

TECHNICAL REPORT FOR THE SECOND NAMIBIAN ACP WORKSHOP

29th & 30th April 2013



Project:	TECHNICAL REPORT FOR THE SECOND NAMIBIAN ACP WORKSHOP	
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Lead Consultant	Geo Pollution Technologies (Pty) Ltd PO Box 11073 Windhoek Namibia	TEL.: (+264-61) 257411 FAX.: (+264) 88626368
Author	Philip Hooks (B.Sc. Botany, Environmental/Geography); (B.Sc. (Hons) Botany/Ecology); (Higher Diploma of Education (HDE)) <i>Modified for distribution: Prof PJ Harvey</i>	
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Introduction

This report outlines the planning and execution of the ACP workshop that took place in Namibia on the 29th and 30th April 2013. My task was to provide technical support to the business development wing of the University of Namibia (UNAM) called the University Central Consultancy Bureau (UCCB).

The UCCB was headed up by Mrs. Anna Ipangelwa with whom I liaised. The company, Geo Pollution Technologies, with whom I am employed, contracted with the UCCB for me to provide technical support to the UCCB and the facilitation of the workshop. The UCCB were responsible for the administration of the ACP funds which included the following:

- Presenters' flight tickets, accommodation and daily expenses
- The catering for the workshop
- The printing of the programmes and folders
- The video footage and DVD production

I only facilitated some aspects of these UCCB responsibilities by providing advice. The majority of my input went into the producing the programme, organising the venue and field trips, hosting the presenters and organising a social, and the facilitating the workshop itself.

Planning

Initially, Professor Patricia Harvey and I discussed the merits of holding an Africa, Caribbean, Pacific Group States (ACP) workshop in Namibia. Two years or so prior to this an ACP workshop was organised by the then Director of the Sam Nujoma Marine and Coastal Resources Research Centre (SANUMARC) in Henties Bay. Naturally, SANUMARC, being an ACP partner was to lead the way in organising this 2nd Namibian workshop. Thus it was required that the current Director of SANUMARC, Professor Edosa Omoregie be involved and spearhead the organisation of the workshop. After numerous email correspondence passing backwards and forwards between myself, Professor Patricia Harvey, Professor

Edosa Omoregie (SANUMARC) and Mrs. Anna Ipangelwa (UCCB) it was decided to go ahead with the workshop. The title of the workshop was eventually boiled down to 'Workshop Towards Establishing Value Chains for Bioenergy in Namibia'.

Before coming to a final title for the workshop much deliberation about who could come and speak on issues related to the topics of biofuel. My initial contact with Professor Patricia Harvey was in connection with Dunaliella. Thus the initial plan was to focus on Dunaliella as a topic and explore its role in the biofuel agenda. However, other case studies could be incorporated which played a role in the previous workshop. The scope of the workshop broadened with the inclusion of other algal based biotechnologies.

Professor Patricia Harvey's contacts with other scientists in the field of biotechnology provided us with the opportunity to invite 6 scientists from outside Namibia, excluding Professor Harvey, who too would add to the workshop. From the start of April, the programme for the workshop began to take shape and confirmations of the speakers' attendance came in. Time was in short supply and the applications for business visas were made at the last minute in some instances.

Invitations were sent to the permanent secretaries of three government ministries, namely, Mines and Energy, Fisheries and Marine Resources, and Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Representatives were sent on their behalf. The short notice did not allow the permanent secretaries to commit to come so the political profile of the workshop was not as high as wished. The representative of the Fisheries was Mrs. Bronwen Currie, the chief scientist for the aquaculture directorate.

Programme

The format of the workshop with specific topics leading towards a natural discussion of the role of non-food sources for biofuel and other value added products is located at <http://www.acp-nonfood.com/Workshop8.html>

Arrival of Speakers and ACP Partners

On the 24th April I travelled up to Windhoek to meet Professor Harvey and other ACP Partners from Italy and Ghana. The morning was spent collecting business visas to take to the airport. After meeting Professor Harvey from the airport in the afternoon we held a meeting with Mrs. Anna Ipangelwa's assistants in the late afternoon of 24th of July to discuss the financial administration of the ACP funds. On the 25th April, I returned to Swakopmund along with Professor Harvey, Dr. Adelina Mensah (GCLME representative – ACP Partner) and Mrs. Broni Hornsby (CoRiSSIA representative – ACP Partner).

The 27th and 28th April were spent collecting the speakers from the airport, visiting the Swakopmund salt pans on the Saturday and Walvis Bay salt pans on the Sunday. These were informal field trips prior to the start of the workshop. On Sunday evening a social was organized to introduce all the speakers to one another and to have the ACP partner representatives meet the speakers. This social was enjoyed by all and was the high light for some.

The speakers and the contents of their presentations in the form of biographies and abstracts is presented in <http://www.acp-nonfood.com/Namibia-Presentations.html>. The website has also posted their slide presentations online. Together, they can be considered as the workshops proceedings. The video recordings which are also posted on the website provide comprehensive workshop proceedings.

Pre-workshop Social

A fish braai was enjoyed by all on the Sunday evening so that all could get to know each other in a less formal setting.



