FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE NAM-PLACE PROJECT?

The Namibia Protected Landscape Conservation Areas Initiative (NAM-PLACE) is a five year project established by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), with co-financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the Implementing Agency. Since its inception in November 2011, NAM-PLACE has undertook to formalise and establish of a large scale network of protected landscapes.

What does NAM-PLACE do?

The project focuses on using collaborative governance structures, developing strategies for land uses in areas adjacent to existing Protected Areas and making sure that these are compatible with biodiversity conservation objectives. Various activities are carried out within the landscape. NAM-PLACE aims to ensure that Namibia’s biodiversity and ecosystem values are conserved and will continually provide sustainable benefit flows at local, national and global levels.
Why landscape conservation approach?

Within a landscape, local users are likely to have diverse needs and interests. A landscape approach recognises that different parts of the landscape provide for different purposes e.g. water, agriculture, tourism etc. All these resources are interconnected and what happens in one part of the landscape can impact on another part.

However in their natural states landscapes have no tangible boundaries with regards to the movement of wildlife, the growth of plants and the climate conditions. Rather than seeing land stewardship as the management of separate natural resources, the landscape approach considers the needs and interests of all users by looking at the diverse and interconnected functions of landscape.

Some of the landscapes are unique and comprise of sensitive terrain, endangered wildlife and in some cases limited or depleted natural resources. It is important to promote the conservation and protection of these landscapes while at the same time ensuring a balance with human activities.

Where does NAM-PLACE work?

The project works in five demonstration sites which are the Mudumu Landscape in north eastern Namibia, Greater Waterberg Landscape in northern Namibia, Greater Sossusvlei – Namib Landscape in south western Namibia, Greater Fish River Canyon Landscape in southern Namibia and Windhoek Green Belt Landscape in central Namibia, adjacent to the capital city.

WORKING TOGETHER

Why is it important to collaborate?

Some individuals, communities and a variety of land users falls within the boundaries of a PLCA and activities carried out affect the landscape as a whole e.g. setting up of fences can affect the movement of wildlife and disrupt their breeding patterns. Private land owners, communities etc. within the boundaries of a PLCA and activities carried out affect the landscape as a whole e.g. setting up of fences or building of roads affect the movement of wildlife. No major activities can take place on a landscape without adverse effects on the entire landscape. This approach encourages better environmental management by collaborating to benefit all stakeholders as opposed to managing individual land units in isolation.

What is collaborative management?

Collaborative management is based on taking into account all stakeholders within the landscape and working together to develop plans to address key challenges. NAM-PLACE ensures that each stakeholder is part of the decision making process and has established Landscape Management Committees (LMC).
What is a Landscape Management Committee and can be members?

The LMC is made up of representatives of stakeholders within the landscape who are land custodians or land owners. Landscapes can have a variety of land users, one representative from each segment e.g. Conservancies, community forests, concessioners, individual land owners and land administrators are on the committee.

What type of commitment goes along with joining the NAM-PLACE project?

Members are involved in the development of strategic plans for the landscapes and work on issues affecting the landscape e.g. challenges with fire management. Members attend meetings and the committees are in contact with the rest of the stakeholders and communicate decisions made at meetings. Annual General Meetings are also held to elect new representatives.

Membership is not compulsory but stakeholders are encouraged to join in order to play an active role in the management of the landscape and reap the benefits of collaboration at a broader level.

Why have a constitution?

The constitution is developed by the landscapes with assistance of a legal practitioner provided by NAM-PLACE. Once finalised the constitution is a framework for the LMC to operate and governs all decisions made with regards to activities taking place on the landscapes.

**BENEFITS**

Does being a member of the landscape change land ownership?

No the land still belongs to the individuals or groups who have the legal right to it. Being part of a landscape does not mean you have no more rights to your land, however it means that you need to consider how the activities taking place on your individual landholding can benefit from a broader intervention e.g. introduction of radio communication devices to monitor game movement throughout a landscape.

What is a landscape management plan?

This is a plan which outlines what the members of a landscape have identified as key challenges which need interventions which will benefit the entire landscape as a whole. Each LMC develops a strategic management plans for the landscape. NAM-PLACE will help in the preparation of the management plans with roles and responsibilities, land use zones, infrastructure development and resource uses that are collectively agreed upon.
How does NAM-PLACE establish which activities are to take place on the PLCAs?

This is based on the existing and ongoing challenges on landscapes e.g. creation of wildlife corridors to increase wildlife movement from one area to another. Some of these activities are set out in the project document, however there is provision for responding to new challenges as they come about.

How are the activities funded?

All established landscape committees have registered bank accounts and NAM-PLACE uses these to fund specific activities to be carried out at landscape level.

What type of support can NAM-PLACE offer and who benefits from these activities?

NAM-PLACE offers technical and financial support for activities which benefit the entire landscape and does not provide grants to individuals.

Who is going to fund the landscape operational activities when the project ends?

Ideally all activities developed during the project’s five years should be sustainable and the landscape members should be able to continue once the project comes to an end.

Contact us

The NAM-PLACE Project Coordination Unit (PCU) is under the Ministry of Environment and Tourism’s Directorate of Environmental Affairs in Windhoek. The (PCU) is headed by the Project Manager and the team includes Landscape Specialists who deal with each specific landscape.