FINAL REPORT:

BIODIVERSITY FINANCE POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

GEF8 UMBRELLA PROGRAMME TO DESIGN A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY FINANCE PLAN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Namibia has long demonstrated a strong commitment to biodiversity conservation, integrating environmental sustainability into its national development agenda through policies, legislation, and community-based initiatives. The Biodiversity Finance Policy and Institutional Review (PIR) forms a foundational component of the country's BIOFIN process under the GEF-8 Umbrella Programme. This PIR establishes a baseline understanding of Namibia's biodiversity finance landscape and institutional framework, identifying challenges and opportunities for mobilizing resources and improving coordination, and scaling up biodiversity outcomes.

The review finds that Namibia has developed a strong and supportive policy framework for biodiversity conservation, grounded in the Constitution, Vision 2030, the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), the Environmental Management Act of 2007, and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2 and NBSAP3 which is currently under review). Biodiversity considerations have been successfully integrated into key sectors such as tourism, forestry, fisheries, and agriculture with the internationally recognised Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme standing out as a major achievement. By 2025, 87 conservancies cover 20% of Namibia's land area, benefiting approximately 224,000 people and contributing to the recovery of key wildlife species.

Despite these gains, the PIR identifies several significant challenges. Biodiversity finance in Namibia remains fragmented, heavily reliant on donor support, and is insufficient to meet the growing demands for conservation. Domestic allocations have declined in the past; the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism's budget fell by more than 50% between 2011 and 2018, before showing partial recovery. Harmful subsidies, overlapping mandates and limited private sector participation further constrain effective financing. Institutional coordination remains weak across sectors, while capacity gaps in budgeting, planning, and biodiversity finance expertise persist.

The PIR also highlights significant threats to biodiversity, including land degradation, climate change, poaching, invasive species, unsustainable natural resource use and human wildlife conflict. For example, 87 rhinos were poached in 2022, while invasive species such as *Prosopis glandulosa* continue to spread, threatening grazing and water availability. These challenges are compounded by legislative delays (e.g., the pending Parks and Wildlife Bill), under-resourced institutions, and limited public awareness.

Nevertheless, Namibia has a robust foundation from which to build. The review identifies promising biodiversity finance mechanisms such as Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), biodiversity offsets, green bonds, and eco-labelling. Institutions such as the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF), Game Products Trust Fund (GPTF), and Namibia's conservancy networks provide solid platforms for scaling up innovative financing. There is also growing recognition of the need to integrate biodiversity into national accounting, subsidy reform, and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), while strengthening engagement with the private sector.

These priorities, together with the findings of this PIR, shape the following key recommendations for action:

- Review and update outdated biodiversity legal frameworks to address emerging threats (e.g., climate change, invasive species) and align with international frameworks such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Establish a National Biodiversity Finance Taskforce and strengthen the capacity of MEFT, MOF, EIF, NPC, and regional authorities to manage finance effectively.

- Develop and implement a National Biodiversity Finance Plan to mobilise domestic and international resources, reduce dependency on donor funding, and scale up nature-positive investments.
- Introduce biodiversity tagging and coding in budget systems and integrate financial indicators into NDPs and MTEF.
- Reform subsidies and fiscal instruments to remove perverse incentives and promote sustainable natural resource use.
- Incentivise private sector participation through risk-sharing mechanisms, eco-certification, and biodiversity-linked investment products.
- Strengthen technical expertise, data systems, and public awareness to build broad political and societal support for biodiversity conservation.

This PIR serves as a roadmap to guide Namibia's next steps in designing a comprehensive and inclusive National Biodiversity Finance Plan. It provides a clear baseline and direction for policy, institutions, and financing. With coordinated implementation, political will, institutional strengthening and multi-stakeholder engagement, Namibia can secure the long-term sustainability of its biodiversity and the well-being of its people.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview of BIOFIN

The Umbrella Programme to Support Development of National Biodiversity Finance Plans, formally known as the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), is a global programme that supports countries to develop robust business cases and national strategies to increase investment in the sustainable management, protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, while promoting equity and inclusive development. BIOFIN builds on over 10 years of experience in developing and applying a robust methodology for addressing the biodiversity finance challenge.

Rather than functioning solely as a project, BIOFIN provides a structured and adaptable methodological process. Countries use this process to:

- Assess existing biodiversity finance flows and expenditures,
- Identify financial needs and mobilize financial resources to implement biodiversity targets (e.g., through the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan – NBSAP),
- Analyse policy and institutional bottlenecks, and
- Develop and implement tailored finance solutions and mechanisms that mobilise public, private, and international resources.

Recognizing the cross-cutting nature of biodiversity, BIOFIN also examines economic drivers of biodiversity loss and identifies opportunities to reform policies and practices across key sectors such as environment, fisheries, agriculture and mining. This integrated approach helps countries to align their national development objectives with biodiversity goals in a way that supports long-term sustainability and socio-economic resilience.

Currently, BIOFIN is being implemented in over 133 countries, including Namibia under the Umbrella Programme as well as a core group of countries receiving direct technical support. In addition, some countries implement the BIOFIN methodology independently, without formal programme participation. Its wide adoption demonstrates the flexibility and global relevance of the approach. The process assists countries in establishing a clear baseline of the financing landscape and designing comprehensive biodiversity financing strategies to close funding gaps through preventive measures, innovative financial mechanisms, and policy reforms.

Beyond addressing finance gaps, BIOFIN promotes inclusive stakeholder engagement, raise awareness, capacity building and policy alignment to ensure the effective and sustainable implementation of national strategies. Additionally, BIOFIN is designed to deliver triple wins by integrating biodiversity conservation with climate resilience and gender equality into its methodologies and strategic outcomes.

1.2 Background Information on the PIR

The Biodiversity Finance Policy and Institutional Review (PIR) is a foundational component of the BIOFIN process. It evaluates the national policies and institutional contexts to establish a robust baseline for the BIOFIN project. By assessing the relationship between biodiversity status, existing policies, institutional capacities, and expenditures, the PIR identifies how current frameworks influence biodiversity outcomes.

Through this analysis, a comprehensive assessment of current funding and future needs to achieve national biodiversity management objectives, such as the NBSAP targets, is analysed. Data is explicitly analysed to establish budget allocations and expenditures aimed at promoting biodiversity policies, financing and outcomes. The assessment focuses on both direct and indirect expenditure for biodiversity and identifies opportunities and barriers to improve cost-effectiveness. The PIR further identifies gaps, inefficiencies, and opportunities to better integrate biodiversity considerations into economic sectors and national development planning. It also seeks to reduce pressures from the main drivers of biodiversity loss and promote more cost effective and sustainable resource allocation, ultimately enhancing the alignment of financial and policy frameworks with national and global biodiversity goals.

1.3 Status of Biodiversity Management in Namibia

Namibia has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to biodiversity conservation through the implementation of various policy frameworks strategies and community-based initiatives. Biodiversity is not only integral to ecological sustainability but also serves as a cornerstone of the national economy and livelihoods. Key economic sectors, including mining, fisheries, agriculture, and tourism, are deeply interlinked with biodiversity, relying on the prudent stewardship of natural resources to ensure long-term viability (Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism [MEFT], 2020). Notably, approximately 70% of Namibia's population is directly dependent on the natural resource base for essential sustenance, including income generation, food security, energy provision, and housing (MEFT, 2020). The country's approach integrates sustainable use of natural resources with community involvement, leading to notable conservation successes that are both ecologically sound and socio-economically beneficial to local communities.

Despite its very dry climate, Namibia holds a remarkable variety of species, habitats and ecosystems ranging from deserts to subtropical wetlands and savannas. Namibia is one of the very few countries in Africa with an internationally recognized “biodiversity hotspot”. Namibia’s most significant biodiversity hotspot is the Tsau //Khaeb National Park, which is a restricted diamond mining area in the Succulent Karoo floral kingdom, shared with South Africa. The Succulent Karoo is the world’s only arid hotspot. It constitutes a refuge for an exceptional level of succulent plant diversity, shaped by the winter rainfall and fog of the Southern Namib Desert. A large portion of its plants is endemic (MEFT, 2013). Other notable features of the rich Namibian biodiversity include:

- The world’s largest populations of cheetah and free-roaming black rhino and increasing populations of other globally threatened mammals.
- 46% of the land surface under some form of conservation management,
    - A fully protected coastline and a network of national park covering over 17% of the country.
    - Community-based conservation, with 86 communal conservancies covering 166,185 km² (20% of Namibia) and benefiting 244,587 people (NACSO, 2025).
- The Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) supporting abundant marine and bird life.

Namibia's Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme empowers local communities to manage and benefit from wildlife and other natural resources. This model has resulted in the recovery of wildlife populations, especially outside the formally protected areas.

The current National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2013-2022), aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework has guided Namibia's biodiversity management and integration of biodiversity into national planning processes, including agriculture and mining. This highlights Namibia's move toward a more integrated approach to environmental management. However, the review of NBSAP 2 found that while strong policy instruments are in place, weak enforcement, fragmented mandates, and unfunded obligations continue to constrain effective biodiversity management (MEFT, 2025).

Financially, Namibia remains heavily donor-dependent, with limited domestic contributions through mechanisms such as the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) and the Game Products Trust Fund (GPTF) but has no formal biodiversity finance-tracking system. This highlights the urgent need for stronger revenue mobilization, costed finance plans, and mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral budgets.

The review further highlights key sectors such as agriculture, mining, fisheries, and tourism are both reliant on and contributing to biodiversity loss, reinforcing the need for mainstreaming biodiversity and applying sustainable economic incentives under NBSAP 3. Challenges such as impacts of climate change, limited financial and technical resources, alien invasive species, land degradation, drought, and poaching persist. Moving forward, strengthening biodiversity finance, enhancing institutional capacity, and improving data-driven decision-making remain high priorities for the effective implementation of NBSAP 3 in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

1.4 Institutional arrangements and contributors to the report

The Biodiversity Finance Policy and Institutional Review (PIR) is a foundational component of the BIOFIN process in Namibia. It serves as a critical step in assessing the country's policy and institutional landscape in relation to biodiversity finance and lays the groundwork for identifying opportunities to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and adequacy of biodiversity-related financial flows. The PIR analyses the linkages between the current state of biodiversity, the existing policy environment, and institutional capacities. It evaluates how Namibia's governance structures, policy instruments and public and private expenditures influence biodiversity outcomes, to identify systemic gaps and opportunities for strengthening biodiversity financing mechanisms.

The PIR was developed through a participatory process involving contributions from a broad range of stakeholders and technical experts, as listed below. The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), as the lead government institution responsible for biodiversity conservation and environmental management in Namibia, coordinated the review of the draft report through the Project Steering Committee for BIOFIN in Namibia.

Key to the PIR:

- Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT): Provided overall leadership, strategic direction, and coordination for the BIOFIN process in Namibia.
- Ministry of Finance: Contributed insights on public financial management and integration of biodiversity considerations into national budgeting processes.
- National Planning Commission (NPC): Provided inputs on the alignment of biodiversity financing with national development priorities and the planning framework.
- BIOFIN Namibia National Team: Comprising national consultants and sectoral experts in biodiversity, economics, and public policy, the team conducted the technical assessments and stakeholder consultations.

- Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) of Namibia and the Game Products Trust Fund (GPTF): Offered expertise on existing biodiversity finance mechanisms and supported the review of financial flows.
- Civil Society and Academic Institutions: Organizations such as the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Namibia, University of Namibia (UNAM), and other NGOs contributed valuable perspectives, data, and validation support.
- Private Sector Representatives: Provided input on biodiversity-related investments, incentives, and corporate social responsibility initiatives.
- UNDP Namibia and the BIOFIN Global Team: provided technical guidance, quality assurance, and alignment with global BIOFIN methodology and reporting standards.

This collaborative and consultative approach ensured that the PIR findings are grounded in Namibia's national context and institutional realities. The outcomes of the PIR will inform the development of targeted biodiversity finance solutions to support the effective implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

1.5 Methods used to collect data and the structure of the report

The methodological approach is based on the prescribed process as detailed in the BIOFIN Workbook of 2024 and accustomed to Namibia`s local consultation arrangements. A baseline was established as part of establishing context and orientation for the entire BIOFIN process. The baseline further helped to describe the institutional and legal context within which biodiversity focused policy interventions operate. The review focused on sectoral policies and practices that drive or influence biodiversity and ecosystem change, and assessed the capacity of institutions that manage biodiversity and ecosystem services, identifying gaps and areas that still need to be addressed. The PIR analysed the relationship between the state of nature and the country's fiscal, economic, legal, policy and institutional frameworks.

a. Desktop Review

A desktop review of policies, legal frameworks and institutional structures was conducted to establish the status of biodiversity financing and management in Namibia. The review zoomed into roles and institutional capacities to manage biodiversity; analyse tax incentives for green businesses and respective modes of operation to comprehend institutional drivers of biodiversity change. Institutions and corresponding policies were reviewed to identify gaps and challenges in relation to compliance with international commitments and best practices. As stipulated in the BIOFIN workbook, the review process entailed the following steps:

1. **Review of national biodiversity and sustainable development strategies and the linkages between them.**

Focusing on policies, frameworks and institutions with high relevance to biodiversity financing. A compilation of documents such as national strategies (NBSAP, communications to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Conference of Parties (COP), reports on state of the environment etc.), fiscal and development plans (NDP6), statistical reports pertaining to environmental resources (water, forestry, fisheries, tourism and biodiversity); Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) reports pertaining to biodiversity

management; technical reports as well as budget execution reports. These documents were reviewed to determine their coverage and support towards biodiversity management.

2. Identification of important trends and drivers for biodiversity change.

The identified information sources were reviewed to establish the drivers of change. This includes identification of positive and negative trends related to finance, economic and policy issues concerning biodiversity. The review of NBSAP 2 provided considerable background information for inclusion in the PIR. The revised NBSAP theory of change served as a baseline to reflect on the trends in financing biodiversity. The institutional arrangements for implementing and financing the NBSAP and other strategic documents have been documented.

3. Review of the current state of biodiversity finance.

The desk review of the identified documents provided a background context to the national biodiversity landscape, by identifying existing finance solutions in the country. The review established the current financing instruments, national budget processes, as well as incentives; and how they are allocated to influence biodiversity management. The review further ascertained existing positive and or harmful incentives that impact biodiversity.

4. Analysis of key institutions.

Undertaken as part of the stakeholder analysis, where institutions were categorised based on their roles and their impact on financing biodiversity initiatives. The identified institutions were consulted in accordance with the stakeholder engagement plan to obtain further information. A list of institutions (Annexure 3) reviewed that are involved with planning, budgeting and implementing biodiversity strategies is included as an annexure.

5. Selection of new and existing finance solutions for early implementation.

As part of developing recommendations, the identified new and existing finance solutions were evaluated and ranked based on implementation capacity. The focus was on analysing the economic value of natural resources. Documents detailing economic valuation studies were reviewed to determine trade-offs among investments perceived to be socially or environmentally positive.

6. Draft a summary and recommendations.

Documentation of policy recommendations was concluded following identification of policy gaps. Such recommendations are tailored to Namibia's environmental and socio-economic context; and will ensure integration of cross-cutting issues such as gender, youth involvement and climate resilience.

b. Stakeholder Consultation

The PIR consultation process was designed around three primary engagement axes:

1. Public Sector Engagement: Connecting environmental and finance ministries, alongside other relevant public institutions, to strengthen institutional and legal frameworks for biodiversity finance.

2. Private Sector Engagement: Identifying investment opportunities that generate positive conservation outcomes and encourage the adoption of sustainable business practices.
3. Civil Society and Community Engagement: Empowering NGOs, community-based organizations, and local stakeholders to propose innovative approaches for biodiversity management and finance.

UNDP's commitment to stakeholder engagement arises from internal policies, procedures and strategy documents as well as key international human rights instruments, principles and numerous decisions of international bodies, particularly as they relate to the protection of citizens' rights related to freedom of expression and participation. UNDP also follows the UN Statement of Common Understanding on Human Rights-Based Approaches to Development Cooperation which provides for: *Participation and Inclusion: Every person and all peoples are entitled to active, free and meaningful participation in, contribution to, and enjoyment of civil, economic, social, cultural and political development in which human rights and fundamental freedoms can be realized.*

Meaningful stakeholder inclusion enhances policy effectiveness, responsiveness, and legitimacy. Involving a diverse range of actors ensures that decisions reflect the needs and priorities of those affected, fosters ownership of outcomes, and facilitates the long-term implementation of policies.

For the purposes of maintaining an inclusive integration of stakeholders, a stakeholder analysis was conducted to support the future implementation of the project. The analysis further enabled the development of respective outreach approaches for the identified stakeholders, and by leveraging the knowledge, experience and capacities of affected and interested individuals and groups. The mapping analysis documents sectors and institutions that impact biodiversity (financial institutions, corporations, NGOs, community-based organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises, etc), and devised a stakeholder engagement plan as detailed in the succeeding section. Consultation was not limited only to external stakeholders, but the consultant maintained a schedule of meetings with the UNDP BIOFIN team regularly. Preliminary findings were also presented to the BIOFIN Steering Committee, which constitutes representatives from key ministries, government agencies, as well as the private sector, and was chaired by the Executive Director of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

1.6 Structure of the Report

This Policy and Institutional Review report for Namibia is presented in seven Chapters:

- The first Chapter presents the Introduction, starting with an overview of BIOFIN, followed by background information on the Policy and Institutions, objectives of the PIR, institutional arrangements and contributors to the report, methods used to collect data, stakeholder consultation, and the structure of the report.
- Chapter Two documents the biodiversity vision and national strategies, including an overview of national development visions, policies, and strategies for biodiversity; relevant economic and fiscal policies; contributions of biodiversity to GDP; and sectoral dependencies, risks, and opportunities for biodiversity management.
- Chapter Three presents an analysis of key biodiversity trends and drivers that influence biodiversity management in Namibia, including institutional, policy, and market factors, as well as positive and negative trends affecting biodiversity.
- Chapter Four provides an overview of the biodiversity finance landscape, including the national budget process, major government subsidies affecting biodiversity, sources of biodiversity-

based revenue, existing biodiversity finance solutions, and the role of NGOs and donor partnerships.

- Chapter Five analyses institutions, including the institutional arrangements responsible for biodiversity-related finance, institutional capacities and gaps, and the stakeholder engagement plan.
- Chapter Six presents a rapid prioritization of potential improvements to existing biodiversity finance instruments, identifying and ranking actions to enhance effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.
- Chapter Seven provides a summary of key conclusions and recommendations based on the analyses. It includes legal and policy recommendations, suggested sectoral policy changes, institutional and capacity development measures, opportunities for improving budgeting and planning, and identification of key national entry points with associated agencies. Technical details, supporting analyses, and references are appended.

Annexes include technical details such as biodiversity policy and institutional mandates, tools and checklists used for data collection, and key references.

2. BIODIVERSITY VISION AND NATIONAL STRATEGIES

2.1. Summary of national visions, policies and strategies related to biodiversity

Namibia, recognizes the important role that biodiversity plays in development, environmental sustainability, and the socio-economic benefits to its people. To this end, the country has established a comprehensive framework of visions, policies, strategies, and institutions for effective biodiversity conservation and ensuring sustainable financing.

The macro policy context for biodiversity management in Namibia is rooted in key national development documents such as Vision 2030, the sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), and the Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007). They also acknowledge Namibia's commitments to international environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Within these strategies, specific mechanisms are in place to support biodiversity conservation. For example, the Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Policy (2009) implements a compensation scheme to address losses experienced by communities due to wildlife. Funding for this scheme primarily comes from public budgets managed by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, with supplemental support from donors. While effective in some respects, challenges such as funding sustainability and delays in payments limit its current scope and replicability. This mechanism offers valuable lessons for designing other biodiversity finance instruments, and will be further analysed in the Biodiversity Finance Landscape (Section 4.3).

Most policies highlighted herein are designed to positively impact biodiversity conservation. However, there are sectoral laws and development policies in areas such as land use, mining, or infrastructure that may have unintended negative consequences on biodiversity. It is important to recognise these trade-offs and consider them in integrated planning processes. A fuller discussion of positive and negative biodiversity trends and associated policy impacts will be provided in later sections.

