



# Governance of Inland Capture Fisheries

By  
Moses Maurihungirire

# Introduction

- Soaring human population and natural resources exploitation directly correlated .
- Exploitation of fisheries resources culminate in alteration of riverine ecosystems.
- Foundation for national fisheries management:
  - FAOCCRF
  - CBD
  - Namibian Constitution



- The fresh water fish fauna of Namibia is moreover much diversified and merits conservation,
- To reach these goals of responsible management, utilization and conservation of the Namibian fresh water fish resource, the Namibian Government, through appropriate legislation, has created an effective and efficient management regime, involving traditional, regional as well as central authorities, to ensure optimal utilisation and benefits from the freshwater resources to both present and future Namibians
- This presentation will address the current governance of the Namibian Inland wild fisheries inclusive of capture and recreational fisheries.

# Policy and Legislative Framework

- **White Paper on Sustainable Exploitation of Inland Fisheries Resources of 1995**

This important document was developed in order to give direction and strategies to the use of inland fisheries resources in Namibia since 1995

Resources are to be managed to ensure long-term food security to riparian populations who are involved in the management and control of the resources and to whom the benefits from the resources must accrue.

- **Draft Inland Fisheries Policy**

The Inland Fisheries Policy is currently under construction and has not been operationalized yet. This document spells out the policy of the Government of the Republic of Namibia towards the management of its fresh water fisheries' resources. The policy forms the basis for the development of appropriate legislations to regulate the utilisation, conservation and management of the fresh water fishery resource.

## **In the policy the objectives will be to:**

- ensure the sustainable, optimal utilisation of the fresh water fish resource;
- ensure that the objectives above are based on sound ecological knowledge and principles;
- ensure that in communal resources, the current subsistence exploitation of this resource is maintained, and the emerging commercialization is regulated on equitable basis;
- ensure that local subsistence fishers, through local community leaders, are consulted about the extent the communal resource can be used for competitive and recreational angling by tourists;
- strive towards water shed centred approach in the management of the fish, the rivers and floodplain environments;
- regulate the exploitation of fish in Government owned dams
- regulate sport fishing in inland water, and to ensure co-ordination and co-operation among riparian states.

# Inland Fisheries Resources Act, 2003 (Act No. 1 of 2003), of the Parliament

- This Act was promulgated in 2003 with the aim of providing 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 Act provides for the following with regard to inland fisheries in Namibia:**

- policy for conservation and utilization of inland fisheries resources;
- inland fisheries council;
- fishing licenses and registration of nets;
- control of fishing activities;
- conservation and protection measures;
- enforcement;
- offences and penalties; and
- general

**The latter (general) provides for the Minister to make regulations in relation to any matter which is permitted or required to be prescribed in terms of this Act or which the Minister considers necessary or expedient to prescribe for achieving the purposes of this Act**

- **Inland Fisheries Resources Regulations: Inland Fisheries Resources Act, 2003 (Act no. 1 of 2003)**
- For the operationalization of the Act, the Inland Fisheries Resources Regulations addresses the following issues:
  - fishing nets;
  - fishing methods;
  - prohibited fishing methods and
  - recreational fishing



## Recreational and Sport Fishing

Recreational fishing is an equally important sector within the inland fishery in terms of income generation and employment creation. Recreational fishing opportunity also serves as a motivating factor in attracting tourists to respective regions with angling opportunities.

### Inland fisheries resources' research

- The Directorate Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries is continuously involved with the monitoring of Namibia's inland water bodies/lakes and rivers to collect biological data for comparison and to identify trends in fish population structures over time.
- The following scientific surveys are being conducted on the perennial rivers in Namibia:
  - biological surveys;
  - fish monitoring surveys for lakes;
  - water quality assessment;
  - monitoring of fish disease/parasites surveys and
  - fish Genetic surveys.



THE END  
I THANK YOU  
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## **Inland Fisheries Resources' monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)**

Monitoring, control and surveillance in the inland water bodies are conducted by Fisheries Inspectors of the MFMR. This contingent of corps is a delegate of the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources who is empowered by the Inland Fisheries Resources Act to execute monitoring, control and surveillance

