# **G3 - Interview regional permit office MEFT, Otjiwarongo - 3-2-2023**

# Transcript

I1

**Could you start off with explaining what you do for the directory of forestry?**

I2

**Introduce yourself and the department and what role does it play?**

P1

Thank you. My name is [name]. I'm working as a forestry technician. Here, here in the forestry office. I just joined the ministry maybe after five or six years. So what we do here I'm sitting in the permit office, but then we are having like 7 projects. We are helping law enforcement tree planting law enforcement, tree planting, police protection and human resources management, those are just one of the projects for us in this office, we are dealing with the law enforcement. Whereby we issue permits just to regulate the forest products we are dealing with charcoal and firewood so what we do here, we are issuing permits. We are having different types of permits whereby we have harvesting permit, marketing permits, transport permit, export permit, transit permit , import permit and the one for honey is it beekeeping? Also transportation of bee permit and for those ones. Now the reason we are issuing permits is we just want the forest resources to be utilized in a sustainable manner so that the future generation can also benefit from what you have benefiting and just to control this because especially in this regions, there's this Bush encroachment pieces by their growing I don't know how to explain it. Very problematic. So that's I think one of the reason why the government gave the opportunity to the farmers to do charcoal and to harvest for fire wood cause these bushes. They are very, very problematic. You cut maybe after two or three years. The bushes are already coming up. Now, should I explain what types of permit and how valid it is?

I1

**So could you start with like the harvesting permits, what you check?**

P1

First of all, when the farmer come to the office and want to harvest for firewood. Sorry, the phone is not here. We gave him a phone. Of this type, we call it application for a license for first projects whereby the form I have to fill in the their details. In case if it's renting from the other ones farm because some of them they are not harvesting from their own farms. They are renting from the other ones farms. So you have to fill in the applicants speeches. Then you feel the owners details here in case you are harvesting from your own farm. You just feel here in the owner's space, then you state the purpose of the forest produce. What are the tree spieces you would like to cut or you would like to harvest? Then you give the quantity of wood in units of tons like we are calculating in 4 tons of firewood, you are having one ton of charcoal because the wood you have to bend them. So in 4 tons of firewood you are making only one ton of charcoal. And yeah, you need to indicate the number of hectares you are harvesting. Are you harvesting life or dry? Because we tell the clients that if it's protected species because we also have protected species, like acashier, you cannot harvest it while it's life or while it's wet. So you harvest only the dry one. Then we have the purpose of harvesting where you are harvesting. Is it because of range land management like you want maybe to control bush encroachment for your cattle to graze well, or is it for firewood, crop production, ornamental fire belt? But in most cases, the farmers who come to the office. They say they want to do range land management. Yeah, for the product. Now, where are you harvesting? We having wood carving, which is not necessarily happening this side maybe at cavango. Yeah, we have fencing material fire, wood, timber, charcoal. But in most cases, most of the farmers they are coming for firewood and charcoal. Then you indicate the you write the name of the farm, the number, the hectares, the constituency, and the GPS coordinates, but this one. Now, most of farmers, they don't have GPS, so they really don't know the coordinates. Just leave it out. Then you take the period because our payments, the harvesting payment is valid for three months and it's $60.00 then from here the farmer has to attach the relevant details. The farmer, if it's the is harvesting from his farm. Or from her farm. You need to attach the ID copy, title deed. Yeah, only those ones if title deed get the title deed of the farm like the ownership of the farm. So that we can really see if you are harvesting from your own farm or you are harvesting there legally or illegally. Then if you are renting now from. Your friend's farm or your uncles farm. Then you need to bring your ID, the owners ID's, the title deed , concept letter which is saying the owner gave you permission to harvest. Now after the farmer submit this form we go for farm inspection. Yeah, which we go with this form which we call it forest resource monitoring and verification, just to go verify what type of species are they. Are they big or how are they and in which game the farmer is harvesting is they is he doing some other types of farming activities. We concentrate on, for example, when the farmer is doing charcoal or if there's fabrics on the camp or the fire bricks are well maintained or cleaned, or the kilns are well clear because you cannot just put the kilns there, then you burn your charcoal, otherwise the fire will go out of hands or the kilns lids are on the side or these basic fire equipment on the side. So then you look at the percentage of the vegetation covers. Then you look at the type of species in the farm. You explain to the farmer what are the forest act and the regulation, what type of payment system are they? And how they must utilize the forest resources. Then you check if that farmer is already harvesting, because after three months we must go. Back to go check.

