



Supporting Sustainable Development in Namibia through the Synergistic Implementation of the Three Rio Conventions

Namibia Three Rio Conventions Strategy and Roadmap



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Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDI	Capacity Development Initiative
CEPA	Community, Education and Public Awareness
COP	Conference of Parties
CPPP	Country Pilot Partnership Programme
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DEAF	Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry
EIF	Environmental Investment Fund
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GSP	Global Support Programme
HPP	Harambee Prosperity Plan
IEG	International Environmental Governance
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined contributions
INSAP-CC	Integrated National Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change
ITCC	Inter-sectoral Technical Working Groups on Climate Change
JLG	Joint Liaison Group
MAWRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MAWLR	Ministry of Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Land Reform
MURD	Ministry of Urban and Rural Development
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NAP	National Action Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
NAPCOD	Namibia Programme to Combat Desertification
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NC	National Communications
NCCC	Namibia Climate Change Committee
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NCCSAP	National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NDC	National Determined Contributions
NDP	National Development Plan
NPC	National Planning Commission

NSA	National Statistics Agency
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDAC	Sustainable Development Advisory Council
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLM-SC	Sustainable Land Management Steering Committee
UNCCD	United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification
UNCSD	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VNR	Voluntary National Review

Executive summary

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) in Namibia coordinates the implementation of the three Three Rio Conventions (*the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity*) and recognises that their implementation requires concerted action beyond sectoral boundaries. To explore implementation synergies the MEFT convened a national stakeholder consultation workshop in May 2019. This draft Three Rio Conventions Strategy and Roadmap is the outcome of the workshop discussions. The purpose of the strategy is to promote the coherent implementation of the three Three Rio Conventions in close alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and Nationally Determined Contributions in Namibia. The aim is to enhance efficiency and effectiveness and ideally creating synergies, while also maximizing socio-economic benefits.

Following a situational analysis on the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in Namibia, the Strategy and Roadmap includes:

- (1) information on challenges identified for the coherent implementation of the Three Rio Conventions,
- (2) opportunities and measures to address these challenges, and, most importantly, and
- (3) a list of key challenges and correspondent response measures prioritized by relevant stakeholders for action.

The workshop stakeholders also identified possible investment programmes or projects that can be adapted to address the objectives of the three Three Rio Conventions, as well as a number of pilot measures to proceed with this “Rio proofing”.

Key recommendations from the stakeholder consultations for further consideration by MEFT include:

- Strengthening of the institutional set up to develop, monitor and review Rio Convention implementation in an effective and coherent manner;
- Enhancing the national knowledge base for better understanding the interlinkages and synergies among the three Three Rio Conventions;
- Systematic mainstreaming of key elements of the Three Rio Conventions in national policies across sectors (e.g. NDP6 and Coastal Policy) and promoting cross-sectoral responsibility for implementation;
- Developing a common data repository for the Three Rio Conventions to facilitate access to information, information sharing and reporting;
- Strengthening the EIF to better coordinate the development of joint or integrated funding proposals to mobilize additional resources for Rio Convention implementation; and
- Rio proofing of current or future projects and programmes related to priority policy issues, such as forest restoration and sustainable forest management, sustainable and climate-smart agriculture and irrigation, and renewable energy.

Stakeholders recommended that any efforts to enhance the coherent implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in Namibia should respond to and build on opportunities presented and articulated in key development frameworks such as Vision 2030 and the 5th National Development Plan.

1 Objective of the strategy

The purpose of this strategy is to promote the coherent implementation of the three Three Rio Conventions in close alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the identified Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in Namibia, in order to enhance efficiency and effectiveness and ideally creating synergies, while simultaneously maximizing socio-economic benefits. The strategy should also:

- Enhance the relevance and visibility of the synergies among the Three Rio Conventions, and with that facilitate mainstreaming, in the light of the SDGs, and especially also in the context of the development of the new National Development Plan (NDP6);
- Pave the way forward to develop meaningful cross-sectoral investment programmes that can be implemented in Namibia which address the goals, objectives and targets of all the three Three Rio Conventions;
- Provide for a framework that would allow for policy recommendations to align or how to handle current contradictions; and
- Create an understanding how new mechanisms in Namibia can work for integrated environmental management.

2 Background and Introduction

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are a key part of International Environmental Governance (IEG), providing countries with space to convene and produce overarching global plans and strategies to guide coordinated national actions to protect the environment and sustainably use its resources. However, the rapid increase in the number of MEAs in past decades has caused concern that states may lack the capacity to implement the numerous environmental obligations and that there might be duplication of efforts¹. As a result, efforts for at least the last two decades have been made to enhance **cooperation and collaboration among MEAs** (Box 1). Also the outcome document of the 2012 Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), *The Future we Want*, encouraged the parties of MEAs to consider further measures to promote policy coherence, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance coordination and cooperation among the MEAs (paragraph 89)².

Steps to enhance cooperation and collaboration among MEAs have mainly focused on (thematic) clusters of conventions, including the three Three Rio Conventions: The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Underpinning the three Three Rio Conventions is the common objective of contributing to **sustainable development**, as climate change, biodiversity loss and desertification are major factors which threaten countries' development prospects. In this respect, the conventions contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs.³ (Figure 1).

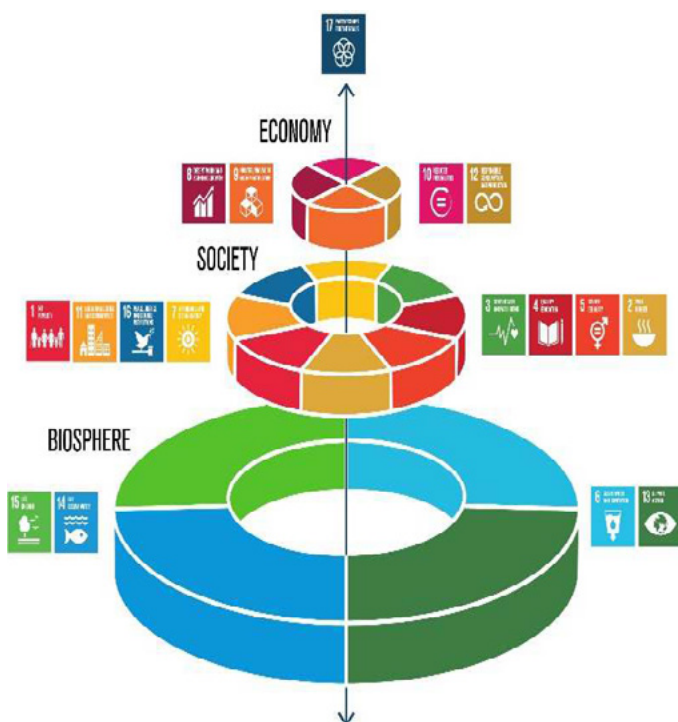


Figure 1: The biosphere foundation for global sustainability. (Credit: Azote Images for Stockholm Resilience Centre)

1 UNEP (2015). Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya.

2 UN General Assembly (2012). Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2012. [Online]. Available from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E [Accessed: 26 February 2015]

3 UN (2015) Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>.

Namibia is Party to the three Three Rio Conventions and fully committed to implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, as also demonstrated through the submission of a Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2018.⁴ To fulfil the international commitments towards the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions, Namibia has put in place an **institutional structure to guide, oversee and monitor national implementation of each convention**. Currently, implementation is guided by:

- The National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2020 (NCCSAP);
- Namibia's Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2022 (NBSAP2); and
- The Third National Action Programme for Namibia to implement the UNCCD 2014-2024 (NAP3).

Achievements and challenges are regularly being reported to each Rio Convention in line with reporting requirements. Most recently, Namibia submitted its sixth national report to CBD.

Namibia also established a **National Determined Contribution (NDC) Partnership Plan** to deliver on its Paris Agreement commitments, building on progress already made through its existing climate plans and policies. The Partnership Plan connects international resources for climate action to priority areas set by the government for implementing its NDC, and builds a community around climate action in the country. The priority areas outlined in the Plan include:

- developing better framework conditions for effective climate change governance;
- strengthening financing of projects that help reduce emissions, and enhancing the country's resilience against the effects of climate change;
- tracking progress towards emission reduction targets; and
- strengthening coordination across national and international stakeholders to fast track decisions and interagency collaboration.⁵

The institutionalization of the SDGs has been well executed as embedded in the **Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5)**⁶, and the corresponding accelerating tool, the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) 2016-2020. The NDP5 focuses on Economic Progression; Social Transformation; Environmental Sustainability; and Good Governance which accordingly takes into account the SDGs' pillars of People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnership. Many sector plans are also beginning to integrate SDGs. Further, a pre-existing national structure has been re-adopted to coordinate the implementation of the SDGs and to ensure that an "all of government approach" to SDGs and a Roadmap for their rollout has been internalized.

The **Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)** in Namibia coordinates the implementation of the three Three Rio Conventions and recognises that their implementation requires concerted action beyond sectoral boundaries. This approach ideally creates coherence and synergies that also benefit progress towards multiple SDGs. The aim is therefore to develop a Three Rio Conventions Strategy and Action Plan for Namibia to enhance the coherent and effective implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in a manner that contributes to the attainment of the SDGs. The methodology for the development of this strategy can be found in **Annex 1**.

Box 1: Key terms related to cooperation

Coordination: the organization of the different elements of a complex body or activity so as to enable them to work together effectively and without duplication (within an organization or among organizations/ different actors)

Collaboration: working with someone to produce a discrete output

Cooperation: working together towards a common aim or objective

Synergies: linking processes in a way that increases the effects of the sum of the joint activities beyond the sum of individual activities, and thus making efforts more effective and efficient

Coherent implementation: implementing the Three Rio Conventions in a consistent manner as a whole

⁴ Government of Namibia (2018) Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals: Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2018. Government of Namibia, Windhoek. Available at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19880New_Version_Full_Voluntary_National_Review_2018_single_1_Report.pdf.

⁵ NDC Partnership members that pledged to support Namibia's Partnership Plan include the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the European Commission (EC), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

⁶ The Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) is the 5th NDP in the series of a total of seven (7) National Development Plans that are to implement and achieve the objectives and aspirations of Namibia's long term vision (Vision 2030). In sequence, NDP5 will be the third five-year implementation vehicle towards VISION 2030. NDP5 will be implemented from the financial year 2017/18 up until 2021/22.

3 Situation analysis

3.1 The global synergy agenda: Cross-cutting issues under the Three Rio Conventions

The rationale for coordination, cooperation and collaboration among the Three Rio Conventions stems from the **interlinkages between the issues** that they address: (1) Climate change can be an important driver of biodiversity loss and desertification; (2) Ecosystem dynamics and patterns of land use can impact the earth's carbon, energy and water cycles and therefore affect climate; and (3) Biodiversity management can contribute to climate change adaptation and to combating desertification. Furthermore, measures undertaken to implement commitments under one convention may have consequences for the implementation of other commitments in different conventions. (Figure 2)

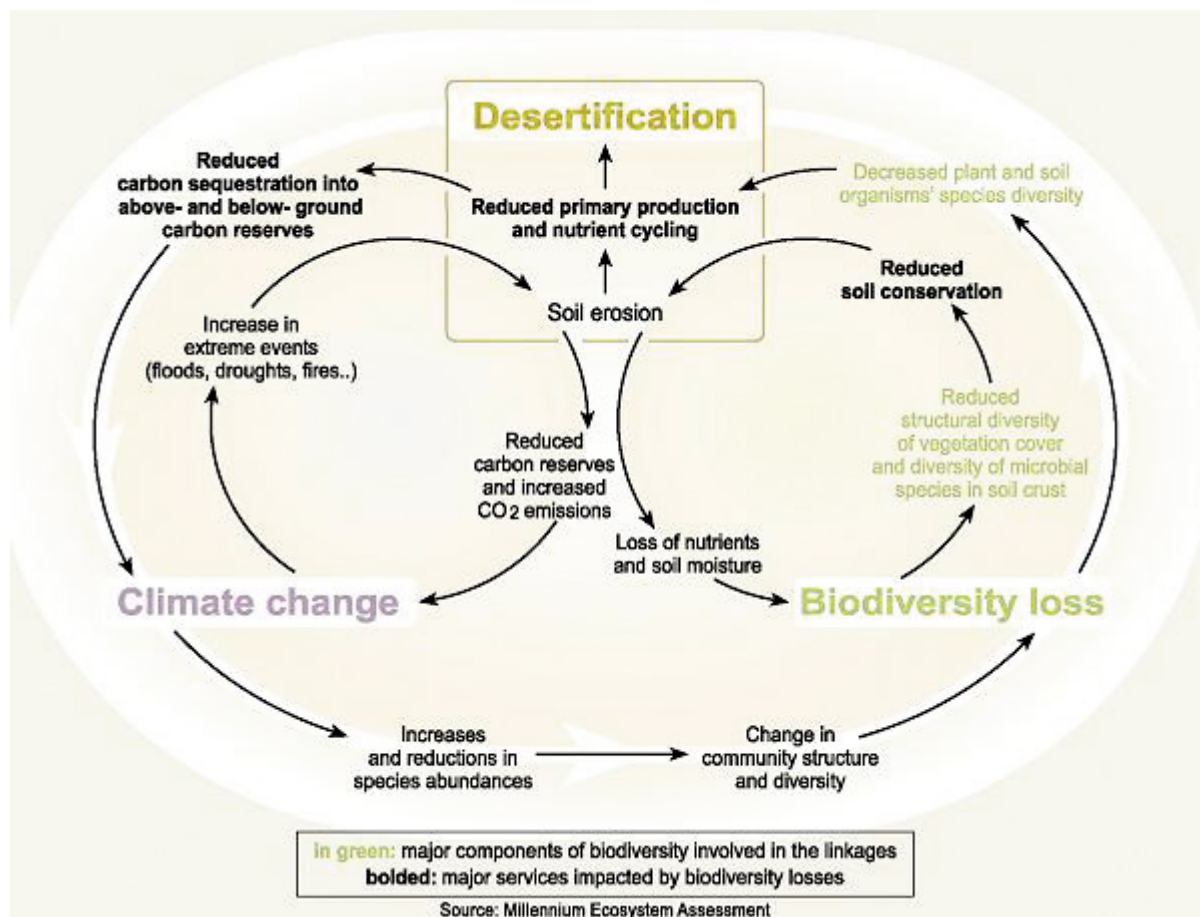


Figure 2: Linkages and feedback loops among desertification, climate change and biodiversity loss

Each of the Conferences of the Parties (COP) to the Three Rio Conventions has underlined the need for enhanced collaboration among the conventions. Noting the distinct mandates and independent status of each convention, the need for improved cooperation among the Three Rio Conventions has been recognized as a means to capture synergy, reduce areas of potential conflicts between activities taken by Parties to fulfil the provisions under each agreement, avoid duplication of efforts, and use resources more efficiently. In the case of the UNCCD, encouragement to coordinate activities among the three conventions is even built in to the text of the Convention itself (Article 8.1). In addition, the three conventions share a number of cross-sectoral themes, such as those relating to research and monitoring, information exchange, reporting, technology transfer, capacity-building, financial resources, and public awareness.

Cooperation among the Three Rio Conventions may occur at various levels – between the respective convention bodies, between the convention secretariats (see e.g. Box 2: Joint publications by the Rio Convention Secretariats), and at the national or local levels. Thereby, cooperation at the local level has frequently been highlighted as being particularly relevant for fostering synergy among the conventions, because it is at this level that implementation of the conventions occurs.

The COPs and their subsidiary bodies of the Three Rio Conventions have already identified a number of elements of and modalities for cooperation. Further, a key mechanism to foster cooperation and synergies among the Rio Convention is the **Joint Liaison Group (JLG)**. Established in 2001 as an informal forum for exchanging information, and in order to enhance coordination between the three conventions and explore options for further cooperation; it comprises the Executive Secretaries of the respective secretariats, officers of the respective subsidiary bodies and other members of the convention secretariats. Each of the COPs of the three conventions has encouraged the JLG to facilitate cooperation at the national and international levels, to identify possible areas of joint activities, and to enhance coordination.

Further, the United Nations General Assembly, at its 57th and 58th sessions, took note of the ongoing work of the JLG and further encouraged continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats while respecting their independent legal status.

In sum, options for cooperation and collaboration have been explored in several meetings and documents, and a number of collaborative activities are already underway. With respect to the **national level**, identified areas for cooperation and collaboration include:

1. Ensuring complementarity in the elaboration and implementation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) under the CBD, the national action programmes (NAPs) of the UNCCD, and the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) for least developed countries of the UNFCCC;
2. Collaboration among national focal points;
3. Joint capacity-building activities, including training, and local, national and regional workshops to promote synergy in implementation;
4. Case studies on interlinkages;
5. Facilitation of exchange of information and experience, including improving inter-accessibility of available web-based data;
6. Cooperation in communication, education and public awareness programmes;
7. Cooperation in the development of advice, methodologies and tools;
8. Pilot projects that promote synergy at the national level; and
9. Development of methodologies and tools that cut across the conventions, for example for assessing impacts and risks of climate change adaptation and mitigation activities for biodiversity and land degradation.⁷

A key mechanism to raise awareness and share information about the latest practices and scientific findings on the co-benefits that can be realized through implementation of the three Three Rio Conventions is the **Three Rio Conventions Pavilion**. The Pavilion is a collaborative effort between the Secretariats of the three Three Rio Conventions and the Global Environment Facility, in addition to a growing list of other global and local partners, and it regularly organizes events in the margins of the COPs of the Three Rio Conventions.⁸

Of key importance in promoting cooperation and synergies among the Three Rio Conventions was also a strategic partnership launched in the late 1990s between the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** Secretariat and UNDP, which led to the creation of the Capacity Development Initiative (CDI). With a focus on meeting and sustaining global environmental objectives, as framed by the Three Rio Conventions on biodiversity, climate change, and desertification and drought, the CDI set the stage for the Global Environment Facility's Strategic Approach to Enhance Capacity Building in 2003. This led to the creation of **National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSA)**, which are locally driven tools that help policymakers pinpoint the challenges that continue to complicate commitments to global environmental objectives. To support countries' NCSA, a Global Support Programme (GSP) was established in 2005 and jointly implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). As of 2010, 153 countries received funding to implement NCSA (including Namibia which completed its NCSA in 2004/5⁹), and the analysis of the 119 NCSA Final Reports and Action Plans yielded insights and lessons from countries' quest to meet global environmental commitments¹⁰. Based on the NCSA prioritization process, a number of follow-up projects were developed under the 5th replenishment period of the GEF (GEF-5) and GEF-6, including to update NCSA to prepare a national strategy, action plan, an/or communicate national information on achievements and priorities under the Three Rio Conventions (as GEF Enabling Activity).

Of high relevance to the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions is also the comprehensive system for measuring and reporting official development assistance (ODA), developed by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (**OECD DAC**).¹¹ The system includes the so-called "**Rio markers**" to track bilateral donors' aid activities that contribute to the objectives of the three Three Rio Conventions of 1992 on biodiversity, climate change and desertification. With respect to climate change, the climate markers have been used to collect information on mitigation-related aid since 1998. The adaptation marker is newer and reporting for OECD DAC members started in 2011, including available data from 2010.

⁷ For more information: <https://www.cbd.int/rio/>.

⁸ For more information: <http://www.riopavilion.org/>.

⁹ MEFT (2005). Namibia's NCSA. Final NCSA report. Windhoek, Namibia.

¹⁰ UNDP, UNEP, GEF (2010). National Capacity Self-Assessments. Results and Lessons Learned for Global Environmental Sustainability. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York, USA.

¹¹ OECD (2002). The DAC Guidelines: Integrating the Three Rio Conventions into Development Co-operation. Paris, France.

Box 2: The Three Rio Conventions Joint Publications

1. Action on **Adaptation**: https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/rio_20_adaptation_brochure.pdf
2. Action on **Forests**: https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/rio_20_forests_brochure.pdf
3. Action on **Gender**: https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/roi_20_gender_brochure.pdf

3.2 The case of Namibia

3.2.1 The SDGs and environmental management

Namibia has a diverse legal and policy landscape covering many important national and sector issues and generally favourable to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, at least at a conceptual level.

3.2.1.1 The legal and policy framework

In Namibia, the protection and management of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources is a **constitutional imperative**. Article 95(l) stipulates that the state shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting policies which include “*the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilisation of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians...*” Furthermore, Article 91(c) stipulates that one of the functions of the Ombudsman is “*the duty to investigate complaints concerning the over utilisation of living natural resources, the irrational exploitation of non-renewable resources, the degradation and destruction of ecosystems and failure to protect the beauty and character of Namibia*”. Further, Article 144 of the Namibian Constitution incorporates international law as law of the land, without the need for a legislative act.