Photos 1. Blahos Marsalek, Keith Cowan, Ami Ben-Amotz, Jill Varrie



Photos 2. John Milledge, Paul Goacher

The Workshop

All protocols were observed with regards the opening of the workshop. I gave a short welcome and asked Mrs. Anna Ipangelwa to welcome the delegates on behalf of SANUMARC. The Director of SANUMARC, Professor Edosa Omoregie was unable to attend the first day and joined the proceedings on the 30th April.

Mrs. Bronwen Currie, as host, welcomed the delegates and officially opened the workshop. The workshop was held at the Fisheries Research Institute in Swakopmund where the Aquaculture Directorate has its marine (mariculture) section.

The first day of the workshop ran smoothly as planned. There were no delays on the first day. Question and answer times were shifted to after the talks given by Professor Detlof von Oertzen, Professor Ami Ben-Amotz and Professor Keith Cowan. This was a deviation from the programme on the first day.

A group photo was taken during the first recess on the first day as shown below.



Photos 3. Group Photo of All the Delegates Who Attended the Workshop.

The field trips at the end of the day proved to generate additional discussions on the heels of the presentations related to the sites visited.

Unfortunately, the second day did not start as smoothly and the late arrival of one speaker meant that time had to be taken from other presentations in order to accomplish the goal of completing the programme by the end of the day.

The waste water treatment training workshop went off well and was very well attended. The municipality kindly donated some sewerage for analysis during the training. Sampling kits were donated to various delegates who attended the workshop. The mariculture section provided the facilities for the training.

Changes to the final part of the day allowed delegates to do a SWOT analysis of the 3 case studies presented. The 3 breakaway groups were asked to analyze the case studies in light of the presentations and provide a synopsis of the current situation. The groups nominated a speaker and feedback was given to the whole group of delegates. Solutions and possible ways forward were considered.

At the close of the workshop Professor Harvey, Mrs. Anna Ipangelwa and I forwarded our thanks and appreciation to all who had contributed to making a success of the workshop.

Field Trips

Field trips to the Swakopmund Salt Pans were arranged with Mr. Klein, the owner of the saltworks. I had secured both the field trip and the sampling for the Dunaliella case study in February. The field trip to the new Swakopmund sewerage works was arranged with Mr. Dewald Duvenhage, the town's engineer.

Mr. Klein led us to the pans and showed us where the most concentrated Dunaliella samples could be found (See Photos 4). Mr. Duvenhage led the tour of the new sewerage works (See Photos 5). Many questions were asked of both Mr. Klein and Mr. Duvenhage.



Photos 4. Swakopmund Salt Pans



Photos 5. Swakopmund Sewerage Works

Post Mortem

A number of meetings and discussions took place after the workshop. Decisions were taken to explore some avenues with a view of applying what had been learnt.

- The Swakopmund Town Engineer, Mr. Dewald Duvenhage, took a principal decision to consider the waste water treatment using algae for the soon to be decommissioned old sewerage works. He has subsequently asked me for the DVD footage so that he can approach the CEO with a proposal. He might well be in touch with Professor Keith Cowan in the near future. The municipality's goal is to reduce their cost of electricity.
- After the workshop, Professor Ami Ben-Amotz met with Mr. Klein of the Swakopmund Salt Works to discuss a common passion. They discussed among other things the merits of Dunaliella production at the salt pans. A further point on Dunaliella is made under the following section.

GlycAL Namibia

As a representative of the company, GlycAL Namibia, the workshop brought the opportunities to work with microalgae into a clearer perspective. Dr. Verdelho's talk, provided the scenarios that would make a commercialisation of algal cultivation a reality in Namibia. Though there are many aspects of this enterprise that need careful thought and planning it remains a potential option for Namibia. The discussions with Professor Ami Ben Amotz give us reason to believe that joint ventures between the international scientific community and GlycAL Namibia could place Namibia in a position to develop the potential of our science and technology sector. Research and development will continue in its current form, thanks to the Aquaculture Directorate of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and the work of volunteer, Mr. Gonçalo Murta. Mr. Murta presented the case study on *Dunaliella*. We hope to start a pilot demonstration plant in the near future, that will provide the opportunity for more investigations and hopefully provide the motivation to scale up to the commercial production of microalgae.

Conclusion

This short summary report of the 2nd Namibian ACP workshop provides the administrative body of the ACP Group with a document that verifies the occurrence of the workshop. More than this they must know that the workshop and all the means provided to realise its success has built the capacity of Namibians, providing momentum to a number of valid and potentially successful projects in Namibia like GlycAL Namibia.

SANUMARC voiced its willingness to partner with anyone who wished to use their facilities for the furtherance of their goals as stipulated in Professor Edosa Omoregie's presentation.

Subsequent meetings with Mrs. Bronwen Currie have formalised the assistance and support that her directorate can give GlycAL Namibia in their pursuit of an aquaculture business.

I would like to thank the ACP Group for making the workshop possible. Thank you Professor Harvey for your tireless efforts in encouraging us to fulfil the goals of the Group. I am glad we did not give up when it seemed that too many obstacles were in our path.

Philip Hooks

18/7/13