Understanding the institutional arrangements behind these policies is equally important. Many strategies are led by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, but involve multi-sectoral coordination with ministries responsible for agriculture, fisheries, mining, tourism, and finance. Financing mechanisms vary widely, including national budgets, donor funding, private sector investments, and innovative instruments such as environmental levies or payments for ecosystem services. Together, these elements form the foundation for Namibia's evolving approach to biodiversity finance and governance.

Key national strategies and policies include:

- **Vision 2030**

This is Namibia`s long-term development blueprint that identifies environmental sustainability as a foundation for achieving economic growth, poverty reduction, and improved quality of life. It highlights biodiversity conservation as essential for sustaining ecosystem services, tourism, and livelihoods. While Vision 2030 is high level, it underpins subsequent national strategies that operationalize these goals, including the National Development Plans (NDPs), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the Climate Change Policy and the CBNRM Policy. These frameworks translate Vision 2030's aspirations into measurable targets, policy reforms, and investment priorities that collectively guide Namibia's transition towards a resilient, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable future.

- **Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6)**

Launched in 2025, NDP6 sets out Namibia's development vision to 2030, emphasizing environmental sustainability, inclusive growth, and economic transformation. It recognises biodiversity as vital to national resilience and development. 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 priorities align well with the PIR and offer clear entry points for policy and finance reform.

- **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)**

The NBSAP (aligned with the Aichi targets) provides a strategic framework to conserve biodiversity, use biological resources sustainably, and ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits. The third NBSAP is currently being reviewed to align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, outlining specific goals and actions.

Namibia's current NBSAP, aligned with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, served as the national framework for conserving biodiversity, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, and ensuring fair and equitable benefit sharing. It is led by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) with participation from sectoral ministries, civil society, academia, and development partners. Implementation is financed through a mix of domestic resources and international support, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and bilateral donors. At the time of this report, the NBSAP 2 is being reviewed to inform the development of NBSAP 3, which will align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The institutional arrangements and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms established under NBSAP 2 are expected to continue, ensuring coherence with national priorities and providing a platform for mobilising and coordinating biodiversity finance.

- **Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007)**

Established a legal framework for the sustainable management of the environment and the responsible use of natural resources by establishing guiding principles for environmental decision-making. This includes the implementation of environmental impact assessments for activities with potential significant environmental effects, and provisions for related matters.

The Environmental Management Act (EMA) provides Namibia's overarching legal framework for sustainable environmental governance and responsible resource use. It establishes key mechanisms such as the requirement for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) for any listed activity that may significantly affect the environment. These tools help to prevent biodiversity loss by ensuring that potential impacts on ecosystems and species are considered in development planning. The Act also created the Environmental Commissioner's office to oversee compliance and enforcement. Importantly, the EMA enables the collection of environmental levies and other fees, which can be directed toward environmental protection and biodiversity-related programmes through the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF). As such, it offers a legal basis for both regulatory and financing mechanisms that support biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

- **National Policy on Prospecting and Mining in Protected Areas (2018, under review)**

Provides a framework for regulating prospecting and mining in protected areas, areas with high-value species, and environmentally sensitive areas. The policy seeks to balance economic development with biodiversity conservation by ensuring environmental safeguards, impact assessments, and stakeholder engagement. Public consultations have been concluded, and the revised policy will strengthen legal clarity, environmental protection standards, and sustainable resource management.

- **National Policy on Community-Based Natural Resource Management (2013)**

This policy empowers local communities by granting them rights over wildlife and tourism activities on communal lands through conservancies. Mechanisms include quota-based wildlife harvesting, benefit-sharing agreements, joint ventures with private sector partners, and governance support to ensure sustainable use and economic benefits. By formalising community stewardship, it links conservation incentives directly to local livelihoods, fostering both biodiversity protection and poverty reduction.

- **Policy on Human-Wildlife Conflict management (2018)**

The policy establishes strategies to reduce and manage conflicts between humans and wildlife, promoting coexistence. Mechanisms include early warning systems, physical barriers, community monitoring, and a government-backed compensation scheme for losses due to wildlife. The compensation fund is primarily financed by government allocations, with donor support, and aims to provide timely restitution to affected households while encouraging community participation in mitigation efforts.

- **Revised National Strategy on Wildlife Protection and Law Enforcement (2021)**

Provides a framework to strengthen wildlife protection and law enforcement, aiming to prevent poaching and illegal wildlife trade. The strategy sets out enforcement priorities, monitoring mechanisms, and stakeholder coordination approaches. With the current strategy ending in 2025, a revision is needed to update targets, integrate emerging threats, and reinforce biodiversity conservation and sustainable wildlife management.

- **Policy on Tourism and Wildlife Concessions on State Land (2007)**

This policy provides a regulatory framework for allocating tourism and wildlife concessions on state land. It includes transparent tendering processes, requirements for environmental sustainability, equitable benefit sharing mechanisms and monitoring of concessionaire compliance. Revenues generated contribute to local development projects and conservation efforts. promoting sustainable tourism that provides socio-economic benefits to Namibians while supporting biodiversity.

- **Namibia Sustainable Bioeconomy Strategy (2024-2029)**

Developed with assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), this strategy provides a roadmap for utilizing biological resources through value addition, innovation and cross sectoral collaboration. It focuses on support for, research and innovation, environmental sustainability, and awareness creation across sectors such as health, agriculture, and natural resource management. Other mechanisms include certification and eco-labelling schemes and market development for bio-based products. The strategy integrates biodiversity safeguards within economic activities to ensure sustainable growth.

- **Resource Mobilization Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation (2017)**

Recognizing the need for increased investment in biodiversity, Namibia developed the ResMob strategy to explore innovative financing mechanisms. This strategy aims to increase funding for biodiversity by identifying and promoting innovative financing mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services (PES), biodiversity offsets, environmental levies, and eco-labelling. It proposes strengthening institutional coordination and capacity to mobilize domestic and international resources, with the goal of doubling biodiversity investment to support implementation of national biodiversity targets.

These policies and strategies reflect Namibia's commitment to integrating biodiversity conservation with sustainable development, ensuring the protection of its rich natural heritage while enhancing the well-being of its people.

2.2. National development plans and contribution to biodiversity and ecosystem management in Namibia.

Namibia has made significant progress in integrating biodiversity and ecosystem management into its national development agenda. The important role that healthy ecosystems and biodiversity play in achieving sustainable economic growth, climate resilience, and improved livelihoods has been recognised through a number of overarching frameworks, including Vision 2030, National Development Plans (NDPs), and sector-specific strategies such as the Green Economy Strategy and Blue Economy Strategy. These frameworks also align Namibia’s development goals with international commitments such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (NPC, 2024).

While these frameworks set broad priorities, it is important to understand how biodiversity is operationalized through sectoral policies and safeguards. For example, the NDPs not only prioritise the biodiversity conceptually but also embed safeguards and interventions across sectors. This includes mandated environmental impact assessments, strengthened governance and enforcement mechanisms, dedicated institutional roles within ministries such as the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), and the allocation of budgets for conservation programmes. Integration is achieved through cross-sectoral coordination platforms and the alignment of sector development plans, such as agriculture, mining, and tourism, with biodiversity objectives.

The table below provides a summary of key national development frameworks and highlights their specific contributions and mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management:

Table 1: Summary of key national development frameworks

Framework/Plan	Key Focus Areas	Contribution to Biodiversity & Ecosystem Management
Vision 2030	Long-term national development framework	Promotes sustainable utilisation of natural resources and integration of environmental concerns across all sectors. Provides the overarching policy basis for biodiversity mainstreaming in subsequent plans.
National Development Plan 6 (NDP6) (2025/26–2029/30)	Economic recovery and transformation; human development; environmental sustainability; effective governance	Strengthens protected areas and community-based natural resource management (CBNRM); enhances environmental governance and compliance; embeds biodiversity safeguards across sectoral policies; explicitly prioritizes stewardship of natural resources, green and blue economic growth opportunities, waste management, human–wildlife conflict mitigation, climate resilience, and adaptation
Harambee Prosperity Plan I (HPP I) (2016–2020)	Socio-economic development	Recognises the importance of sustainable resource use as critical in development sectors, promoting initial integration of biodiversity and environmental sustainability considerations.
Harambee Prosperity Plan II (HPP II) (2021–2025)	Economic recovery, climate action, and social welfare	It promotes the Blue Economy and integrates climate resilience and disaster risk reduction into national planning, supporting marine and coastal biodiversity conservation alongside economic development.

Institutional and implementation entry points for biodiversity in national frameworks

To operationalise biodiversity objectives across sectors, Namibia has developed a set of legal, institutional, and financing mechanisms that serve as practical entry points. These reinforce the country's commitment to ecosystem management under Vision 2030, the SDGs, and the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The table below shows how biodiversity goals are implemented across sectors.

Table 2: Implementation of biodiversity goals across sectors

Category	Key Mechanisms
1. Legislative instruments	- Environmental Management Act (EMA No. 7 of 2007) mandates EIAs and compliance to prevent biodiversity loss. - CBNRM Policy and Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Policy empower communities in biodiversity stewardship. - Biodiversity safeguards are integrated in laws for forestry, fisheries, mining, and tourism.

2. Institutional coordination and leadership	- MEFT leads biodiversity governance, including NBSAP implementation and biodiversity finance coordination. - Inter-ministerial bodies and national platforms ensure cross-sector biodiversity mainstreaming (e.g. land reform, agriculture, infrastructure, mining). - Regional councils, traditional authorities, and conservancies oversee local implementation, benefit-sharing, and monitoring.
3. Financing and resource mobilisation	- Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) channels environmental levies into CBNRM, restoration, and green jobs. - National budget allocations are supplemented by GEF, GCF, and bilateral donors. - Innovative mechanisms include PES, biodiversity offsets, eco-labelling, and emerging carbon/biodiversity credits (Resource Mobilisation Strategy, 2024).

2.3. Citations of existing economics, fiscal policy, and other studies, and information on how nature contributes to the current GDP.

Namibia's natural resources are a cornerstone of its economy, with mining and tourism leading contributions to GDP. Mining, focused on diamonds, uranium, and other minerals, accounts for approximately 30% of GDP, generating around N$51.5 billion in turnover in 2023 and contributing about N$6.86 billion in taxes and royalties, despite employing less than 10% of the labour force (Britannica, n.d.; Namibian Sun, 2025).

Nature-based tourism is also a major driver, representing about 7% of GDP, equivalent to roughly N$14.1 billion, and supporting approximately 57,000 jobs or 7.9% of total employment in 2022 (UNDP, 2024; GIZ, 2024). National parks, such as Etosha, generate over N$140 million annually from entrance and concession fees, while the combined annual earnings from conservancies exceeds N$92 million from joint venture tourism partnerships, providing nearly 900 jobs (NACSO, ODI, Conservation Namibia).

Beyond mining and tourism, biodiversity linked sectors contribute substantially to Namibia's economy and livelihoods. Agriculture, including livestock and crop farming, is directly reliant on ecosystem services like rangeland grazing and water provision. This sector contributes about 5% to GDP (around N$1.9 billion) and employs roughly half of the workforce, with ecosystem grazing services valued at over N$4.3 billion (GIZ, 2022). Fisheries, both commercial marine (a ~N$20 billion industry contributing 4.5% of GDP and supporting 18,000 jobs) and inland small-scale fisheries (contributing N$126 million to GDP and supporting 250,000 community members), are vital for food security and rural incomes (MFMR Namibia, n.d., Business Express, n.d.).

Additional biodiversity-reliant income streams include sustainable harvesting of indigenous plant products (e.g., devil's claw) generating over N$1.27 million annually, community forest revenues supporting local infrastructure, and craft industries critical for rural livelihoods (NACSO, WWF). The charcoal industry, fuelled by sustainable bush thinning, exported about 270,000 tons in 2023, creating over 14,500 jobs and generating approximately N$1.3 billion (The Brief, 2024). Sustainable hunting managed by conservancies and freehold landowners contributes about N$34.8 million in cash and nearly N$9 million in-kind benefits annually, supporting over 290 jobs (NACSO, NNF).

The Game Products Trust Fund (GPTF), which supports sustainable wildlife management and community benefits, generated approximately N$79.78 million in revenue during the 2024/2025 fiscal year. This included N$127,860 from head levies, N$190,000 in concession fees, N$23.13 million from trophy hunting, N$1.51 million from walk-in client trophy hunting, and N$32.64 million from wildlife sales, leases, and auctions (GPTF, 2025). These funds play a critical role in financing conservation efforts and sustaining rural livelihoods dependent on natural resources.

Fiscal policies characterized by progressive taxation and social spending have improved living standards and reduced poverty in Namibia, yet challenges remain in fully harnessing natural resource wealth for sustainable development (The Global Economy, 2021; Shikongo, 2015). There is increasing recognition of the need to enhance allocative efficiency and economic diversification, particularly by strengthening biodiversity-linked sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), to reduce overreliance on mining and extractive industries.

Notably, domestic biodiversity financing mechanisms have grown, with the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) collecting over N$83 million in environmental levies in FY2022/23, up 19% from the previous year, and conservancy-related activities generating cumulative net incomes exceeding N$13 billion since 1990, supporting thousands of jobs (EIF Annual Report, 2023; NACSO). Expanding transparent, disaggregated financing instruments, including reinvesting permit revenues currently around N$2.27 million annually and revenues from bodies such as GPTF into conservation, will be critical to sustaining Namibia's natural capital and aligning with global biodiversity targets.

2.4. Summary of the availability of economic valuation evidence for Namibia

Namibia has a relatively strong evidence base for the economic value of biodiversity, though it is more developed in some sectors than others. The most robust valuations stem from the CBNRM programme, which has generated billions of Namibian dollars in cumulative benefits and demonstrated clear links between biodiversity, community revenues, and job creation.

Tourism, heavily dependent on biodiversity, has also been systematically assessed, with a Tourism Satellite Account showing that the sector contributes around 12% of GDP and provides significant employment. More recently, marine and coastal ecosystem service valuations, such as those for the Namibian Islands' Marine Protected Area and kelp forests, have quantified benefits from fisheries, carbon sequestration, and coastal protection.

At a national level, biodiversity finance studies indicate that resource-based sectors contribute nearly one-third of GDP, and that biodiversity-linked finance flows average between US$26–40 million annually. Other sectors, such as agriculture, rely on biodiversity for rangeland productivity, pollination, and soil health, though these ecosystem services remain only partially valued. In the water sector, services such as groundwater recharge, wetlands, and watershed management are recognized as critical to economic resilience, but lack comprehensive valuation. Mining related environmental-economic accounts highlight both the dependence of extractive industries on ecosystem services (e.g., water, energy, land) and the biodiversity costs of degradation, though integrated cost–benefit analyses are still limited.

Overall, strong evidence exists for tourism, community conservation, and emerging marine valuations. Expanding systematic valuation in agriculture, mining, and water will provide a more complete picture of biodiversity's role in Namibia's economy and long-term development. Major gaps remain in natural capital accounting, urban ecosystems, post-mining landscapes, and ecosystem services valuation beyond provisioning services. Opportunities exist to integrate valuation into planning, budgeting, and environmental impact assessments which is critical to achieving NBSAP and National Development Plan targets.

2.5. Sectoral dependencies on impacts, risks and opportunities for biodiversity management

Namibia's economy and well-being are fundamentally dependent on the biodiversity and ecosystem services it provides. Key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, water resources, fisheries, mining, tourism, energy, and urban development rely on healthy ecosystems for continued productivity, sustainability, and resilience. These sectors depend on services including water provision, soil fertility, pollination, climate

regulation, and the maintenance of scenic landscapes and wildlife that drive tourism and rural livelihoods. However, these same sectors also contribute to biodiversity loss through land conversion, overexploitation of resources, pollution, and infrastructure expansion. Activities such as overgrazing, deforestation, unregulated mining, and the development of roads or urban settlements often lead to habitat degradation, fragmentation, and declining ecosystem services.

Namibia's NBSAP2 acknowledges the dual interaction between sectors and biodiversity, identifying agriculture, fisheries, mining, and tourism as priority sectors for mainstreaming biodiversity (Strategic Target 2.2). Coordinated planning, land use management, and the use of economic incentives are promoted to encourage sustainable practices.

Understanding the intricate dependencies and risks associated with each sector is key to integrating biodiversity into national and sectoral strategies. Mainstreaming biodiversity into policies and investment decisions ensures that Namibia's natural capital continues to support livelihoods, food and water security, climate resilience, and inclusive economic growth.

Table 3 below summarizes key sectoral dependencies, pressures, risks, and opportunities, along with cross-cutting actions that apply broadly across Namibia's development landscape:

Table 3: Sectoral Dependencies, Impacts, Risks, and Opportunities for Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Namibia

Sector	Dependencies	Impacts	Risks	Opportunities for Biodiversity Mainstreaming
Agriculture and livestock	Fertile soils, water, pollination, grazing systems	Land degradation, overgrazing, conversion of natural habitats	Reduced productivity, climate vulnerability	- Climate smart and conservation agriculture - Sustainable rangeland management (e.g. grazing plans in conservancies) - Biodiversity linked subsidies and land-use integration
Forestry	Timber, NTFPs, forest-based ecosystem services	Deforestation, illegal harvesting, charcoal production	Loss of forest cover, biodiversity, and rural income	- Support community forests under Forest Act - Reforestation with indigenous species - Certification of charcoal and NTFPs
Fisheries and Marine Resources	Fish stocks, marine ecosystems, coastal livelihoods	Overfishing, bycatch, habitat destruction	Decline in fish stocks, food insecurity	- Expand MPAs and coastal buffer zones - Promote sustainable aquaculture (e.g. oysters) - Strengthen monitoring and enforcement systems
Mining and Extractive industries	Access to land and water in biodiverse areas	Habitat loss, pollution, landscape disturbance	Irreversible ecological damage, social conflict	- Enforce EMPs and Strategic Environmental Assessments - Apply biodiversity offsets and restoration plans - Promote responsible mining codes
Tourism	Biodiversity, scenic landscapes, wildlife	Habitat trampling, littering, infrastructure expansion	Degraded attractions, loss of tourism value	- Strengthen CBNRM (e.g. conservancy partnerships) - Use biodiversity levies or park fees - Invest in low-impact tourism infrastructure
Water Resources Management	Wetlands, aquifers, forested catchments	Pollution, over-abstraction, damming	Water scarcity, degraded ecosystems	- Protect critical catchments (e.g. Cuvelai, Zambezi) - Integrate nature-based solutions (NBS) in water planning - Implement PES for watershed services
Urban development and infrastructure	Land, water, materials, urban green spaces	Habitat fragmentation, pollution, loss of open space	Decline in urban ecosystem services, flood risk	- Urban biodiversity planning (e.g. green corridors in Windhoek) - Enforce strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) and EIAs - Develop nature-based urban infrastructure
Energy (incl. Renewables)	Open land for solar/wind, water for hydro	Disruption of habitats, migratory routes	Project delays due to biodiversity conflicts	- Conduct biodiversity-inclusive site assessments - Promote rooftop/off-grid solar - Apply mitigation hierarchy in energy projects
Cross-Cutting (All Sectors)	Biodiversity knowledge systems, policy coherence, community governance	Sectoral fragmentation, poor enforcement, underfunding	Ecosystem decline, inefficiency, loss of national value	- Align sector policies with NBSAP and land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets - Mobilize finance (e.g. PES, green bonds, EIF support) - Strengthen technical capacity across ministries - Support biodiversity data platforms (e.g. Namibia Environmental Information Service by Namibian Chamber of Environment) - Build partnerships with private sector, civil society, and local communities.

3. TRENDS, DRIVERS AND SECTORAL LINKAGES TO BIODIVERSITY

3.1. Description of drivers of change in biodiversity, including institutions, policies and markets

Namibia is renowned for its remarkable biodiversity, shaped by its unique landscapes, ranging from deserts to savannas, wetlands, and coastal ecosystems. Despite its arid climate, Namibia hosts a wide variety of flora and fauna, many of which are endemic or adapted to extreme conditions. Namibia's biodiversity is both unique and fragile, requiring ongoing conservation efforts to maintain ecological integrity. The country's internationally recognised Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme exemplifies how community involvement can drive effective conservation while supporting sustainable development.