Further, Namibia has adopted many laws and policies that are relevant – directly or indirectly – to the SDGs, environmental issues and Three Rio Conventions’ objectives (**Annex 2 and 3**). In particular, Namibia enacted the **Environmental Management Act (EMA)**, 2007 (No. 7 of 2007) administered by the Directorate of Environmental Affairs (DEAF) under MEFT. The Act is operational since 2012. Its main objective is to ensure that significant effects of activities on the environment are considered carefully and timely, including through Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA). However, there are no regulations as yet so it is difficult to implement – which weakens the overall situation in Namibia. The Act also calls for the establishment of the Sustainable Development Advisory Council (SDAC) and the appointment of the Environmental Commissioner and environmental officers. The SDAC advises the Minister on issues that promote cooperation and coordination between organs of state, non-governmental organisations, community based organisations, the private sector and funding agencies, on environmental issues relating to sustainable development. It is widely considered to have the potential to be effective, if it would be equipped with a Secretariat and a budget. However, it is criticized by some that the SDAC mandate under EMA has a strong environmental mandate, but not sustainable development issues at large. Further, the current economic conditions in Namibia have led to budget cuts and this is affecting the functioning of many institutions, including SDAC. The Environmental Commissioner advises Government bodies on the preparation of environment plans (SEA), receives and records all applications for environmental clearance certificates, determines whether a particular listed activity requires an environmental assessment, reviews environmental assessment reports, issues environmental clearance certificates and conducts inspections to monitor compliance with the EMA. All activities which need an environmental clearance certificate must follow the Regulations for EIA, which have been made according to Section 56 of EMA. This includes the review of EIA documents by MEFT (reactive role).

Next to EMA, other important legislation of high relevance to the SDGs and environmental management include the 1975 Nature Conservation Ordinance including its 2017 Amendment, which governs conservation of wildlife and protected areas and will in due course be replaced by the Wildlife and Protected Areas management bill that is under way, Namibia’s Forest Act 12 of 2001, the Water Resource Management Act, the Marine Resources Act and Amendment, the Petroleum Acts, and various pieces of legislation dealing with or affecting land use planning (**Annex 3**). It should also be noted that despite in particular the legal influence from South Africa as well as the many legislative steps Namibia has taken since independence to integrate environmental concerns into the post-colonial legal framework, a large number of Namibians still live under indigenous customary law. This is for example reflected in the Traditional Authorities Act, including with regard to nature conservation.¹² With respect to soil conservation the 1969 Soil Conservation Act No. 76 is currently being revised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform as part of the new Conservation of Agricultural Resource Bill. Further, there is no specific piece of Namibian environmental legislation that explicitly addresses climate change. However, in 2012 the Disaster Risk Management Act No. 10 was adopted, and the wide range of policies include the 2011 National Policy on Climate Change.

Of key significance for SDG implementation and environmental management is also **Namibia’s Environment**

¹² For a comprehensive overview of “Environmental Law and Policy in Namibia”, please view the third revised and updated edition of the book with the aforementioned title, Hanns Seidel Foundation (2016), edited by Oliver C. Ruppel and Katharina Ruppel-Schlichting.

Investments Fund (EIF), created by of Parliament (Act 13 of 2001) with the overall aim of supporting individuals, projects and communities that ensure the sustainable use of natural resources including mobilizing financial resources for targeted investments in economic activities that are technologically and environmentally sound and that promote climate-resilient development pathways (see **Annex 7** for an overview of funding mechanisms in Namibia). The EIF was officially launched in 2012 and is currently funded by a Government allocation with the mandates to tap on local conservation fees and environmental levies. Designed to complement Namibia's overall development agenda, the Fund has also been identified as a strategic delivery vehicle for Namibia's international commitments towards various environmental conventions such as the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD and the other relevant conventions, declarations and protocols. The EIF is also the nationally accredited entity for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and is actively mobilising resources through the GCF which help to support achieving the objectives of the Three Rio Conventions, the SDGs and the NDCs. The EIF has managed to mobilize approximately US\$40 million to date.

3.2.1.2 The national development agenda

Namibia's national long-term vision is defined in "Namibia's Vision 2030 – Policy Framework for Long-Term Development (**Vision 2030**)". The Vision 2030, adopted in 2004, highlights the need for sustainable development, highlighting the importance of poverty and inequality reduction, along with the development of natural capital. It acknowledges environmental harm brought on Namibia's biodiversity, fish stocks, grasslands and water supplies and the ingrained segregation and institutional disadvantages built into the social and political systems which are still felt by vulnerable people, organisms and environments.

Vision 2030 is being implemented through a series of 5-year **National Development Plans** (NDP). Namibia's NDP5 (2017- 2022) prioritises sustainability within the economic development agenda and aims at a low-carbon economy. It is complemented through an accelerating tool, the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) 2016-2020. NDP5 commits to ensure sustainable environment and enhance resilience through conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management and climate change. The plan sets out the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources strategies and desired outcomes, which include: (i) Strengthening sustainable land management; (ii) Safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; (iii) Enhancing value addition and the sustainable utilization of biodiversity; and (iv) Sustaining environmental awareness campaign.

In implementing Namibia's national development agenda, Namibia is simultaneously working toward the realization of the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, Africa Agenda 2063 and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)'s Regional Integrated Strategic Development Plan. Namibia recognises the importance of coordination and implementing SDGs within the framework of the NDP5 using the pre-existing three-tier mechanism. This consists of:

- » The Development Partners Forum at the highest level to provide coordination oversight;
- » A multi-stakeholder National Steering Committee composed of senior officials from both government and development partners at implementation level to provide tracking of implementation; and
- » The coordination of all developments pertaining to SDGs, through the NDP5 vehicle, which rests with the National Planning Commission (NPC) as the Secretariat.

The responsibility for the collection of data for analysis and reporting thereof lies with the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA). The monitoring of SDGs' progress, as embedded into the NDP5, remains the principal responsibility of the National Monitoring Evaluation Office in collaboration with the UN Development System Coordination Unit, which necessarily must be kept abreast with all developments pertaining to SDGs as it is ultimately responsible for coordination, review and thereafter reporting. Both the NSA and National Monitoring Evaluation Office are housed under the NPC.

The NPC is the government office responsible for spearheading development in the country hence it is also integral to development and implementation of synergistic actions among the Three Rio Conventions. In this context it should be highlighted that there are plans in Namibia to develop a **Sustainable Development Goals Strategy** (SDGS) led by NPC. The plan will, among other things, act as a tool to raise awareness on SDGs. The process of developing the SDGS will involve many key stakeholders which provides an opportunity to integrate Three Rio Conventions objectives in SDG implementation and, in particular, the development of Three Rio Conventions -relevant national SDG targets. It is worth noting that when key sectors request funding from the NPC, the project identification forms includes a criteria on environment that need to be satisfied. The Namibian Public Procurement Act No. 15 of 2015 also gives preferential treatment in the allocation of procurement contracts to, among other things, Namibian registered entities that "*promote the protection of the environment, maintain ecosystems and sustainable use of natural resources*".

NPC is also carrying out a development finance assessment to assess how much the government, development partners and NGOs are contributing toward environmental issues and identify the finance required, the finance available and the gaps. This work could complement the NDC partnership plan which is mapping different projects addressing Namibia's NDC priorities.

It is essential, that any efforts to enhance the coherent implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in Namibia responds to and builds on opportunities presented and articulated in key development frameworks such as Vision 2030 and NDP5; existing programmes, projects and initiatives and institutional arrangements such as coordination mechanisms and committees. In the past, some of the tools that have been developed to enhance synergies within the Three Rio Conventions in Namibia include the National Poverty Reduction Action Programme/Plan, guidelines on how to mainstreaming biodiversity into the NDP3 and a climate change adaptation tool kit.

3.2.2 The implementation of the Three Rio Conventions – achievements and challenges

Namibia ratified the three Three Rio Conventions, namely UNFCCC in 1995, and CBD and UNCCD in 1997, respectively. To fulfil the international commitments towards the implementation of these conventions, Namibia has integrated issues of relevance to the conventions in its legal and policy framework (**Annex 2 and 3**). The implementation of the Three Rio Conventions, which falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), DEAFs' Division of MEA, is supported by three committees:

- » National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Steering Committee (NBSAP-SC)
- » Namibia Climate Change Committee (NCCC)
- » Sustainable Land Management Steering Committee (SLM-SC)

The mandate of the MEA Division in MEFT is coordination, not implementation, which is the responsibility of different line ministries (Figure 3)¹³. However, stakeholder interviews revealed that many line ministries are not really aware of the roles in the implementation of MEAs. Better communication of roles and responsibilities between MEFT's MEA Division and line ministry will be important to address this challenge.

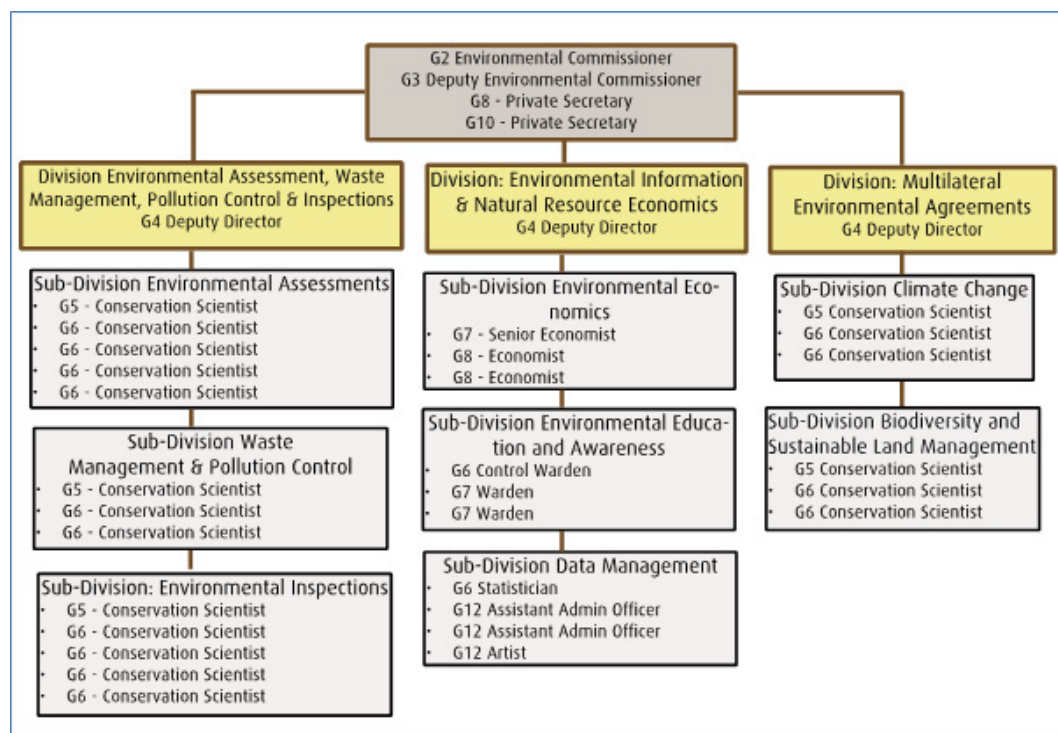


Figure 3: Structure of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry in Namibia.

As part of its coordination mandate, all three convention committees listed above are co-chaired by MEFT. Namibia's NPC - a key stakeholder to many line ministries and government agencies - is a member of the three Rio Committees. In principle, and in accordance with their ToR, all committees meet quarterly. Committee members are funded by their line ministries and in some cases donor funds are used to support Committee members (e.g. to cover travel and accommodation expenses). Further, implementation is guided by strategic planning documents per convention (Table 1). However, it has been a challenge to implement these conventions in a collaborative and synergistic manner. Nevertheless, the need for synergies among the Three Rio Conventions is explicitly highlighted in two national planning documents: Namibia's NBSAP2 (2013-2022), section 3.3.7, and the NAP3 (section 3.5). The NCCSAP only includes a general strategic aim under theme C6: Action plan for International Cooperation and Networking, to "pursue the UN environmental obligations under various conventions particularly UNFCCC."

¹³ For example, the following ministries are responsible for climate change related issues, including UNFCCC implementation: a) mitigation – Ministry of Mines and Energy, NamPower; b) adaptation – Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and Ministry of Health and Social Services; and c) climate proofing – Ministry of Works and Transport and Ministry Urban and Rural Development.

Table 1: Implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in Namibia.

Rio Convention	Date of ratification	National Focal Point	Implementation committee	Strategic Planning document
UNFCCC	1995	Mr. Petrus Muteyauli, Deputy Director, MEFT	Namibia Climate Change Committee (NCCC)	NCCSAP 2013-2020
CBD	1997	Mr. Timoteus Mufeti, Environmental Commissioner, MEFT	NBSAP Steering Committee (NBSAP-SC)	NBSAP2 2013-2022
UNCCD	1997	Mr. Timoteus Mufeti, Environmental Commissioner, MEFT	Sustainable Land Management Steering Committee (SLM-SC)	NAP3 2014-2024

The role of the Committees include, among other things, (1) coordinating activities of the Three Rio Conventions at national level, (2) identifying programmes and projects to implement and sensitize the public about Three Rio Conventions issues in the context of national development in Namibia, (3) support development of policies on how Rio Convention are supposed to be implemented and (4) make parliament aware of any successes and challenges in implementation and inform policy and political debates on Three Rio Conventions issues in parliament. For example, occasionally the MEFT is required to answer questions in parliament around droughts and flood issues. In such cases the three Committees regularly provide briefing notes and information to the Minister. Sometimes the same information is also used in Cabinet meetings. The Committees have also been important in influencing decisions on issues such as on wildlife management and trophy hunting and of course Namibia's position on these issues at the international policy level, i.e. in preparation for CITES and Three Rio Conventions CoPs.

In the following, an overview of national implementation per Rio Convention is provided, including information on the committees tasked with guiding and overseeing implementation, and associated challenges (see **Annex 4** for an overview in table format).

3.2.2.1 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

NBSAP development and implementation

Since its ratification of the CBD, Namibia has developed two NBSAPs and submitted all six national reports to the CBD. The targets of **Namibia's first NBSAP** were not fully achieved due to insufficient capacity for effective implementation as well as lack of an accompanying Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Strategy leading to low awareness levels on the NBSAP. Further, voluntary working groups tasked to formulate and implement specific aspects of the NBSAP failed to last for the duration of the NBSAP and there were several challenges in coordinating and managing cross-cutting issues.

The **country's second NBSAP 2013 – 2022** (NBSAP2) sets out a number of goals, targets, indicators and strategic initiatives. The vision is for Namibia's biodiversity to be healthy and resilient to threats, and for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to be key drivers of poverty alleviation and equitable economic growth, particularly in rural areas. Closely aligned to the CBD Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets (2011-2020) and the SADC Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the **key priorities of NBSAP2** include (1) mainstreaming biodiversity, (2) improving communication of biodiversity-related issues and (3) addressing critical threats to biodiversity. The NBSAP has 129 activities and different ministries as well as Namibian universities and NGOs have been identified as leads on the majority of these activities. It has been estimated that N\$7.4 billion (approximately USD 512 million) is required to implement NBSAP2 throughout its life span. The figure considered both investments made to date on the NBSAP2's implementation up to 2017, as well as the projected costs required from 2018-2022 if the plan is to fully achieve its targets by 2022. It has been estimated that the current funding gap for the implementation of the NBSAP2 until 2022 is N\$2,3 billion (approximately USD 157 million).

NBSAP2 has so far been limited in its implementation in part because organizations, ministries and departments are tasked with a multitude of directives and NBSAP2 has not been emphasized as a priority in itself or as critical to the achievement of broader priorities and directives.

NBSAP2 and synergies among conventions

The different **national focal points to each Convention** were involved in the formulation of NBSAP2 and contributed towards the integration of Convention-specific targets, objectives and commitments into the document. It was expected that this will further create synergies in the monitoring process and national reporting requirements to each Convention. However, this hasn't happened to date due to the absence of a formal mechanism for cooperation as well as overloaded work schedules. NBSAP2 also highlight areas for potential synergies with other Conventions (Figure 4).

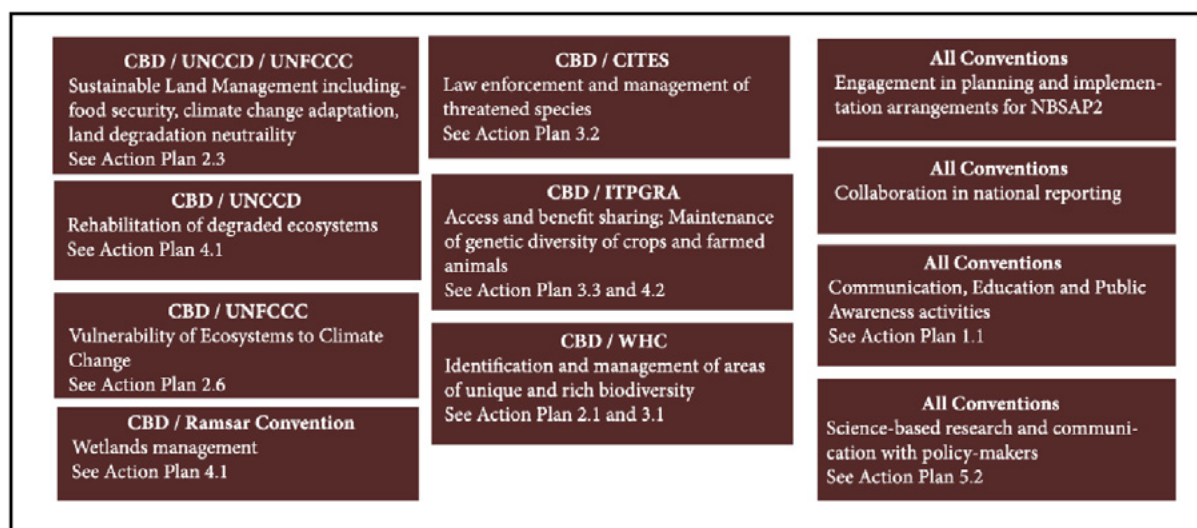


Figure 4: Thematic areas for synergies through NBSAP2. Source: Namibia's NBSAP II, Section 3.3.7 Capitalizing on Synergies with the Rio and other biodiversity-related conventions, Figure 7.

Further, Namibia's 6th National Report to the CBD identifies sound rangeland and sustainable forest management, and good environmental management practices in agriculture, as areas of synergy with Namibia's NCCSAP and NAP3¹⁴.

The work of the NBSAP steering committee

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), through its MEA Division, oversees the monitoring and evaluation of NBSAP2 with the support of the NBSAP2 steering committee, **NBSAP-SC**. The committee is a high level strategic planning, information sharing, problem-solving and coordination platform, comprising representatives from key sectors and institutions¹⁵. However, stakeholder interviews revealed that this is not always the case. The highest rank sitting in NBSAP-SC outside the MEFT is a deputy-director, in the best case; rather a senior or chief level. The different key institutions represented on NBSAP-SC shall report back to the committee and high level stakeholders on an annual basis in terms of their progress and challenges with regard to achieving the targets and strategic goals of NBSAP2¹⁶.

In accordance with its ToR, the NBSAPSC is co-chaired by the Department of Natural Resources Management and Park Management in MEFT and a co-chair of any other line Ministry represented in the Committee. In April 2018 the Ministry of Fisheries handed over the co-chair of the Committee to the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry. The NBSAP-SC set up **working groups or sub-committees on specialized areas** and meets on a quarterly basis to track the progress made by different stakeholders. Periodical reporting by the NBSAP-SC (every three months and annually) has assisted Namibia in establishing the contribution of each agency and sector towards achieving the NBSAP2 targets. A **final evaluation of NBSAP2** will be undertaken in 2020.

Effectiveness of the NBSAP-SC

Stakeholder interviews revealed mixed views on the **effectiveness of the NBSAP-SC** with many praising the committee members as very active, having solid technical expertise and good information exchange during meetings. Other interview partners were rather critical about the work of the NBSAP-SC. Criticism included the lack of ability of members to adequately represent their institutions, partly due to their qualification, but also due to some members present being too junior for the SC. Further it was criticized that that often not much new information is shared or presented

during committee meetings. Also, the Committee is affected by challenges such as (1) non-attendance of meetings; (2) activities of the Committees not seen as a priority by line ministries and other stakeholders; (3) limited understanding of the ToR by some committee members; (4) poor communication between committee members and their deputies/

alternates which undermine the quality of meetings; (5) lack of accountability, in particular since the SC chair is at the same hierarchical level as the focal points/ members; and (6) lack of technical capacity of the secretariat.

14 Government of Namibia (2018b) Sixth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014-2018). Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism in the Republic of Namibia, Windhoek. Available online: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/na-nr-06-en.pdf>.

15 Membership of the committee include government ministries (e.g. Ministries of Environment and Tourism, Urban and Rural Development, Lands and Resettlement, Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Finance, Fisheries and Marine Resources, Foreign Affairs, Youth, National Services, Sport and Culture, Mines and Energy, Trade and Industry, Education, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, National Planning Commission and Office of the Prime Minister); academia and research centres (e.g. University of Namibia, Polytechnic of Namibia, National Commission on Research, Science and Technology, Namibia Nature Foundation, Gobabeb Research Centre and Desert Research Foundation of Namibia); international organisations (e.g. United Nations Development Programme) and state entities/private sector (e.g. Nampower); community organisations and traditional leaders (e.g. Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations, Council of Traditional Leaders) and private sector (e.g. Chamber of Mines); and media (e.g. New Era Newspaper).

