



Concept Note

Namibia's Fourth Sustainable Development Awards

"Investing in Our Planet"

An initiative by the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) and Sustainable Development Advisory Council (SDAC)

I. Introduction

The Sustainable Development Awards was first held in 2015 and was based on a joint idea of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia and Sustainable Development Advisory Council. It was planned to be hosted every two years and a subsequent second edition of the awards was held in 2017. The third edition of the awards was held in May 2021. The Fund and its partners envision to host the 4th edition in June 2024.

The fourth edition will be held under the theme *"Investing in our Planet"*. There is a need to *accelerating the change to embrace sustainability by investing in our planet*. Invest in Our Planet," focused on engaging governments, institutions, businesses, and civil society to accelerate change toward a prosperous planet. Our very future depends on humans grasping how critical our tiny, beautiful planet is. Investing in our planet means taking concrete actions to reduce our carbon footprint, protect biodiversity, conserve natural resources, and promote sustainable practices. It requires a collective effort from individuals, governments, and businesses to create a more sustainable and equitable world for everyone.

Investing in our planet means stopping reliance on old out-of-date fossil fuel technologies and redirecting our attention to creating a 21st Century economy that repairs our planet, protects the species living on it, and provides opportunities for all. It means reframing the conversation, accelerating action, and bringing us together to understand that this is possible and within our reach, if we work together. This means that all of society must play a part.

Investing in our planet means ***taking concrete actions to reduce our carbon footprint, protect biodiversity, conserve natural resources***, The benefits of such investments are clear: reducing emissions, creating good, green job opportunities, and building a healthier, more equitable and sustainable future for all.

The healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier the planet - and its people. Restoring our damaged ecosystems will help to end poverty, combat climate change and prevent mass extinction. The benefits of such investments are clear: reducing emissions, creating good, green job opportunities, and building a healthier, more equitable and sustainable future for all.



How can we Invest in nature?

- Planting trees and other innovative forms of “green infrastructure” help cities absorb stormwater. Restoring forests and investing in better agricultural practices upstream helps ensure sustainable water supplies downstream.
- It means reframing the conversation, accelerating action, and bringing us together to understand that this is possible and within our reach, if we work together.
- Taking bold and prompt action with focus on converging environmental crises that are inextricably linked to climate change and accelerating destruction of our natural ecosystems.
- Seizing the momentum to build resilience for a future of sustainable inclusive growth.
- sustainably investing or investment’s impact on the environment and society in addition to financial returns.” That’s a shift from the mandate of traditional investing that places profit first and supreme.
- Investing in our planet financially means championing solutions that bring a financial return while helping solve (insert big, scary environmental challenge like biodiversity loss, climate change, ocean acidification, plastic pollution, etc.). It’s understanding that eco-actions don’t have to be altruistic – that humans and the planet can and should thrive, together.
- In fact, by aligning monetary green with planetary blue and green, we incentivize the right kinds of mindset shifts, innovations and actions. Used appropriately, finance can act as a catalyst and lever for necessary ocean and climate action.
- Investing in renewables and energy efficiency as most of the energy we use is currently generated by fossil fuels, producing roughly 60% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Investing in renewable energy and improving energy efficiency can curb emissions, make energy more accessible, improve air quality, and preserve our planet.
- Invest in transportation as the energy sector, today’s transportation is almost entirely dependent on fossil fuels, producing one-fourth of the world’s GHG emissions.

Investing in food and agriculture innovation as the agricultural sector is one of the biggest contributors to GHG emissions. Industrialized agriculture and factory farms with their reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and massive methane output wreak havoc on the planet’s land, air, and water, contributing to both environmental degradation and climate change.

- Investing in nature-based solutions including the ocean. By protecting, sustainably managing, and restoring natural ecosystems, the world can mitigate the effects of global warming while fostering biodiversity. The planet’s bogs, swamps, and marshes - landscapes collectively known as peatlands — for instance, cover just 3% of the Earth’s surface, yet store almost one-third of the world’s carbon. Nature-based remedies can also be found in the ocean, which produces half of the planet’s oxygen



and provides food for billions of people worldwide., “The ocean is full of solutions - we just have to be smart enough to use them.

- Investing in Indigenous communities because of Indigenous communities’ cultural, social, and physical connection to the environment, climate change is threatening their very existence. Indigenous people are too often overlooked in public discourse and policy decisions on climate change, along with their unique perspectives and traditional knowledge of land stewardship. Changing weather patterns are disrupting their livelihoods and displacing them from their ancestral land. By investing more resources in Indigenous communities, the world can elevate and learn from individuals whose roots are tied to our natural resources.