The drivers of biodiversity change in Namibia are complex and interconnected, shaped by institutional fragmentation, policy gaps, weak enforcement, and powerful market pressures that prioritise short-term resource extraction over long-term sustainability. Key economic sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining, tourism, energy, water, and urban development, not only depend on healthy ecosystems and biodiversity to remain productive, but also place significant pressure on these systems, leading to degradation, fragmentation, and species loss. Effective management of biodiversity is, therefore, requires coordination across institutions, policies, and markets, all of which shape land use decisions and species outcomes. Strengthening cross-sectoral coordination, integrating biodiversity values into economic and development planning, and securing innovative financing mechanisms are essential to reverse biodiversity loss and build ecological resilience.

The NBSAP2 recognises the need to mainstream biodiversity into sectoral and macroeconomic planning, identifying priority sectors and promoting coordinated policy implementation, stronger incentives for sustainable practices, and engagement with the private sector. Emerging frameworks, such as the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), encourage businesses to assess and disclose nature-related risks and dependencies, fostering biodiversity-aligned investment and management practices. Table 4 below highlights the key biodiversity linkages across sectors:

Table 4: Sectoral Dependencies, Pressures, and Biodiversity Linkages in Namibia

Sector	Dependency on biodiversity	Pressures on biodiversity	Key linkages
Agriculture and livestock	Fertile soils, water, pollination, grazing systems	Overgrazing, habitat conversion, land degradation, invasive species such as *Senegalia mellifera.*	Food security, rural livelihoods, health of rangelands
Forestry	Timber, non-timber forest products (NTFPs), climate regulation	Deforestation, illegal harvesting, charcoal production, invasive alien species (*Prosopis glandulosa*)	Income for rural communities, carbon sequestration
Fisheries and marine resources	Fish stocks, coastal ecosystems, marine biodiversity	Overfishing, bycatch, habitat degradation, pollution	Nutrition, livelihoods in coastal communities, marine ecosystem balance, sustainable fisheries management
Mining and extractives	Land access in biodiverse areas, water for processing	Habitat loss, pollution, landscape disruption	Conflict with protected areas, restoration requirements, need for compliance monitoring

Sector	Dependency on biodiversity	Pressures on biodiversity	Key linkages
Tourism	Wildlife, scenic landscapes, cultural heritage	Infrastructure expansion, habitat trampling, disturbance	Revenue generation, employment, incentive for conservation
Water resources	Forested catchments, wetlands, aquifers	Pollution, over-abstraction, wetland alteration	Hydrological regulation, resilience to drought, support for ecosystems
Urban development	Land, green spaces, flood control	Habitat fragmentation, pollution, expansion into sensitive areas	Urban ecosystem services, flood mitigation, quality of life
Energy (incl. renewables)	Open land (solar/wind), hydrological resources	Habitat disruption, biodiversity conflicts from siting	Climate goals, potential for nature positive energy development, rangeland restoration (e.g., biomass energy)

3.2. Biodiversity positive trends in Namibia

Namibia has demonstrated strong and improving biodiversity conservation outcomes, driven by effective policies, community empowerment, innovative financing mechanisms, and integration into development planning. These successes stem from strong governance frameworks, inclusive community-based models such as the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme, and active international cooperation. For example, the devolution of natural resource rights to communities, supported by enabling policies and vibrant tourism markets, has empowered local stakeholders to conserve biodiversity while generating economic benefits through eco-tourism, sustainable trophy hunting, and related enterprises.

The country's commitment to conservation is further reflected in the expansion of protected areas and transboundary conservation initiatives, such as the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), demonstrates Namibia's political commitment to ecosystem connectivity and cross-border collaboration. Regional agreements and donor funding have further catalyzed these efforts. Additionally, the growth of sustainable wildlife-friendly tourism, supported by eco-certification schemes and increasing global demand, contributes vital income streams for communities and government conservation initiatives. In marine environments, enhanced protection measures driven by regional cooperation such as the Benguela Current Convention (BCC) and sectoral regulations have improved fisheries management and biodiversity conservation.

Below, these key trends are described in detail to illustrate Namibia's progress and the factors supporting continued conservation success.

Expansion of Community-Based Conservation

Namibia is internationally recognized as a pioneer in devolving natural resource rights to local community through the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) program. As of 2025, 87 communal conservancies cover approximately 166 185 km2 which translates to 20% of the country's land, benefiting both biodiversity and 244 587 local people (NACSO, 2025). These conservancies conserve habitats and wildlife, while enabling communities to benefit economically from eco-tourism, trophy hunting and selling of crafts. Wildlife populations in these areas have stabilized or increased, including species such as elephants, black rhinos, and cheetahs.

Expansion of Protected Areas and Transboundary Conservation

Namibia has a total of 20 state protected national parks, three Transfrontier conservation areas; and the Namibian Islands Marine Protected Area. Protected areas cover 47% of the country's land surface, including national parks, state forests, 86 conservancies and 48 community forests. Some of these protected areas serve as important ecological corridors for migratory wildlife. The Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), the world's largest conservation area, supports ecosystem connectivity across five countries. The proclamation of marine protected areas contributes to conserving marine biodiversity, including seabirds, fish stocks and invertebrates.

Sustainable Tourism

Namibia's reputation for sustainable tourism, including conservation hunting and guided wildlife tours, supports biodiversity-friendly business models that benefit both nature and communities. This sector generates income for conservation and local development, contributing significantly to GDP and jobs, especially in wildlife-rich areas like Etosha, Zambezi, and Kunene.

Importantly, sustainable tourism operates under strong safeguards such as regulated hunting quotas and monitoring by government and community conservancies, helping stabilize populations of key species (NACSO, 2025). Although data on wildlife tourism is still improving, the sector clearly demonstrates how well managed tourism can drive both conservation and economic growth.

Improved Marine Biodiversity Protection

Namibia has implemented policies to curb overfishing and protect marine ecosystems. Regional cooperation through the Benguela Current Convention (BCC) and sectoral regulations has improved fisheries management and marine biodiversity conservation.

Renewable Energy and Restoration

In response to the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) that Namibia has committed to, the country is steadily transitioning to green energy particularly on electricity generation. For example, NamPower's 40 MW wood-chip biomass plant produces 2,500 tons of wood chips annually, supporting rangeland restoration while generating clean energy (NamPower, 2024). Lessons from biomass use, land restoration, and ecosystem management highlight positive conservation outcomes. These positive trends highlight Namibia's commitment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management, making it a leader in African conservation efforts.

3.3. Biodiversity negative trends in Namibia

Despite the outlined positive developments and strong commitment to conservation and its globally recognised Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme, several challenges continue to threaten its biodiversity and ecosystems. These negative trends result from interconnected drivers including legislative gaps, socio-economic pressures, institutional weaknesses, and environmental changes. Understanding these underlying causes is critical for designing effective responses to safeguard Namibia's rich biodiversity and ensure ecosystem resilience.

Pending policy and legal frameworks

Critical legislation, such as the Parks and Wildlife Management Bill and other critical legislation, such as the EMA Act amendments, experienced delays of 10+ years, though the Wildlife Bill is now ready for tabling in Parliament, the status quo remains, delaying effective implementation of biodiversity conservation and wildlife management. This legislative gap, combined with weak enforcement capacity and poor coordination across government sectors, undermines regulatory oversight. Political and administrative bottlenecks, resource constraints, and competing priorities contribute to these delays. In addition, pressures such as illegal hunting, habitat destruction, and uncontrolled resource use persist with limited legal deterrence.

Unsustainable land and resource use practices

Overfishing, deforestation, and overgrazing, particularly in communal and peri-urban areas, drive habitat degradation and loss of species richness. These pressures are rooted in socio-economic drivers such as poverty, insecure land tenure, and lack of alternative livelihoods, which incentivize short-term resource extraction. Additionally, insufficient regulatory oversight and gaps in land use planning amplify these impacts. Poor waste management in expanding urban and informal settlements adds to ecosystem pollution, stemming from inadequate infrastructure and urban planning deficits.

Increasing human wildlife conflict

Expansion of settlements, agricultural land, and infrastructure into wildlife habitats has intensified human-wildlife conflict (HWC), threatening both biodiversity and community livelihoods. Drivers include population growth, infrastructure development policies favouring economic expansion, and lack of comprehensive conflict mitigation mechanisms, such as compensation or insurance schemes. These factors erode community tolerance for wildlife, reducing support for conservation initiatives and creating negative feedback loops.

The Human–Wildlife Conflict Self-Reliance Scheme, managed by MEFT, functions as a public compensation system (not a traditional insurance product). It provides reimbursement for verified losses such as livestock, crop damage, human injuries, or fatalities caused by large wildlife species. Financing for the scheme is supported in part through the Game Products Trust Fund (GPTF), which channels revenues from wildlife utilization (e.g., hunting concessions and live animal sales) into conservation and human–wildlife conflict management measures (MEFT, 2025a). However, compensation pay-outs are often viewed as inadequate compared to the actual value of community losses, and delays in verification and disbursement processes have limited its effectiveness as an incentive for coexistence

New developments include the design of a private insurance product by the Namibia Special Risks Insurance Association (NASRIA) in collaboration with MEFT. This product is tailored to human–wildlife conflict risks and is expected to potentially cover damages to infrastructure, livestock losses, crops, injuries, and fatalities (NASRIA, 2025). While detailed information on its operationalization is not yet available, it represents a significant step toward risk-sharing mechanisms that complement the state-led Self-Reliance Scheme.

In addition, Namibia has strengthened its institutional and legal response to environmental threats with the establishment of a dedicated Environmental Crimes Court in 2021. The court provides a specialized judicial mechanism for prosecuting environmental crimes, including wildlife poaching, illegal logging, and other biodiversity-related offenses (MEFT, 2021). Its establishment is expected to improve enforcement, increase conviction rates, and act as a deterrent to environmental crime, thereby indirectly supporting the mitigation of human–wildlife conflict through stronger wildlife protection.

Climate change impacts

Namibia faces increasing droughts, shifting rainfall patterns, and rising temperatures, which worsen water scarcity, reduce vegetation cover, and stress drought-sensitive species (IPCC, 2023). While global greenhouse gas emissions drive these changes, local adaptation gaps, such as limited drought resilience programmes and insufficient early warning systems, increase ecosystem vulnerability. Climate change interacts with other pressures, intensifying land degradation and biodiversity loss.

Land Degradation and land cover change

Desertification and land degradation, driven largely by unsustainable agricultural practices and weak integrated land use planning, result in habitat loss and reduced ecosystem resilience. Institutional fragmentation, lack of cross-sectoral coordination, and limited enforcement capacity hinder the adoption of sustainable land management strategies (UNCCD, 2023). These gaps allow continued degradation despite policy commitments under international frameworks like the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Poverty and illegal exploitation of natural resources

High levels of multidimensional poverty continue to affect many Namibian communities, limiting their ability to engage in sustainable natural resource management. In the absence of viable alternatives, overexploitation of land, forests, and wildlife often becomes a means of survival. This situation places added pressure on already vulnerable ecosystems and undermines long-term conservation goals.

Poaching

Poaching remains a serious threat to Namibia's biodiversity particularly for high value wildlife species such as rhinos. Reported rhino poaching incidents nearly doubled from 45 in 2021 to 87 in 2022, raising significant concerns among conservation authorities (Save the Rhino, 2023). Beyond wildlife, plant poaching is on the rise and between January 2021 and April 2024, 16 wildlife crime cases involving ten protected plant species led to the seizure of 4,128 individual plants, including rare succulent's endemic to the Kaokoveld and Gariep regions (Strauss et al., 2024).

Invasive alien and indigenous species

In Namibia, invasive plants such as *Prosopis glandulosa* (mesquite) have spread extensively, particularly along riverbeds like the Swakop and Fish rivers. These invasives outcompete native vegetation, reduce grazing land, and consume large amounts of groundwater, worsening water scarcity in arid regions (Atlas of Namibia Project, 2022). Community efforts have focused on clearing mesquite and finding uses for its biomass, such as animal feed. Managing invasive species effectively requires coordinated strategies combining removal, biological control, and public awareness (Atlas of Namibia Project, 2022).

In addition to alien invasives, some indigenous species, such as *Senegalia mellifera,* have proliferated in certain areas, particularly rangelands, leading to bush encroachment. Bush encroachment reduces pasture availability, alters fire regimes, and affects ecosystem functioning, posing a threat to both biodiversity and livestock productivity (MEFT, 2024).

Community-based initiatives have focused on clearing mesquite and Acacia mellifera, with efforts to find value-added uses for biomass, such as animal feed, firewood, and compost. Effective management of invasive species, both alien and encroaching indigenous species, requires coordinated, multi-pronged strategies, including:

- Mechanical and chemical removal,
- Biological control, where feasible,
- Active restoration of native vegetation,
- Public awareness campaigns to prevent further spread, and
- Integration with rangeland management and water resource planning.

Addressing both invasive alien species and problematic native species like Acacia mellifera is critical to safeguarding biodiversity, improving rangeland productivity, and enhancing ecosystem resilience across Namibia's arid and semi-arid landscapes (Atlas of Namibia Project, 2022; MEFT, 2024).

Mining and Infrastructure Development

Mining and infrastructure expansion in Namibia, including both large-scale operations and small-scale artisanal mining, pose significant environmental challenges. Large-scale activities such as those in the uranium and emerging green hydrogen sectors have the potential to threaten biodiversity and fragment vital habitats (MEFT, 2024; NCE, 2024). At the same time, small-scale mining, particularly in the Uis area of the Erongo Region, has resulted in land degradation, dust pollution, and negative health effects for local communities, including respiratory issues and structural damage to homes caused by blasting (Angula, 2007).

Pollution

Increasing urbanisation, tourism, and fishing activities in Namibia have contributed to a rise in plastic and waste pollution, severely impacting marine life and fragile ecosystems such as the Namib Desert coastal zones. This pollution threatens biodiversity by damaging habitats, harming wildlife through ingestion or entanglement, and degrading water quality (Conservation Namibia Youth, 2024; JNCC, 2023). Addressing these challenges requires strengthened waste management systems and greater public awareness to protect Namibia's unique coastal environments.

Eroding traditional knowledge

The loss of indigenous ecological knowledge and cultural practices in Namibia is diminishing communities' ability to innovate and manage natural resources sustainably. As younger generations become disconnected from ancestral wisdom, opportunities for effective conservation and sustainable use decline, undermining long-term environmental stewardship and resilience.

4. THE BIODIVERSITY FINANCE LANDSCAPE

Namibia is rich in biodiversity, with ecosystems ranging from deserts and savannas to marine environments. Key economic sectors, such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and mining, depend heavily on natural resources. Consequently, biodiversity conservation efforts are closely tied to activities in these sectors, making biodiversity management central to national development.

This chapter outlines Namibia`s biodiversity finance landscape by reviewing the financial flows from public, donors and private actors. It draws on the sectors most relevant to biodiversity conservation and management, identifies key stakeholders across these sectors, and outlines the financial mechanisms they use to support biodiversity related expenditure and investments.

Namibia has made significant progress in developing and implementing policy-based financial instruments and mechanisms to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These mechanisms

mobilize resources from multiple sources to bridge the biodiversity financing gap while aligning with the country's development goals. The government allocates funds through the national budget to key institutions such as the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), particularly for protected area management and conservation programmes. Environmental levies and taxes are collected from park entry fees and tourism levies, which are reinvested into conservation efforts.

Table 5 provides an overview of existing biodiversity financing mechanisms in Namibia, categorizing funding sources, financial solutions, and highlighting the contribution of public, private, donor, and market-based instruments across sectors and conservation priorities.

Namibia also benefits from grants and technical support from global environmental funds that support ecosystem restoration, climate-resilient livelihoods, and biodiversity management. However, challenges remain in harmonizing and streamlining these approaches to reduce duplication of efforts. Establishing a national coordination platform for biodiversity finance could help address these challenges.

Table 5: Existing biodiversity financing mechanisms in Namibia

Financing Mechanism	Type	Description	Institution(s)	Source of Funds	Biodiversity Focus Areas	Functionality & Challenges	Legislative Linkages	Co-benefits / Linkages to National Priorities
Environmental Endowment Fund	Public	Provides grants and concessional loans for environmental projects. Funds originate from donors and environmental levies.	Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF)	Government, GEF, Green Climate Fund, other donors	Protected areas, climate adaptation, community-based conservation	Functioning with ongoing disbursements; however, challenges include limited capitalization and slow disbursement processes. Sometimes grant sizes limit scale of impact.	Environmental Management Act, NBSAP	Supports climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods, aligns with Namibia's climate adaptation goals and community empowerment.
Conservation Reinvestment	Public-Private	Finances wildlife conservation and human-wildlife conflict mitigation through reinvestment of revenues.	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)	Trophy hunting levies, tourism fees, wildlife products	Wildlife conservation, conservancies, anti-poaching	Effective in generating funds but dependent on tourism flows; impacted negatively by global travel disruptions. Policy gaps on equitable revenue sharing persist.	Nature Conservation Ordinance, Hunting Regulations	Supports rural livelihoods, anti-poaching efforts, and sustainable use of wildlife resources; co-benefits include community development and gender inclusion through conservancies.
Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)	Public-Private Partnerships	Empowers communities to manage natural resources with revenues from tourism and hunting concessions.	MEFT & NGOs (e.g., NACSO, NNF)	Tourism, hunting concessions, donor funding	Conservancies, wildlife protection, sustainable use	Generally functional, though some conservancies face capacity and governance issues. Funding inconsistent due to donor dependency and fluctuating tourism revenue.	Communal Land Reform Act, Conservancy legislation	Strong co-benefits: promotes gender inclusion, supports Indigenous Peoples, strengthens climate adaptation and sustainable rural economies.

Financing Mechanism	Type	Description	Institution(s)	Source of Funds	Biodiversity Focus Areas	Functionality & Challenges	Legislative Linkages	Co-benefits / Linkages to National Priorities
Eco-tourism / National Budget Allocations	Public Budgeting	Direct government budget allocations for biodiversity conservation activities and eco-tourism infrastructure.	Government of Namibia (Treasury & MEFT)	Tax revenues	Protected areas, biodiversity research, enforcement	Budget allocations exist but often insufficient; disbursement delays and competing priorities limit effectiveness. Potential to expand PES mechanisms underutilized.	Public Finance Management Act, Environmental Management Act	Enhances protected area management, supports local economies and job creation, with potential linkages to climate and social development goals.
Tourism Concession Fees / Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)	Market-based Instrument	Generates revenue from park entry fees, hunting permits, and payments for ecosystem services.	MEFT & Conservancy Committees	Park entry fees, hunting permits, private tourism operators	Protected areas, community development	Functional but revenue generation varies seasonally. Challenges include limited coverage of PES and lack of formalized PES schemes beyond tourism concessions.	Environmental Management Act, Parks and Wildlife Management	Supports ecosystem conservation, community benefit-sharing, and incentivizes sustainable tourism; potential linkages to poverty alleviation and Indigenous rights.
Conservation Fee	Market-based Instrument / Public-Private Revenue	Fee charged on wildlife and natural resource use (e.g., hunting permits, trophy exports, special wildlife access) to generate funds for biodiversity conservation and community benefit-sharing.	MEFT, Conservancy Committees	Hunting permits, wildlife products, user fees	Wildlife conservation, anti-poaching, community conservancies	Operational and generates steady revenue, but allocation and transparency require strengthening. Some communities report delays or inequitable sharing.	Nature Conservation Ordinance, Hunting Regulations	Supports rural livelihoods, community development, anti-poaching initiatives, and gender inclusion through conservancy participation; aligns with sustainable use and national biodiversity goals.

