

Reporting Period	April 2020 – July 2020
Donor	GEF
Country	Namibia
Project Title	Namibia's Fourth Biennial Update Report (BUR ₄ NAM) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
Project ID (Atlas Award ID) Outputs (Atlas Project ID and Description) Strategic Plan and/or CPD Outcomes	<p>Project ID/Award ID: 00119776</p> <p>Fourth Biennial Update Report (BUR 4)</p> <p>Atlas Output ID/Project ID number: 00116152</p> <p>The project aims to enable Namibia to prepare and submit its Fourth Biennial Update Report (BUR₄) in line with the 16th and 17th Conference of Parties decisions and the guidelines for the preparation of biennial reports from non-Annex I Parties.</p> <p>Strategic plan output 2.1. Relevant policies, regulatory frameworks and institutions enabled to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation.</p>
Implementing Partner(s)	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)
Project Start Date	July 2019
Project End Date	July 2021
[Year] Annual Work Plan Budget	USD 348,000.00
Total resources required	
Revenue received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular 0USD • Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Donor 348,000.00 USD ○ Trust Fund Cost Sharing 0 USD ○ Thematic Trust Fund C/S 0 USD ○ Special Activities 0 USD ○ EU funding 0 USD • Total 348,000.00 USD
Unfunded budget	0 USD
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I. Executive summary

The BUR₄ project is in its initial stage of implementation, despite it being a two year project, constraints and delays beyond the projects control has limited it to just one year of implementation. The ultimate outcome of the project is the preparation and submission of the BUR₄ to the UNFCCC, as part of the obligations of the signatories to the convention. This is the fourth report of its kind for Namibia and it is to be submitted in December 2020. Despite a low start to implementation, the project managed to advertise and recruit consultants to undertake the GHG inventory and mitigation assessment. However due to the corona virus outbreak certain activities planned for during this reporting period could not be undertaken. The main ones are the inception workshop and the two refresher and data collection workshop for GHG inventory working group and for the mitigation analysis. One key lesson learnt from the pandemic is to try, to an extent possible, to use online platforms and IT instead of face to face meetings and workshops. The project is procuring laptops to support sectors to attend online meetings. So far, the project has only used 29% of its total annual budget, this will increase by atleast 11% once the payments for the GHG and Mitigation consultants are processed, which were submitted during the drafting of this report.

II. Background

Namibia is a signatory to the UNFCCC since 1995 and is thus obligated to prepare and submit National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs). Which gives an update on the existing institutional arrangement, national Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory, Mitigation analysis as well as the associated Domestic Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and constraints, gaps and financial and technical capacity needs in accordance with decision 2/CP. 17. So far Namibia has prepared and submitted four NCs and three BURs.

The goal of the BUR₄ is to fulfil the decisions of COP 16&17, which requires developing countries to submit BURs containing updated of national greenhouse gas inventories, including a national inventory report and information on mitigation actions and their effects, and support needed and received. The objective is to *"Enable Namibia to prepare and submit its Fourth Biennial Update Report in line with COP 16 & 17 decisions and the guidelines for the preparation of BURs from non-Annex I Parties contained in annex III of decision 2/CP.17"*. The project consists of 7 main outcomes, namely: Existing institutional arrangements strengthened and information on national circumstances updated, with respect to climate change; Constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity needs identified and solutions identified; Other information considered relevant to achievement of the objective of the convention reported; National GHG inventory on emissions by sources and removal by sinks prepared for the year 2016 and support to the enhancement of the GHG data collection system; Mitigation actions described and their effects investigated; Information on domestic MRV included; Fourth Biennial Update prepared and submitted to UNFCCC; and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the project outcomes and outputs done.

III. Progress Review

The project is in its first year of implementation, despite having supposed to start in July 2019, this was mainly due to administrative issues and the HACT assessment which was being carried out. Project implementation was and is further hindered by the outbreak of the coronavirus which has affected the inception workshop which was scheduled for this quarter from taking place. Also affected are the refresher training workshops for the GHG and Mitigation working groups which were also scheduled to take place in the first quarter. Various options are being considered in consultation between the PMU, UNDP and MEFT. Despite these setbacks the project managed to achieve some of their targets for this quarter outlined under each output below:

a. Existing Institutional arrangements strengthened and information on national circumstances updated, with respect to climate change.

