



Prosperity, Harmony, Peace and Political Stability

Namibia Vision 2030

**Policy Framework for Long-Term National Development
(Main Document)**

**Office of the President
Windhoek
(2004)**



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ARI	Acute Respiratory Infection
ACP	African, Caribbean, Pacific Countries
ADB	African Development Bank
AGOA	African Growth Opportunity Act
ASP	Application Service Provider
ATM	Asynchronous Transfer Mode
AU	African Union
BADEA	Banque Arab du Development en Afrique
BLNS	Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland
BTP	Build Together Programme
CBI	Cross Border Initiatives
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resource Management
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CBT	Community-Based Tourism
CD	Compact Disc
CET	Common Excise Tariff
CFA	Communaute Financiere Africaine
CMA	Common Monetary Area
COD	Congress of Democrats
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COSDEC	Community Skills Development Centre
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DIP	Decentralisation Implementation Plan
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment Shortcourse
DRAMs	Dynamic Random Access Memories
DRFN	Desert Research Foundation of Namibia
DTA	Democratic Turnhalle Alliance
DVD	Digital Versatile Disc
DWA	Department of Water Affairs
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECOMOG	ECOWAS Military Observer Group
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDF	European Development Fund
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIF	Environmental Investment Fund
EISA	Electoral Institute of Southern Africa
EMP	Environmental Management Plans
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunisation
EPZ	Export Processing Zone
EPLs	Exclusive Prospecting Licences
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FPRM	Foreign Policy Response Model
FTA	Free Trade Area
GDP	Gross Domestic Product

GEAR	Growth, Employment and Redistribution
GFCF	Gross Fixed Capital Formation
GIPF	Government Institutions Pension Fund
GNP	Gross National Product
GRN	Government of the Republic of Namibia
GSP	Generalised System of Preferences
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications
HDI	Human Development Index
HPI	Human Poverty Index
HIS	Health Information System
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IATCP	Inter Agency Technical Committee on Population
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICZMP	Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMR	Infant Morality Rate
ISO	International Standards Organization
IT	Information Technology
LAN	Local Area Network
LNS	Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland
MAG	Monitor Action Group
MAP	Millennium African Recovery Plan
MARPOL	International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
MF	Ministry of Finance
MFAIB	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Information and Broadcasting
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MONUA	UN Observer Mission in Angola
MLRR	Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOL	Ministry of Labour
MOP	Ministry of Prisons
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MOF	Ministry of Fisheries
MOHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MONOUA	United Nations Observer Mission in Angola
MRLGH	Ministry of Regional, Local Government and Housing
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MTC	Mobile Telecommunications Corporation
MWACW	Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare
MWTC	Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication

NACHE	National Advisory Council for Higher Education
NAI	New African Initiative
NAMCOL	Namibia College of Open Learning
NANGOF	Namibia Non-Governmental Organisations Forum
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NBC	Namibia Broadcasting Corporation
NCC	National Communications Commission
NCCI	Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry
NDF	National Defence Force
NDP	National Development Plan
NEACB	National Examination, Assessment and Certification Board
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NEPLs	Non-exclusive Prospecting Licenses
NEPRU	Namibia Economic Policy Research Unit
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NIED	National Institute for Educational Development
NIMT	Namibia Institute of Mining and Technology
NLTPS	National Long-term Perspective Studies
NPCS	National Planning Commission Secretariat
NQA	Namibia Qualifications Authority
NTA	National Training Authority
NTCP	National Tuberculosis Control Programme
NUNW	National Union of Namibian Workers
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development
OPEC	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PC	Personal Computer
PLAN	People's Liberation Army of Namibia
PON	Polytechnic of Namibia
PEAC	Presidential Economic Advisory Council
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SADCC	Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference
SDR	Special Drawing Rights
SME	Small and Medium Size Enterprises
SSC	Social Security Commission
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
SWAPO	South West Africa People's Organisation
SWATF	South West Africa Territory Force
TACs	Total Allowable Catches
TB	Tuberculosis
VAT	Value Added Tax
VET	Vocational Education and Training
VTB	The Vocational Training Broad
VTC	Vocational Training Centre
UN	United Nations

UNAM	University of Namibia
UNAVEM	United Nations Angolan Verification Mission
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UDF	United Democratic Front
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNTAG	United Nations Transitional Assistance Group
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WAMU	West African Monetary Union
WAMZ	West African Monetary Zone
WASP	Water and Sanitation Programme
WB	World Bank
WTO	World Trade Organisation
WTO ²	World Tourism Organisation (<i>noting that the acronym WTO is used for the World Trade Organisation</i>)
ZERI	Zero Emission Research Initiative
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development
WCU	World Conservation Union