Financing Mechanism	Type	Description	Institution(s)	Source of Funds	Biodiversity Focus Areas	Functionality & Challenges	Legislative Linkages	Co-benefits / Linkages to National Priorities
Bilateral and Multilateral Donor funding	External Grants/Loans	Provides project-based funding for biodiversity, climate projects, and sustainable land management.	MEFT, EIF, NGOs	GEF, UNDP, EU, KfW, GIZ, GCF, others	Protected areas, ecosystem restoration, sustainable land use	Functionality depends on donor priorities; funding is often short-term and project-specific, risking sustainability post-project closure. Coordination challenges noted.	Various international environmental conventions and agreements	Enables capacity building, climate action, biodiversity mainstreaming; co-benefits with gender, community development, and national sustainable development goals.
Biodiversity Offsets	Market-based Instrument	Requires developers to compensate for ecological impacts by funding conservation or restoration activities.	MEFT (via Environmental Impact Assessment system), MAFWLR, MME	Developers (mining, infrastructure sectors)	Conservation partnerships, habitat restoration, species protection	Conceptually sound but implementation limited and inconsistent. Monitoring and enforcement weak; legislative framework requires strengthening.	Environmental Management Act, EIA Regulations	Potential to mitigate development impacts, improve habitat connectivity, and support biodiversity mainstreaming; links to sustainable infrastructure development.
Carbon Markets / REDD+ initiatives	Market-based Instrument	Pilot projects focused on forest conservation and carbon sequestration with co-benefits for biodiversity and livelihoods.	EIF, MoF, MEFT, UNDP, FAO, NGOs	Voluntary carbon markets, donor funding	Forest conservation, carbon stocks, livelihoods	Early-stage pilots with promising results; challenges include establishing clear tenure rights, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and verifying carbon credits.	Climate Change Policy, REDD+ Guidelines, Forestry Act	Significant co-benefits in climate mitigation, biodiversity protection, and poverty reduction; supports Namibia's NDC commitments and green economy goals.

4.1. Overview of the national budget process and major government subsidies that impact biodiversity

Namibia's national budget allocation process is a structured and transparent cycle designed to align government spending with national development priorities. It begins with the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the National Planning Commission, developing a National Budget Framework that sets government priorities and outlines resource allocation over the medium term through the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). Following this, each ministry prepares detailed budget proposals specifying operational and development needs for the upcoming fiscal year. These proposals are reviewed by the Ministry of Finance to ensure alignment with national goals and fiscal sustainability before being consolidated into a comprehensive budget. The budget is then submitted to Parliament, where it undergoes scrutiny, debate, and public hearings that allow for input from legislators, civil society, and stakeholders. The National Assembly approves the budget through the Appropriation Bill, authorizing government expenditure. After approval, ministries are responsible for implementing their budgets, maintaining sound financial management, and regularly reporting expenditures to the Ministry of Finance and Parliament. Independent audits by the Auditor General further ensure transparency and accountability throughout the process. Key actors include the Ministry of Finance, National Planning Commission, line ministries, Parliament, and the Auditor General.

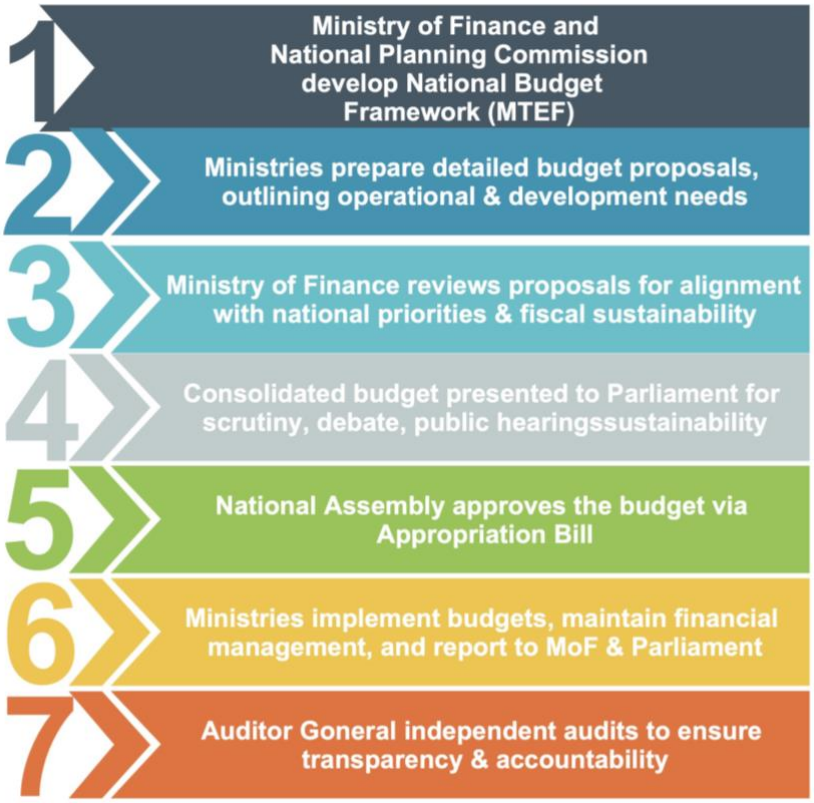


Figure 1: Schematic outline of the Namibian budget process

In addition to direct budget allocations, Namibia employs a range of government subsidies and fiscal incentives that significantly influence biodiversity outcomes. Notable examples include:

- Fuel subsidies provided primarily to the agricultural and transport sectors, which reduce operational costs but can contribute to increased fossil fuel consumption, land degradation, and greenhouse gas emissions affecting ecosystems.

- In agriculture, subsidies such as reduced tariffs on fertilizers and farm equipment, as well as support programmes promoting livestock production, have encouraged expansion of farming activities that may lead to habitat conversion and overgrazing, threatening biodiversity-rich areas like communal rangelands.
- Within the wildlife and tourism sector, the government offers concession fee waivers and reduced hunting levies to community conservancies under the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme, intended to promote sustainable use and community benefits.

However, these incentives require careful regulation to balance economic gains with conservation outcomes, ensuring biodiversity populations are not overexploited. While these subsidies play an important role in supporting economic development and rural livelihoods, they often lack explicit environmental safeguards, creating potential perverse incentives that undermine biodiversity conservation. Tracking and evaluating these subsidies are critical to understanding their net impact on biodiversity.

Budget monitoring and biodiversity integration

The budget process incorporates review mechanisms, but dedicated fiscal instruments specifically designed to incentivize biodiversity-friendly practices remain limited. BIOFIN's approach emphasizes the need for greater transparency, coordination, and integration of biodiversity objectives within fiscal policies and subsidy programmes. Monitoring mechanisms, such as environmental impact assessments linked to budget expenditures and subsidies, are essential for identifying perverse incentives and leveraging subsidies as entry points for biodiversity finance reform.

To trace the budgetary journey of specific programmes, the responsible ministry's budget submissions are identified and assessed for alignment with the MTEF, while review and approval stages within the Ministry of Finance and Parliament are monitored. Fund disbursement and expenditure are tracked through reporting and audit mechanisms, and stakeholder participation during budget consultations is observed. Critical considerations include adherence to submission timelines, the role of technical committees in budget evaluation, opportunities for public engagement, mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating budget execution, particularly for environmental initiatives, and the linkage between budget allocations and performance targets. This robust budgeting process ensures that resources allocated for biodiversity conservation and broader development objectives are effectively planned, monitored, and managed in accordance with national priorities.

Historical trends and budgetary challenges

Despite this structured process, core biodiversity ministries have in some years experienced significant budget cuts. For example, between 2011/12 and 2018/19, the MEFT experienced a sharp budget decline, dropping from about N$799 million to N$386 million, a decrease of roughly 52%. This significant reduction over several years likely constrained biodiversity conservation efforts. Several factors contributed to this decline, including broader economic challenges that prompted fiscal austerity measures and reduced government revenues, which forced prioritization of sectors viewed as more immediate economic drivers such as health, education, and infrastructure. Additionally, limited awareness and undervaluation of biodiversity's economic and social importance in national development planning may have contributed to reprioritization of environmental funding. Institutional capacity constraints and weaker advocacy within MEFT also likely played a role in securing smaller budget allocations. Fluctuations in donor funding further complicated the fiscal landscape, as reductions in external support may not have been fully offset by domestic resources.

However, since 2019/20, MEFT's budget has steadily recovered, rising to a projected N$726 million by 2024/25, signalling renewed government commitment to biodiversity and environmental management. This updated allocation positions MEFT more prominently within the national budget compared to previous years, addressing earlier concerns of underfunding relative to other ministries. The improved budget outlook, combined with the MTEF planning process, provides a stronger foundation for sustaining conservation initiatives, implementing national biodiversity targets, and supporting environmental governance over the medium term (2025/26–2027/28).

Biodiversity impacts of government subsidies

Namibia's biodiversity is shaped by a complex landscape of government subsidies and fiscal incentives that exert both positive and negative influences on conservation outcomes. Agricultural subsidies, including those for fertilizers, seeds, and irrigation infrastructure, have contributed to increased productivity and food security but often incentivize the expansion of farming activities into fragile natural habitats. This expansion increases habitat loss, soil degradation, runoff of nutrients, and water pollution, undermining ecosystem health. Livestock support programmes, while vital for rural livelihoods, have led to intensified grazing pressure, resulting in overgrazing and degradation of communal rangelands that are critical for wildlife habitat and ecological balance.

Fuel and energy subsidies lower operational costs for mechanized agriculture, transport, and mining sectors, facilitating economic growth but simultaneously increasing habitat disturbance, pollution, and carbon emissions that adversely affect biodiversity and ecosystem services. Conversely, subsidies and fiscal incentives aimed at eco-tourism and CBNRM initiatives have proven effective in linking local economic benefits to sustainable conservation efforts. These programmes, supported by reduced concession fees and hunting levies, empower communities to manage wildlife resources sustainably, contributing to both biodiversity protection and poverty alleviation.

However, fiscal support in sectors such as mining remains a significant concern. Subsidies or tax breaks granted to mining operations can drive habitat destruction, soil and water contamination, and excessive water withdrawal, threatening biodiversity hotspots. Infrastructure development funding, targeting roads, dams, and other large-scale projects, poses additional risks by fragmenting ecosystems and disrupting wildlife corridors if environmental safeguards and integrated planning are insufficient.

The Need for Subsidy Reform

Initial findings from recent subsidy assessments underscore the urgency of reforming Namibia's fiscal policies to align better with biodiversity conservation objectives. There is a critical need to systematically review and adjust subsidies to mitigate perverse incentives that promote environmental degradation, while strengthening and expanding incentives that foster sustainable natural resource use. Embedding biodiversity considerations within subsidy frameworks, improving transparency, and enhancing cross-sectoral coordination are key steps to harness fiscal tools as effective levers for conservation and sustainable development.

4.2. Sources of biodiversity-based revenue

Namibia has established itself as a global leader in biodiversity conservation by innovatively linking natural resource management with economic development, primarily through its Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme. This initiative empowers local communities to sustainably manage wildlife and natural resources, generating diverse revenue streams that support both conservation and livelihoods.

Key sources of biodiversity-based revenue include joint venture tourism, which accounted for approximately N$90.9 million in 2022, making up 53.7% of conservancy income. Sustainable trophy hunting contributed another N$36.6 million (21.6%), while grants and donor support added N$28.9 million (17.1%). Emerging mechanisms like Wildlife Credits, indigenous plant product harvesting (e.g. devil's claw), community forests, and craft industries also play vital roles in diversifying income sources for rural communities (Community Conservation Namibia 2022).

Between 1990 and 2022, the cumulative net national income generated through these community conservation efforts amounted to about N$13.5 billion, demonstrating the substantial economic impact of biodiversity linked activities (Community Conservation Namibia 2022). At the same time, government investment in biodiversity has been significant but variable. Analysis of annual government expenditure shows that over N$50 billion was allocated between 2014 and 2024 across three key ministries: the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR), covering both development and operational budgets (Brown and Amutenya 2024).

However, a decline of up to 3.3% in biodiversity expenditure occurred between 2015/16 and 2020/21, exacerbating the need to mobilise additional resources to fill funding gaps. International finance for biodiversity averaged about $28 million per year from 2009 to 2022 but fluctuated considerably, partly due to Namibia's reclassification to a Middle-Income Country, which affected aid eligibility (Brown and Amutenya 2024).

The Global Environment Facility has contributed approximately N$129 million towards biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, and chemicals and waste management since 1998 (Brown and Amutenya 2024). Additional support comes from development partners such as the German government through GIZ/BMZ/NORAD/KfW and European Union, which have invested over 35 million euros in natural resources management since 2019 (GIZ 2024). Private sector conservation investments range annually between $1.9 million and $15.8 million (Brown and Amutenya 2024).

The national economy is closely linked to natural resources. Tourism, which relies heavily on healthy biodiversity, contributes around 7% of GDP (2022) and employs approximately 57,500 people, underscoring biodiversity's direct economic value (Community Conservation Namibia 2022). Namibia's mining sector, dominated by diamonds, uranium, and other minerals, accounts for roughly 10 to 14% of GDP, with diamond mining alone contributing over 61.4% of the real GDP from mining and quarrying since 1980 (Chamber of Mines 2024). In 2023, mining represented 14.4% of GDP (Namibia Trade Network 2023).

Income from natural resources, including fisheries and minerals, grew from 1.93% of GDP in 2020 to about 4.03% in 2021, highlighting their growing importance in Namibia's economy (The Global Economy 2021). Agriculture, fisheries, nature-based tourism, and indigenous plant products remain essential economic pillars that depend on the integrity of ecosystems (GIZ n.d.).

Table 6: Key biodiversity financial indicators

Indicator	Value / Trend
Total government biodiversity investment (2014–2024)	Over N$50 billion across MEFT, MAWLR, MFMR
Decline in biodiversity expenditure (2015/16–2020/21)	Up to 3.3% decrease
International biodiversity finance (2009–2022 average)	US$28 million/year (fluctuating)
GEF funding since 1998	Approx. US$129 million

Indicator	Value / Trend
Proceeds from Game Products (GPTF)	N$79.78 million in revenue 2023/2024
Investment by GIZ since 2019 (Germany/BMZ/ NORAD & EU)	Over 35 million Euro
Private sector conservation investment	US$1.9 million to US$15.8 million/year
Tourism contribution to GDP (2022)	7% GDP, 57,500 jobs
Mining sector contribution to GDP	10–14%, with diamond mining over 61.4% of mining GDP since 1980
Natural resources income to GDP (2020 vs 2021)	Increased from 1.93% to 4.03%

Fiscal policies and challenges

Namibia's fiscal framework, characterized by progressive income taxation and substantial social spending, has effectively reduced poverty and inequality, improving living standards for many citizens (The Global Economy 2021).

Despite the considerable funding allocated to biodiversity sectors, government subsidies that contribute to environmental degradation, such as those supporting intensive agriculture, mining, and energy consumption, remain largely protected. These subsidies often promote activities leading to habitat loss, pollution, and overexploitation, which undermine conservation goals. This fiscal contradiction highlights the urgent need for Namibia to better align its financial priorities and reform subsidy frameworks to support sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation.

4.3. Summary of biodiversity finance solutions centred around government and its agencies

Namibia has established several biodiversity finance mechanisms and strategies actively deployed by government and related agencies to support conservation objectives. These solutions prioritise mobilising, aligning, and scaling funding sources to achieve measurable biodiversity outcomes.

Key existing finance solutions include the integration of biodiversity targets within national and sectoral budgets, with dedicated budget lines improving financial transparency and accountability for conservation spending. The government is progressively reforming harmful subsidies, particularly in agriculture, mining, and energy sectors, redirecting resources toward nature-positive incentives such as community-based conservation, eco-tourism, and sustainable agriculture (Brown and Amutenya 2024; GIZ, 2024).

Building on Namibia's policy foundation, biodiversity finance solutions centred around government and its agencies are operationalized through a range of targeted financing mechanisms, each with specific functions, institutional arrangements, funding sources, and biodiversity priorities. These solutions are not only designed to mobilize and align resources but also to address practical challenges and leverage entry points for impactful conservation finance reforms.

For example, the Environmental Endowment Fund managed by the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) provides grants and concessional loans for environmental projects, funded by

donors and environmental levies. While it functions with ongoing disbursements, its limited capitalization and slow grant processes restrict scale, indicating opportunities to streamline fund management and expand capitalization for greater impact. This fund aligns closely with Namibia's Environmental Management Act and NBSAP and supports climate adaptation and community-based conservation, linking biodiversity with national climate resilience goals.

The Conservation Reinvestment mechanism channels revenues from trophy hunting levies and tourism fees through MEFT, effectively financing wildlife conservation and human-wildlife conflict mitigation. Despite its success in revenue generation, this mechanism is vulnerable to fluctuations in tourism, as seen during global travel disruptions, and faces policy gaps on equitable revenue sharing. These challenges suggest priorities for improving revenue-sharing frameworks to enhance local community benefits and conservation incentives.

The Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme exemplifies a strong public-private partnership (PPP) model, empowering communities to manage natural resources using revenues from tourism and hunting concessions. Although generally functional, some conservancies experience capacity and governance challenges, compounded by donor funding volatility. This highlights an entry point to strengthen institutional capacities and secure more stable, diversified financing.

Direct National Budget Allocations for biodiversity and eco-tourism reflect government commitment but remain insufficient relative to needs. Budget delays and competing priorities limit effectiveness, and the potential to expand Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) beyond existing tourism concession fees remains largely untapped. Expanding PES schemes and improving budget execution monitoring would provide impactful finance solutions aligned with the Public Finance Management Act and Environmental Management Act.

External Bilateral and Multilateral Donor Funding supports numerous biodiversity and climate projects but is often project-specific and short-term, raising sustainability concerns post-project. Improved coordination and alignment with national priorities could enhance continuity and leverage additional domestic financing.

Emerging market-based instruments such as Biodiversity Offsets and Carbon Markets / REDD+ Initiatives offer promising avenues to channel private sector finance toward habitat restoration, species protection, and forest conservation. However, these mechanisms face implementation and enforcement challenges, including weak monitoring and unclear tenure arrangements. Strengthening legislative frameworks and establishing robust verification and benefit-sharing mechanisms are critical next steps.

4.4. Summary of biodiversity finance solutions identified in Namibia

In Namibia, biodiversity finance increasingly depends on the active engagement of the private sector, NGOs, and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) within the established Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) framework. These actors mobilize non-state financial resources, drive innovation, and provide critical on-the-ground implementation capacity to support conservation and sustainable natural resource management.

Table 7: Examples of private sector contributions to biodiversity conservation in Namibia

Entity	Type	Contribution / Focus Area	Estimated Value (N$)
De Beers / Debmarine (Kelp Blue)	Private (Blue Economy)	Kelp forest restoration; marine biodiversity-positive economy pilot	31,100,000
Gondwana Collection Namibia	Private (Tourism & Conservation)	Payments to community partners for accommodation collaborations	10,500,000
		Direct biodiversity conservation investment in Gondwana parks	1,750,000
B2Gold Namibia	Private (Mining)	Sponsorship for black rhino conservation (Rhino Gold Bar Initiative)	25,000,000
Namdeb / Brown Hyena Research Project	Private (Mining) / Conservation	Financial donations to brown hyena research (2012, 2016)	122,250; 151,000
		In-kind donation: 4×4 double cab field vehicle (2024)	Not quantified
Namdeb (UNAM & NBRI)	Private (Mining)	Environmental Fund support to UNAM & NBRI for rehabilitation & conservation (2022)	> 800,000
Nedbank Go Green Fund (in partnership with the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF)	Corporate / Conservation Fund	Supports environmental sustainability projects, biodiversity protection; conservation education	7 million
FirstRand Namibia Foundation Trust	Environmental Guardianship	Supports community services and welfare initiatives notably, The Sikunga Fish Guards; Namibia Animal Welfare Association, etc.	1,500,000

These companies are increasingly guided by Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) frameworks, recognizing the value of biodiversity for their long-term business resilience.

Business Associations such as the Namibia Chamber of Environment (NCE) and the Namibian Tourism Board (NTB) publicly support sustainable biodiversity investments and encourage members to integrate conservation priorities into their operations. However, formal private sector-led biodiversity finance platforms remain nascent, indicating an opportunity to strengthen cross-sector collaboration and mainstream biodiversity finance within business networks.

Role of NGOs and Donor Linkages

Namibian NGOs play a pivotal intermediary role, linking international donor funding with local communities and conservation initiatives. Key NGOs include:

- Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO), which coordinates over 80 member NGOs and CBOs working on biodiversity and community livelihoods. NACSO channels funding from major donors such as USAID, GIZ, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to conservancies and community projects.
- Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC), supporting northern conservancies through tourism development, governance strengthening, and sustainable natural resource management.
- Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN), has been established as a sustainable funding mechanism for CBNRM-targeted conservation efforts.
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Namibia, focusing on wildlife conservation, policy advocacy, and market-based conservation finance mechanisms like Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES).
- Green Earth Heritage Foundation (GEHF), working on environmental education and sustainable harvesting practices within conservancies.

Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and CBNRM

CBOs form the backbone of Namibia's biodiversity stewardship under the CBNRM program, managing wildlife, forests, and grazing lands while generating income through sustainable tourism, hunting, and natural resource enterprises. Prominent examples include conservancies such as Nyae Nyae, Okonjati, and Kwandu, which engage in eco-tourism partnerships and community hunting programmes.

These CBOs benefit from capacity building in financial literacy, governance, and business planning facilitated by NGOs and donors, which is critical for ensuring financial sustainability and delivering measurable biodiversity outcomes. Strengthening these capacities helps bridge the gap between international funding mechanisms and local conservation action.

5. INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS

The institutional landscape for biodiversity management in Namibia is shaped by a well-structured and coordinated framework involving government agencies, statutory bodies, community-based organizations, research institutions, the private sector, and international development partners. This framework is supported by a strong legal and policy environment that promotes sustainable natural resource use and conservation.

Namibia is internationally recognised for its innovative and inclusive approaches to biodiversity conservation, particularly through its Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme. This programme empowers local communities to manage wildlife and natural resources through registered conservancies and community forests, contributing both to rural development and biodiversity protection. Key institutions supporting the CBNRM approach include the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), non-governmental organisations such as the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO), and various community-based organisations that serve as rights-holders and implementers.

From a biodiversity finance perspective, Namibia's system is multi-institutional, involving ministries such as:

- Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) lead agency for biodiversity policy, management, and coordination.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAFWLR) responsible for sustainable land management, agriculture, water resources and fisheries management.
- Ministry of Finance (MoF) oversees public finance, including budget allocations and integration of biodiversity into national planning.

These are complemented by dedicated financing mechanisms such as the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) and the Game Products Trust Fund (GPTF), which channel public, private, and donor resources toward conservation priorities.

The private sector, including tourism operators, mining companies, and fisheries enterprises, plays a growing role in biodiversity finance through direct conservation investments, community partnership agreements, and corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Overall, the institutional arrangements highlight the need for strong coordination and policy alignment across sectors. While the mandates of the institutions are distinct, they are complementary in mobilising, managing, and allocating financial resources for biodiversity conservation, the implementation of national biodiversity strategies, and sustainable development in biodiversity-rich landscapes. This section provides a detailed overview of the key institutions involved, their mandates, and the nature of their contributions to biodiversity conservation and finance.

5.1 Institutional arrangements between and among institutions responsible for biodiversity-related finance

Namibia's biodiversity related finance landscape is shaped by a network of government ministries, statutory bodies, public enterprises, and financing institutions. These actors have differing levels of power, resources, and interest in biodiversity finance, and their effectiveness depends on coordination, mandate clarity, and integration of biodiversity into sectoral priorities.

Government Institutions and Agencies

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT): The lead agency for biodiversity and natural resource management. It is responsible for maintaining ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia. MEFT also oversees the sustainable utilization of living natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations, and provides measures to prevent the dumping or recycling of foreign nuclear and toxic waste in Namibia.

In addition, MEFT implements environmental laws, manages protected areas, issues compliance permits, handles forest management and authorizes environmental impact assessments. MEFT also facilitates the Inter-ministerial Committee on Biodiversity which oversees implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources[1]: Oversees the sustainable use of marine biodiversity and aquatic ecosystems. It manages living aquatic resources and continuously ensures a conducive environment for the fishing and aquaculture sectors to thrive.

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform: Oversees sustainable land management and rangeland improvement programmes. It promotes, develops, manages, and utilizes agricultural, water, and land resources sustainably, ensuring equitable resource distribution and food security. The ministry plays a crucial role in managing land use, agricultural practices, and water resources, all of which impact biodiversity.

Ministry of Mines and Energy: Oversees the management and utilization of Namibia's diverse geological, mineral and energy resources. It ensures these resources contribute effectively to the country's socioeconomic development.

Ministry of Finance: Mandated to manage public finances, oversee government assets and liabilities, and regulate the financial sector to promote macroeconomic stability and sustainable economic development, according to the ministry's website. This includes fiscal strategy management, treasury operations, revenue management, central government procurement administration, risk and resource management.

National Planning Commission: Integrates biodiversity considerations into national development planning. Ensuring that sustainable development and conservation goals are aligned with the country's broader socio-economic strategies.

National Statistics Agency: Provides essential data and indicators that support environmental monitoring, allowing informed decision-making and effective reporting on biodiversity and environmental trends.

Environmental Investment Fund (EIF): mobilises and allocates funding to activities and projects that promote the sustainable use and efficient management of natural resources for the benefit of all Namibians.

Namibia Wildlife Resorts: mandated to manage and operate tourism facilities within protected areas in Namibia, promoting sustainable tourism and enhancing the experiences of visitors in national parks.

International and Regional Partners

[1] The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources was dissolved on 22 March 2025 according to Schedule 1 of Proclamation No. 13 of 2025 and its mandate and functions are moved to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform. The PIR focused on data from 2014 to 2024, before the dissolution. Therefore, reference to Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is maintained in this document.

Namibia is strongly committed to global biodiversity conservation and actively participates in several international and regional agreements that support the sustainable management of natural resources. As a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Namibia works to conserve biodiversity, promote its sustainable use, and ensure fair and equitable benefit-sharing from genetic resources. It has also ratified related protocols such as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing. In addition, Namibia is a signatory to other major environmental conventions, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Regionally, Namibia collaborates with regional bodies like Southern African Development Community (SADC) and multilateral conventions such as the Benguela Current Convention (BCC), the Kavango–Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), the Cuvelai-Kunene (CUVKUN) Commission, the Zambezi Commission (ZAMCOM); the Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM); for transboundary biodiversity and ecosystem management. Namibia is also a member of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO). Furthermore, the country supports restoration and land management efforts through participation in the Africa Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), the Bonn Challenge, and the Great Green Wall Initiative, reflecting its dedication to safeguarding biodiversity for current and future generations. The country is in collaboration with a multitude of donor agencies such as the European Union (EU); the German Government, including GiZ and KfW; the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), among others, to fund conservation programmes.

Namibia's active participation in these agreements underscores its commitment to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land and marine resource management, and climate change mitigation. MEFT serves as the national focal point for coordinating the implementation of these conventions and related environmental initiatives.

Civic Society and Non-Governmental Organizations

Several civil society and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Namibia play a critical role in supporting biodiversity management through conservation projects, advocacy, community engagement, environmental education, and policy support. These organizations complement government efforts by building local capacity, enhancing research, engaging communities, and providing sustainable solutions to biodiversity challenges. Their work is critical to the success of national and international conservation goals in Namibia. Below are a few key organizations contributing to this effort.

Organizations like WWF Namibia, Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC), Legal Assistance Centre (LAC), and Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN) play a crucial role in advocacy, research, capacity-building, and implementation of projects geared towards biodiversity management.

World Wildlife Fund Namibia (WWF Namibia): A key NGO that supports biodiversity conservation in Namibia through science, technical expertise, and long-term funding. It implements projects focused on species and ecosystem protection, climate resilience, and sustainable natural resource management. WWF Namibia partners with government, communities, and international donors, leveraging instruments such as the Legacy Landscapes Fund (LLF) with KfW and the Namibia for Life Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) to provide long-term, large-scale funding for conservation. While acknowledging the contributions of the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), WWF has provided significantly higher levels of support for Namibia’s biodiversity initiatives.

Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF): A key NGO that provides technical support, funding, and capacity building for biodiversity projects. It supports sustainable development, biodiversity

conservation, and natural resource management. It partners with government, communities, and international donors to implement biodiversity projects, especially in CBNRM.

Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN): A funding mechanism for CBNRM that promotes the development of communal conservancies, community forests and related natural resources.

Save the Rhino Trust (SRT): Focuses on protecting the critically endangered black rhino in north-western Namibia. It collaborates with government (MEFT), local communities, and other NGOs to monitor rhinos and combat poaching.

Conservancies and Community Forests are the legal entities managed by local communities under the oversight of MEFT. The communities are empowered to manage wildlife and forest resources sustainably, and benefit from biodiversity-based enterprises (e.g., tourism, game harvesting).

Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO) provides support, coordination and advocacy for CBNRM; and works with various agencies to enhance local community biodiversity stewardship. It is a network of NGOs that supports communal conservancies with technical expertise in governance, natural resource management, and sustainable development.

Research and Academic Institutions

Namibia's biodiversity management is significantly supported by various research and academic institutions that provide scientific data, policy-relevant research, capacity building, and innovation for sustainable natural resource management. These institutions work collaboratively with civil society, the private sector, and international researchers to provide evidence-based knowledge for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Namibia. Their combined efforts help shape effective policies, conservation strategies, and training for future environmental professionals.

University of Namibia (UNAM), International University of Management (IUM) and Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) – Conduct research and provide training in biodiversity, ecology, and environmental management. These institutions produce graduates in environmental sciences, support national policy with scientific research; and collaborate with government and NGOs on conservation projects.

Gobabeb Namib Research Institute – Specializes in research on desert ecosystem and long-term ecological monitoring.

Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust (NADEET) – promotes environmental education. It empowers people to make informed decisions by demonstrating practical solutions for conservation and climate action.

Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) – conducts research focused on cheetah conservation and habitat restoration, promoting human-wildlife co-existence through education and community engagement, while collaborating with partners to ensure the species' long-term survival.

Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) – Conducts research focused on climate change adaptation and sustainable land management, generating scientific knowledge and providing evidence-based advice to decision makers in Namibia, while strengthening regional capacity to address environmental issues.

National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) – Promotes scientific research and innovation for biodiversity and environmental sustainability

Table 8 provides a summary of key institutions involved in biodiversity finance in Namibia, highlighting their roles, power, interest, funding sources, alignment with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), safeguards, and potential opportunities for enhanced impact.

Table 8: Institutional arrangements amongst organisations responsible for biodiversity finance

Institution / Actor	Role / Mandate	Power	Interest	Funding Sources	NBSAP Alignment	Safeguards (if not BD-focused)	Key Notes / Opportunities
MEFT	Lead agency for biodiversity; manages protected areas; coordinates NBSAP & conventions.	High	High	Gov budget (Vote: Environment), donor funds, tourism levies.	Strong – NBSAP custodian.	N/A – biodiversity mandate core.	Analyse dept. structure: possible hidden champions in Parks & Wildlife, Directorate of Environmental Affairs, Forestry. Budget set centrally by MoF but some autonomy in donor project funds.
MAFWLR	Agriculture, water, land reform.	High	Med–High	Gov budget, donor support (FAO, GEF).	Medium – overlaps in land/water mgmt.	Environmental Impact Assessments, water mgmt. standards.	Align rangeland, irrigation subsidies with biodiversity goals.
MoF	Fiscal policy, budget allocation.	High	Medium	National revenue.	Weak – indirect influence via budget priorities.	Procurement regulations can include environmental clauses.	Entry point for biodiversity tagging in budget.
MME	Mining & energy resources.	High	Low–Med	Gov budget, royalties, licenses.	Weak.	Mining license conditions, EIAs.	Strengthen biodiversity offsets & closure plans.
NPC	Development planning.	Medium	Medium	Gov budget.	Medium – integration possible via NDP.	N/A.	Ensure biodiversity targets in 6th NDP.
NSA	Data & statistics.	Medium	Medium	Gov budget, donor projects.	Medium – can track biodiversity indicators.	N/A.	Expand environmental data sets.
EIF	Mobilises biodiversity/climate finance.	Med–High	High	Levies, donor funds (GEF, GCF), gov seed.	Strong – supports NBSAP implementation.	N/A.	Can scale green finance.
GPTF	Collects revenue from wildlife and wildlife products recovered on state land and reinvests it into wildlife conservation,	Med–High	High	Revenue, donor funding	Strong	Wildlife and community conservation	Could retain more revenue for conservation through increase of park entrance and conservation fees

Institution / Actor	Role / Mandate	Power	Interest	Funding Sources	NBSAP Alignment	Safeguards (if not BD-focused)	Key Notes / Opportunities
	communal conservation and rural development programmes						
NWR	Tourism in parks.	Medium	Medium	Self-generated revenue, gov capital.	Medium.	Environmental mgmt. plans for tourism.	Could retain more revenue for conservation.
CCFN	CBNRM endowment fund.	Medium	High	Endowment returns, donors.	Strong	N/A.	Replicable funding model.
Save the Rhino Trust	Rhino conservation.	Medium	High	Donors, corporate.	Strong	N/A.	Focused niche model.
World Wildlife Fund Namibia	Biodiversity conservation, species & ecosystem protection, climate resilience, sustainable natural resource management	Large	High	Donors, international grants	Strong	Technical expertise, long-term project implementation	Large-scale, long-term funding model; replicable and evidence-based
IRDNC, NNF, NACSO	NGO advocacy, technical support, CBNRM.	Medium	High	Donors, partnerships.	Strong.	N/A.	Complement gov capacity, community engagement.
Regional bodies (BCC, KAZA, OKACOM, ZAMCOM, SEAFO)	Transboundary ecosystem mgmt.	Medium	Medium	Donor-funded, member state contributions.	Variable – KAZA & BCC closely linked; SEAFO weaker biodiversity link.	Sectoral safeguards vary – fisheries via quotas, EIA for water projects.	Align agreements more directly with NBSAP targets.
International conventions (CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Ramsar, CMS)	Global commitments.	High	Medium–High	Gov budget for focal points; donor-funded projects.	Strong – MEFT focal point.	N/A.	Integrate reporting for efficiency.
Universities (UNAM, NUST, IUM)	Research, training.	Medium	Medium	Gov budget (Higher Education), tuition, and grants.	Medium–High.	Research ethics, environmental guidelines.	Fund more applied biodiversity research.
Gobabeb, NADEET, CCF, SASSCAL, NCRST	Research, education, innovation.	Medium	Medium–High	Donors, grants, gov support.	Medium–High.	Institutional research standards.	Link outputs to policy processes.

5.2 Biodiversity finance-related capacities and gaps (needs) per priority organisation

Despite notable progress, Namibia continues to face persistent challenges in mobilizing sufficient and sustainable financing for biodiversity conservation. While public, donor, and private mechanisms contribute positively, gaps in coordination, capacity, and financing limit the country's ability to achieve its conservation and sustainable use targets. Government allocations for biodiversity are often limited and compete with other national priorities such as health and education, making international donor funding critical but vulnerable to changing priorities and global economic conditions.

Stakeholder analysis highlights that critical government bodies, including ministries, departments, agencies, as well as regional and local authorities, require strengthened capacity to effectively integrate biodiversity priorities into their planning, budgeting, and investment decision-making processes. Institutions responsible for approving and guiding both public and private investments need to be equipped with the necessary expertise to assess and incorporate biodiversity considerations into development projects. Addressing these capacity gaps is essential to improving coordination, enhancing financial mobilization, and ensuring the successful implementation of Namibia's biodiversity finance strategies.

Government allocations for biodiversity are often limited and compete with other national priorities such as health and education. As a result, a large proportion of biodiversity funding comes from international donors and development partners, making it vulnerable to changing donor priorities and global economic conditions. The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), as the lead agency for biodiversity, undertakes significant efforts in policy development, project implementation, and donor engagement. However, coordination within MEFT and across sectors remains uneven. Different departments and directorates operate with varying mandates, budgets, and technical capacities, which can result in siloed planning, overlaps, and inefficiencies. External coordination with other ministries, agencies, civil society, NGOs, community-based organizations, and the private sector is also limited, and biodiversity finance is scattered across institutions without a centralized tracking of coordination framework. This fragmentation contributes to inefficiencies, duplication of efforts, and missed opportunities for effective financial mobilization.

Biodiversity is generally undervalued in economic and fiscal decision-making. It has not yet been fully mainstreamed into national accounting, sectoral investment, or broader economic policies. In addition, data on the economic value of biodiversity and the cost of inaction remain limited, constraining the development of compelling investment cases. Financial tools such as biodiversity offsets, Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), green bonds, and conservation trust funds are still underdeveloped or in pilot stages. The absence of strong incentives, awareness, and enabling policies discourages private sector participation, and innovation in biodiversity finance remains low.

Institutional capacity is another key barrier. Many institutions lack the technical and administrative capacity required to design, implement, and monitor biodiversity financing mechanisms effectively. There is a particular shortage of expertise in environmental economics, finance modelling, and investment planning specific to biodiversity outcomes. Strengthening these capacities is critical for supporting robust financial solutions, better coordination, and effective mainstreaming of biodiversity priorities.

Table 9 below summarizes the key challenges, opportunities, recommended solutions, and financial instruments associated with biodiversity management in Namibia. It provides a concise overview of the main areas where intervention is needed to strengthen financing mechanisms and ensure sustainable biodiversity outcomes.

Table 9: Challenges, opportunities and financial solutions to biodiversity management in Namibia

Category	Challenge	Opportunities	Recommended Solutions for Namibia	Financial Solution / Preconditions
Funding limitations	Insufficient long-term financing, reliance on donor funding	Development of biodiversity finance mechanisms	Expand biodiversity business models; advocate for increased budget; establish National Biodiversity Finance Plan	FS: green bonds, biodiversity credits, PES; Preconditions: government budget allocation, enabling policies
	Fragmented biodiversity finance mechanisms	National biodiversity finance plan	Develop Namibia Biodiversity Finance Plan integrating government & private sector roles; link to NDP6/Vision 2030	FS: centralized financing framework; Preconditions: cross-sector coordination
	Limited prioritisation of biodiversity in budgets	Underutilized finance tools	Sensitise Ministry of Finance; increase budget allocations; create tax incentives, green bonds, offsets	FS: budget allocation, tax incentives, offset markets
	Low private sector investment	Incentives for private sector	Develop value propositions; adopt eco-labelling	FS: eco-labelling, PES schemes; Preconditions: policy incentives and awareness campaigns
	Economic vulnerability of tourism	Diversification of biodiversity-based businesses	Develop resilience funding; diversify financing sources for eco-tourism	FS: conservation trust funds, insurance-linked mechanisms; Preconditions: market analysis and business models
Policy challenges	Biodiversity perceived as a barrier to infrastructure development	Strengthened ESIA & SEA	Enforce ESIA/SEA; require biodiversity offsets for projects	FS: offsets/mitigation funds; Preconditions: legal compliance and functioning ESIA/SEA; narrative shift needed
	Limited cross-sectoral policy integration	Integrated Regional Land Use Plans	Implement cross-sectoral biodiversity impact assessments	FS: indirect—enables FS schemes; Preconditions: IRLUP adoption, multi-ministry coordination
	Outdated policy frameworks	Align with global frameworks	Revise policies to include climate adaptation, renewable energy safeguards, invasive species management	FS: largely out-of-scope; Preconditions: policy alignment required for FS to operate

Category	Challenge	Opportunities	Recommended Solutions for Namibia	Financial Solution / Preconditions
Institutional challenges	Current NBSAP institutional setup is fragmented, ineffective, or too high-level; separate committees underutilized	Opportunity to strengthen governance and management of NBSAP processes	Revisit and redesign NBSAP institutional arrangements; establish functional, multi-level committees; ensure integration with climate change and sectoral processes	FS: indirect—functional institutions are a precondition for effective FS; Preconditions: government commitment, clear roles/responsibilities, cross-sector coordination
	Dependence on NGOs for research/data	Expand government-led initiatives	Strengthen MEFT and research institutions; collaborative data-sharing	FS: indirect—data required for PES/offsets; Preconditions: government-led data systems
	Limited cross-sectoral collaboration between ministries	Integrated land-use and sectoral planning	Establish National Biodiversity Coordination Taskforce	FS: precondition for multi-sector FS; Preconditions: inter-ministerial coordination
Implementation challenges	Human–wildlife conflict	CBNRM programmes	Scale up compensation schemes; integrate early warning systems	FS: compensation funds, insurance mechanisms; Preconditions: program design, community engagement
	Wildlife crime and poaching of animals and plants	Growing awareness and law enforcement capacity	Strengthen anti-poaching operations; integrate with CBNRM and community-based conservation; improve monitoring and prosecution	FS: conservation funds, law enforcement grants, PES for anti-poaching; Preconditions: law enforcement capacity, community engagement, data systems
	Declining fish stocks	Strengthened fisheries policies	Expand sustainable fisheries certification; enhance monitoring	FS: PES, certification-linked incentives; Preconditions: enforcement capacity
	Land degradation & unsustainable farming	Biodiversity-sensitive agriculture	Expand conservation agriculture programmes	FS: PES for sustainable land management; Preconditions: farmer participation, monitoring systems
	Expansion of extractive industries in key biodiversity areas	Strengthened EIA & SEA	Enforce biodiversity offsets; mandate cumulative impact assessments	FS: offsets/mitigation funds; Preconditions: regulatory compliance

Category	Challenge	Opportunities	Recommended Solutions for Namibia	Financial Solution / Preconditions
Cross-Sectoral integration issues	Lack of strong collaboration between biodiversity and other sectors	Biodiversity mainstreaming in sectoral policies	Integrate biodiversity into NDP6, Vision 2030, sector strategies	FS: indirect—facilitates FS uptake; Preconditions: sectoral alignment
	Limited institutional mechanisms for mainstreaming biodiversity	Integrated Regional Land Use Plans	Strengthen cross-sector biodiversity oversight committees	FS: indirect; Preconditions: governance structures
Limited availability of biodiversity data	Limited data accessibility & economic valuation	Data monitoring & sharing	Establish centralized biodiversity information system	FS: essential precondition for PES/offsets; Preconditions: IT & institutional capacity
Capacity building for policymakers	Inadequate training for policymakers	Capacity building programmes	Implement targeted biodiversity training	FS: indirect—enhances FS implementation; Preconditions: training programs
Monitoring and Evaluation	Lack of progress tracking & effectiveness measurement	Ability to assess and adjust strategies	Incorporate strong M&E into financing and mainstreaming initiatives	FS: supports FS success measurement; Preconditions: M&E systems and reporting
Inclusive stakeholder engagement	Limited private sector involvement; fragmented stakeholder engagement	Collaborative approach	Create platforms for dialogue and shared responsibility	FS: facilitates private sector FS uptake; Preconditions: stakeholder platforms and incentives

Institutional Capacity Needs for Biodiversity Finance

In addition to the strategic challenges and solutions summarized in Table 9, Table 10 identifies the key capacity needs of priority institutions responsible for biodiversity finance in Namibia. It highlights the technical, financial, and governance capabilities required to implement effective biodiversity finance mechanisms and mainstream biodiversity into sectoral and national planning.

