

# Technical Report for the Beekeeping Enterprise Development for the Khaudom and Mudumu North- Complex Conservancies

## Background Information

Wild bees are perceived by many Namibian people in both rural and urban areas as problematic insects, which are harmful to people, animals and their property. The relocation of problem bees to other safe places often requires a lot of resources (experts and funds) and is time consuming. A number of people however have limited knowledge on the positive aspects of bees in our society.

Bees have a great potential towards rural poverty reduction and sustainable management of forestry resources as it is outline din the Forestry Act No: 12 of 2001, as amended by the Forestry Amendment Act No: 13 of 2005 provides for the protection of bees in the Namibia.

Our ancestors misused bees by robbing them of their honeycombs in nests; crevices and tree hollows which was commonly phrased as “Honey Hunters”. At times people used fires to burn the bees and rob them of honey. This misuse can be understood since:

- ✚ Beekeeping knowledge and skills were not available;
- ✚ The current equipment that is currently used was not available;
- ✚ The world’s human population was limited;
- ✚ Honeybees were in abundance;
- ✚ The use of honeybees and related products was less understood compared to this century;
- ✚ Science and technology was limited.

Due to the growth of human and science and technology, a lot has changed in terms of Beekeeping. We now need a different approach in order to address the current demands of honey and related products.

## **The main objectives of the beekeeping project are:-**

- To generate income for the rural communities through the production and selling of honey.
- Another objective of beekeeping is to provide beekeeping equipment and materials, training and marketing of honey and other by-products to participating communities; and hence to contribute to rural poverty reduction.

## **Field Assessment Caprivi and Kavango Regions**

In order to successfully implement a beekeeping project in the identified beekeeping target areas of the Caprivi and Kavango Regions, the Namibia Nature Foundation established a 'Beekeeping Working Group' which comprises of the representatives from the Directorate of Forestry, DED, NNF, ICEMA, Conservancy members and CPP. The aim of establishing a working group was to carry the implementation of the project forward and also ensure that the project objectives are met. It was therefore against this background that a beekeeping field study feasibility study was initiated and conducted by the Honey Bee Management Company, the Namibia Nature Foundation and Directorate of Forestry in order to assess both the feasibility and sustainability of Beekeeping in the selected areas of Caprivi and Kavango Regions.

From the field feasibility study conducted in August 2008 by the above-mentioned team were able to identify the potential areas for commercial beekeeping and also determined the carrying capacity in terms of hives for each potential site.

The following sites were visited during the feasibility study conducted in the Caprivi and Kavango Region. *(A full electronic report on this study is available at NNF Head Office in Windhoek, 76 – 78 Frans Indongo Street).*

Site Visits to the following Conservancies:-

-  Kwando Conservancy (Singalamwe, Mwanzi, Susuwe)
-  Mayuni Conservancy
-  Mashi Conservancy
-  Balyerwa Conservancy
-  Wuparo Conservancy
-  Malengalenga Conservancy
-  Shikaku Conservancy
-  Bwabwata National Park
-  George Mukoya Conservancy

- 📌 Muduva Nyangana Conservancy
- 📌 Joseph Mbambangandu Conservancy
- 📌 Salambala Conservancy

**To date project developments**

The Namibia Nature Foundation was requested by the beekeeping working group to spearhead the implementation of the beekeeping project in Caprivi and Kavango Regions. Since after the last working group meeting which was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008, the following project developments have been undertaken by the Namibia Nature Foundation and the Directorate of Forestry in the Caprivi and Kavango in partnership with the willing donors CPP and ICEMA.

**Stage One – Project development to the donors**

Two projects for the Beekeeping Enterprise Development project for the Khaudom and Mudumu North-Complex Conservancies were submitted to the CPP Secretariat and ICEMA office in October 2008. The CPP proposal was tabled, discussed and approved by the secretariat Steering Committee in October 2008. The total amount approved by the CPP grant was N\$224,000.00 and these funds were made to pay for the beehives boxes, trap-boxes, and protective clothes, training of participants in beekeeping and project monitoring and evaluation. Meanwhile the proposal submitted to ICEMA was also tabled, discussed and approved in March 2009 with the total amount of N\$383, 705.00 for the Khaudom North Complex conservancies while an amount of N\$571, 154.00 was also approved for the Mudumu North Complex conservancies.



Participants attending the basic beekeeping training at Mashare Agriculture College

Training facilitator demonstrating the beekeeping equipment and gear



Participants inspecting the beehives stocked with bee behind DoF offices in Rundu



Smoking bees is a good measure of calming honey bees before inspecting the beehives



On site demonstration – bee capturing is one of models these participants learnt during training



Inspecting the quantity of honey alerts the producers to work on the next harvesting day

The following table shows the Beekeeping scheduled activities for the project season starting from October 2008 to March 2009

Activity (from work plan)	Targeted output (from work plan)	Progress/work done during current reporting period	Person responsible for activity	Project outputs/progress to date	Work completed/ time when it will be completed
Awareness meetings	One awareness meeting on beekeeping was conducted in Caprivi and Kavango Regions	Two awareness meetings were conducted and Kavango Regions	Forestry staff, NNF & conservancy	More than 360 people attended the awareness beekeeping meetings in both KNC & MNC conservancies	Awareness meetings were conducted in all target areas of MNC & KNC
Basic training in Beekeeping	One Basic training in Beekeeping was conducted in Kavango	44 communities were trained in basic beekeeping training in Kavango region	ToT, DoF and NNF staff and the conservancy members	44 local communities were trained beekeeping in Kavango while more than 80 bee farmers were trained in MNC	Basic beekeeping training was conducted in KNC & MNC
Procurement of Equipment for the project	25 trap boxes, 10 pairs of protective clothes, 33 beehives boxes and smokers have been purchased	25 trap boxes, 33 pairs of protective clothes, 33 beehives boxes and smokers have been secured	NNF staff	25 trap boxes, 10 pairs of protective clothes, 33 beehives boxes and smokers have been purchased	More equipment and other beekeeping materials to be bought once funds are secured from other donors
Distribution of equipment	30 trap boxes, 26 pairs of protective clothes, 40 beehives boxes and smokers have been to be distributed	25 trap boxes, 33 pairs of protective clothes, 33 beehives boxes and smokers have been distributed	DoF and NNF staff	25 trap boxes, 33 pairs of protective clothes, 33 beehive boxes and smokers have been distrusted in Caprivi and Kavango conservancies	Beekeeping equipment & other materials to be distributed in KNC & MNC
Secure more funds	Raise project funds for KNC & MNC conservancies for the beekeeping project N\$1,178.859.00	Funds raised N\$1,178.859 & MNC	DOF & NNF	Funds raised N\$1,178.859 for the KNC & MNC	Raise more funds for the conservancies and community forestry
Marketing and process training	Participants to be trained in honey and marketing	Still to be done in the next quarter	DOF & NNF	Training assessment in honey marketing and processing was conducted	Advanced training in Marketing & processing
Posters and leaflets	50 copies of posters and leaflets	Still to be produced	NNF/BWG	Posters have been designed	Comments and final layout and printing

Monitoring and Evaluation	2 M&E trips have been conducted in the two regions during this quarter	Two M&E visits	Mwazi/DOF	Reports and field pictures	Three M&E to be done during this quarter
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**This table shows the planned activities from April 2009 to November 2009**

<b>Months</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Person/institution responsible</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
April 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to purchase and distribute beekeeping equipment and materials to the 70 KNC &amp; 130 MNC bee farmers,</li> <li>Organize a Working Group meeting,</li> <li>Follow-up training 14 – 16 April 2009</li> </ul>	Namibia Nature Foundation, DoF and Conservancy committees NNF DoF and NNF	The project has purchased 25 trap boxes, 33 beehives, 16 protective clothes and 9 smokers.
May 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue giving technical support to the beneficiaries</li> <li>Organize an advanced beekeeping training course for the training of trainers.</li> <li>Capture and stock wild bees to the 8 colonies KNC and 14 colonies MNC</li> <li>Select TOT and BCWG in MNC and KNC</li> </ul>	CPP, NNF, DoF, ICEMA and Beekeeping Working Group (BWG) NNF and DoF Beneficiaries, DoF and NNF DoF and NNF	On-going  Done for Caprivi bee farmers  Done in MNC, KNC mid-June 2009
June 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organize exchange visit for the KNC and MNC bee-farmers</li> <li>Organize exchange visits to Malawi and Zambia.</li> </ul>	DoF and NNF CPP, DoF and NNF	Bee-farmers exchange visits MNC to KNC and MNC to KNC
July 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue with M and E in the regions</li> </ul>	CPP, DoF and NNF	Team-up with IRDNC staff in Caprivi
August 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore honey markets locally and regionally</li> </ul>	CPP and NNF	Identify big markets (Kamunu, Lodges, hostels)
September 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First honey harvest from the beneficiaries in KNC and MNC</li> <li>Capturing of wild bees and re-stocking new beehives and sites 15 new sites KNC and 25 new sites in MNC.</li> </ul>	Bee farmers, DoF and NNF Bee farmers, DoF and NNF	Target bee-farmers MNC, Salambala, Ngoma, Lusese, KNC, Mbamba, Kahenge
October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore new bee sites and continue providing technical support to the bee farmers</li> </ul>	CPP, DoF and NNF	Conservancies and community forestry

November 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review beekeeping sustainability plan</li> <li>• Fresher course for the back-stopping/ToT</li> </ul>	CPP, DoF, NNF and BWG DoF and NNF	Engage with partners and bee-farmers
December 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit more bee-farmers 100 KNC and 180 MNC</li> </ul>	NNF and DoF	Encourage TOTs to recruit the targeted number of bee-farmers in each area

### **Benefits distribution procedure**

Should each allocated site achieve their deliverables in terms of building up their swarms for harvesting then an expected harvest of 1.23 tons of honey can be harvested from a total of 190 beehives creating a consolidated income of N\$ 148,000 a year for about 200 bee-farmers in KNC and MNC every year.

Once the above income projections have been achieved, beneficiaries will have the opportunity to acquire additional 6 beehives per household from which to further progress. In addition other potential new sites and 60 bee-farmers can be identified in each target area and the same process followed through until such time that the whole target sites in the two regions have reached its full beekeeping carrying capacity as recommended in the beekeeping feasibility study report.

There is definitely potential for the growth in honey production in Khaudom and Mudumu North-Complex conservancies as each beneficiary advances and gains valuable knowledge, skills, practical experience in dealing with wild honey bees and as they familiarize themselves with the benefits associated with beekeeping. In this instance one person/household would be adequately equipped to manage between ten to twenty beehives. This will progress him/her to a professional level of beekeeping with a production of 6 kg's of honey per hive with market value of N\$65.00 per 500g.

### **Gender, vulnerable and marginalised groups**

Selection criteria will consider all gender groups and will ensure that bee farmers are selected from all groups from the conservancies and community forestry areas. Vulnerable and marginalised groups will receive priority as this project seeks to improve their livelihoods through the selling of honey and employment creation.