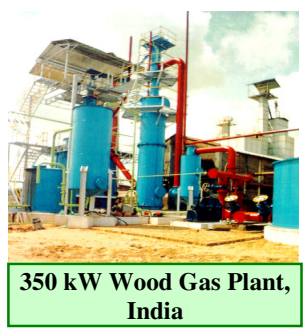
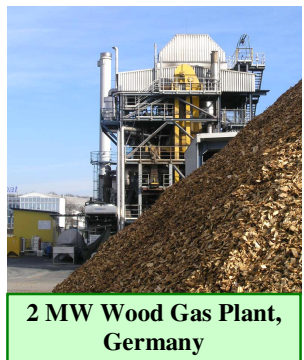




The CBEND Project – *Combating Bush Encroachment for Namibia’s Development*



- *This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the DRFN and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.*
- **Contracting Authority:** National Planning Commission Secretariat’s Rural Poverty Reduction Programme (9 ACP NAM 012, financed by the 9th European Development Fund)
- **Implementing Agency:** Desert Research Foundation of Namibia
- **Implementing Partners:** Namibia Agricultural Union and Namibia National Farmers Union
- **Strategic Partners:** Namibian Women’s Association, Electricity Control Board, NamPower, Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry - Directorate of Forestry
- **Project Duration:** October 2007 to September 2009
- **Project Budget:** ~N\$ 14,000,000

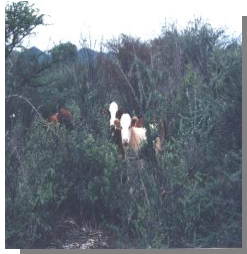


Project Overview

This proof-of-concept project will procure and install one ~ 0.5 MW bush-to-electricity power generating plant in northern Namibia. Fuel for the power plant will be derived from harvested invader bush (with emphasis on bush thinning rather than clearing) and electricity produced will be supplied to the national grid. The technology considered is wood gasification. Although the project dedicates significant resources towards infrastructure, considerable activities also focus on enhancing livelihoods for rural communities, improving the efficiency of bush harvesting, developing scope for small and medium enterprises and establishing Namibia’s first commercially operated small Independent Power Producer.

Project Outcomes

- A Trust, supported by project management entities, is established that promotes the long-term utilisation of invader bush as a source for electricity generation.
- Economic and technical viability of a bush-to-electricity business is demonstrated through the establishment of an Independent Power Producer.
- New employment opportunities are created for farm workers and SMEs.
- New rural employment opportunities created through servc and harvesting SMEs.
- Sustainable rangeland rehabilitation is demonstrated.
- Namibian electricity generation capacity is supplemented by an indiginous, sustainable, renewable fuel source.



Bush encroachment in Namibia covers an area of about 26 million hectares, causing annual losses to the national economy of more than N\$ 700 million, primarily due to the degradation of rangelands.
Furthermore, the national commercial livestock herd has declined by over 60% over the last 40 years, and annual groundwater recharge from precipitation declined to $\frac{1}{30}$ (to 0.02%) as a result of bush infestation.