Table 10: Capacity needs of key biodiversity relevant institutions in Namibia

Institution	Mandate	Key capacity areas for effectiveness and biodiversity finance solutions
Ministry of Finance (MOF)	Manages public finances, fiscal strategy, budgeting, and macroeconomic policies	- Integrate biodiversity priorities into current national development plans and budget guidelines Increase awareness of biodiversity's economic contribution to development. Embed biodiversity into fiscal policy, budgeting, and national accounts. - Map and reform environmentally harmful subsidies. - Promote biodiversity levies, green taxes, and incentives.
National Planning Commission (NPC)	Integrates biodiversity into national development plans and policy frameworks	- Mainstream biodiversity into national development strategies (e.g., NDPs, Vision 2030). - Engage donors and negotiate biodiversity-related financing frameworks - Inclusion of biodiversity finance in national development and sectoral strategies - Coordination of cross-sectoral biodiversity budgeting and investment planning - Monitoring and reporting on biodiversity finance outcomes
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)	Lead agency for biodiversity and natural resource management; manages protected areas and environmental regulations	- Strengthen capacity to coordinate biodiversity finance initiatives - Develop and monitor biodiversity finance mechanisms (e.g. trust funds, offsets) - Technical expertise in environmental economics and financial modelling - Awareness raising on biodiversity's economic value at all government levels - Monitoring of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) and related schemes - Coordinate national biodiversity finance strategies.
Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy (post-March 2025)	Oversees the management of mineral, geological, and energy resources	- Develop safeguards and offsets to mitigate the biodiversity impacts of extractive industries - Capacity to integrate biodiversity finance in energy and mining sector planning
Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (post-March 2025)	Manages sustainable agriculture, fisheries, water resources, land use, and rangeland management	- Capacity to integrate biodiversity considerations in land and water resource planning - Develop incentives for sustainable agricultural and water management practices - Monitoring of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) and related schemes - Capacity to oversee biodiversity finance linked to marine conservation and fisheries management - Develop marine conservation finance tools and sustainable use incentives
Environmental Investment Fund (EIF)	Mobilises and allocates funds for natural resource management and conservation projects	- Financial management and investment planning capacity - Effective grant and loan management supporting biodiversity outcomes - Scale up green financing tools (e.g., green bonds, biodiversity credits). - Improve investment planning and biodiversity-aligned disbursement. - Enhance monitoring of biodiversity finance impact.
Game Products Trust Fund (GPTF)	To collect revenue from wildlife and wildlife products recovered on state land and reinvest it into wildlife conservation, communal conservation and rural development programmes	- Develop sustainable financing strategies linked to biodiversity conservation of Namibia's state-protected areas - Enhance monitoring of biodiversity finance impact - Explore other financing tools / revenue mechanisms (e.g. biodiversity credits)
Namibia Wildlife Resorts (NWR)	Manages tourism infrastructure within protected areas, promoting sustainable tourism	- Develop sustainable tourism financing strategies linked to biodiversity conservation - Capacity to monitor tourism-related biodiversity impacts and revenues - Explore nature-based tourism revenue mechanisms.

Institution	Mandate	Key capacity areas for effectiveness and biodiversity finance solutions
Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA)	Provides official environmental and economic data	- Integrate biodiversity and ecosystem service indicators into national statistical systems. - Support the valuation of ecosystem services and biodiversity. - Improve biodiversity related data to inform investment decisions.
Private Sector (Tourism, Agriculture, Mining, Fisheries)	Drives economic activities impacting or benefiting from biodiversity	- Awareness and capacity building for biodiversity-friendly investment - Participate in biodiversity finance tools like offsets and PES. - Strengthen public-private partnerships for conservation finance. - Promote eco-certification and sustainable supply chains.
NGOs (e.g. Namibia Nature Foundation, NACSO)	Support community-based conservation, advocacy, and capacity building	- Mobilise funding for community-based biodiversity initiatives. - Build technical capacity to implement innovative financing mechanisms (e.g., community trust funds). - Strengthen engagement in policy and finance dialogues.
Research and Academic Institutions (UNAM, NUST, Gobabeb Namib Research Institute, etc.)	Provide research, training, and policy support for biodiversity conservation	- Capacity in environmental economics, finance modelling, and policy analysis - Research to generate data on biodiversity's economic value and financing gaps - Training for the government and private sector on biodiversity finance

5.3 Stakeholder engagement plan

Analysis of the main institutions based on interest and influence

The stakeholder analysis process involved the identification of stakeholders consulted to provide further information to enrich the PIR. The categories of stakeholders that have been considered in the analysis have been classified as presented in Figure 2. Institutions were identified based on their involvement in addressing biodiversity drivers and providing financial instruments towards biodiversity. A stakeholder list with all identified institutions is included as Annexure 1, but below are the groups of stakeholders identified:

- International corporations, including multinational companies, and public institutions that finance projects impacting biodiversity in agriculture, fisheries, tourism, forestry, etc.
- Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and community-based organisations in environmental management, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, forestry etc.;
- The financial sector includes banks, financial intermediaries, venture capital funds, microfinance organisations, impact investors, etc.
- Business alliances and other organisations representing the private sector, such as Chambers of Commerce and Industry and their working groups, business associations, etc.
- State-owned enterprises (SOE), i.e. either wholly or partially owned by a government and that engage in commercial activities as part of an open market system; and
- Private companies in biodiversity management and landowners who own conservation areas, such as rehabilitation centres or other areas of relevance.
- Academia and research institutions, youth groups and organisations committed to biodiversity research and financing.
- Technical committee members such as BIOFIN Project Steering Committee as well as NBSAP technical committee.

The stakeholders are ranked according to the level of influence or how much power they hold and how much interest they have in biodiversity management. Mendolow's Matrix (Figure 2) was used to categorise identified stakeholders based on their level of interest and influence. Each organisation is placed in a matrix, which further determines the level of engagement that is required.

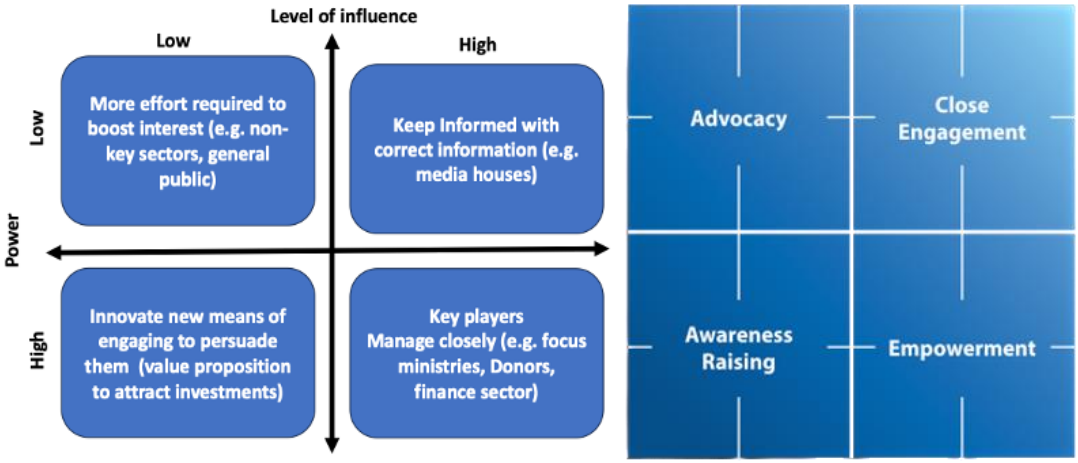


Figure 2: Stakeholder classification by Mendelow

6. RAPID PRIORITIZATION OF POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING FINANCE INSTRUMENTS

Namibia employs a range of policy, fiscal, and market-based instruments to support biodiversity management, including environmental levies, park fees, EIA-linked charges, community-based revenue mechanisms, donor funding, and private sector contributions. Many of these instruments are underperforming, fragmented, or not explicitly designed to optimize biodiversity outcomes. Improving these tools through targeted reforms offers significant opportunities to increase financing efficiency, sustainability, and equity.

Table 11 provides an analytical overview of Namibia's key biodiversity finance instruments. It summarizes what these instruments currently mobilize, their challenges and limitations, reasons for underperformance, potential improvements, and alignment with BIOFIN prioritization criteria. This table serves as a diagnostic tool to guide action on instruments with the highest potential impact.

Table 11: Identified instruments to be prioritized by respective entities

Finance Instrument	Current Use	Limitations	BIOFIN Action	Potential Benefits	Priority Level	Responsible Entity
Environmental Levies (e.g., park entrance fees, hunting permits)	Widely applied in national parks, community conservancies, trophy hunting	Low rates, poor revenue retention at source, weak link to biodiversity outcomes	Revise and index fee structures to reflect biodiversity value. Ensure revenue retention for reinvestment in biodiversity. Implement digital revenue tracking for transparency.	Revenue generated from differentiated rates (e.g., for international visitors) Improve fee collection and digital tracking Improved revenue-sharing with communities	High	MEFT, GPTF, Ministry of Finance, Wildlife Resorts, Conservancy Committees
Environmental Offsets and EIA linked compensation mechanisms	Required for large-scale developments	Limited use of biodiversity offsets, lack of standardized valuation frameworks	Develop national biodiversity offset guidelines and registry. Establish a Biodiversity Offset Fund (possibly under EIF). Integrate biodiversity net gain principles in EIAs. Integrate ecological compensation schemes to reflect real ecosystem values. Strengthen linkages between offsets and national funds (EIF, GPTF, CCFN) instead of creating new standalone funds.	Strengthen offset guidelines and enforcement Optimise existing fund structures to manage offset revenues Include maintenance costs of ecosystem services	High	MEFT, Environmental Investment Fund
Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Revenue Generation	Revenue from tourism concessions and hunting in conservancies	Revenue dependency on trophy hunting is insufficient to include diversification	Promote alternative revenue sources (e.g., eco-labelling, nature-based enterprises). Build financial management and governance capacity. Link performance to biodiversity outcomes.	Promote diversified income sources (e.g., carbon credits, eco-labelling) Improve financial transparency and governance Standardize concession terms to include biodiversity performance metrics in contracts	High	MEFT, NACSO, Conservancies
Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) Project Grants and Loans	EIF funds projects in climate adaptation, ecosystems, and livelihoods	Limited funding pool; not scaled for national biodiversity finance gap needs	Capitalize EIF via national budget allocations, GEF, and green bonds. Create a dedicated biodiversity finance window. Strengthen governance, operational, and management capacity of EIF, CCFN, GPTF instead of establishing new funds.	Capitalize EIF with public-private investment. Develop biodiversity-specific finance window. Avoid resource duplication by enhancing existing funds. Use EIF to channel GEF, GCF, and green bond proceeds.	High	EIF, Ministry of Finance, MEFT

Finance Instrument	Current Use	Limitations	BIOFIN Action	Potential Benefits	Priority Level	Responsible Entity
Water Tariffs and Catchment-based Fees	Applied to bulk users and agriculture in a form of water abstraction fees	Tariffs not reflective of ecosystem management costs; weak enforcement. Although basin-level management structures exist, enforcement is weak	Integrate ecosystem services valuation into tariff setting. Ring-fence revenue for catchment restoration and protection. Support Basin Management Committees with finance tools.	Integrate ecosystem services in water pricing Ring-fence funds for catchment restoration	Medium	MAFWLR, NamWater, Basin Management Committees
Green Taxes / Environmental Taxes	Fuel and vehicle levies exist, loosely related to biodiversity	Revenues not earmarked for biodiversity and there is limited coverage	Introduce tourism, or air travel biodiversity surcharges (similar to the current plastic levy). Direct portion of revenue to biodiversity trust fund or EIF. Introduce targeted tax incentives that promote private sector biodiversity investments.	Introduce targeted biodiversity levies (e.g., packaging, air travel). Mobilise private investment through tax incentives. Earmark a portion for conservation trust funds	Medium	Ministry of Finance, MEFT, EIF
Agri-environment Schemes (Subsidies for Sustainable Practices)	Pilots exist (e.g., bush thinning, rangeland improvement through restoration and bush thinning)	Not mainstreamed in national subsidy programs	Reform agricultural subsidies to reward biodiversity-positive practices. Integrate biodiversity criteria in AgriBank loans.	Reform agricultural subsidies to support biodiversity-positive practices	Medium	MAFWLR, AgriBank
Tax Incentives for Biodiversity	Not systematically applied in Namibia; ad-hoc donor-driven examples	Lack of enabling tax policy framework and limited uptake by private sector	Introduce biodiversity-friendly tax breaks (e.g., deductions for conservation investments, tax credits for ecosystem restoration projects). Link to EIF/CCFN/GPTF instead of creating new funds.	Encourage private sector investment, expand biodiversity financing base, reduce pressure on public budgets.	High	Ministry of Finance, MEFT, Inland Revenue

Building on the prioritization in Table 11, Table 12 outlines recommended actions to operationalize these improvements. These actions are designed to enhance the design, implementation, and coordination of existing biodiversity finance instruments. By following this roadmap, Namibia can unlock new resources for biodiversity while also improving the effectiveness and equity of its environmental management systems.

Table 12: Actions to be taken for prioritised items to be realised

Priority Action	**Task**	**Timeframe**	**Lead Actor(s)**
Establish a Multi-Stakeholder Task Team on Biodiversity Finance Reform	Convene a national task team comprising MEFT, Ministry of Finance, EIF, NPC, MAWLR, NACSO, GPTF, and private sector representatives. Oversee policy reform, provide technical input, and coordinate cross-sectoral action on prioritized instruments. Ensure integration of proven institutional models (e.g., WWF Namibia's Project Finance for Permanence (Namibia for Life) and Legacy Landscapes Fund experience under Enduring Earth) into Namibia's finance architecture.	3 months	MEFT, UNDP, EIF
Conduct detailed feasibility and design studies	Undertake technical and legal assessments for top priority instruments, stakeholder consultations, and cost-benefit analysis.	6 - 12 months	MEFT, EIF, MoF
Revise policy and legal frameworks	Draft or amend regulations and guidelines to support improved implementation (e.g., biodiversity offset policy, environmental levies framework, concession guidelines). Integrate changes into relevant policy reviews (e.g., Environmental Management Act, Wildlife Management Bill).	12 - 18 months	MEFT, MoF
Pilot and demonstrate success	Implement pilot projects in targeted regions or sectors (e.g., piloting biodiversity offset fund, expanding EIF's biodiversity finance window, or testing agri-biodiversity incentives through AgriBank).	12–24 months	MAFWLR, EIF AgriBank
Monitor, evaluate and report progress	Develop a simple monitoring framework linked to BIOFIN indicators and finance targets. Regularly report progress to the implementation steering committee and the UNDP/BIOFIN Global Platform.	12–24 months	MoF, MEFT

Key actions include establishing a multi-stakeholder task team to oversee reform, conducting detailed feasibility and design studies, revising policy and legal frameworks, piloting priority instruments, and monitoring progress using BIOFIN indicators. Together, Tables 11 and 12 provide a clear, actionable roadmap for integrating biodiversity finance reform into national planning and investment processes over the next 1–3 years, ensuring both efficiency and long-term sustainability.

7. SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Overall conclusions and recommendations

Namibia has made important strides in establishing a strong policy framework for biodiversity conservation. Key initiatives include the Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP2), the creation of community conservancies, and ongoing legislative reforms. These demonstrate the country's commitment to environmental sustainability. However, gaps remain in implementation and financing. Many policies are outdated, weakly enforced, or insufficiently integrated across sectors. Reliance on external aid and limited domestic funding also challenges the long-term sustainability of conservation efforts.

For example, the economic analyses conducted under the 2004 Strengthening the Protected Area Network (SPAN) Project demonstrated that the protected area system contributed up to 6 percent of GDP through direct park-based tourism revenues, generating an impressive 24 percent economic return on government investment. Importantly, the pilot allocation of a share of these revenues to increase protected area budgets directly improved management effectiveness. Although this approach was not sustained, it provides a valuable model that could be reconsidered and adapted for current financing reforms.

To address these challenges, Namibia should focus on:

- Strengthening institutional capacity, including mechanisms to reinvest revenue back into biodiversity conservation and management;
- Modernising legal frameworks and ensuring they enable effective biodiversity financing instruments;
- Mobilising diversified domestic financing by revisiting approaches like PA revenue retention, biodiversity levies, and innovative financing tools;
- Reforming budgeting and planning systems to integrate biodiversity into fiscal processes;
- Engaging private sector investment, particularly in tourism, carbon markets, and green value chains;
- Promoting economic valuation of biodiversity, building on SPAN evidence and new data to demonstrate the return on investment;
- Improving monitoring systems for biodiversity finance effectiveness and impact; and
- Developing a National Biodiversity Finance Plan aligned with NDP6, Vision 2030, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The following sections provide a detailed elaboration of each strategic area.

7.2. Legal and policy recommendations

A robust and coherent legal and policy framework is essential for effective biodiversity conservation. Many relevant laws are outdated, fragmented, or insufficiently harmonised across sectors.
To address these gaps, Namibia should undertake targeted updates of specific policy and legislative provisions, including:

Priority legal and regulatory updates

- Update the Nature Conservation Ordinance No. 4 of 1975; specifically, sections on protected area management, permit systems, and wildlife utilisation to align with modern biodiversity finance tools.

- Amend selected provisions of the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007, particularly Regulations 5–8 on EIA screening thresholds and biodiversity-sensitive planning.
- Update the Forestry Act No. 12 of 2001, with emphasis on community forest governance and outdated penalty structures.
- Review the Aquaculture Act No. 18 of 2002 to strengthen provisions on carrying capacity, monitoring, and biodiversity safeguards.
- Strengthen cross-sectoral integration through a clear coordination mechanism.
- Replace generic references to "harmful subsidies" with specific descriptions of incentives that unintentionally contribute to biodiversity degradation (e.g., rangeland subsidies that encourage overstocking).
- Institutionalise biodiversity considerations across government decision-making processes.

