



Republic of Namibia

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

Namibia's Third National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP3)

2026-2035

Draft 26 February 2026

List of Abbreviation

ABS	: Access and Benefit Sharing
ABSAP	: African Union Biodiversity strategy and Action Plan
BCC	: Benguela Current Convention
BCLME	: Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem
CBD	: Convention on Biological Diversity
CBMIS	: Community-based monitoring and information system
CBNRM	: Community-Based Natural Resource Management
CBO	: Community Based Organizations
CITES	: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	: Conservation of Migratory Species
CR	: Critically Endangered
DSI	: Digital Sequence Information
EAF	: Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EbA	: Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EBSA	: Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area
eDNA	: Environmental DNA
EIA	: Environmental Impacts Assessment
EIF	: Environmental Investment Fund
EMA	: Environmental Management Act
EN	: Endangered
EVI	: Enhanced Vegetation Index
GBF	: Global Biodiversity Framework
GMO	: Genetically Modified Organisms
HW	: Human Wildlife
HWC	: Human Wildlife Conflict
IAS	: Invasive Alien Species
ICUN	: International Union for Conservation of Nature
ILUP	: Integrated Land Use Planning
IRLUP	: Integrated Regional Land Use Plans
IWRM	: Integrated Water Resources Management
KAZA TFCA	: Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area
KBA	: Key Biodiversity Areas
KIFI	: Kamutjonga Inland Fisheries Institute
KMGBF	: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LAC	: Legal Assistance Centre
LDN	: Land Degradation Neutrality
MAFWLR	: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform
MEA	: Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MEFT	: Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism
METT	: Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
MIME	: Ministry of Industries Mines and Energy
MPA	: Marine Protected Area
MSP	: Marine Spatial Planning
MURD	: Ministry of Urban and Rural Development

MWT	: Ministry of Works and Transport
NACSO	: Namibian Association of Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Support Organizations
NAMETT	: Namibia Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
NBRI	: National Botanical Research Institute
NbS	: Nature-based Solutions
NBSAP	: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NBSAP 2	: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2
NBSAP3	: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 3
NCE	: Namibian Chamber of Environment
NDC	: Nationally Determined Contributions
NDVI	: Normalised Difference Vegetation Index
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organizations
NIMPA	: Namibian Islands' Marine Protected Area
NT	: Near Threatened
NTFP	: Non-Timber Forest Products
OECM	: Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures
OKACOM	: Okavango River Water Commission
OMA	: Offices Ministries and Agencies
ORASECOM	: Orange-Senqu River Commission
PA	: Protected Area
PCAS	: Protected and Conservation Areas
RBO	: River Basin Organisations
SADC	: Southern Africa Development Cooperation
SAGE	: Site-level Assessment of Governance and Equity
SBAPP	: Spatial Biodiversity Assessments, Prioritisation and Planning
SEA	: Strategic Environmental Assessment
SMART	: Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
SME	: Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SOPs	: Standard Operation Procedures
UN	: United Nations
UNAM	: University of Namibia
UNCCD	: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCLOS	: United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNFCCC	: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VU	: Vulnerable
WDPA	: World Database on Protected Areas
ZAMCOM	: Zambezi Watercourse Commission

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION	6
1.1 Purpose and Scope of the NBSAP	6
1.2 Rationale for NBSAP 3	6
1.3 Strategic Context and Global Positioning	7
1.4 NBSAP 3 Development Approach	7
1.5 Structure of the NBSAP Document	8
Chapter 2: Country Overview	9
2.1 Geographic and Climatic Context.....	9
2.1.1 Geography	9
2.1.2 Climate, Agro-climatic Zones and Biodiversity	9
2.2 Ecosystems of Namibia.....	10
2.2.1 Terrestrial Ecosystems	11
2.2.2 Marine and Coastal Ecosystems.....	12
2.2.3 Inland Aquatic and Wetland Ecosystems.....	13
2.3 Biodiversity Significance and Value in Namibia	13
2.3.1 Biodiversity Significance	13
2.3.2 Ecosystem Services and Livelihoods	14
2.4 Species Diversity, Endemism and Conservation Importance	15
2.4.1 Species Diversity and Endemism	15
2.4.2 Species trends.....	16
2.4.3 Threatened and Endangered Species	20
Chapter 3: Situational Analysis	23
3.1 Threats to biodiversity	23
3.2 Biodiversity Initiatives under NBSAP 2	24
3.2.1 Wildlife management.....	24
3.2.2 Forest management	25
3.2.3 Coastal, Marine and Inland Aquatic Conservation.....	25
3.2.4 Access and Benefit Sharing	26
3.3 Barriers, Enablers and Lessons Learnt from NBSAP 2 Implementation.....	27
Chapter 4: Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks	28
4.1 International, Continental and Regional Policy Framework	28
4.1.1 International Policy Framework	28
4.1.2 Continental Policy Framework.....	28

4.1.3 Regional and Transboundary Frameworks	29
3.2 National Policy and Legal Framework.....	29
3.3 Institutional Framework.....	31
Chapter 5: The National Biodiversity Strategy	33
5.1 Vision and Principles Governing the Strategy	33
5.1.1 The Vision	33
5.1.2 Principles Governing the Strategy	33
5.2.1 Strategic Goal 1: Halt biodiversity loss by maintaining and restoring ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, and reducing key pressures.....	34
5.2.2 Strategic Goal 2: Promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services	35
5.2.3 Strategic Goal 3: Promote equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity... 35	
5.2.4 Strategic Goal 4: Strengthen effective and coordinated implementation.....	36
5.3 National Biodiversity Targets	36
5.4 Summary of alignment between the National Strategy and the Global Biodiversity Framework	37
Chapter 6: National Action Plan: Strategic Programmes	39
6.1 Strategic Programmes under NBSAP 3	39
6.1.1 Strategic Goal 1: Halt biodiversity loss by maintaining and restoring ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, and reducing key pressures.....	39
Thematic Pillar 1.1: Ecosystem conservation and restoration	40
Thematic Pillar 1.2: Conservation and recovery of species and genetic diversity	54
Thematic Pillar 1.3: Reducing threats to biodiversity	63
6.1.2 Strategic Goal 2: Promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services	70
Thematic Pillar 2.1: Sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being	71
Thematic Pillar 2.2: Biodiversity-inclusive and integrated management in production sectors across land, freshwater and marine ecosystems	76
6.1.3 Strategic Goal 3: Promote equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity... 79	
Thematic Pillar 3.1: Ensuring equitable access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing and traditional knowledge	79
6.1.4 Strategic Goal 4: Strengthen effective and coordinated implementation.....	85
Thematic Pillar 4.1: Mainstreaming biodiversity through governance instruments and safeguards	86
Thematic Pillar 4.2: Finance, capacity, knowledge and accountability	100
References.....	118

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the NBSAP

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) is Namibia's principal national instrument for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It provides the strategic framework through which Namibia identifies biodiversity priorities, sets national targets, and coordinates actions across sectors and governance levels to conserve biodiversity, promote the sustainable use of biological resources, and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources.

This Third National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 3) cover the period 2026–2035, and applies to terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems across Namibia. It builds on previous NBSAPs while responding to evolving national circumstances, emerging environmental pressures and updated global biodiversity commitments. The NBSAP serves both as a policy framework and an implementation-oriented strategy, guiding coordinated biodiversity action across government and society.

NBSAP 3 is intended to support the integration of biodiversity considerations into national development planning and decision-making, recognising biodiversity as an asset for sustainable development, climate resilience, food security, livelihoods and human well-being.

1.2 Rationale for NBSAP 3

NBSAP 3 is driven by a combination of global, national and contextual factors that necessitate renewed strategic direction and action. At the global level, the adoption of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in 2022 marked a significant shift in ambition, calling for urgent and transformative action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. As a Party to the CBD, Namibia is required to align its national biodiversity strategies and targets with this new global framework.

At the national level, experience from the implementation of NBSAP 2 highlighted both notable achievements and persistent challenges. While Namibia has made significant progress in areas such as Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), protected area expansion and wildlife conservation, biodiversity loss continues in many ecosystems due to land-use change, land degradation, pollution, invasive alien species, unsustainable resource use and the accelerating impacts of climate change. These pressures underscore the need for a more integrated, prioritised and implementation-focused strategy.

In addition, Namibia's development context continues to evolve. Population growth, infrastructure expansion, agricultural development, extractive industries and the growth of the blue economy place increasing demands on land, aquatic and biological resources. At the same time, climate variability and change are intensifying environmental stress in an already arid and highly variable landscape. Updating the NBSAP provides an opportunity to respond to these dynamics by strengthening policy coherence, improving coordination across sectors, and aligning biodiversity objectives with national development and climate agendas.

1.3 Strategic Context and Global Positioning

NBSAP 3 is anchored in Namibia's international biodiversity commitments under the CBD and is explicitly aligned with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The national biodiversity targets set out in this NBSAP correspond to the GBF targets, while reflecting Namibia's national circumstances, capacities and priorities.

At the continental and regional levels, the NBSAP is aligned with relevant African Union and Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC) frameworks that promote coordinated biodiversity action across shared ecosystems and transboundary landscapes. Namibia's participation in regional cooperation mechanisms for wildlife conservation, shared river basins and marine ecosystems further reinforces the importance of harmonised approaches to biodiversity governance.

At the national level, NBSAP 3 is intended to support and complement Namibia's broader development, environmental and climate-related policies and planning instruments. By strengthening the integration of biodiversity considerations into land-use planning, sectoral strategies and investment decisions, the NBSAP contributes to sustainable development objectives while safeguarding ecosystem integrity and resilience.

1.4 NBSAP 3 Development Approach

A formal review of NBSAP 2 implementation was undertaken as a foundation for updating the Strategy. This review provided insights into achievements, barriers, enabling factors and lessons learned from the implementation of the previous NBSAP. During the review process, stakeholders identified priority biodiversity issues, implementation gaps and opportunities for strengthening coordination, governance and financing. The findings of this review informed the scope, focus and design of the NBSAP 3 development process.

The development of NBSAP 3 followed an inclusive, participatory and consultative process consistent with guidance under the CBD. Stakeholder engagement was undertaken through a combination of consultation workshops, meetings and targeted engagements (such as interministerial working sessions) designed to ensure broad geographic coverage and inclusive participation. Consultations were conducted across all fourteen political regions of Namibia through regional stakeholder workshops, complemented by local-level focus group discussions specifically targeting vulnerable and marginalised groups who were unable to participate in regional workshops due to geographic, social or economic constraints.

In addition, thematic and sector-specific expert meetings were convened to provide technical input on priority biodiversity issues, while online surveys were used to broaden participation and capture inputs from stakeholders unable to attend in-person consultations. The consultation process culminated in a national stakeholder consultation workshop, which consolidated inputs from across regions and sectors, followed by a national validation workshop to review, refine and confirm the strategic direction, targets and action programmes of NBSAP 3. These engagement processes ensured that the NBSAP reflects diverse perspectives, strengthens national ownership and is grounded in both local realities and technical expertise.

These consultative processes, desktop studies and review of NBSAP 2 implementation provide a robust basis for NBSAP 3, ensuring that the strategy is nationally owned, technically sound and well-positioned for effective implementation across sectors and governance levels.

1.5 Structure of the NBSAP Document

NBSAP 3 is structured into seven chapters. Following this Introduction, Chapter 2 presents a country overview, describing Namibia's geographic, ecological and biodiversity context, including ecosystems, species diversity and biodiversity values. Chapter 3 outlines the situational analysis, informed largely by the review of NBSAP 2. Chapter 4 presents international, regional and national policy, legal and institutional frameworks relevant to biodiversity governance.

Chapter 5 sets out the national biodiversity strategy, including the vision, guiding principles, strategic goals, thematic pillars and national biodiversity targets aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework. Chapter 6 presents the National Biodiversity Action Plan, translating strategic objectives into priority action programmes for implementation. Chapter 7 addresses implementation arrangements, including monitoring, evaluation and reporting, financing, capacity development and accountability mechanisms.

A detailed Action Plan is provided as an Annexure (to be inserted).

Chapter 2: Country Overview

2.1 Geographic and Climatic Context

2.1.1 Geography

Namibia is in south-western Africa and covers an area of approximately 824,292 km², making it one of the largest countries in the region by land area. It is bordered by Angola and Zambia to the north, Botswana to the east, South Africa to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. Namibia is characterised by a predominantly arid to semi-arid climate and is recognised as the driest country in sub-Saharan Africa south of the Sahara.

The country's geography is characterised by arid to semi-arid conditions, and pronounced environmental gradients, including variations in rainfall, temperature and topography. Together with low population density, these factors have strongly influenced land-use patterns, ecosystem distribution, species composition, ecosystem resilience, and the dependence of communities on biodiversity and natural resources, as well as the vulnerability of biodiversity to climate variability and change¹.

2.1.2 Climate, Agro-climatic Zones and Biodiversity

Namibia experiences highly variable rainfall both spatially and temporally, with average annual rainfall ranging from less than 25 mm along the coast to approximately 700 mm in the north-eastern regions. Mean annual rainfall across Namibia is low, averaging approximately 250 mm per year nationally, reflecting the country's predominantly arid to semi-arid climate. Rainfall is largely seasonal, occurring during the summer months (November to April), and is strongly influenced by inter-annual climatic variability. This pronounced rainfall gradient, together with variations in soils and vegetation cover, underpins the country's agro-climatic zones, which reflect the interaction between climate, soils, vegetation potential and dominant land-use systems².

Namibia is divided into several agro-climatic zones based primarily on rainfall patterns, soil characteristics and associated vegetation. These zones play an important role in shaping ecosystem distribution, species composition, land-use pressures and biodiversity resilience across the country. Rain-fed crop production is largely confined to the northern and north-eastern regions, where rainfall is relatively higher and more reliable, while extensive livestock farming dominates much of central and southern Namibia. Wildlife-based land uses are also widespread, particularly in arid and semi-arid zones, reflecting adaptations to climatic constraints and the need to align land use with ecological conditions³.

Climate change poses a significant and growing challenge to Namibia's ecosystems and biodiversity. Observed and projected trends include increasing temperatures, prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall patterns, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and heightened evapotranspiration rates. These changes exacerbate land degradation, reduce water availability, alter species distributions, and

¹ Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek

² Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek

³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). (2015). *Agro-ecological zoning and agricultural systems in Namibia*. FAO, Rome.

through that livelihood, and increase pressure on already fragile ecosystems. Climate change, therefore, represents a cross-cutting driver of biodiversity loss and a critical consideration for biodiversity planning and management in Namibia⁴.

2.2 Ecosystems of Namibia

Namibia's biodiversity comprises a diverse range of terrestrial, marine and inland aquatic ecosystems, reflecting pronounced gradients in climate, geology, topography and hydrology across the country. As illustrated in Figure 1, these ecosystems are represented by a series of regional functional ecosystem groups, ranging from hyper-arid deserts along the Atlantic coast to tropical savannas, woodlands and wetlands in the north and northeast, as well as freshwater systems distributed throughout the country.

Broad ecosystem patterns are shaped by a west–east and south–north rainfall gradient. Hyper-arid desert ecosystems, including the Namib and associated desert landscapes, dominate the western coastal zone and are characterised by extreme aridity, specialised species and high levels of endemism. Further inland, semi-desert and arid savanna systems occur, transitioning into more productive savanna, woodland and grassland systems in central, northern and northeastern Namibia.

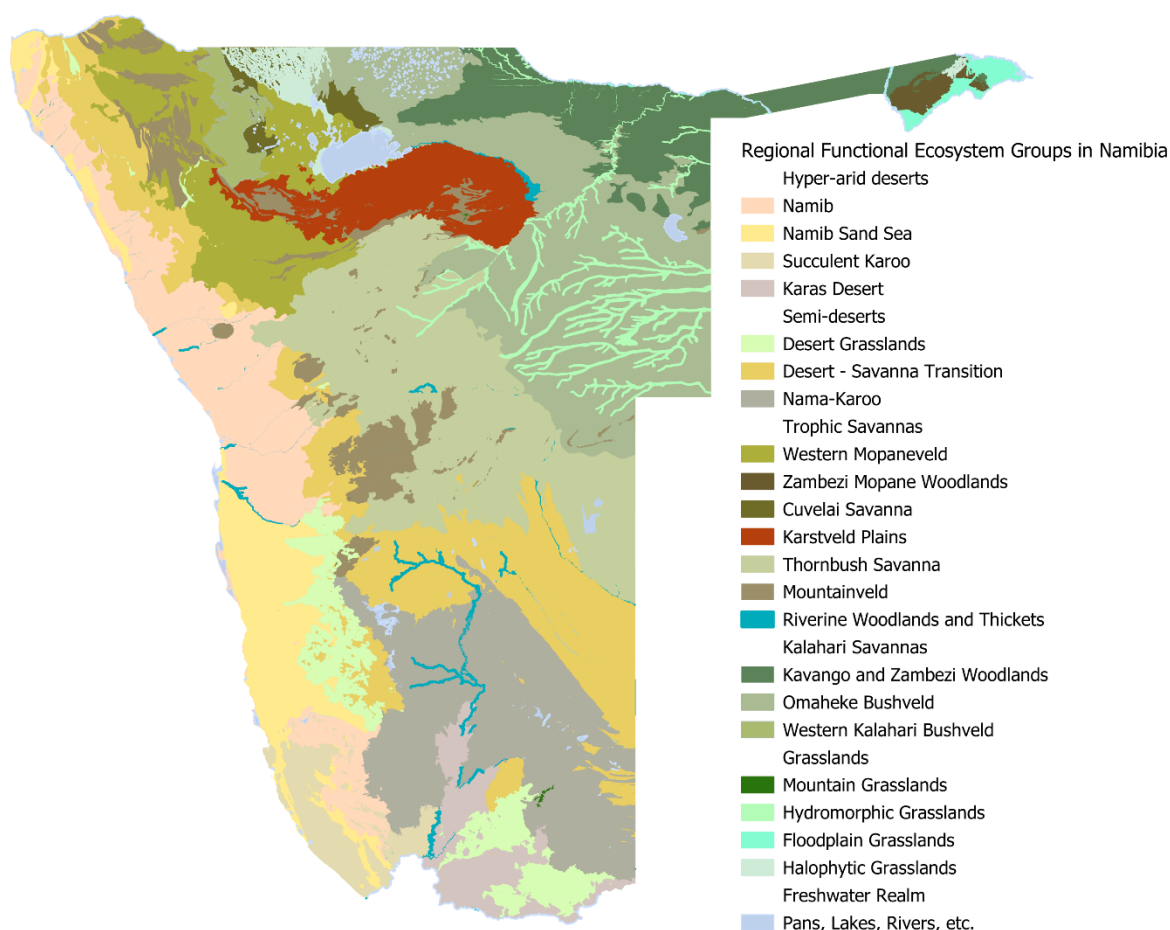


Figure 1: Regional functional ecosystem map (Source SBAPP 2025)

In the north and northeast, higher rainfall supports tropical savannas, woodlands and floodplain systems closely associated with major river systems and seasonal wetlands. Inland aquatic ecosystems,

⁴ MEFT. (2020). *Namibia's Fourth National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Windhoek: Government of the Republic of Namibia.

including rivers, floodplains, pans and wetlands, form important ecological corridors and provide essential ecosystem services such as water regulation, nutrient cycling and climate resilience.

Coupled with Namibia's marine and coastal ecosystems, these ecosystem groups support ecosystem services, species distributions and human livelihoods across the country. They form the basis for biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of biological resources in Namibia and underscore the need for ecosystem-specific and landscape-scale approaches to biodiversity management under NBSAP 3.

2.2.1 Terrestrial Ecosystems

Namibia's terrestrial ecosystems are described and mapped using the national terrestrial ecosystem classification developed under the Spatial Biodiversity Assessments, Prioritisation and Planning (SBAPP). This classification provides a detailed, spatially explicit framework for biodiversity assessment, conservation planning and land-use decision-making.

The SBAPP classification identifies approximately 200 distinct terrestrial ecosystem types across Namibia. These ecosystem types are defined based on vegetation structure and composition, soils, climate, topography and key ecological processes, and are aligned with the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology.

As illustrated in Figure 2, the terrestrial ecosystem map highlights the high ecological heterogeneity of Namibia's landscapes and the spatial distribution of ecosystem types across the country. This level of differentiation enables more targeted identification of priority areas for conservation, restoration and sustainable management, and supports ecosystem-specific responses to land-use change, climate variability and other pressures.

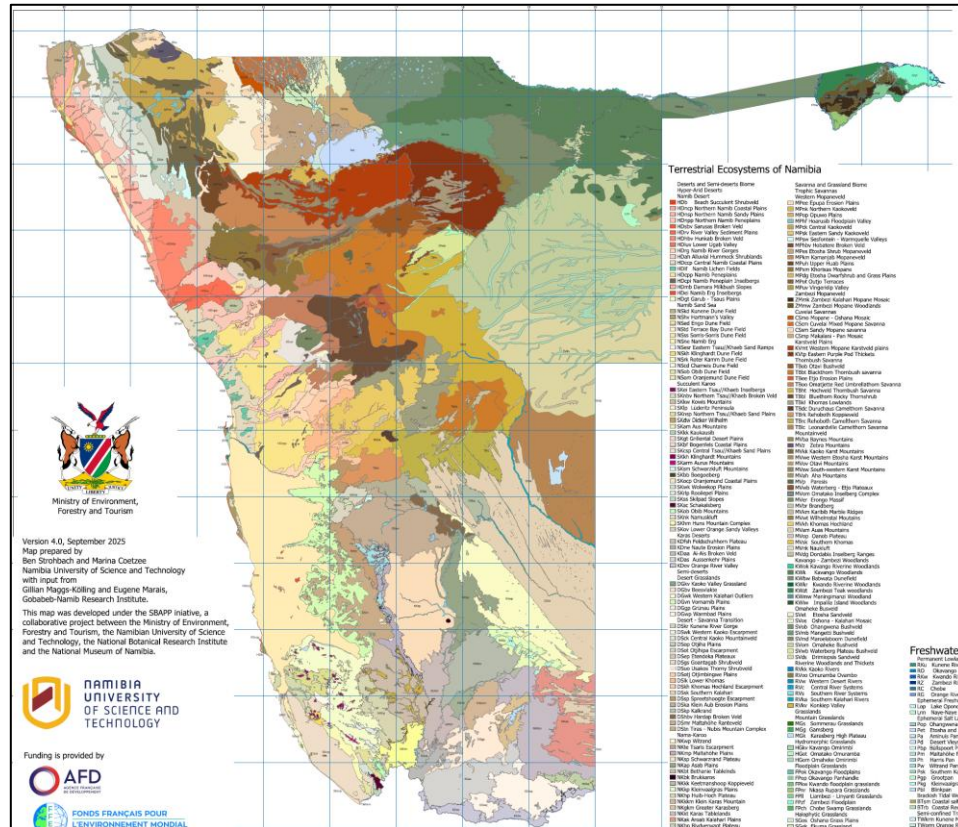


Figure 1: Terrestrial Ecosystem Types (Source, SBAPP 2025)

As illustrated in Figure 2, the terrestrial ecosystem map highlights the high ecological heterogeneity of Namibia's landscapes and the spatial distribution of ecosystem types across the country. This level of differentiation enables more targeted identification of priority areas for conservation, restoration and sustainable management, and supports ecosystem-specific responses to land-use change, climate variability and other pressures.

2.2.2 Marine and Coastal Ecosystems

Namibia's marine and coastal ecosystems are critical components of national biodiversity and are strongly influenced by the major wind-driven Benguela Current upwelling system, which is an important factor driving marine biodiversity and food production⁵. The upwelling system brings nutrient-rich deep waters to the surface, supporting rapid phytoplankton growth and forming the primary base of highly productive marine food webs⁶. These processes support Namibia's commercially and ecologically important fisheries, including small pelagic fish and demersal resources.

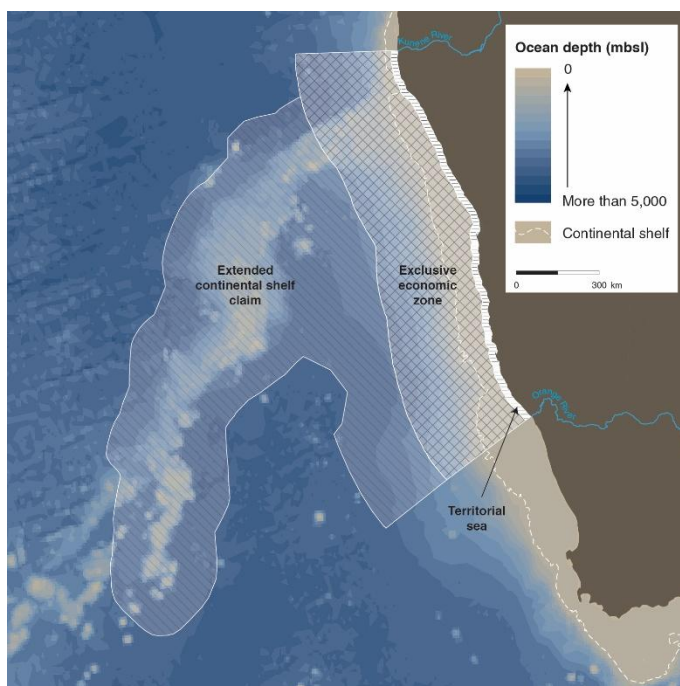


Figure 2: Namibia's marine territory and exclusive economic zone (Source, Atlas 2022)

⁵ Benguela Current Convention. (2021). Updated Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)

⁶ Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek



to biodiversity significance by supporting extensive savanna, grassland and shrubland systems that maintain ecological connectivity across southern Africa and sustain wildlife-based land uses over large landscapes. These terrestrial ecosystems highlight the importance of biodiversity adapted to climatic extremes and environmental variability.

Namibia's marine biodiversity derives significance through the productive Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME), one of the world's major wind-driven coastal upwelling systems. The upwelling of cold, nutrient-rich waters drives exceptionally high primary productivity and supports complex marine food webs. These ecological processes enable regionally and internationally important fisheries and sustain marine species of conservation concern, reinforcing the broader importance of Namibia's marine ecosystems¹⁰.

Freshwater and wetland ecosystems, while limited in extent, are of high national and regional importance due to their role in sustaining biodiversity within an otherwise arid landscape. Perennial rivers along the northern and southern borders, seasonal wetlands, floodplains, and ephemeral river systems support disproportionately high levels of species richness relative to their area, providing critical habitat for aquatic and semi-aquatic species, including migratory waterbirds whose life cycles extend beyond national borders. Their scarcity, functional importance and role in maintaining ecological connectivity elevate their conservation value at national and transboundary scales¹¹.

2.3.2 Ecosystem Services and Livelihoods

Biodiversity in Namibia provides a wide range of ecosystem services that are fundamental to human well-being, economic activities and resilience in an arid and highly variable environment. These services include water regulation, soil protection, climate regulation, food provision, cultural values and livelihood support, and are critical for rural communities whose livelihoods are closely linked to natural resources.

Freshwater and wetland ecosystems play a central role in water supply, flood regulation and groundwater recharge, supporting domestic use, livestock production, agriculture and wildlife. Riparian systems, wetlands and floodplains contribute to soil moisture retention, nutrient cycling and the maintenance of productive landscapes while also reducing vulnerability to droughts and floods. In a water-scarce country such as Namibia, the condition and functioning of these ecosystems are therefore closely linked to food security, public health and climate resilience.

Terrestrial ecosystems provide essential services that support livestock production, wildlife-based land uses and ecosystem stability. Rangelands supply forage for livestock and wildlife, while vegetation cover contributes to soil protection, erosion control and carbon storage. Healthy ecosystems enhance the capacity of landscapes to recover from climatic shocks and reduce the risk of land degradation, which remains a key challenge in arid and semi-arid areas.

Marine ecosystems associated with the Benguela Current contribute significantly to national food security, employment and economic development through fisheries and related industries. These ecosystems also provide regulating services, including nutrient cycling and climate regulation, that sustain marine productivity and broader ocean processes. The continued delivery of these services depends on the maintenance of ecosystem integrity and ecological processes.

¹⁰ Shannon, L. V., & O'Toole, M. J. (2003). *Large Marine Ecosystems of the World: Trends in exploitation, protection and research*. Elsevier.

¹¹ Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, *Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life*, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek

Biodiversity also underpins community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), which has become a cornerstone of Namibia's approach to conservation and rural development. Through wildlife-based tourism, sustainable use of natural resources and benefit-sharing mechanisms, biodiversity contributes directly to household incomes, employment and local development, while creating incentives for conservation across large areas outside formal protected areas.

Nature-based tourism, including wildlife viewing, coastal tourism and cultural tourism, relies on intact ecosystems and healthy species populations and represents a major source of revenue and employment. Along with fisheries and wildlife-based land uses, these sectors demonstrate the strong link between biodiversity conservation, livelihoods and national development objectives.