I1

**So you gotta check every three months? That’s a lot of work.**

P1

Yeah, it is. If the farmer is cutting the right species now you check if you remove the protected species is harvesting from the river, which is about 100 meters. If it's cutting or removing something, trees which are more than 18 centimeter in diameter. If he's cutting unauthorized species. If the workers there are well explained the permit conditions, or if there is firefighting equipment, then from there you write the recommendation according to your observation for what you found then you have to sign the date and the permit holder need to sign.

I2

**And feel what's the time between when the farmer comes for the permit until he gets the whole permit?**

P1

The harvesting permit that's depend to the resources available at the office, because sometimes the cars are going in the field for something else because we are not only doing farm inspections.. So if there is the staff members are available, the cars is here, you can just do it within that week of applications.

I2

**So today in average in takes around how long? Because it also so you also issue permit only to this district or this?**

P1

Yeah, we only covering Otjiwarongo district because there is a policy office totally. They are covering their part. There is a tokaji, there is Okakarara

I2

**So every district has a force?**

P1

So we are only covering Otjiwarongo district. Sometimes we don't manage because we are having more than 500 clients or partners registered already for it. So from there you after you check that their resources you give the farmer what we call now harvesting permits and it's valid for three months and it's $60.00. Now after the farmers start to harvest and we think we can maybe market his product like maybe it's depends because there are local factories which are buying from those farmers. In the sometime they sell to South Africa or abroad, so they come to the office and get what we call marketing permit and that marketing permit is also valid for three month and it's $60.00 now when the farmer want to transport locally in the country. We call it transport permit. They come to the office and get transport permit. It doesn't matter whether you are transporting firewood or charcoal so. We give them transport permit and it's valid for seven days and if now you want to export your product to Netherlands or China or wherever that one we call it export permit. And it's valid for 7 days and that one we charge according to the number of tons. The transfer permit is just $20 and the what the export will need this one is that according to the number of tons. For example, if you are exporting 30 tonnes is $300 Namibian dollars.

I2

We're talking about export permits, which have $300 Namibian for 30 tones and it doesn't matter where they are going, it's just the tonnage?

P1

We charge according to the number of tons. Each ton has its own price. So if it's 20 tons, it's 250. If it's 40 tons, it's 350. So it's the depending the farmers if what number of times you want to export.

I1

And do the like the processors also need to get these export permits.

P1

Which one?

I1

Like Makara Bush.

P1

Yeah. Because those ones they are buying from the factory they are buying from the local farmers then for the local farmers, they just come and get transferred permit, then they transfer to Makara then Makara come to the office or one maybe 30 Export permit, so we charge them 330 when they export because most of the factories they are just exporting, they don't sell locally.

I2

**Is there any limit of tonnage or can they come and like can they get 10,000 tons in one permit? Is that possible?**

P1

No one payment can only we are only writing one payment. The maximum is 40 tones. Because the truck. But the trucks can only carry maximum of 40 tones. You cannot say 1 40 tones time is 2 then 80 tons in one truck they. Cannot fit, so we.

I2

So basically it's like. Per truck you have one permit that's the rule.

P1

Yeah, yes. How do you call this the one for which is going with the railway?

I1

Train.

P1

The train, yeah. So yeah, that's how we do it. So you know we are having how many factories, I think there are nine.

I2

9 processors?

P1

Yeah, 9 processes and yeah those are types of permits we issue in our office transport, marketing, harvesting and export.

I2

He said something about import as well.

P1

Oh import no. We don't deal with imports, but the books are here. But since I started, I never. And that one is for beekeeping. But we only have one big keeper. I think most people they are not interested in bees.

I1

No, I don't know why.

P1

I don't know what is they're not keeping bees, but yeah, we only have 1 beekeeper and come to get the beekeeping. Which is valid for one year and the transportation is valid I think. One month or two months, if I'm not mistaken.

I2

OK so here I see a difference in the number of duration because for the other transport it was only one week. But for beekeeping you see the transfer is for one month?

P1

Yeah, I don't know. Maybe it's because they are trouble makers and you are not really sure if you capture or not, yeah.

I2

And on what basis is this validity or the term like you say 3 months, seven days, seven days, seven days. Why that seven days? Why not more or less?

