

# Awareness raising film project on illegal logging in Northern Namibia

**Mukuya, R.S. (1); Pröpper, M. (2)**

BIOTA Para-Ecologist, c/o Directorate of Forestry, Private Bag, Rundu, Namibia.

[rmukuya2005@yahoo.com](mailto:rmukuya2005@yahoo.com)

Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Hamburg, Germany, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1 (West),  
20146 Hamburg, Germany



**Biota Observatory  
Mutombo 16.06.2005**



**In Kavango-region the illegal small-scale harvesting of few valuable timber species is a problem (outtake exceeds regeneration assessments)**





# Film as a method of empowerment and information transfer about logging-impact and resource-values





**2007 production of 52 min Film „Wiza Wetu! Our Forest“  
by a para-ecologist and BIOTA South in Rukwangali**



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# Content of the film

Background on effects and value adding in the production chain



Valuation and property: Who is loosing the resources in the end?

A film by:  
Michael Prpper & Martin Gruber  
with BIOTA Para-Ecologist Robert Mukuya

## WIZA WETU! Our Forest!

This ethnographic documentary follows the activities of illegal logging in the Kavango region in Northeast Namibia. The Kavango is one of the few remaining forest resources of a country that is confronted with the problem of increasing desertification. Desertification is mainly caused through illegal logging, human caused fire, and agricultural expansion.

The film focuses on the problems of illegal logging of elephants for a complex situation. In Kavango large parts of the population depend on subsistence use of resources on communal land. However, both forest fires and lack of education have to be mentioned as causes for illegal harvesting. The fact that logging targets valuable trees that are irreplaceable due to their long growing period makes these activities a severe environmental problem in the region.

The film's main intended audiences are the local people of the Kavango region as well as various local stakeholders. The film aims at raising awareness for the value of natural resources and initiating a discussion on a local and trans-local level regarding a just livelihoods, a change of perceptions and attitudes towards biodiversity.

The film addresses the situation of landowners who practice logging, investigates background and presents exemplary community-based forestry projects initiated by the Namibian Directorate of Forestry (DoF) and the German private-owned company (GIZ). It consists of documentary footage, re-enacted parts as well as interviews with forest guards, and forest guard staff, local people, villagers who have to suffer from environmental degradation, landowners who have been making prosecution for a minimal amount of money, participants of successful projects, and traditional authorities.

The film has been produced within the interdisciplinary research project BIOTA ([www.biota-afrika.org](http://www.biota-afrika.org)). A central feature of the film is the partner: the Para-Ecologist of the BIOTA Project investigates the problem and works to all the stakeholders along which are implemented in the film.

The film has a length of 57 minutes and is produced in Ruvuvambo with English subtitles.

Figure 1: Approximate distribution of forests and woodlands in Namibia. © BIOTON, Research and Information Services of Namibia for Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry Namibia.

Figure 2: Photo gallery showing various scenes from the film, including logging activities and community members. Photo credit: © Michael Prpper.

Figure 3: Stem volume per Species in % of total tree stem volume in the Neumcara Community Forest © Community Forestry in North-East Namibia, Schwabe, C. (Eds.), M. Mwangi, J.