2.4 Species Diversity, Endemism and Conservation Importance

2.4.1 Species Diversity and Endemism

Namibia supports a wide range of species across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, with biodiversity patterns shaped by strong ecological gradients and long-term adaptation to arid and semi-arid conditions. Namibia's biodiversity includes highly specialised taxa and notable endemism, particularly among plants, reptiles and invertebrates associated with dryland ecosystems. An estimated 16–17% of the country's vascular plant flora is endemic, with concentrations of endemic species in areas such as the Succulent Karoo, Kaokoveld and highland escarpments¹². Namibia also hosts a diverse reptile fauna with approximately 256–261 species, a notable proportion of which are range-restricted or endemic, reflecting the country's environmental heterogeneity and evolutionary history¹³.

In addition to endemic and range-restricted species, Namibia's species diversity includes large vertebrates, flagship species and habitat-specialist taxa that contribute significantly to national and regional biodiversity values. These species, while often not endemic, play important ecological roles and are integral to the functioning of ecosystems and the overall conservation value of Namibia's landscapes¹⁴.

The country is globally well known for its wildlife, particularly large terrestrial mammals that occur at the landscape scale and persist extensively outside formally protected areas. Iconic species such as elephant, lion, black rhino, giraffe, cheetah and leopard are central to the country's conservation identity and play important ecological, cultural and economic roles. These species are closely associated with Namibia's protected areas, communal conservancies and freehold farming landscapes, and their continued presence reflects long-term investment in wildlife management, community-based conservation and sustainable land use¹⁵.

Large carnivores and other wide-ranging mammals are of conservation importance due to their ecological roles as apex predators or keystone species, their sensitivity to land-use change, and their frequent interaction with people in production landscapes. Species such as cheetah and lion exemplify

¹² Maggs, G.L., et al. (1998). *Plant species richness, endemism and genetic resources in Namibia*. Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa.

¹³ Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek

¹⁴ Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek

¹⁵ Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek

the challenges and opportunities associated with conserving biodiversity in multi-use landscapes, where conservation outcomes depend on coexistence approaches and integrated land management rather than strict protection alone.

Freshwater and wetland ecosystems support species of high conservation importance that are often highly localised and closely dependent on variable hydrological regimes. These include freshwater fish, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates associated with perennial rivers, seasonal wetlands, floodplains and ephemeral river systems. Although limited in spatial extent, these ecosystems support important species with restricted distributions and specialised ecological requirements, such as endemic or near-endemic amphibians and fish associated with the Okavango, Zambezi and Kwando river systems, including the Mpacha frog, the Nembwe cichlid and the Caprivi killifish¹⁶. Such species are particularly sensitive to changes in water availability, flow regimes and habitat condition.

Namibia's coastal and marine environments also support species of high conservation importance linked to the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem. These include commercially important fish species, marine mammals such as whales and dolphins, and a diverse assemblage of seabirds that depend on the high productivity of the Benguela upwelling system. Commercially important species such as sardine, hake and horse mackerel are central to Namibia's marine fisheries and coastal economy.

Several seabird species occurring along the Namibian coast are of regional or international conservation concern, including albatrosses, Cape gannets and the African penguin. The Namibian coastline provides important breeding, foraging and migratory habitats for these and other marine-dependent bird species, making it a critical area for seabird conservation within the Benguela system¹⁷.

Across ecosystems, Namibia's species diversity is characterised by a combination of endemism, habitat specialisation and ecologically significant species that contribute to ecosystem functioning, resilience and national biodiversity value. Together, endemic species, habitat specialists and ecologically significant taxa across terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems contribute to a range of biodiversity-based land and resource uses, including wildlife-based tourism, sustainable fisheries and community-based conservation initiatives, linking biodiversity conservation with sustainable development objectives.

2.4.2 Species trends

In Namibia's predominantly arid and semi-arid landscapes, species trends cannot always be assessed solely through long-term population monitoring of individual species. For many taxonomic groups, particularly plants, invertebrates, freshwater species and marine organisms, trends are more commonly inferred through changes in ecosystem condition, habitat extent, community composition and functional indicators. As a result, species trend information in this section draws on a combination of species-level monitoring and ecosystem-based indicators, recognising that both are integral and complementary components of biodiversity assessment.

Accordingly, species trends information is derived from a combination of collaborative research, monitoring and reporting efforts involving government institutions, national research organisations,

¹⁶ Jacobson, P.J., Jacobson, K.M. & Seely, M.K. (1995). *Ephemeral rivers and their catchments*. Desert Research Foundation of Namibia.

¹⁷ Benguela Current Commission (2015). *Strategic Action Programme for the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem*.

specialist conservation bodies and civil society partners. Species trend information varies substantially among taxonomic groups and ecosystems, reflecting differences in ecological characteristics, monitoring history and data availability.

2.4.2.1 Plants, Invertebrates and Smaller Vertebrates

Understanding species trends for plants, invertebrates and smaller vertebrates in Namibia is largely based on baseline biodiversity surveys, taxonomic research and long-term ecological studies, rather than comprehensive national trend assessments. These groups form the structural and functional basis of ecosystems and play critical roles in ecosystem functioning, resilience and service provision, yet they have historically received less monitoring attention than large vertebrates.

Recent biodiversity datasets generated by the University of Namibia (UNAM) and published through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility provide important baseline information on the occurrence and diversity of woody plants, insects, birds and small mammals across multiple regions and environmental gradients. These datasets are derived from standardised, plot- and transect-based field surveys and document species presence, community composition and, in some cases, structural and functional attributes. While these data do not yet allow robust assessment of population trends, they represent a significant step towards addressing long-standing gaps in biodiversity information for less-studied taxa and provide a foundation for future monitoring.

For plant biodiversity, this baseline information is complemented by the work of the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), which maintains national plant collections and supports botanical surveys, vegetation research and floristic inventories. In addition, NBRI has contributed to conservation assessment by submitting selected Namibian plant species for IUCN Red List assessment and is actively working to expand this coverage. Although comprehensive Red List assessments for Namibia's plant diversity remain limited, these efforts mark important progress towards improving understanding of plant conservation status and priorities.

Long-term trend information for invertebrates is available primarily from the Gobabeb Namib Research Institute, which has supported multi-decadal ecological research in the central Namib Desert. Gobabeb's long-term monitoring of insects and other arthropods, linked to rainfall variability, fog dynamics and climate change, provides rare time-series data on population dynamics, species turnover and ecosystem responses in arid environments. While geographically concentrated, this work represents a nationally and internationally significant contribution to understanding invertebrate biodiversity trends and offers a model for expanding long-term, cross-taxa monitoring in other ecosystems.

The National Museum of Namibia also plays an important supporting role through the curation of zoological and botanical collections, providing voucher specimens, taxonomic verification and historical records that underpin species occurrence data, biodiversity research and conservation assessments. Although museum collections are not designed to track population trends, they provide essential reference material for understanding species distributions and changes over time.

In addition to species-specific monitoring, vegetation condition and habitat trends can be inferred from land condition indicators associated with land degradation neutrality (LDN) assessments under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Namibia has established LDN baselines for land cover, land productivity and soil organic carbon in pilot regions such as Otjozondjupa, providing a reference for future change detection in vegetation and habitat condition. Research using long-term satellite-derived vegetation indices such as the Enhanced Vegetation Index (EVI) and Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) has shown changes in land productivity over multi-decadal periods

in parts of Namibia's dryland and rangeland systems. While these indicators do not constitute species-level population trends, they offer nationally consistent evidence of vegetation change that is relevant to understanding shifts in habitat quality and, by extension, potential impacts on plant and dependent animal species across broad landscapes.

2.4.2.2 Wildlife (large terrestrial vertebrates)

Community-based monitoring through the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO)'s *State of Community Conservation* series provides an important evidence base for understanding species distribution and population trends in communal areas and conservancies, complementing monitoring conducted in protected areas.

Recent NACSO and community conservancy reports indicate that trends in wildlife populations across Namibia are mixed and context dependent. In some areas, species such as black rhino and certain elephant populations have shown stable or locally increasing trends, particularly where community-based conservation and adaptive management are well established. For other widely distributed species such as plains zebra, springbok and oryx, available data suggest population fluctuations and in some cases declines, reflecting variability in rainfall, water availability, land use pressures and ecological conditions¹⁸. These mixed outcomes are occurring alongside, intensifying pressures from human-wildlife conflict, climate variability and change, and habitat modification associated with expanding settlements, crop production and livestock grazing. Addressing these challenges will require strengthened and consistent long-term wildlife monitoring, together with targeted management interventions, sustained financial support and adaptive policy responses, to ensure that conservation outcomes remain viable over the long term.

Specialist conservation organisations play a central role in generating species-specific trend data in Namibia through long-term research, monitoring and applied conservation work. For example, the Giraffe Conservation Foundation provides specialist expertise and data on giraffe conservation and management in Namibia and across Africa, contributing to improved understanding of population status, distribution and management needs. The Cheetah Conservation Fund has generated extensive evidence on cheetah ecology, distribution and persistence in multi-use landscapes, where most of Namibia's cheetah population occurs outside formally protected areas. This work highlights both the resilience of cheetah populations in production landscapes and the importance of coexistence approaches to sustaining long-term population viability.

Similarly, long-term monitoring undertaken by Desert Lion Conservation has improved understanding of desert-adapted lion populations in north-western Namibia. This work has documented population dynamics, movements and ecological constraints in one of the most environmentally challenging lion habitats globally, providing critical insights into species persistence under extreme arid conditions and variable prey availability. The Carnivore Working Group consolidated available information on Namibia's carnivore species, drawing on data from multiple organisations and landscapes. These assessments provide an integrated overview of carnivore distribution, population status and pressures, and support coordinated approaches to carnivore conservation across protected areas, communal conservancies and freehold farmlands.

2.4.2.3 Freshwater and Inland Aquatic Species

¹⁸ MEFT/NACSO 2024. The state of community conservation in Namibia (Annual Report 2023). MEFT/NACSO, Windhoek

Species trends in freshwater and inland aquatic ecosystems are closely linked to hydrological variability, water quality, habitat connectivity and basin-scale management. In Namibia, information on trends in aquatic species is primarily derived from river basin monitoring programmes and transboundary initiatives coordinated through river basin organisations (RBOs), which integrate biological indicators with broader assessments of aquatic ecosystem health.

RBO-led monitoring programmes typically assess aquatic biodiversity using a suite of biological indicators, including riparian vegetation, aquatic macrophytes, benthic diatoms, aquatic macroinvertebrates and fish communities, alongside physico-chemical water quality parameters and indicators of flow alteration and habitat modification. Repeated assessments using these indicators provide insight into the direction of change in aquatic ecosystem condition and, by extension, trends in the species and communities they support¹⁹.

Evidence from basin-scale assessments indicates that freshwater ecosystems in Namibia are experiencing increasing pressure, with many river reaches showing stable to declining ecological condition over time. Changes in aquatic macroinvertebrate and fish community composition, shifts in indicator species, and increasing signs of riparian degradation point to declining habitat quality in several systems, particularly where flow regulation, water abstraction, land-use change and pollution pressures are most pronounced. At the same time, relatively better ecological conditions and more stable biological communities are observed in less modified river reaches and in systems with stronger flow connectivity and riparian protection.

The Joint Basin Survey programme coordinated by ORASECOM provides an illustrative example of this approach. Repeated basin-wide surveys combining biological indicators with water quality and habitat assessments have demonstrated the value of integrated monitoring for detecting changes in aquatic ecosystem condition over time, including early warning signs of degradation as well as areas where management interventions have helped maintain or stabilise ecological condition.

In addition to conventional biological monitoring, some RBO-led programmes are increasingly incorporating emerging methods such as environmental DNA (eDNA) to complement field-based surveys and improve species detection across large river systems. While these approaches are still being refined, they have the potential to strengthen trend detection, particularly for taxa that are difficult to monitor using traditional methods.

Overall, trends in freshwater species and communities in Namibia suggest growing pressure on aquatic biodiversity, with outcomes varying across basins and river reaches depending on hydrological regime, land use and management effectiveness. Strengthening long-term, repeated monitoring through RBO frameworks will be essential for improving detection of trends, informing restoration priorities and supporting adaptive water and biodiversity management under NBSAP 3.

2.4.2.4 Coastal and Marine Species

In the coastal and marine environment, species trend information is derived from fisheries assessments, seabird monitoring, marine mammal research and regional marine ecosystem studies. Available evidence indicates that trends among marine species are variable and closely linked to changes in ocean productivity, fishing pressure and environmental variability within the Benguela Current ecosystem. While some commercially important fish stocks have shown periods of recovery under management measures, several seabird species breeding along the Namibian coast have experienced population declines, reflecting reduced prey availability and broader ecosystem change.

¹⁹ ORASECOM, 2022. Joint Basin Survey 3, Aquatic Ecosystem Health (AEH) Report

In particular, recent assessments indicate steep declines in sardine stocks, Cape cormorants and African penguins, reinforcing concerns about forage fish availability and the cascading impacts on dependent predator species. Research on whales and dolphins further highlights the importance of Namibian waters for migratory and resident marine mammals, while also identifying significant gaps in long-term population trend data. Overall, marine species trends underscore both the ecological significance of the Benguela system and the need for sustained, coordinated monitoring to improve understanding of species responses to environmental and human pressures.

2.4.3 Threatened and Endangered Species

Namibia's biodiversity includes a range of species recognised as threatened or of conservation concern at national, regional and global levels. These include species listed under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, species prioritised through national conservation planning processes, and species identified through long-term monitoring and sectoral assessments. Importantly, national and global biodiversity indices and Red List summaries for Namibia currently reflect patterns of assessment coverage rather than the full breadth or relative importance of national biodiversity.

Global IUCN Red List assessments for Namibia are heavily skewed towards mammals, birds and amphibians, reflecting historical assessment effort and the relative availability of data for these groups. As a result, many taxa of high ecological and national significance, including plants, freshwater species, reptiles and invertebrates, remain underrepresented in global conservation status assessments. This underrepresentation does not imply low conservation importance, but rather highlights gaps in assessment capacity, data availability and reporting.

Table 2 presents a selection of priority species occurring in Namibia that are listed as threatened or near threatened on the IUCN Red List. The table is illustrative and does not represent a comprehensive inventory of threatened species.. Historically, such lists have been dominated by large terrestrial mammals, reflecting both global assessment priorities and Namibia's strong focus on wildlife conservation and monitoring.

The table highlights some key species for which Namibia has national or global conservation significance Table 1: IUCN Red List Status of Selected Priority Species in Namibi

Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Red List Status (Global)	Notes (Namibia Context)
African Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	Endangered (EN)	Coastal species linked to Benguela ecosystem
Black Rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Critically Endangered (CR)	Namibia holds one of the largest remaining populations globally. The <i>south-western</i> subspecies that occurs in Namibia is assessed as Near Threatened by IUCN (subsp. level)
African Wild Dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>	Critically Endangered (CR)	Low densities; part of transboundary populations; high sensitivity to land-use change

Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	Endangered (EN)	Found across a wide range of habitats from the evergreen tree savannas in the Zambezi Region to the open landscapes of the Namib
---------	-------------------------	-----------------	--

A red listing for plant species was undertaken in 2024, and the following species were listed as critically endangered, *Crassothonna opima*, *Euryops walterorum*, *Mesembryanthemum tomentosum*, *Namibia ponderosa*, *Portulacaria armiana*, *Psammophora modesta*, *Psammophora Saxicola*, *Tridentea pachyrrhiza*, *Tylecodon hallii*, *Astridia citrina* and *Cheiridopsis brownii*.

Among the species listed in Table 2, Namibia plays a particularly important role in the global conservation of several large terrestrial mammals. In the case of the black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*), Namibia supports one of the largest remaining free-ranging populations worldwide, including the only viable population of the south-western subspecies adapted to arid and semi-arid environments. As a result, national conservation outcomes have direct implications for the global conservation status of the species.

Namibia also contributes significantly to the conservation of wide-ranging species such as cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), lion (*Panthera leo*) and African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), many of which persist largely outside formally protected areas in communal and freehold production landscapes. Although some populations show stable or locally increasing trends within Namibia, their global Red List status reflects ongoing risks related to poaching, habitat fragmentation, human–wildlife conflict and limited population connectivity across their broader range. This underscores Namibia’s responsibility to sustain effective coexistence and landscape-scale conservation approaches that contribute to both national and global biodiversity objectives.

Beyond large mammals, a growing number of species from other taxonomic groups are recognised as endangered or of conservation concern. Several avian species, particularly scavenging birds such as vultures, are listed as threatened at the global or regional level due to poisoning, reduced food availability and habitat loss. Their wide-ranging behaviour makes them sensitive to pressures operating across national boundaries, requiring coordinated conservation action at national and regional scales.

Plant species remain particularly underrepresented in global conservation assessments despite Namibia’s high levels of plant diversity and endemism. Recent IUCN Red List assessments for Namibia include endemic succulent plant species such as *Namibia cinerea* and *Namibia ponderosa*, both listed as Endangered in 2024. These assessments highlight the vulnerability of specialised plant taxa with restricted distributions and underscore the importance of expanding plant-focused Red List submissions and conservation assessments. Many other plant species of national ecological, economic and cultural importance, such as key timber, rangeland and ecosystem-forming species, are not yet adequately represented in global Red List assessments.

In the marine environment, several species are similarly recognised as threatened or of conservation concern under the IUCN Red List, including certain seabirds, marine mammals and sharks associated with the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem. For many marine taxa, uncertainty in population trend data and rapidly changing ocean conditions complicate conservation assessments, reinforcing the importance of precautionary approaches, regional collaboration and continued research.

In addition to globally assessed species, Namibia has identified numerous species of national importance through conservation, forestry, fisheries and community-based natural resource management frameworks. These species support livelihoods, ecosystem functioning and national development priorities, yet many are not adequately reflected in global conservation status assessments. NBSAP 3 therefore recognises both the existing national identification of priority species and the need to strengthen national contributions to international assessment and reporting frameworks, particularly the IUCN Red List, with a focus on underrepresented taxa such as plants, freshwater species, reptiles and invertebrates.

NBSAP 3 therefore recognises both the existing national identification of priority species and the need to strengthen Namibia's contributions to international assessment and reporting frameworks, particularly the IUCN Red List, with a focus on underrepresented taxa such as plants, freshwater species, reptiles and invertebrates.

Chapter 3: Situational Analysis

3.1 Threats to biodiversity

The identification of threats to biodiversity in Namibia draws on the findings of the NBSAP 2 implementation review and is complemented by sectoral and thematic assessments. While there is broad consensus on the main drivers of biodiversity loss, the extent, spatial distribution and severity of these threats are not uniformly quantified across ecosystems or regions. As a result, this section provides a consolidated overview of key threats, while recognising that available data are fragmented and that comprehensive national baselines remain incomplete for several threat categories.

Threats identified in the NBSAP 2 review report include habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation; increasing pressure on finite biological and natural resources; pollution and invasive alien species; and the impacts of climate variability and change. While the specific manifestations of these pressures differ between terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments, their underlying drivers and cumulative effects are broadly similar and reinforce one another across ecosystems.

Subsequent assessments broadly confirm these core threat categories and provide further detail on how they manifest across sectors and landscapes. Unsustainable land use, including overgrazing, land degradation, bush encroachment and inappropriate land management practices in both communal and commercial areas, represents a principal driver of habitat loss and ecosystem decline. Expansion and intensification of extractive industries, including mining and resource prospecting, contribute to habitat destruction, pollution and water stress, particularly where activities occur in ecologically sensitive areas. Illegal use and trade in wildlife, forest products and other natural resources further compound pressures on already vulnerable species and ecosystems.

In terrestrial ecosystems, these pressures are most evident in land-use change, rangeland degradation, altered fire regimes, unsustainable harvesting, land fragmentation and infrastructure expansion, as well as human–wildlife conflict and poaching. In marine and coastal systems, comparable pressures are reflected in unsustainable fishing pressure, disturbance of benthic and coastal habitats, pollution from land-based and maritime sources, and climate-driven changes in ocean productivity and species distribution. Freshwater ecosystems experience many of these pressures simultaneously, particularly through catchment degradation, unsustainable water abstraction, pollution, invasive species and the cumulative impacts of upstream land-use change and urban expansion.

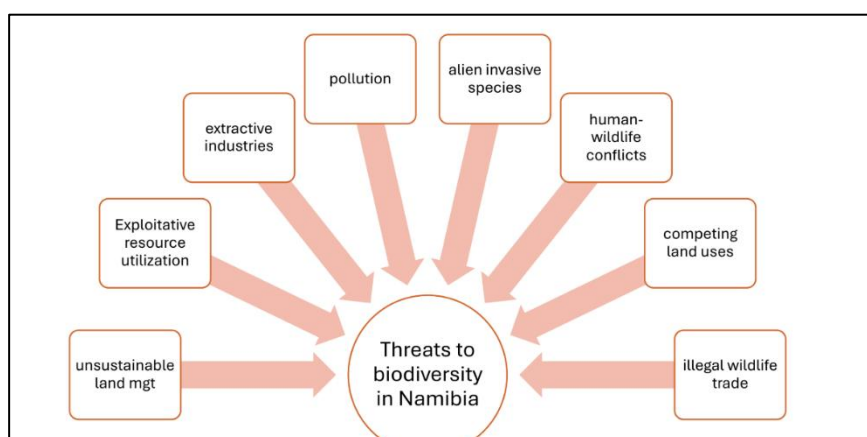


Figure 4: Threats to biodiversity in Namibia (Source, *A rapid assessment of national key policies, strategies and legislation with a focus on biodiversity*, 2025)

3.2 Biodiversity Initiatives under NBSAP 2

Under NBSAP 2, Namibia implemented a range of conservation initiatives aimed at safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, while promoting the sustainable use of biological resources and the equitable sharing of benefits.

Despite these initiatives, Namibia's strong policy commitments to environmental protection and green growth, recent evidence indicates that the country's natural capital base is in decline. The African Development Bank reported in 2023 that Namibia's total natural capital has decreased by approximately 20 per cent, with per capita natural capital (measured by forest timber, non-timber forest products, fisheries, protected areas, cropland, pasture land and non-renewable assets) declining by around 47 per cent over the same period. This decline has been driven primarily by losses in renewable natural resources, particularly pastureland and fisheries, which form the ecological foundation for biodiversity, livelihoods and key economic sectors²⁰.

These findings highlight a significant disconnect between policy intent and ecological outcomes. While Namibia is often recognised as a conservation success story, particularly in relation to wildlife management and community-based conservation, broader trends indicate cumulative degradation of natural assets. The continued decline in renewable natural capital suggests that existing approaches have not been sufficient to offset growing pressures from land use, resource extraction and climate variability.

3.2.1 Wildlife management

Wildlife conservation in Namibia is characterised by a network of state-protected areas, communal conservancies and other conservancies on freehold land, which form the country's primary wildlife conservation estate. State-protected areas provide the foundation for formal biodiversity protection, while communal and freehold conservancies extend conservation management across large production landscapes. During the NBSAP 2 period, notable progress was made in expanding conservation coverage, with over 43% of the country's land under some form of conservation management²¹.

During the same period, protected area management was strengthened through the application of tools such as the Namibia Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (NAMETT) and the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrol systems, contributing to improved planning, monitoring and law enforcement in several national parks. At the same time, community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), implemented through communal conservancies, remained a cornerstone of wildlife conservation. By 2026, 86 registered communal conservancies covered more than 166,000 km² and involved approximately 244,000 people²². Evidence from national reporting and feedback from stakeholders shows that these conservancies have contributed to wildlife recovery in some regions, while also generating employment, income and other livelihood benefits through tourism, conservation hunting and related wildlife-based enterprises, and strengthening local stewardship of wildlife resources.

Wildlife conservation efforts have been further supported by specialist research and conservation institutions that generate species-specific knowledge, monitoring data and applied management guidance for priority taxa. This work, undertaken in close collaboration with government,

²⁰ African Development Bank Group. Country Focus Report 2023. *Namibia: Mobilizing Private Sector Financing for Climate and Green Growth*. African Development Bank

²¹ MEFT. (2025). NBSAP 2 Review Report

²² NACSO website 2026

conservancies and landholders, has strengthened understanding of population dynamics, threats and management needs for species such as large carnivores, rhinos and giraffe, and has informed both site-based interventions and national conservation planning.

Targeted species conservation initiatives supported the stabilisation or recovery of selected flagship species, including elephants, rhinos and large carnivores, in certain landscapes. These outcomes were supported by community game guards, integrated management plans and regulated wildlife utilisation. However, available evidence indicates that conservation outcomes remain uneven across regions and continue to be vulnerable to pressures such as poaching, habitat fragmentation, human-wildlife conflict and climate-related impacts, underscoring the need for sustained investment in wildlife management, coexistence measures and community-based governance.²³

3.2.2 Forest management

Forest conservation and sustainable use initiatives under NBSAP 2 focused on both state forests and community forestry systems, particularly in the north and north-eastern regions of the country. State forests provide a legal framework for forest conservation and regulated use, but their effectiveness has been constrained by limited management capacity and support, infringement and competing land-use pressures as well as challenges in enforcement. As a result, biodiversity and forest condition outcomes within state forests have been variable, and pressures such as illegal harvesting, agricultural expansion and settlement encroachment remain significant.

Community forestry, implemented on communal land, has expanded over the past two decades and now includes in 20263 registered and emerging community forests. These have contributed to improved local governance of forest resources, reduced open-access exploitation and the generation of livelihood benefits from timber and non-timber forest products. Stakeholders emphasised that where community forests overlap with communal conservancies, communities can diversify their income sources and strengthen local natural resource governance through complementary wildlife and forestry management arrangements. This overlap is generally viewed positively by communities and local institutions, as it enhances resilience and broadens livelihood options.

Outcomes across community forests remain uneven. In the north-eastern regions, stakeholders reported that moratoria on timber harvesting, introduced to address forest degradation and illegal logging, have significantly reduced income opportunities for communities dependent on forest resources. In other regions, particularly in central and southern Namibia, there is growing demand for alternative forest-based uses such as charcoal production. Authorities remain cautious due to concerns over sustainability and cumulative impacts. These experiences highlight the need for context-specific and innovative approaches that balance forest conservation objectives with sustainable use, livelihood needs and long-term ecosystem integrity.

Analyses such as the 2021 World Bank assessment suggest that greater long-term economic potential may lie in diversified and sustainably managed forest products, including non-timber forest products (NTFPs), which in some cases generate higher aggregate value than commercial timber extraction. However, value chains for NTFPs remain underdeveloped in many areas, limiting their ability to compensate for lost timber income in the short term.

3.2.3 Coastal, Marine and Inland Aquatic Conservation

Namibia's marine protected area network currently includes the Namibian Islands' Marine Protected Area (NIMPA), which was proclaimed to safeguard approximately 9,500 km² of coastal and offshore

²³ MEFT. (2025). NBSAP 2 Review Report

waters, including breeding islands and key foraging areas for seabirds and other marine species. In addition to its designation as a national Marine Protected Area, the NIMPA has also been recognised as an Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area (EBSA) under the Convention on Biological Diversity, together with six other marine areas within Namibia's Exclusive Economic Zone. Despite being one of the largest MPAs in Africa, NIMPA currently covers only about 1.7 % of Namibia's marine waters, highlighting the need to strengthen and expand marine area-based conservation measures, including through MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)²⁴.

Beyond spatial protection, Namibia's coastal and marine conservation framework is closely linked to the sustainable use of marine resources, particularly fisheries, which form a significant pillar of the national economy and coastal livelihoods. Namibia has applied ecosystem-based fisheries management approaches supported by scientific stock assessments, monitoring and regulatory measures aimed at maintaining productive fish stocks while minimising impacts on non-target species and habitats. Coastal communities and industries also benefit from associated marine tourism and related value chains.

In recent years, the development of mariculture has emerged as a growing component of Namibia's blue economy, with initiatives including shellfish farming and the expansion of kelp cultivation along the coast. These activities are promoted as low-impact forms of marine resource use with potential to contribute to economic diversification and employment, while requiring careful management to ensure environmental sustainability and compatibility with broader marine conservation objectives.

Sustainable use and conservation of aquatic resources have also been supported through the establishment of community fisheries reserves, particularly along perennial river systems in the north-eastern regions. By the end of 2025, there were 20 gazetted and 6 emerging fisheries reserves, which often overlap spatially with communal conservancies but are institutionally distinct, aim to promote sustainable fisheries management, protect critical aquatic habitats and support local livelihoods dependent on inland fisheries. Stakeholders noted that where fisheries reserves and conservancies overlap, communities benefit from more integrated governance arrangements and diversified income sources.