P1

I think they're trying to do it?.To do regularities they don't want, because if I have to give you transport for four weeks and we are not really on monitoring and patrolling, you can use that permit twice. Because it's only valid for now the valid I think is made shorter for controlling purposes. Yeah, and in the office we also do patrolling. Whereby we go in the field. Or go stand in the road truck to see if there are some people who are transporting firewood or charcoal or any forest product without permits. But in most cases we go when there's this festive season, like in public holidays on Sundays and Saturdays. Yeah, just to see, but most of the time they are there, there are those people who don't want to cooperate just to come to the office and get a payment of. $20 or $10 the person cannot, so you opt to transport products without permit. So when we find them, we confiscate the product. Then we give them a fine. Now it depends on what offense the offender did, so our fines starting from 300 let me see. I find you with firewood and you don't have a permit. Then that one is valid for 300 by then. It depends to what you are carrying and how big the quantity. So if I found you maybe carrying big trees and all that, maybe it would depends.

I2

**And what do you say are the biggest challenges we face?**

P1

**In the process of giving permits?**

I2

**In your day-to-day, what are the biggest challenges?**

P1

The biggest challenge is that these farmers of ours, they don't listen. You know, they are the ones who are owning the farmers and the problem is they are getting some people to do for them charcoal they are not doing it for themselves. So those workers which they are recruiting, they are very problematic. Maybe the farmers have to explain to them or maybe the offices when I'm going to do inspection, I'm explaining to the farmer that OK, now you must talk to your workers they must only cut some specific species, especially Acacia mellifera like prosthetics scenaria those encroached bushes. And on your surprise, when you are going for monitoring and verification, they basically cut the whole land. you advise him to leave some tree standing some trees which are more than 18 centimeter. You must not cut, but when your surprise when you go for monitoring and verification, the person cut everything. Yeah, those are the challenges we are facing and most of the time. Or sometimes they don't want to cooperate. You agree here that you must only cut this type of spices when you go to the farmers something else. And they don't want to listen. And sometimes communication problem, most of them they speak Afrikaans and we only speak English and then we really don't understand each other and on our side, the challenge we are facing sometimes there is no availability of resources like the farmer applied, but there is no car to go to the farm or yeah. And the big challenge is fire, fire, fire. Especially on the fire seasons, but then this time last year, the directorate came up with the. With another fire regulations. OK, we told the farmers that for us to give you harvesting and marketing permit only if you opt or you are banning in the same places. We no longer want farmers to bend because normally those years they were just burning in the field and they are burning in a scattered way like the quilns. They are just here. One is there one is there one is there, then one is here and it's very, very hard for them to control.

I2

If it gets out.

P1

Yeah. So we advise them. You only burn at one specific place whereby you have to clean 100 meter of that place in in big then from there you put your quillns or you can either bring your wood and then it. There's some specific cleaned places. Then they I last year we didn't experience. If I had to say maybe only one farm burned. Compared to the previous years, whereby, every farm is just burning. So I think this way we will keep on this way. So we told them for us to give you the permit, you have to do this and it really worked. And in the camp now, where they are burning because the farmers are very big, so they choose a specific camp where you are burning at some specific places. And in this same camp, you must do the fire breaks of five meter around the camp where you are burning 5 meter of fire bricks or cut line. So in case the fire get out of control, you have ways of fighting for it, so enter I can confirm it. It's 95% worked. So we still continue doing it. When person came maybe from May, June, July they so we still advise them to do the same thing and we go and check in, yeah. That's it.

I1

**And I read somewhere that if you want to clear out area bigger than like 150 hectares you need an environmental clearance?**

P1

Clearance yes, that one we just process the application we send it to Windhoek to the director and to the Environmental Department at Windhoek. Then first you need to get that environmental clearance kit is done by the Ministry of Environment. Environmental department not with us.

I2

**So is that is that necessary? Is that connected to the harvest permit or not?**

P1

Yes it is. Because you cannot clear 150 without our consent.

I2

**So this so just to understand harvest permit is required to file an environmental impact permit or environmental impact is necessary for a harvest permit which one does the farmer gets first?**

P1

So for you to get harvesting permit. You have to coincide the environment permit. And then they do the environmental impact assessment, then they you come with the paper, here's my paper. Then we go and check. Then from there, if we see that everything is fine. Then we give you a permit.

