the PFP, pending MEFT endorsement.</p>	<p>basis over at least two months or more if needs be.</p>
March 3, 2022	<p>Executive Director, MEFT, and GEF OFP; Director of Wildlife and National Parks; with WWF Namibia.</p>	<p>MEFT is supportive of the PFP, including GEF 7 project; and willing to sign endorsement letter when ready. MEFT is ready to participate fully in project development, not only signing endorsement letters.</p>	<p>A draft of the endorsement letter and the Enduring Earth Concept Note was sent to the ED / GEF OFP on March 16, 2022. The draft PIF will be shared with MEFT for their inputs as soon as it is ready.</p>
March 14, 2022	<p>Over 20 participants, incl. NACSO members, MEFT, WWF, and KAZA rep.</p>	<p>The partners convened a joint Environmental and Social Safeguards workshop to update each other on their different ESS processes, activities and plans.</p> <p>Partners agree to work towards a coordinating structure to help streamline ESS management amongst our different organizations.</p> <p>To update a broader reach of staff in our organizations on the need for and application of ESS management frameworks.</p>	<p>WWF will participate in the partners ESS coordination group.</p>
March 17-20, 2022	<p>Ombonde People's Park visit: WWF met with the Chairperson for Ehi Rovipuka Conservancy; Chairperson for Omatendeka Conservancy; IRDNC Kunene People's Park/Landscape Coordinator; IRDNC Assistant Director and IRDNC Executive Director.</p>	<p>Familiarization visit, thus general sharing of information including developments leading to decision by the two conservancies to jointly manage their exclusive wildlife zones through a People's Park to secure better protection.</p>	
March 23, 2022	<p>WWF with ED, MEFT, and GEF OFP; and Director of Wildlife and National Parks (MEFT).</p>	<p>Debriefing meeting after field visit; also discussed and agreed on collaboration to develop PFP, including endorsement letters to secure GEF 7 funding; and identified possible areas of support through GEF 8.</p>	<p>Maintain regular contact for information sharing and joint planning as needed.</p>

March 23, 2022	WWF with Minister, MEFT and senior staff, including ED and some Directors.	Debriefing meeting after field visit; and general update on PFP; including request for high level political support.	
March 23, 2022	Multidimensional Poverty Dialogue involving over 20 participants incl. MEFT, NPC, NGOs, UNAM, Media rep.	The discussion focused on the Role of Community-Based Conservation in supporting the nation to address multi-dimensional poverty. Panelists included the Director of Policy, Planning and Research, MGEPEWSW, Chairperson of NACSO (and Director, Namibia Development Trust) and WWF Programme Director for the PFP Initiative.	
March 31- April 8, 2022	Online exchange involving over 40 participants from CBNRM stakeholders to select name for PFP	After considering at least five different name options, the vast majority of participants agreed to Namibia for Life – where “for life” signifies for people, for wildlife, and forever (as in, “set for life”).	
May 16, 2022	Extension Services Plan kick-off meeting with 28 participants incl NACSO members, MEFT and CCFN	Main purpose was to share an overview of PFP approach; status update of Namibia for Life (N4L); an overview of existing extension services; an overview of PFP Conservation Plan & examples; explore integrating climate adaptation considerations in PFP Conservation Plan.	Participants agreed that there is a need to review the existing extension services; and involving conservancies directly in such revisions.
May 18, 2022	ESS mitigation planning training by WWF US ESS team for over 20 participants incl NACSO members and MEFT	The training covered an overview of environmental & social safeguards standards; key elements of ESSF risk mitigation; guiding principles for the ESMF; and guidance on interpreting the categorization memo and completing various tables and forms relating to environmental and social risks.	
June – September, 2022	Several planning sessions with a core team of 10 people representing NGOs and MEFT to prepare for the in-person Extension Services Workshop in September 2022.	The group agreed to propose adoption of the existing National CBNRM Vision as the Vision for the PFP; drafted a PFP goal and a goal for the Extension Services Plan; agreed to propose the draft components of the PFP; drafted an area-based disbursement condition; drafted a purpose and agenda for the in-person workshop; and provided guidance on logistics.	
July 20-21, 2022	Zambezi Biannual Meeting attended by over 100	Following PFP status update, and distribution of update hand-outs,	BFS welcomed assistance from IRDNC and NNF; but wished that