Implementation of community fisheries reserves has been supported largely through partnerships between communities, non-governmental organisations and research institutions, with varying levels of engagement from government fisheries authorities. While these initiatives demonstrate the potential for community-based fisheries management, stakeholders highlighted the need for stronger institutional coordination, clearer mandates and increased involvement of the fisheries sector to ensure long-term sustainability, compliance and equitable benefit-sharing.

3.2.4 Access and Benefit Sharing

Access and benefit sharing (ABS), as articulated under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol, seeks to ensure that benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge are shared in a fair and equitable manner. Under NBSAP 2, Namibia made progress in establishing a policy and legal framework for ABS, including national legislation and administrative procedures intended to regulate access to genetic resources and protect community rights.

²⁴ Namibian Foundation for the Conservation of Seabirds (NAMCOM), [The Namibian Islands' Marine Protected Area \(NIMPA\) | NAMCOB](#)

In practice, however, implementation of ABS has been limited and remains less visible than other biodiversity-related initiatives such as wildlife conservation, forestry and fisheries management. Stakeholder consultations conducted as part of the NBSAP 3 process indicated relatively low levels of awareness and engagement with ABS at local and sectoral levels, and few stakeholders identified ABS as a priority issue during consultations. This reflects the fact that ABS mechanisms are often perceived as complex, procedural and distant from day-to-day resource management and livelihood concerns.

Despite this, Namibia possesses significant genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge with potential value in sectors such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and biotechnology. Strengthening awareness, institutional capacity and practical implementation of ABS arrangements will therefore be important to ensure that future use of genetic resources contributes meaningfully to national development objectives and delivers equitable benefits to rights holders, particularly local communities and traditional knowledge holders.

3.3 Barriers, Enablers and Lessons Learnt from NBSAP 2 Implementation

The review of NBSAP 2 identifies a set of cross-cutting barriers that constrained implementation across targets and sectors. Weak institutional coordination, policy fragmentation and delayed operationalisation of legal and planning instruments limited the integration of biodiversity considerations into development decisions. Inadequate and inflexible financing, combined with heavy reliance on donor-funded projects, affected the sustainability and scaling of successful initiatives.

Data deficiencies and fragmented monitoring systems further constrained adaptive management. While numerous datasets exist, they are often sector-specific, project-based and not consolidated into a comprehensive national biodiversity monitoring framework²⁵. During the consultations for NBSAP 3, stakeholders repeatedly emphasised the lack of accessible data at regional and local levels, undermining informed decision-making and accountability.

At the same time, several enabling factors supported progress. Strong policy foundations, internationally recognised CBNRM frameworks, targeted donor support, and active civil society engagement created conditions for innovation and learning. Community-level governance structures, conservation working groups and transboundary cooperation emerged as particularly important enablers of biodiversity outcomes²⁶.

Key lessons from NBSAP 2 implementation underscore the importance of institutional ownership beyond the environment sector, timely operationalisation of policy instruments, sustained investment in community-based governance models, and strengthened biodiversity monitoring systems to support adaptive management. Stakeholder consultations reinforced these lessons, emphasising the need for more inclusive planning processes, improved enforcement, and stronger alignment between national strategies and realities on the ground²⁷.

²⁵ MEFT. (2025). NBSAP 2 Review Report

²⁶ MEFT. (2025). NBSAP 2 Review Report

²⁷ MEFT. (2025). NBSAP 2 Review Report

Chapter 4: Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks

4.1 International, Continental and Regional Policy Framework

Namibia's biodiversity policy, legal and institutional framework is shaped by a range of international, continental and regional agreements and cooperation mechanisms to which the country is a Party or active participant. These frameworks provide strategic direction, define obligations and principles, and promote cooperation across borders and sectors in support of biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing.

4.1.1 International Policy Framework

At the global level, Namibia is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and is committed to its three objectives: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources. The adoption of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in 2022 provides the overarching global framework guiding the revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including this NBSAP 3. The GBF sets out ambitious goals and targets aimed at halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030, while strengthening the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development.

Namibia is also a Party to a range of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that complement and reinforce CBD objectives. These include the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, each of which addresses environmental concerns or specific aspects of species conservation, sustainable use and ecosystem management. In the marine environment, global frameworks such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and emerging agreements on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction provide additional context for ocean governance and marine biodiversity conservation.

These global instruments establish a common set of principles and commitments that guide Namibia's national biodiversity policies and reporting obligations, while emphasising coherence, complementarity and cooperation across biodiversity-related conventions.

4.1.2 Continental Policy Framework

At the continental level, Namibia aligns its biodiversity commitments with African Union policy instruments that seek to promote coordinated and context-specific responses to biodiversity loss across the continent. Of relevance is the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (ABSAP) 2023–2030, which provides a continent-wide framework for implementing the GBF in a manner that reflects Africa's ecological diversity, development priorities and capacity realities.

The ABSAP emphasises the need for transformational change through improved biodiversity governance, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing, mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors, and scaled-up financing and capacity development. It recognises biodiversity as a strategic asset for Africa's development and resilience, and highlights the importance of regional and national implementation mechanisms, including NBSAPs, as primary vehicles for delivering continental and

global commitments. The Strategy also places strong emphasis on community rights, inclusion, and the role of indigenous knowledge systems in biodiversity conservation²⁸.

By aligning NBSAP 3 with the ABSAP, Namibia situates its national biodiversity priorities within a broader African policy framework that promotes coherence between global commitments and continent-specific development and conservation objectives.

4.1.3 Regional and Transboundary Frameworks

At the regional level, Namibia participates in several Southern African and transboundary cooperation mechanisms that are critical for biodiversity conservation across shared ecosystems and migratory landscapes. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2025–2035) provides the principal regional framework guiding coordinated biodiversity action among SADC Member States. The revised SADC BSAP is aligned with the GBF and emphasises reducing threats to biodiversity, promoting sustainable use and benefit sharing, strengthening governance and mainstreaming, and mobilising resources for implementation. It recognises the transboundary nature of many biodiversity challenges and promotes harmonised approaches to conservation, monitoring and policy implementation across the region²⁹.

Transboundary cooperation is particularly important for Namibia, given its shared river basins, migratory wildlife populations and marine ecosystems. Key regional and transboundary arrangements include the Kavango–Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), which supports cooperative management of wildlife and ecosystems across five countries, and river basin commissions such as OKACOM, ZAMCOM, ORASECOM and bilateral arrangements for the Kunene River. In the marine environment, Namibia is an active member of the Benguela Current Commission (BCC), which provides a regional governance framework for the sustainable management and conservation of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem.

These regional and transboundary frameworks reinforce the importance of cooperation beyond national borders and provide mechanisms for addressing shared biodiversity challenges, aligning policies and strengthening collective responses to biodiversity loss in southern Africa.

3.2 National Policy and Legal Framework

Namibia has established a comprehensive national policy and legal framework to support biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. This framework comprises a range of sectoral laws, policies and planning instruments that influence land use, resource access and environmental management across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. Given the breadth of instruments involved, Table 3 summarises the key national policies, laws and planning frameworks relevant to biodiversity, and illustrates how these instruments collectively shape biodiversity governance in Namibia

²⁸ Africa Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2023

²⁹ Southern African Development Community (SADC) Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2025–2035)

Table 2: Key National Policies, Laws and Planning Instruments Relevant to Biodiversity in Namibia

Instrument	Year	Primary Focus	Relevance to Biodiversity
Constitution of the Republic of Namibia (Article 95)	1990	Environmental protection and sustainable development	Establishes the constitutional basis for environmental protection and sustainable resource use.
Environmental Management Act	2007	Environmental governance and impact management	Provides an overarching framework for environmental safeguards, EIAs and compliance across sectors affecting biodiversity.
Nature Conservation Ordinance / Protected Areas legislation	Various	Wildlife and protected areas	Provides the legal basis for State Protected Areas, species protection and wildlife management.
Communal Land Reform Act	2002	Communal land administration	Land allocation decisions by Traditional Authorities and Land Boards have direct implications for habitat integrity, conservancies and biodiversity corridors.
Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Policy	Various	Wildlife governance on communal land	Enables communities to manage and benefit from wildlife, contributing to conservation and livelihoods.
Forest Act	2001	Forest conservation and use	Regulates state and community forests and supports sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.
Inland Fisheries Resources Act	2003	Freshwater Fisheries Management	Provides for the conservation and protection of aquatic ecosystems and the sustainable development of inland fisheries resources; to provide for the control and regulation of inland fishing; and to provide for related matters.
Marine Resources Act	2000	Fisheries management	Provides the legal framework for sustainable use and protection of marine living resources.
Water Resources Management Act	2013	Water allocation and pollution control	Protects water quality and aquatic ecosystems and regulates abstraction and pollution affecting freshwater biodiversity.

Instrument	Year	Primary Focus	Relevance to Biodiversity
Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act	2017	Access and benefit sharing	Operationalises ABS commitments under the CBD and Nagoya Protocol, protecting community rights and benefit sharing.
Biosafety Act	2006	Regulate activities related to GMOs	Provides for measures to regulate activities involving the research, development, production, marketing, transport, application and other uses of genetically modified organisms and specified products derived from genetically modified organisms;
National Development Plan (NDP) 6	2025	Sets out Namibia's development vision to 2030, emphasizing environmental sustainability, inclusive growth, and economic transformation	Key targets include expanding conservation land from 47% to 50%, ensuring 90% of protected areas have active management plans, and strengthening biodiversity finance through domestic resources and partnerships. The Plan also promotes integrating biodiversity into land use and rural development to support both conservation and livelihoods.

These policies, laws and planning instruments provide a comprehensive framework for biodiversity governance in Namibia. However, stakeholder consultations and policy reviews highlight that effective implementation depends on coordination across sectors and governance levels, particularly where land allocation, resource use and biodiversity objectives intersect. Integrated Land Use Planning and Marine Spatial Planning are increasingly recognised as critical mechanisms for reconciling competing land and ocean uses and for aligning development decisions with biodiversity priorities, although coverage, institutional coordination and implementation remain uneven across regions and sectors.

3.3 Institutional Framework

The implementation of biodiversity policy and legislation in Namibia involves a range of institutions operating across national, regional and local levels, reflecting the cross-cutting nature of biodiversity governance. Responsibilities for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing are distributed across multiple ministries, agencies and governance structures, with coordination mechanisms intended to promote coherence across sectors and scales.

At the national level, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) serves as the lead institution for biodiversity policy, coordination and reporting under the Convention on Biological Diversity. MEFT is responsible for the management of State Protected Areas, wildlife conservation and community-based natural resource management, as well as oversight of forestry resources and

biodiversity planning instruments such as the NBSAP. The Ministry also plays a central role in coordinating biodiversity-related reporting to international, continental and regional frameworks.

Several other line ministries hold mandates that are critical to biodiversity outcomes. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform plays a central role through its responsibilities for fisheries management, inland and marine living resources, land administration, water resource management and agricultural policy. These functions have direct implications for aquatic biodiversity, habitat integrity, land-use change, pollution control and ecosystem health across terrestrial, freshwater and marine systems. The concentration of these mandates within a single ministry underscore both the opportunities and the importance of effective cross-sectoral coordination to align biodiversity objectives with broader development priorities.

At the regional level, regional councils, traditional authorities and communal land boards play an important role in land-use decision-making, resource allocation and local governance. Their decisions directly influence biodiversity outcomes, particularly in communal areas where land allocation for settlement, cropping and grazing intersects with conservancies, community forests and wildlife corridors. Strengthening alignment between local land-use decisions and biodiversity planning frameworks remains a key consideration for effective biodiversity governance.

Community institutions are central to Namibia's biodiversity governance model. Communal conservancies, community forests and community fisheries reserves provide legally recognised structures through which local communities participate in the management and use of natural resources. These institutions have enabled the devolution of rights and responsibilities to the local level and have contributed to conservation outcomes and livelihood benefits in many areas. Their effectiveness, however, varies across regions and is influenced by governance capacity, access to technical support, financial sustainability and exposure to external pressures.

Non-governmental organisations, research institutions and civil society partners play a significant supporting role within Namibia's institutional framework. These actors contribute technical expertise, long-term monitoring, applied research, capacity building and implementation support across wildlife, forestry, fisheries and marine conservation. Their work, often undertaken in close collaboration with government institutions and communities, has been instrumental in generating the evidence base that informs biodiversity planning, species conservation and adaptive management.

Formal coordination mechanisms exist to facilitate collaboration across institutions and sectors, including inter-ministerial committees, technical working groups and transboundary governance structures. At the regional level, mechanisms such as transfrontier conservation areas, river basin commissions and the Benguela Current Commission provide platforms for cooperative management of shared ecosystems. While these mechanisms offer important opportunities for coordination, their effectiveness depends on sustained institutional engagement, clarity of mandates and adequate resourcing.

NBSAP 2 envisaged implementation through coordinated action across government, communities and partners, supported by inter-ministerial collaboration and stakeholder engagement. However, the NBSAP 2 Review indicates that institutional coordination remained uneven, with biodiversity objectives not consistently mainstreamed into sectoral planning and decision-making outside the environment sector. Challenges included fragmented mandates, variable functionality of coordination mechanisms, and limited integration of biodiversity considerations into land-use, infrastructure and development processes.

Recent work on synergies between the NBSAP and Namibia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) highlights opportunities to strengthen institutional coherence through aligned planning, shared data systems and coordinated implementation in areas such as ecosystem restoration, sustainable land management and climate resilience. At the same time, these analyses emphasise the importance of maintaining biodiversity governance as a distinct policy domain, ensuring that biodiversity priorities under the CBD are advanced through targeted institutional arrangements while benefiting from appropriate alignment with climate and development agendas.

Chapter 5: The National Biodiversity Strategy

5.1 Vision and Principles Governing the Strategy

5.1.1 The Vision

Namibia's NBSAP 3 outlines the country's commitment to halting biodiversity loss, restoring ecosystems, ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of its genetic resources by 2030. These objectives are to be achieved through strengthened governance, coordinated implementation across sectors and governance levels, and sustained investment in the institutional, financial and knowledge systems required to deliver biodiversity outcomes.

Vision: Living in harmony with nature, protecting biodiversity, and advancing sustainable development

5.1.2 Principles Governing the Strategy

The Third National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is guided by a set of governing principles, adapted from the KMGBF considerations. These considerations have been contextualised in the formulation of the national targets and action plan and will be further adapted during implementation to reflect national circumstances, priorities, capacities and local contexts.

- i. Access to financial resources
- ii. Biodiversity and health
- iii. Collective effort towards the targets
- iv. Consistency with international agreements or instruments
- v. Contribution and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities
- vi. Cooperation and synergies
- vii. Different value systems - considering the diverse value systems and concepts for nature
- viii. Ecosystem approach
- ix. Formal and informal education
- x. Fulfilment of the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols, and their balanced implementation
- xi. Gender
- xii. Human rights-based approach
- xiii. Intergenerational equity
- xiv. National circumstances, priorities and capabilities
- xv. Principles of the Rio Declaration

- xvi. Right to development
- xvii. Science and innovation
- xviii. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach

5.2 Strategic Goals and Thematic Pillars

NBSAP 3 is structured around four Strategic Goals and associated Thematic Pillars that provide a coherent framework for guiding biodiversity action across sectors and governance levels.

Table 3: Strategic Goals and Thematic Pillars

Strategic Goal	Thematic Pillars
Goal 1: Halt biodiversity loss by maintaining and restoring ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, and reducing key pressures	1.1: Ecosystem conservation and restoration (targets 1, 2, 3) 1.2: Conservation and recovery of species and genetic diversity (targets 4 and 5) 1.3: Reducing threats to biodiversity (targets 4, 6, 7, 8)
Goal 2: Promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services	2.1: Sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being (targets, 9, 11, 12) 2.2: Biodiversity-inclusive and integrated management in production sectors across land, freshwater and marine ecosystems (target 10)
Goal 3: Promote equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity	3.1: Ensuring equitable access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing and traditional knowledge (target 13)
Goal 4: Strengthen effective and coordinated implementation	4.1: Mainstreaming biodiversity through governance instruments and safeguards (targets 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22) 4.2: Finance, capacity, knowledge and accountability (targets 19, 20, 21, 23)

5.2.1 Strategic Goal 1: Halt biodiversity loss by maintaining and restoring ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, and reducing key pressures

Strategic Goal 1 focuses on safeguarding Namibia's biodiversity by maintaining ecological integrity, restoring degraded ecosystems, conserving species and genetic diversity, and reducing the key pressures that drive biodiversity loss across ecosystems. It addresses both the state of biodiversity and the direct drivers of biodiversity loss, and protects the ecological foundation upon which livelihoods, ecosystem services, climate resilience and sustainable development depend.

Implementation of this Strategic Goal is organised around three complementary thematic pillars, which together ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach to biodiversity conservation:

- Thematic Pillar 1.1: Ecosystem conservation and restoration, which focuses on protecting ecosystems and restoring degraded ecosystems, thereby improving ecosystem condition, connectivity and resilience.
- Thematic Pillar 1.2: Conservation and recovery of species and genetic diversity, which addresses the conservation status, recovery and long-term viability of threatened, priority and

ecologically important species, including the maintenance of genetic diversity and biologically sustainable population levels. This pillar supports the reduction of extinction risk and ensures that species populations, including harvested species such as fish, are maintained within biologically sustainable limits.

- Thematic Pillar 1.3: Reducing key pressures and threats to biodiversity, which targets the main direct pressures on biodiversity, including habitat loss and fragmentation, overexploitation, invasive alien species and pollution, as well as the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity. This pillar focuses on reducing and mitigating pressures that undermine ecosystem integrity, species viability and long-term resilience.

5.2.2 Strategic Goal 2: Promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services

Strategic Goal 2 aims to ensure that the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services contributes to human well-being, livelihoods and economic development while remaining within ecological limits. It focuses on how biodiversity is used, managed and governed to maintain and enhance ecosystem services and nature's contributions to people, while avoiding overexploitation and long-term ecosystem degradation.

Implementation of this Strategic Goal is structured under two complementary thematic pillars that distinguish between people-centred benefits from biodiversity use and the integration of biodiversity into production systems:

- Thematic Pillar 2.1: Sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being, which focuses on ensuring that the sustainable use of biodiversity contributes to livelihoods, food security, physical and mental health, cultural values and overall quality of life. This includes sustainable use of wild species, biodiversity-based livelihoods, customary and traditional use, and the maintenance and restoration of green and blue spaces in urban and peri-urban areas.
- Thematic Pillar 2.2: Biodiversity-inclusive and integrated management in production sectors across land, freshwater and marine ecosystems, which focuses on the mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into the management of agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry and wildlife-based production systems, ensuring that these sectors maintain biodiversity, ecosystem functions and resilience within productive landscapes and seascapes.

These two pillars support the implementation and monitoring of policies and actions for the sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem services, ensuring that biodiversity use delivers lasting benefits for people while safeguarding ecological integrity.

5.2.3 Strategic Goal 3: Promote equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity

Strategic Goal 3 focuses on fairness, equity and rights in the use of biodiversity, particularly with respect to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. It seeks to ensure that benefits arising from biodiversity are shared fairly and that local communities and traditional knowledge holders are meaningfully involved in decision-making.

Implementation of this Strategic Goal is organised under a single thematic pillar:

- Thematic Pillar 3.1: Regulating access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing and traditional knowledge, which addresses access and benefit-sharing frameworks, institutional capacity, participation, and the recognition and protection of traditional knowledge.

This Strategic Goal supports Namibia's commitments under national legislation and international agreements, while strengthening trust, stewardship and equity in biodiversity governance.

5.2.4 Strategic Goal 4: Strengthen effective and coordinated implementation

Strategic Goal 4 aims to strengthen enabling conditions required to deliver biodiversity outcomes at scale and over the long term. It responds directly to the implementation challenges identified under NBSAP 2, including weak coordination, insufficient financing, limited capacity, fragmented data and accountability gaps.

Implementation of this Strategic Goal is organised under two thematic pillars:

- Thematic Pillar 4.1: Mainstreaming biodiversity through governance instruments and safeguards, which integrates biodiversity values into policies, planning, safeguards, incentive systems and behavioural frameworks, and decision-making processes in an inclusive, gender-responsive and human-rights-based manner.
- Thematic Pillar 4.2: Finance, capacity, knowledge and accountability institutional capacity, biodiversity information and monitoring systems, scientific knowledge, data management, reporting and accountability mechanisms required to translate biodiversity commitments into effective and measurable action.

These pillars ensure that biodiversity objectives are embedded within development systems and supported by the resources, knowledge and institutions needed for sustained implementation.

5.3 National Biodiversity Targets

In alignment with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Namibia's national biodiversity targets are framed to 2030, providing a clear and measurable midterm milestone for the implementation of NBSAP 3. Progress towards these targets will inform the midterm review of the NBSAP, allowing for assessment of achievements, identification of implementation challenges and adjustment of actions where necessary. Progress beyond 2030 will build on these achievements and be guided by subsequent national planning cycles and ongoing processes under the CBD.

The national targets have been informed by national priorities, stakeholder consultations and lessons learned from the implementation of NBSAP 2. These targets define the outcomes Namibia seeks to achieve across ecosystems, species, sustainable use, equitable benefit sharing and the enabling conditions required for effective implementation.

National targets are closely aligned with the global framework, and any adjustments in scope or emphasis reflect Namibia's national circumstances and implementation context. National target numbering corresponds to the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets.

National Biodiversity Targets

Target 1. The rate of biodiversity loss is significantly reduced through the development and implementation of effective, legally enforced, biodiversity-inclusive participatory Integrated Land Use Plans and Marine Spatial Plans.

Target 2. At least 30 per cent of priority degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, enhancing ecosystem functions, integrity and connectivity.

Target 3. 50 per cent of terrestrial, 30 per cent of inland water, and 20 per cent of marine and coastal ecosystems are conserved through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

Target 4. Urgent management actions are implemented to reduce extinction risk and improve the conservation status of priority species, including those that are threatened, near-threatened, and nationally or regionally significant, while significantly reducing human–wildlife conflict.

Target 5. The use, harvesting and trade of Namibia's wild species are sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation and minimising impacts on ecosystems and non-target species (across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems).

Target 6. The impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services are eliminated, reduced or mitigated, with introduction and establishment rates reduced by at least 50 per cent.

Target 7. Pollution from nutrients, industrial waste, plastics and hazardous chemicals is reduced to levels that minimise negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and human well-being while promoting mechanisms to improve the nutrient cycles.

Target 8. The impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity are minimised through nature-based and ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation measures.

Target 9. Wild species are sustainably managed and used to provide social, economic and environmental benefits, particularly for vulnerable and biodiversity-dependent communities.

Target 10. Agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forest-based production and extractive activities are managed sustainably in ways that conserve biodiversity, enhance resilience and improve food security

Target 11. Nature's contributions to people are enhanced and maintained through the effective implementation of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches.

Target 12. Green and blue spaces in urban and peri-urban areas are maintained and restored to improve human health and well-being.

Target 13. Increase the sharing of benefits derived from the utilisation of biological and genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge

Target 14. Biodiversity values and ecosystem services are integrated into policies, regulations, planning and decision-making across all sectors of development.

Target 15. Biodiversity-related risks and impacts associated with business activities are increasingly identified and addressed through environmental impact assessment, strategic environmental assessment and other appropriate regulatory and voluntary mechanisms.

Target 16. Resource-efficient and biodiversity-friendly production and consumption practices are promoted, including through waste reduction, reuse and recycling, to reduce pollution and pressure on ecosystems.

Target 17. The Biosafety Act and regulations are effectively implemented to ensure biosafety and equitable sharing of biotechnology benefits.

Target 18. Incentives harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed, and positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use are significantly scaled up.

Target 19. Financial resources for biodiversity conservation are significantly increased from domestic and international sources to support the full implementation of NBSAP 3.

Target 20. Capacity-building, technology transfer and scientific cooperation are enhanced to support effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem management.

Target 21. Biodiversity data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision-makers, practitioners and communities to support informed, equitable and participatory biodiversity governance, management, monitoring and reporting.

Target 22. Equitable and inclusive participation of local communities, conservancy members, marginalised groups and traditional authorities in biodiversity decision-making is ensured.

Target 23. Gender equality and a gender-responsive approach are mainstreamed in biodiversity governance and implementation.

5.4 Summary of alignment between the National Strategy and the Global Biodiversity Framework

Namibia's National Biodiversity Strategy is closely aligned with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), but adapted where necessary to reflect national priorities, institutional arrangements and implementation context. This alignment demonstrates how Namibia's four Strategic Goals correspond to the four GBF Goals (A–D), and how the national biodiversity targets (1–23) collectively contribute to the achievement of the GBF targets (1–23).

The alignment recognises that biodiversity challenges and responses are inherently interconnected. As a result, several national targets contribute to more than one Strategic Goal or Thematic Pillar, and similarly support multiple GBF goals and targets. The mapping, therefore, does not imply a rigid one-to-one correspondence, but rather highlights functional linkages and areas of contribution, reinforcing an integrated strategic framework.

The detailed alignment presented in Annexure 1 provides a structured overview of these linkages and illustrates how Namibia's Biodiversity Strategy contributes to the global biodiversity agenda while remaining grounded in the country's national context and development priorities

Chapter 6: National Action Plan: Strategic Programmes

The Action Plan provides the country's implementation framework for achieving the National Biodiversity Targets and Strategic Goals set out in Chapter 5. Presented across Chapters 6 and 7, the Action Plan translates the strategic direction of NBSAP 3 into coordinated action by government, communities, civil society, the private sector and development partners. It is intended to be implemented through existing institutional mandates, policies, planning instruments and budget processes at national, regional and local levels.

The Action Plan is structured around the four Strategic Goals and their associated Thematic Pillars. Under each Thematic Pillar, a limited number of Strategic Programmes are identified to address key priorities and implementation gaps. While each Programme is aligned to specific national biodiversity targets, many programmes contribute to multiple targets, reflecting the interconnected nature of biodiversity challenges and responses.

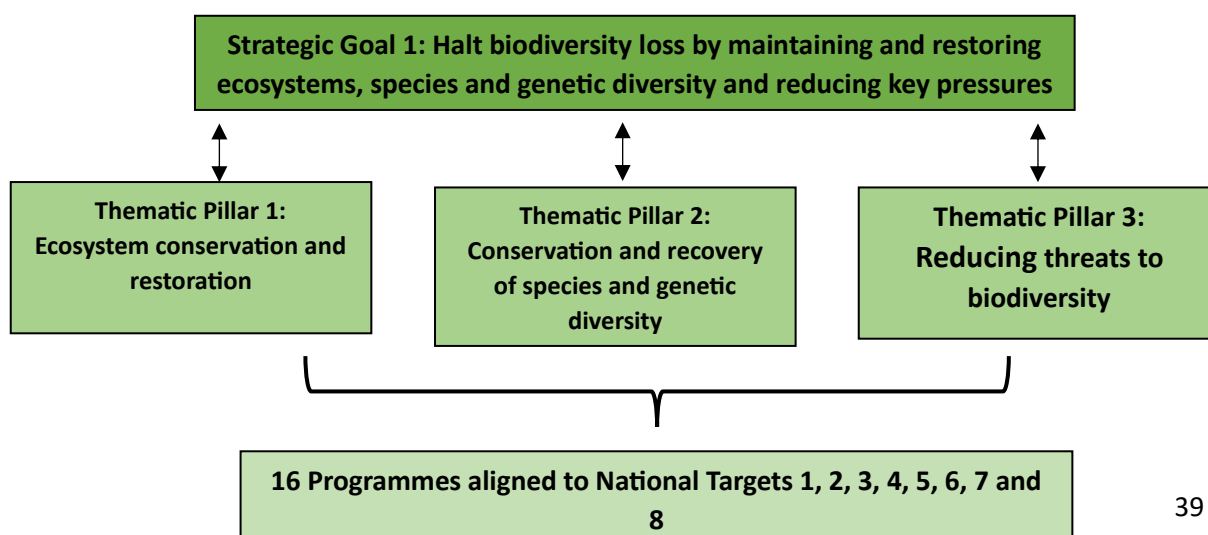
NBSAP 3 adopts a systemic, streamlined and pragmatic implementation approach that focuses on high-impact Programmes and recognises the interlinkages between biodiversity outcomes, governance systems, financing, knowledge and capacity. This approach is intended to enhance feasibility, accountability and alignment with national planning and budgeting processes.

Chapter 6 presents the Strategic Programmes that form the core of the Action Plan. Detailed activities, costing, indicators and monitoring arrangements for the Programmes are presented in Chapter 7 and Annexure 2 (*chapter 7 and annexure 2 still to be formulated*), which together operationalise the Action Plan and provide the basis for implementation, monitoring and reporting.