16 Government of Namibia (2018b) Sixth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014-2018). Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism in the Republic of Namibia, Windhoek. Available online: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/na-nr-06-en.pdf>.

As a positive example of the work of the NBSAP-SC, interview partners highlighted in particular the preparatory work of the committee for the fourteenth Conference of Parties (CoP) to CBD held in Egypt in November 2018. The Committee organized a special meeting to discuss Namibia's contribution to side events, negotiation positions and roles and responsibilities of the Namibian delegation. Another positive development highlighted from 2018 was the sharing of information from the work of subsidiary bodies of the CBD (e.g. SBSTTA) as part of the standing agenda of the committee meetings. GIZ has also put emphasis in increasing capacity among the NBSAP-SC members, by offering trainings on biodiversity mainstreaming, ecosystem evaluation, and getting the NBSAP-SC involved in the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) process.

3.2.2.2 UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

NAP development and implementation

Namibia has adopted three National Action Programmes (NAP) dedicated to implementing the provisions of the UNCCD. In addition, Namibia has submitted three national reports on the implementation of the UNCCD. For the implementation of the UNCCD during the period 2014-2024, Namibia developed its third National Action Programme (NAP3). The objective of NAP3 is to *“prevent and reverse desertification and land degradation in affected areas and to mitigate the effects of drought in Namibia in support of poverty reduction and environmental sustainability”*¹⁷.

Success stories in implementation of the UNCCD include in particular, that Namibia's work on setting a **LDN target** is very advanced as compared to other countries who participated in the UNCCD led process on LDN. However the approach of the LDN assessment was criticized heavily due to the top-down approach, the lack of adequate data used for the assessment and the interpretation of the findings, which resulted in skewed conclusions.

The Sustainable Land Management Steering Committee

Given the importance of sustainable land management issues to Namibia's development priorities, NAP3 generally has political support and multi institutional support via the national **Sustainable Land Management Steering Committee (SLM-SC)**. The SLM-SC is an advisory and supportive body rather than a decision making body on matters concerning the NAP3 implementation processes and reports to the Environmental Commissioner. The SLM-SC was initiated following UNCCD CoP 11 in 2013, which was hosted by the government of Namibia in Windhoek, including to support the implementation of the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) project, for which Namibia was selected as a pilot country.

Specific tasks of the SLM-SC include a) providing strategic oversight on the implementation of the NAP3 including validation of initiatives and reports thereof, as well as monitoring and evaluation of its implementation. The MEFT serves as the chair and secretariat of the SLM-SC. The SLM-SC is supposed to meet quarterly but has not met as frequently since the closing of the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) project. Currently the members are invited to attend workshops relevant to SLM (e.g. on bush encroachment, Great Green Wall initiative etc.), are asked to submit information for reporting, and the SC gets more active towards to CoPs but in between the SLM-SC has little relevance. Like the NBSAP-SC, the quorum of all SLM-SC's meetings shall be at least 50% of the members of the committee. Membership of the committee include government ministries academia and research centres, international organisations and state entities/private sector (e.g. NamPower and NamWater) (see **Annex 5** for a mapping of committee members)¹⁸ but the SC member list is likely to not be comprehensive as key organisations are not listed or not inclusion of active members (reasons for not being active is in some cases caused by not being invited to the meetings).

Stakeholder interviews revealed that this Committee is also struggling with challenges such as (1) lack of leadership, (2) steering committee fatigue, including non-attendance of meetings, (3) line ministries and other stakeholders not prioritising committee activities, (4) poor quality of meetings due to inadequate preparation by members, (5) poor communication within and across Committees, (6) limited understanding of the ToR, as well as the NAP and implementation challenges (e.g. related to bush encroachment), by some committee members.

3.2.2.3 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The National Climate Change Policy and Action Plans

A **National Climate Change Policy (NCCP)** was developed and approved by Cabinet in 2011 for mainstreaming of **climate change** in the development process. Based on the regulatory and implementation framework provided by the

¹⁷ Government of Namibia (2014) Third National Action Programme for Namibia to Implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification 2014 – 2024. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism of Namibia, Windhoek.

¹⁸ Membership of the committee include government ministries (e.g. Ministries of Environment and Tourism, Urban and Rural Development, Lands and Resettlement, Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Finance, Fisheries and Marine Resources, Foreign Affairs, Youth, National Services, Sport and Culture, Mines and Energy, Trade and Industry, Education, National Planning Commission and Office of the Prime Minister); academia and research centres (e.g. University of Namibia, Polytechnic of Namibia, Gobabeb Research Centre, Namibia Nature Foundation and Desert Research Foundation of Namibia); international organisations (e.g. United Nations Development Programme) and state entities/private sector (e.g. Nampower and Namwater).

NCCP, the government through the MEFT developed, a **Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (NCCSAP)** for the period 2013 to 2020. The NCCSAP was approved by Cabinet of the Republic of Namibia in 2014. The strategy is a cross-sectoral document and it covers themes of mitigation, adaptation and cross cutting issues.

Namibia has also developed its first **Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA)** which focuses on off-grid rural electrification. Furthermore, Namibia submitted its **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)** in 2015 as part of Namibia's commitment to the Paris Agreement of 2015. The INDC it sets out Namibia's action plan for adaptation and mitigation until 2030. It was converted to a **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** in 2016. Under the NDC Partnership, a first draft of the Namibia **NDC Partnership Plan** was completed in October 2018 which provides a comprehensive overview of projects and programs that support the achievement of outputs mapped against the following five outcomes: (1) Policy and institutional framework for Government on climate change are gender responsive; (2) Climate change budgets and investments are gender responsive; (3) Monitoring and Evaluation systems track progress on NDC GHG emissions, adaptation and gender responsive targets; (4) Institutional capacity and coordination strengthened to deliver and increase NDC commitments; and (5) Project financing for NDC implementation accelerated.

As per its obligations under the UNFCCC, Namibia has submitted three **National Communications (NCs)** to the UNFCCC: in 2002, 2011 and 2015. Namibia's third NC lists an extensive range of potential adaptation measures, including on the following sectors: agriculture, tourism and water. MEFT has also developed a country strategy to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which aims to ensure that transformative and economy-wide national project proposals are developed and submitted to the GCF in a coordinated manner. The Environment Investment Fund (EIF) is also the nationally accredited entity for the GCF, and is actively mobilising resources through the GCF which help to support achieving the objectives of the Three Rio Conventions, the SDGs and the NDCs.

The National Climate Change Committee and Working group

The **National Climate Change Committee (NCCC)**, established in 1999, oversees all climate change related activities. The mandate of the NCCC includes: a) leading the development of national positions on climate change issues through dialogue and participation in relevant national and international fora; b) facilitating the approval and implementation of the Integrated National Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change (INSAP-CC); and c) adopting and effecting a strategy to ensure that climate change is included in national development agenda (NDPs and Vision 2030) and is fully integrated within government's resource allocation mechanism (the national budget).

The **Inter-Sectoral Technical Working Groups on Climate Change (ITCC)** provides technical guidance to the NCCC and is responsible for the development of projects and activities. ITCC is also specifically tasked to: a) define the capacity building, institutional and other resource requirements needed to fully implement the strategy and action plan; b) coordinate the preparation of and presentation to the UNFCCC of national communications and other legally mandated documentation; c) ensure Namibia's full participation in Convention mechanisms and other bilateral and multilateral programs and activities. The ITCC consist of members nominated by various inter-sectoral institutions and Project Coordinators or Managers of relevant projects related to climate change issues.

In accordance with the ToR the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) provides the secretariat for the both the NCCC and ITCC. The NCCC operates under the auspices of the MEFT and reports to the Permanent Secretary and the Minister of Environment and Tourism and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Economy and Natural Resources. The Head of the Directorate of DEAF acts as the chairman of the NCCC with the Deputy Director on Climate Change acting as his/her alternate. The Director of Meteorological Services serves as the deputy chair of the NCCC. In 2015 MEFT established a Climate Change Unit. However the Unit is not yet fully staffed and that limits its operations.

3.2.2.4 Common traits and challenges in implementation of the Three Rio Conventions

In general, stakeholder interviews showed that the activities of three Committees are valued by stakeholders and members of the committees. A good example highlighted by interviewees is the NBSAP-SC work in preparation for the CBD CoP 14 in Egypt. It was also confirmed that there are synergies between the work of three Committees in terms of implementation, especially around issues of desertification, drought and floods. A good example for on the ground synergies is also Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM).

Despite the progress and successes in the implementation of the three Three Rio Conventions there are a number of challenges that apply to all three Conventions, many of which only incurred in the last years, i.e. not in the first years of the Committees existence, when senior level government officials regularly attended the meetings. In fact several stakeholders stressed that whereas the work of the Committees was very highly regarded in the beginning, they are today increasingly perceived as a burden. In summary, the following challenges have been identified through literature review and interviews with regard to the implementation of the three Conventions:

1. Institutional arrangements

- Low support for the three committees (NBSAP-SC, SLM-SC and NCCC) from member agencies and line ministries. This leads to limited political influence, in particular the lack of ability to influence the policy agenda of other powerful ministries such as agriculture, mining, trade and fisheries.¹⁹
- Activities of the committees are not part of the job descriptions or roles and responsibilities of its members, i.e. they are not a priority. This is perceived to make the committees less effective as members are generally not obliged to attend meetings. As a result committee members sometimes simply don't show up at meetings or cancel their attendance at the last minute, resulting in some cases in failure to hold a meeting when the quorum required by the ToR is not met.
- Lack of accountability of the steering committee/ steering committee members, including the chair; currently there are no consequences of not fulfilling set targets for the committee and its members, but also not for the individual institutions represented by the steering committee members (unless specific performance agreements have been put in place).
- Members (at least of SLM and NBSAP-SC) are not well familiar with the strategies and related actions and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and have little ownership. Hence the implementation of the strategies happens rather incidentally: In many cases, line ministries and Civil Society Organizations (CSO) are doing their jobs but do not strategically aim for ticking boxes of the Rio Convention strategies.
- CSO or their umbrella organisations are poorly and therefore not adequately represented in the Convention steering committees, given the key role played by CSOs in implementation on the ground. Further, some interview partners regard it as problematic that MEFT is overrepresented at meetings. It has thus been suggested that more emphasis should be put on institutional mapping when defining membership of the SC.
- Disconnect between the SDAC and the committees: The SDAC role is to advise the MEFT, but the question is how, given that SDAC does not consult the Convention committees.
- Weak engagement and coordination amongst stakeholders including uncoordinated implementation of activities related to the three Three Rio Conventions, which is causing overlaps and constraining already limited funding resources.
- Lack of communication between the committees, especially in between meetings. This even extends to members working in the same institution/ organization.
- Operational units in MEFT still operate in silos – while institutional silos give needed structure it takes to break down mental silos or “teach silos to dance” – i.e. the problem is the communication between and amongst divisions in MEFT.
- Lack of continuity of committee membership due to staff turnover and people changing positions within their line ministries. Also lack of communication between substantive committee members and their deputies/ alternates, leading to lack of understanding of the issues discussed.
- Overlapping memberships leading to overloaded work schedules (while of course at the same time also being conducive for strengthening synergies in Three Rio Conventions implementation).
- Membership of the committees often includes junior technical people who don't have much influence in the decision-making process, resulting in a lower political profile of the committees.
- In general it is perceived that the members of the SC are not able to exploit their mandate.

2. Information management and reporting

- Lack of an information management system that is transparent and publicly available.
- Different reporting requirements/formats for the three Three Rio Conventions and no framework for reporting (activities) to all in a harmonised way.
- Line ministries are not reporting on outcomes from project activities with relevance to the Three Rio Conventions.
- Reporting is ad hoc and passively requested by the secretariat, and members are not aware what is relevant. This passive approach might result in underreporting and major gaps.
- There is no information on how data are used or processed, causing a reluctance of members to share data.

¹⁹ An example of the limited committee influence at high levels are issues around quota for fisheries (Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources) and illegal timber extraction in the North -a biodiversity, land degradation and climate change issue. Both responsible ministries are represented in the three Committees, but still the committee doesn't have enough political standing to address these issues.

- There are no data standards, quality control or verification systems in place.
- Data management is perceived to be erratic and the NSA absent.

3. Science-policy interface

- Weak case for Rio synergies made to the Executive Directors in MEFT and other line ministries (lack of evidence presented in an adequate format).
- There is duplication of some of the activities especially around desertification, drought, and climate change issues without making links to all Three Rio Conventions. This means that committees sometimes don't address certain Three Rio Conventions synergy issues even though there are obvious links.²⁰
- Monitoring and evaluation is done only on project-level but not on strategic level that would allow for long-term conclusions on a national level and across the Three Rio Conventions.

4. Capacity (technical and financial)

- Some committee members lack technical skills related to the Three Rio Conventions and their interlinkages and some don't understand the ToR of the convention committees.
- Few members of the steering committees are perceived to understand "the bigger picture" as members focus on their own area of responsibility/ sector and therefore think in silos. This is caused by lack of capacity, including of those entities with a coordinating role (e.g. NPC, Office of the Prime Minister or the office of the president), but also more structural challenges as listed above under *institutional arrangements*.
- Good and best practices on Rio synergies from elsewhere are not being made visible to Executive Directors in MEFT and other line ministries.
- Limited domestic resources and insufficient capacity to both design and implement the necessary interventions.
- Poor funding by national government for programmes and project supporting the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions, including resourcing for the SDAC.
- Competition for resources and budgets between different ministries and divisions within ministries, where sectoral ministries are perceived as competitors rather than collaborators or implementing partners.

5. Strategic Planning

- Weak mandate of national instruments to implement Three Rio Conventions.
- Committee members are too often not familiar with the strategy planning document which guides the work of the committees in implementation of the Three Rio Conventions; this poor ownership is likely caused by the strategic planning documents mostly being developed by external consultants and without adequate stakeholder consultation, including in particular the institutions represented by the committee members. This goes as far as that the responsible entity of an activity according to a strategy is in reality not at all involved in any respective implementation on the ground.
- Lack of prioritisation of individual activities in national instruments for implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in comparison to the NDP.
- Disconnect between projects on the ground and the strategies developed for the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions: There is little awareness on how current projects in Namibia are aligned with the Three Rio Conventions. This results in the implementation of current programs rather incidentally addressing the objectives of the Three Rio Conventions and their corresponding national strategic planning document, but not because they were either designed to (also) achieve relevant targets or awareness of the limitations of the current project designs with respect to the Rio Convention objectives.²¹
- Lack of accountability for the progress of activities and each actor's responsibilities in monitoring and evaluation systems.

4 Opportunities to strengthen the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in Namibia identified via stakeholder interviews

Stakeholder interviews generally showed that synergies in the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions have been

²⁰ For example, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) works on green schemes in the North of the country, focussing on expanding irrigation, but does not adequately address climate change issues or land degradation and drought associated with irrigation.

²¹ For example, with respect to climate change, the Ministry of Agriculture's work on conservation agriculture is focussing on green schemes and irrigation expansion in Northern Namibia, but does not address drought and land degradation issues that could be caused by irrigation, undermining agriculture expansion in the long term.

realized to a certain extent mainly through on the ground activities such as CBNRM, which is considered a success story in Namibia²². However, in some cases these activities may not even have been reported as synergistic actions between the Three Rio Conventions.

There are numerous opportunities to strengthen coordination and cooperation as well as to develop collaborative synergistic actions between UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC in Namibia. These include on-the-ground operationalization actions/activities and instruments that advance the Three Rio Conventions' goals and synergy of processes. Specific opportunities to strengthen the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in Namibia that have been identified through the interviews with key stakeholders can be categorised into institutional arrangements for cooperation, information management and reporting, science-policy interfaces, capacity building (technical and financial) and communication and strategic planning:

1. Institutional arrangements for cooperation

- **Strengthen the Three Rio Conventions committees** (NBSAP-SC, SLM-SC and NCCC) and the SDAC so that they are well resourced to meet regularly and that they are politically valued in terms of their activities and outputs. This could encompass:
 - Give higher priority to cooperation by including activities of the committees in the job descriptions of committee members and make them part of line ministries performance appraisals, in order to avoid that cooperating (and meeting attendance per se) is being sacrificed due to overloaded schedules/ other tasks.
 - Make the activities of the committees part of the work plans of line ministries.²³
 - Clarify the role between chairs and focal persons of the committees and ensure that there is a dedicated appropriate institution overseeing the work of all three steering committees.
 - Use the NDP5 pillar on environmental sustainability as a coordination mechanism for the implementation of the three Three Rio Conventions.
 - Develop a communication strategy supported by a dedicated secretariat or appoint an internal champion in each ministry and for each committees.
 - Invest in team-building and ownership including through members' active involvement in strategy development and joint planning across the committees to improve effectiveness of interventions.
 - Carefully review and update the membership of the committees, including by ensuring an adequate balance across stakeholder groups including CSOs.
 - Ensure continuity of committee members, e.g. by still considering committee members that are transferred within their ministry or change jobs as members of the committees.
 - Update the reporting template used by each committee for their quarterly reporting to integrate the topic of synergies among the Three Rio Conventions.
 - Formalize informal working groups to make them more effective.²⁴
 - Create an informal platform open to all key stakeholders to facilitate information sharing and to enable members to use the platform as a focal group for their projects/ activities in a flexible format
 - Organize social events such as "name day celebrations", excursions, participation at the national parks football championship etc. for NFPs and other key stakeholders engaged in the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions to foster informal communication and information exchange.
- **Restructuring of the institutional arrangements by replacing the three committees with one steering committee** which addresses all the three Conventions and formation of informal thematic technical working meetings which in addition to regular annual meetings (e.g. twice a year for three days as suggested by one interview partner) could have ad-hoc breakfast and lunch meetings to address issues that cannot

²² This includes especially conservancies and community forestry management, integrated natural resources management and regional cooperation projects such as the Benguela Current Commission (Angola, Namibia and South Africa) and the Orange -Senqu River Basin Management (Botswana and Namibia).

²³ Ministries such as the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and the Ministry of Mines and Energy in Namibia have already made activities of the three Committees part of their work plans. This could be rolled out to other line ministries in order to increase the political profile of the committees both within line ministries and generally at national level.

²⁴ Permission is required from the higher office (Director or Permanent Secretary level of line ministries).

be covered during the regular committee meetings. For inspiration of a governance structure with one coordination committee with four sub-committees please view case study 1 from the Philippines or case study 4 from Lesotho on the establishment of a National MEA Coordination Committee in implementation of a National MEA Coordination Strategy (**Annex 9**).

- **Strengthening of inter-ministerial cooperation:**

- Carry out an institutional mapping including the roles of different institutions to demonstrate how they can contribute to the achievement of the Three Rio Conventions and in particular look at what each ministry can bring to the table.
- Encourage MEFT hierarchy to identify and support champions providing energy and leadership on Three Rio Conventions synergies, bring it into the committees and/or SDAC and improve the service delivery of MEFT to other line ministries or sectors.
- MoU between MEFT and other line ministries might help with synergistic actions between the Three Rio Conventions.²⁵

2. Information management and reporting

- Analyse current methods of reporting and identify opportunities for harmonization and streamlining (i.e. operational guidelines to support harmonized reporting).
- Development of common reporting tools and an integrated monitoring and assessment frameworks for activities relevant to the three Conventions (e.g. common indicators for progress) - i.e. harmonisation of monitoring and national reporting processes (aligned with the SDG baseline indicators and reporting process). Thereby, Namibia's monitoring of development programmes (e.g. progress towards the four pillars of the NDP5) provides an excellent opportunity for synergies.
- Strengthen collaboration with the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) to improve the process and quality of systematic collection of relevant data, allowing for improved reporting to the Three Rio Conventions; introduce transparent data processing scheme, quality standards and methods of verification of data.
- Ensure that roles and responsibilities for provision of data and information for reporting are clear and match with the responsibility for implementation of Three Rio Conventions obligations.
- Encourage the secretariats to use a more pro-active approach for reporting, asking members relevant for a certain topic for specific information to avoid missing out on information.
- Create incentives for organisations to align their projects with the Three Rio Conventions and the reporting systems.
- Institutionalizing reporting processes that are currently dependent on consultants.²⁶
- Improvements to the current reporting mechanisms to enhance synergies amongst the Three Rio Conventions could involve getting CSOs more actively involved for increased coverage and high level buy in so that reporting is seen as collaboration between MEFT and CSOs.
- Allow easy access to data and information from other line ministries including through participation in line ministries meetings²⁷, providing incentives (e.g. including names of contributors of reporting data and information on the publication) and regular communication.
- Build a centralized repository at the national level that will allow easy access to and/or storage of data for reporting, in order to adapt to and prepare for the periodicity, e.g. Clearing House Mechanism (CHM). For inspiration on enhancing information systems for integrated MEA implementation, please view case study 3

from Kenya (Annex 9). This could be linked to the Namibia SDG portal and the UNDP Namibia SDG Monitoring Tool. A proposal has already been developed and should be further explored in close collaboration with NSA.