	<p>participants from 16 registered and 4 emerging conservancies; and Traditional Authorities in Zambezi; 2 visiting conservancies from Kavango East; community and support entity reps from Angola, Botswana and Zambia. MEFT; IRDNC, NNF, WWF, BFS, Kwando Carnivore Project.</p>	<p>Business Financial Solutions (BFS) introduced the SED assessment and distributed questionnaires for completion. The participants appreciated and welcomed the focus on enterprise development; and advised that assessment questionnaires be administered through IRDNC and NNF to reach as many people as possible.</p>	<p>conservancy leaders present can also guide the enumerators on who to interview.</p>
<p>August 5, 2022</p>	<p>WWF Namibia meeting with NPC ED, Chief Development Advisor, Development Partners Coordination, and Head of Multilateral Programs, under Development Cooperation.</p>	<p>Following PFP update and distribution of update hand-outs, NPC ED and staff inquired about the in-country commitment or government role in this initiative? Further query: Considering the Green Hydrogen Vision of Namibia, which articulates the country's future development aspirations, how will the PFP reconcile the needs of conservation and development? Under the green hydrogen initiative, the NPC is co-facilitating (with Hyphen) the development of socio-economic development plans for all regions. It will be important to seek synergies between these and what is being developed under the SED component of N4L.</p>	<p>It was clarified that the MEFT is the parent ministry for all the work in support of conservancies. This question is also relevant to the prospective donors to the initiative, so need to document government overall support and contribution to the establishment and development of conservancies. It was clarified that the needs of conservation and development are not mutually exclusive, but rather interdependent. Green energy developments are complementary to, and thus ought to be pursued as part of the broader conservation and green growth agenda of the country. In this respect, WWF commissioned an energy assessment report to broaden our own knowledge and understanding of the green energy agenda (both globally and locally) and inform discussions on the topic. The NPC agreed to host a roundtable of relevant government line ministries and stakeholders of N4L as and when requested to do so.</p>
<p>August 31, 2022</p>	<p>Kavango East and West Conservancies update on N4L and SEDA</p>	<p>The update was very brief; online – during their Green Economy Vision workshop; thus, need for follow-up.</p>	
<p>Sept 1, 2022</p>	<p>WWF Namibia meeting with KfW new Country Rep Ms Beatrice Lucke & Antje Steffen (Sector Coordinator, Natural Resources Management - NRM)</p>	<p>Shared PFP update and distributed update hand-outs; briefing of new Country Rep Ms Beatrice Lucke & Antje Steffen</p>	
<p>Sept 5-7, 2022</p>	<p>WWF and BFS met with Ombonde People's</p>	<p>Following PFP update and distribution of update hand-outs; and in response to</p>	<p>In explaining some of the proposed funds disbursement conditions, it</p>

	Landscape Board and IRDNC Kunene staff.	<p>the point about conservancies needing to make a permanent commitment towards conservation, i.e., area under conservancy management, it was highlighted that it's important to engage Ministry of Mines and Energy to better understand potential impact of Exclusive Prospecting Licenses (EPLs) on conservancies and alleviate / mitigate potential negative impacts as identified.</p> <p>A question was raised on how conservancy commitment to the initiative will be "documented", in a similar manner that funding partner commitment will be documented? Who / how will conservancies become "signatory" to the Deal? This question still needs to be explored for a clear answer.</p> <p>BFS introduced the SEDA and distributed questionnaires.</p>	<p>was highlighted that it is important for all conservancies to comply with the SOPs, because if compliance with SOPs is agreed to as a funds disbursement condition, the disbursement of funding every year to fund extension services will only happen if the required number of conservancies comply with the SOPs.</p> <p>It was indicated that the initiative seeks to support all conservancies registered by the end of PFP planning window, i.e., 2024.</p>
Sept 26-29, 2022	National Extension Services Plan WS involved over 70 participants from conservancies, government, NGOs, (the latter two including a mix of national and regional / field level staff).	Agreed on a vision statement and goal for the Extension Services Plan; area-based disbursement condition and draft detailed written descriptions of each activity / extension service and how it supports the Extension Services Plan goal.	
Oct 12, 2022	N4L update at North Central community Conservation landscape Peer review ,Learning and sharing Workshop	The update was online, with limited interaction; thus, need for follow-up.	
Oct 2022	US donor briefings	Overall Namibia CBNRM and N4L updates were shared with MACP Foundation, Bezos Earth Fund (BEF), Zomalab, USAID and GEF Secretariat during a visit to the US. MACP, BEF and Zomalab expressed interest to visit Namibia during 2023.	All briefings were well received; WWF Namibia will host donor visits as agreed.
Nov 10, 2022	WWF Namibia meeting with KfW, incl CCFN review team from Germany.	The KfW is undertaking feasibility on Parks Sustainable Financing mechanism, while still having medium term interest in community conservation. The Game Products Trust Fund is considered to host a Sinking Fund for Parks Financing.	

