



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

NAMIBIA BLUE ECONOMY POLICY

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Implementation Period: 2022-2031



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**BLUE ECONOMY POLICY
FOR NAMIBIA**

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- Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources - coordinator
- Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism;
- Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
- Ministry of Mines and Energy;
- Ministry of Works and Transport;
- Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs;
- Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation
- Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation;
- Ministry of Industrialization and Trade
- National Planning Commission; and
- Office of the Attorney General

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1 Foreword

Namibia recognizes the importance of Oceans and other aquatic resource to life on earth. In particular, the Ocean generate the oxygen that we breath, regulates global temperatures, wind movements and rainfall patterns and absorb carbon dioxide which consequently reduce global warming.

Namibia's aquatic ecosystems, contributes significantly to the country's economy by providing, jobs, food, minerals, transportation, energy resources, ecological services, and tourism opportunities. There are several other untapped opportunities in the blue economy sector such as, renewable energy from wind, tidal wave, green hydrogen, bio-prospecting and biomass sources.

The development of the aquatic economy adds to a mounting pressure on the ecosystems through increased pollution, loss of biodiversity, coupled with climate change induced risks such as rising water temperatures, rising sea levels and ocean acidification.

In line with its Fifth National Development Plan (NPD 5), Namibia has developed a Sustainable Blue Economy Policy that integrates conservation, oil and mineral wealth extraction, sustainable energy production, fisheries and aquaculture, marine transport, tourism, water resource development and bio-prospecting while significantly reducing environmental and ecological risks.

Through the implementation of this policy, Namibia aims to strengthens inter-sectoral linkages and coordination in the governance of the blue economy sectors and to leverage the full potential of Namibia's aquatic ecosystems in addressing the countries specific needs and aspirations for improved human well-being and environmental sustainability.

2 Acronyms and Abbreviations

BWM	International Convention for the control and
CBD	Convention on Biological Biodiversity
ED	Executive Director
IMO	International Maritime Organization
MAWLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MEHTI	Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation
MFMR	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
MIRCO	Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation
MIT	Ministry of Industrialization and Trade Enterprises
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MWT	Ministry of Works and Transport
NDP5	National Development Plan 5
NPC	National Planning Commission
PPP	Public Private Partnership
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
STCW	International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watch-keeping

UNCLOS

United Nations Convention on the Law of the
Sea

3 Glossary of Concepts and Terms

Alien species: species introduced to areas outside their native range that have become successfully established and cause substantial impacts on the new environment (CBD 2002).

Aquaculture the farming and ranching of aquatic organisms

Aquatic: within water, whether it be fresh or saline.

Blue bonds: Innovative Ocean financing instrument whereby funds raised are earmarked exclusively for projects deemed ocean-friendly

Blue Economy: the sustainable use of ocean and inland water resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of aquatic ecosystems.

Circular flow: refers to how resources move in a constant loop from producers to consumers and back again.

Clean technology: refers to avoiding environmental damage at the source through use of materials, processes, or practices to eliminate or reduce the creation of pollutants or wastes.

Ecosystem-based approach: a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

Ecosystems insert the definition

Exclusive Economic Zone: The sea outside the territorial sea of Namibia but within a distance of two hundred nautical miles from the low water line or any other base line from which the territorial sea was measured shall constitute the exclusive economic zone of Namibia.

Marine Mining: the extraction of mineral resource within the near shore and the shelf environment of the Namibian EEZ.

Marine Spatial Planning: a participatory decision-making process that guides where and when human activities occur in marine space to organise its future use in a comprehensive, integrated and complementary way

Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) an accounting framework to provide a systematic way to measure and report on stocks and flows of natural capital.

Polluter Pays Principle: principle that prescribes that any person who causes damage to the environment must pay the costs associated with rehabilitation of damage to the environment and to human health caused by pollution, including costs for measures as are reasonably required to be implemented to prevent further environmental damage

Precautionary Principle: a principle that prescribed that where there is sufficient evidence which establishes that there are threats of serious or irreversible damage to the environment lack of full scientific certainty may not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

4 Executive Summary

The Development of a Blue Economy Policy for Namibia is in line with the Rio Summit “Rio +20”. Namibia recognised that, the traditional single sector Regulatory approach of the aquatic ecosystem, particularly the ocean economy often lack synergies and coordination that compromises maximum production and the health of the aquatic ecosystem and often results in conflicting uses of shared ecosystems spaces. To address these challenges, Namibia has developed a Sustainable Blue Economy Policy to coordinate, manage and regulate aquatic economic activities towards the implementation a blue economy governance framework.