2. NAMIBIA – AN OVERVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

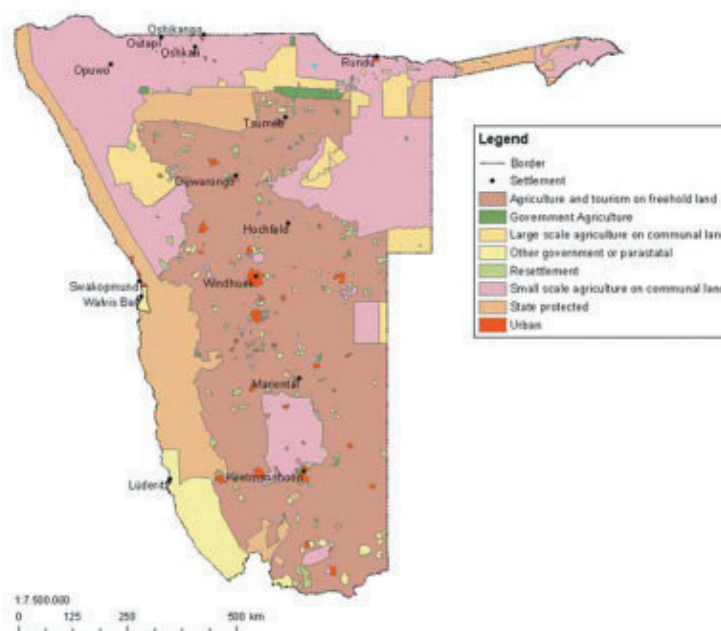
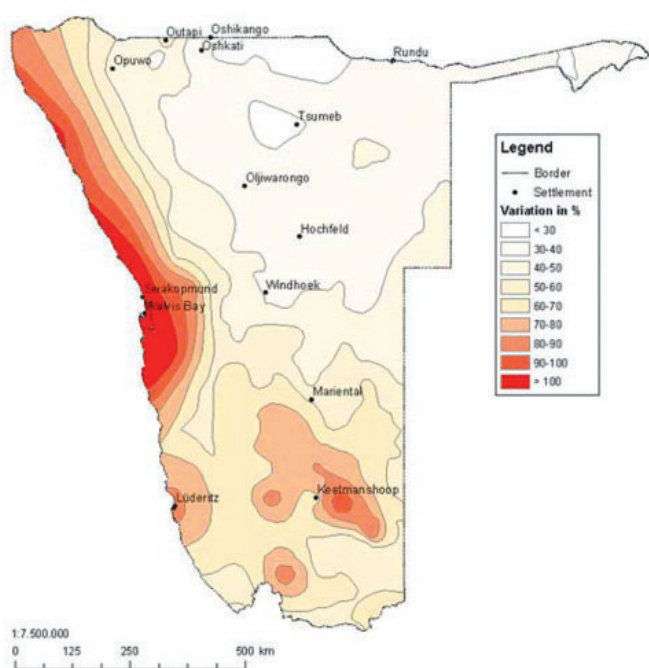
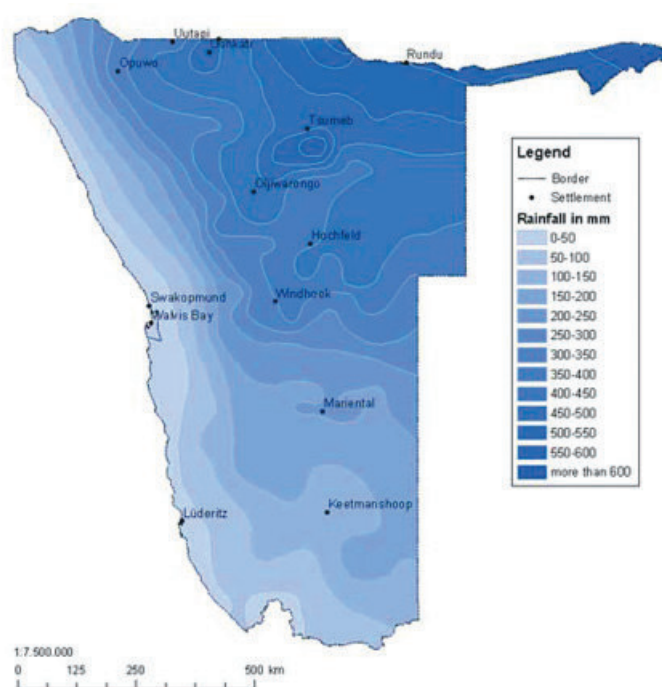
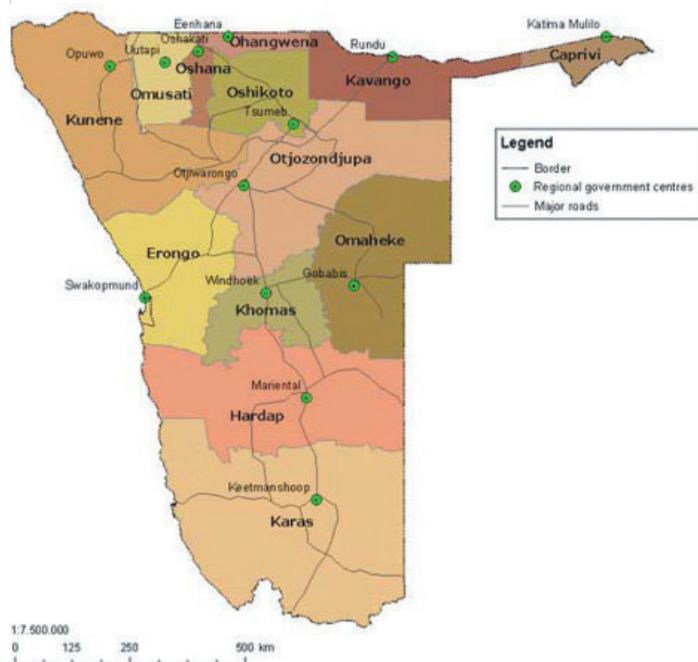
This chapter provides a brief description of Namibia, its geography and people – past and present. It sets out some of Namibia's comparative advantages, the principles that we cherish as a nation and how we should approach our long-term development.

