



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Three Conservation and Protected Areas Policies for Namibia recently launched**

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) has recently launched three policies for conservation and protected areas management for Namibia namely: 1) National Policy on Filming and Photography in Protected Areas, 2) National Policy for the Provision of Housing in Protected Areas, and 3) National Policy on Protected Areas' Neighbours and Resident Communities. The policies were launched by Hon. Minister Uahekua Herunga on 28 February 2014, at Okaukuejo in the Etosha National Park.

**National Policy on Filming and Photography in Protected Areas**

Commercial filming and photography are seen as important economic activities in an environment sector where Namibia has strong comparative advantages due to its rich wildlife and scenic resources. Such filming and photography create employment and help to promote Namibia internationally, and is also a source of revenue to the State. Filming and photography in National Parks is a major contributor to tourism development of the country, however it must be conducted in a systematic and coordinated manner, which is sustainable and environmentally friendly hence the need to develop and implement this policy.

## **National Policy for the Provision of Housing in Protected Areas**

The primary purpose of this Policy is to provide a framework governing the provision and occupation of housing in Protected Areas for MET employees and employees of other institutions that may be housed in Namibia's Protected Areas. The policy aims at addressing aspects of the number, location and standard of staff houses to be provided within protected areas as well as the conduct of the people residing therein. The policy will also regulate the type of activities residents should engage in within protected areas.

## **National Policy on Protected Areas' Neighbours and Resident Communities**

Namibia's protected areas contributes to the socio economic benefits of local communities who are neighbours or/and residents of such protected areas. This policy will contribute to the improvement of conservation efforts of Namibia's protected areas, provide greater social equity in accessing benefits from protected areas and stimulate local economic development through creating business opportunities linked to protected areas. The policy further seeks to create significant positive attitudes of residents and neighbours towards protected areas and engage them on sound management to enhance conservation activities. The Ministry understands that the welfare of communities neighbouring or/and residing in protected areas and the successful management of protected areas are interrelated. Protected areas are valuable resource for community development. Not only are protected areas a source of useful natural resources, but are also a source of development resources, such as income earning opportunities, skill resources, communications infrastructure, educational resources and development catalysts.

The Ministry genuinely appreciates the support rendered by MCA and NAMPLACE Project in the development of these projects.

  
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Simeon N. Negumbo  
Permanent Secretary