<p>Dec 5-9</p>	<p>NACSO WGs Coordination and Annual Planning Week attended by 40 representatives from MEFT, NACSO partners and WWF, and Projects, to provide progress updates/feedback on 2022 activities by the regional field-based staff and working groups; and develop a common work plan for supporting Governance, NRM, and Enterprises. Work session on GEF ESFM, IPP and Gender Plan</p>	<p>Working group sessions provided inputs into the ESFM, IPPF and Gender Action Plan. Working group inputs were captured and included into the write ups.</p>	<p>No specific concerns. Meeting minutes and working group transcripts available.</p>
<p>Jan 23-27, 2023</p>	<p>Kunene Biannual Meeting attended by over 50 participants from conservancies; Traditional Authorities; and technical support staff from NGOs, including WWF and government.</p>	<p>Following PFP status update, and distribution of update hand-outs, UNAM introduced the ESSF. The NILALEG project (UNDP/GEF funded and implemented by EIF) as shared by participants offers great potential for dovetailing with the SED component of N4L, as it has been supporting household food security including livestock farming, water provision, provision of hammer mill, poultry production, and solar energy installations at tourism enterprises. Participants proposed considering developing a Grievance Redress Mechanism for all conservancies in the region, i.e. under Kunene Regional Conservancies Association.</p>	<p>PFP team members will continue attending conservancy meetings, at regional and individual conservancy levels, for continuous engagement.</p>
<p>Feb 15-17, 2023</p>	<p>Zambezi Biannual Meeting was attended by Over 100 participants from 16 registered and 5 emerging conservancies; 4 community forests and Traditional Authorities in Zambezi; Gondwana Collection (tourism operator); community and support entity reps from Angola, Botswana and Zambia. MEFT; IRDNC, NNF, WWF, UNAM, Kwando Carnivore Project and NCE (Namibian Chamber of the Environment).</p>	<p>Following PFP status update, and distribution of update hand-outs, UNAM introduced the ESSF. The restructuring of IRDNC to reduce their number of staff in both Kunene and Zambezi regions is in direct response to shortages in funding for conservancy extension services, thus highlighting the need for N4L, in particular the Endowment Fund to support conservancy extension services in perpetuity.</p>	<p>PFP team members will continue attending conservancy meetings, at regional and individual conservancy levels, for continuous engagement.</p>

Feb 15 & 16, 2023	NACSO Head of Organizations meeting & special work session with WWF. Update on GEF 7 project proposal development.	No specific concerns. Updates received and review plan agreed to.	Updates will be shared as they become available. It was decided that the full proposal document be shared with all annexes for a consolidated review.
Mar 29 & 30, 2023	NACSO Head of Organizations meeting & AGM (WWF attending)	Presentation on ProDoc development, ESFM & IPPF delivered. No specific comments at that time, however, worry about the review timeline, which has been moving.	Will share full ProDoc with annexes for review as they become available.
Apr 11, 2023	WWF (including CCO) meeting with KfW Country Director, Portfolio Manager, NRM and Sector Coordinator, NRM	There was general agreement that public private partnerships are key for PFPs. KfW currently supports seven sectors, including NRM in Namibia. KfW is interested to hear the results of the due diligence on the CCFN. The KfW budget planning process requires two-years in advance planning; thus, funding commitments already made through 2025.	WWF will continue engaging with the KfW, with the view to solicit their funding commitment for N4L in 2026.
April 12, 2023	WWF (including CCO) meeting with MEFT ED, and MEFT senior staff.	The ED expressed MEFT support for N4L, and asked if there are other options other than CCFN to administer N4L; and if EIF could be considered as Fund Manager? He shared MEFT priorities as PA management and species conservation, combating wildlife crime. He indicated that the Parks and Wildlife Bill was with the Min of Justice for legal review before it is tabled in parliament.	
April 12, 2023	WWF (including CCO) meeting with German Embassy, Development Cooperation Coordinator	Confirmed German Development Cooperation support to the NRM sector as including financing for parks, conservancies and combating wildlife crime.	Agreed to meet with the Bezos Earth Fund, jointly with KfW on 1 June 2023.
May 10 and 12, 2023	WWF N4L update to N̄aJaqna and Nyae Nyae conservancies.	Following the N4L update, the conservancy representatives in both conservancies replied that it is a positive initiative, and they look forward to co-designing it. They all committed to sharing the information they received at upcoming village / district level meetings and conservancy AGMs.	WWF will plan to attend both AGMs (July and September).
May 19, 2023	WWF N4L briefing to MEFT Deputy Minister	The Deputy Minister welcomed the briefing; and agreed to meet with the visiting delegation of Bezos Earth Fund	WWF will set up and facilitate online debriefing session on 8 June.

