



Membership

BACKGROUND AND CONSTITUTIONAL SETTING

This document sets out the Membership categories of the Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE). The Constitution of the NCE defines ‘Member’ as “any natural person, legal entity or other association of persons capable of acquiring rights and obligations, admitted to membership of the Chamber in terms of article 8, and the term ‘Membership’ has a corresponding meaning” (clause 1.1.9).

Article 8 of the Constitution deals with Membership as follows:

Eligibility for Membership

- 8.1 Any natural person, legal entity or other association of persons or organisation capable of acquiring rights and obligations –
- 8.1.1 whose main business, or, in the final discretion of the Council, a significant portion of whose business, comprises active participation in or promotion of Environmental Matters (i.e. any of the matters listed in articles 5.1.1 to 5.1.6); and
- 8.1.2 whose business –
- a) is not for gain for its proprietors, members or stakeholders; or
 - b) is for gain for its proprietors, members or stakeholders, but does not, in the final discretion of the Council, detract from the value of the activities comprising such active participation or promotion of Environmental Matters,
- and which support the objects of the Chamber, may apply for membership of the Chamber.

Application for Membership

- 8.2 Applications for Membership are made to the Executive Committee.
- 8.3 Applications for Membership are made in such form and are accompanied by such application fee as the Executive Committee determines from time to time.
- 8.4 After scrutinising an application for Membership, the Executive Committee makes a recommendation to the Council whether to accept or reject an application for Membership.
- 8.5 The Council accepts or rejects applications for Membership in its final discretion.

Categories of Membership

- 8.6 At the entry into force of this Constitution, there is only one category of Membership.

- 8.7 Upon the entry into force of this Constitution, the Council may, by a two thirds majority, determine categories of Membership based on Members' contribution (whether financial or otherwise) to the Chamber and the objects of the Chamber; provided that any such classification of Members into such categories should as far as possible be based on measurable and transparent criteria which are not inconsistent with the basic eligibility requirements set out in article 8.1.

Loss and Reinstatement of Membership

- 8.8 Membership of the Chamber is lost -
- 8.8.1 when a Member resigns by written notice to the Chamber;
 - 8.8.2 upon the death of a Member who is a natural person;
 - 8.8.3 upon the dissolution of a Member who is a legal person or other association of persons ;
 - 8.8.4 if the annual Membership contribution (if any) of a member remains unpaid for six months after falling due;
 - 8.8.5 when the Member is expelled on a two thirds majority decision of the Council.
- 8.9 For the purposes of article 8.8.5 -
- 8.9.1 a Member may be expelled if his or her continued Membership is, in the final opinion of the Council, irreconcilable with the objects of the Chamber, or brings the Chamber into disrepute;
 - 8.9.2 the Council may not resolve to expel a Member before having notified the Member of its intention and having given the Member an opportunity to make representations before or at the meeting of the Council at which such resolution is to be taken.

Membership Contributions

- 8.10 The Council may, from time to time, determine Membership contributions to be paid by its Members; provided that Members whose business is not for gain may, on application to the Council and on good cause shown, and on a case by case basis, be exempted by the Council from paying such Membership contributions, on such further conditions as the Council may determine.

Duties of Members

- 8.11 Members are obliged to comply in all respects with the letter and spirit of this Constitution.
- 8.12 Members are expected and encouraged to actively support the activities of the Chamber to which they are capable of contributing.
- 8.13 Members pay the annual Membership contribution.

Powers

Article 6 of the Constitution makes provision for the Council and the Executive Committee to have the necessary power to:

- 6.2.1 admit and expel Members
- 6.2.2 determine Membership admission and expulsion criteria and Membership categories, and
- 6.2.3 determine and collect Membership contributions.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

There are two broad types of Membership:

1. **Full Members**, applicable to Namibian registered non-governmental organisations whose main business, or a significant portion of whose business, comprises active participation in or promotion of Environmental Matters, as per Section 8.1 of the Constitution; and
2. **Associate Members**, applicable to Namibian and Permanent Resident individuals, and non-Namibian registered non-governmental organisations, who's main business, or a significant portion of whose business, comprises active participation in or promotion of Environmental Matters in Namibia.

Only Full Members have voting rights on the Chamber Council. Associate Members may participate in all Chamber events, but do not have voting rights and are not eligible for election to the Executive Committee. Associate Members may be co-opted to the Executive Committee.

Membership is by application to the Executive Committee. Applicants must submit:

- A completed application form
- A signed declaration form
- For organisations – the founder document and registration / certification number if relevant
- For individuals – their *Curriculum Vitae* and ID
- Any other documentation that might be required by the Executive Committee

On receipt of an application it is checked by the NCE Office Manager for completeness. If not complete, the applicant is contacted to rectify the matter. Each complete application is forwarded to all the Executive Committee Members for review. A Review Form (Annex 1) is sent to each ExCo Member to complete and return to the Office Manager. The ExCo Member must be satisfied that:

- ✓ The applicant's main business, or a significant portion thereof, comprises participating in, or promoting, Environmental Matters in Namibia
- ✓ There is no reason to suggest that the applicant may NOT support the Objectives of the Chamber
- ✓ There is no reason to reason to suggest that the applicant may NOT practice and promote the Values of the Chamber
- ✓ There is no reason to suggest that the applicant may NOT work in a collaborative manner with other Members to promote the objectives of the Chamber

Based on this assessment, the Executive Committee then makes a recommendation to Council on whether to accept or reject the applicant for Membership. Council's decision is final.



Annex 1

Review of Environmental Membership Applications

Tick type of Application

Namibian registered Organisation	Non- Namibian Organisation	Individual Namibian or Permanent Resident
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Name of Organisation or Individual:.....

Has the following been adequately completed and / or provided?

For Organisation	Y/N	For Individual	Y/N
Application Form		Application Form	
Registration / Certification number		<i>Curriculum Vitae</i>	
Copy of Founding document		Copy of ID	
Declaration		Declaration	
Name & contact of 2 References		Name & contact of 2 References	

For organisations and individuals unknown to the Executive Committee, feedback from References:.....

Assessment by Executive Committee Member - in your view:

Is this Applicant's main business, or a significant portion thereof, participating in, or promoting, Environmental Matters in Namibia?	Y	N
Is there any reason to suggest that this Applicant may NOT support the Objectives of the Chamber?	Y	N
Is there any reason to suggest that this Applicant may NOT practice and promote the Values of the Chamber?	Y	N
Is there any reason to suggest that this Applicant may NOT work in a collaborative manner with other Members to promote the objectives of the Chamber?	Y	N

In your view, should the Executive Committee's recommendation to Council be:

Reject Applicant	Investigate further	Accept Applicant
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Comments:.....

ExCo Member's name..... Signature..... Date: