



REPORT ON THE STOCKHOLM+50 NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



Report on the Stockholm+50 National Consultation in the Republic of Namibia



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and other Land use
BAU	Business as Usual
BURs	Biennial Update Report
COP	Conference of Parties
DBN	Development Bank of Namibia
EIF	Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GRN	Government of the Republic of Namibia
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MAWLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MFMR	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
MRV	Measurement, Reporting & Verification
MURD	Ministry of Urban and Rural Development
NAI	Non-Annex I Countries
NC	National Communication
NCCC	Namibia Climate Change Committee
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NCCSAP	National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
NCRS	National Committee on Rio Synergies
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDP	National Development Plan
NPCC	National Policy on Climate Change
NSA	Namibia Statistics Agency
NSI	Namibia Standards Institute
NUST	Namibia University of Science and Technology
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PA	Paris Agreement
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNAM	University of Namibia
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Executive Summary

The Stockholm +50 national consultation for Namibia took place between April and May 2022, with the national consultations spearheaded by the **Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** - Namibia Country Office. The consultations aimed to stimulate an inclusive whole-of-society and whole-of-government dialogue on the main themes of Stockholm +50 and the Leadership Dialogues in Namibia. Various national and local leaders, academia, children, youth, and women leaders, NGOs, and private sector groups participated in the consultations across the country. The consultation was both in-person and virtual to increase stakeholder participation and engagement.

The themes covered in the consultation process span across several key sustainable development goals including; *climate action, water, affordable and clean energy, gender equality, good health and well-being and others*. Specific themes that emanated from the consultations included the climate change adaptation and mitigation agenda, disaster preparedness including the health-related pandemics, early warning systems, clean water supply & sanitation, biodiversity conservation, post COVID-19 recovery plan, youth inclusion and inclusivity, environmental and waste management, renewable energy, blue economy, climate finance, food security, agribusiness and value addition, resilient transport systems, sustainable infrastructure development, education and awareness for marginalised and vulnerable groups, reforestation and afforestation programs, gender equality, capacity building and international support.

The key contributions from the consultation that should be prioritised in Namibia centred on how climate action can start from the grassroots levels and the emphasis on access to climate-related finance, the importance of the legal frameworks in protecting the environment, biodiversity, and the rights of the vulnerable communities. The **“Leave no one behind”** mantra in resource management and development across sectors and at all levels starting from the local level was constantly discussed and how this can promote biodiversity conservation and a sustainable future. The lack of civic responsibilities and insufficient enforcement of environmental laws were highlighted by stakeholders as critical for environmental and biodiversity protection, and lack of inclusivity of vulnerable groups in the country. The nation’s COVID-19 recovery plan was critically discussed and how this can create sustainable socio-economic opportunities.

The importance of the youth's voice in securing a sustainable economy also came on top of the discussions. The role of public-private partnerships also came out on top from the consultation, demonstrating how this could be vital to improving the key sectors such as renewable energy,

food security, sustainable financing of projects, complementary action in developmental projects and joint-planning.

To tackle the climate crisis, the consultation brought several critical suggestions such as the **implementation of nature-based solutions, land restoration initiatives – agroforestry and upscaling conservancies, promoting renewable energy and green hydrogen were also identified as crucial to restoration and regeneration of the climate.** The consultation identified the opportunities and challenges in tackling the climate crisis and biodiversity conservation. The lack of funding and technological limitations were the identified stumbling blocks to the achievement of sustainable and transformative biodiversity and environmental management and climate action. The opportunities could be realised through multiple stakeholder collaborations, exhausting synergies between key humans and nature among the water-energy-food nexus and how value addition plays an important role in the natural products.

Key interventions to address some of the challenges faced by Namibia include the high investment in ICTs. Increased access to multilateral funding institutions to enable the implementation of sustainable, innovative nature-based solutions. Environmental, biodiversity and human rights laws, policies and frameworks can be strengthened to promote inclusivity, responsibility, and transparency in resource mobilisation and management.

The consultation highlighted the need to review the existing environmental laws and frameworks as a top priority to strengthen the legislation and administrative frameworks. The education curriculum can be modelled to make sure that society from a young age is trained and aware of the benefits of sustainable biodiversity management and the importance of a healthy planet that is free of climate crisis. Innovative programs such as the circular economy should be integral to local and national planning to achieve sustainable cities' development with efficient waste management and green economy initiatives to promote biodiversity conservation.

Stockholm +50 National Consultation Report Template

1. National Consultation at a Glance

In-person or hybrid national consultation

Consultation dates (list the dates of all individual events if more than one event was conducted)	Link to events: https://www.sparkblue.org/stockholm50/consultation-namibia/events
Lead national partner(s) / focal point(s): title and institution	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Namibia country Office
Type(s) of consultation (in-person, virtual, hybrid)	In-person, virtual & hybrid
Geographic focus (national, provincial, local)	National, Regional
Total number of hours in live sessions (provide one cumulative number in case of several events)	35 hours
Live streaming (Yes/No)	Yes
Link to the recording(s)	https://www.sparkblue.org/stockholm50/consultation-namibia/topics

Total number of participants	202
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Number of participants by age range
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0-18		19-30		31-50		51-65		66-80		80+	
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Number of participants by gender

Male	81	Female	121	Other/prefer not to say	
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Number of participants from each stakeholder group

Government – National	19	Science, Academia	34
Government - Local	33	Foundation, philanthropy	
United Nations	12	Women and Women Groups	17
International Financial Institution		Youth	40
Bilateral / Foreign Governments		Local Community	
NGO – International	2	Faith-based groups	
NGO / CSO – national	6	Indigenous Peoples	
Private sector (large)	3	People with disabilities	24
Small and Medium Business	2	Other	10
Consumer Group			

Number of participants from each sector

Agriculture & Food	17	Forestry	9	Media	11
Cities	18	Government		Tourism	17
Education	16	Green energy		Traditional Energy	3
Environment	44	ICT	4	Trade & Commerce	
Extractives		Industry	10	Transport	
Finance & Investment		Infrastructure		Utilities	12
Fisheries & Aquaculture	4	Health	6	Other	31

Government participation

Office of President / Prime Minister	2	Ministry of Planning / Economy / Finance	
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Parliament	3	Ministry of Environ-t / Nature Resources	11
Cabinet of Ministers	3	Ministry of Energy	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs		Ministry of Agriculture & Food	4
Local Governments	7	Line Ministries (other)	2

SparkBlue On-line Consultations

Launch date	25 April 2022
Consultation length (total number of weeks)	7
Total number of participants	
Number of thematic discussions supported	
Total number of comments in the online discussion	
Link to consultation page	https://www.sparkblue.org/stockholm50/consultation-namibia

2. Consultation Process including Gender Responsiveness and Inclusivity

Please provide a description of the consultation process and timeline that reflects the whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach used including:

- What preparatory meetings were organized over what time period and when was the main consultation; were they in-person, virtual or a combination, where did they take place?
- Who were the main national and international stakeholders and speakers invited and what sectors/themes/institutions were represented?
- What other national and sector policy consultation processes were involved or referenced including NDCs, NBSAPs, INFFs, SDG Strategies, Green/Blue Economy and Green Recovery Plans, etc.?
- How was the consultation promoted in advance, during and afterward through communications and media?