- To address the challenge of scattered data, conduct broad stakeholder consultations (governmental and non-governmental stakeholders) to:
 - Locate the relevant stores of data and information.

²⁵ For example, the MEFT Department of Tourism signed a MoU with the NSA to co-develop Namibia tourism satellite accounts (tourism is a key pillar in NDP5).

²⁶ This would include organizing trainings of working groups on report writing skills and using reporting guidelines. The issue of staff turnover and absences in this context could be addressed by training two persons per ministry to avoid gaps.

²⁷ For example, one MEFT staff member participated in management meetings in the MAWLR and this led to improved relationships.

- Conduct an analysis of national information assets.
- Improve access to this data and information, and enhance information sharing²⁸.
- Build a centralized repository that will allow easy access to and/or storage of data for reporting, e.g. Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) – see above²⁹.
- All of the above can be facilitated through the development of a data collection and management strategy.
- Develop reporting protocols, which e.g. includes guidelines on data collection and dissemination of MEA implementation reports.

3. Science-policy interfaces

- Help MEFT to make a convincing and compelling case for synergies between Three Rio Conventions by highlighting benefits of synergies such as co-financing, resource sharing and improvements in effectiveness.
- Introduce a national long-term monitoring and evaluation system looking at synergies to allow for science-based policy advice across the Three Rio Conventions.
- Include systematic mainstreaming of key elements of the Three Rio Conventions in policy development, revision and implementation (e.g. include biodiversity in the upcoming revision of the Rangeland Management Policy) and in other sectors (e.g. in the agricultural sector). For inspiration for a bottom-up approach to mainstream the Three Rio Conventions at the local development planning process please view case study 1 from the Philippines (*Annex 9*).
- Enhance knowledge base for better understanding of the interlinkages of the issues address by the Three Rio Conventions in order to avoid e.g. negative implications for biodiversity from activities to mitigate climate change.
- Identify entry points to strengthen the science-policy interface (e.g. for needs-based research projects and policy actors to get an overview of the strategic policy contexts of projects).
- Facilitate information and data exchange (e.g. establishment of a central information system supported by a government mandate or use of an existing (global) one) – see the relevant recommendations made under *information management and reporting*.
- Strengthen the funding system to ensure that incentives are provided for policy-relevant research.
- Provide joint input to the development of the Coastal Policy for Namibia (and other opportunity for policy-legislative reform).
- Development of a joint Three Rio Conventions guidance document for the considerations of issues related to three Conventions in EIA and/ or SEA. For inspiration of similar guidelines please view case study 5 from India (*Annex 9*).

4. Capacity building (technical and financial) and communication

- Create a common understanding for key issues pertaining to all Three Rio Conventions in Namibia among steering committee members through in-field experiences and carry out on the ground actions that in tandem advance goals and targets of the three Conventions.³⁰
- Development and implementation of a CEPA strategy on Three Rio Conventions targeting primary schools up to Universities, which can help to motivate a range of stakeholders.³¹
- Communicate Conventions messages (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, other relevant Conventions) in an integrated manner, i.e. use environmental/natural resources management terminology/approaches, including through

the identification of key topics for individual/distinct communication and the promotion of projects that implement provisions of the Conventions.

²⁸ For example through MoUs, including between different government ministries and committees.

²⁹ Including user agreements to standardize data collection process and agreement on responsibility for filling data gaps.

³⁰ Thereby it can be capitalized on the list of recommendations from the GEF funded National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) for Namibia.

³¹ All communication and awareness raising messages need to be tailored because of, for example, different languages and socio-economic and environment context in different by regions. For example, English is the official language but there are more than a 7 other languages in Namibia.

- Strengthen the EIF to better coordinate the development of joint or integrated funding proposals, linking with NPC and bilateral and multilateral donors. The NDC partnership plan could also help to mobilize resources.
- Capitalize on the membership of NPC in all three Convention committees for providing intelligence on sources of funds for implementing the Three Rio Conventions in a synergistic manner.
- Use the Rio markers as a tool to ensure that proposals and concepts that contribute to the Three Rio Conventions can help to attract funding from OECD members.
- Organize trainings across government departments and ministries; this should include educating the Directors of line ministries about the benefits of synergies such as co-financing, resource sharing and improvements in effectiveness.
- Training on the Three Rio Conventions could be offered to committee members to improve their effectiveness and participation during Committee meetings.
- Invest in leadership development and mentoring of technical staff members to understand the interlinkages between the three Conventions and wider impact of proposed interventions.
- Use preparatory CoP meetings to foster cooperation and collaboration, building on experience such as the preparatory meeting for CBD COP 14. For inspiration of how to create ownership by assigning clear roles and responsibilities for each stakeholder and implementing partner at such meetings please view case study 2 from South Africa (**Annex 9**).
- Initiate and continuously foster capacity building at the organizational level (systemic changes), including coordination mechanisms and partnerships (please view section on *institutional arrangements*).
- Capitalize on the momentum to develop the post-2020 global framework for biodiversity under the CBD to raise the profile of the three Conventions.
- Involve all National Focal Points (NFPs) of the Three Rio Conventions in the national GEF steering committee and potentially at National Portfolio Formulation Exercises (NPFE) and foster the attendance of NFPs at GEF regional constituency meetings.
- Ensure transmission of knowledge, e.g. by establishing mentoring mechanisms, by tasking workshop/training participants to share their knowledge with their colleagues, including at coordination meetings, or by introducing staff rotation schemes. For inspiration of such a rotation policy please view case study 7 from Japan (**Annex 9**).

5. Strategic Planning

- Create a joint vision and approach to the coherent implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in the context of sustainable development using a bottom-up approach and active participation of all members.
- Carry out an institutional mapping exercise including the roles of different institutions in contributing to the achievement of the Three Rio Conventions – look at what each ministry can bring to the table. For example, Budget Call Circular for 2017/18 in Uganda issued by the Ministry of Finance, required sector ministries for the first time, to plan for and allocate resources for implementing the revised NBSAP (case study 6 from Uganda, **Annex 9**).
- Longer-term cross-sectoral planning through cross-ministerial structures or committees to foster greater policy coherence and integrated planning for Rio Convention implementation.
- Using the development of NDP6 as a window of opportunity for mainstreaming Three Rio Conventions in a much stronger way. However, it is important to note that some activities on the ground address synergies but these need to be made visible.
- Active engagement in the SDGs Strategy currently being developed by NPC which will among other things act as public tool to raise awareness on SDGs.
- Encourage various institutions and line ministries to integrate Three Rio Conventions in their strategies/plan / policies and activities.
- Use the already existing Resource Mobilisation Strategy to prioritise interventions.

Box 3: Guidance documents for promoting cooperation and synergies among the Three Rio Conventions at the national level

- CBD Secretariat (2006). Guidance for promoting synergy among activities addressing biological diversity, desertification, land degradation and climate change. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-25.pdf>
- UNCCD (2006). Opportunities for Synergy among the Environmental Conventions: Results of National and Local Level Workshops. https://www.unisdr.org/files/1812_VL102228.pdf.
- UNDP (unknown). Synergies in national implementation - The Rio Agreements. http://www.ifdd.franco-phonie.org/docs_prog03/pol_envir03/0103_Synerg_marr/Bibliographie/synergies_implem_nat_ConvRio.pdf
- UNFCCC (2005). Synergy among MEA in the context of national adaptation programmes of action. <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2005/tp/eng/03.pdf>
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- OECD (2002). The DAC Guidelines. Integrating the Three Rio Conventions into Development Co-operation. Paris, France. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/9789264176065-en.pdf?expires=1556187858&did=id&accname=guest&checksum=154418BDD5C8F0B15DAF850AF79E6D06>

(see also Box 2 on Three Rio Conventions joint publications)

5. Priority challenges and opportunities/solutions for synergistic implementation of the three Three Rio Conventions agreed upon at the stakeholder consultation workshop

During the national stakeholder consultation workshop, the identified challenges and opportunities /solutions to synergistic implementation of the three Three Rio Conventions in Namibia were discussed based on the comprehensive lists included in Sections 3 and 4. Subsequently, workshop participants identified the key challenges to be addressed, opportunities to address these challenges, as well as the most promising measures or solutions to address the challenges. The outcome is presented in Table 2: *Priority challenges and opportunities/ solutions for synergistic implementation of the Three Rio Conventions*.

The priority list covers a wide range of opportunities such as improving the functioning of the three Three Rio Conventions committees, facilitation of exchange of information, collaboration among national focal points, joint capacity-building activities and cooperation in CEPA.

Table 2: Priority challenges and opportunities/solutions for synergistic implementation of the Three Rio Conventions.

Theme	Key challenges	Priority opportunities and solutions to challenges
Institutional arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low support for the three Rio Convention committees from member agencies and line ministries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making activities of three Steering Committees (SC) part of ministries work plans and including high-level appointments to the SC.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities of the three Committees are not a priority, i.e. lack of participation and lack of implementation of agreed action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making activities of three SCs part of the job descriptions and roles and responsibilities of its members
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of accountability of the Steering Committee/ Steering Committee members, including the chair. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Director of the MEFT to attend one Steering Committee (SC) meetings annually and make periodic reporting of SC mandatory.³²
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO or their umbrella organisations are poorly and therefore not adequately represented in the Convention steering committees despite their key role in implementation on the ground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carefully review and update the membership of the committees, including by ensuring an adequate balance across stakeholder groups including CSOs
Information management and reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of accessible information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a centralized repository at the national level that will allow easy access to and/or storage of data, including for reporting, e.g. Clearing House Mechanism (CHM).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High reporting burden. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of common reporting tools and an integrated monitoring and assessment frameworks for activities relevant to the three Conventions (e.g. common indicators for progress) - i.e. harmonization/ alignment of monitoring and national reporting processes (aligned with the SDG baseline indicators and reporting process).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information gaps and challenges with translating data into useful information for reporting on the Three Rio Conventions and other relevant national processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening collaboration with the NSA for quality standards and data collection in general. Ensure that roles and responsibilities for provision of data and information for reporting are clear and match with the responsibilities assigned for implementation of the Three Rio Conventions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of technical capacity to collect, store, analyze and present data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building on the use of standardised tools and guidelines, interpretation and analysis of data and information.

³² For example, the NBSAP-SC came up with a follow up actions after the 2016 NBSAP-SC Training on Biodiversity Policy. It could be useful to check if the actions are being followed up on.

Science-policy interface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No case made at national level for synergies (strongly linked to institutional set up). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help MEFT and other stakeholders to make a business case for synergies including finalizing the Namibia Three Rio Conventions Synergy Strategy.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not enough baseline data available from the implementation of the existing Three Rio Conventions policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a common data repository for the three Three Rio Conventions including joint Rio convention guidelines documents (e.g. SEA for policy development) and finalising legislation on SEA and complementary guidelines.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross cutting and inextricably linked issues related to water, energy and food security are not addressed coherently in terms of implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematic mainstreaming of key elements of Three Rio Conventions in policy development (e.g. identify entry points to strengthen the science policy interface) and implementation including linking them national priority issues (such as water, energy and food security).³³
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few science-based policy briefs on Three Rio Conventions issues targeted at decision makers and general public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and communicate science-based policy briefs on the three Three Rio Conventions targeted at decision makers and general public, including with information on trade-offs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of political balance on implementation of the three Conventions. There is more funding for climate changes issues (UNFCCC) via-a-vis biodiversity (CBD) and land degradation and desertification (UNCCD) issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance political balance in the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions including through finalizing the Namibia Three Rio Conventions Synergy Strategy and Roadmap.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicts among the Three Rio Conventions (objectives contradicting each other), no vision for domestication of the Conventions / conflicting national policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance knowledge base for better understanding of interlinkages and synergies between issues addressed by the three Three Rio Conventions action plans and strategies and scrutinize the current Three Rio Conventions strategies for interlinkages.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and evaluation only done at project-level, but not at a strategic level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a national long-term monitoring and evaluation system for projects in Namibia, which included criteria related to the Three Rio Conventions.

³³ For example, the SDAC, line ministries or an established agency could be tasked to identify and highlight mainstreaming and entry points for policy review and implementation.

Capacity building (technical and financial) and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of cooperation in communication, education and public awareness programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and implementation of a CEPA strategy on Three Rio Conventions targeting primary schools up to Universities. Establishment and maintenance of a knowledge base hub and public awareness campaigns. Tailoring of all communication and awareness raising messages to different languages and socio-economic and environment context in different by regions. Regular information sharing with the general public via MEFT website.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members (at least of SLM and NBSAP SCs) are not well familiar with the strategies and related actions and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and have little ownership. Few members of the Steering Committees are perceived to understand “the bigger picture” as members focus on their own area of responsibility/ sector and therefore think in silos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory inductions, capacity-building and stock taking of members, strategies and action points. To address the issue of staff turnover, a solution could be allowing committee members to keep their membership if they are transferred to other departments within their ministry, or even if they move to other ministries or organisations within Namibia. Initiate and continuously foster capacity building at the organizational level (systemic changes), including coordination mechanisms and partnerships (please view section on institutional arrangements). Creation of interlinkages between line ministries to get rid of a silos type of mentalities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited domestic resources and insufficient capacity to both design and implement the necessary interventions on the three Three Rio Conventions. Some Committee members lack technical skills related to the Three Rio Conventions and their interlinkages and some don’t understand the Terms of References (ToR) of the convention committees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of a common understanding for key issues pertaining to all Three Rio Conventions in Namibia among steering committee members through in-field experiences (e.g. on bush encroachment) and carry out on the ground actions that in tandem advance goals and targets of the three Conventions. NPC is in need for a mandate related to the three Three Rio Conventions and hand over reports should be on file for new recruits. Self-actualization of individual contribution towards the achievement of three Three Rio Conventions. Regular updates, e.g. through quarterly feedbacks of institution’s contribution to three Three Rio Conventions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of streamlined funding by national government for programmes and project supporting the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions. Competition for resources and budgets between different ministries and divisions within Ministries, where sectoral ministries are perceived as competitors rather than collaborators or implementing partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groom and capacitate Namibian teams of experts to develop and implement project addressing the three Three Rio Conventions. Strengthen the EIF to better coordinate the development of joint or integrated funding proposals to mobilize additional resources for implementation of the Three Rio Conventions, making links to activities by the NPC and bilateral and multilateral donors. EIF should support streamlining of proposals that are oriented to three Three Rio Conventions. Capitalize on the membership of the NPC in all three Convention committees for providing intelligence on sources of funds for implementing the Three Rio Conventions in a synergistic manner. Pro-activeness in sourcing of internal funds (EIF levies). Use the Rio markers as a tool to ensure that proposals and concepts that contribute to the Three Rio Conventions can help to attract funding from OECD members.

Strategic planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak mandate to implement the Three Rio Conventions through national instruments such as NBSAPs, NAP and NCCSAP: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting mechanisms should be streamlined at the highest level/Parliament. Create a joint vision and approach to the coherent implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in the context of sustainable development using a bottom-up approach and active participation of all members. MEFT should exercise its authority in implementing its mandate by encourage various institutions and line ministries to integrate Three Rio Conventions in their strategies/plan /policies and activities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members are too often not familiar with the national strategy planning documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCCC, NBSAP-SC and SLM-SC to hold annual refresher and awareness raising workshops. Carry out an institutional mapping exercise including the roles of different institutions in contributing to the achievement of the Three Rio Conventions – look at what each ministry can bring to the table.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of prioritisation of individual activities in national instruments, i.e. Three Rio Conventions implementation instruments in comparison to NDP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the development of NDP6 as well as other policy instruments (e.g. coastal policy) as a window of opportunity for mainstreaming Three Rio Conventions in a much stronger way.

6 Rio proofing of existing projects and/or programmes

Any opportunity for promoting the coherent implementation of the Three Rio Conventions, and ideally creating synergies, is identified here as “Rio proofing” of existing projects or programmes. This means working towards ensuring that development projects implemented in the country are either designed to contribute towards the achievement of one or several of the Three Rio Conventions, or at a minimum that they are not having a negative impact. “Rio proofing” does not refer to a specific approach or method, thus there is no specific methodology to be followed.

Criteria for Rio proofing of projects can be informed by the OECD DAC Guidelines on Integrating Rio Convention into development cooperation³⁴, and guidance documents for synergistic implementation (Box 2 and 3, pg. 11 and pg. 24). Mostly, these have been developed for specific topics such as adaptation or forests. The OECD Guidelines identify a number of entry points (e.g. sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategies) and instruments (e.g. ecosystem-based approaches, land use planning, EIA/SEA and CBNRM) for integration (see also section 3.1 *The global synergy agenda: Cross-cutting issues under the Three Rio Conventions*). Rio proofing can be further informed by more general guidance on integrated projects, i.e. projects that address the interconnected and interacting environmental and social challenges.³⁵

Summarised important elements/ steps for Rio proofing include:

1. Identification of Rio proofing potential through a comprehensive review of existing project and programme portfolios, and the project and programme pipeline (planning phase) regarding their Rio Convention relevance.
2. Establishment of a (formal) process to ensure engagement of relevant experts and capacity building for Rio proofing throughout the project/ programme cycle, i.e. in the planning, implementation, monitoring/ adaptive management and review/ follow-up phase.
3. Development of an action plan with concrete action points, clear responsibilities for implementation, and timelines, as well as a process to review plan delivery, i.e. the creation of an accountability mechanism.

6.1 Identification of possible investment programmes and pilot measures

Stakeholder interviews and a consultation workshop identified possible investment programmes or projects that can be adapted to address the objectives of the three Three Rio Conventions and to be implemented collaboratively involving different sectoral ministries, civil society organisations / private sector and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. science / research). An initial set of projects/ programmes identified with potential for Rio-proofing - i.e. advancing the objectives and targets of the three Three Rio Conventions - and with concrete opportunities for synergistic actions between the Three Rio Conventions are listed below and also included in **Annex 6** with more details.

- Sustainable Development Goals Initiative (2017-2020)
- Support to De-Bushing Management of Natural Resources (2014 – 2021)
- Adaptation of agriculture to climate change in Northern Namibia (2015-2019)
- Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to eradicate poverty (NILALEG) [Project is in the development phase] (2019 -2024)
- Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) (2017-2019)
- The Benguela Current Marine Spatial Management and Governance Project (2014 – 2020)
- Strengthening the capacity of the protected area management system to address new management challenges (PASS Project) (2014 – 2019)
- Sustainable management of Namibia’s forested lands (NAFOLA) (2014 – 2019)
- Scaling up community resilience to climate variability and climate change in Northern Namibia, with special focus on women and children (SCORE) (2014 – 2019)
- Development of Namibia into a logistics hub for southern Africa
- CEPA programmes on the Three Rio Conventions (2019 – 2030)

6.2 Pilot measures/activities

Building up on the identified cross sectoral investment programmes, and informed by **Annex 10** (*Examples of a portfolio of priority action proposals that advance the goals and targets of the three Three Rio Conventions in Namibia*), possible pilot measures/activities to be implemented were identified at the consultation workshop. Thereby, a distinction was made between pilot measures that can be addressed in the short-term (which can be realised without new, additional resources) and in the long-term options (which will require new funding / resources).

³⁴ OECD (2002). The DAC Guidelines: Integrating the Three Rio Conventions into Development Co-operation. Paris, France.

³⁵ E.g. Bierbaum, R. et al. 2018. Integration: to solve complex environmental problems. Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility. Washington, DC. https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/GEF.A6.08_STAP.PDF

6.2.1 Short term pilot measures/activities:

1. Design and implement a SEA for the timber industry to support sustainable timber harvesting.
2. Explore and test options to improve aftercare after de-bushing, making it more ecosystem friendly and with a more positive climate impact.
3. Roll-out climate-smart agriculture (based on best practice in Namibia) in northern communal area as the main crop farming method supported by government.
4. Pilot new, innovative ways of raising public awareness contained in Namibia's CEPA Strategy 2019 – 2030 (pages 24, 25 and 26 of the Strategy).

6.2.2 Long term thematic areas of interest for Rio Synergies:

1. Integrated sustainable water, energy and food security programme in Namibia.
2. Identify a few specific concrete activities for implementation from Namibia's CEPA Strategy 2019 – 2030.
3. Water harvesting and irrigation for food security and using renewable energy for water extraction.
4. Drought resilient initiatives focusing on water security.

6.3 Action Plan for Rio proofing of projects and programmes in Namibia

Based on the preliminary identified pilot measures/ activities in section 6.2, workshop participants subsequently developed an action plan for Rio proofing, which is structured by thematic area and includes information on possible, concrete activities/ measures per thematic area, as well as the lead institution to drive the agenda forward and a corresponding time frame (Table 3).

