

Namibian Biomass Project

Ministry of Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture suspends review process

May 18th, 2021

The Ministry of Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture (BUKEA) of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg has suspended the review process for the feasibility of using Namibian bush biomass until further notice. A year ago, in response to inquiries from Namibia and NGOs, the BUKEA started an open-ended process to examine the chances of energetic use of Namibian bush biomass in Hamburg. There should be advantages for both sides.

For this purpose, working groups involving Namibian and German experts from NGOs, science and administration should examine the technical feasibility as well as economic, social and ecological aspects.

In an interim result, it turned out that burning the bush biomass (chips or pellets) in a district heating power plant is technically possible in the future. However, the municipal company Wärme Hamburg GmbH sees no possibility of using relevant amounts of bush biomass shortly in the next two to three years.

The BUKEA as a state authority cannot provide a final technical answer to the challenge of a comprehensive life cycle assessment of the extraction and use of biomass as well as the further development policy and socio-economic questions in Namibia and will therefore pass this on to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), with the request to examine them in more detail. The review process in Hamburg will be suspended until a response is received.

The BUKEA will prepare a report on the current status of the review process. In late summer, this will be discussed with all participants in the working groups.

Questions from the media:

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