6.1 Strategic Programmes under NBSAP 3

6.1.1 Strategic Goal 1: Halt biodiversity loss by maintaining and restoring ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, and reducing key pressures

Implementation of Strategic Goal 1 is structured around three complementary thematic pillars that address ecosystem conservation and restoration, species conservation and recovery, and the reduction of key threats to biodiversity. Delivery of this Strategic Goal is achieved through a set of sixteen Programmes, which are aligned to the relevant national biodiversity targets under each thematic pillar.



Thematic Pillar 1.1: Ecosystem conservation and restoration

National Target 1:

The rate of biodiversity loss is significantly reduced through the development and implementation of effective, legally enforceable, ecologically informed Integrated Land Use Plans and Marine Spatial Plans.

Programme 1: National Ecosystem Mapping, Assessment and Red Listing

Purpose

To establish and maintain a nationally coordinated system for ecosystem classification, mapping, assessment and Red Listing to support biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, conservation, restoration and national reporting.

Implementation approach

This Programme will continue establishing and operationalising a nationally coordinated approach for ecosystem mapping, assessment and Red Listing (of ecosystems and species) across terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine environments. It will ensure that ecosystem classification, spatial mapping, and risk assessment are conducted in a consistent, standardised, and repeatable manner, and are maintained over time to reflect changes in ecosystem extent, condition, and trends.

Using the maps as a common ground, the program will focus on embedding ecosystem assessment outputs into planning, policy and decision-making processes, including land- and marine-use planning, protected area and OECM designation, restoration prioritisation, and sectoral development planning. It will promote the routine use of ecosystem data by government institutions and partners, ensuring that ecosystem information is accessible, authoritative and fit for decision-making across sectors.

Through the institutionalisation of ecosystem assessment and Red Listing, this Programme provides a foundational evidence base for biodiversity-inclusive planning and management. It enables Namibia to systematically track and assess changes in ecosystem extent, condition and risk status over time, supporting early identification of ecosystem decline and more targeted conservation and restoration responses.

By strengthening national capacity to generate, apply and update ecosystem-level information, the programme enhances Namibia's ability to monitor, report and respond to ecosystem-level biodiversity loss, and to demonstrate progress towards national biodiversity targets and international commitments under the KMGBF.

Primary implementation instruments

Implementation of this Strategic Programme will be enabled through the development, institutionalisation and progressive operationalisation of the following key instruments:

- National ecosystem classification, mapping and assessment systems, including the establishment of agreed ecosystem typologies, assessment methodologies and Red Listing processes for terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, aligned with international best practice and national needs.
- National biodiversity information and data management systems, including the establishment or strengthening of platforms for the storage, management, updating and sharing of

ecosystem spatial data, assessment results and Red List information to support planning, monitoring and reporting.

- Integration mechanisms within land- and marine-use planning frameworks, ensuring that ecosystem assessment outputs are systematically incorporated into biodiversity-inclusive spatial plans, including integrated land-use plans, marine spatial plans, protected area and OECM planning, and other relevant spatial and sectoral planning instruments as they are developed or revised.
- Policy, regulatory and procedural guidance, including the development of guidance notes, standards or protocols to support the routine application of ecosystem mapping, assessment and Red Listing information in sectoral program development, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments, restoration prioritisation and sectoral decision-making.
- Institutional coordination and technical collaboration arrangements, including inter-agency coordination mechanisms and partnerships with academic institutions, research organisations and civil society, to support data generation, validation, capacity development and the sustained updating of ecosystem assessments.

Implementation considerations

Effective implementation of this Strategic Programme will require:

- A phased and prioritised approach, recognising current data and capacity gaps and progressively expanding ecosystem mapping, assessment and Red Listing across all ecosystems.
- Standardised and credible methodologies in alignment to the KMGBF monitoring framework, to ensure consistency, comparability over time and alignment with national and international reporting requirements.
- Clear institutional ownership, to ensure ecosystem assessment processes and datasets are maintained by national institutions and are not dependent on short-term projects.
- Routine integration into planning and decision-making, including land- and marine-use planning, protected area and OECM designation, environmental assessments and restoration prioritisation.
- Targeted capacity development, to strengthen national expertise in ecosystem assessment, data management and application, and reduce long-term reliance on external technical support.
- Accessible and up-to-date data, supported by clear data-sharing arrangements, transparency and regular updating of ecosystem information.
- Stakeholder engagement and validation, including the incorporation of indigenous and local knowledge to enhance the legitimacy and acceptance of ecosystem assessment outputs.

Activities

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Establish and maintain a nationally coordinated system for ecosystem classification, mapping, assessment and Red Listing to support biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, conservation, restoration and national reporting.	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Regional councils and Local Authorities, National Statistics Agency, Academic	High

	Institutions and Civil Society Organisations	
2. Understand knowledge gap on biodiversity data - Undertake a rapid gap assessment of biodiversity data across all ecosystems and taxa with the involvement of all research institutions including government, research from academia and private researchers - develop research programs to fill gaps - undertaken	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Regional councils and Local Authorities, National Statistics Agency, Academic Institutions and Civil Society Organisations	High
3. Continue collecting biodiversity related data - especially of underrepresented ecosystems (coastal, marine and freshwater species; arid terrestrial ecosystem) from all sources - use all sources of information, including indigenous and local knowledge (traditional knowledge) - promoting community and citizen scientists' involvement - systematically analyse data in a concerted effort following standardized methodologies as per KMGBF MF	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Regional councils and Local Authorities, National Statistics Agency, Academic Institutions and Civil Society Organisations	High
4. Consolidate data in an open--access national biodiversity database across all taxa	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Regional councils and Local Authorities, National Statistics Agency, Academic Institutions and Civil Society Organisations	High
5. Produce maps - Classify ecosystems based on GET level 3 or more in risk category - Create maps highlighting risk categories and ecosystem functional groups - and disseminate among relevant institutions and decision-makers including guidance on interpretation	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Regional councils and Local Authorities, National Statistics Agency, Academic Institutions and Civil Society Organisations	High

Programme 2: Strengthening Integrated Land Use and Spatial Planning for Biodiversity Conservation

Purpose

To reduce biodiversity loss arising from land-use change by strengthening, updating and implementing integrated biodiversity-inclusive land-use and spatial planning instruments across terrestrial and freshwater systems, ensuring that development decisions are aligned with biodiversity priorities.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on strengthening the formulation, updating and implementation of Integrated Regional Land Use Plans (IRLUPs), municipal land-use plans and other related spatial planning instruments, with particular emphasis on improving biodiversity integration and implementation at regional and local levels and covering ecosystems so far underattended (freshwater ecosystems). A biodiversity policy review revealed that the absence of a land use planning policy is a challenge.

Stakeholder consultations highlighted the challenge of the legal status of the current planning framework (IRLUP) and its enforceability; the persistent gap between the development of land-use plans and their implementation at regional and local levels, where financial, technical and institutional capacity constraints are most pronounced; and the entire absence of coverage of freshwater ecosystems. Addressing this gap will require improved coordination between land administration authorities, environmental authorities and regional councils, as well as targeted capacity development and resource support for implementation.

Biodiversity information, including ecosystem maps, ecological corridors, wetlands and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), will be more systematically applied as decision-support tools in land-use planning and land allocation processes, supported by clearer guidance and coordination mechanisms.

Primary implementation instruments

Programme 1 will be supported by the following policies, laws and planning tools:

- Integrated Regional Land Use Plans (IRLUPs)
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Unclear legal status of IRLUP planning framework, institutional responsibilities (MAWFLR and MURD) and resourcing of implementation
- Improved coordination across planning and implementation; and with environmental authorities and OMAs involved in land allocation and at the regional and local levels.
- Clear guidance on the systematic use of biodiversity information in planning decisions.
- Balancing development needs with long-term biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

Activities:

Activity	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Review the current IRLUP processes regarding; - Effectiveness of the current planning framework and update based on lessons learnt, incorporation new standards and requirements - Availability of biodiversity data to ensure biodiversity-inclusivity with a particular focus on red list of ecosystems and KBAs - sectoral integration - ecosystem coverage (freshwater in particular) - institutional responsibility between MURDL and MAWFLR - legal status of framework and approval processes of IRLUPs and their enforceability	Lead: MAFWLR, MEFT Supported by: MURD, Regional Councils, Civil Society Organisations	High

2. Ensure IRLUPS are available for all areas including to - fast-track currently pending approval of IRLUPS by responsible institution - Develop new IRLUPS including SEAs for regions not covered, with a particular focus on HWC, wildlife corridors and other areas important for biodiversity conservation - Review and update outdated IRLUPS	Lead: MAFWLR Supported by: MEFT, MURD, Regional Councils, Civil Society Organisations	High
3. Develop an integrated biodiversity-inclusive national land use plan as overall guidance for connectivity of ecosystems	Lead: MAFWLR, MEFT Supported by: MURD, Regional Councils, Civil Society Organisations	High
4. Strengthen implementation of IRLUP by - Review operationalization of IRLUPS and institutions responsible for implementation - Monitor implementation of IRLUPS - mobilization of resource (external), - budget allocation (internal funding), - capacity development	Lead: MAFWLR Supported by: MEFT, MURD, Regional Councils, Civil Society Organisations	High

Programme 3: Advancing Marine Spatial Planning for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience

Purpose

To guide the sustainable use and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems through the progressive development and application of marine spatial planning, aligned with biodiversity priorities and national capacities.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on assessing, strengthening and advancing pathways for marine spatial planning (MSP) in Namibia, recognising that MSP is at an earlier stage of development than land-based planning and is constrained by a dedicated legal and institutional framework.

Actions will prioritise clarifying institutional roles and coordination mechanisms, strengthening the use of marine biodiversity and ecosystem data, and aligning emerging MSP processes with existing marine governance instruments, including fisheries management, environmental assessment processes and area-based conservation measures.

Given that this is an evolving approach in Namibia, MSP implementation will be phased and adaptive, building on existing planning tools, sectoral management processes and regional cooperation mechanisms, particularly within the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem.

Primary implementation instruments

- Marine Spatial Planning frameworks
- Marine Resources Act
- Benguela Current Convention (BCC) Strategic Programme

Implementation considerations

Key considerations for advancing marine spatial planning include:

- Clarifying the legal and institutional basis for MSP
- Phased and adaptive implementation
- Strengthening access to and use of marine biodiversity and ecosystem data
- Ensuring effective coordination across marine sectors
- Aligning MSP with regional and transboundary governance processes
- Building institutional and technical capacity

National Target 2:

At least 30 per cent of priority degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, enhancing ecosystem functions, integrity and connectivity.

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Review the current MSP processes regarding; - lessons learnt from first MSP including its implementation status - availability of biodiversity data and inclusion in the planning framework - policy harmonization needs - legal status of framework - clarify institutional responsibility of implementation - coverage of coastal ecosystems and their specific sensitivity - zonation maps	Lead: MAFWLR Supported by: MEFT, MIME, MWT	High
2. Develop MSPs for entire Namibia ensuring continuation of sectoral integration and inclusive stakeholder engagement	Lead: MAFWLR Supported by: MEFT, MIME, MWT	High
3. Strengthen implementation of MSPs by - budget allocation (internal funding), - capacity development - Monitoring implementation of MSPs - Stakeholder engagement in all phases	Lead: MAFWLR Supported by: MEFT, MIME, MWT	High

Programme 4: Restoration of degraded terrestrial ecosystems, rangelands and forest landscapes to enhance ecosystem function and resilience

This programme addresses:

- Land degradation,
- Bush encroachment,
- Dryland ecosystem recovery,
- Forest landscape restoration
- Rehabilitation of mining areas.

Purpose

To restore degraded terrestrial ecosystems, particularly rangelands and forest landscapes, to enhance biodiversity, ecosystem functionality and resilience to climate variability, while supporting long-term ecological sustainability in priority landscapes.

Implementation approach

Implementation will prioritise landscape restoration of degraded terrestrial ecosystems, focusing on rangelands and forest landscapes where degradation undermines biodiversity integrity and ecological resilience. This programme builds on Namibia's National Strategy for Sustainable Management of Bush Resources (2022) by integrating sustainable bush management approaches with broader ecosystem restoration actions that enhance biodiversity outcomes, land functionality and climate resilience; and the Namibia Rangeland Policy and Strategy (2012), which aims to ensure that productivity and biodiversity are restored and maintained. Restoration efforts will be implemented in and around state forests, protected areas, communal conservancies and community forests, recognising that ecosystem condition within these landscapes directly influences species viability, ecological connectivity and the effectiveness of conservation measures. Special attention will be given to buffer zones and wildlife corridors adjacent to conservation areas, where improving habitat condition supports species movement, ecological processes and population recovery. Support to restoration will also include other degraded communal areas and resettlement farms where the ecosystems services are critical for the livelihoods of people .

Bush encroachment interventions will draw on the principles and guidance of the Bush Resources Strategy, including:

- use of site-specific ecological thresholds to guide where and how bush management is undertaken;
- integration of sustainable bush utilisation options where appropriate, while maintaining ecological function;
- coordination with grazing management, fire management and hydrological rehabilitation;
- monitoring systems that track both ecological condition and socioeconomic impacts.

Forest landscape restoration will be integrated into this programme and focus on ecological restoration, rehabilitation and active management of degraded forests and forest patches within classified forests and communal lands, promoting natural regeneration and in alignment with broader land management objectives

Mining has been identified as one of the major threats to biodiversity in Namibia; as such, land restoration and rehabilitation will also have to include previously mined areas but there is no policy in place to guide on restoration of such areas. A policy document on ecological restoration and rehabilitation aiming at assisting the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged, or destroyed, will help conceptualize, budget and implement respective initiatives to avoid further loss of ecosystems services and biodiversity in sensitive areas.

Across all terrestrial environments, restoration actions will be aligned with climate adaptation and ecosystem resilience strategies, ensuring that ecosystem restoration contributes to national goals for biodiversity, sustainable land management and climate risk reduction.

Primary implementation instruments

- Namibia's National Strategy for Sustainable Management of Bush Resources
- Rangeland management policy and strategy
- Forest Act and Forest Management Plans
- Integrated Regional Land Use Plans

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Promoting evidence-based definition of restoration to create a common ground
- Clear prioritisation of restoration areas, focusing on landscapes where degradation most strongly undermines biodiversity outcomes, ecosystem connectivity and the effectiveness of protected and conserved areas.
- Ecologically appropriate approaches to bush encroachment management, aligned with national guidance and tailored to local ecological conditions.
- Strong coordination between Environment (biodiversity), land management institutions and local land users, particularly in communal areas and across multiple land-use systems.
- Long-term financing and sustained technical support, recognising that ecosystem restoration requires multi-year investment and adaptive management rather than short-term interventions.
- Integration of restoration with climate adaptation and sustainable land management objectives, to maximise resilience and co-benefits.
- Development of a restoration and rehabilitation policy

Activities

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Review of restoration interventions including: - Develop a national map of degraded ecosystems based on a uniform methodology - Consolidate successful and ongoing interventions and collation of lessons learnt - Gap analysis of ecosystems and geographical distribution of restoration interventions - Identification of restoration target areas	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Local Communities, Private Sector and Civil Society Organisations	High
2. Create awareness on practices and drivers contributing to degradation (including pollution, overutilization of resources) for terrestrial ecosystems (public outreach)	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Local Communities, Private Sector and Civil Society Organisations	High
3. Implement measures to prevent degradation - Introduce regulations to avoid and prohibit destructive practices, especially in sensitive areas - Promote sustainable rangeland in communal areas by reviewing, communicating and enforcing carrying capacity - Introduce and enforcement of polluter pays principles - review classification of activities that requires EIAs to prevent degradation	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Local Communities, Private Sector and Civil Society Organisations	High

- promote research and monitoring of areas prone to degradation		
4. Support implementation of restoration activities, including - Establish a biodiversity offset program that supports the restoration and conservation of biodiversity in areas impacted by development activities. - active resource mobilization across ecosystems to implement interventions such as rangeland and forest restoration using appropriate mechanisms - Research and monitoring of implementation success and long-term impact on vegetation structure/composition	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Local Communities, Private Sector and Civil Society Organisations	High
5. Develop a cross-sectoral national restoration and rehabilitation policy	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Local Communities, Private Sector and Civil Society Organisations	High

Programme 5: Restoration and recovery of freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems

This Programme focuses on the restoration and recovery of degraded freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems to support biodiversity, ecosystem function and resilience.

Purpose

To restore and support the recovery of degraded freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, including the recovery of aquatic species and fish populations, to sustain biodiversity, fisheries productivity and ecosystem services, and to enhance resilience to climate variability and other pressures, including to reduce riverine human-wildlife conflicts.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on ecosystem-based approaches that reduce threats and integrate habitat restoration, fisheries management and pollution control. In freshwater systems, emphasis will be placed on catchment-scale interventions, protection of wetlands and riparian zones, and creating a network of fisheries reserves, contributing to the maintenance of ecological connectivity along rivers, recognising the importance of hydrological and ecological processes that extend beyond individual sites.

In coastal and marine systems, restoration will be precautionary and targeted, recognising the limits of active restoration in marine environments and the importance of supporting natural recovery processes through improved ecosystem condition, spatial protection and fisheries management measures and removal of threats such as pollution including plastic pollution, marine debris etc.

Fisheries recovery measures will be aligned with ecosystem restoration objectives and guided by the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, recognising the dependence of fish populations on healthy aquatic, coastal and marine habitats. Where appropriate, fisheries reserves and other spatial management measures will be used to support ecosystem recovery and species replenishment.

Given that Namibia's major perennial rivers and marine ecosystems are transboundary in nature, implementation will be coordinated with neighbouring countries through existing regional and basin-level mechanisms, including river basin commissions and the Benguela Current Large Marine

Ecosystem (BCLME) framework and the Transboundary Fisheries Framework for the Okavango River Basin developed in 2023, to support coherent ecosystem restoration and fisheries recovery across shared systems.

Primary implementation instruments

This Programme will be implemented through the following policies, laws, strategies and planning instruments:

- Water Resources Management Act and associated regulations
- RBO Agreements and Bilateral Agreements
- Inland fisheries policies, management plans and fisheries reserve policy (to be developed)
- Marine Resources Act and fisheries management plans
- Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) implementation frameworks
- Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) Strategic Programme
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Transboundary Fisheries Framework for the Okavango River Basin developed in 2023
- Integrated Water Resource Management Plan for the Kwando

Lead institutions

- MAFWLR including KIFI

Supporting institutions:

- Regional councils and Local Authorities
- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Traditional Authorities

Implementation partners:

- Research institutions, NGOs and civil society organisations supporting spatial data, planning and capacity building

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Establishing a network of fisheries reserves in Namibia's perennial rivers to ensure riverscape restoration and beneficiation of fishermen through spillover
- Catchment- and ecosystem-scale coordination, recognising that pressures on freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems often originate beyond individual sites or administrative boundaries (i.e. basin management approach and Large-Marine-Ecosystem approach)
- Alignment between ecosystem restoration and fisheries management objectives (set out in the management plans), ensuring that species recovery is supported through habitat protection, ecosystem-based fisheries management and spatial measures such as fisheries reserves.
- Effective transboundary cooperation, particularly for shared river systems and marine ecosystems, to ensure coherent restoration and recovery across national boundaries.
- Precautionary approaches in coastal and marine environments, acknowledging ecological uncertainty and the limits of active restoration in some marine systems.

- Strengthened monitoring and data-sharing, to track ecosystem condition, species recovery and the effectiveness of restoration measures over time.

Activities

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Create awareness on harmful practices and activities contributing the freshwater, coastal and marine degradation, including pollution (including plastic pollution), overgrazing, habitat destruction	Lead: MAFWLR Supported by: MEFT, Civil Society Organisations	High
2. Develop legal instruments to prevent degradation across sectors	Lead: MAFWLR Supported by: MEFT, Civil Society Organisations	Medium
3. Develop an inland fisheries policy to guide the future of the perennial rivers and subsequent legislative framework including a restoration strategy for a freshwater fisheries network	Lead: MAFWLR Supported by: MEFT, Civil Society Organisations	High
4. Promote the developed and mobilize resources to implement Transboundary Basin management plans and IWRM for river basins including restoration initiatives	Lead: MAFWLR Supported by: MEFT, Civil Society Organisations	High
5. Develop further mechanisms for marine restoration areas Gazetting of the 200m isobath as no trawling zone	Lead: MAFWLR Supported by: MEFT, Civil Society Organisations	High

National Target 3

50 per cent of terrestrial, 30 per cent of inland water, and 20 per cent of marine and coastal ecosystems are conserved through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

Programme 6: Expansion and Consolidation of Protected and Conservation Areas

Purpose

To expand, consolidate and secure ecologically representative, well-connected and effectively managed and equitably governed systems of protected and conservation areas across terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, contributing to national commitments under the Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3 (30x30).

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on building upon Namibia's existing conservation estate, prioritising areas of high biodiversity importance and underrepresented ecosystems, while strengthening the effectiveness and governance of existing protected and conserved areas. Expansion will be pursued through a combination of state-protected areas, communal and freehold conservancies, community forests, community fisheries reserves, marine protected areas and OECMs.

In terrestrial systems, emphasis will be placed on expanding conservation coverage in underrepresented savanna and woodland ecosystems, strengthening ecological connectivity, and consolidating conservation management in landscapes adjacent to existing protected areas and

advancing effectiveness in PCAs to underpin the area coverage and therefore increase the overall impact of PCAs. In freshwater systems, actions will prioritise creating a network of community fisheries reserves along the perennial rivers in the North, wetlands and floodplains, particularly in transboundary river basins. In the marine environment, conservation expansion will build on existing MPAs and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), while exploring pathways for additional marine OECMs.

Primary implementation instruments

- Nature Conservation Ordinance 4 of 1975 as amended
- Community forests and community fisheries reserves Forest Act 12 of 2001 as amended in 2005 and The Inland Fisheries Resources Act of 2003
- Namibia Islands Marine Protected Areas (including NIMPA)
- Draft Framework and guidelines for identifying Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in Namibia (OECMs)
- Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)
- Guidelines/SOPs for CBNRM establishment (Conservancies, Community Forest Toolbox, Tackle box for community-managed fisheries reserves) and compliance standards

Implementation considerations

- Prioritising ecosystems and areas with low current representation
- Ensuring expansion does not compromise community rights or livelihoods
- Strengthening governance and management effectiveness alongside spatial expansion
- Securing sustainable financing for long-term management

Activities

Activities:	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Area-based conservation: Maintain and Expand the current PCA systems particularly in underrepresented areas, especially in the marine and freshwater ecosystems - Finalize KBA framework for Namibia, identification and mapping across all ecosystems - Up-to-date management plans for all PCAs (including NPs, conservancies, community forests and communities fisheries reserves) - Develop governance and management mechanism for protected and conserved areas in marine ecosystems: - Declare EBSAs as PCAs/OECMs - Extending the NIMPA coverage to norther Namibia up to Cape Fria - Develop a network of community-led freshwater fisheries reserves	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	High
2. Based on red list of ecosystem map and KbAs, identify critical areas and apply appropriate mechanisms for protection under the Namiban legislation, including - Ramsar sites (areas without a Namiban protection status)	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	High

- Wildlife corridors (as per mandate of Land Conference)		
3. Validate current reporting - Review the current mechanisms of right-based conservation vs area-based conservation and registration, - Clean up official register of PCAs (WDPA)	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	High
4. Advance adaptive management across all sectors - Promote research and monitoring in PCAs - Use Indigenous and local knowledge to develop appropriate place-based management plans - Expand Community-based monitoring and information system (CBMIS) and provide avenues for it to contribute to overall decision-making and adaptive management	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	High
5. Develop sustainable financing mechanism for PCAs, including - Unlocking new financial mechanisms such as biodiversity credits - Finance for permanence (including endowment funds etc)	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	High

Programme 7: Recognition and Strengthening of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

Purpose

To formally recognise, support and strengthen OECMs as a core component of Namibia's area-based conservation system, ensuring long-term biodiversity outcomes while respecting diverse governance arrangements and sustainable land and resource use.

Implementation approach

This programme will focus on finalising and operationalising a national framework for the identification, recognition and reporting of OECMs, aligned with international guidance and complementing the Namibian legislation. Emphasis will be placed on recognising conservation outcomes achieved through private land conservation, fisheries closures, community-based natural resource management, indigenous and local stewardship arrangements, and sectoral management regimes that deliver sustained biodiversity benefits.

Actions will prioritise advancing the draft mechanism, building institutional capacity, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and supporting monitoring systems that demonstrate conservation outcomes without imposing unnecessary regulatory burdens.

Primary implementation instruments

- National OECM framework (under development)

Implementation considerations

- Ensuring OECMs deliver demonstrable and sustained biodiversity outcomes
- Recognizing efforts of stakeholders that have so far not been able to contribute to the official reporting on PCAs

- Avoiding over-regulation of locally led conservation arrangements
- Ensuring OECMs complement, rather than replace, protected areas
- Strengthening national reporting and international recognition of OECMs

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Develop and adopt an OECM framework - Finalize OECM framework, including the legal status of the framework itself and legal clarification of status of CBNRM areas vs protected area definition in Namibian legislation - Operationalize framework, test it across various scenarios, collect feedback and refine it	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Private Sector, Land Owners, Academia	High
Expand on conserved areas including: 2. Declaration of the 200 m isobath as an OECM - Encourage and incentivize private sector to register privately protected areas in commercial farmland as OECMs	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Private Sector, Land Owners, Academia	High

Programme 8: Improving Effectiveness, Connectivity and Governance of Conservation Areas

Purpose

To enhance the effectiveness, connectivity and governance of protected and conservation areas to ensure that conservation coverage translates into meaningful biodiversity outcomes.

Implementation approach

This programme will focus on strengthening the institutional and human capacity required for effective management of protected and conserved areas, with particular emphasis on local-level institutions and community-based governance structures. Actions will support the regular updating and implementation of management plans, governance instruments and financial systems across state-protected areas, communal conservancies, community forests and community fisheries reserves.

Priority will be given to building capacity for planning, financial management, compliance and adaptive management, recognising that limited institutional capacity at the local level constrains conservation effectiveness despite expanding conservation coverage. Support will include strengthening the roles, skills and resourcing of community game guards, fisheries guards and other local enforcement and monitoring personnel, who play a critical role in day-to-day conservation management.

Implementation will also promote ecological connectivity and landscape-level governance, supporting coordination between neighbouring conserved areas and across land and sea-use boundaries, including areas adjacent to protected areas where governance gaps undermine conservation outcomes.

Primary implementation instruments

- Protected Area Management Effectiveness tools (e.g. NAMETT)
- IUCN Green Listing
- Ecological corridor identification and safeguarding
- Landscape and seascape-level conservation planning
- Transboundary conservation frameworks (e.g. TFCAs, river basin commissions, BCLME)

Implementation considerations

- Addressing uneven management effectiveness across conservation areas
- Balancing connectivity objectives with local land-use needs
- Ensuring inclusive and equitable governance and benefit-sharing
- Strengthening long-term financing and institutional capacity

Activities	Responsible	Priority
1. Expand and strengthen CBNRM program compliance including - Development and Introduction of compliance standards for community forests and community fisheries reserves - Providing assistance to for CBNRM areas to comply with standards	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Academia	High
2. Improved effectiveness in PCAs, including through - Introduction of METT and SAGE in conservancies - Applying standards of the IUCN Green List, aiming for certification of PAs - Rollout monitoring and reporting technology such as SMART to all CBNRM areas - Optimization of transactional and procedural effectiveness in PCA operations	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Academia	High
3. Capacity building for CBNRM, in particular on - Good governance for governance type B including Accountability and rights of members - Mechanisms to maximize benefits for members	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Academia	High

Thematic Pillar 1.2: Conservation and recovery of species and genetic diversity

National Target 4

Urgent management actions are implemented to reduce extinction risk and improve the conservation status of priority species, including those that are threatened, near-threatened, and regionally significant, while significantly reducing human–wildlife conflict.

Programme 9: Strengthening Species Conservation, Red Listing and Genetic Diversity Management

Purpose

To reduce extinction risk and improve the conservation status of priority species through strengthened species assessment, Red Listing, genetic diversity conservation and targeted management interventions, ensuring the long-term demographic, genetic and ecological viability of priority species, such as, African Wild Dog, Black and White Rhino, Cheetah, Pangolin, African Penguin, Cormorants; Cranes and Vultures; Aloes and Lithops, and the adaptive capacity of Namibia's biodiversity.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on institutionalising science-based species conservation as a core and sustained function of national biodiversity management. This will be achieved by strengthening national systems for the assessment, monitoring and management of priority species, and by embedding these functions within responsible institutions to ensure continuity over time.

Regular and systematic evaluation of species conservation status will be supported through systematic data collection to fill currently substantial data gaps to support the institutionalisation of the national Red Listing processes, aligned with IUCN standards. These processes will be maintained and periodically updated to ensure that extinction risk assessments routinely inform conservation planning, management decisions and policy responses at national and subnational levels.