2.1 UNDP Namibia Country Office conducted pre-consultation meetings both online and in-person. The March 2022 pre-consultation meetings were done as preparatory sessions to prepare for the National consultations. The meeting included colleagues from UNDP, various UN agencies and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

Virtual and in-person meetings were held between April 20th and April 25th, the meetings were held with international University of Management (IUM), Hardap Regional Council, Erongo Regional Council, Oshana Regional Council, Disability Resource Centre-Windhoek and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. The main consultations were held from April 25th to May 13th 2022. Four meetings were held in Windhoek and three regional meetings were conducted covering the (North, South and coast).

2.2 The stakeholders list (attendance registers) reflects the stakeholders present, sectors and themes represented (<https://www.sparkblue.org/stockholm50/consultation-namibia/topics>)

2.3 The Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogue themes and the guiding questions were used as the main guideline in the consultative process. NDCs, SDGs and National Policy documents were also used/referenced to augment the discussion topics.

2.4 To ensure that the participation attracted the targeted stakeholders, a stakeholder register was generated for each planned meeting and invitation communiques for each meeting was sent via emails. To augment the attendance, the hosting institutions, the IUM ensured that the academia and youth are well represented, the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare was contacted to ensure that women representation is ensured, the Windhoek Disability Resource Centre was also requested to invite its stakeholders to ensure representation of persons with disability. The stakeholders attending to the regional meetings were invited by the Regional Councils, and these are mostly members of the regional planning/development committee. All the stakeholders invited were provided with the themes and guiding questions, so that they could come prepared for the discussions.

To ensure maximum outreach, during and after the national consultative sessions, the SparkBlue platform was promoted using MEFT and UNDP social media platforms. Selected social media influencers were also selected to promote the consultations. Three radio sessions were also conducted to promote discussions and contribution to the national consultations. The SparkBlue commenting link was also shared with different stakeholders via email, so that they can comment.

Please summarize how various stakeholder groups that are not traditionally involved in these processes and may be under vulnerable conditions or marginalized, including women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, people with disabilities, and others, were engaged in and contributed to the consultation.

What efforts were made to invite, engage, and ensure effective participation of various marginalized stakeholder groups in the national consultation process (i.e., meetings/settings, materials in local languages, accommodation for people with

disabilities, childcare, safe and affordable transportation, connectivity, targeted communications, etc.).

The consultation process ensured that the vulnerable groups, youths and women are represented. Targeted communications with active NGOs /organisations that represent these groups in society were made and their input was received. Furthermore, hosting two consultative meetings (with the academia & private sector and youth, women & children representatives) at International University of Management (IUM) gave the opportunity to access the youths and women perspectives. It was commendable to notice that the youths and women were well represented in these meetings. To accommodate children, an arts and essay competition was run to accommodate children and sensitise them on the on-going consultations and climate action issues in Namibia and the world. This was also meant to drive the idea of thinking globally whilst acting locally. UNDP Namibia undertook a targeted consultative meeting for persons with disabilities at the Okuryangava Disability Resource Centre (DRC) in Windhoek, Namibia. The selection of this venue was meant to accommodate all groups representing persons with disabilities since they are all affiliated to this centre. A strategic date for the consultative meeting was set that coincided with a line ministerial visit to the DRC. The consultative team managed to discuss the leadership dialogue questions and lived realities from the communities with a large number of representatives.

Grassroots representation was sought for in the consultative meetings held in the regions (coastal, southern and northern) through coordination with the Regional Council to coordinate with local representatives including traditional leadership, political leadership, local action groups and marginalised communities' representatives.

3. Main Consultation Inputs, Insights and Innovations

This is the core of the report, which summarizes the main takeaways of the consultation.

3.1. An overview of the main themes, challenges, opportunities, solutions and recommendations

This is a summary of Section 3. Please respond to this question after addressing the other questions under this section.

Key themes and sectors discussed

The Namibia national consultations focuses on themes including climate change, disaster preparedness, early warning systems, water supply & sanitation, youth inclusion, environmental management, environmental policy and legislation, solid waste management, effluent waste management, renewable energy, inclusivity, blue economy, climate finance, monitoring and evaluation, food security, agribusiness, biodiversity conservation, transport systems, infrastructure, health, psychosocial support, education, awareness, reforestation, afforestation gender equality, capacity building and international support.

Challenges discussed

- i. The lack of financial, technical, and human resources and updated technologies;
- ii. Need for capacity building and mindset change for greater environmental concern, stronger political will, and improved platform for continuous dialogue.
- iii. Vulnerability to climate change, food and energy security concerns and the lack of economies of scale for recycling affect Namibia.
- iv. Lack of civic responsibilities and insufficient enforcement of environmental laws affect environment and biodiversity protection, and lack of inclusivity of vulnerable groups highlighted (e.g. online studies handicap).

Opportunities discussed

- i. The current state of affairs in economy, development and sustainability poses an opportunity to allow for public-private partnerships in renewable energy, food security, financing, complementary action in developmental projects and joint-planning.
- ii. The drive towards sustainability also affords an opportunity to review current education curriculum and spread sustainable education through school-taught materials.
- iii. The COVID-19 pandemic offered Namibia the understanding that ICT is critical for developmental planning, productivity and progress monitoring remotely. This can also spread to digitalisation of all sectors to increase efficiency and delivery of services.

Solutions discussed

- i. Sustainability should be sensitised through training and awareness initiatives to allow for conservation consciousness at all levels.
- ii. The need to promote agribusiness and subsistence farming to enhance food security which also allows for conservation, valorising local produce and increase export potential.
- iii. Efficient and effective waste management is required to also promote sustainable communities.
- iv. ICT transformation through digitalisation can improve efficacy and information distribution. Promotion of political willingness to improve inclusion, grassroots communities involvement, combating corruption and cooperation.

Recommendations suggested - **please formulate 5 sharp, concrete and bold recommendations**

- i. The need for grassroots and stakeholders' consultation for all projects, policies and decisions should be made a standard requirement in Namibia. Inclusive environmental awareness is required and can be spread through education and media.
- ii. There is need to establish an umbrella organisation responsible for all environmental affairs. Cooperation amongst government, private sector, academia, CSOs, communalities and international organisations was identified as key to achieving sustainability.
- iii. Key documents such as the Namibia Green Plan, Environmental Assessment Policy (1995), and the Environmental Management Act No. 7 of 2007 should undergo review to ensure contemporary application.
- iv. Environmental laws still require stricter and practical enforcement practices that are financed through different avenues.
- v. Climate smart agriculture, agribusiness and integrated agriculture should be prioritised to ensure that there is food security in the country.

