



REMARKS BY

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DURING THE WORLD WETLANDS DAY, INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS
AND WORLD WATER DAY COMMEMORATION

DATE: 15 March 2019

VENUE: Hardap region

Director of Ceremonies,

I would like to recognize the presence of the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Hon. Alfeus Naruseb.

Hon. Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism

Hon. Governor Hardap Region

Acting Resident Representative

Chief Executive Officer of NAMWATER

Acting CEO Rehoboth Town Council

H.E. Germany Ambassador

Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

Media representatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to be part of this commemoration to share insights on climate change and its impact in dry to semi-arid countries. A subject close to my heart, and the mandate of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia.

Climate change is a global problem. Countries and communities everywhere are facing pressures that are being exacerbated by megatrends such as prolonged droughts, food insecurity, water

scarcity, wild fires, massive movements of population and migration... the list can go on and on. The pressure is especially acute on people living in the dry lands because of the marginal and fragile nature of the resources.

Back home, Namibia as an arid and hyper arid country is the most vulnerable in Sub Sahara Africa. This vulnerability is already being felt with prolonged droughts and erratic rainfall patterns. According to the projections of the Special Report that was launched by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, illustrates that at 1.5 degrees increase, the impact of climate change on Namibia will be greater than the global average. This is because Namibia is already stressed and on a on the brink of running out of water as we continue to battle the worst drought spell.

Notably I would like to point out some of the impacts of global warming at 1.5 degree in relation to Namibia:

- Annual rainfall will reduce by 4%;
- Evaporation rate will increase by 10%;
- Cereal and livestock production will reduce by 10%;
- Number of hot days will increase by 21 per annum;

So imagine these impacts at worst-case scenario that is projected at 3 degrees global warming. The results are devastating for Namibia.

We note that current adaptation actions are not sufficient and there are many measures that could be applied in localised areas. We therefore:

- Need to maintain the balance in our production and consumption systems;
- There is a need for new knowledge, access to finance, alternative policies and institutional changes.
- There is a need for a new paradigm in research and technology transfer that makes full use of modern science in conjunction with traditional knowledge.

Imagine a life without water? We certainly don't want to give such a dangerous living to the future generation. In view of these challenging issues, the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia will continue to devise innovative mechanism to deal with climate change. With the assistance from the Green Climate Fund, this year we will be investing more than N\$200 million directly to marginalized communities within drylands to improve resilience and adaptive capacity.

The time to act is now and we are committed to ensure that we climate proof our economy, livelihoods, and essential ecosystems.

I thank you.