Table 3: Action Plan for Rio proofing per thematic area

Short term pilot measures /activities			
Thematic area	Possible, concrete activities / measures	Lead institution	Time frame
1. Promote forest restoration and sustainable forest management in areas with severe timber harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map out timber harvesting areas - situational analysis • Conduct EIA/SEA process • Generate the evidence base for policy formulation • Management recommendations • Provide CEPA awareness • Design forest restoration interventions and pilot them in severely affected areas • SEA for the timber industry to support sustainable timber harvesting 	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), academia	Q3 2019-Q3 2020
2. Roll-out climate-smart agriculture (based on best practice in Namibia) in northern communal area as the main crop farming method supported by government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing climate adapted crops • Employing intercropping techniques 	MAWLR, Local Authorities and Academia	Q3 2019 - Q3 2020
3. Explore and test options to improve aftercare after de-bushing, making it more ecosystem friendly and with a more positive climate impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine /map visibility on current activities and lessons learned • Improve de-bushing after care • Situational analysis about the contradictions in the policy – is it rather undermining carbon sequestration or is it combatting degradation; and what about biodiversity; all these against the economic considerations can result in a policy advise that contributes to the synergetic effects 	MAWLR	5 years
4. Pilot new, innovative ways of raising public awareness contained in Namibia's CEPA Strategy 2019 – 2030.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select and implement a few strategic specific channels and tools for raising public awareness 	MEFT and other relevant stakeholders	2019 - 2020
5. Off-farming crop and fodder production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water harvesting • Irrigation/gardening • Sustainable harvesting of water 	MAWLR	5 years
Long term thematic areas which could lead to the development of new larger-scale project and programmes			
Thematic area	Lead institutions		
1. Integrated sustainable water, energy and food security programme in Namibia	MAWLR, MEFT, Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD), academia and others		

2. CEPA - supplement with learning by doing and actions should be complemented by monitoring and evaluation	MEFT and relevant stakeholders
3. Water harvesting and irrigation for food security and using renewable energy for water extraction	MAWLR, MEFT, MURD, and others
4. Drought resilient programmes focusing on water security	MAWLR, MEFT, MURD, academia and others

7 Concluding remarks

There are numerous opportunities to strengthen coordination and cooperation, and to develop collaborative and synergistic actions between UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC in Namibia. These include on-the-ground operationalization actions/activities and instruments that advance the Three Rio Conventions' goals and synergy of processes.

A key entry point to advance the Three Rio Conventions synergies agenda in Namibia is strengthening of the institutional arrangements to develop, monitor and review convention implementation in an effective and coherent manner. This will facilitate progress on most other prioritized actions identified by stakeholders (Table 2), including:

- Enhancing the national knowledge base for better understanding the interlinkages and synergies among the three Three Rio Conventions;
- Systematic mainstreaming of key elements of the Three Rio Conventions in national policies across sectors (e.g. NDP6 and Coastal Policy) and promoting cross-sectoral responsibility for implementation;
- Developing a common data repository for the Three Rio Conventions to facilitate access to information, information sharing and reporting;
- Strengthening the EIF to better coordinate the development of joint or integrated funding proposals to mobilize additional resources for Rio Convention implementation; and
- Rio proofing of current or future projects and programmes related to priority policy issues, such as forest restoration and sustainable forest management, sustainable and climate-smart agriculture and irrigation, and renewable energy (Table 3).

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This bibliography does not include policies, strategies and laws of Namibia referred to in the text, instead these are listed in the table in the **Annexes 2-3**.

Annexes

Annex 1: Methodology

The Three Rio Conventions Strategy and Roadmap is being developed through an iterative participatory processes involving: a) a desk based qualitative analysis of national policy and planning documents in Namibia complemented by academic and grey literature; b) national government and non-governmental expert interviews (see **Annex 8** for the interview framework); c) a multi-stakeholder workshop to validate the findings before finalisation; and d) finalisation of the Strategy:

- a) The analysis of national and planning policy documents in Namibia and other academic and grey literature provided baseline information on the current state of play on three Three Rio Conventions synergies at conceptual level (i.e. actual policy and plans text), operational and implementation level in Namibia and to identify possible 'entry points' for Rio Convention synergies and SDGs in the country.
- b) Information from interviews with experts in national government and non-governmental organisations complemented the results of the desk based analysis. Further, the objective of the interviews was (1) to assess the successes, barriers and challenges of the current institutional arrangements/instruments in implementing the Three Rio Conventions; (2) to identify entry points to strengthen implementation, taking into account the national approach for the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development; and (3) to identify innovative approaches to improve the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions through better cooperation and alignment/ streamlining of activities, including with respect to cross-sectoral investment programmes. Expert interviews also served the purpose of validating the findings from the desk review of relevant documents. For further information, please see the interview framework (Annex 8).
- c) At a multi-stakeholder workshop held on May 6 and 7, 2019, stakeholders validated the findings from the desk analysis and experts' interviews based on the presented draft Three Rio Conventions Strategy and Roadmap, and provided further inputs for the finalization of the Strategy, with a main focus on (1) challenges and opportunities/ solutions for synergistic implementation of the three Three Rio Conventions, and (2) identification of possible investment programmes and pilot measures.
- d) Finalisation of the Three Rio Conventions Strategy and Roadmap for consideration by MEFT, involved the consolidation of all inputs provided during the multi-stakeholder workshop.

Annex 2: Policy and strategic planning documents relevant to the SDGs, CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC

Theme	Policy document or plan	Objective	Areas covered with potential for synergies
Environmental protection	Namibia's Green Plan	Namibia's Green Plan, developed at a very early stage of Namibian nationhood, set out an ambitious national programme for achieving environmental protection in the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Green Plan identified that Namibia had not adequately invested in environmental conservation during pre-independence years, which led to environmental degradation and an 'environmental debt'. - The Plan recognized that issues of poverty, the environment and sustainable development are integrally linked.
National development	Namibia's Vision 2030 - Policy Framework for Long-term National Development	The vision's rationale is to provide long-term policy scenarios on the future course of development in the country at different points in time up until the target year of 2030. Vision 2030 regards the sequential five-year National Development Plans (NDPs) as the main vehicles for achieving its long-term objectives	Chapter 5
National development	Harambee Prosperity Plan (2016/17 - 2019/20)	To accelerate development in areas marked as priority for attaining prosperity in Namibia. The Plan is built on four Pillars that are made up of sub pillars, to form the frame/structure of a House.	Effective governance, economic advancement, social progression and infrastructure development
National development	Namibia's 5th National Development Plan (NDP5) (2017/18 - 2021/22)	The NDP5 has 4 key goals: Achieve Inclusive, Sustainable and Equitable Economic Growth; Build Capable and Healthy Human Resources; Ensure Sustainable Environment and Enhance Resilience; and Promote Good Governance through Effective Institutions	Infrastructure development/ transport and logistics, agriculture and food security, blue economy, tourism, energy, water
National development	United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) for 2019-2023 (Draft)	Aligned with NDP 5, this partnership framework contributes to four main results areas: 1. Economic Progression 2. Social Transformation 3. Environmental Sustainability 4. Good Governance	Chapter 4: Environmental Sustainability 2.5 Pillar 3: Environmental Sustainability and Natural Resources Management (NRM)
Biodiversity	Namibia's Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan: 2013 – 2022	<p>The vision is for "Namibia's biodiversity to be healthy and resilient to threats, and the conservation and sustainable use are key drivers of poverty alleviation and equitable economic growth, particularly in rural areas".</p> <p>NBSAP2 has five key strategic objectives, each of which has a number of targets to be achieved by the end of the timeframe of the NBSAP2.</p>	<p>Key priorities: (1) Mainstreaming biodiversity, (2) Improving Communication of biodiversity-related issues, (3) Addressing Critical Threats to biodiversity, including a. Threats and impacts of Climate Change and b. Unsustainable Land Leading to soil erosion, land degradation, deforestation and bush</p> <p>Management Practices (table 6)</p> <p>See also Figure 7 on thematic areas for synergies through NBSAP II</p>

Theme	Policy document or plan	Objective	Areas covered with potential for synergies
Biotechnology	National Policy on Enabling the Safe Use of Biotechnology (1999)	The first objective is to guide the judicious use of modern biotechnology in Namibia for sustainable development in ways that do not in any way jeopardise human and environmental health, including Namibia's biodiversity and genetic resources. The second objective is to ensure the effective control of trans-boundary movements of genetically modified organisms or products thereof resulting from modern biotechnology, inter alia through the exchange of information.	Reviving and sustaining economic growth, creating employment opportunities, alleviating poverty, and reducing inequalities in incomes. The Policy offers guidance for the safe use of biotechnology to strengthen the economy and enhance livelihoods without jeopardising public health, environmental integrity, national sovereignty or human rights.
Climate change	National Policy on Climate Change (NCCP)(2011)	To contribute to the attainment of sustainable development in line with Namibia's Vision 2030 through strengthening of national capacities to reduce climate change risk and build resilience for any climate change shocks.	Adaptation
Climate change	National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan: 2013 – 2020 - developed based on the regulatory and implementation framework provided by the NCCP	To further facilitate building the adaptive capacity of Namibia to increase climate change resilience and to optimize mitigation opportunities toward a sustainable development path, guided by the National Climate Change Policy	The Namibia Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (NCCSAP) has been developed around four key pillars namely Planning, Adaptation, and Mitigation, and Cross-cutting issues. Adaptation is addressed through the priority themes: food security and sustainable resource base; sustainable water resources; human health and wellbeing; and infrastructure. Key sectors and focus areas for adaptation include: agriculture; water; coastal zones; health; infrastructure; biodiversity and ecosystems; forestry; energy; urban management; and tourism. Prerequisites for implementation of the INDC are political stability, good governance, an independent efficient judicial system, appropriate legislation, provision of incentives and provision of robust awareness campaigns.
Climate change	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) of the Republic of Namibia to the UNFCCC (2015)	Namibia aims at a reduction of about 89% of its GHG emissions at the 2030-time horizon compared to the BAU scenario. The projected GHG emissions to be avoided in 2030 is of the order of 20000 Gg CO2-eq inclusive of sequestration in the AFOLU sector and compared to the BAU scenario	Developing better framework conditions for effective climate change governance; strengthening of financing of projects that help reduce emissions and enhancing Namibia's resilience to climate change impacts; tracking progress towards emissions reduction targets; and strengthening coordination across national and international stakeholders to fast track decisions and interagency collaboration.
Climate change	Namibia's NDC Partnership Plan (2016) Revised and costed NDC implementation strategy that integrates SDG actions with sector specific investment plans developed	Namibia's NDC Partnership Plan connects international resources for climate action to priority areas set by the government for implementing its NDC and builds a community around climate action in the country.	

Theme	Policy document or plan	Objective	Areas covered with potential for synergies
Environment	1999 Policy for Prospecting and Mining in Protected Areas and National Monuments	The policy recognises that mineral exploitation can result in significant negative environmental impacts including habitat destruction, loss of biodiversity and impacts that will threaten growth within the tourism industry. It aims to ensure that the environment is protected through the implementation of mitigation measures that are adopted before, during, and after the prospecting and mining activities.	Granting of [Exclusive Prospecting Licenses and Mining Licenses]: Is generally permitted in Protected Areas and National Monuments except areas within parks and monuments, which are particularly sensitive or are of special ecological or touristic importance. Each application would be considered on a case by case basis. The Policy further states that a full EA will usually be required for any prospecting or mining in a Protected Area and/or National Monument. The EA shall be conducted according to the procedures as stated in the Environmental Management Act. Should the [Minerals (Prospecting and Mining Rights) Committee] agree to recommend approval (after reviewing the EA) an Environmental Management Plan and an Environmental Contract shall be concluded before prospecting or mining may commence.
Environment	National Policy on Prospecting and Mining in Protected Areas (2018-2022)	<p>The goal of the policy is to provide a framework for decision making on issuance of exploration and mining licenses in protected areas, including strategies and guidance on procedures in relation to different exploration and mining tenet</p> <p>Objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that prospecting and mining activities do not cause any negative impacts to biodiversity, ecology and the tourism potential of protected areas. • To identify areas in protected areas that should not be exposed to prospecting or mining activities, due to their high conservation, aesthetic and tourism value. • To provide clarity on the different exploration and mining tenets that may be granted in protected areas. • To facilitate the sustainable development of mineral resources in protected areas while minimising the impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. 	<p>The policy document sets out the Government policy on mining and prospecting in protected areas. Strategies to implement the policy include areas excluded from prospecting and mining, procedures in relation to different exploration and mining tenements, change of ownership and/or change of company name, renewals and rehabilitation and restoration.</p>
Energy	National Renewable Energy Policy (2017)	The overarching mission of Namibia's National Renewable Energy Policy is to enable access to modern, clean, environmentally sustainable, and affordable energy services for all Namibians	The chief desired outcomes are to extend energy access, to strengthen the management and planning of energy access programmes in low-income and rural areas, to address the need for energy efficiency and energy independence and to work towards an energy sector that is climate-resilient and energy access in a natural environment which is non-stationary.

Theme	Policy document or plan	Objective	Areas covered with potential for synergies
Sustainable Land Management	Third National Action Program (NAP3) for Namibia to Implement the UNCCD: 2014 – 2024 (2014)	To prevent and reverse desertification and land degradation in affected areas and mitigate the effects of drought in Namibia in support of poverty reduction and environmental sustainability	NAP3 contains six main desired outcomes, which cover the themes of advocacy awareness and education; policy and institutional framework for DLDD; monitoring system for DLDD; on-the-ground action to prevent and reverse land degradation; financial support; and research and development
Sustainable Land Management	Concise Strategy and Action Plan for Namibia's Presidency of the 11th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2014)	To provide political support and momentum to the strengthened implementation of the UNCCD at the international, regional and national level	Six strategic objectives have been identified; Strengthen the role of the UNCCD towards the achievement of a Land Degradation Neutral world; Support the establishment and functioning of regional structures for improved regional coordination of implementation of the UNCCD in Africa; Establish a programme of support for Land Degradation Monitoring and Capacity Development for Affected Country Parties (under GEF 6); Strengthen the role of the UNCCD in addressing drought mitigation as a matter of priority and urgency; Demonstrate Namibia's commitment to empowering local communities and women through the UNCCD
Sustainable Land Management	Growth Strategy for the Namibian Wood Charcoal Industry and Associated Value Chain (2016)	"By 2020, Namibia's wood charcoal industry will have achieved high production, export, income and employment growth by mainstreaming technical innovations and quality management and adopting environmentally sound and socially equitable business practices along the value chain"	Strengthen forward and backward linkages with the Namibian economy. The NCA has expressed an interest in doing further technology research with universities and other technology providers to determine which kinds of innovation would be most suitable to the Namibian charcoal industry. The industry is not reliant on foreign technology yet, but as environmental concerns increase, foreign technology may become key.
Sustainable Land Management	The National Land Policy 1998	The policy is divided into four main topics, namely, fundamental principles, urban land, rural land and general considerations. The principles guiding the different parts of the policy are derived from the Namibian Constitution and national commitment to redress the economic injustices inherited from the colonial past. These include sustainable use of land and natural resources; land as a renewable natural resource; and multiple forms of land rights	The National Land Policy 1998 recognises that environmental concerns are not the sole concern of rural areas but also of urban land use and management. Financial and tax incentives are provided to promote the use of renewable energy resources and promotion, protection and rehabilitation of natural environments.
Sustainable Land Management	Regional Planning and Development Policy (1997)	Among the top objectives for the Regional Planning and Development Policy are to ensure 'participatory development' takes place in all the country's regions; to ensure available resources in the regions are fully exploited and effectively utilised for regional and national development; to reduce socio-economic disparities between rural and urban areas; to diversify regional socio-economic activities; to improve employment opportunities, income distribution and standards of living; and to increase food production and attain local food self-sufficiency.	Key policy instruments being implemented are effective decentralisation; emphasis on agricultural development; promoting small-scale industries; environmental resource management; and strengthening institutional capacity.

Theme	Policy document or plan	Objective	Areas covered with potential for synergies
Sustainable Land Management	Namibia Drought Policy and Strategy (1997)	The eight objectives of the new drought policy are to: i. ensure that household food security is not compromised by drought; ii. Encourage and support farmers to adopt self-reliant approaches to drought risk; iii. Preserve adequate reproductive capacity in livestock herds in affected areas during drought periods; iv. ensure the continuous supply of potable water to communities, and particularly to their livestock, their schools and their clinics; v. minimise the degradation of the natural resource base during droughts; vi. Enable rural inhabitants and the agricultural sector to recover quickly following drought; vii. Ensure that the health status of all Namibians is not threatened by the effects of drought; viii. finance drought relief programmes efficiently	Adaptation to climate risks; development of an efficient, equitable and sustainable approach to drought management.
Agriculture	Namibia Agriculture Policy (2015)	The Namibia Agriculture Policy is a review of the 1995 National Agricultural Policy. There have been new developments within the agricultural sector that prompted this revision. These include the role that agriculture is expected to play in the attainment of the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4) strategic objectives, as well as Vision 2030 goals of economic growth, sustainability, equity and poverty alleviation and the desire for Government to diversify agricultural products and export markets. Furthermore, another dimension that prompted the revision of this policy is the number of bilateral, regional and multi-lateral agreements as well as the current and expected impacts of climate change and agricultural land reform that are affecting the performance of the agricultural sector.	The 1995 policy was updated to tackle climate change. The policy states that agriculture activity in Namibia should not be pursued at the expense of the environment, all stakeholders that benefit from agriculture sector, are required to accept responsibility for sustainable management of natural resource. It further states that Namibia Agriculture Policy will be implemented under the full realization that climate change will impact negatively on agricultural production and productivity.
Forestry	Namibia's Forest Policy	Practise and promote the sustainable and participatory management of forest resources and other woody vegetation, to enhance socio-economic development and environmental stability	4 basic aims: Reconcile rural development with biodiversity conservation by empowering farmers and local communities to manage forest resources on a sustainable basis; increase the yield of benefits of the national woodlands through research and development, application of silvicultural practices, protection and promotion of requisite economic support projects; create favourable conditions to attract investment in small and medium industry based on wood and non-wood forest raw materials; implement innovative land-use strategies including multiple use conservation areas, protected areas, agro-forestry and a variety of other approaches designed to yield forestry global benefits.

Theme	Policy document or plan	Objective	Areas covered with potential for synergies
Sustainable land management	National Rangeland Management Policy and Strategy, Restoring Namibia's Rangelands (2012)	To enable rangeland managers to manage their rangelands in such a way so that productivity and biodiversity are restored and maintained	The Policy aims to contribute to the improvement of livelihoods of people in Namibia, especially those directly or indirectly dependent on rangeland and rangeland resources. The NRMMP aims for improved skills of rangeland managers. It recognizes that Government alone cannot achieve these aims, and that successful implementation is dependent upon various stakeholders from governmental and non-governmental levels.
Biodiversity	Revised National Policy on Human Wildlife Conflict Management (2018-2027)	The main goal of the policy is to provide measures and approaches to manage and reduce human wildlife conflict in Namibia from the current incidents of about five thousand per year to less than one thousand incidents by 2026.	This Policy allows for the management of human wildlife conflict in a way that recognizes the rights and development needs of local communities, recognizes the need to promote biodiversity conservation, promotes self-reliance and ensures that decision-making is quick, efficient and based on the best available information.
Coastal management	Coastal Policy (not yet in place) – a green paper has been published in 2009	To lay out a vision, principles and goals for integrated coastal management, as well as options for institutional arrangements for implementing the Policy, to engage in sustainable development of Namibia's coast.	Governance considerations are laid out at the national, regional and local levels. A framework for implementing Namibia's coastal policy was developed with a trend towards integrated ocean governance.

