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Confidante reporter

THE Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE) considers the investment in building capacity and skills in young, previously disadvantaged Namibians as one of the most important aspects of its work.

This involves two components; bursaries for promising, self-motivated students at Honours and Masters Levels, combined with good quality mentorship by prominent professionals who involve the students in their ongoing work and who give significant amounts of time to the students.

To this end, the NCE has set up a bursary and mentorship programme, and the Woodtiger Fund (USA) has joined hands with the NCE to significantly increase the impact of this initiative.

The successful applicants include Esleen Guriras, Alina Nambuli, Lorentha Haraes, Ester Kayala, Nestor Hainana, Martha Alfeus, Geovanna Ipinge, Stephanie Strauss, Mupurua

Kunandjambi, Senior Shimhanda, Dina Mwaala, Benoit Morkel and Paulina Engelbrecht.

The fields of study for the students are mostly in the environmental management sector.

According to the NCE they received a total of 45 bursary applications and during the selection process, they prepared and used an evaluation form and scored the applicants based on, field of study, academic achievements to date, financial need, leadership potential and demonstrated achievements, and overall life-goals and future plans.

The NCE said meetings were held with successful applicants, bursary / intern / mentorship agreements were drafted, discussed and signed by each recipient.

The NCE is an umbrella association that provides a forum and mouthpiece for the broader environment sector that can lobby with government and other parties, to raise funds for its members and that can represent the sector.