



Fiskerifaglig Forum

Norwegian forum for development cooperation
in fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic environment

To
The Norwegian Embassy, Pretoria, the Republic of South Africa

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Norad, Norway

CC:
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Namibia
University of Namibia

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Norwegian – Namibian collaboration in the fisheries sector

In meetings with the Namibian Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (Hon. Minister Bernhard Esau 19.02.2013, Hon. Deputy Minister Dr. Samuel Chief Ankama 21.02.2013 and the Special Aquaculture advisor M.D. Ghulam Kibria 19. and 21.02.2013), and the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, University of Namibia (UNAM, Dr. Clinton Hay and Mr. Lineekela Kandjengo 22.02.2013) and the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (Dr. Tor F. Næsje and Dr. Odd Terje Sandlund attended all meetings) concerns were expressed with regard to the follow-up of the Norwegian – Namibian development collaboration, and the salient issues stressed were the need of future collaboration with regard to capacity building and management advisory.

For several years Norway was one of the main donors supporting Namibia's development after the apartheid years. The fisheries sector, both marine and freshwater, was one of the main areas of support, and over the years Norwegian support to Namibian fisheries sector amounted to approximately 400 million NOK (1990-2004), representing approximately half the total Norwegian support to Namibia. In the evaluation of the Norwegian – Namibian development collaboration in the fisheries sector, both marine and freshwater activities were rated as very successful.

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The Norwegian support to Namibia came to a halt around 2005, in spite of the clear wish expressed by the Namibian Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) for the programme to continue. Presently concerns are expressed that several positive developments associated with the Norwegian collaboration have been terminated or even reversed due to a lack of resources or external support.

The Norwegian Fisheries Forum for Development Cooperation (FFF), representing the major institutions in Norway engaged in development work in the fisheries sector in Namibia, would also like to express their concerns, and stresses the need for a re-assessment of support to Namibia in order to secure and strengthen the positive results reached over the years since 1990. The Norwegian – Namibian development cooperation assisted in establishing excellent institutions in Namibia. In some respect, these institutions have demonstrated that building solid institutions requires long term development support. There are indications that the termination of Norwegian support to the fisheries sector in some respects happened too early, and created a development vacuum reversing positive trends.

During a recently held meeting in Bergen (September 2012) organized by the FFF on “Management of living aquatic resources and food security – Can Norway contribute” the University of Namibia again emphasized the importance of renewed and further collaboration between Namibian and Norwegian scientists and institutions.

FFF therefore endorses the views of the MFMR and UNAM that development cooperation between Norway and Namibia should resume, but perhaps not at the same level as previous collaboration. In our view there is an urgent need of Norwegian advisors and collaborators in both freshwater and marine fisheries sectors. Further, the academic level of Namibian managers, scientist and scholars should be improved through post-graduate studies at UNAM, through resumed collaboration between Norwegian and Namibian institutions.

Namibia has the potential to take a leading role in the development of sustainable aquatic resource utilization in the SADC region, and in our view support from Norway could be instrumental to endorse such a development.

On behalf of
The Norwegian Fisheries Forum for Development Cooperation



Tor F. Næsje
(Deputy Chair of FFF)



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