Annex 3: Relevant laws, bills and guidelines

Act	Objective/ Key paragraphs	Concrete opportunities for synergies/ Areas covered with potential for synergies	Relevant international and regional agreements
Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, 1990 (Act No. 1 of 1990).	<p>Article 95(a) of the 1990 Constitution requires the State to take measures to promote and maintain the welfare of the people including “the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future...”</p> <p>Article 91(c) stipulates that one of the functions of the Ombudsman is <i>“the duty to investigate complaints concerning the over utilisation of living natural resources, the irrational exploitation of non-renewable resources, the degradation and destruction of ecosystems and failure to protect the beauty and character of Namibia”</i>.</p>	The Namibian Constitution lays the foundation for all policies and legislation in Namibia and contains three key environmental clauses relevant to the sustainable use of natural resources namely Article 100, Article 95 (l) and Article 91(c).	CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC
Access and Benefit Sharing Bill of 2012	To regulate access to natural resources and associated traditional knowledge based upon prior informed consent; to protect local communities’ rights over and traditional knowledge and respect thereof; to promote a fair and equitable mechanism for benefit sharing; and to establish the necessary administrative structures and processes to implement and enforce such principles.	Implementation of local and traditional knowledge in conserving natural resources	CBD/ Nagoya Protocol
Environmental Management Act (2007), List of Activities (2012) and Regulations (2012)	To promote the sustainable management of the environment and the use of natural resources by establishing principles for decision making on matters affecting the environment; to establish the Sustainable Development Advisory Council; to provide for the appointment of the Environmental Commissioner and environmental officers; to provide for a process of assessment and control of activities which may have significant effects on the environment; and to provide for incidental matters.	EIAs and SEAs; Integrated Regional Land Use Plans; CBNRM including communal conservancies, community forests and community-based management of water resources and fisheries; nature-based tourism sector, and tourism and wildlife concessions on state land; water demand management initiatives including water recycling, desalination and natural resource valuation/ accounting.	CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC
Procedures and Guidelines for SEA and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) (2008)	This document is a procedure and guideline document and serves as a reference and supportive text only and cannot take the place of legal advice in a specific situation governed by legislation. This document will not take the place of any regulations published by Directorate of Environmental Affairs, MEFT.	e.g. screening list <i>SEAs are currently not legally required in Namibia, but efforts are underway by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF) to prepare Regulations for SEA</i>	CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD

Act	Objective/ Key paragraphs	Concrete opportunities for synergies/ Areas covered with potential for synergies	Relevant international and regional agreements
Namibia's Forest Act 12 of 2001	To conserve soil and water resources, maintain biological diversity and to use forest products in a way which is compatible with the forest's primary role as the protector and enhancer of the natural environment.	Part IV Protection of the Environment; Forest management plans Reasons mentioned for PA establishment: protection of the soil, water resources, protected plans and other elements of biological diversity; control over afforestation and deforestation; licencing for grazing, agricultural activity, mining and construction of roads or buildings; control and management of fire	CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC
Protected Areas and Wildlife Management Bill (Draft Bill, not yet enacted)	Legal framework for the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and the biological diversity of Namibia, and the utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of Namibians, and to promote the mutually beneficial co-existence of humans with wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages appropriate measures to give effect to, or rehabilitate protected areas disturbed through prospecting or mining or other extractive activities; which cannot otherwise be rehabilitated under agreements with persons authorized to conduct prospecting, mining or other extractive activities Gives the Minister power in consultation with Cabinet to establish the renewable generation of electricity for the purposes of the management of game parks, nature reserves and other protected areas or protection of the environment or the combatting of climate change. 	CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC
Namibia's Inland Fisheries Resources Act (2003)	Act to provide for the conservation and protection of aquatic ecosystems and the sustainable development of inland fisheries resources; to provide for the control and regulation of inland fishing; and to provide for related matters.	The sustainable harvesting, management, conservation and protection arrangements for freshwater fish in accordance with international law, international agreements and arrangements to which Namibia is a party must be promoted.	CDB, UNCCD, UNFCCC
Nature Conservation Ordinance, 1975	One of the major biodiversity related laws in Namibia is the legislation governing the conservation of wildlife and protected areas.	Chapter II: Game parks, Nature reserves, Conservancies and Wildlife councils Chapter III: Wild animals	CBD
Nature Conservation Amendment Act (2017)	Amend the Nature Conservation Ordinance, 1975, so as to insert and substitute certain definitions; to provide for a proper administrative, legal and procedural framework for tourism concessions in protected areas and other State land; to control the import and export of live game or animal, and to increase the penalties; and to provide for incidental matters	Enhance the role of protected areas in sustainable and responsible tourism development in Namibia	CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC

Act	Objective/ Key paragraphs	Concrete opportunities for synergies/ Areas covered with potential for synergies	Relevant international and regional agreements
Water Resources Management Act No. 24 (2004); will be replaced by Act No 11 of 2013	To provide for the management, development, protection, conservation, and use of water resources; to establish the Water Advisory Council, the Water Regulatory Board and the Water Tribunal; and to provide for incidental matters	National Water Master Plan – nature-based solutions Part XII: Protection of water resources PART XIII Water use, conservation and efficient water management practices PART XIV Dam safety and flood management	CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC
Water Resources Management Act No 11 of 2013 (not yet in force)	To ensure that Namibia's water resources are managed, developed, used, conserved and protected in a manner consistent with, or conducive to, specific fundamental principles including, among others, equitable access to safe and sufficient drinking water; the maintenance of the water resource quality for ecosystems; and the promotion of the sustainable development of water resources based on an integrated water resources management plan which incorporates social, technical, economic, and environmental issues.	Part 14 – Water protection areas Part 18 – Control of activities affecting wetlands, water resources and the resource quality	SDGs, CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC
Disaster Risk Management Act No. 10 of 2012	Provides for an integrated and coordinated disaster management approach that focuses on preventing or reducing the risk of disasters, mitigating the severity of disasters, emergency preparedness, rapid and effective response to disasters and post-disaster recovery	Part III. 20 – Disaster risk management framework, programmes and plans The framework aims at incorporating the following principles and strategic objectives: Integrated strategies involving multi-stakeholder participation; timely disaster risk reduction actions that contribute to sustainable development by limiting the loss of life and livelihood; the adequate allocation of resources to regional and local government; the introduction of creative formal and informal initiatives that encourage risk avoidance behaviour on the part of individuals, the private sector and government; and the introduction of creative formal and informal initiatives to ensure Namibia's transportation and other services are able to withstand potential threats.	SDGs, CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC

Act	Objective/ Key paragraphs	Concrete opportunities for synergies/ Areas covered with potential for synergies	Relevant international and regional agreements
Communal Land Reform Act No. 5 (2002)	To provide for the allocation of rights in respect of communal land; to establish Communal Land Boards; to provide for the powers of Chiefs and Traditional Authorities and boards in relation to communal land; and to make provision for incidental matters.	Recognises certain rights to communal farmers and traditional authorities, and states that future regulations will address issues pertinent to the conservation and sustainable management of water and watercourses, of woods and to the combating and prevention of soil erosion, the protection of pastoral resources, such as the grazing of stock, and any other matter as the Minister may consider necessary or expedient.	CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC
Environmental Management Investment Fund of Namibia Act No. 13 (2001)	To provide for the establishment of an Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia in support of sustainable environmental and natural resources management in Namibia; to constitute the Board to manage and control the Fund, and to define its powers and functions; and to provide for incidental matters.	Requires money from the fund to be allocated to: a) the conservation, protection and management of natural resources, the conservation of biological diversity, or the maintenance of ecosystems; b) the training and education of Namibians in environmentally sustainable practices and promoting general public environmental awareness and the development and implementation of environmental policies and strategies; and c) the broadening of the knowledge base of Namibia's environmental resources through the production, monitoring, management, use, and dissemination of environmental information;	CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD
Marine Resources Act No. 27 (2000)	To provide for the conservation of the marine ecosystem and the responsible utilization, conservation, protection and promotion of marine resources on a sustainable basis; for that purpose to provide for the exercise of control over marine resources; and to provide for matters connected therewith	Part II – General policy for conservation of and control over marine resources Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	CBD
Marine Resources Amendment Act (2015)	To amend the Marine Resources Act, 2000 so as to insert and substitute certain definitions; to provide for the sovereign exercise of ownership by the State over marine resources; to amend the provisions relating to the total allowable catch and allocation of quotas and to provide for incidental matters.	EIA	CBD; SDGs
Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act No. 33 (1992)	To provide for the reconnaissance, prospecting and mining for, and disposal of, and the exercise of control over, minerals in Namibia; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.	EIA/ SEA	CBD
Mountain Catchment Areas Act No. 63 (1970)	To provide for the conservation, use, management and control of land situated in mountain catchment areas, and to provide for matters incidental thereto.	The conservation, use, management and control of such mountain catchment areas land, the prevention of soil erosion, the protection and the treatment of the natural vegetation and the destruction of vegetation and fire protection plans	CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC

Act	Objective/ Key paragraphs	Concrete opportunities for synergies/ Areas covered with potential for synergies	Relevant international and regional agreements
Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act No. 2 (1991)	To provide for the reconnaissance, exploration, production and disposal of, and the exercise of control over, petroleum; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.	EIA/ SEA	CBD, UNFCCC
Petroleum Product and Energy Act No. 13 (1990)	To provide measures for the saving of petroleum products and an economy in the cost of the distribution thereof, and for the maintenance of a price therefore; for control of the furnishing of certain information regarding petroleum products; and for the rendering of services of a particular kind, or services of a particular standard, in connection with motor vehicles; for the establishment of the National Energy Fund and for the utilization thereof; for the establishment of the National Energy Council and the functions thereof; for the imposition of levies on energy sources; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.	Regulations – 2A	UNFCCC
The Plant Quarantine Act (2008)	To provides for the preventing, monitoring, controlling and eradication of plant pests.	Deals with regulating the importation of plants and plant products and animals and animal products	CBD
Soil Conservation Act No. 76 (1969)	Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the combating and prevention of soil erosion, the conservation, improvement and manner of use of the soil and vegetation and the protection of the water sources in the Republic and the territory of South-West Africa; and to provide for matters incidental thereto. <i>This Act is being revised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reformas part of the new Conservation of Agricultural Resources Bill.</i>	The objects of this Act are to make provision for the combating and prevention of soil erosion, and for the conservation, protection and improvement of the soil, the vegetation and the sources and resources of the water supplies of the Republic.	CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC

Annex 4: Committees, coordination mechanism, groups and platforms in Namibia

	Name	Mandate/ Objective	Composition/ Membership	Key tasks	Meeting schedule
CBD	NBSAP Steering Committee (NBSAP-SC)	To oversee/ensure the implementation of the NBSAP 2 (2013-2022) through adequate resourcing, coordination and oversight	Government ministries Academic Community Indigenous and Local Communities Non-Governmental organizations Private Sector Implementing Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide strategic and technical oversight and guidance • Serve as a platform for sharing information on progress and achievements • Serve as a forum for discussing approaches to common challenges and removing bottlenecks and obstacles • To ensure the implementation of NBSAP2 including support to the regular monitoring and evaluation of its implementation • To identify and address capacity needs and priorities of indigenous and local communities, including for achieving related Aichi targets 	Quarterly and opportunity to request meeting by each committee member
UNFCCC	Namibia Climate Change Committee (NCCC)	To advise the government with respect to its roles and responsibilities under the UNFCCC as well as to coordinate the overall national climate change program	Open to all stakeholders within government, national, regional and international NGOs operating in Namibia, educational institutions and the private sector with an interest in helping Namibia to prepare for and adapt to climate change or who will be affected by the predicted and/or anticipated effects of climate change/ High level representation from various stakeholders (head of Directorates, Departments and Agencies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the development of national positions on climate change issues through dialogue and participation in relevant national and international fora • Facilitate the approval and implementation of the Integrated National Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change (INSAP-CC) by Cabinet, Parliament, National Government and Regional council • Adopt and effect a strategy to ensure that climate change is included in national development agenda (NDPs and Vision 2030) and is fully integrated within government's resource allocation mechanism (the national budget) • Form for approval of the Minister's Forum, Permanent Secretary's Forum and Cabinet, an Inter-Sectoral Technical Working Groups on CC (ITCC); • - Review and endorse the work and outputs developed by the ITCC before submitting to Permanent Secretary's Forum which will report to the Minister's Forum, with the chairperson reporting to Cabinet 	At least six times a year

	Name	Mandate/ Objective	Composition/ Membership	Key tasks	Meeting schedule
	Inter-sectoral Technical Working Groups on NCC (ITCC)	The ITCC shall provide technical guidance to the NCCC and will be responsible for the development of projects and activities in their particular areas of competence and make technical recommendations on the same to the NCCC	Members nominated by various inter-sectoral institutions and project coordinators or managers of relevant projects related to climate change issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop or assist in the development of position papers and other technical documentation to assist the NCCC to carry out its functions • Lead the development of national positions on climate change issues through dialogue and participation in relevant national and international fora • Facilitate the development of an integrated sector-wide /sector-specific policy and a strategy and action plan for climate change (INCAP-CC) • Under the guidance of the NCCC adopt and affect a strategy to ensure that climate change is included in national development agenda • Define the capacity building, institutional and other resource requirements needed to fully implement the strategy and action plan and advise government accordingly • Participate in/lead the resource mobilization activities for the program, both local and international • Coordinate the preparation of and presentation to the UNFCCC of national communications and other legally mandated documentation to ensure compliance with the Convention • Ensure Namibia's full participation, to the extent possible, in Convention mechanisms such as the Kyoto Protocol, Clean Development Mechanism, Joint Implementation programs, and other bi-lateral and multi-lateral programs and activities. • Establish sub-committees and other organs on a formal and non-formal basis to assist with the implementation of this Terms of Reference • Any other tasks or activities as requested by the MEFT within the framework of the Convention and which are designed to support the implementation of the national climate change program 	The ITCC shall constitute a meeting upon the request of the NCCC chairperson or the chairperson of the ITCC
UNCCD	Sustainable Land Management Steering Committee (SLM-SC)	To ensure that the strategic objectives of the NAP3 are implemented within the framework of the Namibian laws and the principles and provisions of the UNCCD with the ultimate objective to alleviate poverty while, concurrently, ensuring environmental sustainability	The quorum of all SLM-SC's meetings shall be at least 50% of them members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide strategic oversight on the implementation of the NAP3 including validation of initiatives and reports thereof. • Serve as a platform for sharing information on process and achievements made on SLM activities • Serve as a forum for discussing approaches to common challenges and advice on ways to overcome or mitigate such challenges or barriers. • Oversee the implementation of the NAP3 including support for the regular monitoring and evaluation of its implementation. • To consider and approve reports on sustainable land management implementation prior to publication 	Once quarterly

	Name	Mandate/ Objective	Composition/ Membership	Key tasks	Meeting schedule
Sustainable Development	Sustainable Development Advisory Council (SDAC)	Promotes cooperation and coordination on environmental issues relating to sustainable development in Namibia	The Council is comprised of eight members. Four of the members must represent the interests of the State, while the other four members must represent the interests of organisations, associations or institutions concerned with environmental matters. Members are appointed to serve for an initial period of three years. The Environmental Commissioner is an <i>ex officio</i> member, but may not vote in meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote co-operation and co-ordination between organs of state, non-governmental organisations, community based organisations, the private sector and funding agencies, on environmental issues relating to sustainable development; To advise the Minister on the development of a policy and strategy for the management, protection and use of the environment; on the conservation of biological diversity, access to genetic resources in Namibia and the use of components of the environment in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of the environment, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations; on appropriate methods of monitoring compliance with the principles set out in Section 3 of the Environmental Management Act (see text box below); and on the need for, and initiation or amendment of legislation, on matters relating to the environment/ To perform other functions assigned to it by the Minister. 	The frequency of meetings of the SDAC is under consideration. In the SDAC Annual Report 2017/18, the importance of having regular meetings was emphasised. It was suggested that the SDAC meet twice annually.
Sustainable Development	Multi-stakeholder National Steering Committee	Established by the National Planning Commission of Namibia under the Sustainable Development Goals Initiative	The multi-stakeholder National Steering Committee is composed of senior officials from both government and development partners at implementation level to provide tracking of implementation.	Responsible for SDG implementation, coordination, review and reporting including the coordination of all developments pertaining to SDGs, through the NDP5 vehicle, which rests with the National Planning Commission as the Secretariat.	Not applicable

Annex 5: Mapping of committee members across NBSAP-SC and SLM-SC

The members of the NCCC have not been mapped in this table, since according to the ToR membership of the NCCC is open to all stakeholders within government, national, regional and international NGOs operating in Namibia, educational institutions and the private sector.

	NBSAP Steering Committee	Sustainable Land Management Steering Committee (SLM-SC)
Ministries/ institutions represented across both steering committees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism 2. Ministry of Urban and Rural Development 3. Ministry of Lands and Resettlement 4. Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry 5. Ministry of Finance 6. Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources 7. Ministry of Foreign Affairs 8. Ministry of Youth, National Services, Sport and Culture 9. Ministry of Mines and Energy 10. Ministry of Trade and Industry 11. Ministry of Education 12. National Planning Commission 13. Office of the Prime Minister 14. University of Namibia 15. Polytechnic of Namibia 16. United Nations Development Programme 17. Gobabeb Research Centre 18. Desert Research Foundation of Namibia 19. Nampower 	

Ministries/ institutions represented in only 1 steering committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisation 2. Council of Traditional Leaders 3. Chamber of Mines 4. New Era Newspaper (on behalf of the media) 5. National Commission on Research, Science and Technology 6. Ministry of Poverty Eradication 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Namwater
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Annex 6: List of project and activities with an identified potential for Rio Proofing

Project title	Project description/ objective	Time frame	Concrete opportunities for Rio proofing/synergistic actions between the Three Rio Conventions	Lead executing agency	Funder	Other partners	Donor
Sustainable Development Goals Initiative	To establish the prerequisites for the planning, financing and monitoring of the national implementation of the Agenda 2030 in Namibia	2017-2020	Integrating Three Rio Conventions into planning, financing and monitoring of national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development	National Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Namibia Statistics Agency	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Sustainable Development Advisory Council (SDAC)	
Support to De-Bushing Management of Natural Resources (2014 – 2021)	Improved strategies, measures and instruments in line with NDP4 are increasingly applied for sustainable de-bushing and rangeland management	2014 – 2017	Supporting the project to get climate-neutral or have a positive impact emissions wise (demonstrating positive effects of improving ecosystem health as a result of De-Bushing. This would build upon the results of ongoing work to investigate the project's climate implications. BMCC project already has established contacts and discussed initial options for next steps and possible pilot measure	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	MAWLR	BMZ
Adaptation of agriculture to climate change in Northern Namibia	Small-scale farmers in Northern Namibia successfully apply farming practices that are adapted to the impacts of climate change	2015-2019	Support conservation and climate –smart agriculture to address in Northern Namibia	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)		

Project title	Project description/ objective	Time frame	Concrete opportunities for Rio proofing/synergistic actions between the Three Rio Conventions	Lead executing agency	Funder	Other partners	Donor
Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to eradicate poverty (NILALEG) [Project is in the development phase]	To promote an integrated landscape management approach in key agricultural and forest landscapes, reducing poverty through sustainable nature-based livelihoods, protecting and restoring forests as carbon sinks, and promoting Land Degradation Neutrality	5 years	This project will start in the second half of 2019. The project has activities such as an integrated landscape management approach at national and sub-national levels, empowering farmers and local communities to plan for and manage agricultural lands, rangelands and forest resources on a sustainable basis, generating livelihoods in a manner that promotes conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable land and forest management, and climate change mitigation provide opportunities for Three Rio Conventions synergies	UNDP as GEF implementing agency; national partners: Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) - Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry (DEAF), in cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MPESW), and Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) - Directorate of Rural Development	GEF	MEFT	BMZ
Gobabeb Research and Training Centre	The mission of Gobabeb is to be a catalyst for gathering, understanding and sharing knowledge about arid environments, especially the hyperarid Namib Desert. Gobabeb is committed to skills development of emerging environmental specialists and decision-makers.	2 years	Integrating research, training and capacity building and technology development (e.g. knowhow in passive cooling) to inform climate-smart policy development, climate adaptation and ecosystem-friendly energy development (pilot case study) and mainstreaming of experiences in off-grid energy systems in small communities (incl. water desalination & treatment).	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), Gobabeb Research and Training Centre	Possible funding from German Development Cooperation (BMZ, through GIZ / KfW), as well as other funding streams (Adaptation Fund?, etc.)	SASSCAL	BMZ

Project title	Project description/ objective	Time frame	Concrete opportunities for Rio proofing/synergistic actions between the Three Rio Conventions	Lead executing agency	Funder	Other partners	Donor
Development of Namibia into a logistics hub for southern Africa	The desired outcome of the Logistics Master Plan is that by 2022 Namibia shall have a sustainable transport system that will support a world-class Logistics Hub connecting SADC to the International Markets. A special focus is on Namibia becoming the Number one gateway to SADC's landlocked countries.		Work with Ministry of Works and Transport to leverage opportunities to address the objectives of the Three Rio Conventions as part of the current process of developing an environmental and socio-economic impact assessment on WBCG corridors	Ministry of Works and Transport	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	MEFT Walvis Bay Corridor Group WBCG	BMZ
Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)	The implementation of the CBNRM policy has improved at national, regional and local levels. Conservancies, integrated community forests and households, which depend on natural resources, have increased their revenues through the diversification of income	2017-2019	Activities under CBNRM such as community forestry, rural development with biodiversity conservation efforts and the investment in conservation related businesses as an incentive to protect the environment and manage its biodiversity provide entry points for synergistic actions between the UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC.	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	MEFT	BMUB
The Benguela Current Marine Spatial Management and Governance Project	The capacity of the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) and its member states is strengthened. They contribute to the sustainable management of the Benguela Current's marine biodiversity and marine natural resources.	2014 - 2020	Marine spatial planning (MSP) provide entry points for integration of Three Rio Conventions objectives	Benguela Current Commission (BCC)	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)	MFMR	BMUB
Strengthening the capacity of the protected area management system to address new management challenges (PASS Project)	Strengthen the Protected Area system of Namibia and ensure sustainable finance through improving current systems for revenue generation, introduction of innovative revenue generation mechanisms; and cost effective enforcement through application of the Enforcement Economics Model	2014 - 2019	Follow up activities to this project focusing on the Protected Area System of Namibia is could provide potential opportunities for Three Rio Conventions Synergies	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)	Global Environmental Facility (GEF)		