Summary of the discussions under each Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogue theme and their guiding questions.

3.2. Leadership Dialogue 1. Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all

1. How can we restore and regenerate a positive relationship with nature? List 2 or 3 good practices and pathways that your partners would like to see scaled up to enable a move to a healthy planet?

- i. Education and awareness programmes at all levels of education and in all communities across the country was identified as a key and initial step to develop a positive relationship with nature.
- ii. Nature based solutions, land restoration initiatives such as tree planting and promoting renewable energy such as solar and green hydrogen were identified as key aspects on restoration and regeneration of the climate.
- iii. As a system for implementation in the Kavango and Zambezi regions, selective timber harvesting was suggested. This is because communal lands will continue to need wood, however, sustainable practices should be adopted.
- iv. The government and public sector were recommended to invest in public transport (clean energy transport such as electrical buses and railway line).
- v. The need to relook at existing environmental legal and administrative frameworks to align the policies and laws to new conservative initiatives such as the blue economy.
- vi. There has been research and development in the past years since the passing of the first environmental-related legislation, there is a need to incorporate recent research findings into modern-day laws, policies and solutions towards sustainability.
- vii. Improving food security can be achieved through community gardens, urban agriculture, backyard gardens and food preservation. This can help to improve self-sufficiency and promoting agribusiness.
- viii. Wetland protection and conservation programmes should be implemented through integrated wetlands management strategies, thus mapping of wetland areas and creating restricted zones for developmental projects. Wetlands are crucial to the Namibia's environment through regulation of local ecological functions as well as acting as the much needed carbon sinks.

2. What are the actions that your country/partners would take to scale up the change towards a healthy planet? What policies/structures need to be in place for you to take such action?

Actions:

- i. Training and education on environmental issues at all levels and across sectors of the economy is required to improve sensitisation and knowledge on conservation and, climate change.
- ii. There should be incentives to organisations, institutions and individuals for implementing good environmental practices.
- iii. Climate-related finance through enhanced resources mobilisation for environmental conservation should be continued because the country is far from reaching its conservation goals and targets.
- iv. The UNDP, MEFT and other NGOs were advised to promote the adoption of renewable energy as a starting point.

Policies:

- i. The implementation of conservation laws, policies and initiatives such as the Polluter Pays principle to be enforced and stringent fines should be gazetted.
- ii. Emphasis was given to the need for policies that will ensure community-based reforestation programmes such as communal nursery hubs; (if you cut, you replace; depleted species need to be protected and replaced). In this respect, climate funding policies and increase access to multilateral climate funding institutions (the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Global Environmental Facility), Youth Climate Policies, and Climate Incentive Strategies should be prioritised at all levels.
- iii. Waste management strategies should be put in place and existing laws/regulations /policies should be implemented and respected.
- iv. The need for a review of environmental-related legislations was a major talking point throughout the discussions due to the need to manage all environmental issues under one ministry and a dedicated organ of state should be created to ensure complete authority on all environmental affairs, independence, and autonomous administration. This is because there is the fragmentation of environmental laws and policies in Namibia, and a responsible organ of state specifically addressing environmental management should be formed. It should be a commission or an agency.

3. How could marginalized and vulnerable groups benefit from policies and initiatives designed to restore a more sustainable and resilient relationship with nature (that mitigates nature risks)?

- i. Special consideration in the education and awareness programs to target disadvantaged groups should be prioritised. This will empower them and give confidence to participate in national programs, projects and be part of the decision-making process, especially on projects that benefit them.
- ii. Investments in different sectors should also be upscaled in communities that are disadvantaged/marginalised. This is because most of these communities that are highly vulnerable and facing climate risk lack the capacity to adapt to climate change impacts.
- iii. Recommendation on implementing capacity building sessions for local communities on climate change adaptation was given. Local consultations and engagement at grassroots levels were identified as the first step in addressing marginalised and vulnerable groups. The ideas for various community run interventions are best come from them, such that they are socially acceptable and beneficial to the communities.
- iv. There is also a need to ensure that the marginalised and vulnerable groups are always represented at all levels of planning and development, i.e., local authorities.
- v. Streamlining vulnerable groups, gender and marginalised in all developmental projects should be made mandatory. This will allow for planning and development to address the needs of all Namibians regardless of societal status.

4. How can we safeguard the rights of people and nature, including among others, indigenous peoples and local communities, environmental defenders, women, youth, future generations?

- i. To safeguard the environmental and human rights, education and awareness was identified for implementation and adoption at local, regional, national and international levels;
- ii. The need for coherent policies, laws and legislation that promote the protection of the environment, sustainable, clean resources exploitation and human rights should be ensured through constitutional amendments, policy reviews, and legal frameworks amendments.
- iii. The right to conservation and resource use information for communities including indigenous and minority groups, traditional should be ensured in laws and policies through improved access to information disseminated via platforms that are rural-friendly.
- iv. Emphasis was given on the need for punitive/corrective punishments for those who violate the environment laws or disturb nature without corrective measures in place.
- v. The discussions reflected that the financial and technical resources should be mobilised for poor communities to embark on climate friendly programmes such as climate smart agriculture. These projects should also be complemented by a need to sensitise communities on people's rights, either through schools or other community outreach platforms. Therefore, access to international and local climate and environmental restoration funding is critical to safeguard indigenous communities and their surroundings.
- vi. The need to empower communities on the ownership and management of natural resources and those policies should ensure that communities benefit from local resources such as minerals was emphasized. In this respect, the government should ensure that indigenous groups and communities be part of and benefit from schemes that support locals

5. What are the new or prioritized set of metrics and indicators needed for tracking our progress towards a healthier and more prosperous planet?

SDGs: Sustainable development goals achievement at local, national and international level should be used an indicator to achieving sustainability. Access to clean water, climate action, reduction in poverty, improved conservation, protected forests amongst other can be used as indicators.

GHGs: National climate action efforts can also be tracked to calculation of GHGs emissions in the country.

Environmental Quality: Restoration of degraded lands, water quality, air quality, costal ecosystems protection, wetlands conservation, renewable energy, land use change and environmental research.

Monitoring and evaluation: Tracking progress through results-based management, compulsory auditing, lessons learnt reports and end of project evaluation can also tracking of progress and identifying changes were needed.

Statistics: Data allows for planning and the availability of up-to-date statistics on health, population, poverty, water access, deaths, environmental awareness and education can help to track progress as well as come up with needs oriented programmes.

3.3. Leadership Dialogue 2. Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

1. What are the most promising sustainable and inclusive recovery practices currently being applied by public, private and civil society groups at individual, community, city, regional, and country levels? And how could we scale them up?