2.2 GEOGRAPHY

Namibia is situated in south western Africa between latitudes 17° 30' S and 29° S, and longitudes 12° E and 25° E. Namibia has a land area of some 842 000 km² and is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, South Africa to the south and Botswana to the east. The largest northern border is with Angola, but in the far north-east of the country it shares a common border with Zambia and a point of contact with Zimbabwe. The country is divided into 13 regions (Figure 2.1).

Namibia is an arid country with generally low (Figure 2.2) and highly variable (Figure 2.3) rainfall. Annual rainfall varies from less than 20mm along the coast to more than 600mm in the northeast. A large part of Namibia is classified as desert, and three different desert systems are found within its boundaries. These are the Namib to the west, an ancient desert of sand seas and gravel plains; the Kalahari to the east, characterised by deep sand with no surface water, except for temporary pans, but which has a specific and fairly extensive vegetation; and the Karoo to the south, which is characterised by low rainfall and unproductive soils. However, it supports an extensive vegetation of low-growing, often succulent, shrubs.

Only 8% of the country receives over 500mm raining which is regarded as the minimum necessary for dryland cropping, and, this is concentrated in the north-east, mainly in the Caprivi region. The central regions of the country have relatively productive soils and reliable rainfall. These soils, while not sufficient to support crop production, are nevertheless well vegetated and help to support livestock. The Kalahari and Karoo regions are also used for extensive livestock production, with mainly large stock in the Kalahari and small stock in the Karoo. With regard to the northernmost parts of the central region, seasonal water is received in the form of local rainfall as well as flooding down an inland delta of drainage channels, which are linked to the Cuvelai river system in Angola. Considerable rain-fed subsistence-crop production also takes place in this region. Land uses across the country are shown in Figure 2.4.



Perennial water sources are very scarce. Such rivers are found only on Namibia's boundaries – the Orange river in the south, the Kunene and Okavango rivers in the north and the Zambezi and Kwando-Linyanti-Chobe river systems associated with the Caprivi (Figure 2.5). Natural springs occur in various scattered locations across the country and there are a few eastward- southern- and extensive westward-flowing ephemeral rivers, which carry only surface water for a few days a year. However, they provide important underground aquifers from which water can be abstracted by people and animals throughout most years. Other underground aquifer systems vary in distribution and water quality. An extensive deposit of fine fossil water occurs in the central/northern region, known as the Karstveld.