		and WWF US at the end of their field visit to conservancies for debriefing.	
May 23, 2023	WWF Namibia experience sharing with TNC Kenya PFP	N4L update briefing shared with the TNC Kenya PFP team. They appreciated the similarities and valuable lessons between the two PFPs, since both are focusing on community conservancies.	The two PFP teams agreed to have experience sharing meetings as and when needed.
May 30-31, 2023	Critical ESP review meeting with WWF and stakeholders	Thirty participants representing MEFT, various NGOs, thematic Working Groups, Conservancies, CCFN, EIF and WWF participated in an online session to review the Extension Services Plan (ESP) drafted during the Extension Services Plan workshop in September 2022 and the subsequent contributions by the workstream leads. The financial modelling process was also introduced to the participants; resulting in a small group of volunteers working closely with the Financial Modelling Specialist at WWF over the coming months and periodically checking in with the broader stakeholder group as needed.	The ESP will be updated with all the suggested revisions.
June 1, 2023	Bezos Earth Fund MD and WWF delegation meeting with KfW Country Director, Portfolio Manager, Natural Resource Management; and German Embassy, Head of Development Cooperation	Following updates on N4L and Bezos Climate and Nature Fund, including previous collaboration with BMZ and KfW in supporting other PFPs including ARPA, Herencia Colombia, the German team shared that Germany is the largest bilateral donor in Namibia. They welcome private donors and expressed their commitment for conservation. The annual investment from Germany in the Namibian NRM sector is Euro5Million.	WWF will maintain contact with the KfW and German Embassy to continue exploring prospect for their financing towards N4L.
June 1, 2023	Bezos Earth Fund MD and WWF delegation meeting with NACSO members and MEFT (BEF visit)	All NACSO members, MEFT and WWF shared brief updates to each other about their respective work and interest / commitment towards supporting N4L. The meeting spirit was very positive with all stakeholders sharing a deep appreciation for each other.	
June 2-8, 2023	Bezos Earth Fund MD and WWF delegation visited the Nyae Nyae Conservancy, Kyaramacan Association, Mayuni Conservancy and	Diverse insights were gained from meetings with different stakeholders in all three locations, including Traditional Authorities, Conservancy and Association Committees, staff,	During the end of trip debriefing meeting, the team collectively shared highlights as: visible strong tourism private sector support for CBNRM; acknowledging the roles

	Kabulabula Conservancy during a weeklong field visit.	ordinary conservancy members and conservancy joint venture tourism partners, MEFT, IRDNC and NNF.	of the NGOs and MEFT in supporting conservancies – the NACSO and MEFT partners meeting on the first day topped the list of highlights; the clear structure, existing knowledge and levels of discipline amongst all involved. The areas that could improve include: better communication of real impacts in terms of wildlife, including interdependence between parks and conservancies; mitigation against external challenges i.e. climate change, fences.
June 15, 2023	WWF meeting with KfW Parks Financing Appraisal Mission Team	Work is underway to transform the existing Game Products Trust Fund (GPTF) to bring it in line with the international CTF standards so it would be suitable for serving as the CTF for the Parks Financing mechanism. The existing financing gap for parks at the most basic level is Euro4.2 Million p.a.	
June 15, 2023	GEF 7 – EE ProDoc validation meeting with stakeholders	Twenty-one participants representing MEFT (including PDT member), UNAM and various NGOs including WWF (and GEF Agency) and thematic Working Groups met online to validate the design of the GEF 7 Enduring Earth project. Following presentations and discussion on the Overview of the Enduring Earth (EE) GEF 7 Global Project; N4L update; Project Components, M & E Frameworks and outcomes of Namibia’s GEF 7 project and safeguards findings / recommendations, the participants endorsed the project document by show of hands.	WWF will collect co-financing letters before submitting the full ProDoc to GEF; and share the submitted doc with the stakeholders for their review and comment during a 30-45 day period, also known as the "closure period".
June 20, 2023	Regional Conservancies Associations meeting	Representatives from the existing 9 regional conservancy associations met to discuss / affirm the establishment of a National Conservancies Association, following sharing of the results of a survey that was commissioned by NACSO to solicit conservancy opinions on the matter. This work is funded by an EU project aimed CSO Advocacy strengthening.	The regional associations agreed to work towards the formation of a National Conservancy Association, including drafting of a constitution; while reactivating and strengthening the four dormant or weaker regional associations. WWF will monitor this development as it is very relevant for N4L in determining Parties to the Deal.
June 21, 2023	Indigenous Communities and CBNRM meeting	Representatives from 8 Indigenous Peoples’ organizations met to share	This was the first meeting of its kind, and the organizations agreed on maintain contact through agreed

		their experiences including focal areas, achievements and challenges.	next steps of joint commitments they wish to collaborate on. WWF will monitor these developments as it is very relevant for the IPP development under this project and N4L ESMF development.
June 22, 2023	Leading the Change: Civil Society, Rights and Environment Programme Inception meeting attended by representatives from MEFT, NGOs, UNAM and conservancies.	A WWF Sweden / Sida funded 5-year program aimed at strengthening CSO capacities will commence during 2023. WWF shared update on N4L and wish to draw on the outcomes of the CSO capacity assessment that was just completed under this program for the benefit of the GEF 7 EE project.	