I2

**On this harvest permit, it does not look at what method of harvesting they do or do you see like whether it's manual or mechanized semi mechanized, chemical, biological?**

P1

Not really. But then we advised the farmers to harvest only manual where they are using the number four of the excess because we don't advise them to use any other method of harvesting because if you tell them to do the resources will be depleted. And then some other times, even if they are encroaching very much. So these are the harvesting license conditions.

I2

**Is it possible if we take a photo of this?**

P1

This one is harvesting licensed condition for Bush control license condition for charcoal production.

I1

**And if farmers from like the communal lands wants to get a harvesting permit. What do they need to get?**

P1

It’s communal land. I'm not familiar with that because I'm working at the commercial land but the communal learning. The they are divided into 2 parts. It's either for commercial area or for communal land. By then the validity and the service fees, they are different. And the communal island, they're only allowed to harvest to forest resources for their own use. If they are, they have to market it maybe they must come as a group or as a project, not as an individual because the resources they belong to, everyone, they everyone in the community, so they are not ready to say they are doing charcoal or they are harvesting for firewood, only for own use. If the validity there are different for commercial is valid for three months and then for communal only seven days and this one. The service is $60.00 and the one for communal area is only $20. And we call, we are having also they are harvesting permit for all using when maybe the farmer just want to go cut fire to come use at home. So we call it own use harvesting permit. And it's valid for three days and it's $10. And also we have also transport for own use which is 3 days and it's $10. So in a marketing now for communal area. They are only allowed to market for one month, which is $20 added, but only if they are in a group of community members. Not individuals.

I1

**How many like I can imagine like, you know, farmers if they live far, far away, do they do they really come and get a permit because they don't have transport now?**

P1

Yeah, it's. They come and get transport permits by then. Quite a journey. It will not get transport permit. But I'm sure the ministry did it part because in every district, there's a forestry office around think that one is a problem because if you are not close to your Davaru then means maybe you are close to Tarango you are close to your Marugo. So in every town there is a forestry office. So I don't think the translate is the problem unless they don't want because they most of the time they come to town and do shopping.

I2

**And regarding the fines, you say if they don't have a permit, you confiscate the products and then you have you give them fines as well, right? But on the other hand, the farmers can only get money if they sell the products. So if you confiscate the products then. How do they pay the fine, which is also pretty high for them, right?**

P1

Yeah, it's not really high because the is the permit. It is just $20 right? And you cannot tell me that you cannot afford $20 to transport your 30 tones of charcoal. Yeah, this is something else. So for you it's very cheap, the permits, they are very cheap, just send it over to transport 30 tones of charcoal where you are getting maybe 60,000 or 70,000 per truck. So I don't really think that's problem. So unless the person want to take chances and we don't want to follow the rules and the regulations, yeah.

I1

**And for the marketing permit, what do you need to get for that? Do they check anything or you just apply for a permit?**

P1

You know, it's obviously that you are apply for a harvesting permit when you start marketing, your product will obviously give you marketing permit because you are marketing your product. So whatever your whatever tonnage you have harvested We sell it. So the number of marketing permits will depend on the harvesting permit or all the tones which you harvested.

I1

So you first harvested, then come and get your new marketing permit based on your tonage, yes. OK.

P1

Because you cannot see so 100 tones. when you only harvested for 30 tones. That's how we do it. So yeah, but it's a quite nice process. It's having challenges here and there. But yeah, we are coping.

I1

**And how many people do you have working here like doing all the auditing and controlling?**

P1

In this office we are 2 Forest technician and a forest Ranger is a senior forest technician which is sitting in the other office. And there is a forest are there, but. In most cases, it's only the. Me, the forest technician, helped by the Ranger. Then we got helped by the senior technician.

I1

**So you go out to the farms quite often?**

P1

We go out, we come and sit here, we write the permits.

I1

Sounds like quite a nice job.

P1

But it’s tiring sometimes because those farmers, sometimes they are very far 150 km 200 km.

I1

**Yeah, because just imagine for some of them. It must be quite hard coming in every three months to come and get a permit so far?**

I2

In these seven days, if they only get in transport or something.

P1

And the other thing we are writing with our own hands, we wish they can come up with something in the computer then. Just you know.

I1

**So there's nothing digitalized yet?**

P1

Yes.

