



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization




MDG**F**
MDG ACHIEVEMENT FUND

« Sustainable Cultural Tourism in
Namibia »

MDG-F Culture and Development
Joint Programme implemented in

NAMIBIA

<p>DURATION : February 2009 – December 2012</p>	<p>CONTRIBUTION TO MDGS :</p> 
<p>UN PARTNERS : UNESCO, UNEP, UN Habitat, ILO</p>	
<p>BUDGET : 6 million USD</p>	

OVERVIEW :

The Joint Programme aims to empower rural communities and to improve livelihoods and food security through the promotion of cultural tourism, with a particular focus on Indigenous groups and women.

Specific objectives :

- Develop a national knowledge base on linkages between customary/traditional practices, tangible and intangible cultural/natural heritage and livelihoods
- Mainstream livelihoods into sustainable gender sensitive cultural/natural heritage legislation, policies and programmes; enhance awareness on sustainable cultural/natural heritage and livelihoods and international culture-related legal instruments
- Pilot programmes use the knowledge base; streamlined and enhanced policies and legislation

DIMENSIONS ADDRESSED BY THE JOINT PROGRAMME:

- Economics
- Education
- Heritage
- Communication
- Governance
- Social
- Environment
- Health

CULTURAL DOMAINS COVERED :

- Cultural and natural heritage
- Intangible cultural heritage
- Visual arts and crafts
- Tourism

INTERNATIONAL CULTURE CONVENTIONS COVERED :

- 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE :

9 regions: Caprivi, Erongo, Hardap, Kunene, Kavango, Omaheke, Omusati, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa

SNAPSHOT OF MAIN ACTIONS TO DATE :

- **Enhanced knowledge on cultural and natural heritage:** new Web-based Knowledge Management System and User Manual on cultural and natural heritage; 167 heritage sites identified and mapped through the Heritage Hunt Programme - 10 officially proclaimed as National Heritage Sites; inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) elements and establishment of a National Steering Committee on ICH; capacity-building in documenting and inventorying ICH, heritage management, cultural tourism and sustainable use of cultural and natural assets
- **Enhanced legal and policy frameworks for the culture sector:** consultation meetings conducted to implement the 2003 UNESCO Convention; recommendations made to align the 2004 National Heritage Act with international instruments; 110 stakeholders trained in cultural and natural heritage policy development and implementation; national assessment of cultural gaps in secondary and tertiary education carried out; strategic tools for cultural tourism developed
- **Favorable environment created for culture-based employment and income opportunities and a more effective response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in marginalized communities:** local community members trained in starting their own cultural business; ongoing development of 11 cultural tourism pilot sites, with local community members trained as interpreters and village tour guides; baseline studies conducted on HIV/AIDS related legislation, policies and programmes to develop HIV/AIDS plans for all pilot sites

BENEFICIARIES :

Direct: 1 334 001 people and 46 institutions

Indirect: 1 330 125 people

- Local communities in the targeted areas of intervention – primarily women, youth, as well as disadvantaged and vulnerable groups such as rural communities and Indigenous groups
- Community based organizations
- Traditional authorities and regional councils
- State authorities and national cultural institutions

LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS :

- Ministries: Youth, National Services, Sports and Culture; Environment and Tourism; Education; Regional Local Government Housing and Rural Development; Trade and Industry; Mines and Energy
- Civil Society
- Non-governmental Organizations
- Private Sector

ALIGNMENT TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES :

The Joint Programme is in line with:

- Outcome 2 of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2006-2010: "By 2010, livelihoods and food security among most vulnerable groups are improved in highly affected locations"
- Namibia Vision 2030
- National Development Plan (NDP3)

SUCCESS STORIES :

❖ Heritage Hunt Campaign

Sustainable socio-economic development has been fostered in Namibia by empowering local communities to build on their heritage resources for income-generating activities, following a nation-wide mapping exercise of all sites with cultural heritage significance to local communities undertaken in the framework of the third Heritage Hunt Programme. This locally-driven process, which involved all segments of the society, including vulnerable groups such as women, youth, disabled people and the San and Himba minorities, has raised community awareness about the richness of Namibia's cultural heritage and constitutes the baseline for future culture and development programmes.

❖ Inventorying of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Social cohesion has increased by fostering community participation in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) with a view to supporting the Government to implement the 2003 UNESCO Convention. Local community members, including women, youth, traditional authorities and regional authorities, were trained in identifying and documenting ICH elements, enabling them to subsequently inventory ICH elements in their area. A National Steering Committee on ICH was also established to foster long-term partnerships for work on ICH and other development issues in Namibia among cultural and educational institutions, private sector actors and civil society organizations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION :

MDG-F website: <http://www.mdgfund.org/program/sustainableculturaltourismnamibia>