Priority attention will be given to species that are threatened, near-threatened, endemic or of high national, regional or global conservation importance. Long-term population monitoring frameworks will be strengthened for selected priority species to track population trends, assess structure, composition and genetic viability, identify emerging risks and guide timely management interventions. Monitoring will prioritise populations at risk of falling below viable thresholds due to isolation, habitat fragmentation or human pressures.

The programme will support coordinated and scientifically guided management of wildlife populations, including genetic monitoring, species translocations and metapopulation management where appropriate. These interventions will be implemented in accordance with nationally agreed protocols to maintain or restore genetically viable, connected and self-sustaining populations, particularly in fragmented or isolated landscapes and marine environment.

Conservation of plant genetic diversity will be strengthened through complementary in situ and ex situ conservation systems, building on the work of the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI). This will support the long-term conservation of endemic, threatened and economically important plant species, and enhance the adaptive capacity of Namibia's flora under climate change.

Collaboration between research institutions, conservation practitioners and policy-makers will be formalised and sustained to ensure that scientific evidence, monitoring results and genetic information are consistently integrated into adaptive species management, national biodiversity planning and reporting.

Collectively, these measures aim to stabilise or increase the number of viable populations of priority species over time, reducing extinction risk and supporting measurable improvements in species conservation status.

Primary implementation instruments

- Data collection on species currently not listed due to data deficiency but are likely to be of concern
- Species-specific conservation and recovery plans
- National Red List assessments aligned with IUCN criteria
- Wildlife and forestry legislation and regulations

Implementation considerations

- Sustained funding for Red Listing, monitoring and genetic research
- Clear protocols for translocations and genetic interventions
- Data-sharing and coordination across institutions
- Long-term institutional capacity for scientific services

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Develop and Implement action plans for all currently listed game species (elephant, giraffe, zebra, mountain zebra, hippopotamus, klippspringer, black and white rhinos, impala, black-faced impala, african wild dog)	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisation and Academia	High
2. Review current list and amend with species that require urgent action to reduce risks of further decline, (sharks, penguins, albatross and other seabirds, cheetah; Quiver tree, lithops, vultures, cranes, and develop national action plans for all newly listed species, and where not available, and implement	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisation and Academia	High

Programme 10: Strengthening Human–Wildlife Conflict Prevention and Coexistence

Purpose

To significantly reduce human–wildlife conflict through proactive, community-centred and landscape-based approaches that support coexistence between people and wildlife while safeguarding livelihoods and supporting the long-term viability of wildlife populations.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on preventive, community-centred and landscape-based approaches to reducing human–wildlife conflict, recognising that effective coexistence is essential for both biodiversity conservation and human well-being. Priority will be given to areas where conflict poses significant risks to livelihoods, safety and conservation outcomes, particularly in communal areas, conservancies and other multi-use landscapes.

Persistent human–wildlife conflict is recognised as a significant driver of population decline and fragmentation for several priority species; reducing conflict is therefore essential for maintaining viable and connected wildlife populations. The programme will strengthen early warning, prevention and rapid response mechanisms for conflict-prone species, including elephants, large carnivores, hippos, crocodiles and other species that frequently interact with people and livestock. This will include improved reporting systems, targeted deployment of mitigation measures and timely response to incidents, informed by spatial and temporal patterns of conflict.

Community-based institutions will be central to implementation. Support will be provided to strengthen the capacity and resourcing of community game guards, fisheries guards and other local monitors, who play a frontline role in conflict prevention, monitoring and response. Emphasis will be placed on building skills, providing appropriate equipment and ensuring more secure and sustainable support mechanisms for these roles.

The programme will promote landscape-level planning and coexistence measures that reduce conflict risk while maintaining functional connectivity and access to critical habitats, including the protection of wildlife corridors, buffer zones and movement pathways essential for viable populations. These measures will be aligned with broader land-use planning, conservancy management and development decisions.

While existing mechanisms, including conservancy benefits and offset or compensation arrangements, provide an important foundation, stakeholder consultations highlighted persistent concerns regarding the adequacy, timeliness and effectiveness of current offset provisions, particularly in relation to crop damage. Addressing these concerns will be important for sustaining community support for coexistence and will require continued dialogue, evidence-based review and adaptive refinement of incentive mechanisms over time.

Adaptive management will be emphasised throughout implementation, using conflict data, monitoring results and community feedback to refine approaches, reduce wildlife mortality linked to conflict, and improve both coexistence outcomes and population viability over time.

Primary implementation instruments

- National Policy on Human–Wildlife Conflict Management
- Nature Conservation Ordinance and associated regulations, including wildlife utilisation policies

Activities

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Promote HWC prevention mechanisms (while preventing harmful mitigation approaches): - Identify HWC hotspots and wildlife corridors as part of land use planning, and preserve wildlife corridors to minimize HW conflicts - Water access management (e.g. Create water points for game / protect infrastructure from wildlife (elephants); build exclusion fences for crocodiles; Create waterpoints off the river) - Introduce early warning systems (inform in real time) /geofencing - Predator-proof kraals - Herding of livestock including guard dogs to reduce (mitigate) HWCs - Deterrent mechanisms - Enclosures	Lead: MEFT Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Communities	High
2. Awareness creation: - Tap into ILK for conflict prevention - Educate community members on wildlife behaviour - Provide training for game guards - Create incentives for communities to coexist with wildlife	Lead: MEFT Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Communities	High

3. Resource mobilisation, including innovative mechanisms like - Self-insurance schemes - Communal herd to replace lost livestock	Lead: MEFT Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Communities	High
4. Undertake research on HWC	Lead: MEFT Supported by: Academia, Civil Society Organisations, Communities	Medium

National Target 5

The use, harvesting and trade of Namibia's wild species are sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation and minimising impacts on ecosystems and non-target species (across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems)

Programme 11: Promoting sustainable, safe and legal harvesting of terrestrial wild species

Purpose

To prevent overexploitation and reduce extinction risk by ensuring that the harvesting, use and trade of terrestrial wild species, including wildlife, forest resources and non-timber forest products (NTFPs), are ecologically sustainable, safe and fully compliant with national legislation, while maintaining viable populations, safeguarding non-target species and supporting responsible, biodiversity-compatible livelihoods.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on ensuring that harvesting practices are explicitly linked to species conservation objectives and population viability thresholds, through strengthened regulation, compliance and adaptive management. Actions will address both subsistence and commercial use of wildlife, forest resources and NTFPs, with emphasis on reducing pressures arising from illegal, unregulated and unsafe harvesting, including in areas where formal management, regulatory controls or monitoring systems are absent, and where such pressures undermine species recovery and long-term viability.

The programme will build on Namibia's established CBNRM framework, recognising the role of communal conservancies, community forests and private landholders in managing and monitoring terrestrial wild species. Support will be provided to strengthen science-based harvesting guidelines, quota and permit systems, and population monitoring, ensuring that harvesting levels and methods remain within ecological limits and are adjusted in response to species trends, climate variability and emerging risks.

Particular attention will be given to reducing impacts on vulnerable, slow-recovering and non-target species, including through improved selectivity of harvesting methods, seasonal restrictions and spatial management measures. Strengthened law enforcement and compliance mechanisms will be complemented by awareness, capacity building and incentive-based approaches that promote stewardship and voluntary compliance among resource users.

Primary implementation instruments

The Programme will be implemented through existing and, where necessary, new or revised policies, laws and planning tools, including:

- Nature Conservation Ordinance and associated regulations, including wildlife utilisation policies, permits and quota systems;
- Forest Act and forest management regulations
- Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) frameworks
- Land-use planning and management instruments
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures and safeguards
- Policy, regulatory or guidance frameworks to be developed or updated, where gaps exist, to strengthen sustainable, safe and legal harvesting, monitoring, compliance and adaptive management of terrestrial wild species.

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Science-based harvesting limits, ensuring that quotas, permits and harvesting methods are informed by population status, recovery potential and species-specific vulnerability.
- Adaptive management, with harvesting rules regularly reviewed and adjusted in response to monitoring results, climate variability and emerging pressures.
- Coverage beyond formal management areas, addressing regulatory, monitoring and enforcement gaps in areas not under CBNRM or other structured management regimes.
- Balanced enforcement and stewardship, combining law enforcement with community-based governance, incentives and awareness to support compliance and legitimacy.
- Institutional coordination, particularly between wildlife, forestry and law-enforcement authorities, to reduce illegal and unregulated harvesting.
- Sustained capacity and resourcing, especially for monitoring and compliance in remote and high-pressure areas.

Activities

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Continue creating public awareness on wildlife crime	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisation	High
2. Establish baselines for terrestrial, freshwater and marine/coastal ecosystems: - Review current state of knowledge and undertake biodiversity assessments in areas with knowledge gaps - Undertake game counts in communal areas, PCAs and inspections of farms in commercial land - biomass assessments and forest inventories to inform management plans on quantitative and qualitative forestry parameters - stock assessments and biological surveys	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisation	High

3. Invest in technology to regularly update baselines, such as, - Remote sensing - Drones and lidar systems - eDNA sampling etc	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisation	Medium
4. Ensure offtake of game and harvesting of plants and other natural produces is within sustainable levels: - Develop guidelines to calculate sustainable offtakes in general and for most important wild species - Using up-to-date baselines/carrying capacity, ensure sustainable quota setting for natural resource harvesting - Develop thresholds for own consumption and delineate domestic from commercial use, including for timber, non-timber forest products, freshwater and marine fish - Establish protocols for harvesting and restrictions to the amount of commercially used species - For species on the decline, develop quotas and and introduce control mechanisms - Control export of commercially used species, and ensure compliance to ABS legalisation	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisation	Medium
5. Develop management plans for long-term vision and objectives: - for classified forests including AAC to ensure forest produce and other natural resources are used sustainably while protecting timber resources - for PCAs	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisation	Medium
6. Promote sustainable practices outside PCAs: - Forest management outside classified forests - Sustainable fishing (workshops to be conducted in different (native) languages, not only English)	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisation	Medium
7. Strengthen surveillance and law enforcement: - Invest in technologies to monitor harvesting activities and detect illegal activities, including drones - Surveillance of Pathogens existing in Namibia - Build capacity for effective law enforcement to tackle illegal wildlife trade and ensure compliance with sustainable use policies. - Improve Permit records and tracking of harvesting of Timber products and Marine Resources	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisation	High
8. Update legislative framework: - Implement stricter regulations on wildlife crime - Review existing forestry policies and align with gender-specific harvesting practices and conservation goals - Regulate the trade and export of natural resources and products derived of such	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR, Supported by: Civil Society Organisation	Medium
9. Trade of wild species	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR,	High

- Ensure submission of red list species to CITES Annex to regulate or prohibit trade - Strengthening cooperation between CITES Parties	Supported by: Civil Society Organisation	
---	--	--

Programme 12: Promoting sustainable, safe and legal harvesting of freshwater and marine wild species

Purpose

To prevent overexploitation and reduce extinction risk by ensuring that the harvesting, use and trade of freshwater and marine wild species are ecologically sustainable, safe and fully compliant with national legislation, while maintaining viable populations, safeguarding non-target species and habitats, and supporting responsible, biodiversity-compatible livelihoods dependent on inland and marine resources.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on ensuring that harvesting of freshwater and marine wild species is explicitly linked to species conservation objectives, ecosystem condition and population viability thresholds, through strengthened governance, compliance and adaptive management. Actions will address both subsistence and commercial use, with emphasis on reducing pressures arising from illegal, unreported and unregulated harvesting, including in areas where management coverage, monitoring capacity or enforcement presence is limited.

The programme will strengthen science-based management systems for inland fisheries, coastal and marine species, including stock assessments, effort controls, seasonal and spatial measures, and bycatch mitigation, to ensure that harvesting levels and practices remain within ecological limits. Particular attention will be given to species and populations that are slow-growing, migratory, endemic, or vulnerable to cumulative pressures from fishing, habitat degradation and climate change.

Monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms will be strengthened across freshwater and marine systems, including improved reporting, compliance and enforcement, while recognising the need to balance enforcement with livelihood realities in small-scale and artisanal fisheries. Where community-based or co-management arrangements exist or are emerging, the programme will support their strengthening to enhance stewardship, compliance and local monitoring.

Management measures will be adaptive and evidence-based, using biological, ecological and socio-economic information to regularly review harvesting rules, respond to emerging risks and support recovery of depleted populations. Efforts to reduce impacts on non-target species, critical habitats and ecosystem functions will be prioritised, including through improved selectivity of fishing gear, protection of key breeding and nursery areas, and spatial or temporal restrictions where necessary.

Primary implementation instruments

The Programme will be implemented through existing and, where necessary, new or revised policies, laws and planning tools, including:

- Fisheries and marine resources legislation and associated regulations, including licensing, permit, quota and effort control systems governing inland fisheries, coastal and marine harvesting;

- Inland fisheries management frameworks and river basin or wetland management plans, where applicable;
- Marine spatial planning instruments, fisheries management plans and related ocean governance tools;
- Policy, regulatory or guidance frameworks to be developed or updated, where gaps exist, to strengthen sustainable, safe and legal harvesting, monitoring, compliance and adaptive management of freshwater and marine wild species.

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Ecosystem- and stock-based management, ensuring that harvesting levels, effort controls and spatial or seasonal measures are informed by population status, ecosystem condition and cumulative pressures.
- Strengthened monitoring, control and surveillance, particularly to address illegal, unreported and unregulated harvesting in inland waters and marine environments.
- Adaptive and precautionary management, with rules and controls adjusted in response to stock assessments, environmental change and uncertainty, including climate-driven impacts.
- Protection of critical habitats and life stages, including breeding, nursery and migration areas essential for population viability and recovery.
- Co-management and stakeholder engagement, particularly in small-scale and artisanal fisheries, to enhance compliance, local monitoring and stewardship.
- Cross-sectoral coordination, aligning fisheries management with spatial planning, water management and marine governance frameworks.

Activities

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Update legislative framework: - Review the white paper on inland fisheries and finalize an inland fisheries policy, to guide subsequent legislation - Introduce and enforce stricter regulations on gear and methods for fishing and by-catch regulation - Extend the use of Tori lines across all fisheries	Lead: MAFWLR Support: MEFT and Civil Society Organisations	High
2. Promote the ecosystem approach: - Adopt a multi-species stock assessment - Undertake research on non-commercial species / by-catch to assess damage on other taxa and families (fish, bird, marine mammals and reptiles (turtles)) - Invest in technology such as eDNA sampling	Lead: MAFWLR Support: MEFT and Civil Society Organisations	High
3. River Basin management - Develop overarching (transboundary) river basin frameworks and subsequent national implementation strategies - Support implementation and coordination with partner countries	Lead: MAFWLR Support: MEFT and Civil Society Organisations	Medium
4. Ensure harvesting of freshwater and marine fish is within sustainable levels:	Lead: MAFWLR	Medium

- Establish baselines and undertake regular fish stock assessment - calculate sustainable total allowable catch based on assessments, and give out quotas within these limits - Establish restrictions for species that are on a decline	Support: MEFT and Civil Society Organisations	
--	---	--

Thematic Pillar 1.3: Reducing threats to biodiversity

National Target 6

The impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services are eliminated, reduced or mitigated, with introduction and establishment rates reduced by at least 50 per cent.

Programme 13: Strengthening Invasive Alien Species Prevention, Early Detection and Rapid Response

Purpose

To strengthen systems and capacity for preventing new introductions of invasive alien species, improve early detection and rapid response mechanisms, and reduce establishment rates and associated impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Implementation approach

Implementation will prioritise prevention, early detection and rapid response to invasive alien species, recognising that preventing new introductions is the most cost-effective and ecologically sound approach to managing invasive risks. Actions will focus on strengthening controls along key introduction pathways, including ports, border posts, trade routes and transport corridors, supported by risk assessment and biosecurity measures.

In the marine environment, particular attention will be given to ballast water and biofouling management, in line with international conventions and national port and maritime regulations. This will include strengthening implementation of ballast water management requirements, enhancing inspection and compliance mechanisms at ports, and improving coordination between environmental, maritime and port authorities to reduce the risk of marine invasive species introductions.

Early detection will be supported through enhanced surveillance and monitoring systems that integrate institutional monitoring, scientific research and community-based reporting. Clear protocols will be established for the identification, reporting and verification of new incursions, ensuring that detection systems are directly linked to rapid response mechanisms. Surveillance and response systems will be designed to enable consistent tracking of new invasive alien species introductions and establishment trends over time.

Rapid response actions will focus on timely, coordinated interventions to eradicate, contain or minimise newly detected invasive alien species populations. Relevant authorities and partners will be supported with training, equipment and operational guidance to enable effective response before invasive species become established and cause widespread ecological or economic impacts.

Primary implementation instruments

- National Invasive Alien Species Action Plan and associated guidance

- Border control, quarantine and risk assessment protocols
- Surveillance and monitoring frameworks
- Rapid Response Standard Operating Procedures

Implementation considerations

- Strengthened coordination across sectors and points of entry
- Dedicated resources for surveillance and rapid response operations
- Clear data sharing and reporting protocols
- Public awareness to support early reporting and detection

Activities

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Harmonise and strengthen the policies and strategies related to introduction, establishment and spreading of alien invasive species including - development of an IAS policy and legislation - mechanisms to prevent IAS introduction and establishment, including punitive measures - actions to control or eradicate existing alien invasive species wherever possible, - monitor invasive species establishment, including freshwater species (Salvinia, Nile Tilapia, Redclaw Crayfish)	Lead: MEFT, Alien Species Working Group Supported by: MAFWLR, MWT, Civil Society Organisations	Medium
2. Public awareness on the negative impact of invasive species, including in private gardens	Lead: MEFT, Alien Species Working Group Supported by: MAFWLR, MWT, Civil Society Organisations	High
3. Undertake a study to assess the ecological and economic impact of alien invasive species in the Namibia ecosystems and develop mitigation plan with priority species to be addressed	Lead: MEFT, Alien Species Working Group Supported by: MAFWLR, MWT, Civil Society Organisations	High
4. Strengthen the implementation of the four components under the IASA (Prohibit and Prevent the import of potentially alien invasive species into Namibia; stop the spread of existing alien invasive species within Namibia; actively manage, control, and, where possible, eliminate invasive alien species within Namibia including terrestrial, marine and freshwater species; establish an inclusive institutional mechanism to collectively implement the plan	Lead: MEFT, Alien Species Working Group Supported by: MAFWLR, MWT, Civil	High

	Society Organisations	
--	--------------------------	--

Programme 14: Managing, Controlling and Restoring Invasive Alien Species Impacts

Purpose

To reduce the ecological and socio-economic impacts of established invasive alien species through coordinated management, control and ecosystem restoration, while building local capacity and community engagement in sustained mitigation efforts.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on impact management and control of established invasive alien species populations, using integrated, ecosystem-based approaches that combine mechanical, biological and cultural control methods as appropriate. Priority will be given to species and locations where invasive impacts are highest, including areas of high biodiversity value, key ecosystem service providers or critical infrastructure.

Control efforts will be aligned with restoration actions to ensure that areas cleared of invasive species are rehabilitated with native species and resilient ecological processes, reducing the likelihood of re-establishment. Integrated control plans will be developed through multi-stakeholder engagement, incorporating scientific guidance and local knowledge to select cost-effective and ecologically appropriate methods.

Capacity building at national, regional and community levels will be prioritised to ensure that institutions and practitioners are equipped with the skills, tools and coordination mechanisms needed for sustained invasive species management. This includes training for extension staff, conservancy agents, land managers and community stewards.

Community engagement and awareness-raising will be integrated into control programmes to foster local ownership, support behavioural change and promote early reporting of invasive species resurgence.

Primary implementation instruments

- National IAS Strategy

Implementation considerations

- Aligning control methods with ecological and socio-economic contexts
- Ensuring long-term commitment and resource allocation
- Monitoring of control effectiveness and adaptive management
- Integration with restoration and land-use planning processes

Activities

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Establish a monitoring system for IAS - Map and record alien invasive species occurrence including the rate of invasive alien species establishment	Lead: MEFT, Alien Species Working Group	High

- Regularly update the records - Develop response mechanisms to take urgent actions upon detection of new IAS - Increase capacity to control alien invasive species introduction and spread including strict border control and management of entry pathways for IAS - Increase collaboration with neighbouring countries for cross-border management of invasive species	Supported by: MAFWLR, MWT, Civil Society Organisations	
2. Production systems: - Invest in optimization of indigenous species for production - Promote responsible production systems including plantations, mariculture, agriculture and aquaculture using indigenous species - Prevent IAS introduction for production systems	Lead: MEFT, Alien Species Working Group Supported by: MAFWLR, MWT, Civil Society Organisations	High
3. Develop guidelines for the use of species for restoration and climate change adaptation promoting indigenous species	Lead: MEFT, Alien Species Working Group Supported by: MAFWLR, MWT, Civil Society Organisations	Medium

National Target 7

Pollution from nutrients, pesticides, industrial waste, plastics and hazardous chemicals is reduced to levels that minimise negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and human well-being.

Programme 15: Strengthening Pollution Prevention, Control and Compliance

Purpose

To reduce pollution pressures on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning by strengthening pollution prevention, regulatory compliance and enforcement across terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine environments, including pollution from pesticides and other agrochemicals affecting soils and water resources.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on strengthening the application and enforcement of existing pollution control laws, standards and regulatory instruments. Priority will be given to reducing pollution from nutrients, pesticides and other agrochemicals, industrial effluents, hazardous chemicals and solid waste, particularly where impacts on ecosystems, soil health, water resources and human well-being are most severe.

Actions will include improving coordination between environmental authorities, sector regulators and local authorities to ensure consistent application of pollution control requirements across sectors and governance levels. Particular emphasis will be placed on wastewater management, industrial discharges, mining-related pollution and hazardous substance handling, including compliance monitoring and enforcement.

In freshwater and coastal systems, implementation will prioritise reducing land-based sources of pollution, recognising their significant contribution to ecosystem degradation downstream. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and licensing processes will be used more effectively to prevent pollution impacts before they occur.

In terrestrial systems, implementation will also address pesticide and agrochemical contamination of soils, including through strengthened regulation, monitoring and enforcement of pesticide use and handling practices.

Primary implementation instruments

- Environmental Management Act and pollution control regulations
- Water Resources Management Act and water quality standards
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and licensing processes
- Industrial permitting and compliance monitoring systems
- Hazardous chemicals and waste management regulations

Institutional roles

Lead institutions

- Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAFWLR)

Supporting institutions

- Ministry responsible for Mining and Energy
- Ministry responsible for Health
- Port authorities and maritime regulators
- Regional Councils and Local Authorities

Implementation partners

- Research institutions, NGOs and civil society organisations supporting monitoring, compliance capacity building and pollution impact assessments.

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Strengthened institutional capacity for monitoring, compliance and enforcement
- Improved coordination between national regulators and local authorities
- Reliable data on pollution sources, loads and impacts
- Consistent application of penalties and corrective measures

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Create awareness on biodiversity and pollution	Lead: MAFWLR Supported by: MEFT, Civil Society	High
2. Promote integrated pest management	Lead: MAFWLR	High

	Supported by: MEFT, Civil Society	
3. Reduce pollution: - Reduce chemical use, especially pesticides, artificial fertilizers, herbicides and chemicals used for agriculture to prevent chemical build-up - Reduce spilling of extractive industries and - Minimize chemical used in mining activities to prevent chemical build-up	Lead: MAFWLR Supported by: MEFT, Civil Society, MIME	High
- Assessment of toxicity and nutrient levels, and eutrophication potential of water supply systems (dams and rivers)		
4. Legislation; - Review current legislation and amend/regulate to tighten use of harmful substances across relevant sectors (agriculture, mining, fisheries) - Identify and phase out pest control and fertilizer products that are highly toxic including to biodiversity and human health (e.g. DDT and similar products that also affect value-chains under target 9) - Urgently fast-track draft legislation on the use of pesticides for approval by cabinet; develop supporting regulations and publish list of banned substances - Strengthen the enforcement of existing legislation and - Allocate resources for the enforcement of existing legislation	Lead: MAFWLR Supported by: MEFT, Civil Society	High
5. Develop the regulation to ban single-use plastic bags	Lead: MEFT Supported by: MAFWLR, Civil Society	High

National Target 8

The impacts of climate change on biodiversity are minimised through nature-based and ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation measures.

Programme 17: Strengthening Nature-Based and Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Biodiversity

Purpose

To enhance the resilience of ecosystems and biodiversity to climate change through nature-based and ecosystem-based adaptation measures that maintain ecological integrity while supporting livelihoods and climate resilience.

Implementation approach

Implementation will prioritise ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) approaches that strengthen the capacity of terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems to absorb and adapt to climate impacts. Actions will focus on maintaining ecosystem functionality, connectivity and diversity in landscapes and seascapes that are particularly vulnerable to climate variability, drought, flooding, sea-level rise and changing ocean conditions.

In terrestrial and freshwater systems, adaptation measures will emphasise restoration of degraded ecosystems, protection of ecological corridors, sustainable rangeland and forest management, and catchment-scale interventions that enhance water regulation and reduce climate-related stress on biodiversity. These actions will be implemented in priority conservation areas, production landscapes and areas supporting community-based natural resource management.

In coastal and marine environments, ecosystem-based adaptation will focus on protecting and maintaining key habitats that buffer climate impacts, including coastal wetlands, islands, estuaries and near-shore ecosystems, recognising their role in supporting biodiversity, fisheries productivity and coastal resilience.

These ecosystem-based adaptation approaches will be guided by national climate and biodiversity policy frameworks to ensure consistent application and long-term sustainability.

Primary implementation instruments

- National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Integrating biodiversity-based adaptation into land- and seascape planning
- Strengthening local capacity to implement and sustain EbA measures
- Ensuring adaptation actions deliver both biodiversity and livelihood benefits

Activities

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Identify the long-term impacts of climate change on biodiversity and the expected impacts on livelihoods and wildlife economy with a particular emphasis on the projected impact on women and girls and their specific needs	Lead: MEFT and MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	High
2. Restore wetlands: re-establishment, rehabilitation, enhancement; bringing degraded wetlands back to its natural ecological functions - Community Awareness Workshops on climate risks	Lead: MEFT and MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	High
3. Strengthening ocean monitoring and research:	Lead: MEFT and MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	High
4. Establishing long term stations to measure ph-level, CO2 and dissolved O2	Lead: MEFT and MAFWLR Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	High

Programme 18: Integrating Biodiversity into Climate Mitigation and Ocean-Related Responses

Purpose

To ensure that climate mitigation and ocean-related responses support biodiversity conservation and do not undermine ecosystem integrity, while contributing to national climate and development objectives.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on strengthening evidence-based ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation measures across terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, supported by improved scientific understanding, monitoring and adaptive management. Priority will be given to ensuring that nature-based solutions are designed and implemented in ways that enhance biodiversity resilience under climate change, while avoiding unintended negative impacts on ecosystem functioning.

Across ecosystems, actions will emphasise strengthening monitoring systems to assess climate impacts on biodiversity, including changes in species distributions, ecosystem condition, ecological connectivity and ecosystem services. Monitoring of the ecological outcomes of nature-based and ecosystem-based interventions will be used to inform adaptive management and to avoid maladaptation, ensuring that responses remain effective under changing climatic conditions.

In the marine and coastal environment, particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening scientific research and long-term monitoring of climate change and ocean acidification impacts to inform policy, management and mitigation responses that reduce risks to marine biodiversity. Improved understanding of climate-driven changes in marine ecosystems, food webs and species dynamics will support fisheries management, marine conservation measures and spatial planning, and help ensure that ecosystem-based responses are appropriately targeted and precautionary.

Regional scientific cooperation, including through the Benguela Current Commission, and collaboration with national research institutions will support data sharing, harmonised monitoring and coordinated responses to climate impacts affecting shared ecosystems.