Neumcara Community Forest

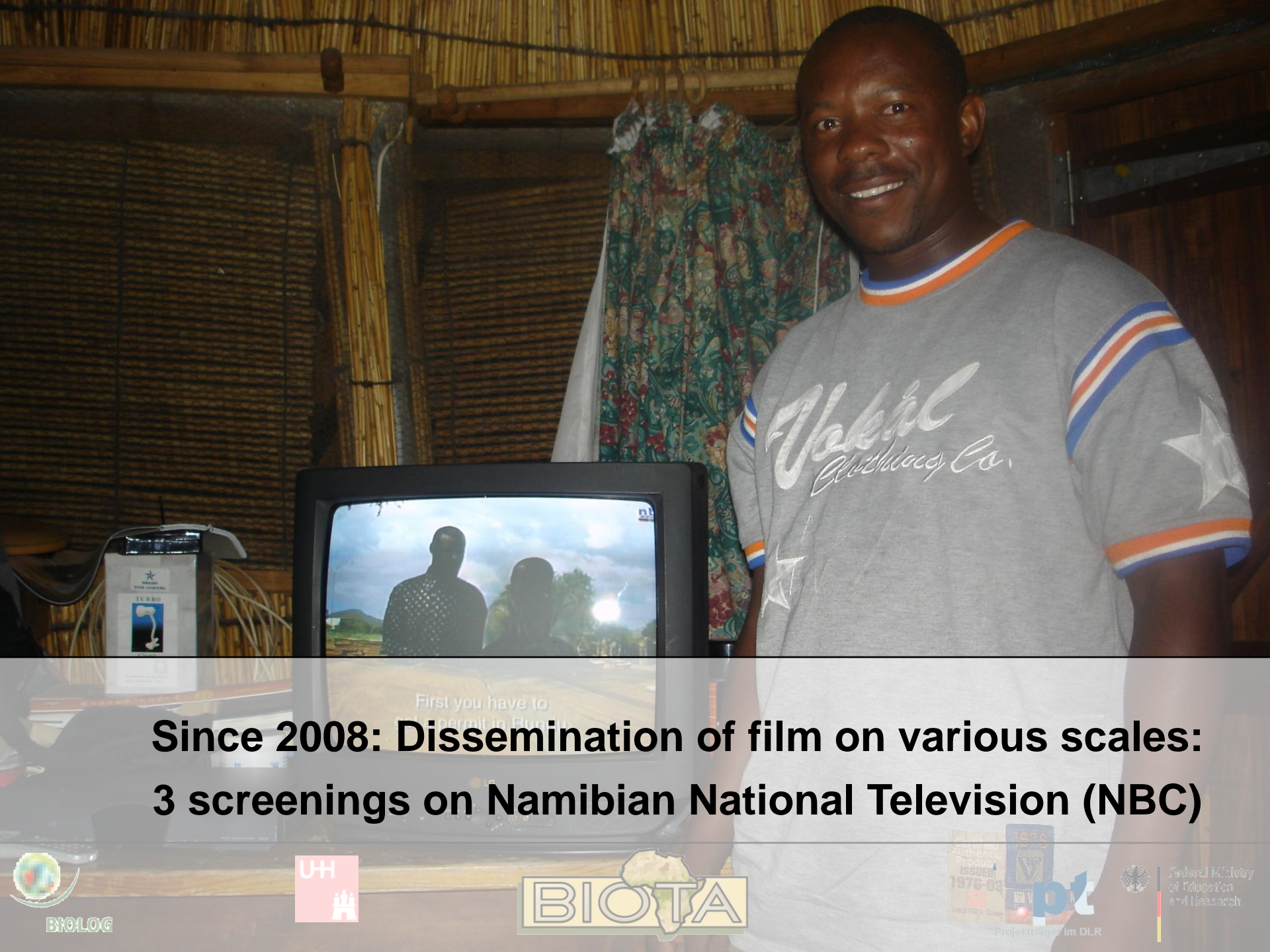


Information about existing community based forest management



Call for sustainable uses





**Since 2008: Dissemination of film on various scales:  
3 screenings on Namibian National Television (NBC)**



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**Wiza Wetu!**  
Our Forest!



by  
Michael Pröpper  
& Martin Gruber

**1200 copies (so far)  
to national and  
regional decision  
makers / officials,  
stakeholders,  
traditional  
authorities,  
NGO,  
Press**

**Since 2008: Dissemination to main target audiences:  
Presentations and distribution**





**„Mobile Roadshow“ - 40 villages with mobile BIOTA technology. Supported by Directorate of Forestry**



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**Reactions - Very positive reaction to the attempt of awareness creation in local language**





## Reactions - **Social event with lively discussions**



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**Reactions - Strong interest in income generation through community based forest management**





