Legal Assistance Centre

Presentation at the MET – Environmental NGO Forum
13th June 2011
Legal Assistance Centre

Mission: We, being a public interest law centre, collectively strive to make the law accessible to those with the least access, through education, law reform, research, litigation, legal advice, representation and lobbying, with the ultimate aim of creating and maintaining a human rights culture in Namibia.

Four units: Gender (GR&AP); AIDS (ALU), Land, Environment &Development (LEAD), Human Rights (HURICON)
LEAD –
Land, Environment and Development

Approaches

- Policy and legislative review and development
- Litigation
- Research
- Education & Training
- Advocacy
LEAD: Environment

Focal areas

*Strengthening jurisprudence in Namibia*
- Input to policy and legislation development

*CBNRM support*
- Constitution development and review
- Legal support
- Integration of sectoral CBNRM programmes
LEAD: Environment

Main Achievements

*Strengthening jurisprudence in Namibia*
- Valencia
- Publications on water & mining
- Environmental Management Act
- Protected Areas and Wildlife Management Bill
- Water Resource Management Act
LEAD: Environment

Main Achievements

*CBNRM support*

- Constitution review (Kunene/Caprivi, KA)
- Integration of Conservancy/Community Forest Constitutions
- Legal support to Joint-Venture Agreements
- Training of Land Boards on CBNRM
LEAD: Environment

Main challenges

- Limited capacity (human, financial resources)
- Regular engagement with GRN
- Access to GRN officials
- Coordination with other stakeholders
- Continuous back-up support needed by communities
LEAD: Environment

Opportunities for the future

- Research for a nuclear vs. renewable energy policies for Namibia
- Creating environmental awareness
- Further broadening and integration of CBNRM