

## REPORT

9TH CONFERENCE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SOIL CONSERVATION ORGANISATION (ISCO)  
Bonn, Germany 26 - 30 August 1996

### **TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE LAND USE** **Furthering Cooperation Between People and Institutions**

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The 9th Conference of the International Soil Conservation Organisation (ISCO) took place in Bonn, Germany on 26-30 August 1996. The meeting was attended by over 800 people from 120 countries. Over 450 papers and posters were presented in 50-60 workshops and parallel sessions. The overall theme of the conference was: Towards Sustainable Land Use - Furthering Cooperation Between People and Institutions. The objectives of the conference are summarised in the following excerpt from the Introduction to the programme:

*Rapid depletion of soil fertility and non-sustainable land use particularly in developing countries is both the cause and the consequence of the widespread poverty. The challenging question is how to improve self-help capacities for natural resource management in order to solve these problems. .... Sustainable land use is based on ecological and social sustainability as well as on economic viability of a given land use activity in a given context. Particular emphasis will be placed on the ecological dimension of sustainable land management and on ways of achieving it.*

The Namibian contribution from the two authors of this report was varied. Working with Dr Helmut Woehl, GTZ advisor to the NAPCOD programme, a booth was prepared for the 'Dare to Share Fair'. This included five posters presenting the environmental situation in arid Namibia and the several programmes addressing sustainable use of this environment. The posters highlight the activities of SARDEP (Sustainable Animal and Range Development Programme) and NAPCOD (Namibia's Programme to Combat Desertification) and presented the Integrated Natural Resource Management Forum wherein these two programmes have joined together with the CAWS (Communal Area Water Supply) and CBNRM (Community Based Natural Resource Management) programmes to address the overall objective of sustainable resource management. The booth included a display of pamphlets and books from the participating organisations and the screening of several videos concerning desertification, training to combat desertification and the Namibian environment.

In addition, Bertus Kruger contributed a poster paper entitled 'Closing the Gap Between Farmers and Support Organisations in Namibia' to the session addressing Institutional and Organisational Capacity Building. Kahepako Uariua-Kakujaha and Mary Seely presented an oral paper entitled 'Raising Awareness about Desertification within Namibia's Rural Population' to the session addressing Principles and Strategies of Participation and Cooperation. Abstracts of both papers have been published in the proceedings and full papers have been submitted.