BIOFIN
The Biodiversity Finance Initiative

UNDP

NAMIBIA
Biodiversity Factsheet

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

global environment facility INVESTING IN OUR PLANET
Belgium partner in development
In partnership with Canada
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Flanders State of the Art
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The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) is a global initiative designed to address the significant challenge of financing biodiversity conservation. BIOFIN was initiated at the CBD COP 11 in 2012 , by UNDP and the European Commission, in response to the urgent global need to divert more finance from all possible sources towards global and national biodiversity goals. BIOFIN is now being implemented across 133 countries, including Namibia.

More info: https://www.biofin.org/