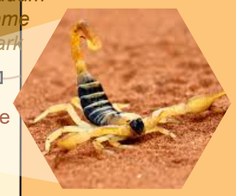
Namibia

Biodiversity Fact Sheet

A Rich Natural Heritage in a Harsh Climate

- Namibia is one of the most arid countries in the world, making it prone to land degradation and biodiversity loss.
- The country is characterised by vast open spaces, natural landscapes, and diverse ecosystems.
- Maintaining healthy ecosystems is essential for this arid country.



ECOSYSTEM DIVERSITY

Despite its arid climate, Namibia features:

- Deserts (Namib & Kalahari)
- Subtropical wetlands
- Savannas
- Marine ecosystems

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

Tsau // Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park (in the Succulent Karoo Floral Kingdom)

- A shared hotspot with South Africa
- World's only arid biodiversity hotspot
- Exceptional diversity of succulent plants
- High levels of endemism, shaped by fog and winter rains

WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS

- World's largest population of wild cheetahs
- Largest population of free-roaming black rhinos
- Increasing numbers of other globally threatened mammals

MARINE RICHES

- Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem
- 1,500 km of coastline with cold, nutrient-rich waters
- Supports massive fish shoals, marine mammals & seabirds

PROTECTED AREAS

- Entire coastline under National Park protection
- Over 17% of land in protected national parks

COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION (CBNRM)

As of 2025:

- 86 Communal Conservancies
- 32 Community Forests
- Cover 166,185 km² (~20% of Namibia)
- Benefiting 244,587 local people
- Wildlife recovery outside formal parks
- Empowering communities to manage & benefit from natural resources

This project is co-funded by the European Union

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