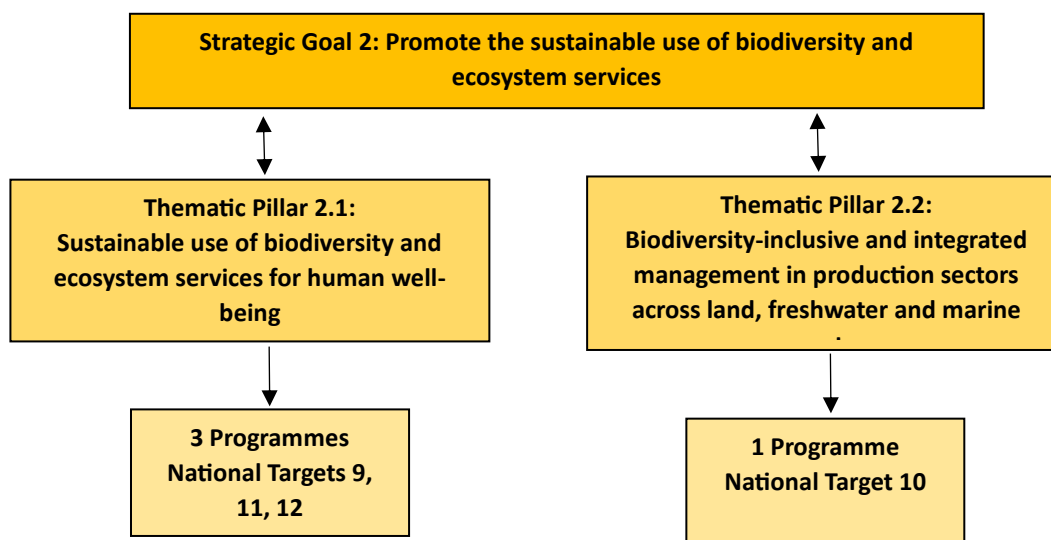
Regional and international partners

- Benguela Current Commission and transboundary ecosystem platforms
- Research institutions supporting climate–biodiversity monitoring and assessment

6.1.2 Strategic Goal 2: Promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services

Implementation of Strategic Goal 2 is organised under two thematic pillars. Thematic Pillar 2.1 focuses on the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services to support human well-being, recognising the direct contributions of biodiversity to livelihoods, health, cultural values and quality of life. Thematic Pillar 2.2 focuses on biodiversity-inclusive and integrated management within production sectors, ensuring that biodiversity considerations are systematically embedded in land-, freshwater- and marine-based production systems.

Delivery of this Strategic Goal is achieved through five Strategic Programmes that promote sustainable use practices, enhance nature's contributions to people, and integrate biodiversity objectives into production systems in support of long-term sustainability and resilience.



Thematic Pillar 2.1: Sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being

Thematic Pillar 2.1 addresses National Targets 9, 11 and 12, focusing on the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services to support human well-being. It emphasises sustainable, safe and legal use of wild species, biodiversity-based livelihoods and value addition, the maintenance and enhancement of nature's contributions to people, and equitable access to ecosystem services, including through ecosystem-based and nature-based approaches and urban green and blue spaces.

National Target 9

Wild species are sustainably managed and used to provide social, economic and environmental benefits, particularly for vulnerable and biodiversity-dependent communities

Programme 19: Strengthening biodiversity-based livelihoods, value addition and socio-economic benefits across ecosystems

Purpose

To strengthen, diversify and add value to biodiversity-based livelihoods and socio-economic benefits derived from terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, particularly for vulnerable and biodiversity-dependent communities, while ensuring that all livelihood activities remain environmentally sustainable and contribute to long-term biodiversity conservation.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on enhancing the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to livelihoods, income generation and local economic development across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, with particular emphasis on value addition and diversification to increase resilience and economic returns without increasing pressure on ecosystems. This will include

sustaining and strengthening traditional occupations and customary practices that depend on the sustainable use of wild species, such as small-scale fishing, pastoralism, traditional harvesting and the use of natural products.

The programme will build on Namibia's community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) framework, recognising the complementary roles of communal conservancies, community forests and community fisheries reserves in generating benefits from biodiversity. Actions will promote integrated and multiple-use approaches where these systems overlap, enabling diversified income streams from wildlife, forest resources, fisheries and associated ecosystem services.

In the marine and coastal environment, implementation will explicitly support sustainable value addition and diversification within the blue economy, including post-harvest processing, improved handling and storage, local beneficiation, and the development of environmentally sustainable marine-based enterprises beyond capture fisheries. Emerging opportunities such as mariculture, marine tourism, ecosystem-compatible aquaculture, and other nature-positive blue economy activities will be explored within clear environmental safeguards, ensuring that new activities do not undermine ecosystem integrity or biodiversity objectives.

Across all ecosystems, actions will support the development of biodiversity-based enterprises and value chains, including wildlife-based tourism, sustainable harvesting and processing of natural products, fisheries-related value addition, and nature-based tourism and services. Particular attention will be given to addressing barriers to value addition, including limited access to markets, infrastructure, finance, skills and technology.

The programme will promote equitable access to benefits and inclusive participation, ensuring that women, youth and marginalised groups are meaningfully involved in biodiversity-based value chains and decision-making processes.

Primary implementation instruments

This Programme will be implemented through the following policies, frameworks and instruments:

- National Policy on Human–Wildlife Conflict Management
- Nature Conservation Ordinance and associated regulations, including wildlife utilisation policies

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Strengthening coordination and integration across conservancies, community forests and community fisheries reserves to support diversified, multiple-use livelihood systems.
- Ensuring that livelihood activities remain within ecological limits and reinforce, rather than undermine, biodiversity conservation objectives.
- Improving equity and transparency in benefit-sharing arrangements, particularly for women, youth and marginalised groups.
- Enhancing business, governance and financial management capacity at the local level.
- Promoting employment creation and meaningful contributions to the national economy, including through sustainable value addition and diversification of biodiversity-based activities, with particular emphasis on environmentally responsible blue economy opportunities.

- Reducing vulnerability to climate variability, market shocks and the finite nature of biological resources by promoting diversified income sources and ecosystem-based resilience approaches.
- Aligning livelihood support interventions with broader rural development and poverty reduction initiatives without compromising biodiversity outcomes.

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Strengthen Community ownership - Make sure communities get fair benefits from activities such as tourism, trophy hunting and fishing - Strengthen rights and participation of IPLCs - Expand and integrate community conservancies, community forests and fisheries reserves	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR, Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Communities	High
2. Review current benefit sharing mechanism in CBNRM, ensuring to maximize benefits to communities	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR, Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Communities	High
3. Replicate models for DC (Devils Claw) and enhance capacity for commercialization of other wild products.	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR, Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Communities	High
4. Promoting traditional practices and Indigenous knowledge systems consistent with sustainable use and biodiversity management	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR, Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Communities	High
5. Review mechanisms for benefits from the consumptive and non-consumptive use of wild species, thereby providing an income for communities for conserving ecosystem services	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR, Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Communities	High

National Target 11

Nature's contributions to people are enhanced and maintained through the effective implementation of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches

Programme 20: Enhancing nature's contributions to people through ecosystem-based approaches

Purpose

To enhance and maintain nature's contributions to people through ecosystem-based and nature-based approaches that strengthen resilience, support adaptation to climate change and environmental variability, and sustain ecosystem services essential for human well-being and development.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on the deliberate maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem functions and services that support human well-being, climate resilience and sustainable development. Actions will prioritise ecosystem-based and nature-based approaches that support adaptation to climate variability and change, while reinforcing biodiversity conservation objectives.

In terrestrial and freshwater systems, implementation will emphasise ecosystem functions related to water regulation, soil protection, flood attenuation, rangeland productivity, pollination and landscape connectivity. Actions will support ecosystem-based approaches that reduce vulnerability of communities and production systems to droughts, floods and land degradation, while maintaining the ecological processes on which these services depend.

In coastal and marine environments, actions will focus on maintaining ecosystem functions that support fisheries productivity, coastal protection, nutrient cycling and climate regulation. Particular attention will be given to climate-driven impacts such as ocean warming, acidification and changes in ecosystem productivity, ensuring that the best available scientific knowledge informs ecosystem-based approaches and are responsive to changing conditions.

Across all ecosystems, implementation will promote the application of nature-based solutions (NbS) that deliver multiple benefits for biodiversity, climate adaptation and human well-being. NbS interventions will be designed and implemented with appropriate safeguards to ensure ecological integrity, social inclusion and long-term effectiveness, and to avoid maladaptation.

These ecosystem-based and nature-based approaches will contribute to sustaining and enhancing the delivery of ecosystem services over time, ensuring continued benefits to people while maintaining ecological integrity.

Primary implementation instruments

This Programme will be implemented through the following policies, frameworks and instruments:

- To insert

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Ensuring that ecosystem-based and nature-based approaches are grounded in sound ecological and climate science, particularly in climate-vulnerable ecosystems.
- Avoiding maladaptation by monitoring ecological and social outcomes of nature-based solutions and applying adaptive management where necessary.
- Strengthening coordination between biodiversity, climate adaptation and development planning processes.
- Supporting local and community-based institutions to implement ecosystem-based approaches that reflect local contexts and knowledge systems.
- Integrating monitoring of ecosystem services and resilience outcomes into national biodiversity and climate monitoring frameworks.

National Target 12

Green and blue spaces in urban and peri-urban areas are maintained and restored to improve human health and well-being.

Programme 21: Enhancing Urban and Peri-Urban Green and Blue Spaces for Human Well-being

Purpose

To maintain, enhance, establish (where absent), and restore green and blue spaces in urban and peri-urban areas, thereby improving human health and well-being, strengthening urban biodiversity, and increasing resilience to climate variability, while integrating biodiversity considerations into urban planning and development.

Implementation Approach

Implementation will focus on strengthening the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into urban and peri-urban planning frameworks, land-use management and infrastructure development to maintain and increase the provision of green and blue spaces within built-up areas. Actions will prioritise the protection and restoration of existing green and blue spaces, where they occur, including urban parks, river corridors, wetlands, open spaces, coastal zones and natural buffers, alongside the establishment of new green and blue spaces in urban and peri-urban areas where such spaces are currently limited or absent, using ecologically appropriate and sustainable approaches.

Urban biodiversity actions will be implemented through collaboration between local authorities, planning institutions and environmental authorities, recognising that municipalities play a central role in shaping urban landscapes and determining access to green and blue spaces. Emphasis will be placed on aligning urban development decisions with environmental management tools, including Environmental Impact Assessments and spatial plans, to avoid further loss and fragmentation of urban ecosystems. This will include promoting the adoption and application of biodiversity-inclusive urban planning instruments, guidelines and standards that explicitly incorporate green and blue spaces.

The programme will also promote inter-municipal learning and exchange, building on good practices and innovations already demonstrated by some local authorities. Peer learning platforms, technical exchanges and shared guidance will be encouraged to strengthen municipal capacity and accelerate the uptake of effective approaches across towns and cities.

The programme will promote equitable access to green and blue spaces, ensuring that benefits for health, recreation and climate resilience are accessible across urban and peri-urban communities, including informal settlements and rapidly expanding urban areas.

Primary implementation instruments

This programme will be implemented through the following policies, laws and planning tools:

- Urban and municipal land-use plans and structure plans
- Integrated Regional Land Use Plans (IRLUPs)
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) processes
- Local authority environmental management and open space policies
- Climate adaptation and disaster risk management plans

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Strengthening municipal capacity and resourcing for the planning, development, maintenance and long-term management of urban and peri-urban green and blue spaces.
- Safeguarding land for green and blue spaces within urban expansion areas and development plans, to prevent further loss or fragmentation of natural and semi-natural urban ecosystems.
- Clear and consistent integration of biodiversity objectives into urban planning and development decisions, including land-use zoning, infrastructure placement and redevelopment of degraded areas.

Activities

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Review the current legislative framework and strategies - Review and updating of the Regional Planning Development Policy of 1997 to incorporate green and blue spaces in planning - Develop or Review and update of the National Urbanisation Strategy	Lead: MEFT, MURD, Local Authorities	Medium
2. Review and update Town Planning Schemes and do a participatory and gender-sensitive mapping exercise to ensure sufficient recreational areas are planned for and established in urban areas	Lead: MEFT, MURD, Local Authorities	Medium
3. Develop urban biodiversity strategies for towns focusing in the creating of green and blue spaces, especially in informal settlements and areas of high population density - Create urban green and blue spaces - Promote the planting of indigenous trees - Develop safe recreational spaces for interaction and well-being - Promote nature-based solutions including urban agriculture, natural retention areas	Lead: MEFT, MURD, Local Authorities	Medium
4. Mobilize resources for joint implementation and maintenance with local authorities and civil society	Lead: MEFT, MURD, Local Authorities	Medium

Thematic Pillar 2.2: Biodiversity-inclusive and integrated management in production sectors across land, freshwater and marine ecosystems

Thematic Pillar 2.2 addresses National Target 10 and focuses on biodiversity-inclusive and integrated management of production sectors across land, freshwater and marine ecosystems. It seeks to ensure that agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, wildlife-based production and other production and extractive activities are designed and managed in ways that conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, enhance resilience and support food security and long-term sustainability.

National Target 10

Agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, wildlife and forest-based production and extractive activities are managed sustainably in ways that conserve biodiversity, enhance resilience and improve food security

Programme 22: Promoting sustainable and biodiversity-friendly production systems

Purpose

To promote sustainable and biodiversity-friendly production systems across agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, wildlife, and forest-based production and extractive activities, reducing pressures on ecosystems while improving efficiency, resilience and long-term productivity across terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on improving the sustainability, efficiency and biodiversity performance of key production systems that exert pressure on ecosystems, while ensuring that emerging and high-impact sectors are guided by strong biodiversity safeguards.

In the agricultural sector, actions will prioritise improving land-use efficiency and productivity on existing cultivated land, reducing unnecessary land clearing and habitat conversion. Emphasis will be placed on promoting biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices, including improved soil management, water-use efficiency, sustainable grazing, reduced reliance on harmful agrochemicals, and the adoption of climate-smart and agroecological approaches where appropriate. Stakeholder consultations highlighted the need to address sub-optimal land use and production inefficiencies that increase pressure on land and ecosystems without corresponding gains in productivity.

In forest-based production systems, implementation will focus on strengthening sustainable forest management practices that maintain forest cover, structure and ecological functions while supporting livelihoods and resource use. Actions will promote improved forest planning, sustainable harvesting practices, restoration of degraded forest areas, and integration of biodiversity considerations into forest management and production decisions, building on community forestry and other forest governance frameworks.

In aquaculture and mariculture, implementation will focus on guiding the sustainable development of this emerging sector, ensuring that biosafety risks, invasive alien species, pollution and habitat impacts are avoided or minimised from the outset. Actions will promote precautionary planning, appropriate siting, and environmentally responsible production practices.

The programme will also address mining and other extractive activities as production systems with significant biodiversity footprints. While recognising their importance to the national economy, actions under this programme will focus on avoiding, minimising and managing biodiversity impacts through improved spatial planning, reduced land disturbance, better management of associated infrastructure, and the integration of biodiversity considerations into operational practices. Regulatory and compliance mechanisms remain addressed under Strategic Goal 4.

Across all sectors, the programme will promote cross-sectoral coordination to align production systems with biodiversity objectives, climate resilience and long-term ecosystem sustainability.

Primary implementation instruments

This Programme will be implemented through the following policies, frameworks and instruments:

- Agricultural policies, extension services and sustainable land management frameworks
- Rangeland and grazing management guidelines
- Water-use efficiency and irrigation management frameworks
- Aquaculture and mariculture policies, guidelines and biosafety instruments
- Forest management and wildlife-based production frameworks
- Mining, land-use and spatial planning instruments (including Integrated Land Use Plans)

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) processes (as supporting instruments)

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

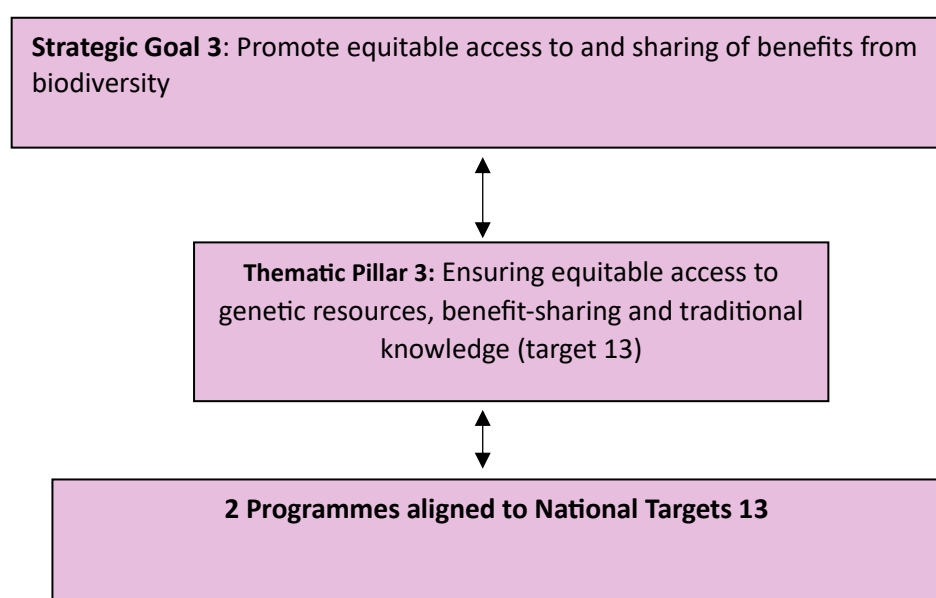
- Improving land-use efficiency and productivity, particularly in agriculture, to reduce pressure on natural habitats and ecosystems.
- Ensuring that production systems are biodiversity-friendly and climate-resilient, rather than relying on expansion into new areas.
- Applying a precautionary approach to emerging sectors such as aquaculture and mariculture to avoid future biodiversity impacts.
- Addressing biodiversity impacts associated with mining and extractive activities, while recognising their economic importance and avoiding duplication with governance and compliance targets.
- Strengthening coordination across sectors responsible for agriculture, water, environment, mining and land-use planning.
- Supporting producers with technical guidance, incentives and capacity building to adopt sustainable practices.

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Production systems to promote sustainable practices including - the use of indigenous/ native species only for production systems across all sectors - promoting sustainable agriculture, agroforestry and agrobiodiversity-based farming practices; the use of drought-resistant or drought tolerant crops and seeds and agroecological livestock production systems - Review the Aquaculture Master Plan in terms of its sustainability and biodiversity-inclusiveness and promote the implementation - Integrate various marine uses by doing holistic management (ecosystem approach) - Introduce certification schemes • for forestry production; targeting forest dependent communities • For marine fisheries, targeting large-scale producers; industries, consumers, local communities and fishermen	Lead: MAFWLR, MEFT Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Traditional Authorities, Communities	High
2. Support sustainable use and conservation of natural resources contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction	Lead: MAFWLR, MEFT Supported by: Civil Society Organisations, Traditional Authorities, Communities	High

6.1.3 Strategic Goal 3: Promote equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity

Strategic Goal 3 focuses on promoting fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, in line with national legislation and international obligations. Implementation of this Strategic Goal is organised under a single thematic pillar addressing access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and the recognition and participation of local communities and traditional knowledge holders.

This Strategic Goal contributes directly to National Target 13 and builds on Namibia's Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act, 2017, which establishes the legal and institutional framework for regulating access, ensuring prior informed consent, and facilitating fair and equitable benefit-sharing. Actions under this Strategic Goal therefore prioritise strengthening implementation, coordination, awareness, administrative systems and participation to ensure that benefit-sharing arrangements are effective, inclusive and operational in practice.



Thematic Pillar 3.1: Ensuring equitable access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing and traditional knowledge

National Target 13:

Increase the sharing of benefits derived from the utilisation of biological and genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge

Programme 1: Strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Governance and Institutional Implementation

Purpose/description

Establish and/or strengthen the institutional, regulatory and coordination mechanisms required for the effective implementation of Namibia's Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) legal framework (Act, regulations, policies and strategies) and enhance the capacity and awareness among actors and stakeholders to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic

resources, associated traditional knowledge, and digital sequence information, including the protection and strengthening of community rights over traditional knowledge associated with such resources.

Implementation approach

This programme will focus on establishing and enhancing the institutional, administrative and coordination foundations necessary for the effective implementation of Namibia's Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) framework. Implementation will prioritise the full operationalisation of the Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act, No. 2 of 2017, including strengthening the Competent National Authority (ABS Office) and related governance structures. The programme will work to ensure that clear institutional mandates, coordination mechanisms, and accountability arrangements are in place to administer access permits, prior informed consent (PIC) procedures, Material Transfer Agreements (MTA) and benefit-sharing agreements in a transparent, efficient, and legally sound manner.

A central objective will be to enhance cross-sectoral integration of ABS considerations across key biodiversity-related sectors. This will support consistent application of ABS requirements and promote coherence between biodiversity conservation, research and development, biotrade and national development priorities.

The programme will also strengthen systems for monitoring, compliance and reporting, ensuring that benefit-sharing arrangements are effectively implemented and that rights of traditional knowledge holders are respected. Particular attention will be given to improving administrative clarity and predictability for users while safeguarding national interests and community rights.

In addition, implementation will take into account emerging international developments related to digital sequence information (DSI), with a view to progressively clarifying governance approaches and ensuring that Namibia's ABS framework remains responsive to evolving global standards.

Overall, the programme aims to establish a functional, coordinated and credible ABS governance system that enables responsible access to genetic resources while ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits in support of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Primary implementation instruments

- Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act, No. 2, 2017

Implementation considerations:

Key considerations include the need for:

- Strengthening institutional and technical capacity to administer, monitor and enforce ABS processes effectively.
- Ensuring administrative procedures are clear, transparent, predictable and accessible to both users and rights holders.
- Establishing appropriate compliance and monitoring mechanisms to support the enforcement of ABS requirements.
- Phasing operationalisation of ABS systems in line with available institutional capacity and resources.
- Providing adequate financial and human resources to support sustained implementation.

- Aligning ABS implementation with biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, research, innovation and national development objectives.

Activities

Activity	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Fully operationalise the Competent National Authority (ABS Office) within MEFT	Lead: MEFT Support: Public Service Commission	High
2. Establish and formalise the ABS Advisory Council	Lead: MEFT	High
3. Establish and/or establish technical and sectoral committees to support implementation in priority sectors, including livestock, crops, NBRI, fisheries, health, food and agriculture, micro-invertebrates, and gender institutions and ensure integration of ABS requirements into sectoral policies, strategies	Lead: MEFT Support: Ministries responsible for livestock, crops, fisheries, health, micro-organisms and invertebrates, and gender Research and academic institutions	High
4. Develop and adopt standard operating procedures (SOPs), such as Access permit processing, Prior informed consent (PIC) procedures, Mutually agreed terms (MAT), Benefit-sharing agreements	Lead: MEFT Support: Ministries responsible for livestock, crops, fisheries, health, micro-organisms and invertebrates, and gender Research and academic institutions	High
5. Develop and publish model agreements, guidance notes and administrative templates	Lead: MEFT Support: Ministries responsible for livestock, crops, fisheries, health, micro-organisms and invertebrates, and gender Research and academic institutions	High

6. ABS sharing of genetic resources and traditional knowledge for local communities, conservancy leadership, TAs, regional associations, association, indigenous communities , researchers, national government and regulatory traditional knowledge holders - Document and control access, recognize and respect traditional knowledge and right of local communities - Monitoring and compliance: establish mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing ABS agreements	Lead: MEFT Support: Ministries responsible for livestock, crops, fisheries, health, micro-organisms and invertebrates, and gender Research and academic institutions	Medium
---	--	--------

Programme 2: Capacity Development and Awareness for effective Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) implementation

Purpose

The programme will build the technical, institutional and community-level capacity necessary to realise the objectives of the Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act, No. 2, 2017, including the protection of community rights, fair and equitable benefit-sharing, effective participation of rights holders and the strengthening of national and grassroots scientific capacity.

Implementation approach

This programme will focus on building the practical capacity of government institutions, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), traditional authorities, research institutions, private sector actors and civil society to understand and implement ABS requirements. Capacity development will be structured across three levels. At the national level, the programme aims to strengthen technical, legal and administrative expertise within ministries, regulatory authorities and research institutions to administer, comply with and monitor ABS processes. Operational capacity will be developed at the regional level, including Regional Councils and partners, to support decentralised awareness, compliance and coordination. At the local level, action will focus on empowering IPLCs and traditional authorities to exercise their rights, engage effectively in prior informed consent (PIC) processes and negotiate mutually agreed terms (MAT).

The programme will also strengthen capacity for monitoring and evaluation (M&E), data collection and reporting to enable Namibia to track implementation progress and report against the KMGBF indicators for ABS. Particular attention will be given to strengthening the capacity of the Competent National Authority to collect and manage data required for reporting.

Implementation will adopt a learning-by-doing approach, using pilot cases and practical application of ABS procedures to build experience and confidence among stakeholders. The programme will promote inclusive, gender-responsive and culturally appropriate approaches, ensuring meaningful participation of traditional knowledge holders and recognition of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in ABS processes.

Primary implementation instruments

- Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act, 2017

Institutional roles

Lead institution:

- Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)

Supporting institutions:

- Ministries responsible for livestock, crops, fisheries, health, micro-organisms and invertebrates, and gender
- Research and academic institutions

Implementation Considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Ensuring that capacity development directly supports the statutory objectives of Section 2 of the Act.
- Prioritising empowerment of rights holders to exercise inalienable community intellectual property rights.
- Strengthening technical capacity within the Competent Authority to negotiate, monitor and report on benefit-sharing.
- Ensuring gender-responsive and culturally appropriate participation mechanisms.
- Building institutional capacity to collect and report data required for national and international reporting obligations.

Activities

Activity	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Conduct specialised training for officials within MEFT/Competent Authority and relevant sector ministries. Training to include areas such as, legal interpretation and contract negotiations, structuring and reviewing benefit-sharing agreements digital sequence information (DSI) developments and implications.	Lead: ABS Office (MEFT) Support: Ministries responsible for livestock, crops, fisheries, health, micro-organisms and invertebrates, and gender, Research and academic institutions	High
2. Develop and raise awareness on sector-specific ABS guidance notes for livestock, crops, fisheries, health, food and agriculture, and microbial resources.	Lead: ABS Office (MEFT) Support: Ministries responsible for livestock, crops, fisheries, health, micro-organisms and	High

	invertebrates, and gender, Research and academic institutions	
3. Build capacity of the ABS Office to support compliance queries, e.g. through helpdesk or advisory services.	Lead: ABS Office (MEFT) Support: Ministries responsible for livestock, crops, fisheries, health, micro-organisms and invertebrates, and gender, Research and academic institutions	High
4. Conduct regional awareness and training workshops for regional authorities and sectoral officers.	Lead: ABS Office (MEFT) Support: Ministries responsible for livestock, crops, fisheries, health, micro-organisms and invertebrates, and gender, Research and academic institutions	High
5. Strengthen/establish regional focal points to facilitate communication between communities and the ABS Office.	Lead: ABS Office (MEFT)	High
6. Develop simplified materials in appropriate languages and conduct community-level awareness programmes on relevant topics.	Lead: ABS Office (MEFT) Support: Ministries responsible for livestock, crops, fisheries, health, micro-organisms and invertebrates, and gender, Research and academic institutions	High
7. Strengthen Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in ABS, e.g. through collaboration with the IKS Council to align ABS awareness with national IKS policy frameworks, joint workshops and development of guidance documents.	Lead: ABS Office (MEFT) Support: NCRST	High

6.1.4 Strategic Goal 4: Strengthen effective and coordinated implementation

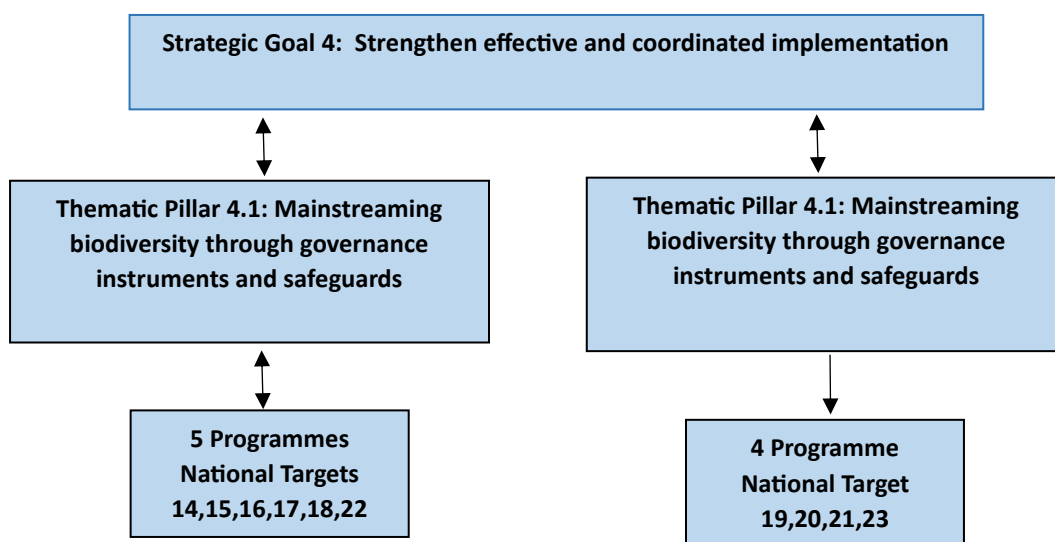
Strategic Goal 4 focuses on strengthening the enabling conditions for effective, coordinated and accountable implementation of biodiversity commitments across sectors and governance levels. It addresses the governance, financial, institutional, knowledge and accountability systems through which biodiversity objectives are integrated into development planning, decision-making and implementation.

