

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**20 February, 2010**

**Namibian – German Development Cooperation lays foundation  
for new Park Management Station at Bwabwata National Park**

**German Government supports development of north eastern  
parks**

New offices, staff housing, park maintenance facilities and a tourist reception are being constructed in the Bwabwata National Park as part of funding from the Federal Republic of Germany in support of the Namibian Government's development and conservation initiatives in North Eastern Namibia.

At a ground-breaking ceremony held in the Mahango Core Area of the Bwabwata National Park today (Saturday, 20 February 2010), the German Ambassador Egon Kochanke, underlined that the Namibian and German governments have long realised the substantial contribution that national parks make to economic development. The promotion of sustainable tourism is an effective strategy to enhance growth and employment, thereby reducing poverty. In the same vein, the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, thanked the German government for their support for natural resources management.

During the ceremony, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and the German Development Bank, KfW Project Implementation Agreement. The programme that will support the development of Namibia's four north eastern national parks (Bwabwata, Mudumu, Mamili and Khaudum) is funded by KfW to the tune of EUR 3.0 million or N\$ 31.5 million.

This is in line with an agreement reached between the two countries to support the North East Parks Programme, initiated in 1995 by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) to foster both nature conservation and socio-economic development in the Kavango and Caprivi regions.

During phase 1 of the Bwabwata-Mudumu-Mamili (BMM) Project EUR 2.56 million (N\$ 26 million) was used for the provision of equipment, training, park management plans and infrastructure development in north eastern parks. Mahango Park Management Station is the first north-eastern park station to be build from these funds.

In future, the four parks will form the geographic core of the planned Kavango-Zambezi-Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA). This is set to become the world's largest park, stretching 287 132 km<sup>2</sup> (about the size of Italy) incorporating 36 national parks, game reserves, community conservancies and game management areas.

It will also contain the world's largest African elephant population, as well as a series of extraordinary attractions along with untapped tourism potential.

Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe have decided to jointly develop this area for the benefit of the entire region. Namibia, with its long-standing experience in sustainable natural resource management, will play a major role in this development and is currently the KAZA TFCA Coordinating Country.

Namibia is one of the most important partner countries of German Development Cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa and receives the highest per capita allocation of German Development Cooperation Funds worldwide. Total allocations of German Official Development Assistance (ODA) since Namibian Independence in 1990 amount to more than EUR 600 million (N\$ 6.8 billion).

In 2009 alone, the German Government allocated an amount of EUR 116.5 million (N\$ 1.3 billion) for programmes and projects in the framework of German-Namibian Development Cooperation for the period 2009-2010. This constitutes the highest allocation of German Development Cooperation with Namibia since the start of cooperation in 1990 and reflects the promise of the German Government, made in 2004, to effectively double German development assistance to Namibia.

One of the main sectors of cooperation between the two countries is Natural Resource Management. Projects that are supported range from community forestry, water management, biodiversity, and support to land reform and for national park Development.

On behalf of the German Federal Government, the German Development Bank (KfW) is promoting social and economic development worldwide. KfW has been active in development finance for more than four decades and currently works in more than 100 countries. It offers development partners both financial assistance and the required expertise to successfully transfer funds into development impacts.

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