The Project Management Unit together with the OZONE unit under Ministry of Trade and Industrialization (MTI) and Customs office under Ministry of Finance, undertook a training for customs officers. The main aim of the training was to firstly raise awareness on climate change issues, including reporting obligations under the UNFCCC and Kigali amendments and also to identify the data needs and gaps in the current data capturing system of customs officials. This will further be strengthening the flow of data and the institutional arrangements, given the frequency of reporting under the transparency regime.

b. National GHG inventory on emissions by sources and removal by sinks prepared for the year 2016

Despite this activity being heavily affected by the Corona virus outbreak, due to the fact the consultant who was contract is an international, significant progress was made during quarter 2. Data collection was done by the working group members with the coordination of the project coordinator and guidance by the consultant. The virtual refresher training and data collection and validation workshop was held from the 15 to 16 of July 2020, virtual see annex 1. The working groups were divided in according to their sector hence the first three sectors were done on the 15 and the waste sector on the 16 of July 2020. The main aim was to serve as a refresher for the new working group members, to look at the gaps and validate the data used. The next step will be for the consultant to compute the data and produce a report for circulation by end August 2020.

C. Mitigation actions and their effects and information domestic MRV

Despite the setbacks caused by the Corona virus outbreak, significant progress was done under this outcome. A workshop with mitigation working group was held on the 11th of July 2020 at NAMPOWER convention center (see annex 2 for workshop report). The aim was to enhance the capacity of the working group members on some of the software and UNFCCC guidelines and also to serve as a platform for the exchange of views, lessons learned and experience relation to the process and preparation of BURs. A draft mitigation chapter has also been produced and circulated for inputs.

IV. Project Risks and Issues

The project was in its initial stage of implementation, hence the anticipated risks identified in the risk log (see annex 3) still remain relevant, as the implementation of the project was hindered by the unforeseen risk of the corona virus outbreak. The outbreak has put a halt to most of the planned project activities forcing the PMU, UNDP and MEFT to come up with a new approach to implementing some of the activities during this period. Therefore, the anticipated risks as presented in the risk log still remain relevant and yet to be countered during this reporting period.

a. Updated project risks and actions

Project Risk 1: Corona Virus outbreak

Actions taken: This was an unforeseen risk, which the project together with its partner are still to address. However, for the moment a national state of emergency has been enforced country-wide to try and contain the spread of the virus with the hope that this will be contained and project implementation can continue as planned in the project document. The project is exploring the use of IT in project implementation.

V. Lessons Learned

As mentioned earlier the project is in its inception stage of implementation, hence not so many lessons can be drawn from the first quarter of implementation and also given that most activities could not be undertaken due to the outbreak. However, one key lesson that can be learnt from the pandemic is use of IT and online platforms in project implementation. Despite the outbreak, this is one approach which the project should explore further in future project implementation as it also saves on costs and carbon footprint associated with.

VI. Conclusions and Way Forward

The project managed to implement most of the activities for this quarter. As mentioned under each outcome above a draft mitigation chapter to go into the BUR₄ is being circulated for comments and inputs, therefore the next way forward will be to consolidate the inputs and produce the final document. As for the GHG inventory the activity data has been validate, therefore the next way forward will be the computing of the data into 2006 IPCC software to generate emission and draft a GHG report for circulation.

VII. Financial Status

Budget (USDs) –	TOTAL:	US\$	348,000.00 (GEF)
Total Approved Budget			348,000.00

Total expenditure/disbursement	<u>102,432.00</u>
Total Remaining balance	245,568.00
<i>Percentage utilized</i>	<i>29%</i>

VIII. Annex

1. Annex 1 – GHG Workshop Report
2. Annex 2 – Mitigation Workshop Report
3. Annex 3 – Draft Mitigation Chapter