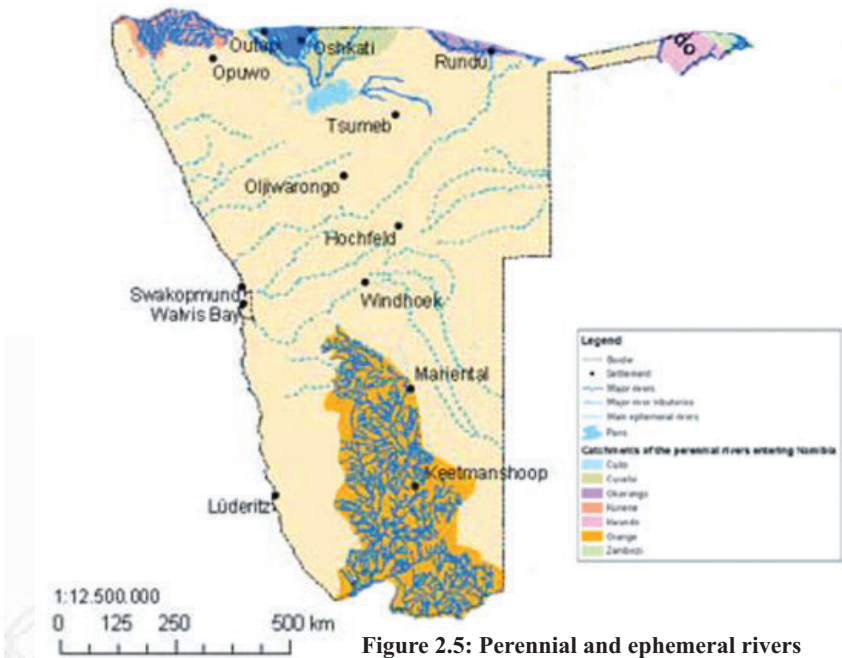


Figure 2.5: Perennial and ephemeral rivers

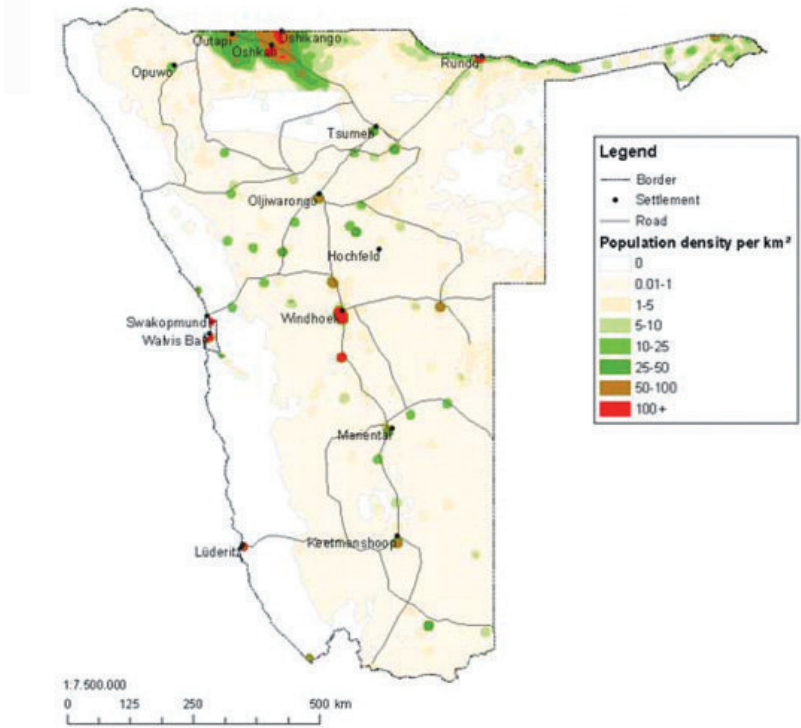


Figure 2.6: Human population distribution

2.3 PEOPLE

Namibia's population size was estimated to be 1.8 million in the 2001 census. With its low population density, compared to most countries in Africa, Namibia makes up 3% of Africa's land area, but only 0.2% of its population. This is mainly due to the fact that a large part of the country is too dry for human settlement. While there are on average only about 2 people per km², people are not spread evenly across the country. Most of the rural people live in the north and north-east of the country (Figure 2.6) and some 40% of the population lives in urban areas (compared to about 10% in 1936).

Palaeontological evidence indicates that the history of human settlement in Namibia goes back to prehistoric times. Nomadic people-ancestors of today's San-lived a hunter-gatherer lifestyle both inland and along the coast of Namibia, for thousands of years. Later arrivals included the Nama and the Damara people. Livestock-owning pastoralist/agriculturalists including ancestors of today's Owambo and Herero people moved into Namibia from east-central Africa in various waves of migration, some purportedly date back to the 10th century. Before the arrival of Europeans in Namibia, the country was populated by various groups of nomadic pastoralists, as well as several other groups of more settled pastoralists/agriculturalists. Clashes between communities occurred periodically, especially over grazing rights. Complex kingdoms and chieftancies, with well defined social and cultural traditions and structured economies, were in existence.

The arrival of explorers and settlers from Europe began on a small scale in the 16th and 17th centuries, but the harshness of the Namibian coast, exacerbated along its entire length by the Namib desert, prevented any serious attempts at settlement. By the middle of the 19th century, however, considerable numbers of Europeans, particularly Germans, were beginning to migrate to the area, as explorers, travellers, traders, hunters and missionaries.

2.4 POLITICAL HISTORY

In 1878 the United Kingdom annexed the harbour of Walvis Bay. In 1883 a German trader, Adolf Luderitz, claimed the rest of the coastal region for Germany, and in 1884 the whole of the country was declared a German protectorate.

The colonial period in Namibia was a violent one. German colonists gained control of land, mineral and other resources by a mixture of purchase, theft and application of superior military power. The period between 1890 and 1908 was one of many conflicts between the Germans and Namibian ethnic groups, and resulted in the decimation of the indigenous Namibian populations. Estimates suggest that more than 70% of the Herero people, 50% of the Nama people and 30% of the Damara people were exterminated during the 'Great War of Resistance' of 1904-1908. After 1908 Namibians living in the 'Police Zone' were not allowed to own cattle, and were forced to take work on white-owned farms, or as indentured labour. Ethnically divided 'native reserves' were established.

German rule in Namibia came to an end with the outbreak of World War 1 and the Allied occupation of Namibia. In 1920, the League of Nations granted South Africa a mandate which gave it full power of administration and legislation over the territory. The mandate required that South Africa promote the material and

moral well-being and social progress of the Namibian people, but this was not upheld. Farmland which had previously been taken over by Germans was now given out or subsidised, to Afrikaaner settlers.

The League of Nations was dissolved in 1946, and the newly formed United Nations took over its supervisory authority over South West African territory (now Namibia). The UN declared Namibia a trust territory with rights of self-determination, but South Africa refused to acknowledge this. In 1966 the UN revoked South Africa's mandate and set up a council with authority for the territory, but South Africa continued to ignore this authority.

In the meantime in 1948, the Afrikaner led National Party had gained power in South Africa and brought in the 'apartheid' system of segregation, which they enforced in Namibia as well as South Africa. This led to the relocation of many indigenous Namibians from their homes both in urban and rural settings. In 1970 the South African government adopted the recommendations of the Odendaal Commission, which recommended the parcelling of Namibia's land into different 'homelands' for different racial groups, with the central block of most productive farmland reserved as 'commercial farmland,' which could be owned by whites only – a policy which has left a considerable legacy of resource degradation. Resistance to South Africa's domination began in the 1950s. Many Namibians went into exile. In 1966 the armed struggle began, with guerrilla attacks on South African-controlled South West Africa. The struggle intensified over the next 20 years.

International pressure for Namibia's independence built up and diplomatic negotiations intensified. Pressure was put on South Africa to accept the UN resolution 435, which called for the holding of free and fair elections in Namibia, under UN supervision and control, as well as the cessation of war by all parties. Eventually, after an 11 month UN monitored transition period, Namibia gained independence on the 21st March 1990, after 106 years of colonial rule. On March 1, 1994 the coastal enclave of Walvis Bay and 12 offshore islands were also transferred to Namibia by South Africa, and the colonial period was effectively ended. The years of colonial rule, however, had left an indelible mark on the face of the country – socially, economically and environmentally.

2.5 ECONOMY

While some of the legacies of colonial rule were positive, including a well-developed infrastructure, with harbours, schools, clinics, storage dams, boreholes and water pipelines and one of the best roads systems in the world, the detrimental legacies were more far-reaching. It included a significant financial debt, taken out in Namibia's name by South Africa, a huge social debt, and an equally huge environmental debt - all of which have had a significant effect on the economy of the developing, independent Namibia. Nevertheless, the financial debt was eventually written off after negotiations between Namibia and South Africa.