The development of this Policy began in 2016 under the direction from Cabinet and spearheaded by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. In this Policy, alignment is made towards effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity, as called for both by the Fifth National Development Plan and in the Transformations Document of the High Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy.

This over-arching policy provides basis for integrated sustainable management of the aquatic ecosystem at the Inter-Ministerial level aiming to grow and expand the blue economy in order to create sustainable production, social inclusiveness (meaningful participation of locals) and fair distribution of wealth while ensuring that environmental health is maintained.

5 Introduction

The aquatic ecosystems play a critical role in sustaining life and driving the global economy. The global ocean produces about half of the world's oxygen and regulates global temperatures, wind movements and rainfall patterns. In addition, aquatic ecosystems contain living organisms, minerals, provides energy, and is a medium for transport, tourism and defence.

Namibia's aquatic ecosystems provide, inter alia, jobs, food, minerals, transportation, energy resources, ecological services, recreation, and tourism opportunities. These ecosystems further play a critical role in transportation, manufacturing, trade as well as national security. Therefore, sustainably harnessing the aquatic economic resources provides an opportunity to grow the national economy while ensuring the maintenance of the healthy ecosystem.

However, aquatic ecosystems are fragile and threatened by human activities, such as pollution, overfishing and illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing; climate change effects including ocean surface warming, acidification and oxygen depletion.

Unless mankind adopts a sustainable ecosystem approach towards the management and utilisation thereof, the health, and ability, of these ecosystems to sustain life on earth will diminish, thereby affecting the livelihoods of millions of people.

Namibia has enacted laws and developed policies, plans and strategies to regulate various uses of its aquatic ecosystems. These instruments largely provide for the sustainable use of the marine and other aquatic resources, however, their implementation often lack coordination resulting in duplication of efforts and resources and conflict among uses. This policy therefore acknowledges that the traditional single sector approach lacks synergy in

maximizing economic opportunities, preservation and sustainable management of the entire aquatic ecosystem.

In its quest to coordinate, manage, and regulate various economic activities that occur within an interconnected liquid system, Namibia developed an inclusive and comprehensive Blue Economy Policy.

The Blue Economy concept promotes environmental protection, sustainable production, social inclusivity and equitable distribution of benefits from activities in the aquatic ecosystems. The concept also recognises that ocean, coastal and inland surface and ground waters, and atmospheric water are all interconnected into one global water ecosystem, with interdependent sustainability.

For Namibia, Blue Economy calls for an integrated governance framework that leads to a sustainable economic development in the aquatic sphere aimed at creating a sustainable production, social inclusiveness (meaningful participation of locals) and fair distribution of wealth while ensuring that environmental health is maintained.

Namibia's Blue Economy Policy provides a basis for leveraging the full potential of Namibia's aquatic ecosystems in order to address its socio-economic needs in an environmentally sustainable manner. Furthermore, it strengthens inter-sectoral linkages and coordination in the governance of the blue economy sectors.

The Blue Economy policy is anchored in the various local and international developmental frameworks such as UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, African Union Agenda 2063, Vision 2030, NDP5, Harambee Prosperity Plan II

5.1 Methodology

Development of the policy was spearheaded by the inter-ministerial committee on the blue economy of which memberships is drawn from the institutions listed in Annexure 1.

The policy development process started with a review of relevant literature to set the context and develop a conceptual foundation. National consultation meetings were held with a range of stakeholders in all the 14 regions of Namibia with the view to solicit their inputs on the policy. These stakeholders included inter-alia, Government Ministries, Offices and Agencies, Regional Councils, Local Authorities, industries, local communities, development partners non-governmental organizations and trade unions.

The process also entailed benchmarking visits to Norway and Australia in order to gain insights into how these countries manage their Blue Economies, with special emphasis on legal and institutional arrangements as well as practical definition of the Blue Economy concept.

6 Background

6.1 Overview

Namibia is endowed with abundant marine and other aquatic resources. The country's inshore and EEZ water surface area is about 580,000 square kilometres, equivalent to about 65% of the land surface area. The ocean water within the EEZ supports marine life to depths of over 4,000 meters.

Namibia's coastline is about 1,570 kilometres long. Most of the coastal land is classified as protected area. The coastline traverses' areas of unmatched beauty including sand dunes meeting the ocean, multiple recreational areas where windsurfing, angling and swimming are enjoyed, and areas of international historical significance.