This Strategic Goal responds directly to the findings of the review of Namibia's Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2), which identified persistent challenges related to weak institutional coordination, fragmented planning, inadequate and unsustainable financing, data and capacity gaps, and limited accountability mechanisms as major barriers to effective biodiversity implementation.

Implementation of Strategic Goal 4 is organised under two complementary thematic pillars, which together address the core system-level conditions required for delivery. These pillars focus on:

- strengthening governance instruments, regulatory frameworks and safeguards to mainstream biodiversity across development sectors in an inclusive and equitable manner; and
- strengthening financial, institutional, capacity and knowledge systems to translate biodiversity commitments into effective action and measurable outcomes on the ground.

This Strategic Goal contributes to National Targets 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23, recognising that sustained biodiversity outcomes depend not only on sound strategies and policies, but on robust implementation systems, cross-sectoral ownership, learning and accountability, and long-term institutional capacity.



Thematic Pillar 4.1: Mainstreaming biodiversity through governance instruments and safeguards

Thematic Pillar 4.1 focuses on strengthening the governance instruments, regulatory frameworks and safeguards required to integrate biodiversity considerations systematically into development planning, decision-making and implementation across sectors and levels of government.

This pillar addresses the policies, rules, incentives and accountability mechanisms that shape how development choices are made, including how biodiversity risks are identified and managed, how incentives influence behaviour, and how rights-holders participate in and seek redress from biodiversity-related decisions.

By strengthening mainstreaming, safeguards, participation and incentive frameworks, this pillar aims to reduce pressures on biodiversity at source, improve transparency and accountability, and ensure that development pathways are aligned with biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives.

National Target 14

Biodiversity values and ecosystem services are integrated into policies, regulations, planning and decision-making across all sectors of development.

Programme 24: Integrating biodiversity values and ecosystem services into policies, planning and decision-making

Purpose

To ensure that biodiversity values and ecosystem services are systematically integrated into policies, regulations, planning processes and decision-making across all sectors of development, enabling more coherent, informed and sustainable development outcomes.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on strengthening the mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into national, sectoral and subnational policies, plans and decision-making processes. Actions will prioritise improving awareness, guidance and coordination to ensure that biodiversity values and ecosystem services are recognised as essential components of socio-economic development rather than treated as sector-specific concerns.

The programme will support the integration of biodiversity into development planning processes, including sector strategies, investment frameworks and public decision-making tools. Emphasis will be placed on improving the use of biodiversity information, ecosystem service assessments and spatial planning tools to inform policy choices and development trade-offs.

Implementation will also promote the alignment of public policies, investment frameworks and, where appropriate, fiscal and financial decision-making with biodiversity objectives. This includes integrating biodiversity considerations into development financing decisions, public investment planning and incentive structures, to progressively reduce activities and financial flows that undermine biodiversity and to support nature-positive development outcomes.

Implementation will build on existing policy and planning processes, recognising that effective mainstreaming depends on embedding biodiversity considerations within routine planning, budgeting and decision-making frameworks across sectors and levels of government. New policies and subsequent legislation will be developed for sectors critical to biodiversity conservation.

Where feasible, the programme will support the incorporation of biodiversity and ecosystem service considerations into economic analysis and national accounting approaches to inform long-term development planning.

Primary implementation instruments

This Programme will be implemented through the following policies, frameworks and instruments:

- National Development Plan 6 and sectoral policies
- Integrated land-use planning and spatial planning frameworks
- Environmental Management Act

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Ensuring biodiversity mainstreaming efforts are practical and decision-oriented
- Strengthening coordination across sectors to avoid fragmented or inconsistent integration of biodiversity considerations
- Improving access to relevant biodiversity and ecosystem service data for planners and decision-makers
- Building capacity within sector institutions to apply biodiversity considerations effectively
- Aligning biodiversity mainstreaming with national development priorities and planning cycles

Activities

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Review outdated laws and regulations and update in line with the current policies ensuring laws and regulations are biodiversity-inclusive, in particular in the fields of - Agriculture - Land management - Mining - Fisheries	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR, MIME Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	High
2. Urgent development/finalization of policies and subsequently, legislation/regulations and mechanisms to operationalize, in core sectors to support biodiversity conservation across sectors, including - Invasive Alien Species policy - Restoration and rehabilitation policy - Inland fisheries policy - Land use planning policy - IKS policy	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR, MIME Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	High
3. Update of policies to ensure they promote biodiversity-inclusivity, equity and integrate ILK, including - CBNRM policy - Mining policy	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR, MIME	Medium

- Regional Planning and Development Policy of 1997	Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	
4. Mainstream biodiversity conservation and associated ILK - in other sectors including education, health, transport, trade, finance, governance (including decentralization strategies) - in cross-cutting themes such as gender, IPLC and youth engagement - Train policymakers and planners across ministries on biodiversity mainstreaming, valuation of ecosystem services, designing smart and gender-responsive interventions	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR, MIME Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	High
5. National Planning instruments: Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation - in NDP6/7 and updates of overarching national vision and planning instruments - in subsequent sectoral strategic plans ensuring financial mechanisms to support biodiversity conservation are leveraged - Ensure equitable participation, including of IPLCs in biodiversity-related decision-making, including the consideration of ILK, in the development of new policies and legislation - Elevating the level of decision makers and cross sectoral coordination	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR, MIME Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	Medium
6. Environmental Management Act - Review and improve enforcement of the EMA and regulations - Monitor and assess compliance to environmental regulations to ensure accountability and compliance to the environmental management plans - Enforce the strategic environment assessment regulations (SEA)	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR, MIME Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	High
7. Strengthen collaboration with the private sector to integrate biodiversity into corporate sustainability strategies	Lead: MEFT, MAFWLR, MIME Supported by: Civil Society Organisations	High

National Target 15

Biodiversity-related risks and impacts associated with business activities are increasingly identified and addressed through environmental impact assessment, strategic environmental assessment and other appropriate regulatory and voluntary mechanisms

Programme 25: Strengthening identification and management of biodiversity-related risks and impacts of development and business activities

Purpose

To ensure that biodiversity-related risks and impacts associated with development and business activities are systematically identified, assessed and managed, reducing negative impacts on biodiversity, and that decision-making processes effectively avoid, minimise and mitigate biodiversity loss through the consistent application of regulatory and voluntary safeguards.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on strengthening the effectiveness, consistency and outcomes of mechanisms used to identify and manage biodiversity-related risks arising from development and business activities. Actions will prioritise improving the quality and application of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) and related safeguards, particularly in sectors with significant biodiversity footprints.

Implementation will promote improved disclosure and transparency of biodiversity-related risks, dependencies and impacts by companies, including through sustainability reporting, due diligence processes and emerging biodiversity disclosure frameworks, where appropriate. These measures will support better risk management by businesses and enable more informed oversight by regulators, investors and the public.

The programme will support enhanced integration of biodiversity considerations into EIA and SEA processes, including improved screening, scoping, impact assessment and mitigation design. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring that biodiversity risks are identified early in project and planning cycles, and that assessments adequately address cumulative, indirect and long-term impacts at landscape and seascape scales.

Implementation will promote the consistent application of the mitigation hierarchy, avoidance, minimisation, restoration and, where appropriate, offsetting, ensuring that avoidance of impacts is prioritised wherever feasible.

In addition to regulatory instruments, the programme will encourage the uptake of voluntary biodiversity risk management practices by the private sector. This includes environmental management systems, sustainability reporting, biodiversity-sensitive investment screening and corporate due diligence, particularly in sectors such as mining, energy, infrastructure, agriculture and fisheries. These voluntary mechanisms are intended to complement, not replace, regulatory requirements.

The programme will also engage financial institutions, including banks, investors and insurers, to encourage the integration of biodiversity-related risks and opportunities into lending, investment and underwriting decisions. This will support the progressive alignment of financial decision-making with biodiversity objectives and reduce systemic risks associated with biodiversity loss.

The programme will also support improved transparency and access to information, enabling public oversight and accountability in environmental decision-making processes.

Primary implementation instruments

This Programme will be implemented through the following policies, frameworks and instruments:

- Environmental Management Act, No. 7, 2007
- Environmental management and monitoring plans

- Voluntary standards, environmental management systems and corporate sustainability reporting frameworks

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Strengthening the quality, consistency and credibility of biodiversity assessments within EIA and SEA processes, including technical review and decision-making capacity.
- Addressing cumulative and cross-sectoral impacts, particularly in areas experiencing multiple development pressures.
- Ensuring that mitigation and management measures are realistic, enforceable and adequately resourced, with clear responsibilities for implementation and monitoring.
- Improving follow-up, compliance monitoring and enforcement, responding directly to implementation gaps identified under NBSAP 2.
- Enhancing transparency and public participation in environmental assessment and decision-making processes.
- Aligning regulatory safeguards with voluntary business practices to reinforce biodiversity risk management across development and investment decisions.

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Strengthen compliance and enforcement of the EIA process: - Capacity of MEFT for monitoring compliance to EMPs - Collaboration and coordination amongst sector ministries - Strengthen the technical and professional capacity of EIA practitioners to ensure high-quality, evidence-based assessments	Lead: MEFT Support: All line ministries (e.g. MAFWLR, MIME), Businesses	Medium
2. Establish and operationalisation of Environmental Mitigation Funds (e.g. Mining Rehabilitation Fund)	Lead: MEFT Support: All line ministries (e.g. MAFWLR, MIME), Businesses	High
3. Promote the adoption of recognised international environmental standards and certification schemes to improve sustainability and accountability by businesses (e.g. Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for responsible forestry.	Lead: MEFT Support: All line ministries (e.g. MAFWLR, MIME), Businesses	Medium
4. Promote the adoption of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) frameworks and other voluntary sustainability initiatives to drive responsible practices and long-term value creation by businesses. - Through awareness, capacity building, development of tools and guidelines	Lead: MEFT Support: All line ministries (e.g. MAFWLR, MIME), Businesses	Medium
5. Introduce incentives for sustainable business practices, such as tax breaks for biodiversity-friendly operations or green financing schemes	Lead: MEFT Support: All line ministries (e.g. MAFWLR, MIME), Businesses	Medium
6. Strengthen public-private partnerships (PPPs) to promote sustainable supply chains and nature-positive investments	Lead: MEFT	Medium

	Support: All line ministries (e.g. MAFWLR, MIME), Businesses	
--	--	--

National Target 16

Resource-efficient and biodiversity-friendly production and consumption practices are promoted, including through waste reduction, reuse and recycling, to reduce pollution and pressure on ecosystems

Programme 26: Promoting resource-efficient and biodiversity-friendly production and consumption

Purpose

To reduce pressures on biodiversity and ecosystems by promoting resource-efficient and biodiversity-friendly production and consumption patterns across sectors, including through waste reduction, reuse and recycling, improved resource efficiency, and changes in consumption behaviour.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on addressing demand-side drivers of biodiversity loss by promoting more efficient use of materials, energy and natural resources across production and consumption systems. Actions will prioritise reducing waste generation, improving circularity, and minimising pollution and resource extraction pressures that negatively affect terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems.

The programme will support the application of the waste hierarchy and circular economy principles, with emphasis on reducing material throughput, promoting reuse and recycling, and improving waste management systems to prevent leakage of pollutants into ecosystems. The Programme will address waste streams that pose significant risks to biodiversity, including plastics, hazardous waste and nutrient pollution in alignment with Target 7.

In parallel, actions will promote biodiversity-friendly consumption patterns, including awareness, behavioural change and incentives that encourage sustainable choices by consumers, businesses and institutions. This includes reducing unsustainable demand for biological resources and products that contribute to ecosystem degradation.

The programme will promote the development and application of policy instruments that encourage and enable sustainable consumption choices by individuals, households and institutions. This includes information-based tools, standards and labelling, incentive mechanisms, public procurement practices and other measures that make biodiversity-friendly options more accessible, affordable and attractive.

Implementation will be coordinated across sectors to ensure alignment between environmental objectives, economic development, industrial policy and urban planning. While regulatory and compliance mechanisms are addressed under Strategic Goal 4, this programme focuses on enabling systemic shifts in production and consumption practices that reduce pressure on biodiversity at source.

Primary implementation instruments

This Programme will be implemented through the following policies, frameworks and instruments:

- Environmental education, awareness and behaviour-change programmes.

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Reducing pressures on biodiversity by lowering overall resource demand, rather than relying solely on end-of-pipe waste management solutions.
- Ensuring that circular economy and waste-reduction initiatives deliver measurable biodiversity benefits, particularly by reducing pollution and habitat degradation.
- Strengthening coordination between national and local authorities, recognising the central role of municipalities in waste management and service delivery.
- Avoiding unintended trade-offs where recycling or reuse activities generate new environmental or social risks.
- Promoting equitable access to services and benefits associated with improved waste management and resource efficiency.
- Integrating monitoring of material flows, waste generation and pollution impacts into national biodiversity and environmental monitoring systems.

Activities

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Develop and implement an outreach strategy/programme on Sustainable Consumption and Resource Use - Undertake an assessment on consumption and resource use patterns, including drivers - Develop an outreach programme - Implement the programme, including the use of youth ambassadors/influencers	Lead: MEFT Support: Academic Institutions (UNAM, NUST, IUM), Civil Society Organisations	High
2. Develop and implement policies to promote consumption of local products through value chains and sustainable production (food, clothes, etc) - Decentralise food systems, encourage gender-responsive local food production especially of staple food and disincentivise the import thereof, using traditional knowledge to improve food storage - Encourage household level food production to ensure food security - Build capacity on sustainable practices, e.g. agriculture, renewable energy and energy efficiency, water conservation and management	Lead: MEFT Support: All line ministries (e.g. MAFWLR, MIME), Businesses	High
3. Promote and implement the waste hierarchy and circular economy principles through - waste prevention and reduction at source; - encouraging reuse and repair; - strengthening recycling systems; - incentives for circular business models; - public awareness	Lead: MEFT Support: Businesses, Municipalities	Medium

National Target 17

The Biosafety Act and regulations are effectively implemented to ensure biosafety and equitable sharing of biotechnology benefits

Programme 27: Strengthening the effective implementation of the Biosafety Act and its Regulations

Purpose

This programme will operationalise and strengthen the effective implementation and enforcement of the Biosafety Act and its regulations governing genetically modified organisms and specified GMO products, ensuring science-based and precautionary management of risks to biodiversity and human and animal health, while enabling responsible biotechnology development and equitable benefit-sharing.

Implementation approach

Namibia adopts an integrated programme approach that consolidates legal, institutional, scientific, compliance and awareness-related actions under a single strategic programme to ensure coherent and effective implementation and enforcement of the Biosafety Act and its regulations, and fulfilment of national and international biosafety obligations.

The programme will prioritise the completion and operationalisation of the current review of the Biosafety Act and its regulations, ensuring a clear, stable and implementable legal framework for the duration of this NBSAP cycle. Over the next ten years, emphasis will shift from legislative reform to strengthening institutional, technical and enforcement capacity to give full effect to the Act. Technical guidelines, standards and standard operating procedures will continue to be developed and refined to address practical implementation challenges and evolving developments in modern biotechnology.

Implementation will strengthen regulatory systems governing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and specified GMO products resulting from modern biotechnology, ensuring that decisions are science-based, transparent and precautionary. Risk assessment, risk management and monitoring mechanisms will be enhanced to effectively manage potential impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems and human and animal health.

The programme will also ensure that Namibia's biosafety framework provides regulatory clarity and predictability to support responsible research, innovation and application of modern biotechnology. Efficient and transparent permit processes, strengthened scientific capacity, and clear technical guidance will facilitate the safe and beneficial use of biotechnology in sectors such as agriculture, health and industry, consistent with national development priorities.

Institutional coordination will be strengthened among authorities responsible for environment, agriculture, health, trade, research and border control to ensure effective oversight of the import, export, contained use, release and marketing of GMOs and related biotechnology products. Capacity building for inspectors and customs officials, improved detection and identification systems, and strengthened compliance monitoring will support effective enforcement.

In line with Article 19 of the Convention, implementation will promote participation in biotechnology research and strengthen coordination between biosafety and access and benefit-sharing frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from modern biotechnology based on Namibia's genetic resources. Public awareness, stakeholder engagement and access to biosafety information will be enhanced to promote transparency and build public confidence.

Through this integrated approach, Namibia will regulate and manage risks associated with modern biotechnology while enabling responsible innovation, supporting sustainable development and safeguarding biodiversity and human health.

Primary implementation instruments

This Programme will be implemented through the following policies, frameworks and instruments:

- Biosafety Act No. 7, 2002
- National Biosafety Policy

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Strengthening institutional, scientific and technical capacity for risk assessment, monitoring, inspection and enforcement related to genetically modified organisms and applications of modern biotechnology.
- Ensuring that regulatory decision-making remains science-based, transparent and precautionary, particularly where scientific uncertainty exists, while avoiding unnecessary barriers to responsible research and innovation.
- Enhancing inter-institutional coordination among authorities responsible for environment, agriculture, health, trade, research and border control to ensure coherent governance and avoid regulatory gaps or duplication of mandates.
- Building and sustaining capacity of inspectors and customs officials to detect, identify and manage the transboundary movement of GMOs and related biotechnology products.
- Providing regulatory clarity, predictability and efficiency in permit processes to support responsible use of modern biotechnology in line with national development priorities.
- Strengthening transparency, information-sharing and public participation to promote trust and informed engagement in biosafety decisions.
- Ensuring effective coordination between biosafety and access and benefit-sharing frameworks to promote equitable sharing of benefits arising from biotechnology based on Namibia's genetic resources.
- Maintaining adaptive technical guidance and operating procedures to respond to evolving developments in modern biotechnology without requiring frequent legislative amendments.
- Securing sustainable financial and human resources to support long-term implementation, including monitoring, compliance and capacity development functions.

Activities

Activity	Lead Support	Priority
1. Finalisation and Operationalisation of the Legal Framework - Finalise and implement the ongoing review of the Biosafety Act and its regulations. - Develop and adopt updated technical guidelines and standards governing GMOs and applications of modern biotechnology.	Lead: NCRST Support: MEFT MAFWLR, MHSS, MIT, MHETI, UNAM, NUST, IUM	High

- Develop and regularly update standard operating procedures (SOPs) for permit processing, risk assessment, monitoring, compliance and emergency response. - Develop guidance for incorporating socio-economic considerations into biosafety decision-making, consistent with national development priorities. - Strengthen regulatory clarity through publication of procedural guidance for applicants and stakeholders.		
2. Strengthening capacity for Risk Assessment, Monitoring and Compliance - Strengthen national capacity to conduct scientifically sound, case-by-case risk assessments for GMOs and products derived from modern biotechnology. - Establish and maintain a national roster of biosafety experts to support technical evaluations. - Strengthen post-approval monitoring and compliance auditing mechanisms. - Enhance inspection capacity for contained use facilities, field trials and commercial applications. - Strengthen systems for detection, identification and documentation of GMOs at points of entry and exit. - Develop and operationalise emergency response procedures for accidental release or unintentional transboundary movement of GMOs.	Lead: NCRST Support: MEFT MAFWLR, MHSS, MIT, MHETI, UNAM, NUST, IUM	High
3. Institutional Coordination and Governance - Establish or formalise inter-institutional coordination mechanisms among environment, agriculture, health, trade, research and customs authorities. - Strengthen the operational capacity of the Biosafety Council and designated Competent National Authority functions. - Strengthen coordination between biosafety and access and benefit-sharing (ABS) frameworks to promote equitable sharing of benefits arising from biotechnology based on Namibia's genetic resources. - Enhance reporting and information-sharing mechanisms, including contributions to the Biosafety Clearing-House.	Lead: NCRST Support: MEFT MAFWLR, MHSS, MIT, MHETI, UNAM, NUST, IUM	High
4. Capacity Development and Technical Training - Develop and implement a national biosafety capacity development plan. - Provide specialised training for regulators, inspectors and customs officials on modern biotechnology, risk assessment methodologies and detection techniques. - Strengthen laboratory and technical infrastructure required for the identification and analysis of GMOs where feasible. - Facilitate participation in regional and international biosafety training and cooperation initiatives.	Lead: NCRST Support: MEFT MAFWLR, MHSS, MIT, MHETI, UNAM, NUST, IUM	High
5. Research and Responsible Innovation	Lead: NCRST Support: MEFT	High

- Promote partnerships with universities and research institutions to strengthen national expertise in molecular biology, environmental risk assessment and socio-economic analysis related to modern biotechnology. - Support research on potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of GMOs and emerging biotechnology applications. - Facilitate responsible research and contained use of modern biotechnology consistent with biosafety requirements. - Encourage knowledge exchange between regulators, researchers and the private sector to promote safe and beneficial innovation.	MAFWLR, MHSS, MIT, MHETI, UNAM, NUST, IUM	
6. Public Awareness and Participation - Develop and implement a national biosafety awareness and communication strategy. - Improve public access to information on biosafety procedures, permit decisions and regulatory requirements. - Facilitate stakeholder engagement and public consultation processes in biosafety decision-making. - Promote awareness of both the potential benefits and risks associated with modern biotechnology.	Lead: NCRST Support: MEFT MAFWLR, MHSS, MIT, MHETI, UNAM, NUST, IUM	High
7. Sustainable Resource Mobilisation - Develop a sustainable financing strategy to support long-term implementation of the Biosafety Act. - Strengthen cost-recovery mechanisms where appropriate, including permit and facility registration processes. - Mobilise domestic and international technical and financial support for biosafety implementation. - Integrate biosafety financing needs into broader biodiversity and science and innovation funding frameworks.	Lead: NCRST Support: MEFT MAFWLR, MHSS, MIT, MHETI, UNAM, NUST, IUM	High

National Target 18

Incentives harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed, and positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use are significantly scaled up

Programme 28: Reforming incentives to reduce harm and scale up positive incentives for biodiversity

Purpose

To eliminate, phase out or reform incentives that are harmful to biodiversity, and to significantly scale up positive incentives that support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, thereby reducing pressures on ecosystems and strengthening nature-positive development outcomes.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on strengthening Namibia's capacity to identify, prioritise and reform incentives that drive biodiversity loss, while expanding the use of incentives that promote sustainable practices and conservation outcomes. Actions will prioritise a stepwise approach, beginning with targeted assessments of the most significant harmful incentives and subsidies, including those

embedded in fiscal, budgetary and sector support mechanisms, followed by practical reform measures that are socially and economically feasible.

The programme will support the development and application of an incentive reform framework that can guide decision-making across sectors, including criteria for identifying harmful incentives, assessing biodiversity impacts, and evaluating distributional and socio-economic implications. Reform efforts will be aligned with national development priorities, recognising the need to manage trade-offs and protect vulnerable groups during transitions.

In parallel, implementation will focus on scaling up positive incentives that encourage sustainable land and resource management, restoration-compatible practices, conservation stewardship, and biodiversity-friendly production and consumption. Positive incentives may include fiscal measures, financing instruments, performance-based mechanisms, and market-based approaches, where appropriate and will be supported through policy, regulatory or budgetary instruments to enable sustained and scaled implementation. The programme will promote coordination with finance, planning and sector ministries to ensure incentives are embedded within mainstream economic and development systems rather than remaining project-based.

Monitoring and reporting will track both the reduction and reform of harmful incentives and subsidies, and the uptake, scale and effectiveness of positive incentives, ensuring that reforms translate into measurable biodiversity outcomes.

Primary implementation instruments

This Programme will be implemented through the following policies, frameworks and instruments:

- Policy instruments to be developed

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Prioritising incentive reforms based on biodiversity impact, feasibility and social equity considerations.
- Ensuring that reforms do not unintentionally increase poverty or inequality, and that transition measures are in place where needed.
- Strengthening coordination with finance and sector ministries so that incentive reform is not treated as an “environment-only” agenda.
- Designing positive incentives that are measurable, transparent and enforceable, and linked to clear biodiversity outcomes.
- Avoiding fragmented, short-term incentives by embedding mechanisms in long-term policy and budget frameworks.
- Monitoring incentive effectiveness and adjusting measures through adaptive management.

Activities

Activity	Lead Support	Priority
1. Conduct a national review to identify, map and prioritise incentives and subsidies that may negatively affect biodiversity (across agriculture/rangelands, fisheries, forestry, mining,	Lead: MEFT Support:	Medium

infrastructure and urban development), including a cost–benefit analysis and distributional impacts.	MAFWLR, MIME, MURD	
2. Based on the assessment, develop options to reform, redirect or phase out harmful incentives and propose practical alternatives, including scaling up positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use (e.g., rewarding sustainable rangeland management, restoration, pollution reduction, and biodiversity stewardship).	Lead: MEFT Support: MAFWLR, MIME, MURD	Medium
3. Develop voluntary codes of practice, guidance, and sector commitments (e.g., sustainable grazing, pollution reduction, biodiversity-friendly production standards), coupled with awareness and training for decision-makers and users	Lead: MEFT Support: MAFWLR, MIME, MURD	Medium
4. Develop and adopt appropriate policy and regulatory instruments to reform or eliminate incentives harmful to biodiversity and to promote positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use	Lead: MEFT Support: MAFWLR, MIME, MURD	Medium
5. Establish public–private partnerships and blended finance approaches to help fund transitions to biodiversity-positive practices	Lead: MEFT Support: MAFWLR, MIME, MURD	Medium

National Target 22

Equitable and effective participation in biodiversity decision-making, and access to biodiversity-related information and justice, are strengthened for all rights-holders

Programme 29: Strengthening participation, access to information and justice in biodiversity governance

Purpose

To strengthen inclusive, equitable and effective participation in biodiversity decision-making, and to improve access to biodiversity-related information and justice for all rightsholders, ensuring that biodiversity governance respects rights, especially of IPLCs, supports transparency and accountability, and enables meaningful engagement in planning, implementation and oversight across all levels.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on strengthening legal, administrative and institutional mechanisms that enable meaningful participation in biodiversity decision-making at national, regional and local levels. Actions will prioritise improving the accessibility, clarity and effectiveness of participation processes in biodiversity-related policies, plans, safeguards and management decisions, ensuring that rights-holders are able to engage early, informed and effectively.

The programme will support improved access to biodiversity-related information as a foundation for participation and accountability, complementing national biodiversity information systems. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring that information relevant to decisions, impacts and management options is

made available in appropriate, timely and accessible formats to support informed engagement by communities, local institutions and other stakeholders.

Implementation will strengthen access to justice in biodiversity governance by improving awareness of rights, grievance mechanisms and remedies related to biodiversity impacts and decision-making processes. Actions will support clearer procedures for raising concerns, resolving disputes and seeking redress, including through administrative, judicial and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms where appropriate.

The programme will promote the recognition and respect of rights over lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge in biodiversity governance, particularly in land-use planning, conservation measures and development decisions affecting biodiversity. This will help reduce conflicts, support fair outcomes and strengthen the legitimacy of biodiversity actions.

Coordination across environmental, land, justice and governance institutions will be strengthened to ensure coherent implementation, avoid fragmentation and reinforce accountability. Monitoring and reporting will track progress in participation, access to information and access to justice, supporting learning and continuous improvement over time.

Primary implementation instruments

This Programme will be implemented through the following policies, frameworks and instruments:

- To be inserted

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Ensure participation mechanisms in biodiversity decision-making are clear, inclusive, timely and accessible across national, regional and local levels;
- Strengthen access to biodiversity-related information in forms that enable informed participation and accountability, particularly for communities affected by biodiversity-related decisions;
- Improve access to justice by strengthening awareness of rights, grievance mechanisms and remedies related to biodiversity governance, land-use decisions and environmental impacts;
- Respect and recognise rights over lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge in biodiversity planning, conservation measures and development decisions, including at land- and seascape scales;
- Strengthen coordination between environmental, land, justice and governance institutions to reduce fragmentation and improve consistency in participation and redress mechanisms.

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Enable a whole-of-society approach to implementation: - Conduct Stakeholder Engagement Mapping and consult with local authorities, conservancies, NGOs, and CBOs following a gender-responsive approach - Implement the stakeholder engagement strategy for IPLCs, youth, women, and other stakeholders.	Lead: MEFT Supported by: MAFWLR, Civil Society Organisations	Medium

- Increase representation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth in national and sub-national decision-making and capacity to equally participate - Create Platforms and mechanism to ensure participatory consultation processes including aspects of translations into vernacular languages - Raise Awareness on rights and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) among local communities		
2. Support integration of Indigenous Knowledge in education and policy to protect traditional practices.	Lead: MEFT Supported by: MAFWLR, Civil Society Organisations	Medium
3. Shared governance - Promote community-led governance by establishing frameworks for active participation in biodiversity conservation. - Formalize IPLCs and conservancy roles in governance, including protected area co-management. - Recognize Natural Sites traditionally managed by LCs. Continue registering communal land rights and report disaggregated according to gender	Lead: MEFT Supported by: MAFWLR, Civil Society Organisations	Medium

Thematic Pillar 4.2: Finance, capacity, knowledge and accountability

Thematic Pillar 4.2 focuses on strengthening the financial, institutional, human and knowledge systems required to translate biodiversity commitments into effective action and measurable outcomes.