I2

**So this is something so this is kind of the concept which we are trying to do in yeah, in our project, so it's called a bio hub. Right where you can see the here these are different small communities or small farms like commercial farms, communal farms, so on and so forth, there the biomass can be harvested, Bush in this case it can be wood chips or it can be just wood locks is collected and then used for a centralized refinery which gives majorly 2 products, right one is a biochar which based on the properties can be used for different purposes for water treatment or electricity generation or as a fertilizer which can go back to the community who sold the biomass? The other one is a bio oil, which is of our interest, which we take it to a refinery and then use it for shipping biofuels, which are used in the ships. So this is the project which we are trying to work and trying to understand how this can be done here in Namibia? So in this one, do you see, like, this chain can be beneficial or what are the challenges present for such a thing? So maybe what are the benefits? First, do you see?**

P1

Now in my own understanding. You said the biochar will be used as soil amendment and energy generations, water treatment.

I2

Those are different products. So here in in our case study we study bush which is can be considered as encroached or invasive, but we also look at forest residues or agricultural residues, municipal solid waste. They can also be used in a similar purpose, but in this case in Namibia we are looking at Bush.

P1

**Oh, so whoever you want to come up with biochar and bio oil. Now the question was, what are the challenges?**

I2

**Question was first what are the benefits you see?**

P1

Oh what are the benefit of this product or the value chain?

I2

The whole value chain. What impact can it have for Namibia or for let's say there is too for Otjiwarongo or for the farmers or other people?

P1

I think it will be the for the benefit of the farmers because for now, they are not utilizing the whole Bush, they are only taking what you call bush? Is the kind of firewood or what? Because they are only taking the firewood itself, then the rest they are throwing it away. So I think if this project can cater the whole Bush to be utilized, then it will be a great opportunity because for now. They're only using the wood and the other part of the tree now is going to waste, so I think it will work or it will be for the benefit of the farmers to utilize this and maybe the bush encroachment will also go down because since now they are just harvesting for charcoal and firewood and there is no other opportunities like the other. I think it will be a good opportunity for them.

I2

**And what will be the biggest challenge? Do you see in terms of, first and also challenge can be just for everybody. But also as you as a permit officer, if this comes, what do you think or will be the challenges?**

P1

The challenge is maybe because the project is new so it will be so hard or they will not understand it very. You know when something is new, so they won't understand it very easily, but maybe when the project will still go on, maybe they would understand. And I think the challenges. That's all what I'm thinking of.

I2

Imagine this requires more lot of lot of wood this one because ships consumes big amount. We are speaking about lot of tonnage which means there will be more farmers who will be harvesting more tones, which means more permits, which means more investigation and inspection.

P1

Then oh.

I2

**So what do you think about that?**

P1

Then it will cost maybe more the desertification. Will it not cause more desertification? Because if they requires more bushes, the farmers will cut more trees and. That will lead to desertification.

I2

**Not if done in a very sustainable manner. You don't cut everything, you just cut the Molifurus. The farmers has to come every seven days or every three months. You have to process if you have 500 clients now probably then you have like 1000 clients then. You don't see any challenges in that?**

P1

Yeah, there is. Then there will be more work to do. More inspections will be done. And more resources can be used, especially maybe development cars who will do inspections and I think they will require maybe more staff members also.

I2

**And do you think also this validity can be changed?**

P1

The validity of the permit. Sure, that one, I'm not sure because it the ministers and directors work to decide on that by then. If it's required to for the validity to be changed, it can.

I2

Right now you just do it for charcoal and firewood for farmers? do the get permit for that right, but just near here I think in the area of summit there is Nampower project coming up. They are using wood chips.

P1

What about wood chips?

I2

How does the farmer do that?

P1

But then we only ever think one or 2 farmers which are doing which are doing woodchips and they are marketing it to Orongo, but they don't really. I don't know if the problem is with the chipping of firewood or what, but they don't come really many times. Maybe take 2 transport permit per week or one. Yeah, we have one or two farmers which are doing, which I just forgot about it and they are selling for selling to Orongo cement

I1

Do the woodchips go on the same permit now?

P1

We use the same permit for like charcoal. But on the payment, we are indicating that it's a woodchip. But then I think these farmers, the ones who are doing, they are utilizing the other bush for charcoal then the other one the lipsum and other stuff they chip it for wood.