2.6 SOCIAL DEBT

The colonial period had resulted in a total disruption of traditional life of Namibian people. Resettlement programmes had removed people from their ancestral homes and hampered their traditional forms of agriculture and pastoralism, wars had



decimated their population groups, indentured labour practices had disrupted family life, and colonial legislation had disempowered traditional structures of authority.

Colonial rule, and particularly apartheid policies, had also led to severe handicaps making it difficult for indigenous Namibian people to take control of the changed country. Apartheid had led to highly skewed development objectives, which in turn had led to rural and urban poverty, skewed distribution of wealth and unequal access to land and natural resources. Such legislation had also reserved most well-paid jobs with entrenched responsibility for white people and allowed only inferior education for people of other races, while access to medical resources for the majority of the population had also been limited. Foreign missionaries, who had been active in South West Africa throughout the colonial period, had tried in a small way to control these trends, and some Namibians had opportunities while in exile in other countries; but in general only a few Namibians had access to adequate primary health care, education and a challenging work experience. As a result, at Independence Namibia found itself with a huge skills deficit, which will take decades to address meaningfully.

2.7 ENVIRONMENTAL DEBT

Namibia's economy relies heavily on its natural resources. Both renewable and non-renewable natural resources had been severely exploited during colonial times. Long-term and cross-sectoral planning had been ignored, and sustainability had never been an issue, especially as it became obvious that the political situation would have to change.

Large scale hunting, often for sport, had decimated game populations throughout the colonial period. Drastic over-exploitation of the rich pelagic fish resources, off Namibia's coast in the 1960's and 1970's, had led to the collapse of populations of commercially important species. Mining had dominated the economy in the 1980's as large quantities of diamonds, uranium, semi-precious stones, base metals, industrial minerals and dimension stones were removed, often with little care about the ensuing environmental damage. The greatest damage of all however, had been done to Namibia's farmlands, largely as a result of the implementation of the recommendations of the Odendaal Commission in 1970. This resulted in the country being divided into blocks of land on the 'homelands' principle, with different blocks being designated for the use of different ethnic groups – thus leading to the creation of 'Owamboland', 'Hereroland', 'Damaraland,' etc. These homelands were created on marginal farmland while the best farmland of the country was reserved as 'commercial farmland' and were available to whites only. This led to a situation where large numbers of the population were concentrated in small areas of marginal land and this led to an inevitable overexploitation of whatever resources those homelands could supply. Owamboland, for example, was designated as the area north of the Etosha pan - an area which receives some seasonal water from local rainfall as well as the extensive Cuvelai drainage system from Angola which allows cultivation of pearl millet in most years. This area became home to 40% of the Namibian population, and deforestation and desertification quickly became major problems.

The commercial farmlands, too, ran into problems of environmental degradation. South African government policy allowed for 'drought relief' schemes for white

farmers. This meant that in dry years farmers did not have to de-stock their farms in order to survive financially. The result was overgrazing of grasses and subsequent problems with thorn bushes out-competing grasses until previous rangeland became thicket, which drastically reduced productivity.

Another major problem the new government had inherited was that of ownership of land. The white farmers who owned the commercial farmland at the time of Independence had mostly bought their land from others, or inherited it through several generations of ownership in the same family. They believed it belonged to them. Indigenous Namibians, whose ancestors had been forced off the same land by earlier generations of Europeans, also believed that the land should be theirs. Land reform issues are always a source of major contention in developing countries, and Namibia is no exception.

2.8 POST-INDEPENDENCE PROGRESS

Since the time of Independence, the Namibian government has taken major steps towards addressing previous imbalances. The Government has upheld the country's constitutional provisions, as well as put in place other relevant policy and legislative frameworks; implemented extensive country-wide immunisation campaigns which have drastically reduced infant mortalities; undertook the massive task of providing basic education for all Namibians, and higher education for many; has introduced stringent legislation controlling over-exploitation of fisheries resources and instigated a research institute and on-going research projects to monitor stocks; brought in extensive changes involving not only conservation but also sustainable utilisation of natural resources and cross-sectoral co-operation towards these objectives; and continues to seek solutions to the land reform question. Many rural villages have been linked up to the national power grid, and safe water has been brought within reach of many rural communities, by pipeline or canals.

The general atmosphere in Namibia in 2003 is that of commitment to further development and positive change. There is still a huge discrepancy in wealth. Poverty remains a serious problem, and at the same time land reform is still considered a thorny issue. It is well known that education for all is a difficult and expensive goal to achieve. Many of the natural resources which have been lost due to exploitation in the past cannot be recovered. Ecological balances have been disrupted and alien species introduced. Bush encroachment is complex, and expensive to reverse. Woodlands have been cut down, top-soil lost due to erosion, salination of soil has occurred and groundwater has been polluted. Water resources are also under increasing pressure. Since Independence, the government has made considerable efforts to provide safe water to most rural households, but much of this is being taken from underground aquifers in an unsustainable way. Long-term politically and economically viable solutions for ensuring a safe and reliable water supply for Namibia's populations, have yet to be found.

One of the most daunting development challenges facing Namibia today is the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Namibia is among the countries in the world which have prevalence ratios among pregnant women which exceed 20%. Such a high prevalence ratio is bound to have significant impact on various aspects of the socio-economic life of individuals, families and communities. Children will be particularly hard hit by the epidemic, since they will be affected in two ways: Firstly, those children, who are infected through their HIV positive mothers during

pregnancy or during or after birth, are expected to die before the age of five years. On the other hand children will also be affected by the death of one or both parents, leaving them orphaned.