Namibia's inland waters include perennial rivers namely, Kunene, Okavango, Zambezi Kwando (Linyanti/Chobe), and Orange, which are located along the country's international borders, as well as ephemeral rivers, *iishana*, floodplains, lakes, dams, ground water and wetlands. Although the inland waters are limited in size when compared to Namibia's EEZ, they support crucial livelihoods of many Namibians, but, they have fragile ecosystems that need to be conserved by applying Blue Economy principles.

The country's blue economy activities comprise of fisheries and aquaculture, mining, transport and logistics, water desalination and tourism. The aquatic ecosystem also possess potential for, coastal wind, green hydrogen, tidal and wave energy, hydro-power, marine biotechnology and bioprospecting, carbon sequestration and carbon trading as opportunity for expansion and growth.

Namibia's aquatic resources, particularly the marine and coastal areas are major driver of the country's economic development. Considering that Namibia's land is largely arid and that the ocean's productive capacity within the EEZ is considerable, sustainable economic development and inter-

generational equity will be largely determined by the extent to which the country's blue economy resources are exploited and managed.

Some of the main challenges confronting Namibia are income inequality, widespread poverty and unemployment. Although there is a comprehensive framework for addressing the above challenges and Namibia has achieved notable progress in reducing poverty, halving the proportion of Namibians living below the poverty line to 28% in 2009-2010 and to 17.4% by 2015-2016 (NHIES, NSA), poverty levels remain dangerously high and are exacerbated by natural phenomenon such climate change and COVID-19 pandemic. Namibia therefore seeks to leverage the enormous potential of the blue economy to address these challenges.

The other challenge facing Namibia is the threat of pollution of the aquatic ecosystems (such as plastic litter, hazardous chemical, effluent discharge), on which a large part of Namibia's economy relies for employment, foreign exchange earnings, food security among other benefits.

Successful management of the aquatic pollution requires a concerted efforts among responsible ministries namely; Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), Ministry of Works and Transport (MWT), Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR).

6.2 Blue Economy Sectors

6.2.1 Blue Fisheries

This sector is regulated by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. It comprises of capture fisheries and aquaculture and entails the harvesting, processing and trading of living aquatic resources and products derived from them.

Capture fisheries is regulated through a right based approach. In order to ensure resource sustainability, the MFMR conducts scientific, ecosystem-based research and provide scientific advice that are used to determine the Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for each fishery. The MFMR allocates the TAC to fishing right holders through a quota based system.

The ministry undertakes Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) through regular fishery patrols with patrol vessel and aircrafts and deploy Fisheries Observers onboard fishing vessels in order to eliminate harmful fishing practices such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and overfishing.

The fishing sector is the third largest economic sector in Namibia. The sector contributes an average of 3.9% to the country's GDP, which is equivalent to N\$ 6.9 billions. Over 80% of the fish output is exported, contributing about 14.3% of Namibia's total exports thereby making it one of the main sources of foreign earning. The marine based fishing sector employs about 16, 970 people with majority employed in land-based factories which comprises of 63% women and on fishing vessels. Commercial aquaculture continues to be at infancy stage, however with significant employment.

Challenges to fishery management and fish stocks sustainability include high environmental variability of the ecosystem which is exacerbated by climate change and global warming, Illegal Unregulated Unreported fishing, potential impact of seabed exploration and subsequent mining to the fish resource, pollution and budget constraint to effectively conduct research and undertake monitoring control and surveillance.

6.2.2 Blue Tourism

Th sector is regulated by the MEFT and promotes sustainable tourism practices in aquatic ecosystem to ensure that, positive externalities for the

environment, the workers and the local communities are realized. Tourism activities are cross cutting between sectors of the aquatic ecosystems which includes boat trips, marine wildlife watching, wind- dune- kite- and wave-surfing, and coastal tourism.

Marine Tourism in Namibia is not sufficiently documented, but believed to contribute significantly to the socio-economic of coastal towns. The sector is faced with challenges such as;

- Lack of policy, regulations and development strategy for the marine tourism. Existing policies and regulation are focused on land-based tourism activities.
- Lack of strategies to attract investment to maintain the health of aquatic environment, to restore and build biodiversity and resilience to climate change
- Limited knowledge on the potential main attraction sites & routes of aquatic-based tourism
- High entry barrier to cruise tourism by Namibians
- Limited knowledge on Namibia's aquatic biodiversity and genetic resources
- Limited knowledge on Namibia's aquatic ecosystems and their services

6.2.3 Blue Mining

The sector is regulated by the Ministry of Mines and Energy and entails exploration and extraction of various mineral and hydro-carbon resources.