Current Practices:

- i. The Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilient Facility was launched by MEFT in response to the Covid-19 impacts and the Community Based Natural Resource Management Programme (CBNRM) in Namibia
- ii. The COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment on Tourism have allowed for planning and integrating the COVID-19 fight into sustainability.
- iii. Urban gardening, green hydrogen and informal settlements upgrading are other on-going activities that can help address COVID-19 recovery and sustainability.

Scaling Up:

- i. Financial Sectors were urged to introduce programmes such as such as debt servicing holidays and reduced interest rates.
- ii. The urgent need to capacitate and finance climate, environment and biodiversity programmes by GIZ, UNDP, Hanns Seidel Foundation, UK government, Swedish government, UNICEF and other CSOs was identified as a key factor in promoting conservation relief.
- iii. Requirements for monitoring and evaluation was identified to ensure that the intended beneficiaries really benefit from the programmes being implemented.
- iv. Inclusion of the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups through SMEs development, access to finance and entrepreneurship as a recovery point was recommended.

2. What recovery and pre-existing practises need to be changed to ensure an inclusive and sustainable recovery?

- i. Developing a universal health care plan for everyone. The health plan should help everyone regardless of being employed, status in society or disability status.
- ii. Continuation of essential services prioritisation/interventions was recommended during the post-pandemic era because of the livelihoods and jobs dependencies.
- iii. There is a need to strengthen the agricultural system to ensure food security. This is because, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the biggest challenge was access to food resources. Due to this, Namibia needs to strengthen the local agricultural sector.
- iv. There is a need to promote clean effective transport systems, especially for intertown travelling (solar-powered train).
- v. The country should harness the abundant solar and wind to generate electricity.
- vi. Scaling up service provision to the rapid growth of informal settlements is a result of expensive land and inequalities in access to urban land. The government should pay off farmlands around the major towns and donate some communal lands to municipalities for development
- vii. There is room for improvement in the current health system in Namibia.
- viii. Short-term interventions should be done away with, e.g., the N\$750.00 and food packages. The government and UNDP should focus on self-help projects to communities to reduce high reliance on the government grants in the event of future pandemic.
- ix. The Social Security interventions relieving businesses should also tap into climate finance since some businesses can help to promote adaptation and resilience to climate change.

3. How do we ensure that all countries/communities can benefit from opportunities stemming from a sustainable and just transition?

- i. The immediate interventions to be prioritised in Namibia is to carry out a needs-assessment at community level and come up empirical-evidence based informed responses.
- ii. Community engagement processes to promote people-centred interventions should be prioritised by the GRN.
- iii. Adoption of ICTs (digital platforms and mass media) to eliminate communication barriers to enhance stakeholders involvement at all levels.
- iv. Commitment of all stakeholders involved should be ensured through dedicating resources (equipment, personnel) for the successful implementation of projects.
- v. There is need to ensure that there is affordable access to urban land, and free access to communal land. This is because poverty is rife when there is no land to farm or to act as collateral in the economy.
- vi. Empowerment projects should be rolled out to promote community projects such as farming and artisanal mining. However, care should be given to the ways in which the projects are implemented to avoid environmental and social problems.
- vii. Capacitation of local industries to supply commodities necessary to fight the pandemic (finance, skills, machineries, production of sanitizer in the local laboratories e.tc.) should be implemented in all regions. UNDP was requested to dedicate funding into these projects.

4. How can we create better performing industries and supply chains for a just transition to more sustainable economies? which sectors are most critical?

- i. Capacitation of local industries to supply commodities necessary to fight the pandemic (finance, skills, machineries, production of sanitizer in the local laboratories e.tc.) should be implemented in all regions.
- ii. There is need for the government through laws, policies, and regulation to promote local consumption and opening up of supply chains of local produce to the major retailers.
- iii. For Namibia to achieve self-sustenance, the government should consider supporting smallholder farmers through agribusiness training as they feed majority of the rural communities.
- iv. Carbon emission reduction in supply chains should be encouraged across all sectors of the economy, and implementation of carbon emissions tracking technologies is recommended.
- v. The sectors identified for prioritisation included agriculture, tourism, energy, blue economy, transport, waste and manufacturing.

5. What are some of the commitments and “responsible” principles that need to be made by key industry sectors and by finance and investment institutions?

Cleaner Production Systems (CPS): Industries were recommended to minimise pollution through adoption of leaner production systems

Environmental and Social Governance (ESG): The government was urged to make ESG mandatory for all financial institutions.

Industries and businesses should all shift toward sustainability-oriented governance, in this respect Environmental and Social Governance should be adopted at policy level by the government.

Commitment to ICT especially for the Ministry of Education and line ministries in the environmental sector.

A stronger corporate social responsibility (CSR) agenda that is linked to the sustainability agenda – embed sustainable development in their area of works.

Implementing Environmental and Social Governance the financial sector, irrespective of purpose of financing.

6. What are the decent green jobs of the future? What are the new skills needed, what is needed from business? from government? from academia?

Decent Green Jobs:

- i. Waste management experts;
- ii. Remote sensing and Geographic Information systems are a solution to most modern-day planning requirements;
- iii. Agriculture experts to upscale agribusiness and improve food security;
- iv. Renewable energy can position Namibia as a renewable energy hub in the whole of Africa and;
- v. ICT was also identified as key areas of educational focus.

Commitments:

Business: decarbonising production, reduction in waste generation, greener production systems, climate smart technologies, renewable energy and environmental regulations compliance.

Government: Developing contemporary legislative policies and frameworks for implementations, formulation of an independent environmental management body to improve environmental compliance enforcement, implement sustainable development principles, upscale awareness campaigns and adopt modern day ICT technologies in service delivery.

Academia: Ensuring that education institutions are churning out contemporary qualifications that are corresponding to current issues & needs of the industry.

Measure to Intensify and regulate sustainable internship and mentorship programmes by government and the private sectors should be implemented.

Strengthening academic institutions coordination and ensure participation of all institutions in different projects/programmes.

Sustainability-oriented research was identified as key in coming up with home grown solutions to climate sustainability

3.4. Leadership Dialogue 3. Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

1. What are the biggest challenges we are facing in implementing the commitments to the 2030 Agenda and other environmental commitments (MEAs)? How do we create an enabling environment for delivery on the ground?

Key Challenges identified

- i. There are no financial resources to fully implement SDGs programmes
- ii. Namibia still lacks technical expertise in climate and sustainability,
- iii. There is insufficient data to inform planning and management,
- iv. Less has been done in terms of sensitising the communities and stakeholders about SDGs
- v. There is lack of policy coherence with regards to environmental management in Namibia,
- vi. There are inadequate resources to enable the successful implementation of MEAs and programmes to achieve the Agenda 2030,
- vii. The lack of political will and support in some projects
- viii. The developmental policy frameworks in Namibia are currently fragmented,
- ix. Human population is growing at a fast rate and putting pressure on the environment as resources.