The loss of those members of the household who would usually be the bread-winners, will impact negatively on household income. In addition, households will be expected to care for AIDS patients at least for some of the time before their death. This will be an additional financial as well as psychological burden on households. Pension moneys received by the elderly household members may be the only source of income in many households, and may result in younger members taking up employment earlier than usual. It must therefore be expected that the education of these children will be compromised. In general, it can be assumed that the impact of AIDS will decrease household income and substantially increase expenditure for at least a certain period of time. This might lead to reduced household savings and a marked increase in poverty.

2.9 CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

Namibia is changing and developing rapidly. This speed of development presents the country with new challenges:

- to ensure it achieves real benefits for people, and that these benefits are spread equitably across society;
- to ensure that development does not undermine the country's future potential and life-support systems. Instead, it should build national and local capital at three levels: economic and financial capital, human and social capital, ecological and environmental capital;
- to make optimal and efficient use of resources, opportunities and Namibia's comparative advantages – over both the short and the long-term.

2.10 COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES

Namibia has a large number of comparative and competitive advantages over other countries in the world. The list below sets out some of the more obvious advantages, none of which has been fully exploited. Indeed, we have not even scratched the surface of some of the potential that exists:

- Namibia is a country that is not prone to catastrophes (volcanoes, earthquakes, floods, etc.) other than droughts, for which Namibia can prepare itself by implementing reliable drought mitigation and drought response strategies through means of drought preparedness;
- Because of its relatively small population, Namibia can achieve a unity of purpose and a national momentum for change and appropriate development;
- As a result of its good infrastructure, communications network, technological focus and location, Namibia can develop as a centre for transport, communications and other service industries which require such infrastructure, such as banking and insurance;
- Due to its political stability, relative security and congenial living environment, Namibia, and in particular its capital city, is an attractive place from which to do business;
- Namibia has the potential to assume a leading role in the world in terms of the supply of clean and uncontaminated meat and fish, tourism, and in the fields of biodiversity and wilderness;
- It's rich cultural diversity, adds depth to Namibia's capacity, resilience and its quality of life. This diversity of peoples also shows how cultural harmony can be achieved through tolerance and honouring differences;

- Namibia is a country where people are proud of their culture, and take it with them in the development pathway, thereby evolving a unique blend of traditional and modern, in ways that integrate social harmony with economic growth and progress;
- It has been shown that Namibia can position itself to be responsive, reactive, proactive and manage change effectively and efficiently. Namibia should embrace globalization, and not be afraid of or resist it – but rather to manage and harness aggressively the opportunities that it offers for optimising Namibia’s comparative and competitive advantages;
- Namibia could work towards being a service-based economy, through being a skills and knowledge-based society. Linked to this is the opportunity to retain a disbursed economy in small to medium-sized towns and villages with excellent infrastructure and communications networks. This will allow Namibia to avoid the problems of a society living in mega-cities;
- For all the above reasons, Namibia does not have to work through the development pathways followed by the current industrialised countries. Instead, by concentrating on skills development, services and its comparative advantages, Namibia can leap ahead to where currently developed countries are likely to be in 30 years.

2.11 PRINCIPLES CHERISHED BY THE NATION

Good Governance

We continue to acknowledge the pre-eminence of the Namibian Constitution as the basic law, which contains, *inter alia*, all the ingredients of a democratic state, including peace, security and political stability. By continuing to uphold the tenets of our Constitution, we strengthen human rights, individual freedoms, civil liberties and multi-party democracy. Our emphasis is also on good governance, and we continue to improve on issues relating to equity in access to productive resources, and in reducing environmental degradation, poverty and economic stagnation.

Partnership

We believe in creating a conducive environment for gender equality and working together as the key to economic progress and social harmony. This is the essence of partnership. It entails partnership between government, communities and civil society, between different branches of government, with the private sector, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations and the international community; between urban and rural societies and, ultimately, between all members of Namibian society.

Capacity enhancement

The development of our country is in our hands, and our people are the most important resource of the country; therefore, we consider investing in people and our institutions to be a crucial precondition for the desired social and economic transformation. This calls for increasing investments in institution-building, in education and training (including, promotion of science and technology), and implementing health/ population and related programmes and policies.

Comparative advantage

We shall capitalise on Namibia’s comparative advantages and provide suitable incentives to use our natural resources in the most appropriate and efficient way possible. This would ensure that the decision-makers of today will continue to

create a safer, healthier and more prosperous future for all Namibians.

People-centred economic development

Undoubtedly, we need economic growth and diversification to achieve sustainable development. Emphasis is on the welfare of the people, aiming at human development, equitable and balanced growth, resulting in a growing industrial sector, a modernised agricultural sector, and an enabling macro-economic and political environment.

National sovereignty and human integrity

We cherish our national sovereignty and it must be preserved at all costs; great value is also attached to Namibian tradition and culture. However traditional ideas and practices which tend to inhibit progress towards development targets, may be sacrificed in the interest of the nation. At the centre of all we do are the people of Namibia – healthy, brave, empowered, innovative, fully employed, confident and determined to succeed; everyone has a role to play, on a level playing field, unhindered by race, colour, gender, age, ability, ethnicity, religious affiliation or political inclination.

Environment

Our environment is clean, and we will continue to keep it so.

