National Integrated Landscape Management Conference

Guiding Document

NILALEG Focal Landscapes

May 2024

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1. Introduction

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is implementing the Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to Eradicate Poverty (NILALEG) Project. The project aims to promote an integrated landscape management approach in key agricultural and forest landscapes, reducing poverty through sustainable nature-based livelihoods, protecting, and restoring forests as carbon sinks, and promoting Land Degradation Neutrality.

The NILALEG project is responding to the need for an integrated management approach to Namibia's rural landscapes, to reverse environmental degradation and maximize sustainable nature-based livelihoods as there is an increasing acceptance that sectoral approaches to sustainable land management no longer meet renowned challenges such as poverty eradication, biodiversity conservation, and food production.

> Therefore, the NILALEG project in partnership with the International University of Management (IUM), Faculty of Environment & Sustainable Tourism (FEST) will host an annual national Integrated Landscape Management conference. The conference targets a wide range of stakeholders including government (all spheres), research, and civil society partners involved in monitoring and reporting to CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC. The conference will be hosted at Windhoek under the theme "Best practice for the restoration of dry broadleaf forest and savannah grazing".

Namibia's rural communities are highly reliant on ecosystem services for their livelihoods. Thus, the NILALEGs project's focus includes supporting communities involved in livestock farming; crop production; timber logging; gathering of edible and medicinal plants; firewood; cutting of poles for construction, and harvesting of thatching grass. These users are geared towards both subsistence and commercial purposes. It is known that there are some governance challenges in all of the landscapes, and the availability and sustainability of natural resources are under threat from a combination of population pressure, overutilization, invasion (including elite capture), market and other barriers, and external threats including climate variability and change.

All the focal landscapes show a decreasing trend in net primary productivity with widespread removal of vegetation and deforestation. The biophysical characteristics of the five focal landscapes differ vastly and this means that, while many of the principles are shared across landscapes, the application of principles to the ground

level will differ substantially between landscapes, requiring great care in execution and flexibility in approach.

2. Purpose and overall objective of the conference

The conference will explore discussions around topics such as the Impact of climate change on Namibian land users, Rehabilitation of Degraded Landscapes, Sustainable Climate Finance, Integration of Digital tools, techniques, and technologies in landscape management, Knowledge Management/systems to enhance adoption of best practices for ILM, and Public-Private Partnerships for socially green-based/Nature-based initiatives. The conference seeks to provide a vital platform for relevant stakeholders, researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers to identify where knowledge or research gaps exist in landscape management, acting as a base for the development of future landscape approach research, identifying opportunities within landscapes to mobilize resources for the implementation of future landscape approach initiatives and lastly to create awareness on the importance of sustainable land management practices. The conference will also promote public dialogue on integrated landscape management for wealth creation through sustainable advisory council and other platforms.

3. Brief Summary of the conference themes

3.1 Theme 1: Impact of climate change on Namibian land users:

The National Climate Change Policy 2011 has been in existence for 12 years, with it being supported by the National Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change for 1013-2020. This theme aims to explore the current standing of Namibia on Climate change, delving into the policy, its implementation, and achievements up to date. The theme would further want to view climate change and its impacts on the Namibian land users on the ground. Points of discussion will be:

- ➢ What is the impact of climate change on different land-use communities (e.g., communal subsistence farmers, small-scale commercial farmers in communal areas, commercial farmers, conservation areas) and Namibia's urban areas?
- ➢ How do we best adapt to these impacts in the 5 different farming communities?
- ➢ What options do we have to mitigate climate change, and how could we implement them feasibly given our monetary situation?
- ➢ Worst case planning: how do we react if Namibia's temperature increases by 6°C and its rainfall declines by 33% (as predicted by some models)?

3.2 Theme 2: Rehabilitating degraded Namibian landscapes:

The theme looks to explore how best the country can engage in rehabilitating the degraded Namibian landscape. Looking at best practices around the African continent to explore new techniques that can be or are being implemented. Topics can be related to:

➢ Causes of degradation in rangeland-based livestock systems;
➢ Rehabilitation options in rangeland-based livestock systems;
➢ Tackling deforestation and desertification;
➢ Is it necessary to change land tenure in communal areas to rehabilitate degraded communal landscapes?

3.3 Theme 3: Integration of Digital tools, techniques, and technologies in landscape management

This theme explores the need to integrate new, affordable, and accessible techniques, tools, and technologies at the landscape level for maximum output for agriculture and agroforestry in Namibia. The theme aims to explore technologies that will enhance unprecedented monitoring and communication platforms for landscape dynamics such as Geo-tagging tools, Wiki-mapping with Open Street Map or Google Earth maps, spatial survey apps for smartphones and tablets, and open-source GIS software packages.