Namibia is endowed with mineral wealth in its marine and coastal areas. These includes Diamonds and known economic deposits of phosphorites while salt mining continues to grow. Offshore Diamonds are mined in water depths of up to 150 metres.

In general, the mining sector (inclusive of terrestrial) is the largest contributor to the country's GDP, contributing about 10% and a major sector

for foreign earnings. Diamonds recovered from the marine and coastal areas of Namibia are the lead commodity in the mining sub-sector and accounts the highest to GDP contribution by mining. Diamond and Salt from coastal and marine mining contributes about N\$ 10.84 billions per annum and employs about 3780 people.

In addition to mineral resources, various exploration has confirmed the presence of hydrocarbon and Kudu Gas field. Other confirmed minerals resources includes Lower Cretaceous rich source rocks, clastic and carbonate reservoirs which proves an oil-based working petroleum system. The continued discovery of mineral and hydrocarbons present the country with an immense opportunity for the diversification of the marine mineral profile to grow the Blue Economy for Namibia.

The realization of the full potential of this sector requires substantial capital investment. Furthermore, the lack of capacity to fully understand the co-existence of mining phosphorites with marine biodiversity hampers the full growth and expansion of the blue economy. This policy seeks to attract investment into the exploration and subsequent development of the country's coastal and marine minerals and hydrocarbon. However, the development of these resources should ensure environmental sustainability in accordance with the provision of the country's environmental regulatory frameworks.

6.2.4 Blue Renewable Energy

The sector is regulated by the Ministry Mines and Energy and entails the generation and distribution of renewable energy such as wind, green hydrogen, hydrothermal, wave and tidal energy.

Namibia aims for an energy balance, which supplies sufficient, sustainable levels of cost-effective energy. The country has committed itself to increase the share of renewable energy to about 70 percent of electricity by 2030.

Ample wind, particularly around Lüderitz has prompted wind farm developments. The confirmed potential of wind energy at areas around Lüderitz has a total generation capacity of 180 megawatts. The country has only one wind farm at this area generating at total of 5 megawatt. Investment in this sector is expected to significantly grown the blue economy.

6.2.5 Blue Maritime Transport, Ports and Shipping

The sector is regulated by Ministry of Works and Transport which entails the movements of people and goods using the sea and inland waterways. The sector is made up of the following main clusters:

Shipping, which includes shippers, ship management, ship-owners, port agency, freight forwarding, charters, shipbrokers and logistics.

Ports, which includes terminals, pilotage, stevedoring, bunkering, ship chandelling and warehousing and storage.

Marine & Offshore, which includes shipbuilding and maintenance, fishing, exploration and mining, marine tourism, dredging and salvage.

Marine Services, which includes marine insurance, finance, maritime education and training, marine surveying and information technology.

Regulation, which includes maritime safety and security, marine environmental protection, naval defence, industry promotion.

Globally about 90% of goods traded internationally rely on maritime transport, with this volume expected to quadruple by 2050. Namibia follow this global trend where maritime transport accounts for about 60% and 25% of exports and imports respectively, totalling 85% of the country's traded goods. Maritime transport further contributes to marine tourism through cruise ships and boat cruises.

In view of its strategic location and excellent connectivity to regional and international markets, Namibia has over the years actively positioned itself as a logistics hub to serve its own needs as well as the import and export

needs of the SADC region, especially the neighbouring states of Angola, Zambia, DRC, Zimbabwe Botswana and South Africa.

As part of the logistics hub strategy, Namibia has invested in ports, roads and rail infrastructures to meet current and future demands and has allocated dry ports to Zambia, Botswana, DRC and Zimbabwe. Namibia has also simplified administrative formalities at both sea and inland ports of entry and exit in order to strengthen Namibia's regional and international competitiveness as a logistics hub.

In addition to international merchant ships visiting Namibian ports, Namibia also has domestic fleets of fishing, mining as well recreational and small vessels operating both at sea and on inland waters. Moreover, Namibia's maritime waters are part of a busy international shipping route for vessels en-route to other destinations. Namibian maritime waters are also an attractive new frontier for research and mineral and hydrocarbon exploration.

