

March 2020

Associate Membership Programme

The Namibia Charcoal Association welcomes all new Associate Members. We trust that your relationship with the Association and its normal members will be fruitful and serve as an asset to the charcoal and related industries. The Charcoal Industry not only focuses on the production of charcoal for braaiing and restaurants but also on BioChar, Activated Charcoal, Briquettes and Braai-wood to name a few.

Charcoal has been produced in Namibia for more than 30 years on an economical scale. It represents the oldest wood biomass chain in Namibia. The industry grew significantly in the 2001–2010 period, the estimated amounts produced per year for that period were between 50,000 and 60,000 tonnes of charcoal. The past three years have seen an accelerated growth in the industry and it is predicted that this trend will continue over the next 5 years.

The industry is one of the fastest growing industries in Namibia and the NCA is promoting new product lines for industry stakeholder, i.e. BioChar and Activated Charcoal. Many research and development projects were undertaken, and some are still continuing to ensure that the industry stays abreast of the latest trends in technology, production techniques and products for the export market. With the growth in the industry, value-added services become more and more important. Charcoal producers and processors require professional services and advice from leaders in the industry. There is a strong drive by our Government to add more value in Namibia before products are exported. In future levies will be added to raw products exported from Namibia. This will provide more growth opportunities for investors in Namibia.

Without a well-trained and committed work force, the industry cannot grow. This is where our Associate Membership programme can add value to the industry. The NCA is keen to support all initiatives from other industry stakeholders to grow this important industry in Namibia.

Namibia Charcoal Association makes provision for two categories of membership, Normal and Associate. The Normal Membership category is for all producers and processors in the charcoal industry. This means anybody physically working with charcoal or packaging it ready for delivery to retailers. For this category members pay a levy per tonne of charcoal produced.

The Associate Membership category was created to enable any stakeholder in the charcoal and related products industry to become an associate member of the NCA. This category is open to any individual, company, institution, research company, or any organisation who has a vested interest in the industry to apply for membership. This gives associate members the opportunity to connect with the charcoal industry via the Namibia Charcoal Association.

The Namibia Charcoal Association will protect the information of its normal members (i.e. the actual producers). The information is treated as confidential and will not be disclosed to any charcoal processor, or any other institution or individual. However, Associate Members are free to contact the NCA to distribute important information to its members. The NCA will do this on behalf of the Associate Members. This will enable the Associate Members to introduce services and products to all members and to use the Association as an advertising agent.

The benefits for Associate Members are as follows:

- 🌿 The Associate Membership strives to create value-added services for its members and the NCA will work closely with Associate Members to create benefits for the charcoal community.
- 🌿 Associate Members will be able to advertise their services on NCA's website and social media. Adverts must be submitted to the NCA office to be included in the social media.
- 🌿 Associate Members will also benefit from the distribution network of the NCA to get their charcoal-related products and services sent to the members of the NCA. (NB: The NCA cannot disclose the detail of its members to any third party but will act as agent to distribute information to its members.)
- 🌿 Co-hosting important events with the NCA, including capacity building initiatives for the charcoal work force.
- 🌿 Special deals and visibility on events organised by the NCA (excluding Biomass Technology Expo), e.g. Tech Days and Field Days arranged by the NCA to introduce latest production practices and new technology updates.
- 🌿 Gain entry to the preferred supplier list for NCA members.

Associate members shall be invited to attend the Annual General Meeting as observers, but they shall have no voting rights. They cannot be nominated or elected as members of the Board of Directors but can be nominated as co-opted members to advise and support the existing board. This will enable Associate members to provide valuable feedback to the Board and to give their input for important decisions, policies or even production guidelines and standards that need to be adopted in the charcoal industry.

