



# Biodiversity Management and Climate Change

## Management of Natural Resources

<b>Project name</b>	Biodiversity Management and Climate Change
<b>Commissioned by</b>	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Term</b>	Jan 2017 – Dec 2020
<b>Funding</b>	EUR 6,061,428
<b>Partner</b>	Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET)
<b>Goal</b>	A coherent implementation of biodiversity and climate change related policies, strategies and practices by MET in cooperation with other Ministries and non-governmental actors increasingly contributes to diversifying and securing livelihoods of local users of natural resources.

### The Challenge

Ecosystems are increasingly threatened and degraded due to unsustainable practices, such as overgrazing, deforestation and the inefficient use of water. Climate change is expected to further intensify the country's existing vulnerability to droughts and floods. The latter all have substantial impacts on the economic potential of rural areas and the livelihoods of people, and are potential serious barriers to development.

In order to address the above challenges, Namibia continues to develop an Environmental Policy Framework in line with the UN Conventions ("Rio-Conventions") on Biological Diversity (CBD), Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Combating Desertification (UNCCD). This has resulted in a strong emphasis on the conservation of nature and a shift towards Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) approaches.

### Background and Context

Biodiversity and natural resources are the foundation of all life on Earth. They are crucial for the functioning of ecosystems and the provision of ecosystem Services. Namibia's natural resources and biodiversity offer high potential for the country's socio-economic development. Unique land- and seascapes, rich wildlife and mineral resources attract both tourists and investors.

The sectors based on natural resources – mining, marine fisheries, tourism and agriculture – form the basis of the Namibian economy. In addition, 70% of the Namibian population depends directly on natural resources for their livelihoods – income, food, grazing land, medicinal plants, animal products, fuel and shelter. Healthy Ecosystems play an important but underestimated role in overall strategies to help people adapt to the negative effects of climate change.

### Our approach

Through its Biodiversity Management and Climate Change Project, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) assists the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in the coherent implementation of Biodiversity and Climate Change related policies, strategies and practices in cooperation with other Ministries and non-governmental actors.

## Project Activities

### **1. Integration of environmentally relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the national development planning**

Many of the internationally agreed 17 goals for sustainable development and their targets are relevant to environmental policies in Namibia. The project supports the partners to cascade global goals to the national level and to determine suitable indicators to measure their achievement. The project analyses potentials as well as obstacles to sustainable development, and develops recommended actions for the national *Sustainable Development Advisory Council*. This also includes an exchange of experiences with the *German Council for Sustainable Development*.

### **2. Strengthening Environmental Management (Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment)**

The project works with MET to foster more efficient implementation of the 2007 Environmental Management Act (EMA). It develops regulations and guidelines to improve the quality and efficiency of environmental impact assessments (EIA) and support the introduction of an electronic system to manage environmental information and EIA applications. It also increases awareness about environmental issues among the general public and the private sector (e.g. in the mining, infrastructure and tourism sectors).

### **3. Establishment of a regulatory framework for Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) of genetic and biological resources**

Namibia possesses a great diversity of fauna and flora, which have the potential to be used as medicine, cosmetic products or nutritional supplements. The project supports MET to establish a regulatory and institutional framework to guarantee a fair and sustainable utilisation of

these resources. Additionally, market potentials of biological resources will be analysed in order to develop value chains and leverage new sources of income for rural and indigenous populations.

### **4. Synergetic implementation of the three Rio-Conventions**

Namibia is a signatory to the "Rio-Conventions" and the implementation of these agreements requires concerted actions beyond sectoral boundaries, for which the MET has the coordinating role. Therefore, the project supports the development of cross-sectoral investment programmes, for example ensuring that agriculture as well as infrastructure development is more climate and environmentally friendly and facilitating compliance with the requirements of the international agreements and raising environmental awareness.

## Benefits and Impact

BMCC contributes to achieving the sustainable development objectives of Namibia and to secure livelihoods of particularly the rural population. A more efficient application of environmental laws, transparency in environmental management and a more equitable utilisation of biodiversity promote the conservation of ecosystems. A dedicated law has been enacted, which ensures the self-determination of indigenous communities and involving them in decision-making processes. Producers of biological resources (such as Marula-Oil) as well as indirectly around 14.000 harvesters benefit through the fair sharing of benefits from this utilisation. Three strategies and action plans for the Rio Conventions were approved by cabinet and their implementation has commenced. Participatory vulnerability assessments were conducted and ecosystem-based approaches to adapt to climate change and biotrade measures are being identified and implemented in pilot areas following good governance principles.

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