Project title	Project description/ objective	Time frame	Concrete opportunities for Rio proofing/synergistic actions between the Three Rio Conventions	Lead executing agency	Funder	Other partners	Donor
Sustainable management of Namibia's forested lands (NAFOLA)	To maintain current dry forests and the ecosystem goods and services they provide, in over 500,000 ha of forest lands, through wide-scale adoption of SLM, SFM and other improved technologies.	2014 - 2019	Activities on community forestry aimed at improving agriculture, livestock and forestry management practices within communities and grow their ability to sustain their communities provides an opportunity for integrating Three Rio Conventions objectives	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform(MAWLR)	Global Environmental Facility (GEF)		
Scaling up community resilience to climate variability and climate change in Northern Namibia, with special focus on women and children (SCORE)	Strengthen adaptive capacity and reduce the vulnerability of 4,000 households, 80% of which are female-headed and 75 schools, to droughts and floods in Northern Namibia by scaling up climate-smart livelihoods.	2014 - 2019	The project has three components all aimed at strengthening adaptive capacity to reduce vulnerability of rural communities in responding to drought and floods in Northern Namibia. The project is coming to fruition in 2019. However, a follow up project is under preparation and it will focus on climate resilient agriculture at the landscape level. This could be a potential cross sectoral project	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)	UNDP Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) NPC	MAWLR FAO Association of Namibian Travel Agents (ANTA)	
CEPA programmes on Three Rio Conventions	The CEPA strategy uses a broad definition of environmental awareness to support the implementation of all MEFT environmental policies and strategic priorities and aligns itself with the provisions and recommendations of the CEPA Programme under the CBD. The Strategy offers a framework to guide the Ministry's communication activities and stakeholder engagement. A Theory of Change approach is used to define the overall CEPA process and prioritise desired outcomes, and then map out the necessary preconditions.	2018 - 2030	This work could target primary schools right up to University. Documentaries on Three Rio Conventions and what they mean to national and local priority issues can be aired repeatedly through national and private broadcasters. This can also help to motivate other stakeholders (e.g. other agencies can report on their contributions to the implementation of Three Rio Conventions and illegal activities can be reported).	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)	GIZ		

Annex 7: Examples of funding mechanisms

Name of fund or done	Role	Focal areas funded	Example of funded projects
Environmental Investment Fund (EIF)	Created by Act 13 of 2001 of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia to support individuals, projects and communities that ensure the sustainable use of natural resources. The EIF was officially launched in 2012 and is currently funded by a Government allocation with the mandates to tap on local conservation fees and environmental levels.	The EIF programme areas encompass conservancies, land use planning, renewable energy, waste management, pesticide use, green technology, research and awareness.	Empower to Adapt - Creating Climate Change Resilient Livelihoods through Community Based Natural Resource Management in Namibia
Game Products Trust Fund (GPTF)	Supports conservation across Namibia, particularly community-based conservation initiatives or programmes	Established through the Game Products Trust Fund Act (Act No. 7 of 1997) as a mechanism for ensuring that revenue obtained from the sale of wildlife products could be used exclusively towards wildlife conservation and community conservation and development programmes aimed at harmonizing the co-existence of people with such wildlife, and thus securing a future for wildlife outside of and within protected areas in Namibia.	Support wildlife management, conservation, projects to improve rural livelihoods and activities aimed at harmonizing the co-existence of human and wildlife for over ten (10) years by awarding grants to communities and organizations throughout Namibia
The Agricultural Bank of Namibia	A state-owned financial institution whose mandate is to advance money to persons or financial intermediaries for the promotion of agriculture and related activities. The Bank derives its mandate from the provisions of the Agricultural Bank of Namibia Act, No. 5 of 200	Provide loans for purchasing farmland, address bush encroachment, forestry guest farms and game farming and hunting	Loan products for de-bushing for freehold farmers in 2014, forestry guest farms and game farming and hunting
The Small Grants Programme of UNDP	Provide financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing the wellbeing and livelihoods of people. In Namibia, the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia hosts the UNDP/GEF SGP	The programme provides grants of up to US\$50,000 directly to local communities including indigenous people, community-based organizations and other non-governmental groups for projects in biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, land degradation and sustainable forest management, international waters and chemicals.	Projects on biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, land degradation and sustainable forest management

Annex 8: Interview framework

In order to assess the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in Namibia, and identify opportunities for maximizing benefits (and ideally achieving synergies) by implementing the conventions in a coherent manner, a number of interviews will be conducted in March/ April 2019.

Complementing the desk based review of relevant materials, the interviews will inform the development of a draft synergy strategy and roadmap for the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in Namibia. The draft synergy strategy and roadmap will be developed in the context of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development in order to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the conventions. It will be finalized following a national stakeholder workshop.

Interview objective

The objective of the interviews is

- to complement the desk based review with a more practical description of current implementation successes and challenges with regard to the three Three Rio Conventions;
- to assess the successes, barriers and challenges of the current institutional arrangements/ instruments in implementing the Three Rio Conventions;
- to identify entry points to strengthen implementation, taking into account the national approach for the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development;
- To identify innovative approaches to improve the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions through better cooperation and alignment/ streamlining of activities, including with respect to cross-sectoral investment programmes.

Selection of interview partners

Interview partners are people responsible for and working on the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions and potentially the biodiversity-related conventions; monitoring and reporting to the Conventions, mainstreaming within and across the Conventions and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs at national level in Namibia.

The interview process

The interviews will be semi-structured. The questions aim at gathering information on:

1. The current framework and practice for implementing the Three Rio Conventions
2. Challenges and opportunities in achieving synergies in the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions, in particular in the context of the implementation of the national plan for sustainable development
3. Concrete suggestions on what a successful synergy strategy and roadmap for the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in Namibia would need to address, including with regard to the necessary mechanism for ensuring its implementation

Following the interview each interviewee will be provided with a summary note of the interview, capturing all substantive comments for validation. The results of the interviews will inform the development of the draft synergy strategy and roadmap for the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in Namibia, which will be reviewed and finalized at a national stakeholder consultation workshop. The date of the workshop is yet to be determined.

Timeline

The interviews will be conducted in March/ April 2019.

Draft questions that will help to guide the interview with the different interview partners

A General overview of implementation/mainstreaming of Rio Convention at country level with a focus on the institutional arrangements

1. Are you aware of Namibia's obligations under the three Three Rio Conventions?
2. What is your role in the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in Namibia?
3. Can you provide us with an overview of the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions, in particular the work of the Rio convention committees

- and how they fit into the wider regulatory and administrative landscape?
4. Does the committee in which you sit discuss issues related to the other Rio Convention?
 5. The setting up of committees for the implementation of each convention was done in 2014/5, what is your take on the operation of these committees? Are there any challenges in implementing all the activities and tasks as identified in the ToR, and thus in achieving the committee's objectives?
 6. What are the linkages to the institutional arrangements to the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development in Namibia/ the national sustainable development plan?
 7. I understand that the National Planning Commission (NPC) is a member to all three Rio Convention committees, is that correct? Does it actively participate and what is the impact of its participation to date? Is the objective of their involvement clear?
 8. What are your views on the integration of Namibia's obligations under the three Three Rio Conventions within national legislation, sectors and national development plans?
 9. Do you think synergies in the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions have been realized to date? Why or why not – can you elaborate and potentially even provide some examples?
 10. What are the benefits of creating synergies in the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in Namibia and what are the challenges/ obstacles?
 11. Can you think of any examples (if there are any?) where the goals and plans for the Three Rio Conventions are opposed to each other or not consistent? In some instances, for example, biodiversity conservation goals and climate action might be in contradiction to each other? (e.g. establishing large wind farms or similar)
 12. To effectively create synergies amongst the Three Rio Conventions at the national level, tools and mechanisms are required to enhance such synergies including mainstreaming. What do you think are some of the key tools that have enhanced synergies within the Three Rio Conventions from a Namibian perspective?
 13. What are some of the key strategies/approaches adopted to raise public awareness and support on the Three Rio Conventions by Namibia? Has it worked? And was there a link to the awareness campaigns undertaken on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
 14. Is policy relevant research with respect to the Three Rio Conventions happening in Namibia and is that research being encouraged through mechanisms to enhance the science-policy interface?

B Situational analysis – Information management and reporting

15. Can you provide an overview of the information management systems in place to support implementation of the Three Rio Conventions? What are challenges and opportunities for better information management? What are the links to the work of the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) with respect to the collection of data for analysis and reporting on SDG implementation?
16. Is there a need to improve access to data and information of relevance to the Three Rio Conventions?
17. Have indicators been developed to track progress in implementation or are there plans to do so?
18. What are the current arrangements for national reporting to the three Three Rio Conventions by MEET? They are adequate from your perspective? Why or why not?
19. What is the linkage to reporting progress in Namibia's contribution to achieving the SDGs? Thus, was there a role of the Three Rio Conventions Committees in providing input to Namibia's 2018 voluntary national review (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19880New_Version_Full_Voluntary_National_Review_2018_single_1_Report.pdf)?
20. If there is improvement to be done on reporting mechanisms to enhance synergies amongst the Three Rio Conventions, and to provide input to the reporting under the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, what would you suggest?
21. Does Namibia have integrated Monitoring and Evaluation framework developed for the Three Rio Conventions? And if so, does it enhance synergistic issues amongst the implementation of the conventions?

Identifying opportunities for enhancing synergies/ way forward

The objective of the interviews is to inform the development of a draft synergy strategy and roadmap for Namibia. The following questions aim at getting interview partners direct input for the development of such a strategy.

1. Do individuals tasked with the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions consider cooperation and the creation of synergies among them a priority? Do you think it need to have a higher priority and how can it be achieved that the topic of cooperation/ synergy ranks higher on the priority list?
2. What are some of the key issues that the Division of Multilateral Environmental Agreements can address to enhance synergies amongst the Three Rio Conventions, in particular in the context of the country's national development planning?
3. How does one ensure that overlapping issues of national interest are also discussed in other Rio Convention committees? Can you think of any activities that could be implemented

- jointly to split costs and increase impact?
4. Can the development of joint or integrated funding proposals mobilize additional resources for implementation or ensure better use of existing resources, thus making implementation more effective and efficient? Are there any current project proposals that could benefit from an integrated approach across the Three Rio Conventions?
 5. What is the potential of existing mechanisms or arrangements to better coordinate the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions, e.g. through better alignment of committee functions and enhanced communication? **Or** is establishment of new mechanism needed? What would be composition? What stakeholders would need to be involved? And what would the meeting schedule look like? How to ensure sustainability, including attendance at meetings?
 6. Are there also other processes that can be capitalized on to strengthen cooperation/ synergies? E.g. with respect to feeding into other planning processes (such as NDP5 and Harambee Prosperity Plan, HPP), including at the regional level (Africa Agenda 2063 and the SADC's Regional Integrated Strategic Development Plan, RISDP)?
 7. Can you think of any tools/ mechanism that could strengthen the science-policy interface with regard to the implementation of the Three Rio Conventions?
 8. In how far can Rio synergies help to promote a "transformative agenda" towards sustainable development and removing socio-economic inequalities?
 9. Final question: What are the key issues that the draft synergy and roadmap will need to include/address? In other words: What needs to be in it? And how to achieve its implementation?

Annex 9: Relevant good practice examples from other countries

No.	Issue	Country/ Region	Relevant good practice	Reference for more information
1	Streamlining investment through local development plans for biodiversity and climate change	Philippines	<p>The Strengthening Coordination for Effective Environmental Management Project (STREEM), 2009-201, aimed to strengthen coordination among the focal point agencies (FPAs) of the Three Rio Conventions. As a result of the project The Committee on the Conservation and Management of Resources for Development (CCMRD) under the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) was reactivated, and its members reconstituted, to serve as the National Technical Coordinating Committee (NTCC) for MEAs. The reconstituted CCMRD has four Subcommittees, namely: (1) Biodiversity; (2) Atmosphere; (3) Land Resources; and (4) Water Resources. The committee is supported by a Business Plan and an online portal integrating the websites of the focal point agencies, also known as the Philippine MEA portal website. Sustainability of these tools is ensured under the leadership of the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning of the Department, who also serves as the Chair of the CCMRD.</p> <p>In addition, the STREEM project has successfully developed a framework for the bottom-up approach to mainstream the Three Rio Conventions at the local development planning process. This has been piloted in the four barangays (communities) within the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP). Through the capacity building activities provided by the project, members of the Local Development Councils (LDC) of Puerto Princesa City and PPSRNP staff have become knowledgeable on MEA, and have begun to infuse its thematic concepts and issues in local development planning process.</p> <p>The project's pilot barangays (i.e., Tagabinet, Marufinas, New Pangangan and Cabayugan), were able to develop Barangay Investment Plans (BIPs) stipulating proposed strategies that address biodiversity loss, land degradation and climate change concerns in synergy. Among the strategies proposed were the establishment of sea wall or water breakers, mangrove rehabilitation, reforestation, livelihood trainings and others. These BIPs were adopted by the barangays in their existing Barangay Development Plans (BDPs) through a Barangay Resolution. Financial support to implement their BDPs were augmented by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), which gave each barangays Php500,000.</p> <p>The experience in the project pilot sites was captured in an operations manual in mainstreaming MEAs in the local development planning process with an accompanying facilitators' handbook to guide government personnel to facilitate incorporation of MEA concerns in the respective Barangay Development Plans (BDP) of local government units.</p>	<p>UNDP project summary: http://www.ph.undp.org/content/philippines/en/home/operations/projects/environment_and_energy/STREEM.html</p> <p>Government website with information on the project and the developed manual and handbook: http://faspseilib.denr.gov.ph/taxonomy/term/286</p>

2	<p>Creating ownership for and ensuring implementation of international commitments</p>	<p>South Africa</p>	<p>Prior to international meetings and conferences to biodiversity-related conventions, experts and other relevant participants are selected to take part in national preparatory meetings. Based on the inputs to these meetings, the South African position on the different issues at stake is formulated. Depending on the complexity and the technicality of the issues addressed, the experts may also be required to be part of the South African delegation attending the international meeting itself.</p> <p>After each international meeting or conference where decisions have been taken, such as Conferences of Parties (COPs) or meetings of Parties (MOPs), national stakeholder meetings are held, to report back on the outcomes of the meetings. Roles and responsibilities for each stakeholder and implementing partner are also identified at these meetings. These activities are then incorporated within their respective institutions strategic- and business plans and hence national budgets are allocated for their implementation. Follow up in terms of how far the implementation is progressing is done through working groups, constituted to fast track national implementation on biodiversity programmes. These working groups are composed of various government departments and other relevant organisations. As a result of this process the implementing partner responsible for each section of the national report is already identified. In order to compile a national report, the NFP of the respective biodiversity-related conventions requests the information from the responsible implementing partners by specifying exactly what is needed, so that all the stakeholders and implementing partners have a clear understanding of what is required from them.</p> <p>The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), which is a Department for Environmental Affairs (DEAF) public entity, assists in consolidating the collected information into National Reports to the biodiversity-related conventions. The consolidated report is also made available to various stakeholders for their final comments or inputs.</p>	<p>UN Environment Sourcebook of Opportunities for Enhancing Cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions (2015), case study 16</p>
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3	Enhanced Regulatory and Information Systems for Integrated Implementation of MEAs	Kenya	<p>2009-2016. The project objectives are to strengthen national environment assessment, monitoring and audit systems with tools and methods that integrate Rio Convention objectives; and to improve performance in meeting MEA requirements through integrated information and reporting systems.</p> <p>The design of the project was based on the findings of National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSAs) and it supported the Bali Strategic Plan (BSP) for Technology Support and Capacity Building. The project sought to integrate data collection, monitoring and/or reporting mechanisms for the main Three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD) at country levels through improved coordination between focal points and integrated information systems. It was part of a first generation of UNEP-GEF projects that sought to implement NCSA priorities and in doing so, assist the BSP's implementation at the country level. There were also linkages with environmental impact assessment legislation.</p> <p>A key output is the development of an integrated information management portal with clearinghouse functions which is facilitating the work of convention desk officers and which has the potential to raise synergies and feedback during convention monitoring and reporting cycles. Training on EIA, environmental audits, valuation of environmental services and indicator data flows was imparted at national and sub-national levels, feeding into pilot planning processes.</p>	<p>UNEP GEF Final project report (2016): http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7385/3135_3195_3164_TE_UNEP_REGIONAL_CB_MSP_MEAs_GAMBIA_CROA-TIA_KENYA.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y</p>
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4	Coordination mechanisms for MEA implementation	Lesotho	<p>In recognition that, like much of the developing world, Lesotho has had limited success in implementing the many MEAs that it is party to, the Lesotho Environment Ministry ran a project to assess the level of coordination among national implementing agencies, and developed a National Coordination Strategy on Implementation of MEAs ('the National Coordination Strategy'). The situation analysis for the National Coordination Strategy identified 14 MEAs that Lesotho is party to, including the three Rio Conventions. Both international and national factors had prevented a joined up approach to implementation: the proliferation of MEAs had strained Lesotho's resources in terms of funds and time required for reporting and participation at meetings. The national focal institutions for the MEAs lacked technical resources to implement their roles, and contrary to the reporting protocol, they reported directly to the MEA secretariats without sending copies to the Department of the Environment – which itself lacked resources to coordinate, collect or disseminate reports.</p> <p>The National Coordination Strategy sets out steps to address this situation over 2013-2018. It places the Department of the Environment at the center, as this department is NFP to all MEAs to which Lesotho is party. The department acts as a central depository of reporting information, linking different sectors and reporting to Parliament. The strategy also proposes a National MEAs Coordination Committee (MEAs-NCC), with representation from all MEA working groups of all NFPs, including representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Development Planning and the NGOs. Bonafide members of this Committee are officers at the level of Directors in their respective institutions. The role of this committee includes overseeing the coordination of efforts by each MEA's focal department and supporting institutions; mobilizing resources for implementation; and providing technical support to NFPs. The strategy also recommends clarifying the processes for stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Reported results of the National Coordination Strategy so far include meetings of all MEA NFPs to identify their needs and respond to these with training workshops; formulation of guiding tools for enhanced delivery by all; collective decision on qualifying projects for funding by any donor including the GEF; and approval, review and formulation of project concepts (representation of civil societies/ NGOs is formal and two umbrella organizations members are permanent members in the committee) . The NFPs are fairly active, well-informed and collaborating, partly because the National Coordination Strategy embraces communication between NFPs, and the fact that the MEAs-NCC meets at least quarterly.</p>	UN Environment Sourcebook of Opportunities for Enhancing Cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions (2015), case study 11
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5	EIA guidelines	India	<p>India has adopted a range of guidelines to support implementation of EIA regulations. The documents were developed by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the Wildlife Institute of India and the Center for science and Environment. Most documents were published in 2010 with the exception of 2, including the most recent ones titled 'Guideline on Eco Friendly Measures to Mitigate Effects of linear Infrastructure on Wildlife' (2017), which was developed in close collaboration with road engineers. Most guidelines can be considered examples of good practice with regard of the integration of the mitigation hierarchy.</p>	<p>Linear infrastructure (2017): www.wii.gov.in/eia-bpg_guidance_document_2017</p>
6	Environmental mainstreaming	Uganda	<p>During the revision of Uganda's NBSAP, the team invested time in identifying stakeholders vital for biodiversity mainstreaming. They identified 'biodiversity champions' in important ministries and involved them in the NBSAP's thematic working groups including the one on 'biodiversity for development, wealth creation and socio-economic transformation'. This approach has built up ownership and commitment to the NBSAP outside the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). The approach has been particularly successful with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, where Uganda's champion has been successful in increasing resources available for implementing the NBSAP. The Budget Call Circular for 2017/18 issued by the Ministry of Finance, required for the first time, to plan for and allocate resources for implementing the revised NBSAP.</p>	<p>Stories of Change: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development (2018): https://www.cbd.int/mainstreaming/doc/submission-2018/organizations/IIED-2-en.pdf</p>
7	Staff Rotation policy	Japan	<p>The Environment Ministry of Japan has a policy of moving its staff to different roles every two to three years, so that their staff gains a wide range of experiences in different areas of the Ministry. This often means that staff can gain experience with a number of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, as they become 'generalists' rather than specialists with any single convention or topic. As a result, there are a number of colleagues that any staff member can turn to for advice on implementing a particular convention, as they are very likely to have worked on it at some point in their career.</p> <p>One example is Naoki Amako, who has dealt with four different conventions during his time at the Ministry. As a ranger, Naoki was involved in the Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC) inscription process; in other positions he has worked directly on implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), and has also been asked to attend the CBD Conference Of the Parties (COP) to add expertise on some specific issues.</p>	



- Mainstreaming of biodiversity values, sustainable land management & climate change.
- Sustainable land management
- Ecosystem services managed for human health & well-being
- Climate resilient/smart agriculture
- Climate change adaptation & mitigation activities in both rural and urban areas
- Food security
- Drought mitigation
- Policy & institutional frameworks to address land degradation, desertification & drought (DLDD)
- Ecosystem approach to conservation & sustainable use
- Pollution control & management
- Access & benefits sharing