The above –mentioned developments indicates a continuing growing number of vessels in Namibian waters and ports. This presents a potential threat of environmental damage which consequently may result in large-scale economic loss, maritime safety, security, pollution and introduction of marine invasive species through ballast water and hull fouling.

However, Namibia is not in a position to effectively address the above risks due to gaps in the maritime administration regulatory framework. This include old institutional legislative framework from pre-independence that has been outgrown by the sector and the lack of transposing international maritime treaties that Namibia is a party to in to national law.

Furthermore, Namibia is not listed as giving full effect to the requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and

Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), as such, maritime officers, with Namibian qualification, cannot work on the international merchant fleet which is currently dominated by the Philippines whose seafarers sent home some USD 6.1 billion in 2018. Consequently, high percentage of skilled positions, (large fishing vessels ~80-90%, offshore mining vessels ~43%, Namport ~60%), in this sector are occupied by foreigners due to lack of appropriate qualifications by Namibians. This robs Namibians a great opportunity to enter this sector and reduce unemployment.

6.2.6 Blue Water Resources

The sector is regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Land Reform to promote water resource development.

Namibia relies primarily on groundwater and surface (perennial and ephemeral surface water) as a source of water supply, of which about 60 % is provided by groundwater and the remainder met by surface water resources, desalinated and reclaimed wastewater.

Namibia adopted the concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) which aims to promote a coordinated development and management of water resources in order to maximize the socio-economic benefits without compromising the sustainability of vital aquatic ecosystems. This approach requires that planning and management of water resources development taking into account of the various uses of water.

Namibia recognizes that securing access to freshwater continues to be more difficult, given the country's aridity climate couple with the effect of climate change, which are causing high rainfall variability patterns in the country. It is thus imperative for the country to explore new and expand existing water resources development, prioritising seawater desalination, rain/flood water harvesting, managing aquifer recharge, and constructing dams.

6.2.7 Emerging / Potential Blue Economy activities

6.2.7.1 *Blue Bio-Propecting*

This activity is regulated by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism to promote, access, utilisation and benefits sharing of genetic resources.

Namibia recognises that there is growing global interest in marine genetic resources. The exceptional biological diversity of the oceans is an important source of novel genes and natural products, with applications in medicine, food, materials, and energy sectors across a wide array of bio-based industries.

Namibia, further recognises that marine biological prospecting involves the discovery, in the ocean environment, of novel genes and biological compounds, that can lead to commercial development of pharmaceuticals, enzymes, cosmetics, and other products.

6.2.7.2 *Carbon Trading*

This sector is regulated by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and entail establishing the amount of Carbon stored in the aquatic ecosystem for trading.

Namibia recognizes that carbon capture by living organisms in the form of biomass by aquatic plants particularly marine plants, and storage within these ecosystems, are important regulators of climate. The country has not established the protentional of carbon sequestration by its aquatic ecosystems which present immense opportunity for blue carbon trading and acquiring blue bonds.

7 Rationale

The rationale for this policy is to create a blue economy governance framework that is aimed at unlocking the full potential of the blue economy that will contribute to alleviate poverty, sustain economic growth, enhance social inclusion, improve human welfare and creating opportunities for employment. The policy further aims to strengthen linkages, minimize conflict, and enhance coordination amongst stakeholders that operate in the same aquatic ecosystem space and ensure ecosystem health and environmental protection.

8 Alignment

This Policy is aligned to the constitution of Namibia, Vision 2030, Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) and Harambee Prosperity Plan II.

The Namibian Constitution

Article 95(l), provides for 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.

Article 23(2), provides for the implementation of policies and programs aimed at redressing social, economic or educational imbalances in the Namibian society arising out of past discriminatory laws or practices.

Vision 2030

Chapter 5: calls for the sustainable utilization of Namibia's aquatic resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

Harambee Prosperity Plan II

Pillar 2: calls for economic advancement to strike a balance between pursuing inclusive socio- economic growth and requisite economic transformation to achieve the industrialization goals enshrined in Vision 2030.

Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5)

Calls for the development and implementation of the blue economy governance framework that sustainably maximizes economic benefits from marine resources and ensures equitable marine wealth distribution to all Namibians.

The policy is further aligned to national, regional and international legal instruments listed in Annexure 2.

9 Guiding Principles

This policy is founded on the following principles:

Sustainable Production: unlock the full potential of blue economies that provide, inter alia, jobs, food, minerals, energy resources, manufacturing and trade whilst at the same time ensuring ecosystem health through effective environmental protection, low carbon, efficient and based on circular flow to achieve sustainable development and improved livelihoods.