7.3. Changes in sectoral policies and practices that would reduce biodiversity loss, and /or improve biodiversity finance

To enhance sectoral alignment and mainstream biodiversity:

- Review the National Agricultural Policy (2015) to address gaps in biodiversity safeguards, particularly related to agricultural expansion and support schemes.
- Specify and address gaps in the Rangeland and Bush Encroachment Policy (2012), particularly the absence of sustainable financing mechanisms for restoration.
- Strengthen the Inland Fisheries Policy (2001) by incorporating ecological thresholds and monitoring requirements.
- Update selected provisions within the Marine Resources Act (2000), including quota-setting rules, observer coverage, and bycatch regulations.
- Introduce mandatory biodiversity screening criteria within the EIA processes through additional Regulations and not necessarily a full amendment of the EMA.
- Identify and revise specific incentives that contribute to biodiversity degradation, rather than using broad or normative terms.
- Pilot and scale innovative financing mechanisms such as payment for ecosystem services (PES), biodiversity offsets, and eco-labelling schemes.

7.4. Institutional, organizational and capacity development recommendations

Improving institutional capacity is essential for effective policy implementation and biodiversity finance.

Key recommendations include:

- Establish a National Biodiversity Coordination Taskforce to strengthen cross-agency collaboration.
- Strengthen technical capacity within MEFT, EIF, conservancies, and key sector ministries.
- Facilitate structured multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms for awareness and alignment.
- Identify and address specific capacity gaps, including shortages of environmental economists, financial analysts, data managers, and biodiversity monitoring specialists.

7.5. Observations on the potential of existing finance solutions

Namibia has a diverse array of underutilised but promising biodiversity finance solutions that, if properly scaled and coordinated, could significantly improve the sustainability of biodiversity management. Mechanisms such as green bonds, biodiversity credits, payment for ecosystem services (PES), biodiversity offsets, eco-labelling, and biodiversity taxes and levies already show strong potential to expand domestic financing options beyond traditional donor dependency. However, these tools remain at an early stage of development, with implementation constrained by institutional fragmentation, limited technical capacity, and a lack of coordination between government, the private sector, and civil society. Several mechanisms such as PES for conservancies and eco-labelling for beef and fisheries, are feasible for short- to medium-term uptake but currently remain under-utilised due to undefined implementation pathways and regulatory gaps.

The development of a National Biodiversity Finance Plan (NBFP) represents one of the most strategic opportunities for Namibia. By aligning biodiversity finance with national development priorities under NDP6 and Vision 2030, and clearly defining government and private sector roles, this plan could serve as a central framework to mobilise resources, promote coherence, and institutionalise biodiversity financing across sectors. It could also provide a roadmap for leveraging environmental service payments, green levies, and sectoral contributions from extractive industries and tourism, helping shift biodiversity financing from a donor-driven model to a nationally driven and diversified funding portfolio.

In the private sector, although investment in biodiversity remains low, opportunities exist to engage businesses through fiscal incentives, risk-sharing mechanisms, and the promotion of sustainability certification schemes and eco-labelling. These tools can strengthen Namibia's competitiveness in nature-based value chains such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and wildlife-based products. By demonstrating the commercial viability of biodiversity-friendly investments, Namibia can unlock private capital flows and build stronger public-private partnerships.

Further, community-based mechanisms such as Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) and Human–Wildlife Conflict Compensation Schemes can be expanded and supported through blended finance approaches, improving rural livelihoods while delivering measurable conservation outcomes. In marine and agricultural sectors, enhancing the implementation of sustainable practices supported by PES and biodiversity certification (e.g., Marine Stewardship Council standards) also offer scalable finance entry points.

Despite the potential, existing mechanisms often operate in silos, leading to fragmented implementation and inefficiencies. Strengthening institutional coordination is essential to ensure consistent uptake and application of biodiversity finance tools across sectors. Clear guidance is also needed on the specific regulatory adjustments required to operationalise mechanisms such as biodiversity offsets, green bonds, and biodiversity credit markets. Cross-sectoral finance strategies, supported by strengthened environmental impact assessments (EIAs), biodiversity offset frameworks, and mainstreaming mechanisms in budgeting and planning, are urgently required. Tools such as biodiversity monitoring systems, economic valuation studies, and a national biodiversity information system will further enhance decision-making and tracking of financial impacts.

Finally, the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) is well-positioned to play a central role in scaling biodiversity finance. With improved investment planning, disbursement tracking, and strengthened partnerships with the Ministry of Finance and local financial institutions, the EIF can accelerate the adoption of innovative finance tools like green bonds and trust funds.

Namibia has a solid foundation upon which to build a strong biodiversity finance system. However, unlocking this potential will require clear prioritisation of short to medium-term feasible mechanisms, targeted regulatory frameworks, stronger institutional coordination, enhanced technical capacity, and high-level political commitment to mainstream biodiversity into economic development strategies.

7.6. Opportunities for improvements in the budgeting and planning process

Improving the integration of biodiversity into Namibia's budgeting and planning systems presents a significant opportunity to institutionalise biodiversity finance and ensure long-term sustainability of conservation outcomes. Currently, biodiversity considerations are weakly reflected in Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs), annual budgets, and national planning processes. This results in fragmented allocations, missed harmonisations, and limited capacity to track or scale investments in nature-based solutions.

To address these issues, Namibia should establish dedicated biodiversity budget codes and classifications within national and sectoral budgeting systems. This would enable systematic tracking of biodiversity-related expenditures, improve transparency, and support more accurate reporting on national and international biodiversity finance commitments (e.g. CBD, GBF, Rio Conventions). The Ministry of Finance and National Planning Commission should jointly review and revise the Planning and Budget Guidelines to include specific instructions on biodiversity mainstreaming and create codes for biodiversity spending across all Organizations, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs).

A key entry point is the integration of biodiversity financial indicators linked to results-based budgeting frameworks. Such indicators, co-developed by MEFT, NPC, NSA and MoF, should be integrated into NDP6 and MTEF evaluations and sector strategies. Indicators should track both expenditure flows and biodiversity outcomes, allowing the government to assess the effectiveness of investments and adjust allocations accordingly. Additionally, applying natural capital accounting and environmental-economic valuation tools will provide evidence on the contribution of biodiversity to GDP, sectoral productivity, and livelihoods, justifying greater budgetary allocations and policy prioritisation.

Another major opportunity lies in the development of a centralised biodiversity finance tracking system or dashboard, ideally housed at MEFT or NPC. Such a system would allow government, donors, and other stakeholders to consolidate biodiversity expenditures from across OMAs, state-owned enterprises, development partners, and, where feasible, the private sector. A centralised dashboard would enable resource coordination, help identify funding gaps or duplications, and enhance Namibia's ability to mobilise domestic and international resources. This tracking system should be aligned with the upcoming National Biodiversity Finance Plan, which will outline priority investment areas, costed actions, and potential funding sources.

At the subnational level, there is a need to build the capacity of regional councils and local authorities to integrate biodiversity objectives into local development planning and budgeting. This can be supported through targeted training, technical guidelines, and incentive mechanisms that reward effective mainstreaming of biodiversity. Strengthening local-level budgeting processes will ensure that national biodiversity priorities translate into practical, implementable actions on the ground.

Furthermore, engaging the private sector in biodiversity finance will require budget planning reforms that include enabling fiscal policies (e.g., tax incentives, green levies, conservation funds) and clear investment frameworks. Public budgets must incorporate enabling fiscal measures such

as green tax incentives, environmental levies, and seed funding for public–private finance mechanisms. Matching funds for biodiversity offsets, PES schemes, eco-labelling initiatives, and conservation trust funds would help mobilise private investments and diversify the national biodiversity finance portfolio.

Overall, enhancing the integration of biodiversity into Namibia's budgeting and planning system requires: 1) Dedicated biodiversity budget codes and revised planning guidelines across all sector votes; 2) Clear biodiversity finance indicators linked to national performance frameworks; 3) A centralised finance tracking dashboard to consolidate expenditures and guide decision-making; 4) Strengthened institutional capacity at national and subnational levels to apply biodiversity-responsive planning tools; and 5) Enabling fiscal and policy measures that encourage private sector participation in biodiversity financing.

The key recommendations outlined above are summarised in Table 13, which translates the detailed narrative into actionable steps, identifies the responsible actors, and provides contextual notes to guide implementation and coordination across sectors.

Table 13: Recommended key actions to be considered

Recommendation Area	Key Actions	Lead / Supporting Actors	Expanded Notes & Rationale
Legal and Policy Reform	- Review and update specific biodiversity-related laws (e.g., Nature Conservation Ordinance No. 4 of 1975, Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007, Forestry Act No. 12 of 2001, Aquaculture Act No. 18 of 2002) to address emerging challenges such as climate change, habitat fragmentation, and invasive species. - Amend protected area financing provisions to enable ring fencing and reinvestment of park revenues into conservation management. - Institutionalize biodiversity objectives by embedding them in performance agreements of senior officials and SOEs.	MEFT (lead), Ministry of Justice, OPM, MoF, MAWLR, MFMR, MME, Parliament	Namibia's legal and policy frameworks are outdated and fragmented. Specific outdated provisions (e.g., the 1975 Ordinance) are not aligned with current realities. Strengthening these laws ensures resilience, adaptive management, and alignment with international best practices. Institutionalizing biodiversity across sectors, especially by embedding it in national planning, and improving cross-sector coordination, reduces policy silos. Furthermore, amending financing clauses to allow ring fences reinvestment of tourism and concession revenues can significantly increase Protected Area budgets. Complementary measures such as the NSX and green finance initiatives (e.g., green bonds) can support sustainable biodiversity financing.
Sectoral Policies and Practices	- Align sectoral policies with conservation goals by reviewing the National Agricultural Policy (2015), National Rangeland and Bush Encroachment Management Policy (2012), National Energy Policy (2017), and Inland Fisheries Policy (2001) to integrate biodiversity safeguards. - Introduce mandatory biodiversity screening in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for agriculture, mining, and infrastructure projects. - Establish a dedicated biodiversity budget line within MEFT and advocate for biodiversity earmarks in Agriculture, Fisheries, and Mining sector budgets.	MEFT (lead), MAWLR, MFMR, MME, Ministry of Tourism, MoF, NSA, NSX, private sector associations (NCCI, Chamber of Mines, NNFU, Namibian Tourism Board), civil society	Biodiversity considerations are not systematically embedded in sectoral planning and financing. For example, agricultural and rangeland policies do not fully account for biodiversity loss; fisheries management requires stronger enforcement; and mining lacks clear biodiversity offset standards. By specifying which policies to review, piloting finance tools (e.g., PES in conservancies), and integrating biodiversity into budgets and subsidies, Namibia can ensure that conservation goals are mainstreamed across sectors. Innovative mechanisms like eco-labelling and offsets can also generate new revenue streams while incentivising sustainability.

Recommendation Area	Key Actions	Lead / Supporting Actors	Expanded Notes & Rationale
	- Scale up innovative financing tools by piloting Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in community conservancies, biodiversity offsets in mining concessions, and eco-labelling for Namibian beef, fisheries, and tourism products. - Strengthen fisheries management by updating Marine Resources Act (2000) quotas, monitoring systems, and enforcement capacity. - Integrate sustainable land management (SLM) guidelines into agricultural subsidy schemes. - Develop biodiversity performance standards for extractive industries aligned with IFC Performance Standards and Namibian law.		
Institutional Coordination & Capacity Development	- Establish a National Biodiversity Coordination Taskforce chaired at ministerial level, mandated to oversee inter-ministerial alignment, financing reforms, and implementation of the GBF and NBSAP 3. - Strengthen MEFT, EIF, and conservancy capacity (technical, staffing, systems). - Facilitate structured dialogue platforms ("biodiversity compacts") between government, private sector, and civil society.	Lead: MEFT (Minister as Chair). Supporting Actors: Ministry of Finance (MoF), National Planning Commission (NPC), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR), Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Forestry (for cross-sector tourism aspects), Environmental Investment Fund (EIF), National Council for Scientific Research (NCRST), University of Namibia (UNAM), Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), civil society platforms (e.g., NACSO), private sector actors (Chamber of Mines, Namibian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Namibia Tourism Board), financial institutions (Bank of Namibia, Namibian Stock Exchange), and development partners	Broad-based coordination on biodiversity financing and policy has historically been weak, with existing structures failing to capture the full spectrum of national expertise and stakeholder input. A high-level Taskforce with multi-sectoral representation would enable policy coherence, knowledge exchange, and mobilisation of resources. By formally including civil society, academia, and private sector finance actors, Namibia can tap into collective knowledge, ensure innovation in financing, and align national priorities with best practices. This will also strengthen implementation of NBSAP III and the Kunming-Montreal GBF.

Recommendation Area	Key Actions	Lead / Supporting Actors	Expanded Notes & Rationale
		(WWF, KfW, UNDP, GIZ).	
Potential of Existing Finance Solutions	- Scale promising mechanisms: green bonds, biodiversity credits, PES, biodiversity offsets, eco-labelling, taxes/levies. - Develop and implement National Biodiversity Finance Plan (NBFP). - Engage private sector via fiscal incentives, certification, and eco-labelling. - Expand community-based mechanisms (CBNRM, Human–Wildlife Conflict schemes) using blended finance.	MEFT (lead), EIF, MoF, private sector, NACSO, CCFN, conservancies, NGOs	Namibia has multiple underutilized finance tools. Coordinating these mechanisms, implementing NBFP, and demonstrating commercial viability encourages private capital flows. Community-based and marine/agricultural finance solutions provide measurable conservation outcomes while improving livelihoods. EIF is well-positioned to lead the adoption of innovative finance instruments.
Budgeting & Planning Systems	- Integrate biodiversity into MTEF and annual budgets via dedicated budget codes. - Develop biodiversity finance indicators linked to performance targets. - Centralize finance tracking system across sectors. - Build subnational capacity to integrate biodiversity into local planning.	MEFT, MoF, NPC, NSA, regional and local authorities, private sector	Currently, biodiversity is weakly represented in budgets, leading to fragmented allocations. Budget codes, finance indicators, and a centralized tracking system enhance transparency, coordination, and accountability. Subnational capacity ensures local implementation and alignment with national priorities. Private sector engagement through fiscal incentives and matching funds supports expanded finance sources.
Strategic Financial Instruments	- Mobilize domestic capital for biodiversity using Treasury Bills (TBs), Government Bonds/IRS, and green/conservation bonds listed on the NSX. - Engage public and private investors to channel funds into biodiversity projects. - Ensure Bank of Namibia manages issuance/redemption with transparent records. - Align instruments with international standards (IAS 32) for efficient capital flows.	MEFT, MoF, Bank of Namibia, NSX, EIF, private sector investors, development partners	Using domestic financial instruments expands the resource base for biodiversity financing. Treasury Bills, Government Bonds, and IRS provide structured investment opportunities, while green/conservation bonds link capital markets to conservation objectives. Proper management by the Bank of Namibia ensures transparency, investor confidence, and effective tracking. Alignment with international accounting and financial standards (IAS 32) facilitates capital flows, complements the NBFP, and integrates biodiversity into national development financing strategies.

7.7. Examples of successful implementation of biodiversity financing solutions

Biodiversity finance innovations emerging across the SADC region offer important lessons for Namibia as it seeks to scale sustainable conservation funding. Botswana's reform of its protected-area fee system demonstrates how market-based revenue instruments can dramatically improve financial sustainability of parks while strengthening accountability for reinvestment into biodiversity management.

Likewise, Zambia's recent expansion of green finance through its national biodiversity finance planning process, green-bond market development, and partnerships to mobilise private investment for forest landscapes shows how aligning financial-sector regulation with nature-positive outcomes can unlock new capital flows.

South Africa's well-established model of biodiversity stewardship agreements and biodiversity-offset frameworks further illustrates how private landholders can be incentivised to conserve critical habitats while maintaining economic use of land. By adapting these approaches expanding conservation-linked revenue streams, attracting private green investment, and strengthening

community-based stewardship Namibia can diversify and stabilise its biodiversity finance, reduce dependence on public funding, and accelerate progress toward both national environmental commitments and community livelihood goals.

The Zambian Experience

Development of a green-bond market *– adopts the Copperbelt Energy Corporation debut green bond. It reduces transaction costs and uses proceeds for biodiversity conservation.*

Green finance taxonomy, tagging & reporting *– the taxonomy for green finance provides balanced weighing between biodiversity conservation and climate change (eases labelling and reporting systems).*

Zambia's Nature, People and Climate Investment Plan *– Implementing climate resilience through Nature-Based Solutions. Funded by AfDB, World Bank and International Finance Corporation.*

Botswana's Experience

Protected Areas Resource Mobilisation Strategy & Partnerships Plan

- *Revised entrance and use fee structure for protected areas, resulting in higher revenue.*
- *Ensured that the increased fees don't undermine access for local lower-income visitors.*
- *Revenue is funnelled into biodiversity management and surplus is used for conservation outcomes.*

Private sector nature conservation financing deal

- *Led by Stanbic Bank as agent and sole lender for nature conservation finance deals.*
- *Supported expansion of ecotourism operators into new markets while conserving land*

7.8. Key national entry points, including a rationale for their selection, and the associated agencies and organisations for each entry point

Identifying and leveraging key national entry points is important in successfully mainstreaming biodiversity finance into Namibia's planning, budgeting, and institutional systems. These entry points serve as strategic policy, institutional, and financing levers to ensure biodiversity objectives are embedded within national development priorities. Table 14 shows the most relevant national entry points, the rationale for their selection, and the associated agencies and organisations. Leveraging these entry points (supported by the designated agencies) will considerably strengthen coherence, coordination and investment in the country's biodiversity agenda.

Table 14: Key national entry points and rationale for selection

Entry Point	Rationale for Selection	Lead & Supporting Agencies / Organisations
National Development Plan 6 (NDP6)	Central medium-term framework guiding socio-economic priorities; embedding biodiversity finance targets here guarantees high-level political commitment. NDP6 can explicitly include targets on biodiversity financing, ecosystem restoration, and nature-based enterprises.	National Planning Commission (lead), MEFT, Ministry of Finance (MoF), sector ministries, Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).
Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Annual Budget Cycle	Primary mechanism for allocating public resources. Integrating biodiversity budget codes and tagging will enable routine tracking of biodiversity expenditure across all sectors, supporting accountability and efficiency.	MoF (lead), NPC, MEFT, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Parliamentary Budget Committee.
National Biodiversity Finance Plan (NBFP)	Provides a national blueprint for mobilising public, private and development partner finance. Consolidates fragmented initiatives and specifies regulatory adjustments needed for	MEFT (lead), Environmental Investment Fund (EIF), MoF, NPC, development partners, private-sector associations.

	tools such as biodiversity credits, green bonds, PES.	
Environmental Management Act (EMA) & EIA / Offset Regulations	Namibia's core environmental safeguard. Specific regulatory gaps requiring attention include the absence of binding biodiversity offset requirements, inconsistent enforcement of EIA permit conditions, and insufficient penalties for non-compliance. Effective implementation also requires separation of regulatory, enforcement, and oversight functions to improve transparency and public trust. Measures could include third-party audits, an Environmental Ombudsman, and enhanced parliamentary/civil society oversight.	MEFT – Environmental Commissioner (lead), sector regulators (Mines, Energy, Agriculture), local authorities, Law Reform and Development Commission. Office of the Auditor-General, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources, civil society watchdogs (e.g. NNF, Legal Assistance Centre).
Integrated Regional Land-Use Plans (IRLUPs)	Critical for managing land allocation and mitigating habitat loss. IRLUPs should incorporate Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), biodiversity sensitivity maps, and the terrestrial equivalent of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). These tools help address cumulative impacts and balance competing sector needs**.**	MEFT & MAFWLR (co-leads), Regional Councils, Traditional Authorities, NGOs (e.g. NNF, NACSO), NUST, WWF Namibia, research institutions and other technical partners. MEFT & MAFWLR (co-leads), Regional Councils, Traditional Authorities, NGOs (e.g. NNF, NACSO), NUST, WWF, research institutions, and other technical partners.
Sectoral Policy & Subsidy Reform	Realigns harmful incentives and unlocks domestic resources (e.g. conservation agriculture subsidies, nature-positive tourism levies).	MAFWLR, Ministry of Mines & Energy, MEFT, MoF, Namibia Tourism Board, Chamber of Mines.
Executive Performance Agreements & SOE Mandates	Embedding biodiversity targets in senior officials' performance contracts institutionalises accountability across government. Specific indicators may include biodiversity-related expenditure tracking, enforcement outcomes under the EMA, and progress in restoring degraded ecosystems.	Office of the Prime Minister (lead), Public Service Commission, MEFT, MoF.
Environmental Investment Fund (EIF)	Namibia's accredited national entity for climate and biodiversity finance; can scale innovative instruments (green bonds, biodiversity credits). EIF is well-placed to lead development of biodiversity credit standards, blended finance instruments, and a national green/biodiversity bond framework.	EIF (lead), MEFT, MoF, Bank of Namibia, Development Bank of Namibia (DBN), commercial banks.
Game Products Trust Fund (GPTF) National Conservation Financing Mechanism (Act No. 7 of 1997)	It channels revenues from wildlife utilization (trophy hunting, live sales, problem animal removals) into biodiversity conservation and rural development. Provides a sustainable domestic source of biodiversity finance and supports human–wildlife conflict mitigation, anti-poaching, and community-based conservation. GPTF can expand its role by piloting results-based financing for conservancies, strengthening governance oversight, and integrating biodiversity finance reporting.	GPTF Board of Trustees (lead), MEFT, EIF, MoF, NPC, Regional Councils, Communal Conservancies & CBOs, private sector (tourism/hunting associations).
Education, Training & Awareness Platforms	Builds long-term national capacity and enhances understanding of biodiversity finance across public, private, and community sectors. Institutions should integrate modules on biodiversity economics, environmental governance, and sustainable finance.	Ministry of Education, Arts & Culture (lead), UNAM, NUST, Gobabeb Namib Research Institute, civil-society networks, private-sector bodies.