To create an enabling environment, recommendations centered on:

- i. Enabling laws, policies, administrative frameworks and resources to allow the implementation of MEAs in Namibia.
- ii. There is need for political will to partake in environmental sustainability programmes.
- iii. Integrating SDGs and MEAs in awareness, training and educational programmes.
- iv. Improve environmental management institutional arrangements and synergy through creating one roofed ministry for the management of water, forests, environment.
- v. Create an environmental data centralize data hub
- vi. Environmental levies should be used for the purpose of addressing environmental impacts of businesses.

2. What are the good practices and pathways that you would like to see scaled up to accelerate the implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development in the context, of the Decade of Action?

Practices: Ensure that sustainability is achieved through cleaner production systems, renewable energy, improved health services, waste management, legal frameworks implementation, training, awareness campaigns, capacity building, grassroots-informed policies and projects, indigenous knowledge systems, reforestation, coastal areas conservation, fisheries conservation, climate smart agriculture and promoting awareness campaigns to influence citizen behaviour and attitude towards environmental conservation.

Pathways:

- i. A guideline manual/ handbook should be developed, highlighting sector-specific good practices
- ii. The GRN needs to maintain good relationship with development partners,
- iii. The existing Solid Waste Management Strategy should be transferred to local authorities, communities and stakeholders through awareness campaigns and workshops,
- iv. Broad stakeholder involvement, including grassroots and private sector,
- v. Improved documentation and public distribution of lessons learned at the end of projects,
- vi. Capacitating local institutions to mobilise financing and;
- vii. Mobilise more resources from the private sector through PPPs.

3. How to transform governance and legal systems that maintain long-term economic stability and ecological and social wellbeing for all?

Accountability: Those in governing positions should be able to account for their actions through monitoring and evaluation.

Sustainability: Integrating sustainable development into all developmental policy frameworks that the country has adopted.

SGSs and MEAs: Mainstreaming SDGs and MEA targets into relevant national policies and strategies. Relevant ministries should work with support institutions to help with environment, climate and financing strategies.

Consultation and Involvement: Stakeholders should be consulted when formulating laws and making decisions

Harmonisation: There is need to coordinate and harmonise existing institutions and laws through continuous review and harmonisation of all existing environmental policies and legislation in Namibia.

Environmental Management Administration: The establishment of an overall Environmental Protection/Management body should be considered, and advice can be sought from countries that have achieved this.

4. What measures are needed to align public, private and development finance with existing commitments and priorities?

- i. The National Planning Commission (NPC) must be capacitated to adequately track the flow of resources, both from the national budget, private financing and donor funding. This information should be accessible to the public, so that financiers can use this to inform their planning.
- ii. Climate Budget Tagging for Namibia should be implemented and stakeholders should be sensitised on this.
- iii. Increase access to international funding on climate change and other environmental projects from the multilateral funding institutions such as the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Global Environmental Facility.
- iv. Transparency and accountability should be promoted, and this will be achieved through monitoring and evaluation.
- v. Enhanced collaboration between the government (EIF), private sector (financial institutions) and international organisations (UN, GIZ, KFW) was identified as key to accessing developmental finance.
- vi. Corruption was identified as a major hindrance to the success of most projects, in this respect, there is an urgent need for corruption-proof systems to be implemented.
- vii. The need for accountability at all levels was emphasized. This will ensure that despite government, political, religious or social status, everyone is brought to book when they commit corruption.

5. What type of partnerships from the UN and beyond are needed to accelerate a green and sustainable economic transformation that leaves no one behind?

- i. UNDP was commended on the current projects they are implementing in Namibia, the partnerships should continue through financing, capacity building and advisory.
- ii. The government (ministerial committees) should come up with SDGs aligned policies, programmes and projects that UNDP can help to implement. In addition, climate finance can also be secured if the projects are sustainability driven.
- iii. Genuine open card playground for all community organisations should be availed.
- iv. Flagship programmes should be implemented by UNDP, before transfer of financial support or projects, pilot projects should be done to ensure that the model is applicable and sustainable.
- v. Financial institutions (national, regional and international) need to reduce red tapes in accessing financing for sustainable development.
- vi. Inclusive and collaborative partnership from the UN and beyond on project formulation, implementation and decision-making, including local stakeholders to ensure sustainability of interventions.
- vii. Early warning system should be implemented, and these should be specific to region or climatic environment i.e., coastal areas and inland areas.
- viii. There is need for education, training and awareness programmes on climate change, as such all tertiary institutions should have a course that addresses climate change as a science for development.

6.

What capacities and technologies are needed to improve human wellbeing in harmony with nature, including digital technologies?

- i. Mobile and internet connectivity is required for information distribution, research and development, early warning systems and coordination of sustainability related projects.
- ii. The line ministries such as MEFT and MAWLR require modern technologies to manage their activities, such as drones, data processing computers, water quality testing kits and communication equipment.
- iii. MEFT is currently understaffed and the Directorate of Environmental Affairs requires a review and new direction on how they can function as a stand along organisation that manages its own funds, staff and other requirements. This will also improve the collection of environmental levies, taxes and fines.
- iv. The UN is recommended to encourage countries with means to assist with technology transfer, capacitation in terms of training, and financing on the issue of renewable energy technologies (so that we reduce pressure on nature). Awareness Collaborative research and innovation should be promoted.
- v. A joint environmental and climate research programmed implemented by IUM, NUST and UNAM is recommended. This can promote collaborative research and minimise competition for research finance by institutions.
- vi. Renewable energy technologies should be used on schools, clinics and government offices to minimise government expenditure on electricity. In addition, this will be a future investment that will benefit future generations if the renewable energy products (solar) are well maintained.
- vii. Namibia needs to come up with policies that monitors effluent and air pollution from different operations, the polluter pays principle should be applied according to the level, extent and toxicity of pollution.

3.5. Country-specific agenda of the national consultation

A summary of the discussions relevant to country-specific themes including links to NDCs, NAPS, NBSAPS, and other national/sectoral frameworks: challenges, opportunities, solutions, and recommendations.

The national consultations in Namibia recorded a wide array of issues with regards to the sustainability agenda, The themes discussed included harmonising environmental legislation, improving climate smart agriculture, awareness campaigns, public involvement, inclusion, waste management, disaster preparedness, information dissemination, monitoring and evaluation.

Namibia's Green Plan

The Namibia Green Plan aims at securing – for present and future generations – a safe and healthy environment and a prosperous economy. It was compiled by the Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism in consultation with various governmental and non-governmental organisations and first presented at the Rio Conference in 1992.¹⁰ With the Green Plan, Namibia created a national common vision around its environmental issues, priorities and future actions. The Green Plan outlines needed policy and legislation, and strategies and recommendations for key areas such as the sustainable management of wildlife, tourism and fisheries as well as environmental education for sustainable development and links environment to socio-economic development.