Environmental Protection: sustain the health of the aquatic ecosystems is a moral and intrinsic obligation on current generations, to ensure that such fundamental ecosystems continue to provide oxygen, food security and other essential ecosystem services for generations to come.

Climate Resilience: enhance early warning systems, explore alternative livelihood to mitigate and address the potential threats of climate change on the aquatic ecosystems as well as coastal communities and infrastructures.

Social Equity and Inclusivity: ensure that the benefits derived from Blue Economy activities are shared in a fair and transparent manner and to achieve a socially just society through the inclusion of all societal groups, especially previously disadvantaged communities, women, youth, people with disabilities and economically marginalized groups.

Integrated Governance: create and improve linkages and synergies through a governance framework that enhances coordination of sectors in the aquatic ecosystem.

Conducive Investment Environment: encourage private sector investment and partnerships in traditional, new and emerging economic activities through policy certainty, ease of doing business, reliable infrastructure and security

Human Capital Development: Invest in the human capital required to develop Namibia's Blue Economy.

Regional and international collaboration: Enhance regional and international collaboration on sustainable management of Namibia's aquatic ecosystems, including management of the Benguela current ecosystem and cooperation between all riparian countries sharing Namibia's transboundary rivers.

10 Policy Direction

10.1 Vision

To become a leader in Blue Economy governance and management for the benefit of all Namibians.

10.2 Mission

To ensure sustainable economic development through a coordinated ecosystem approach that enhances ecosystem productivity and equitable benefits for the Namibian nation.

10.3 Goal

The goal of this policy is to sustainably maximize economic benefits from aquatic resources and ensure equitable wealth distribution to all Namibians while ensuring environmental protection.

11 Policy Objectives and Strategies

The following are the objectives and strategies of this Policy;

Objective 1. To effectively protect, maintain and restore the biological diversity, productivity, resilience and intrinsic value of Namibia's aquatic ecosystems;

Strategies:

1. Devise measures to rebuild fish stocks and-improve conservation of the aquatic ecosystems to ensure sustainable exploitation.
2. Eliminate harmful fishing practices, unsustainable extraction of living marine organisms and end Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
3. Prevent destruction of the aquatic habitats, and limit physical alterations and landscape changes of coastal areas.

4. Identify and establish protected areas in the aquatic ecosystem including at least 10% of Namibia's EEZ as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
5. Prohibit unsustainable extraction of water resources (MAWLR).
6. Prohibit aquatic pollution, especially dumping of plastics, untreated sewerage, industrial waste, dumping of toxic waste, and other pollutants into water bodies.
7. Promote sustainable tourism practices in the aquatic ecosystem
8. Implement adaptive measures to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change in the development of the blue economy.
9. Strengthen and enforce the Regulatory Frameworks for improved assessment of potential impacts of listed aquatic activities
10. Develop safeguard specific measures for bio-prospecting.
11. Monitor and Control Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.
12. Improve and enforce measures to conserve and enhance the aquatic biodiversity in order to increase carbon capture and storage.
13. Adopt an integrated ecosystem-based management approach in the aquatic ecosystems.
14. Ensure the availability and use of environmentally friendly marine fuels in Namibian waters and ports.
15. Promote and adopt the use of clean technologies and material circular flow in the aquatic ecosystem-based industries.

Objective 2. To grow and expand the blue economy

Strategies:

1. Promote investments to increase and expand production in the aquatic ecosystem-based industries.
2. Promote investment in value addition and other capacity-enhancing activities.
3. Promote investment in fisheries and aquaculture.

4. Promote investment in the exploration and exploitation of marine mineral and hydrocarbon resources.
5. Promote the exploration of new mineral and hydrocarbons in the aquatic ecosystem and the exploitation of discovered resources.
6. Promote investment in integrated transport infrastructure (ports, railway & road) including the use of Public Private Partnership (PPP).
7. Create a conducive, legal and economic environment to sustain ship repair and maintenance sector.
8. Promote investment for water infrastructure development to ensure sufficient provision of freshwater.
9. Promote investment in bioprospecting in the aquatic ecosystem.
10. Promote investment in the development of aquatic renewable energy such as wind, tidal, hydro-power, wave, green hydrogen and conversion of ocean thermal energy.
11. Explore and promote a carbon market approach, particularly for blue carbon trade and blue bonds.