I2

And also there was a new project done in the in the community of Okakarara with bush to feed. So that is a different project.

P1

I heard about it but in Okakarara there's a policy office, they know more about it.

I2

**So they don't have to get a new marketing permit for that?**

P1

I think that one was at the communal areas because of discovering partly commercial area.

I2

**Yeah, this happened in a communal area, but I saw that in that one. Even if the marketing permit, you still have to get it for a communal area, right? Yeah, that's valid for one month. So is it for even for trial, you should like a pilot project. You should get a permit or it's not necessary? Because that was the pilot project.**

P1

I'm not sure, but you must have a permit. Yeah, because I think there is also concervancy what we call conservancy in community forests I think they were given books. I don't know. They were given permit books to issue permits, maybe within their community members, yeah.

I2

**Ah, OK. So even they have the power authority to write permits?**

P1

But I'm not 100% sure since I'm not working in that place. The Okakarara Policy Office will give you more information about that.

I2

**And do you also work with FSC or something?**

P1

Yeah, FSC product or FSC? Yeah, there's FSC, whatever. But then for us, we are working for the government and there are private companies. So their requirements are not our requirements. For us, we are concentrating on how do people harvest forest resources, how are they using it? Are they harvesting their rights pieces? Or for them, I think they are concentrating on the types of species people are listing and the conditions of the workers. But we are more or less doing the same thing. It's only that us we don't really concentrate on the conditions of the workers of the farm because I cannot come in and say, why are the people sleeping in those black plastics. Why are they not helping our production facility, maybe I can ask just to advise the farmers to treat the workers in a reliable manner by then. It's not really my work. My work is just to concentrate on the forest protection.

I1

And you see a lot of farmers having quite bad conditions for their workers? Like the when you go to farms, there are a lot of farms, the workers are living in very bad conditions?

P1

Oof, very much. And sometimes we were going into the farm. You think because I went these farmers may I think these farmers, they focus too much on making money. Then the one who is producing money for them because they really don't care where people are sleeping, or maybe what people are eating, or because sometimes you even find kids which are not going to school now. You'll be wondering what's going on there. I don't think they really care about the workers conditions they only care about when the workers are producing, and because in the number even the payment. I don't think they are paying them nice. So that's why FSC has to come up with a condition like if you want to sell your FSC product. You are getting maybe high, like maybe some by the amount of tons, then those who are not FSC members and you must really pay your workers how much and they must have facilities and they must have water around and they must have toilets and they must have water. Otherwise you cannot sell your product I think they are really come up with a nice strategies.

I2

**And while issuing harvest permit, do you also check if the farm workers have certain permit or you don't?**

P1

Do you also check?

I2

The farm workers permit if they have labour permit or working permit or something.

P1

Yeah, that one we don't. Unless maybe there's some cases which were reported. Then we check on that with the Minister of Labor. But I think that's the work of the Ministry of Labor. For us, we only concentrating on the harvesting because even the form which we are having doesn't have anything about labour.

I2

**And the persons who are going for reinspection after three months. Under what conditions you cancel the permit?**

P1

Like we are having some farmers who don't want to cooperate or don't want to work together. You go to the farmer, you find him cutting big trees. Or he's not being like now we advise them to burn at a specific place he's just burning in the field. So that person we call him, then he come to the office, we say, look, we were at your farm, we found this is our findings. So we are going to cancel your permit maybe for three months till you. Till you operate or till or we cancel it for good. You are no longer going to harvest for charcoal or firewood.

I2

**So they have no chance of coming and getting a permit for life?**

P1

Yes, because you don't want to understand them. You don't want to behave. Because there are some who feel like not my own farmer can do whatever I want to do. OK, you can do whatever you want to do, but don't come to the office and ask for the permit. Yeah, it's obvious you have to come here because wherever you are selling your product or you cannot sell product to Angola or South Afrika if you don’t have export permit, it will get it. So the 1st place you come is here.

I2

**And out of these 500 clients, you have what percentage of them are commercial farmers or what percentage of them are communal farmers?**

P1

In our area, we do not have communion farmers here.

I2

What about?

P1

They are all commercial farmers, but. We have some maybe 5% of resettlement farms. Do you know what is a resettlement farm?

I2

Yes, yes.

P1

Those who were resettled by the government. In their come allowed to stay there for 99 years. Yeah, they are also doing charcoal some of them. And we treat them as commercial farms.