Reactions - **Strong request for further screenings in remote villages**





# Reactions - **Complementation of school curriculum**



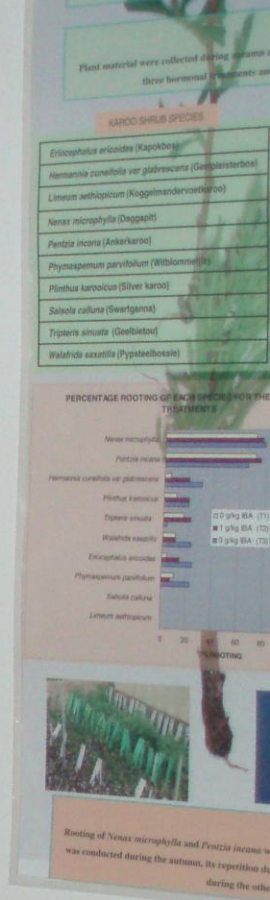


**Personal experience – learnt how to convey the message to the audience in a film**





**Personal experience – learnt to facilitate community meetings and represent BIOTA in the communities**







**Personal experience – learnt to create awareness and to bring the message across**

Plant material were collected during autumn in three harvests in 2008 and 2009

**KAROO SHRUB SPECIES**

<i>Eriocapitex ericoides</i> (Kapokbos)
<i>Hemaranthia zuniifolia</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i> (Geelsterbos)
<i>Linum aethiopicum</i> (Koggelmandervetbos)
<i>Nesaea microphylla</i> (Daggapit)
<i>Pentzia incana</i> (Ankerkaroo)
<i>Phymospermum parvifolium</i> (Wilblommie)
<i>Pithecia karooica</i> (Silver karoo)
<i>Salsola calluna</i> (Swartgama)
<i>Triplex sinuata</i> (Geelbietbos)
<i>Waldhnia saxatilis</i> (Pyperietbos)

**PERCENTAGE ROOTING OF EACH SPECIES IN THE TREATMENTS**

Species	0 g/kg BA (T1)	1 g/kg BA (T2)	3 g/kg BA (T3)
<i>Nesaea microphylla</i>	~10%	~20%	~30%
<i>Pentzia incana</i>	~10%	~20%	~30%
<i>Hemaranthia zuniifolia</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i>	~10%	~20%	~30%
<i>Pithecia karooica</i>	~10%	~20%	~30%
<i>Triplex sinuata</i>	~10%	~20%	~30%
<i>Waldhnia saxatilis</i>	~10%	~20%	~30%
<i>Eriocapitex ericoides</i>	~10%	~20%	~30%
<i>Phymospermum parvifolium</i>	~10%	~20%	~30%
<i>Salsola calluna</i>	~10%	~20%	~30%
<i>Linum aethiopicum</i>	~10%	~20%	~30%

Rooting of *Nesaea microphylla* and *Pentzia incana* was conducted during the autumn, its repetition should be conducted during the other seasons.





# Our Forest! WETO!

Plant material were collected during autumn in three harvested plots in the forest...

**KAROO SHRUB SPECIES**

<i>Eriocapitex ericoides</i> (Kapokbos)
<i>Hemarania cuneifolia</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i> (Geelsterbos)
<i>Linum aethiopicum</i> (Koggalmandervetkoos)
<i>Neser microphylla</i> (Daggapoti)
<i>Pentzia incana</i> (Ankerkaroo)
<i>Phymospermum parvifolium</i> (Wilblommepiet)
<i>Plinthan karoocosa</i> (Silver karoo)
<i>Salsola calluna</i> (Swartgama)
<i>Triplex sinuata</i> (Geelbietool)
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<i>Plinthan karoocosa</i>	~10%	~20%	~30%
<i>Triplex sinuata</i>	~10%	~20%	~30%
<i>Waldhnia saxatilis</i>	~10%	~20%	~30%
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**Rooting of *Neser microphylla* and *Pentzia incana* was conducted during the autumn, its repetition should be conducted during the other seasons.**

**Personal experience – learnt to coordinate the screenings and to organise the logistics**



Thank you for your attention  
and  
BIOTA and BMBF for the  
support of the film project!