Thus, the Green Plan has laid the basis for a number of processes to conserve and manage resources for development and some substantive outputs of Namibia's Green Plan have been the EMA, which provides the legal foundation for environmental protection in the country through Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Integrated Regional Land Use Plans; Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) including Namibia's world renowned communal conservancies, community forests and community-based management of water resources and fisheries; a thriving nature-based tourism sector supported by a progressive policy framework on tourism, and tourism and wildlife concessions on state land; water demand management initiatives including water recycling, desalination and the establishment of basin management committees and transboundary basin commissions; a variety of renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives; cleaner production and waste management; and natural resource accounting. One further outcome of Namibia's Green Plan was the establishment of the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) of Namibia.

The Namibia Green Plan has however been identified to be lacking, due to the dynamic changes that have occurred between 1992 and 2022 and there is need to do a holistic relook of the plan and its strategies.

Harmonisation of Environmental Management Mandate

There is a general consensus amongst stakeholders that there is a current fragmentation of environmental a management policies, frameworks and administrative mandate. This is because the current communication and co-operation between sectoral ministries at the national level (e.g. MEFT, MAWRL, MURD). Such communication and co-operation is weak, although becoming better in some cases, mainly through informal mechanisms. Relevant ministries must work together to create the enabling environment needed to bring about integrated, holistic resource management on the ground.

The need for a clear need for co-ordination and co-operation within Government over environmental issues was identified through updating the *Namibia Green Plan*. In the past little attention was given to an integrated approach and legislation has developed piecemeal within a variety of sectors. Development programmes were planned and implemented with scant regard in many cases for environmental impacts.

There is a very uneven power balance between the MEFT and a number of other much stronger line ministries that also must be involved in holistic solutions to environmental problems. All in all eight ministries outside the MEFT must co-operate if the environmental strategies proposed.

The share of MEFT in overall Government expenditures only constitutes less than 2% in the financial year 2022/23-2024/25". This certainly indicates a need to develop incentives from within government for communication, co-operation, and co-ordination between MEFT and other ministries. This requires a review into all existing policies, legislation, and institutional development centred/interacting with the environment and appropriate administrative powers should be developed.

Amendment of the Environmental Management Act

Stakeholders identified the need for a detailed review of the existing legislative framework (Environmental Management Act no. 7, 2007). The existing piece of legislation has fallen behind and is not effectively managing the environment and resource utilisation as it should. A reviewed, contemporary legislative framework is required to ensure that MEAs and SDGs are fully achieved without legislative constraints

There is a current drive to relook at the existing Environmental Assessment guidelines of 2012, and this is at an advanced stage, however it was identified that there is need to look at the main legal framework and this can guide the preceding guidelines. The urgency of these reviews are also crucial because the resources are being destroyed currently because of inefficient environmental laws and regulations.

Environmental Management Administration

The Directorate of Environmental Affairs and forestry (DEAF) is a directorate of the MEFT in Namibia, and has as its mission to promote environmental protection, environmental planning and environmental coordination to support the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources and national development, and to protect the environment and human welfare from unsustainable, unhealthy and inappropriate practices. The fact that the national environmental management body is a directorate within a ministry gives significant constraints in the management of environmental affairs in the country. The DEAF does not have sufficient powers to bring to book other line ministries e.g. MAWLR and Ministry of Fisheries, because these line ministries also claim to have enough knowledge and expertise to manage the environment.

To address this issue, there is an urgent need for the government to establish an independent executive agency of the republic of Namibia tasked with environmental protection matters. This agency can act as a central power to all environmental affairs issues in the country including marine, water, forestry, agricultural and mineral resources. The Agency should have enough expertise and powers to manage its own budget as well as issuing regulations when needed because of the dynamic nature of the environment.

Review of the National Solid Waste Management Strategy

MEFT recognised the urgent need to improve solid waste management in Namibia and through National Solid Waste Management Strategy directions on solid waste management within the country were developed and recommended. Funding and action plans to improve solid waste management that is properly co-ordinated and consistent with national policies were recommended

However, it has been observed that the strategy was focused more only on local authorities. It is however important to note that waste (solid and effluent) needs to be addressed holistically. It is thus the stakeholders proposed for the updating of the existing Solid Waste Management Strategy into an Integrated Waste Management Strategy, with sector specific recommendations (local authority, mining, agriculture, manufacturing, fisheries, transport, oil & gas as well as medical). The intergraded approach will also allow for a clearer distinguishing of roles between the government and private players with regards to waste management.

Environmental and Social Governance

It has been a general consensus that local and international financial institutions have a great role to play in the MEAs and SDGs agenda. The continuous financing of unsustainable project can hamper the objectives of sustainability. As such, a policy on sustainable financing and disclosure is required in Namibia. This will be able to help facilitate the flow of capital towards sustainable investments, in particular environmentally sustainable investments. This can be co-o implanted by EIF, MEFT and Ministry of Finance.

What were the priorities, needs, key messages and solutions raised by women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, people with disabilities, and other stakeholder groups under vulnerable conditions or marginalized?

Priorities:

- Vulnerable groups, women, youth and persons with disabilities made a call for the country to prioritise their inclusion in decision making, project planning and implementation.
- Lack of access to finance for the vulnerable groups was identified as a huge obstacle to personal and community development because, only the privileged can access funding for entrepreneurial projects.
- Social safeguard nets were requested, especially with regards to post employment survival, unemployment allowance, gender based violence, the growing disparity between the boy and girl child because of over-emancipation.
- Investment priority in vulnerable regions was also emphasized, this can help with adaptation and resilience to climate change.

Needs:

- The key message was on awareness and sensitisation through targeted consultations, e.g. MEFT making an effort to awareness campaign in informal settlements.
- Representation was identified as a major need, because most of the vulnerable groups maintained that their needs are not being addressed due to lack of representation at important local, regional and national planning forums.

Key messages:

- Vulnerable groups indicated that they are the hardest hit by climate change, and they do not have sufficient capability to adapt.
- The lack of knowledge amongst their groups, makes it even harder to instil conservation efforts, hence the need for more education to all vulnerable groups, especially marginalised communities.
- A call for review of existing environmental laws and regulations to identify why the environmental protection efforts are not being fully realised was encouraged.

Solutions:

- MEFT was recommended to realign their goals, policies, laws and administrative functions. The process should be supported by in-depth consultations of all population groups.
- Education and awareness to youths, marginalised communities, women, children, the elderly and those incarcerated was advised. Conservation efforts should come from all angles possible.
- The classification of Namibia as a middle income country does not resonate well with the vulnerable. Organisations that used to access funding finance are finding it difficult to access help/donations. In this respect, the vulnerable groups will go back to natural resource base reliance (water, firewood, land clearing, pollution) to ensure that they have a livelihood. This will in-turn hamper conservation efforts being implemented.
- There is a need to be realising for the government and the world at large to realise that some countries such as Namibia, still require more help through financing and technical support.
- Regional Councils and Traditional Authorities were encouraged to ensure that their inhabitants are fully represented in decision making.
- With regards to environmental awareness, these authorities should liaise with MEFT, GIZ and UNDP to set up awareness campaigns.