I2

So it doesn't the Okakarara community or the Osanai community does not come under this district?

P1

Okakarara we have a fully of forestry office which is covering the part of commercial area which are on their side in the Community forest on that side. Osanai

I2

**All of them belongs to that communal forestry?**

P1

Yeah, they don't belong here as we are only dealing with the Otjiwarongo district. yeah, that's why I don't know more about communal or communal areas.

I2

**Every three months you go back, right? So apart from the wood size, do you also see any other things? Like is there any other conditions where the permit can be cancelled apart from the different method of harvesting?**

P1

No, because we are only concentrating. Unless maybe you remove protected species, but.

I2

**But that is also something you do so first while you go for first inspection, you see what are the inspected species over there?**

P1

Yeah, we see what are the species in there? If they are protected species? We advise you not to cut them unless they are dry and even in this form. You have to indicate which type of species. So if you only indicated that gasha mayreferra and the scenery and I find you cutting maybe acasha efficien now there is already a question mark. Why are you cutting these tree if you said you only cut those two The farmers are smart. You will find even for during the permits, but luckily our permit books, they are having 3 copies whereby yeah, they're having 3 copies.

I2

Carbon copies.

P1

The white one is the original one. We give it to the them. Then this one you put it. We are we created for them files, where we are taking their records. So you keep it in the file and this one remain in the. Book for auditing. So you find some farmers. Maybe this one is the original one. For example, you give in charcoal and you add firewood. He by then him. So you add firewood? Then maybe write something else, but when you check in the copy now, there's no firewood. And you ask what is. So they are being smart. But we are having those challenges of forgetting the papers, even changing the date and. All that, yeah.

I2

**And also you, I saw that you indicate how many hectares and how many tones. How do you check that number like? Do you have a upper limit or say let's say 1 hectare 30 tons**?

P1

We they just came up with a new. Is it a system or what? We went for training.

I2

By the biomass quantification tool.

P1

Yeah, that one, the biomass quantification. But then due to time we didn't. First, they think mid time and yes. It's mid time and staff members, if I have to go in the field, I don't go alone, so we have to go to help each other to measure the stem diameter, then they cannot be done. But we are still to use it. What we can see how many times that the farmer qualified for and for how many days you can cut. I think with biomass qualification we can get the right answer but for now. To be honest with you, we used to we are just guessing maybe and looking at the species like this I'm already seeing. OK, this farmer is encroached. It's having cashia merifera and spieces which are very encroached, so I can just guess maybe in a three month. You can make 150.

I2

One last question, can a farmer come. Let's say if I get a permit today for a certain amount, OK, for transport or for marketing, OK. Can he get a new permit before the old permit expires? Like can I get? Yeah, so now if I apply today it's valid till next Friday. Can I come on Monday to get a new permit again?

P1

Now it depends what type of permit you want.

I2

Let's say it's a marketing or a transport or a.

P1

Marketing is valid for three months, so if for example, if you take it today, it will expire on the 3rd of May. OK, so only give you another marketing permit from the date of May. So if it's transferred, you take it today, it will expire on the 10th, yeah. So we will not give you. Unless maybe you want to transport on Friday. On Saturday. On Sunday. On Monday, on Tuesday, we can give you 5 different transfer permit, each with each own date.

I2

Because I'm OK, because this also has to like let's say if I get transport permit. If I have to bring a new farmer and then I suddenly I have, I harvest more than I need to export and yeah, then I need a new permit.

P1

By the way, we are we used to give the farmers the report beginning when they are recording and invested 150 tonnes marketed 150 tones, so from that 50 tonnes are transported the 40 tones are exported them. Now what are the remaining? Yeah, they are having something which we call report back.

I2

OK. So that's the feedback stuff.

P1

Yeah, that's cool. Just if your project is aproved, please give us this computers and Internet we are suffering. Because we had this engineering whereby you only do I forgot the name, but then we were just using the. What is this? We were inspecting just in the computers. I forgot the name.

I2

Computer science engineers.

P1

Yeah, it was called the ringer. Engineering something, something. But then now, because the computer is there is no Internet. You know the resources are being depleted, so we don't have anything now. So for now we just go do the inspection physically, which is really tiring and instead of just doing it in a computer and from there you just go and check if the person is doing the right things.

I2

OK. Yeah, thanks for that.