

# **10 APRM LESSONS FROM NAMIBIA**

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## **APRM lessons from Namibia**

- ❖ **Namibia joined the APRM in 28 January 2017 after a long period of scepticism, which was shared by Botswana.**
- ❖ **Why were both countries sceptical about the APRM process?**
- ❖ **Namibia was the first to break the deadlock in 2017 and Botswana acceded in January 2019.**

## LESSON 1

- ❖ **Become familiar with the APRM process as soon as possible.**
- **Understand the APRM (how it operates and the opportunities it presents).**
- **In Namibia the IPPR commissioned SAIIA to write a short guide regarding expectations.**
- **Expose CSOs to the APRM through multiple workshops.**

## LESSON 2

### ❖ Use the APRM to strengthen civil society

- Lack of funding, labelling of critical civil society organisations as being unpatriotic can diminish cooperation between CSOs.
- Specialisation can also lead to isolation.
- The APRM process managed to bring CSOs together towards a common purpose.

## LESSON 3

### ❖ Select issues that matter

- Pick key governance issues.
- Make sure that CSOs are knowledgeable and passionate about the issues picked.
- Link the issues into existing government programmes and priorities.

## LESSON 4

- ❖ **Plan multiple interventions to maintain momentum.**
  - A once-off workshop is insufficient
  - Promote on-going technical support in developing the written submission.
  - In Namibia, the working group relied on SAIIA too heavily.

## LESSON 5

- ❖ **Involve government stakeholders to build trust.**
  - Forge links with key stakeholders (everyone is playing for the same team).
  - Notify them about events and intentions; and be informed about their events and activities
  - Do not use the process as an indictment.

## LESSON 6

- ❖ **Spur the government to advance the national process.**
- **Rapid progress by the CSOs can influence the government to speed up its own process.**



## LESSON 7

### ❖ Draw on the experience of other countries.

- Invite civil society experts, activists and members of parliament of other states.
- Peer learning (where there are multiple organisations working on similar projects).

## LESSON 8

### ❖ Ensure ownership and buy-in.

- Offer modest payments to those making written contributions.
- Give CSOs reasonable time period to read, study and comment on the draft to enhance endorsement and ownership of the document.
- Promote national coverage.

## LESSON 9

### ❖ **Develop a dissemination strategy**

- **National Level (National Focal Point, NGC, National Planning Commission and the APRM technical Research Institutes).**
- **The Media**
- **At the Continental Level (Continental APRM Secretariat, the Panel of Eminent Persons and Country Review Mission)**

## LESSON 10

- ❖ **Ensure civil society voice is heard throughout.**
- **Producing a CSAR is just a small part of the APRM journey.**
- **Remain active on the NGC, developing and monitoring the National Programme of Action (NPoA), hold the government accountable for its commitments.**
- **Participate in subsequent reviews.**

**THE END – THANK YOU**