How did various stakeholder groups in your country express their expectations from the Stockholm+50 international meeting? What changes do they expect in the international environmental cooperation, policies, and investment frameworks as a follow up to the Stockholm+50? How do they think that Stockholm+50 can help your country better position itself for advancing integrated solutions across national climate, biodiversity, green recovery, sectoral, and SDG policy frameworks?

- i. Stakeholders expect their inputs to be included in the national feedback report, and appraisal should be done with key stakeholders.
- ii. The stakeholders requested the opportunity to review the national consultation report so that some of the proposed action plans can be discussed.
- iii. Feedback reporting is also expected after the stockholm+50 consultations, because this process should not be done in futile as a tick box. The stakeholders are interested in seeing the results of the namibia Stockholm +50 national consultations.
- iv. The purpose of these consultations is to help realign MEAs, SDGs which have a direct bearing on national laws and policies. It is thus expected that, the results of the consultations will be streamlined into international laws and regulations as well as Namibian environmental and related pieces of legislations and policies.
- v. More cooperation is expected between Less Economically Developed Countries and More Economically Developed Countries. This is because all African countries will still require support towards achieving sustainability and self-dependency. Commitments should be put in place and these should be finance focused, and financing quotas to African countries should be adopted.

3.6. Highlights from the on-line SparkBlue Consultations

Summarize the key types of comments, recommendations and findings relevant to the Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogues themes.

Leadership Dialogue 1. Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all

The SparkBlue platform is still being sensitized to stakeholders, most stakeholders preferred emailing, in-person and virtual (livestreaming) platforms.

Leadership Dialogue 2. Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

The SparkBlue platform is still being sensitized to stakeholders, most stakeholders preferred emailing, in-person and virtual (livestreaming) platforms.

Leadership Dialogue 3. Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

The SparkBlue platform is still being sensitized to stakeholders, most stakeholders preferred emailing, in-person and virtual (livestreaming) platforms.

4. Consultation Follow-up, Next Steps and Links to National Policies

Possible follow-up and next steps including the design and implementation of socially inclusive and gender-responsive national and sectoral policies, NDCs, NBSAPs, INFFs, SDG Strategies, Green/Blue Economy and Green Recovery Plans, etc.

- Gender mainstreaming for sustainable development in Namibia should be implemented at all levels (local, regional, national).
- Existing developmental strategies such as Harambee prosperity plan, Vision 2030 and National Development Plans should clearly streamline women and other vulnerable groups.
- There is a need to promote women groups in Namibia so that they can work with strategic ministries and organisations. This can allow women representatives at a higher level, through organizational representatives.
- Training, awareness and capacity building on human rights and the sensitization of vulnerable groups including women on how important their voice is, in the community should be rolled out. Coordination in planning between MEFT and the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare.

How has coordination with other national/subnational processes benefited/been improved?

- The Namibia national consultation process incorporated other organisations including GIZ, different CSOs, line ministries, Regional Councils, representatives of vulnerable groups and local authorities. The issue of integration, environmental awareness and consultations were discussed and the role of each group was discussed.
- It is however pre-emptive to come up with an assessment of the extend of impacts of the consultative process, unless a post consultation survey/assessment is conducted. The national consultation report will also need be shared with all groups, for them to start implementing some of the identified issues that require a relook.

How will stakeholder dialogue on these topics be maintained and continued? What platforms or mechanisms are in place for stakeholders to provide their feedback and follow up recommendations, including the use of virtual dialogues and digital technologies?

- The SparkBlue platform will be used in the meanwhile to promote dialogue between UNDP, MEFT and stakeholders. Radio awareness campaign will also be done as a post-consultation information sharing session. This will sensitize the nation on the SparkBlue platform and the available communication options to participate.
- Additional funding will be required to capacitate UNDP and the National consultant to conduct discussions for detailed recommendations and action plans with targeted stakeholders.

What other initiatives have been triggered/inspired/informed by the National Consultation?

- Persons with disability agreed amongst themselves to create a communication channel with MEFT, so that they can access sustainable finance, training, awareness and capacity building on environmental conservation.
- Different players in the academia (NUST, IUM, UNAM) agreed to collaborate and access research financing together. This will enable for the development of collaborative recommendations, as opposed to competition amongst the institutions.
- MAWLR established that in some regions, farmers are producing, however the market is not open. There is need to create a supply chain channel for all locally produced agricultural produce.
- The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture in Namibia created an Environmental Society for different students to participate. This was confirmed to be active in Khomas and Oshana region. MEFT identified this as a platform to spread environmental awareness and education to primary and secondary school students.

5. Annexes

5.1. SparkBlue Reference Links

- **Agenda(s) of the national consultation:**
<https://www.sparkblue.org/stockholm50/consultation-namibia/stream>
- List of participants disaggregated by stakeholder group, public/private/civil society, national/international: **Appendix A: Attendance Registers**
- **More detailed minutes/transcripts of the consultation(s):**
<https://www.sparkblue.org/stockholm50/consultation-namibia/stream>
- PowerPoint presentations, flowcharts, or any other graphics: **Appendix B: National Consultations Presentation**
- **Consultation photos, video(s):**
<https://www.sparkblue.org/stockholm50/consultation-namibia/stream>
- Summary of traditional and social media coverage with links: **Appendix C: Links to social media coverage campaigns and updates**
- Any other communication materials or assets you prepared in support of the consultations: <https://www.sparkblue.org/stockholm50/consultation-namibia/stream>

5.2. Summary for Policymakers

Several issues were recorded from the Namibia national consultations led by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Namibia Country Office. The purpose of this summary is to highlight where decision-makers can invest and align their efforts in achieving the overall goal of “a healthy planet for the prosperity of all” on a national scale. The key takeaways from the consultation have been disintegrated into nuggets that policymakers can work in teams and collaborate to achieve the goal across sectors. A highlight of the key action points and interventions per theme from the various discussions held during the consultation is outlined below:

Key interventions

Climate action – to scale up the climate action, Namibia is required to operationalise the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. This is key in advising sectoral targets and outputs that are listed in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) ensuring that the strategy and action plan works as a guiding framework for long term climate adaptation and mitigation objective. Mainstreaming climate action across sectors and at all levels is required, including forming the government-climate negotiation board with representatives from various ministries and parastatals so that departments are not working in silos and that there is a coordinated response to realise cross-cutting benefits of various actions.

Environmental and waste management – Constant training and capacitation of the waste management departments/ authorities and raising awareness of the general public on the importance of good practices are required. The consultation highlighted the strong gap in the current environmental management laws and frameworks. Therefore, efforts to amend or align the Environmental Management Act no. 7 of 2007, Environmental Assessment Policy and the Namibia Green Plan to address contemporary environmental and climate challenges that are being faced. There is a need to establish an umbrella organisation responsible for all environmental affairs. Cooperation amongst government, private sector, academia, CSOs, commonalities and international organisations was identified as key to achieving sustainability. Key documents such as the Namibia Green Plan,

Environmental Assessment Policy (1995), and the Environmental management act No. 7 of 2007 should undergo review to ensure contemporary application.