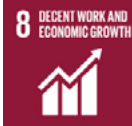
- Ecosystem restoration for climate resilience, adaptation, human health & well-being
- Climate resilient/smart agriculture
- Community resilience to climate change
- Drought mitigation and resilience
- Food security
- Conservation of genetic diversity



- Ecosystem restoration for human health & well-being
- Water security
- Climate resilient infrastructure & human settlements
- Health sector climate change strategy



- Develop renewable energy (energy security)
- Efficient use of energy



- Sustainable rangeland & sustainable forest management
- Ecosystem restoration for livelihoods & human well-being
- Conservation agriculture
- Sustainable management & utilization of fisheries and marine resources
- Technology development, science base & knowledge transfer
- Support nature-based tourism industry



- Climate resilient infrastructure
- Reduction of GHG emissions from industries and other sectors
- Efficient use of energy
- Technology development, science base & knowledge transfer



- Sustainable land management
- Reduce GHG emissions from Land-Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) –including agriculture sector and enhance the GHG sink
- Reduction of GHG emissions from industries and other sectors
- Climate change mitigation & adaptation strategies
- Climate resilient/smart agriculture
- Ecosystem approach to conservation & sustainable use
- Ecosystem restoration for climate resilience, adaptation, human health & well-being
- Mainstreaming climate change into design & development planning strategies & legislation
- Functional climate monitoring system in Namibia
- Mainstreaming gender considerations into climate change, biodiversity conservation & sustainable land management programmes
- Climate resilient infrastructure & human settlements
- Health sector climate change strategy
- Develop renewable energies
- Regional & international cooperation programmes
- Mobilise resources for climate mitigation and adaptation
- Communication strategy on climate change



- Sustainable management & utilization of fisheries and marine resources
- Pollution control & management
- Effective & equitable management of protected areas
- Food security
- Phase out harmful subsidies
- Ecosystem management for climate resilience
- Ecosystem approach to conservation & sustainable use
- Technology development, science base & knowledge transfer
- Access & benefits sharing



- Sustainable land management
- Mainstreaming biodiversity, climate change & sustainable land management into research and tertiary educational institutions and extension services
- Ecosystem approach to conservation & sustainable use
- Ecosystem restoration for climate resilience, adaptation, human health & well-being
- Integrated land use planning
- Effective & equitable management of protected areas
- Establish ecological corridors
- Protect/conserv key biodiversity area
- National review of invasive alien species
- Integrated water resources management
- Land degradation neutrality
- Combat poaching and trafficking of wildlife
- Mobilise resources for sustainable land management
- Communication, education, awareness and campaigns
- Access & benefits sharing





- Mainstreaming biodiversity, climate change & sustainable land management into research and tertiary educational institutions and extension services
- Communication, education, awareness and campaigns on biodiversity, climate change & sustainable land management



- Mainstreaming gender considerations into climate change, biodiversity conservation & sustainable land management programmes



- Water harvesting
- Conservation & sustainable utilisation of water resources
- Integrated water resources management
- Institutional & human capacity building for water security
- Access to sanitation & safe drinking water
- Trans-boundary cooperation on water resources management
- Guidelines for more efficient water use
- Pollution control & management



- Mainstreaming gender considerations into climate change, biodiversity conservation & sustainable land management programmes
- Mobilise financial resources for climate change response activities, biodiversity conservation & sustainable land management programmes
- Access & benefits sharing
- Effective & equitable management of protected areas
- Effective and equitable management cultural & natural heritage



- Climate resilient infrastructure & human settlements
- Reduction of GHG emissions from industries (e.g. major construction, mining, manufacturing)
- Disaster risk reduction
- Climate change adaptation & mitigation activities in both rural and urban areas
- Technology development, science base & knowledge transfer
- Improve public transportation system
- Effective and equitable management cultural & natural heritage



- Sustainable management and use of fisheries & marine resources
- Sustainable land management
- Integrated watershed management
- Institutional & human capacity building for water security
- Waste management & control harmful emissions
- Integrated land use planning
- Food security
- Ecosystem approach to conservation
- Phase out harmful subsidies



- Combat poaching and trafficking of wildlife
- Mainstreaming gender considerations into climate change, biodiversity conservation & sustainable land management programmes
- Strengthen policy and institutional frameworks to address land degradation, desertification and drought (DLDD)
- Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
- Institutional & human capacity building for water security
- Access & benefits sharing



- Mobilise financial resources for climate change response activities, biodiversity conservation & sustainable land management programmes
- Investment and partnerships in research, technologies and infrastructure related to climate change, biodiversity conservation & sustainable land management programmes
- Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development



NBSAP: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Namibia (2013-2022)

NCCSAP: National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan of Namibia (2013-2020)

NAP: Third National Action Programme for Namibia to Implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2014-2024)



Description of three pilot measures/activities for the synergistic implementation of the Three Rio Conventions in Namibia

Concept Note 1: Piloting an aftercare stewardship programme for bush control and biomass utilisation projects

1. Background and introduction

The Land Degradation Neutrality National Report of Namibia (2015) identifies bush encroachment as the largest single form of land degradation and calls for a reduction in bush encroachment concurrent with the need to improve rangeland productivity. As one of its voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets, Namibia aims to reduce bush encroachment on 18.880 km² by 2040 (compared to the year 2000). In addition, bush encroachment is used as an additional indicator (next to land cover/change, land productivity, soil carbon) to monitor progress on LDN. At the same time the Strategic Environmental Assessment of large scale bush thinning and value addition (2015) suggests that optimum benefits are derived from rangelands that are thinned of bush, and where aftercare programmes are consistently implemented. Risks are also identified with the pursuit of short term commercial gains with poor harvest techniques and a lack of aftercare leading to greater land degradation. This has resulted in growing concerns of land degradation around the current value chain industry and large-scale thinning for biomass energy supply. At the same time the management of encroacher bush addresses key elements of Namibia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, specifically Action 4.1.3 which includes the facilitation of sustainable de-bushing of undesirable bush species in affected areas, but also includes elsewhere sound rangeland management and agro-forestry measures. The biomass sector also has significant scope to contribute to Namibia's goals under the UNFCCC, the Nationally Determined Contributions that are based on specific contributions by sector and are heavily skewed to the Agriculture, Forest and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector (81.7%) followed by energy (5.7%). Biomass utilisation and in particular bush-control, when well managed, also has the ability to help increase climate adaptation and resilience, through providing additional land-use options with commensurate financial benefits as well as enhanced ecosystem services, particularly the provisioning of water through enhanced ground water recharge.

One of the main challenges of bush control and biomass utilisation is that it has to be followed up with aftercare lest the woody component of the restored rangeland encroaches again or in cases where an agro-forestry approach is adopted to avoid re-encroachment by sub-economic types of bush. Aftercare is therefore a means to avoid recurring bush thickening and bush encroachment. Bush thinning in the absence of addressing regrowth, coppicing and mass seedling reestablishment produces fragile rangelands and ecosystems. Such fragile systems support less biodiversity, are unproductive and as consequence lead to the depletion of soil nutrients.

Well managed Aftercare speaks to LDN's response hierarchy which advocates avoiding land degradation, but also speaks to climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation. potentially enhancing biodiversity.

The Bush Control and Biomass Utilisation Project (BCBU) jointly implemented between the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) has conducted a scoping exercise and identified possible pilot options for testing aftercare systems.

2. Aim and Objective

The overall aim is to pilot at least one Aftercare Stewardship Scheme that is agreed upon between all relevant stakeholders. The following objectives apply:

- The proposed concept must take into consideration legal requirements, environmental protection as well as viability for commercially driven bush control and biomass utilisation projects
- Institutional roles and mandates for the implementation of the scheme must be clearly defined and commitment of the respective institutions achieved
- The proposed stewardship scheme must result from comprehensive stakeholder consultations
- Funding options and strategies for the long-term sustainability of the stewardship scheme must be clearly outlined

3. Scope of services and deliverables

3.1 Technical Component

- Analyse proposed Aftercare Stewardship Scheme (AFS) Models and further adapt as necessary for consensus and agreement with key stakeholders to pilot.
- Set out a clear Terms of Reference and project document for the hosting and management of the pilot AFS
- Assist with the process of selection of participating stakeholders, adjudication and selection of successful AFS implementing entity.
- Provide technical support to the selected implementing entity of the pilot AFS
- Monitor and evaluate the progress of the pilot AFS
- Provide recommendations for upscaling and or future AFS developments

3.2 Pilot Aftercare Stewardship Scheme

Run and implement a pilot Aftercare Stewardship Scheme in line with the Terms of Reference developed above.

4. Timeframe

The estimated timeframe for this consultancy is a period of 36 months:

5. Key stakeholders

- **Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism:** custodian for environmental protection and driver of LDN strategies and assessments; authorises bush control projects through environmental clearance certificates.
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform:** custodian of forest resources; authorises and monitors bush control projects through permits.
- **De-bushing Advisory Service:** non-profit entity for capacity development among farmers and SMEs on the topic of bush control and rangeland restoration.

- **NamPower:** national power utility of Namibia; currently develops a 40MW biomass power plant and seeks solutions regarding the question of sustainable aftercare. Possible pilot project partner.
- **Namibia University of Science and Technology:** one of two universities in the country with leading experts on the topics of bush encroachment and rangeland restoration.
- **Namibia Chamber of Environment:** brings together over 50 Namibian environmental organisations and provides a single entry point for engaging conservation and biodiversity organisations

Aftercare Stewardship Programme for Bush Control and Biomass would address the following items under the three Rio Conventions and SDGs:

SDG goal	SDG target	SLM/UNCCD	NBSAP/CBD	NCCSA/UNFCCC
SDGs 1, 2, 3, 13, 14 and 15	Targets 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 6.5, 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.8 and 15.9	✓	✓	✓

Concept Note 2: Roll-out climate-smart agriculture (based on best practice in Namibia) in northern communal area as the main crop farming method supported by government

Namibia has been battling a drought for the past seven years. 2019 will be one of the worst years in terms of rainfall in history with almost all regions of the country receiving significantly less rainfall than average predicated rainfall. Climate change impacts and the variability of rainfall are bound to increase in the future causing livestock losses, reducing crop production and yields and causing severe water shortages. The current dry spell already has considerable impacts on agriculture. Many farmers did not plant their crops waiting for the almost completely absent main rain season.

In addition to erratic rainfall patterns, farmers are also challenged by the poor soil fertility that comes along with deep arenosols, which are prevalent in large parts of the northern communal areas, which is where the majority of subsistence farmers live. Slash and burn practices are still used a way to deal with poor nutrient levels, which are depleted after a few years as a crop field. And while yields are decreasing, the overall population increases, and demands to food security are on the rise.

This situation is especially detrimental for a country with an economy relying heavily on natural resources and agriculture. 70% of the Namibian population are directly or indirectly dependent on agricultural production, although the impact on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is limited and Namibia imports more than 50% of its cereal and horticultural products. Climate Change can have considerable effects on food security and the nutrition of communities with many households -especially in communal areas- entirely dependent on their own production. The 2018 UNICEF Climate Landscape Analysis for Children in Namibia suggests that “climate-driven reductions in agricultural production will impact the poorest and most vulnerable and will exacerbate poverty and raise food insecurity and vulnerability”.

Traditional Knowledge (TK) is used by communities to respond to environmental shocks, providing short term adaptation mechanisms to climatic changes, with communities resuming subsistence farming activities when possible. Current livelihood options are constrained by Namibia’s climate and environment as these are not suited to support intensive agriculture. Communities need to adapt to a changing environment and increased frequency of disasters, which are predicted to occur under climate change, but for which short term TK solutions are insufficient.

Reduced crop output and livestock productivity due to climate change and drought lead to water shortages and reduced grazing. This will force communities to look for other sources of food and income. Response mechanism to such conditions is to rely more heavily on natural resources and cut forest produce, areas which, if poorly managed, will threaten the integrity of the ecosystem and reduce the ability to deliver ecosystem services. One example: a cohort of local farmers vocally call for forest products as a livelihood alternative in challenging times, despite the severe plundering of timber in forest areas.

At the same time, some communities are becoming increasingly aware of the situation and are willing to engage in interventions that help reduce their vulnerability. This represents a significant opportunity for climate-smart agriculture.

Climate-smart Agriculture (CSA) conserves, improves and makes more efficient use of natural resources through integrated management of available soil, water and biological resources. It does not exclude the use of external inputs. It leads to environmental conservation as well as enhanced and sustained agricultural production. Climate-smart Agriculture, when correctly implemented, can strengthen food security and livelihoods, whilst also mitigating against environmental degradation and human wildlife conflict. ‘

It includes the principles of minimum tillage, crop diversification and mulching. These practices lead to an improved water retention in the soil both through farrows but also due to less evapotranspiration, and also to improved soil fertility through crop rotation and soil coverage with nitrogen fixing plants. The improved soil fertility allows farmers to stay permanently on their plot and allows for long-term investment in the field, but also avoids deforestation for agricultural extension purposes.

The combination of the practices reduces the risks for crops to fail due to extended dry spells and through using fast maturing crop varieties increases the chances for crops to mature. Using different crops also helps to reduce the risk of crop failure; and while beans are an excellent cover crop, pulses are a highly underutilized food group in Namibia. The increase of consumption of beans produced in CSA will not only contribute to food security but also household diet diversification.

In the past, CSA projects were often undermined by a set of subsidies that compromised the sustainability of the project and the adoption rate, especially through seed support. Engaging in partnerships with the private sector means to create economic opportunities for people in structurally poor areas by bringing seeds to local communities.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) and its Directorate of Agricultural Production, Extension and Engineering Services (DAPEES) has supported conventional farming with advise and ploughing services for the longest time, and it has only been in the last four years that CSA has become an officially adopted method. However, there is a major knowledge gap among extension officers as well as ripping service equipment that does not allow to support each and every farmer in the northern communal regions of Namibia in practicing CSA. Capacitating DAPEES extension officers and providing extension service equipment are essential to reach out systematically.

Overall objective: to increase the socio-ecological resilience of communities in the Northern communal areas of Namibia

Objective 1: Improved climate-smart agricultural and horticultural production for more resilient livelihoods

Activities:

- Create institutional structures as learning platforms
- Train multipliers for efficient roll-out of CSA

- create awareness within these structures on CSA; use change management techniques to encourage farmers to try new methods
- Teach CSA techniques (throughout a season) using the existing CSA manuals (based on best practice)
- Invite and encourage small businesses to engage within CSA (seed agents, rippling services) to create micro-economies
- Encourage consumption of, CSA products, through trainings and demonstration, for improved nutrition
- Create backyard gardens for continuous supply of vegetables throughout the year, for own consumption (improved nutrition) but also for local markets

Objective 2: Improved conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems through collaborative natural resource management for better ecosystem integrity

- Discourage deforestation for agricultural and other purposes (CSA allows for staying on field permanently)
- Encourage CSA fields outside existing wildlife corridors only to allow for harmonious co-existence of subsistence farmers and wildlife (which is important for biodiversity but also for tourism as a main economic driver)
- Use products of CSA and other indigenous natural products (that can be harvested in a non-destructive way, e.g. fruits) (e.g. Mangetti) to create alternative (non-farming) livelihoods and income streams to reduce vulnerability to climate change
- Create awareness of importance of biodiversity protection especially in Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) areas (conservancies and community forests)

Objective 3: income generated from avoided deforestation and restoration of degraded areas.

- Undertake assessment of potential for carbon sequestration/corridor maintenance through avoided deforestation and restoration
- Identify feasible Payment for Ecosystem Schemes (PES)
- Investigate potential partnerships and enter into conservation agreements

Overall objective: to increase the socio-ecological resilience of communities in the Northern communal areas of Namibia

Objective 1: Improved climate-smart agricultural and horticultural production for more resilient livelihoods

Objective 2: Improved conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems through collaborative natural resource management for better ecosystem integrity

Objective 3: income generated from avoided deforestation and restoration of degraded areas.

Climate-smart Agriculture (CSA) would address the following items under the three Rio Conventions and SDGs:

SDG goal	SDG target	SLM/UNCCD	NBSAP/CBD	NCCSA/UNFCCC
SDGs 1, 2, 3, 6, 14 and 15	Targets 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.8 and 15.9	✓	✓	✓

Concept Note 3: Forestry in Namibia

Namibia is vulnerable to climate change as it receives low but highly variable rainfall (25-700 mm) and is characterised by high temperatures that range from 30 °C – 40 °C. Namibia's climate for the rest of the century will become warmer and drier due to climate change. Seasonal rainfall patterns will be more erratic, and Namibia will experience drought more frequently. The country may not seem like a place with many plants, but is home to over 4000 species of plants that have been identified. Woodlands and forests in Namibia can be described and mapped in various ways, one of which is some of the important forests and woodlands in Namibia include:

The *North-eastern Broad-leaved Woodlands* which harbour the greatest resources of wood and timber in the country. They also support a high diversity of species and animals associated with trees. The woodlands contain the great majority of Namibia's good quality timber, however the timber stock was severely compromised over the last few years, for a number of reasons; these include

- Deforestation/land clearing for subsistence farming, in the communal areas including the areas under Community-based Natural Resource Management, i.e. Conservancies and Community forests;
- Deforestation/land clearing for large-scale agricultural farming, both in the communal area but also in the area known as the State forest in Zambezi region
- Livelihood and Income generation from timber and poles (whereas a permit is given for reasons above)
- Frequent fires which resulted in the loss of many trees, particularly in Kavango and Zambezi
- Selective logging of the three commercial tree species (*Baikiaea plurijuga*, *Pterocarpus angolensis*, *Guibourtia coleosperma*).
- Massive logging in the Community forests of the Kavango regions through external operators.

It is estimated that in and around the area of the State Forest in Zambezi region only, way over 500.000 trees were felled over the last 2-3 years. This has compromised the timber utilisation for the next few decades, given that growth rates of these trees are low, and in times of drought nearly nonexistent. The opening of the canopy cover allows fires to enter and cause damage, not only to trees but also for the regeneration. It has been found that at least in some areas, recruitment is very poor, and the majority of regeneration is of secondary tree species, indicator species for degradation, and fire followers. This will even impact the future composition of the tree species.

At the same time, the Kavango and Zambezi region are key for the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA). These factors have resulted in a loss of biodiversity and shrinking habitats of biomes that are on the margins in the northern parts of Namibia, like the Miombo woodlands that just reaches into the State Forest area in Zambezi region. This also negatively impacts the wildlife, which is considered one the main economic drivers in the country.

The remote sensing data regarding forestry is highly conflicting and sends no clear message. Often the source data are not sufficient for the Namibian context, and would require much higher resolution satellite images, which are expensive. Especially losses on linear woodlands remain undetected, but also selective logging is not visible. However, it is clear that in some areas the tree cover losses are outrageous, with a tree loss of 7% per year (Global Forest Network) at minimum.

At the same time, forests and woodlands provide important ecosystem services; and especially in form of forest and non-timber forest produce to the rural population, which to a large extent relies on natural resources to make a living. Services include firewood as a source of energy, poles for construction of houses, fences, kraals; thatch grass for roofs; traditional medicine from herbs, barks, leaves etc; logs for water troughs, canoes, tools; but also grazing grounds for livestock.

The heavy logging had and has impacts on the integrity of the ecosystems, but also on surrounding communities. A new memorandum in Namibia has stopped timber harvesting at large, and suggested that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are needed for individual areas out to understand if timber harvesting is a viable economic option. However, there has not been any initiative to look into this, nor is there an understanding what are the wider impacts, not only ecological but also social impacts, which rather suggest an SEA. Intervention are direly needed to stop the current trend of forest degradations, aiming at

Objectives: Improved forest management in Namibia

- 1) Situational analysis
 - a. Procure high quality satellite images
 - b. Map areas with forests and their levels of degradation (includes ground truthing)
 - c. Classify areas according to their status
 - d. Undertake an Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on national level
 - e. Undertake public awareness creation (CEPA)
 - f. Policy recommendations to be developed to address the situation
- 2) Sustainable timber harvesting in prioritized areas with promising forest stocks
 - a. Undertake forest inventories if needed
 - b. Update or develop forest management plan and EIAs
 - c. Develop value-chains for selected high-value products to maximize benefits for local people
 - d. Support the implementation of the management plan
- 3) Forest restoration in areas with severe degradation
 - a. Undertake an detailed assessment of the damage
 - b. Apply restoration opportunities assessment methodology (ROAM) to get in-depth understanding of the current situation and drivers of the degradation
 - c. Assess possibilities of incentives for Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) for restoration activities
 - d. Develop a restoration plan for local levels
 - e. Assist with the implementation of the restoration plan

Improved forest management would address the following items under the three Rio Conventions and SDGs:

SDG goal	SDG target	SLM/UNCCD	NBSAP/CBD	NCCSA/UNFCCC
SDGs 1, 2, 3, 6, 14 and 15	Targets 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 12.2,	✓	✓	✓

	13.1. 13.2, 13.3, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.8 and 15.9			
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