

## **Climate Partnership**

### **Hamburg and Namibia are Exploring Sustainable Utilisation of Biomass**

26 May 2020. Biomass from Namibian encroacher bush could turn into a valuable and climate friendly export product. The German city of Hamburg is exploring the option to utilise Namibian biomass to partially replace fossil fuels in energy generation. The German Federal Government, representatives of the Namibian Government and NGOs for development cooperation as well as science institutions have given the impetus for this initiative.

“The city of Hamburg has officially confirmed to explore the option of using Namibian biomass from encroacher bush,” Progress Kashandula, CEO of the Namibian Biomass Industry Group explains. “This is a great step forward in our ambition to upscale bush control and biomass utilisation in Namibia.”

The dialogue between Namibian stakeholders and the city state of Hamburg started in September last year when a delegation from Namibia visited the north German port. The delegation was led by Ned Sibeya of the Namibian National Planning Commission and Josef Hailwa of the Directorate of Forestry and included representatives from Government, industry and farmers’ associations, environmental NGOs, and science.

“Energy from Namibian biomass could help us phase-out coal faster for district heating. The condition for this is that a social and ecological balance is ensured across the entire supply chain. As much added value as possible should remain in Namibia and as many people as possible should benefit from it there,” Michael Pollmann, State Councillor of the Hamburg Authority for Environment and Energy emphasises.

Studies will now explore how a reliable and long-term supply chain for the purchase of biomass could be built up and how it could benefit everyone involved. A large part of the added value is to take place in Namibia and the participation of large parts of the population is to be ensured. In addition to social aspects, the ecological balance of production, transport and use is also considered.

"I think it is very important to extensively examine the possibility of a partnership “on an equal footing” between Namibia and the city of Hamburg,” Dr. Ulf Skirke from the initiative “Tschüss Kohle” (“Good Bye Coal”) and coordinator of NGO participation points out. “This partnership can offer a concrete perspective for phasing-out coal in Hamburg.”

"In my view, Hamburg with its committed civil society, a long tradition in Africa cooperation and the competent energy partner Hamburg Wärme is an optimal partner for a sustainable biomass partnership with Namibia,” Peter Heck, Managing Director of IfaS, Trier University of Applied Sciences adds.

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**ATTACHMENT: translation of an official press release of the city of Hamburg into English**