Objective 3. To promote social economic transformation and economic inclusivity in the blue economy

Strategies:

1. Ensure the inclusion of previously disadvantaged Namibians, especially women, youth, people with disabilities and economically marginalized communities in the blue economy activities.
2. Device mechanisms to ensure that the benefits derived from Blue Economy activities are shared in a fair and transparent manner.
3. Attract investment and innovation in both public and private sector, to enhance food security, poverty reduction and the sustainable management of aquatic resource.

Objective 4. To strengthen coordination and collaboration mechanisms between government offices, ministries, agencies and other stakeholders in the aquatic ecosystem.

Strategies:

1. Promote collaboration with regional and international fisheries management organizations and other international partners in enhancing sustainable fisheries management.
2. Ensure national coordination in the regulation and management of blue economy activities with all stakeholders.
3. Fast track the Institutionalisation of Marine Spatial Planning as a key enabling tool for the implementation of blue economy
4. Ensure compliance with international maritime and other aquatic instruments to which Namibia is party to.
5. Promote an integrated maritime domain awareness / surveillance system
6. Review and update legislative and regulatory framework of the blue economy

Objective 5. To promote capacity building and public awareness in the aquatic ecosystem activities

Strategies:

1. Build capacity of regulators to enforce environmental compliance in the aquatic ecosystems
2. Develop appropriate human capacity for current and emerging blue economy activities
3. Ensure that Namibia achieves and maintains Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping 17 (STCW) whitelist status
4. Ensure and promote the development of maritime curriculum at institution of high learning to enhance capacity of officers in the maritime sector

5. Promote maritime and other aquatic career opportunity
6. Develop capacity to quantify ocean carbon capture in the development of the emissions accounting in accordance with Paris Agreement on Climate Change
7. Develop capacity in natural capital and ecosystem accounting

Objective 6. To promote research, science, technology and innovation in the aquatic ecosystem activities

Strategies

1. Encourage national, regional, international research collaboration in the blue economy
2. Promote and support aquatic research by tertial institutions

12 Implementation Framework

The implementation of this policy is undertaken through an integrated and coordinated approach which requires each implementing institution to incorporate their activities in the implementation action plan pertaining to this policy and execute them effectively. The policy is guided by the Marine Spatial Plan for Namibia (MSP) towards the development of industries in the aquatic ecosystem, particularly in the marine and coastal environment. Where necessary, each blue economy's line ministry, in consultation with the Inter- ministerial Committee on Blue Economy, may develop policies, strategies and plans to implement this Policy, as well as regulations and scorecards in line with this policy objectives.

12.1 Institutional Arrangements / Frameworks

12.1.1 Roles and Responsibility of stakeholders

12.1.1.1 Government

Cabinet Committee on Trade and Economic Development (CCTED): This Cabinet Committee shall consider possible conflicts, overlaps and gaps in regulatory mandates between various laws governing blue economy in Namibia, and propose corrective actions for consideration by Cabinet.

National Coordinating Committee on Blue Economy: In terms of this Policy, this committee shall consider technical, operational and regulatory matters on blue economy for consideration by CCTED.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform - is responsible for regulating surveys, demarcations and allocating use of land in Namibia; this includes seabed areas over which Namibia has jurisdiction. This Ministry is also responsible for safe, non-polluted, potable freshwater supply to the nation. The ministry is also responsible for the implementation of the blue water resource management activities and the coordination thereof.

The Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs - is responsible for the defense of the territorial integrity and national interests of Namibia throughout the land, territorial sea and EEZ of Namibia.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources - is responsible for the conservation of the aquatic ecosystem and the utilization, conservation, protection and promotion of living aquatic resources on a sustainable basis. The ministry exercises control over living aquatic resources, substances derived from them, and related matters.

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism - is responsible for promotion of the sustainable management of the environment and the use of

natural resources by establishing principles for decision making on matters affecting the environment. This ministry is also responsible for the promotion and regulation of the blue tourism, blue biotechnology and bioprospecting activities as well as blue carbon.

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture: is responsible for continuous improvement in quality, inclusive education, teaching and learning, improved learning outcomes, and the production of an education and skilled workforce needed for a productive and competitive Nation. Amongst others, ensure the inclusion of blue economy in school curricula.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation - is responsible for the coordination of training, research and development pertaining to Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economy.