Sustainable development

We fully embrace the idea of sustainable development; the type of development that meets the needs of the present, without limiting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. To this end, we encourage people to take responsibility for their own development and promote development activities that address the actual needs of the people and require increasing community contributions to development services and infrastructure. Indeed, the principle of sustainable development is a cornerstone of Namibia's vision, since it embraces all the other principles. Without capacity, partnership and good governance, there will be no sustainable development.

Peace and Security

Namibia is a relatively peaceful country, and we shall continue to uphold the principle of domestic and regional peace and security being an indispensable condition for the country's socio-economic development.

2.12 IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY ISSUES

Planning for long-term sustainable development requires that the Vision adopts a strategic approach. A strategy is simply a plan of action to address a complex situation. Within the complexity of a given or evolving situation, a strategic approach helps to identify key or priority issues. Such issues could be prioritised in the following manner:

- Identify a range of solutions and, where necessary, develop scenarios
- Address the most important issues which, at the same time, offer good opportunities for success while also providing good benefits to society
- Link short-term needs (action) to medium-term targets and long-term visions
- Address complex implementation arrangements, when issues cut across sectors and mandates, where authority and responsibility are not clear, and when needing to link local initiatives to district, regional, national and to global initiatives

- Create integrated approaches, and genuine partnerships between government, business, communities, NGO, academic institutions, donors, etc., because environmental and sustainable development issues and challenges are too complex to be resolved by any one group acting alone, and
- Build on existing plans, processes and strategies.

The last point is important, since no country ever starts from scratch. There is always a history of existing institutions, existing collaboration and partnership, existing plans, visions and ideas. Strategic approaches should look for ways of linking, for examples, to Namibia's National Development Planning processes, and to build on these.

The concept of sustainable development is the cornerstone on which development-thinking throughout world hinges. Namibia has subscribed to this approach since the United Nations Convention on Environment and Development (the so-called Rio Convention or Earth Summit) in 1992 in Brazil, and was an active participant at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (the so-called Rio +10 Summit) in Johannesburg in 2002. The conditions for sustainable development can only be met if at least the three fundamental objectives of economic development, social development and environmental development are adequately addressed at the same time, within politically and culturally acceptable ways. These three objectives underpin the concept of sustainable development and must each be considered in detail (Figure 2.7).

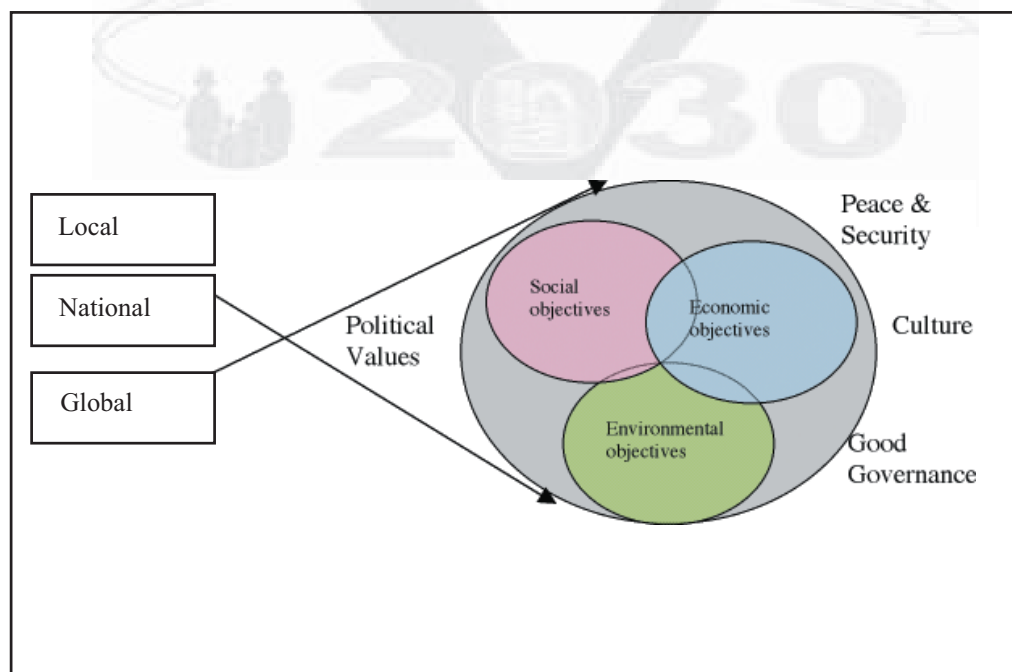


Figure 2.7: The systems of sustainable development

Working to achieve sustainable development is a complex and challenging undertaking, but one which is essential for the future of every nation and her people. It is challenging because it requires new thinking, new integrated approaches, new partnerships, and new evaluation systems. Wealth needs to be thought of in financial terms (investments, capital infrastructure), in social terms (human capital in the form of health, education, skills, innovation), and in environmental terms (status and health of natural resources such as fish stocks, forests, rangelands, water, wildlife and soils). Only when all three forms of wealth are stable and positive by linked to production, will sustainable development be achieved.

2.13 NEW WAYS OF THINKING

A national long-term vision provides the direction in which all partners should be moving, including government, the private sector, NGOs, universities, communities and civil society as a whole, as well as the support from international development partners. A vision provides a strong framework for collaboration and cooperation.

Achieving Vision 2030 requires a paradigm shift from sector development to integrated approaches through strategic partnerships. This means that some structural changes may be required, as well as innovative thinking.

