



MEDIA RELEASE

Standard Bank BIOMASS FAIR 2023

Igniting the Growth of the Biomass Sector in Namibia

Windhoek, Namibia, 01 August 2023 – The Standard Bank BIOMASS FAIR 2023 is set to take place from **7 to 9 September 2023** at **Gross Barmen Resort**, south-west of Okahandja in the Otjozondjupa Region. The three-day event, organised by the Namibia Biomass industry Group (N-BiG), the Charcoal Association of Namibia (CAoN) and the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), is tailored to nurture and promote the thriving biomass sector in Namibia and the region. Standard Bank is the Diamond Sponsor for the BIOMASS FAIR 2023, thus the fair is named Standard Bank BIOMASS FAIR 2023. This year's theme is "Igniting the Growth of the Biomass Sector in Namibia".

"The 2023 Standard Bank BIOMASS FAIR is aimed at updating biomass stakeholders and the public at large on sector developments," explains Progress Kashandula, Chief Executive Officer of N-BiG. "The bush biomass sector already contributes extensively to socio-economic development in Namibia and has the potential to shape an inclusive bioeconomy. The BIOMASS FAIR is the most important knowledge exchange platform for the sector and provides an excellent opportunity for networking."

The Standard Bank BIOMASS FAIR 2023 will bring together industry experts, researchers, and both public and private stakeholders for knowledge exchange, networking, and the showcasing of cutting-edge harvesting and processing technologies for bush-biomass.

The **Research Symposium** on Thursday, 7 September, aims to stimulate innovation and research for the industry. With a focus on applied research, the symposium will feature presentations from local and international speakers, sharing cutting-edge knowledge on biomass-related topics.

On Friday, 8 September, the **Industry Conference** will explore vital aspects such as access to local and international markets, harvesting and processing technologies, bush-biomass products and technical services. It will feature local, regional and international speakers. Attendees can expect to gain valuable insights into emerging trends and seize opportunities in the industry.

From Friday, 8 September through Saturday, 9 September, a **Biomass Expo** with an estimated 120 exhibitors will demonstrate an extensive range of biomass products and cutting-edge technology. The Expo will feature a variety of exhibitors showcasing harvesting technology, exhibiting charcoal and other wood products, and presenting services for the biomass industry, including access to finance. Attendees can expect a family-friendly environment accompanied by a variety of food and beverage options.

Networking and entertainment events are planned, including an exclusive cocktail dinner offering a relaxed and inviting atmosphere for biomass buyers and sellers to connect, as well as a concert against the backdrop of a starlit bush setting, allowing guests to unwind and celebrate. The concert will be headlined by artists such as Hannes Kaufmann and other local artists.

The organisers extend their gratitude towards their associate partners, the **Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) Bush Control and Biomass Utilisation (BCBU)** Project, implemented by



the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**, **Namibia Wildlife Resort (NWR)**, **Namibia Broadcasting Cooperation (NBC)**, and the **German Bioenergy Association (BBE)**. The event sponsors, Diamond Sponsor **Standard Bank Namibia**, Silver Sponsor **DHG Vertriebs-Consultinggesellschaft mbH**, and its bronze sponsors **Agribank** and **CMO**, for their valuable contributions towards making this event a success.

Tickets for the **Biomass Concert and Expo** are available on **PayPulse** as from **Friday, 4 August 2023**. More information about the event and the call for exhibitors and sponsors is available at www.biomassfair.com.na.