The Ministry of Industrialization and Trade - is responsible for spearheading the development and expansion of the country's trade, investment, and industrial sector, as important sources of economic growth, employment creation and the country's economic competitiveness in the regional and international arena. This Ministry will be responsible for the promotion of industrial activities, investment and facilitation of trade in the marine and aquatic ecosystems, in line with Namibia's obligations towards the bilateral, regional and multilateral trading systems.

The Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation - is responsible for the articulation and implementation of specific foreign policy objectives through identified goals and interests of Namibia, and will be responsible for the articulation of the country's positions and aspirations on blue economy issues in regional and international fora.

The Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation – Is responsible for labour, employment and social protection services, and will be responsible for specific labour and employment relations in the blue economy.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy - is responsible for regulating prospecting and mining activities, and granting of minerals and petroleum rights in Namibia. Additionally, the Ministry is mandated to carry out geological research in support of mineral exploration and geo-environmental monitoring of mining activities. The ministry is also responsible for the implementation of sustainable blue energy and blue mining activities, and the coordination thereof.

The Ministry of Works and Transport - is responsible for ensuring safety of life and property at sea and to control marine pollution from shipping. This Ministry regulates maritime transport in the territorial sea, internal waters and areas under Namibian jurisdiction, which includes the EEZ. This ministry is also responsible for the implementation of the blue transport, ports and shipping activities, and the coordination thereof.

The Office of the Attorney General – is the primary legal advisor of the President and Government, and will be responsible for the provision of legal advice on issues emanating from the implementation of this Policy.

The National Planning Commission – is responsible for planning and spearheading the course of national development, coordinating public policy processes, planning national priorities and directing the course of national development. It is also coordinating the implementation of National Development Plans. This Agency will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the policy, coordination, mobilization of resources, monitoring and evaluation.

Ministry of Finance: Mobilize and provide financial resources for the implementation of this policy

Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security: is responsible to manage and administer and facilitate lawful migration at the ports of entry through aquatic ecosystems.

12.1.1.2 Private Sector

The private sector are crucial in the implementation of this policy in terms of investment in the blue economy activities and to ensure market diversification and product value addition.

12.1.1.3 Non-Governmental Organization and organized groups / Associations

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are to promote sustainable use and facilitate equitable participation of communities in the blue economy activities.

12.1.1.4 Academia

Academia is crucial in research and development, and innovation in the blue economy as well as to develop related curricula and to promote blue economy career opportunities.

12.1.1.5 Financial Institutions

Provide blue economy friendly financing that drives ecologically, sustainable and socially equitable economic growth.

12.1.1.6 Media

Promote advocacy and dissemination of information on blue economy activities.

12.1.1.7 International Developmental / Donor Partners

Support government efforts in the implementation of this policy through the provision of technical and financial assistance

12.2 Legal and Regulatory Arrangements

There are no established explicit conflicting legislation that hinder the implementation of this Policy. This Policy should be implemented in line with current and future regulatory frameworks of various Blue Economy line ministries.

A national coordinating committee on blue economy activities consisting of sector ministries and other relevant stakeholders should be established by the National Planning Commission. This committee will oversee the implementation of the policy and will be chaired by the National Planning Commission.

12.3 Resource Mobilization

The Government will consider amongst others utilization of revenue, resource rent, blue bonds, carbon markets, and collaboration with private sector, civil society, non-governmental organisations, international development partners and other stakeholders to finance the regulation and development of the blue economy. Additionally, the government will consider the establishment of blue economy fund for the implementation of the policy.

12.4 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Reporting

The implementation of this Policy is to be monitored and evaluated by the National Planning Commission in consultation with the National Coordination Committee on Blue Economy. The monitoring and evaluation of this policy will be done on a quarterly basis while the review will be done after every 5 years or as the need arises. NPC will submit an annual progress report to the CCTED.

12.5 Advocacy and Dissemination

Government and stakeholders shall use various media platforms to create awareness and disseminate information of this Policy.

13 Implementation Action Plan

To achieve the objectives of this policy, an implementation plan has been developed and presented and indicated as Annexure 3.

14 Conclusion

Namibia is determined to pursue a Blue Economy governance framework in the development and management of the country's aquatic resources. This Policy guides the coordination and promotion of sustainable and equitable economic opportunities, in accordance with the principle of sustainable development by integrating the three pillars, namely, environmental protection, economic sustainability and social equitability throughout blue economy sectors. This policy further advocates for investment in Namibia's Blue Economy to both local and international investors to grow and expand the Blue Economy within its guiding principles for the benefit of current and future generation of Namibia.