8. BIODIVERSITY POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

8.1 Details of the stakeholder analysis and engagement

The sectoral analysis was informed by a structured stakeholder engagement process aligned with the UNDP and GEF Stakeholder Engagement Framework. This approach recognises that inclusive and meaningful participation is essential for effective policy development and implementation. Engaging a range of stakeholders, including ministries, the private sector, financial institutions, community-based organisations, research institutions, and civil society, enhances ownership, transparency, and the long-term sustainability of biodiversity finance solutions.

Biodiversity finance spans multiple sectors, requiring coordination among diverse actors with varying levels of interest and influence. To support a comprehensive sectoral analysis, stakeholders were mapped based on their relevance to biodiversity finance. These included government ministries, public agencies, private sector entities, civil society organisations, community-based organisations, academic institutions, and development partners. Each was assessed using Mendelow's Matrix to inform how best to engage them in the biodiversity finance process.

Two key engagement sessions were conducted as part of this process. The first targeted the private sector to introduce the BIOFIN Process and explore opportunities for conservation-compatible investments, including the use of green financing instruments such as biodiversity credits, offsets, and eco-certification schemes. The second brought together public sector stakeholders, including key ministries, NGOs, development partners, academia and civil society organisations to source additional input on biodiversity finance policy and institutional capacities. Preliminary findings from the policy and institutional review were presented, and expert input on existing challenges and opportunities was suggested to be included in the final PIR. The final PIR was presented to stakeholders for validation and endorsement.

8.2 Detailed list and analysis of all policies, laws and regulations reviewed

A comprehensive review of Namibia's policy, legal, and regulatory landscape was undertaken to assess the extent to which existing instruments enable or constrain biodiversity financing and integration. This analysis covered cross-sectoral, sector-specific, and fiscal instruments, including frameworks relevant to biodiversity conservation, environmental management, climate resilience, land use, and economic planning.

The review focused on identifying policy coherence, implementation challenges, gaps, outdated provisions, and opportunities for aligning national frameworks with emerging biodiversity financing needs, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and other Rio Conventions. The following list summarizes key national policies, laws, and regulations relevant to biodiversity finance and conservation in Namibia.

National Cross-Sectoral Frameworks:

- Namibia Vision 2030 (2004)
- National Development Plans (NDPs)
- Harambee Prosperity Plans I & II (2016–2025)
- Green Economy Strategy (2017)
- Climate Change Policy and Strategy (2011)

Biodiversity and Environment-Specific Frameworks:

- Environmental Management Act (EMA) (2007)

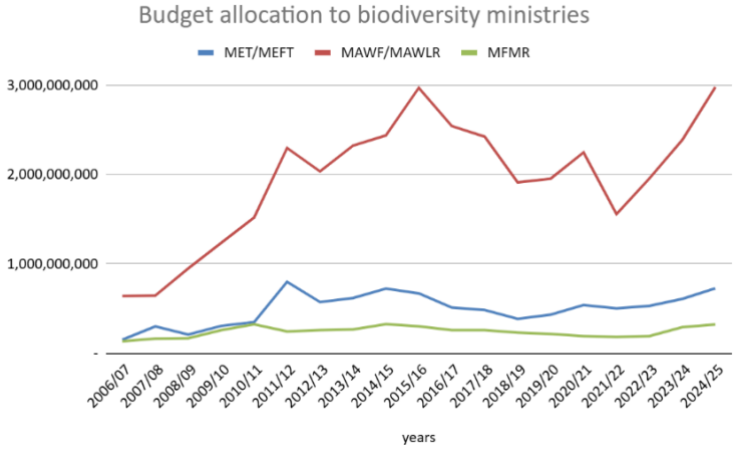
- Parks and Wildlife Management Bill (Draft) (Ongoing)
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP2 & Draft NBSAP3) (2013–2022 / 2024+)
- Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) Regulations (2017)
- Forest Act (2001)
- National Policy on Protected Areas and Wildlife Management (2013)

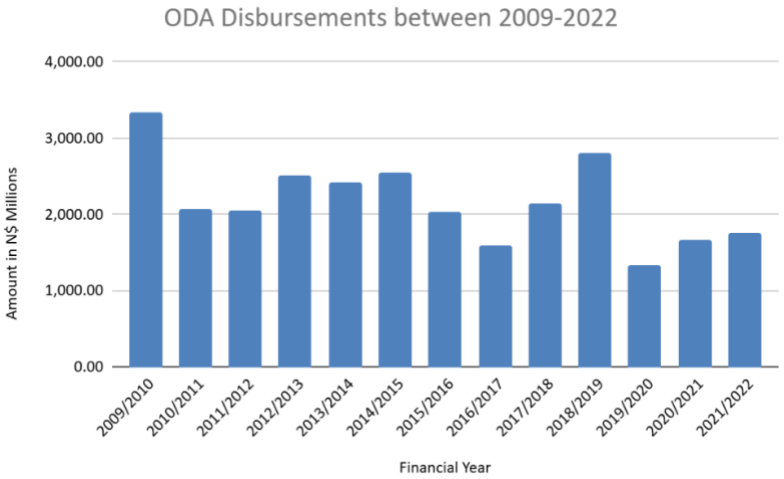
Sectoral Policies with Biodiversity Implications:
- Agricultural Policy (1995, review underway)
- Rangeland Management Policy (2012)
- Water Resources Management Act (2013)
- Fisheries Policy & Marine Resources Act (2000)
- Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act (1992, under review)
- Energy Policy (2017)
- Tourism Policy (2008)

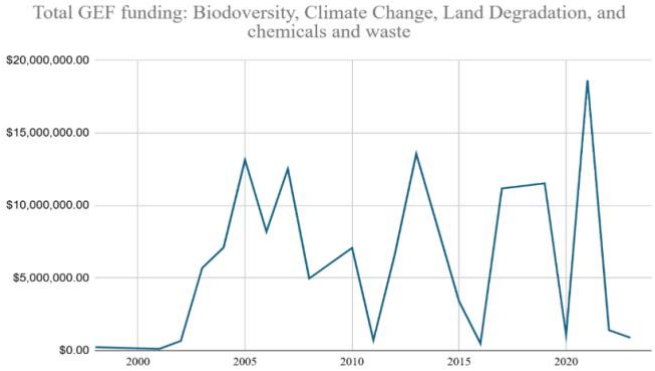
Fiscal and Economic Instruments:
- Environmental Levies (e.g., plastic bags, vehicles)
- State Budget via Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF)
- Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) Act

8.3 Detailed list of all revenues inventoried

The biodiversity finance revenue streams identified and inventoried span a variety of sources, including public budgets, donor funds, private sector investments, and innovative financing mechanisms. These revenues contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in Namibia. The figures and table overleaf provide an overview of the main biodiversity finance revenue streams in Namibia. They illustrate the relative contributions of public budget allocations, official development assistance (ODA), and donor funding over time, as well as the total Global Environment Facility (GEF) support covering biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, and chemicals and waste. These visualizations highlight the scale, trends, and diversity of financing mechanisms that support biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in the country.







KfW Financial Cooperation (FC) Projects in Namibia	**Amount (EUR)**	**Timeline / Status**
Support to Namibia National Parks Programme (NamParks)	29.3 million	2018 – Dec 2025
Support to Namibia National Parks Programme (NamParks), Bridge Funding	4 million	Started Feb 2025
"Poverty-Orientated Support to Community Conservation in Namibia" Programme (CCFN)	19 million	2020 – Mar 2026
Establishment of a Sustainable Financing Mechanism for Namibia's State-Protected Areas	3 million	Started Feb 2025
Solid Waste Management in Namibia's Protected Areas	5 million	Ongoing
Integrated Wildlife Protection Management Programme	15 million	2020 – Mar 2026

Financial Support by GIZ between 2019 to 2026	Amount (EUR)	Timeline / Status
Climate Change and Inclusive Use of Natural Resources (CCIU) funded by Germany and BMZ	16.5 Million	2021 – 2028
Blue Benguela Current Action funded by Germany, BMZ and EU	12 Million	2024 –2028
Bio Innovation in Africa funded by Germany, BMZ and EU	2.7 Million	2019 – 2025
Strengthening the National Implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (NBSAP) funded by BMZ Norway and NORAD	1.3 Million	2023 – 2026
Biodiversity Economy in landscapes funded by Germany	5 Million	2019 – 2024
Utilising bush biomass for economic and ecological benefits (III) funded by Germany	2.5 Million	2022 – 2024
Competitive and Climate-resilient Agriculture and Food Security (F4R)	9.96 Million	2020 –2025
AgriPV – Sustainable Use of Agri-Photovoltaic	3.45 Million	2022 – 2026
Cooling Programme for Southern Africa (CooPSA) funded by BMZ	300 000	2024 – 2026

Portfolio GIZ Namibia (June 2025)

CORE TOPICS

Management of Natural Resources

Climate Change and Inclusive Use of Natural Resources (CCIU)
Klemens Riha
01/2021 – 12/2028
EUR 7,500,000 (BMZ) / 3,870,000 (EU)
MEFT

Competitive and Climate-resilient Agriculture and Food Security (F4R)
Tino Hess
10/2020 – 09/2025
EUR 9,961,500
MAFWLR

Blue Benguela Current Action
Roman Sorgenfrei
06/2024 – 03/2028
EUR 1,000,000 (BMZ) / 11,000,000 (EU)
BCC

AgriPV – Sustainable Use of Agri-Photovoltaic
Tino Hess
10/2022 – 06/2026
EUR 3,450,000

BioInnovation in Africa
Nicole Botha
01/2019 – 12/2025
EUR 2,700,000

Strenghtening the National Implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (NBSAP)
Nicole Botha
10/2023 – 06/2026
EUR 900,00 (BMZ) / 400,000 NORAD (Norway)

Cooling Programme for Southern Africa (CooPSA)
Nicole Botha
05/2024 – 12/2026
EUR 300,000 (BMZ)
MEFT

Renewable Energy

Namibian-German Green Hydrogen Cooperatio (Climate and Energy Partnership)
Simon Inauen
06/2024 – 12/2026
EUR 648,964 (BMWK)
MIME

GET.transform
Simon Inauen
08/2023 – 12/2026
EUR 1,400,000 (BMZ) / 1,300,000 (EU)
MIME

Green Hydrogen Business Alliance (H2BA)
Simon Inauen
01/2025- 12/2026
EUR 250,000 MIME

Support to the Establishment of the Namibian Green Hydrogen (GH2) Programme
Simon Inauen
06/2024 – 12/2025
EUR 5,109,544 (BMWK)
MIME

International Hydrogen Ramp-up Programme II (H2UPPP)
Simon Inauen
01/2025 – 12/2026
EUR 228,760 (BMWK)
MIME

Private Sector & Financial System Development

Promotion of Business Advisory and Economi Transformation Services II (ProBATS II)
Christoph Oldenburg
01/2023 – 12/2025
EUR 6,000,000
MoF

Promotion of SME Development (ProSME)
Henning Wahlers
07/2024 – 06/2027
EUR 2,000,000
NPC

Performance Management of Public Enterprise (PMPE)
Ralf Panse
06/2022 – 10/2025
EUR 2,500,000
MoF

Technical Education and Vocational Training

Promotion of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ProTVET III)
Jerry Beukes
07/2022 – 12/2025
EUR 8,303,500 (BMZ) / 995,000 (EU)
MEIYSAC

Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Development

Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Development II (ISUD)
Thomas Hänert
01/2024 – 06/2026
EUR 6,000,000
MURD

Integrated Urban Development in Lüderitz and Aus (ILA)
Zeno Pack
06/2024 – 05/2027
EUR 5,000,000
MURD

Cross-cutting

Sustainable Development Goals Initiative III (SDG III)
Anna Auala
07/2024 – 12/2027
EUR 4,000,000
NPC

Partnership Preventing Gender-Based Violence in Southern Africa (PfP II)
Monica Perez-Olea
01/2023 – 11/2025
EUR 1,800,000
MGECW

9. GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED

Term	Definition
Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) Regulations (2017)	Legal framework ensuring fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, in line with the Nagoya Protocol.
Agri-Environment Schemes	Programmes or subsidies that incentivize farmers to adopt biodiversity-positive or ecosystem-friendly practices, such as bush thinning or rangeland restoration.
Biodiversity	The variety of life in all its forms, including ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity, and the ecological processes that sustain them.
Biodiversity Credits	Financial instruments that assign value to biodiversity outcomes, enabling trading or use as offsets for development impacts.
Biodiversity Finance	Mechanisms, policies, and strategies to mobilize, allocate, and manage financial resources for conservation, sustainable use, and ecosystem management.
Biodiversity Management	The planning, implementation, and monitoring of actions to conserve, restore, or sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystem services.
Biodiversity Offsets	Measures requiring developers to compensate for biodiversity loss by restoring, protecting, or enhancing biodiversity elsewhere to achieve "no net loss" or net gain.
BIOFIN Process (Biodiversity Finance Initiative)	UNDP-led initiative that supports countries in assessing biodiversity finance needs, gaps, and opportunities, and designing strategies to mobilize resources.
Carbon Markets / REDD+ Initiatives	Market-based mechanisms that generate revenue from carbon sequestration or avoided deforestation, often linked to biodiversity co-benefits.
CBNRM (Community-Based Natural Resource Management)	Programmes enabling communities to manage natural resources sustainably while deriving economic benefits from conservation, including tourism and hunting concessions.
CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity)	International treaty aimed at the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.
Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)	Non-governmental actors representing public interests in environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, advocacy, and policy development.
Climate Change Policy and Strategy (2011)	National framework guiding Namibia's adaptation and mitigation measures, relevant to biodiversity resilience and ecosystem management.
Conservation Reinvestment	Mechanism where revenue from tourism, hunting, or other natural resource use is reinvested into conservation initiatives, often linked to MEFT programs.
Cross-Sectoral Policy Coherence	Alignment of policies, strategies, and regulations across different sectors to ensure consistent support for biodiversity and ecosystem goals.
Development Partners	International or regional organizations that provide technical or financial support for biodiversity, environmental management, and climate adaptation initiatives.

Term	Definition
Draft NBSAP3 (National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2024+)	Updated national biodiversity strategy outlining priorities, finance mechanisms, and actions aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) Act	Legislation establishing the EIF, which mobilizes and allocates funds for biodiversity, ecosystem management, and climate-related projects.
Environmental Levies	Fiscal instruments such as park entrance fees, hunting permits, or vehicle/packaging charges designed to generate revenue for biodiversity and environmental management.
Environmental Management Act (EMA) (2007)	The primary legal framework governing environmental protection, sustainable resource use, and biodiversity conservation in Namibia.
Environmental Offsets / EIA-linked Compensation Mechanisms	Tools to mitigate negative biodiversity impacts from development projects by compensatory actions, often included in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).
Feasibility and Design Studies	Technical, financial, and legal assessments conducted to evaluate priority biodiversity finance instruments before implementation or scaling.
Fiscal and Economic Instruments	Tools to mobilize funding for biodiversity, including taxes, levies, budget allocations, green bonds, and other financial mechanisms.
Green Economy Strategy (2017)	National plan promoting sustainable economic growth while preserving ecosystems and biodiversity.
Green Taxes / Environmental Taxes	Levies applied to economic activities (e.g., fuel, tourism, air travel) to generate funds for conservation or incentivize environmentally responsible behaviour.
Harambee Prosperity Plans I & II (2016–2025)	Policy frameworks focused on national development priorities, integrating environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation.
Integrated Regional Land Use Plans (IRLUPs)	Cross-sectoral planning instruments designed to guide sustainable land management and mainstream biodiversity into development planning.
Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF)	Government fiscal planning tool used to allocate resources across sectors, including biodiversity and natural resource management.
MEFT (Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism)	Lead agency for biodiversity conservation, policy development, protected area management, and coordination of biodiversity finance initiatives.
Mendelow's Matrix	Analytical tool to classify stakeholders based on their level of interest and influence, guiding engagement and participation strategies.
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (M&E)	Processes to track progress, assess effectiveness, and inform decision-making for biodiversity initiatives and finance mechanisms.
National Biodiversity Coordination Taskforce	Proposed inter-ministerial body to harmonize biodiversity policies, oversee financing, and strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration.
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP2, 2013–2022)	Previous national biodiversity plan guiding conservation priorities, finance, and policy alignment.
National Cross-Sectoral Frameworks	Broad national plans, including Vision 2030 and NDPs, that provide overarching guidance for sectoral development while influencing biodiversity priorities.
National Planning Commission (NPC)	Government entity responsible for integrating biodiversity into national development strategies, coordinating donor engagement, and monitoring finance outcomes.
ODA (Official Development Assistance)	Funding provided by external donors or development partners to support biodiversity, environmental management, and related projects.

Term	Definition
Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)	Market-based mechanism that compensates stakeholders for maintaining or enhancing ecosystem services such as water regulation, carbon sequestration, or biodiversity conservation.
Policy and Institutional Review	Assessment of laws, regulations, and institutions to determine how effectively they enable biodiversity financing and conservation goals.
Private Sector Stakeholders	Businesses and investors with potential to contribute to biodiversity-friendly practices and finance mechanisms, including CSR and ESG-linked investments.
Public Budget / State Budget	Government funding allocated to biodiversity conservation, environmental management, and related programs.
Research and Academic Institutions	Universities and research centres providing data, training, and policy support to inform biodiversity management and finance decisions.
Revenue Streams for Biodiversity Finance	Sources of funding for conservation, including public allocations, donor funds, private sector investments, and innovative financial instruments.
Stakeholder Engagement	Structured approach to consulting and involving relevant actors in biodiversity policy, finance, and conservation planning to ensure inclusive, transparent, and sustainable outcomes.
Structured Stakeholder Engagement (UNDP & GEF Framework)	A recognized approach ensuring meaningful participation of diverse stakeholders in environmental and biodiversity decision-making.
Tourism Policy (2008)	Sectoral policy influencing sustainable tourism development, revenue generation, and conservation-compatible investments.
UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)	International treaty focused on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and finance, with relevance to ecosystem management and biodiversity resilience.
Vision 2030 (2004)	Long-term national development framework guiding socio-economic priorities, sustainable development, and biodiversity conservation.
Wildlife Credits	Financial instruments assigning value to wildlife conservation outcomes, enabling private sector or donor investment.
CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)	International agreement regulating the trade of endangered species to ensure their survival, supporting biodiversity management and conservation objectives.

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