This pillar addresses the availability and alignment of financial resources, the capacity of institutions and individuals to implement biodiversity actions, the accessibility and use of biodiversity data and knowledge for decision-making and reporting, and the accountability mechanisms needed to track progress and results.

By strengthening finance, capacity, scientific cooperation, information systems and gender-responsive implementation, this pillar provides the foundational support systems that enable sustained, coordinated and adaptive implementation of NBSAP 3 across sectors and governance levels.

National Target 19

Financial resources for biodiversity conservation are significantly increased from domestic, international and private sector sources to support the full implementation of NBSAP 3

Programme 30: Mobilising and sustaining financial resources for biodiversity implementation

Purpose

To increase, diversify and use financial resources efficiently for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and enhanced access and benefit sharing, including strengthened domestic, international and private sector contributions to achieve the goals of NBSAP 3.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on strengthening Namibia's biodiversity financing framework towards diversified and adaptive financing that supports long-term biodiversity outcomes. Actions will prioritise improving coordination across funding sources, strengthening institutional capacity for resource mobilisation, and aligning financial flows with national biodiversity priorities. The programme will also position the private sector as a strategic partner in biodiversity finance, alongside government and international development partners.

Responding to lessons from the NBSAP 2 review, implementation will address challenges related to rigid funding modalities, limited flexibility in fund use, and weak alignment between expenditure and evolving implementation needs and weak engagement of the private sector in biodiversity financing and risk management. Emphasis will be placed on promoting financing approaches that allow adaptive management and more efficient use of available resources and also leveraging private capital.

The programme will support increased domestic resource mobilisation, including improved integration of biodiversity into national and sectoral budgets and public investment frameworks. Particular Attention will be given to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public biodiversity expenditure, ensuring that available resources deliver maximum biodiversity impact and reduce duplication across programmes.

In parallel, implementation will enhance access to international biodiversity finance, while promoting greater coherence and harmonisation of donor-funded initiatives to reduce fragmentation. The programme will also promote innovative and blended financing approaches to contribute to improved resource efficiency, accountability and measurable biodiversity outcomes.

Primary implementation instruments

- National biodiversity finance plans and resource mobilisation strategies (e.g. as part of NBSAP and BIOFIN)
- National and sectoral budgeting and public finance management frameworks such as the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
- Biodiversity expenditure reviews and tracking systems
- Environmental and climate finance mechanisms and funds
- Innovative and blended finance instruments (where appropriate)

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Reducing dependence on short-term, project-based and inflexible funding mechanisms by strengthening programmatic and adaptive financing approaches.
- Improving resource efficiency and value for money in biodiversity spending, ensuring that limited resources achieve maximum impact.
- Strengthening coordination among funding sources to reduce duplication, fragmentation and administrative burden.
- Mobilising private sector capital and corporate contributions through clear incentives, risk sharing mechanisms and enabling regulatory frameworks.
- Ensuring that increased financing is strategically targeted and aligned with national biodiversity priorities and implementation needs.
- Strengthening institutional capacity for financial planning, fund management and adaptive reallocation of resources.

- Enhancing transparency and accountability in biodiversity finance through improved tracking, reporting and learning.

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Establish a Biodiversity Finance Coordination Platform bringing together MEFT, Ministry of Finance, EIF, key sector ministries, development partners and private sector representatives to align financing priorities and pipelines.	Lead: MEFT Support: NPC, MoF, EIF, UNDP, Biodiversity Steering Committee	High
2. Conduct a biodiversity expenditure review and biodiversity needs assessment.	Lead: MEFT Support: UNDP, Biodiversity Steering Committee	High
3. Develop and operationalise a dedicated biodiversity window under the Environmental Investment Fund.	Lead: EIF Support: MEFT, UNDP, Biodiversity Steering Committee	High
4. Establish partnership with the private sectors, philanthropies and NGOs for resource mobilisation to promote biodiversity conservation.	Lead: EIF Support: MEFT, UNDP, Biodiversity Steering Committee	High
5. Update a national biodiversity finance plan to identify and prioritise funding needs, sources, and strategies. The plan will also guide all public, donor and private investments toward agreed national priorities and programmatic approaches.	Lead: MEFT Support: UNDP, Donor partners, Biodiversity Steering Committee, NPC, MOF	High
6. Enhance private sector engagement through incentives and policy measures to e.g. fiscal incentives, certification schemes, biodiversity credits where appropriate and enhanced corporate social responsibility and public-private partnerships.	Lead: EIF Support: MEFT, UNDP, Biodiversity Steering Committee	High
7. Establish a biodiversity finance tracking and reporting mechanism that captures public, donor and private financial flows and associated outcomes.	Lead: MEFT Support: EIF, UNDP, Biodiversity Steering Committee	High
8. Convene periodic biodiversity finance alignment dialogues with development partners and the private sector to reduce project fragmentation and promote pooled or programmatic funding.	Lead: MEFT Support: Biodiversity Steering Committee, Donors, Private Sector, NPC, MOF	High
Consider offsetting mechanism to create financial income for biodiversity. Strengthen resource mobilisation efforts at local and international levels to implement biodiversity conservation actions. Expand support for community resource mobilization (e.g., carbon credits, benefit-sharing from permits).		

National Target 20

Capacity-building, technology transfer and scientific cooperation are enhanced to support effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem management

Programme 31: Strengthening capacity, technology transfer and scientific cooperation for biodiversity implementation

Purpose

To strengthen institutional, technical and human capacity, promote appropriate technology transfer, and enhance scientific cooperation to support effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilisation across sectors and governance levels.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on strengthening the capacities required to implement NBSAP 3 effectively at national, regional and local levels. Recognising that long-term biodiversity outcomes depend on sustained investment in skilled institutions, informed decision-makers, functional systems and access to appropriate technologies, the programme will address capacity development in a structured and pragmatic manner. This includes strengthening systemic capacity through improved policy coherence and cross-sector coordination; institutional capacity through clearer mandates and enhanced organisational performance; technical and operational capacity through improved systems, tools and data; and individual capacity through skills development, leadership and professional growth across relevant stakeholders.

Building on findings from the BIOFIN Policy and Institutional Review and the GIZ biodiversity policy analysis, implementation will respond to identified gaps including weak cross-sector coordination, limited mainstreaming of biodiversity in sectoral planning, and fragmented capacity-building initiatives. Rather than pursuing large-scale institutional reform, the programme will prioritise practical measures that improve alignment, coordination and functionality within existing frameworks.

At the institutional level, emphasis will be placed on strengthening operational capacity of key ministries, agencies, regional councils and community-based institutions responsible for biodiversity management. This includes improving collaboration across sectors, strengthening financial and data management systems, enhancing monitoring and compliance capabilities, and supporting regional and local institutions to fulfil their biodiversity-related mandates effectively. Capacity development will be demand-driven and implementation-focused, moving beyond ad hoc training toward sustained professional development, institutional learning and structured community-level capacity support, including practical training for conservancies, local authorities and other community-based stakeholders.

The programme will support appropriate technology transfer and innovation by strengthening national systems for biodiversity data management, monitoring and reporting, and by facilitating partnerships between research institutions, government agencies and practitioners. Technology initiatives will prioritise locally relevant, cost-effective solutions embedded within institutional systems and supported by adequate skills development.

Scientific and technical cooperation will be enhanced through strengthened collaboration between universities, research institutions and government agencies, including support for joint research initiatives, science–policy dialogue and knowledge exchange at national and international levels. These efforts will improve the translation of research into policy and practice and strengthen Namibia’s contribution to regional and global biodiversity cooperation.

Learning from NBSAP 2, the programme will emphasise coordination, continuity and institutionalisation of capacity-building and cooperation efforts. Coordination mechanisms will function as enabling platforms that reduce duplication and improve alignment, while preserving the flexibility, diversity and innovation of Namibia’s institutions and partners.

Primary implementation instruments

This Programme will be implemented through the following policies, frameworks and instruments:

- National biodiversity capacity development plan (to be developed)

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Strengthening systemic, institutional and human capacity at national, regional and local levels to support sustained and effective implementation of biodiversity actions.
- Ensuring capacity-building efforts are coordinated, demand-driven and aligned with NBSAP 3 priorities.
- Facilitating access to appropriate, cost-effective and locally relevant technologies, rather than technology-driven solutions.
- Strengthening science–policy–practice interfaces to ensure research and innovation inform decision-making.
- Promoting equitable access to capacity-building opportunities, including for women and youth.
- Enhancing data systems, monitoring frameworks and reporting capacities to support evidence-based implementation and fulfil national and global biodiversity reporting obligations.

Activities

Activities	Lead	Support	Priority
1. Conduct a comprehensive National Biodiversity Capacity Needs Assessment building on BIOFIN PIR, GIZ policy review, and other similar assessments	MEFT	NCRST, Academia (UNAM, NUST, IUM), Development Partners (UNDP, GIZ), Civil Society Organisations	High
2. Develop and adopt a National Biodiversity Capacity Development Strategy aligned with NBSAP 3 and GBF Target 20.	MEFT	NCRST, Academia (UNAM, NUST, IUM), Development Partners (UNDP, GIZ), Civil Society Organisations	

3. Establish a national coordination mechanism to strengthen cross-sector alignment, integrate biodiversity into sectoral planning processes and reduce fragmentation of capacity-building initiatives.	MEFT	Sector Ministries, NPC, Academia, Development Partners, Civil Society Organisations	
4. Establish a Biodiversity Innovation and Scientific Cooperation Function hosted by UNAM or NUST to facilitate joint research, technology transfer, professional development and science–policy–practice dialogue.	UNAM/NUST	MEFT, NCRST, Academia (UNAM, NUST, IUM), Development Partners (UNDP, GIZ), Civil Society Organisations	
5. Strengthen institutional and operational capacity of regional councils, local authorities and community-based institutions for biodiversity implementation.	MEFT	MURD, Development Partners (UNDP, GIZ), Civil Society Organisation	
6. Develop and operationalise a national biodiversity data management, monitoring and reporting system aligned with GBF requirements.	MEFT	MAFWLR, NPC, NCRST, Academia (UNAM, NUST, IUM), Development Partners (UNDP, GIZ), Civil Society Organisations	
7. Promote inclusive capacity development and biodiversity leadership, including support for IPLCs, women, youth and STEM education initiatives.	MEFT	Civil Society Organisations, Development Partners	

National Target 21

Biodiversity data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision-makers, practitioners and communities to support informed, equitable and participatory biodiversity governance, management, monitoring and reporting.

Programme 32: Strengthening inclusive access to biodiversity information and participatory decision-making

Purpose

To strengthen inclusive access to biodiversity data, information and knowledge, and to enable meaningful participation of decision-makers, practitioners and communities in biodiversity governance, management, monitoring and reporting through participatory information systems, knowledge integration and effective feedback mechanisms.

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on strengthening national and regional biodiversity information systems to ensure that data, information and knowledge are not only generated, but are accessible, understandable and usable for decision-making, monitoring and reporting. Building on the

institutional and technical capacities strengthened under Target 20, this programme will prioritise improving the accessibility, transparency and practical application of biodiversity information by government institutions, regional and local authorities, practitioners, conservancies, community organisations and traditional authorities. The programme will build on existing participatory monitoring systems implemented by community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) structures and support organisations such as NACSO and its member NGOs. Participatory and community-based biodiversity monitoring approaches will be strengthened and better aligned with national biodiversity monitoring frameworks, including contributions from conservancies, community forests, community fisheries reserves and traditional authorities. Rather than establishing parallel systems, implementation will enhance existing tools, datasets and reporting processes to ensure coherence with national indicators and KMGBF reporting requirements.

These approaches will strengthen the credibility, ownership and contextual relevance of biodiversity data while contributing meaningfully to national reporting obligations. Clear and jointly developed procedures will support quality assurance and integration of locally collected data into national systems, while ensuring that community-generated information is recognised within decision-making processes. Feedback mechanisms will ensure that monitoring results are shared back in accessible formats, reinforcing trust, accountability and adaptive management at local level.

Implementation will promote respectful and culturally appropriate integration of local and traditional knowledge with scientific biodiversity data, recognising the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and applying appropriate safeguards for knowledge sharing. Emphasis will also be placed on communication and learning mechanisms so that biodiversity information informs policies, plans, management actions and reporting under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

This programme will focus on improving accessibility, usability, transparency and participatory use of biodiversity knowledge systems.

Primary implementation instruments

- National biodiversity monitoring, reporting and information systems (NBSAP 3 monitoring framework, National Reports to CBD)

Implementation considerations

- Ensure participation processes are inclusive, transparent and well understood at all levels;
- Integrate local and traditional knowledge with scientific biodiversity data in culturally appropriate and respectful ways;
- Ensure biodiversity information generated through participatory processes is accessible, credible and informs decision-making;
- Ensure biodiversity data systems are interoperable, quality-assured and accessible across institutions;
- Link participation in monitoring and information systems to clear feedback, accountability and learning mechanisms;
- Ensure biodiversity data and information are systematically compiled, maintained and accessible to support national reporting obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including KMGBF reporting.

Activities

Activity	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Update and publish regular annual or regular reports, including - State of Environment Reports - State of community conservation report - IKL outlook	Lead: MEFT Support: MAFWLR, Civil Society, Academic institutions	High
2. Strengthen alignment and information-sharing among existing biodiversity data systems to improve usability, transparency and reporting efficiency.	Lead: MEFT Support: MAFWLR, Civil Society, Academic institutions	High
3. Systematically compile, consolidate and disseminate biodiversity data to support participatory governance and CBD/KMGBF reporting, including translation into accessible formats for decision-makers, communities and youth.	Lead: MEFT Support: MAFWLR, Civil Society, Academic institutions	High
4. Develop and regularly update simplified biodiversity decision-support tools (including zonation maps and visual planning overlays) for use in IRLUPs and land allocation processes at regional and local levels.	Lead: MEFT Support: MAFWLR, Civil Society Organisations	High
5. Strengthen participatory biodiversity monitoring by aligning community-based monitoring systems with national reporting processes.	Lead: MEFT Support: NACSO, MAFWLR, Civil Society, Academic institutions	High
6. Strengthen transparency and public access to biodiversity-related decision-making processes, including publication of monitoring reports and management plans.	Lead: MEFT MAFWLR, Civil Society, Academic institutions	High
7. Establish a national ILK documentation framework, support the documentation of ILK across ecosystems and develop a repository with controlled access	Lead: MEFT MAFWLR, Civil Society, Academic institutions	High
8. Support information dissemination including policy summaries, FPIC guides, and workshop reports into major local languages, disseminated through Traditional Authorities, conservancies, and school, in an appropriate format	Lead: MEFT MAFWLR, Civil Society, Academic institutions	High

National Target 23

Gender equality and a gender-responsive approach are mainstreamed in biodiversity governance and implementation.

Programme 33: Strengthening gender-responsive biodiversity governance and implementation

Purpose

To mainstream gender equality and a gender-responsive approach across biodiversity laws, policies, institutions and implementation processes, ensuring that women and girls have equal opportunities, capacity and leadership to contribute to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing, in line with national priorities and the CBD Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030).

Implementation approach

Implementation will focus on operationalising gender mainstreaming within biodiversity programmes, projects and governance structures across national, regional and local levels. The programme will develop and adopt a National Biodiversity Gender Action Plan to provide practical guidance, priorities and accountability mechanisms for gender-responsive implementation of NBSAP 3.

The Gender Action Plan will support the systematic integration of gender analysis and gender-responsive measures into biodiversity planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and reporting processes. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening implementation practices at ground level, including within conservancies, community forests, fisheries structures, restoration initiatives and biodiversity-based value chains across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.

The programme will prioritise removing practical and structural barriers that limit women's meaningful participation and leadership in biodiversity governance and sustainable resource management. This includes addressing unequal access to land use opportunities, natural resources, finance, skills development, information and decision-making platforms within existing legal and institutional frameworks.

Institutional capacity will be strengthened to apply gender-responsive tools in programme design, community engagement, benefit-sharing arrangements and monitoring systems. Gender-disaggregated data and indicators will be incorporated into NBSAP 3 reporting mechanisms to ensure that progress in mainstreaming gender can be tracked and reported under national and CBD reporting processes.

Implementation will also promote equitable participation and leadership of women and girls in biodiversity governance structures at all levels. Particular attention will be given to strengthening women's roles in community-based natural resource management systems and biodiversity-based enterprises, and to ensuring inclusive, safe and non-discriminatory participation.

Coordination between biodiversity and gender institutions will be strengthened through practical collaboration mechanisms, including the designation of a biodiversity–gender focal point to support implementation, reporting and knowledge exchange.

Primary implementation instruments

This Programme will be implemented through the following policies, frameworks and instruments:

- National Biodiversity Gender Action Plan (under development)

Implementation considerations

Key considerations include the need for:

- Ensure gender-responsive approaches are systematically applied in biodiversity programmes, projects, planning processes and governance structures across all levels of implementation;
- Strengthen institutional and operational capacity to conduct gender analysis and apply practical gender-responsive tools in biodiversity planning, community engagement, benefit-sharing and monitoring;
- Address practical and structural barriers that limit women's meaningful participation, leadership and equitable access to biodiversity-related opportunities, resources, information and decision-making platforms within existing legal frameworks;
- Promote safe, inclusive and meaningful participation and leadership of women and girls across biodiversity governance structures, including conservancies, community forests, fisheries bodies and local and national committees;
- Strengthen collaboration between biodiversity and gender institutions to support coordinated implementation of the National Biodiversity Gender Action Plan;
- Integrate gender-disaggregated indicators and reporting within NBSAP 3 monitoring systems to track progress in gender mainstreaming and support national and CBD reporting obligations.

Activities

Activities	Responsible Actors	Priority
1. Conduct a gender and biodiversity implementation assessment to identify gender-differentiated roles, barriers to participation, access to resources and leadership gaps across key biodiversity sectors (including CBNRM, small-scale fisheries, agriculture and biodiversity enterprises).	Lead: MEFT Support: GIZ, Biodiversity Committee, MGECW	High
2. Develop and adopt a National Biodiversity Gender Action Plan informed by the assessment to guide gender-responsive implementation of NBSAP 3.	Lead: MEFT Support: GIZ, Biodiversity Committee, MGECW	High
3. support a national biodiversity–gender focal point to coordinate implementation, capacity-building and reporting under Target 23.	Lead: MEFT Support: MGECW	High
4. Strengthen capacity of biodiversity practitioners, regional offices, conservancies, fisheries bodies and community-based institutions to apply inclusive and gender-responsive planning, benefit-sharing and monitoring tools.	Lead: MEFT Support: GIZ, Biodiversity Committee, MGECW, Civil Society Organisations	High
5. Promote equitable access to biodiversity-related resources, land-use opportunities, finance, skills development and value-chain participation, including in small-scale fisheries and biodiversity-based enterprises.	Lead: MEFT Support: GIZ, Biodiversity Committee, MGECW, Civil Society Organisations, CBOs	High

6. Promote meaningful and safe participation and leadership of women and other underrepresented groups, including youth and persons with disabilities, in biodiversity governance structures at community, regional and national levels.	Lead: MEFT Support: GIZ, Biodiversity Committee, MGECW, Civil Society Organisations, CBOs	High
7. Integrate gender-disaggregated and intersectional indicators into NBSAP 3 monitoring systems and national CBD reporting processes.	Lead: MEFT Support: GIZ, Biodiversity Committee, MGECW, Civil Society Organisations, CBOs	High
8. Integrate gender-responsive budgeting and resource tracking into NBSAP 3 implementation to ensure adequate allocation and monitoring of resources for gender-responsive biodiversity actions.	Lead: MEFT Support: GIZ, Biodiversity Committee, MGECW, Civil Society Organisations, CBOs	High

Mainstreaming gender and climate on national biodiversity-relevant policies and strategy development (to be incorporated)

Annexures

Annexure 1: Alignment of National Strategy with Kunming-Montreal GBF

Thematic Pillars Table 4: Alignment of National Strategy with GBF

National Strategy	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
National Strategic Goals: Goal 1: Halt biodiversity loss by maintaining and restoring ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, and reducing key pressures and ensuring connectivity of ecosystems. Goal 2: Promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and enhance nature's contribution to people. Goal 3: Promote equitable access and sharing of benefits from genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Goal 4: Strengthen effective and coordinated implementation Goal 1 1.1: Ecosystem conservation and restoration (targets 1, 2, 3) 1.2: Conservation and recovery of species and genetic diversity (targets 4 and 5) 1.3: Reducing threats to biodiversity (targets 4, 6, 7, 8) Goal 2: 2.1: Sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being (targets, 9, 11, 12) 2.2: Biodiversity-inclusive and integrated management in production sectors across land, freshwater and marine ecosystems (target 10) Goal 3: 3.1: Ensuring equitable access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing and traditional knowledge (target 13)	Biodiversity Goals: A: Protect and Restore The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050; Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels; The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential. B: Prosper with nature (sustainable use) Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050. C: Share benefits fairly The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and substantially increased by 2050, while ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and

National Strategy	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
Goal 4: 4.1: Mainstreaming biodiversity through governance instruments and safeguards (targets 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22) 4.2: Finance, capacity, knowledge and accountability (targets 19, 20, 21, 23)	sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments. D:Invest and collaborate Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.
Strategic Goal 1: Halt biodiversity loss by maintaining and restoring ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, and reducing key pressures	
Thematic Pillar: Ecosystem conservation and restoration	
Target 1. The rate of biodiversity loss is significantly reduced through the development and implementation of effective, legally enforced, biodiversity-inclusive participatory Integrated Land Use Plans and Marine Spatial Plans.	Target 1. Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
Target 2. At least 30 per cent of priority degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, enhancing ecosystem functions, integrity and connectivity.	Target 2: Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.
Target 3. 50 per cent of terrestrial, 30 per cent of inland water, and 20 per cent of marine and coastal ecosystems are conserved and effectively managed and equitably governed through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.	Target 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures,

National Strategy	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
	recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.
Thematic Pillar 1.2: Conservation and recovery of species and genetic diversity	
Target 4. Urgent management actions are implemented to reduce extinction risk and improve the conservation status of priority species, including those that are threatened, near-threatened, and regionally significant, while significantly reducing human–wildlife conflict.	Target 4: Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.
Target 5. The use, harvesting and trade of Namibia’s wild species are sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation and minimising impacts on ecosystems and non-target species (across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems).	Target 5: Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.
Thematic Pillar 1.3: Reducing threats to biodiversity	
Target 6. The impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services are eliminated, reduced or mitigated, with deliberate introduction reduced by 50%.	Target 6: Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimize Their Impact Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.
Target 7. Pollution from nutrients, pesticides, industrial waste, plastics and hazardous chemicals is reduced to levels that minimise negative impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and human well-being.	Target 7: Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: (a) by reducing excess nutrients lost to the

National Strategy	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
	environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; (b) by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and (c) by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.
Target 8. The impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity are minimised through nature-based and ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation measures.	Target 8: Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.
Strategic Goal 2: Promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services	
Thematic Pillar 2.1: Sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being	
Target 9. Wild species are sustainably managed and used to provide social, economic and environmental benefits, particularly for vulnerable and biodiversity-dependent communities.	Target 9: Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.
Target 11. Nature's contributions to people are enhanced and maintained through the effective implementation of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches.	Target 11: Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as the regulation of air, water and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.
Target 12. Green and blue spaces in urban and peri-urban areas are maintained and restored to improve human health and well-being.	Target 12: Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity Significantly increase the area and quality, and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature, and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and to the provision of ecosystem functions and services.

National Strategy		Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	
Thematic Pillar 2.2: Biodiversity-inclusive and integrated management in production sectors across land, freshwater and marine ecosystems			
Target 10. Agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, wildlife and forestry are managed sustainably in ways that conserve biodiversity, enhance resilience and improve food security.		Target 10: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.	
Strategic Goal 3: Promote equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biodiversity			
Thematic Pillar 3.1: Ensuring equitable access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing and traditional knowledge			
Target 13. The capacity of access and benefit-sharing actors and stakeholders is strengthened to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, associated traditional knowledge and digital sequence information.		Target 13: Increase the Sharing of Benefits From Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information and Traditional Knowledge Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030, facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.	
Strategic Goal 4: Strengthen effective and coordinated implementation			
Pillar 4.1: Mainstreaming biodiversity through governance instruments and safeguards			
Target 14. Biodiversity values and ecosystem services are integrated into policies, regulations, planning and decision-making across all sectors of development.		Target 14: Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.	
Target 15. Biodiversity-related risks and impacts associated with business activities are increasingly identified and addressed through environmental impact assessment, strategic environmental assessment and other appropriate regulatory and voluntary mechanisms.		Target 15: Businesses Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions: (a) Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and	

National Strategy	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
	impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios; (b) (c) applicable; Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns; Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.
Target 16. Resource-efficient and biodiversity-friendly production and consumption practices are promoted, including through waste reduction, reuse and recycling, to reduce pollution and pressure on ecosystems.	Target 16: Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices To Reduce Waste and Overconsumption Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices, including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.
Target 17. The Biosafety Act and regulations are effectively implemented to ensure biosafety and equitable sharing of biotechnology benefits.	Target 17: Strengthen Biosafety and Distribute the Benefits of Biotechnology Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries, biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.
Target 18. Incentives harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed, and positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use are significantly scaled up.	Target 18: Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least \$500 billion per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
Target 22. Equitable and effective participation in biodiversity decision-making, and access to biodiversity-related information and justice, are strengthened for all rights-holders	Target 22: Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for all Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

National Strategy	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
Thematic Pillar 4.2: Finance, capacity, knowledge and accountability	
Target 19. Financial resources for biodiversity conservation are significantly increased from domestic and international sources to support the full implementation of NBSAP 3.	Target 19: Mobilize \$200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity From all Sources, Including \$30 Billion Through International Finance Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, mobilizing at least \$200 billion per year by 2030,
Target 20. Capacity-building, technology transfer and scientific cooperation are enhanced to support effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem management.	Target 20: Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the Framework.
Target 21. Biodiversity data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision-makers, practitioners and communities to support informed, equitable and participatory biodiversity governance, management, monitoring and reporting.	Target 21: Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent,¹⁴ in accordance with national legislation.
Target 23. Gender equality and a gender-responsive approach are mainstreamed in biodiversity governance and implementation.	Target 23: Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach, where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

References

1. Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek
2. Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek
3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). (2015). *Agro-ecological zoning and agricultural systems in Namibia*. FAO, Rome.
4. MEFT. (2020). *Namibia's Fourth National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Windhoek: Government of the Republic of Namibia.
5. Benguela Current Convention. (2021). Updated Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)
6. Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek
7. Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek
8. [Ramsar Sites Information Service+1](#)
9. Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek
10. Shannon, L. V., & O'Toole, M. J. (2003). *Large Marine Ecosystems of the World: Trends in exploitation, protection and research*. Elsevier.
11. Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek
12. Maggs, G.L., et al. (1998). *Plant species richness, endemism and genetic resources in Namibia*. Transactions of the Royal Society of South Africa.
13. Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek
14. Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek
15. Atlas of Namibia Team, 2022, Atlas of Namibia: Its land, water and life, Namibia Nature Foundation, Windhoek
16. Jacobson, P.J., Jacobson, K.M. & Seely, M.K. (1995). *Ephemeral rivers and their catchments*. Desert Research Foundation of Namibia.
17. Benguela Current Commission (2015). *Strategic Action Programme for the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem*.
18. MEFT/NACSO 2024. The state of community conservation in Namibia (Annual Report 2023). MEFT/NACSO, Windhoek
19. ORASECOM, 2022. Joint Basin Survey 3, Aquatic Ecosystem Health (AEH) Report
20. African Development Bank Group. Country Focus Report 2023. *Namibia: Mobilizing Private Sector Financing for Climate and Green Growth*. African Development Bank
21. MEFT. (2025). NBSAP 2 Review Report
22. NACSO website 2026
23. MEFT. (2025). NBSAP 2 Review Report
24. Namibian Foundation for the Conservation of Seabirds (NAMCOM), [The Namibian Islands' Marine Protected Area \(NIMPA\) | NAMCOB](#)
25. MEFT. (2025). NBSAP 2 Review Report
26. MEFT. (2025). NBSAP 2 Review Report
27. MEFT. (2025). NBSAP 2 Review Report
28. Africa Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2023
29. Southern African Development Community (SADC) Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2025–2035)