The following “new ways” of thinking and working are important:

- Move from developing and implementing a fixed plan, which gets increasingly out of date ... towards operating an adaptive, dynamic system or **process** that can continuously improve. Vision 2030 is thus a process, not a plan;
- Move from a view that it is the state or government alone that is responsible for sustainable development... towards one that sees responsibility to society as a whole – a **full partnership** where the state helps create the enabling environment for sustainable development;
- Move from centralised and controlled decision-making ...towards **sharing** results and opportunities, transparent negotiations, cooperation and concerted actions;
- Move from a focus on outputs (e.g. projects and laws) ... towards a focus on **outcomes** (e.g. impact) that actually contribute to achieving goals and visions – which require good quality participation and process management;
- Move from sectoral planning... towards **integrated planning** – within and between sectors and institutions.

The structure of this document has been designed to facilitate this process-based, integrated planning approach to development through partnership, sharing and with a clear focus on outcomes (Figure 2.8). Chapter 3 of the report gives an overview of the issues covered in Vision 2030. Chapter 4 addresses the socio-economic issues around peoples’ quality of life, while Chapter 5 covers the ecological and environmental issues of sustaining the resource base and our means of production. Chapter 6 addresses cross-cutting processes that help create the necessary enabling environment for Namibia to proceed along its chosen development path.

Implementation of these approaches requires strong political leadership and support from all sectors of society, ranging from the local to national levels. To get a whole country to work constructively and effectively together, requires a

clear National Strategy to give guidance and direction – a National Strategy that has been developed by a broad partnership of stakeholders who want to see their country develop - for both present and future generations. In short, it requires a long-term Vision, or Vision 2030.

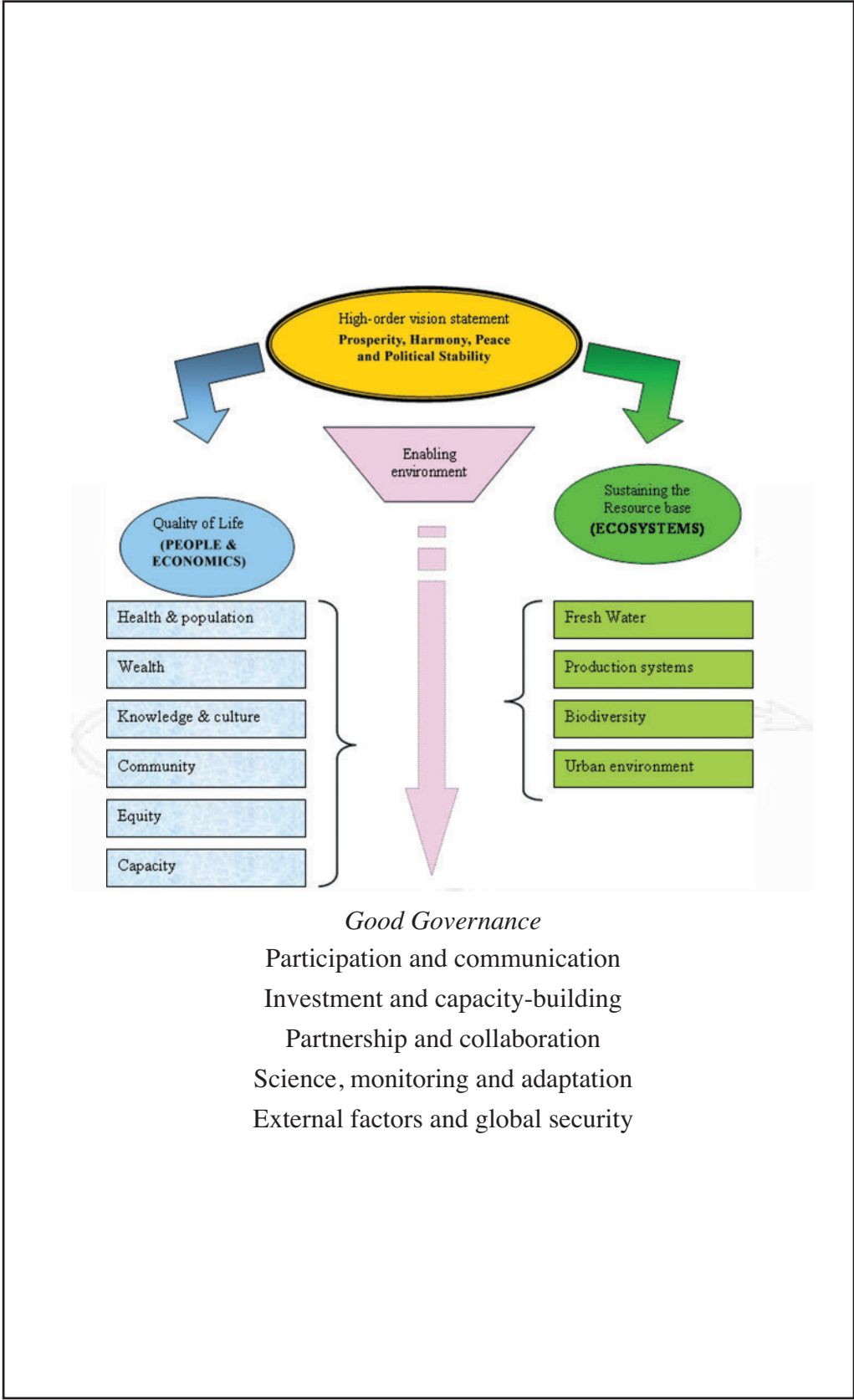


Figure 2.8: Structure of the Main Body of the Vision 2030 Report.