

Top enviro honour for Namibian

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NAMIBIAN Patricia Skeyer has won a highly-acclaimed World Wildlife Fund (WWF) environmental award for her contribution to the conservation of the Namibian environment.

Skeyer, the Co-ordinator of the Namibia Association of the Community Based Natural Resource Management Support Organisation (Nacso), scooped the WWF Women and Conservation Award. Each year the WWF recognises one or two women worldwide who have contributed immensely to national conservation.

She will share this year's award with Sushila Nepali from Nepal. Skeyer leave for the United States tomorrow to receive her award in Washington next week.

She is the first Namibian woman to receive the award, which comes with a N\$50 000 (US\$ 5 000) cash prize.

"I am really honoured indeed," an ecstatic Skeyer told The Namibian yesterday. She said the WWF award would encourage her to forge ahead with her conservation work.

Skeyer has been involved in co-ordinating support programmes for 11 non-governmental organisations, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the University of Namibia (Unam). Nacso was established in 1999.

Linda Baker of the Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation described Skeyer's recognition by the WWF as a great achievement, noting that she was the first woman in the country to be bestowed with such an honour.

Community-Based Natural Resource Management Co-ordinator, Anna Davis, who will accompany Skeyer to the US said she deserved the award. "She is an incredibly committed person and hardworking," said Davis.

She said Skeyer's award showed that Namibia was doing well in nature and wildlife conservation.