- Investing in girls and women-across the globe, girls and women depend more on yet have less access to natural resources. In many regions, they also bear a disproportionate responsibility for securing food, water, and fuel for their families. This makes them uniquely vulnerable to climate change. Women and girls are not merely the victims of a changing climate. As the primary stewards of their households and communities, they are also effective agents of change and defenders of the environment. Even so, female representation in national and global climate negotiations remains below 30%. When important decisions about our planet are being made, girls and women must be included and represented. It’s the only way to achieve climate justice.

The 4th edition of the awards will therefore recognize institutions and individuals in all spheres that have integrated environmental, social, economic, and management aspects of sustainable development into their businesses and operations.

The 4th edition of the sustainable development awards will highlight the importance of investing in our environment for a sustainable future.

II. Aim

The aim of the Sustainable Development Award is to identify and reward institutions including individuals who have demonstrated leadership, innovation and excellence in environmentally friendly practices, while encouraging performance of best sustainability practices.

III. Categories

There will be 10 broad categories for the 4th edition of the Sustainable Development Awards:

- 1. Private Sector Champions for Sustainable Development with 3 sub-categories for start-ups, Small and Medium Enterprises as well as established companies.**
 - **Start-ups,**
 - **Small and Medium Enterprises**
 - **Established companies**



This category targets mainly private sector companies, parastatals and local authorities and seeks to reward the application of innovative technologies and exciting approaches, which minimize operational impacts on the environment. Environmentally friendly approaches to the management and use of energy, water and waste, and eco-certification schemes will be the main focus areas of this category.

2. Community level natural resource management and utilization initiatives;

In this category, it is expected that entries will demonstrate real inspiring examples of sustainable development solutions that work for people and the environment. For example: wildlife conservation, nature-based tourism, forest management, value addition to natural resources including indigenous plants, water and energy access, climate resilient agriculture etc.

3. Research and Development to reward outstanding pieces of research or innovations in the field of sustainable development;

This category identifies practical research achievements that are original and of significance to Namibia. The award discovers and recognizes researchers that contribute to advancing knowledge on sustainability. The aim is to highlight and acknowledge particular cases and initiatives within the sustainability field.

4. Youth Action for Sustainable Development, which focuses on youth leadership and initiatives in the area of sustainable development.

This category highlights youth leadership through community mobilisation, advocacy and/or educational initiatives to promote youth action for sustainable development in Namibia. Applicants are encouraged to highlight initiatives, which have led to impacts in terms of imparting knowledge on environmental issues, promoting behavioural change among the youth and involving the youth in projects that improve the health of the environment.

5. Artist Action for Sustainable Development, which focuses on artists initiatives in the area of sustainable development.

This category celebrates innovation and contribution made by artist in raising awareness and educating public on environmental issues by promoting sustainable development through artwork.



6. Pioneering journalism in the field of sustainable development, which will reward outstanding performance in the areas of best print media, best radio, best television; and Best digital media practitioner

- **Best print media,**
- **Best radio and**
- **Best television**
- **Best digital (Online, social & photography)**

This category celebrates the contribution made by journalists and media practitioners towards raising public awareness and educating the public on environmental issues.

7. Women and Environment

This category highlights individual women and women's groups that have shown leadership in community mobilisation, advocacy and/or other initiatives to empower women for sustainable development in Namibia. Applicants are encouraged to highlight initiatives, that have empowered women in the environmental sphere.

8. Sustainable Schools

This category rewards schools that demonstrate sustainability in all spheres of the school environment - teaching, learning and management. It particularly recognises schools that are making efforts to improve the environment and moves towards healthier and sustainable school environments. This category focuses on efforts by both public and private schools

- Private School
- Public School

9. Green Financial Services/Institution

This category rewards banks that offer both financial and technical assistance solutions that is tailor made for individuals and entities for affordable green technologies, thereby making them more competitive, while guaranteeing the development of a low carbon footprint economy and contributing to the reduction of the effects of climate change and other environmental disturbances. Loan to finance a renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture or sustainable tourism investment in Namibia. This award also recognizes banks that enable companies to seize the opportunities of green finance.



10. Sustainable mining and exploration Activities

Sustainable mining and exploration activities" which will focus on mining companies to promote responsible exploration of natural resources as we move towards proposal of the establishment of "Mining Rehabilitation Fund" by the EIF.

11. Thought Leadership

This award is at the discretion of the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism to honour a leader who has used transformative leadership and innovation to efficiently heighten the performance of his or her organisation and make it a role model in Namibia for sustainable development.

IV. Sponsors

The following are the main confirmed sponsors of the 4th edition of the Sustainable Development Awards:

- Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia
- Sustainable Development Advisory Council
- UNDP Namibia
- Bank Windhoek
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