In addition, the theme aims to explore how to improve production efficiency in agriculture and agroforestry landscapes in (northern?) Namibia:

➢ How to make Namibian land use more efficient:
  o Pastoral livestock keeping
  o Production-oriented livestock husbandry on natural rangelands
  o Game ranching and conservation
  o Dry-land cropping
  o Inland fishing
➢ Is it necessary to change land tenure in communal areas to make land use more efficient?

3.4 Theme 4: Knowledge Management/systems to enhance adoption of best practices for ILM

This theme will look into best knowledge management practices that will enhance the smooth transfer and adoption of initiatives for sustainable landscape management. Some of the topics of presentation/discussion are:

➢ How do we enable **applied research** to optimize ILM in different landscapes and communities?
➢ Using knowledge systems to monitor and track the physical and socio-ecological impact of the ILM interventions to correct, improve, and sharpen interventions
➢ Quantify standardized emissions in the sub-arid sub-tropics so that we can move away from using temperate zone indicators and emissions values and rather develop our own. For, how much Carbon is sequestered by an acacia encroacher bush and by a climax tree in NE Kalahari Woodland? How much

GHG is emitted when pyrolyzing wood into charcoal and biochar? What is the quality of Namibian community-made biochar? Etc.

The theme further explores indigenous knowledge. The Indigenous knowledge system is peoples' knowledge through all time experiences and these practices are generally adapted and passed over from generation to generation among the different communities. This knowledge system has been significantly applied in farming, cropping systems, storage and processing of food, livestock management, traditional healing practices, soil and water management, human health, and many other practices. This theme will look into how we can incorporate indigenous knowledge in managing landscapes for a better future.

3.5 Theme 5: Public-Private Partnerships for socially green-based/Nature-based initiatives

The theme explores Public-private partnership initiatives in landscapes that involve collaboration between the government and private-sector companies to ensure the development of green-based enterprises/initiatives. These initiatives can be in the form of financing, building, and operating projects, in the sectors of renewable energy, public transportation networks, and water harvesting infrastructures to mention just a few. This theme also includes the aspects of Landscape Enterprise Networks (LENs), which is a system for organizing the buying and selling of nature-based solutions. Nature-based solutions are land management measures that deliver ecosystem functions, such as water quality management, flood risk management, resilient supply of crops, and feed for livestock.

Nature-based enterprises (NBEs) have recently emerged as important actors in the delivery of nature-based solutions (NBS) to societal challenges. Nature-based enterprises contribute to a diverse range of sustainable economic activities that communities can benefit from and uplift their livelihood. Ideas will be shared on possible and viable nature-based business ventures in landscapes and also explore those that are already implemented.

4. Expected/Envisioned conference outcomes

The expected outcome of the conference of the Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) conference are:

- ➢ Exchange of information on the best practices of integrated landscape management.
- ➢ Address barriers/challenges of Integrated Landscape management in the focal landscapes and delve into possible solutions for such initiatives.
- ➢ Develop Strategy inputs for climate finance

The conference will be a platform for stakeholders to collectively pave the way for policy strategies for integrated Landscape Management approaches in key Namibian landscapes.2

5. Conference programme

The tentative program is attached as Annex 1

6. Participants

The Conference will target a specific audience, including Academics, researchers, Organizations, affiliate government ministries and offices, NGOs, and regional stakeholders including the CBOs. The sheet is attached in Annex 2.

7. Conference Format

- The conference will be hosted in person, with the possibility of live streaming depending on the available budget.

8. Conference Advert

CALL FOR PAPERS

National Conference on Integrated Landscape Management

Theme: *"Best practice for the restoration of dry broadleaf forest and savannah grazing and scaling up financing for Integrated Landscape Management"*

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Interested participants are encouraged to submit abstracts for papers and/or presentations at the conference aligned to the following conference sub-themes:

Conference Subthemes	Abstracts submitted should adhere to the following requirements:
Theme 1: Rehabilitating degraded Namibian landscapes **Theme 2:** Integration of Digital tools, techniques, and technologies in landscape management **Theme 3:** Knowledge Management/systems to enhance adoption of best practices for ILM **Theme 4:** Public-Private Partnerships for socially green-based/Nature-based initiatives	— Not exceeding 300 words in length, including 5 keywords; — Reflect titles, names of authors, and their institutional or organisational affiliations; — Bear email addresses of the corresponding authors; — A concise abstract title; — The abstract should be typed using 12-point Times New Roman; and — The abstracts should be submitted in a Microsoft Word Document.

The Integrated Landscape Management Conference guiding document can be obtained from the following link: XXXXXXXXX. Alternatively, you may request the guiding document from the following email: eliainmvula@gmail.com. An abstract should be sent to the Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) Conference Organising Committee through the email address below: **ilmconference2024@gmail.com**

For more information, please email Mr. Elia Mvula: eliainmvula@gmail.com

Key Dates:

- Deadline for submission of Abstract: 01 March 2024
- Abstract Acceptance Notification: 15 March 2024
- Deadline for submission of Full Paper: 15 April 2024
- Conference: May 2024