Clean water supply & sanitation – there is a need to operationalise the existing water and sanitation policy to end the inequality in water access, and poor sanitation in some parts of the country. Also, achieving equal access to water and sanitation is critical for fighting pandemics as highlighted during the COVID-19 attack where access to clean water was critical for addressing COVID-19 transmission as the World Health Organisation promoted the “Safe Hands” to fight the transmission of the pandemic. Equal access to water and sanitation also promotes a healthy planet.

Biodiversity conservation – to protect all biodiversity including the fragile wetland environment, wetland protection and conservation programmes should be implemented through “Integrated Wetlands Management Strategies”, thus mapping wetland areas and creating restricted zones for developmental projects. Wetlands are crucial to Namibia’s environment through the regulation of local ecological functions as well as carbon sequestration.

COVID-19 recovery plan – the country’s COVID-19 recovery plan and action should incorporate elements of how various economic sectors will include critical elements such as the climate action. This is the opportunity to increase awareness of how various both social and economic activities can be detrimental to the environment and the entire planet as COVID-19 has encouraged cross-cutting collaborations of stakeholders from health, politics, economy, society and environment as they are working together to address COVID-19 impacts. Consultations reiterated the need for the country to invest in ICTs to manage pandemics and other hazards. A policy that promotes the adoption of ICT as the cornerstone of planning across sectors is required and very urgent.

Renewable energy – with the amount of solar radiation received in Namibia, the government can promote the adoption of solar energy as a replacement for coal by enacting laws and policies that prohibit the use of coal for energy purposes. Policies that incentivise solar energy are needed, by reducing taxes on importing solar energy and removing other trade embargoes on solar and related products.

Climate finance – the Climate Change Department can increase its access to climate funding by tapping into multilateral international funding through improving its access to direct access entity funding from the Green Climate Fund. The government can also partner with various accredited entities to access funding from multilateral funding organisations – the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, and Adaptation Fund.

Food security – to improve the national food security, investment in modern and advanced farming is required. Many farmer-based organisations and stakeholders highlighted the lack of capacity by smallholder farmers to address the climate risk which is affecting the nation's food security. Climate-smart agriculture (CSM) should be prioritised to realise double the benefits of climate change adaptation and improve food security. Line ministries, MEFT and Agriculture should run initiatives that promote CSM collaborating with private sector partners and NGOs promoting CSM.

Agribusiness and value addition – to empower the vulnerable smallholder farmers, value addition to their products is critical. This can be achieved by policies that bridge the gap between farmers and the industry. A policy that promotes synergies and collaboration between farmer groups and industry is required.

Resilient transport systems are the backbone of any functional economy and are key to the sustainable economic development of a country. There is a need for the country to invest in clean resilient and affordable transport systems such as solar-powered rail. This can be achieved by ensuring that the private sector participates in the process through the public-private partnerships models such as the built operate and transfer (BOT) models. The government should as a long-term intervention introduce clean powered electric cars and phase out diesel and petrol cars to reduce carbon emissions from the transport sector.

Sustainable infrastructure development – to achieve a healthy planet that is free from uncontrolled waste, diseases, and climate crisis, infrastructure development that promotes modern initiatives such as the circular and green economy is important. These initiatives can be integrated into infrastructure development by ensuring that various sectors take into consideration the importance of a circular

economy, and green buildings when the development of local and national infrastructure is taking place.

Education and awareness – this should take into consideration both informal and formal education. The formal education can be remodelled to ensure that issues on climate action, waste management and biodiversity are integrated into childhood learning to equip young people and youths on the importance of these on achieving a healthy planet that is free of the climate crisis. Ideas, initiatives and programs that promote education and awareness to the broader community through informal settings to raise awareness of the marginalised and vulnerable groups on biodiversity protection and a healthy planet are required. These programs can be run by NGOs in collaboration with the government and private sector.

Reforestation and afforestation programs – the government should promote the implementation of nature-based solutions, and land restoration initiatives such as reforestation and afforestation programs. Namibia can utilise the extensive square area of underutilised land to do projects on reforestation and afforestation. This will ensure multiple benefits from carbon sequestration, promoting the existing biodiversity and wildlife sector. Programs and initiatives to encourage the general population and organisations to plant trees through incentivizing the programs and increasing access to the seedlings by the government are very important in promoting afforestation. Enacting and enforcing laws that prohibit or encourage people to replace the trees cut down are required and came on top from the consultation. As a system for implementation in the Kavango and Zambezi regions, selective timber harvesting should be implemented.

Disaster preparedness – a policy is required that put in place various stakeholders and teams that are capacitated for immediate response to the threats of both natural, environmental, climate and health-related disasters and pandemics. The team should be diverse to make sure all critical areas are addressed. The use of modern technologies such as GIS, Remote Sensing and working with space-based earth monitoring organisations can also upscale the disaster preparedness capabilities of the country.

Early warning systems – for effective interventions to all forms of disasters from environmental to health-related, a reliable and advanced national early warning system is critical for planning and responding to disasters and pandemics. Technological and scientific investments into early warning systems are required. This includes human personnel investment to ensure that nature, humans and animals are protected from various disasters. A multi-stakeholder platform/organisation handling all forms of natural disasters is recommended. This will ensure building proactive capabilities to address climate change.

5.3. Summary of the Report for the General Public



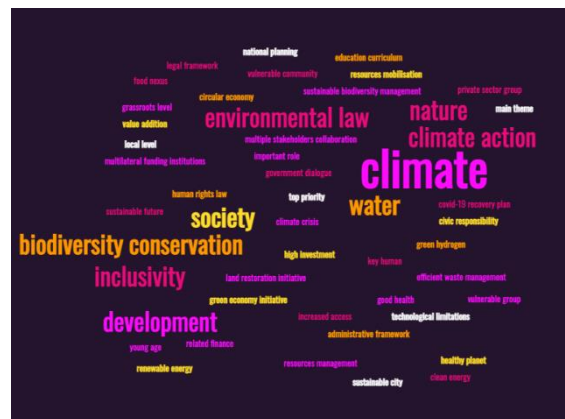
Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity
What are the people on the ground saying?

Summary of the Report



Communities and governments around the world will be commemorating the 50 years since the conception of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden. At this landmark conference, governments agreed on several principles to take global environmental action through concerted efforts and also address issues of poverty alleviation which are linked to environmental degradation.

Since then, various multilateral environmental treaties, of which Namibia is a Party to, have been agreed upon by countries around the world addressing, amongst others, issues of climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, ocean pollution, shared watercourses, management of fish stocks and persistent organic pesticides. Namibia has continued its development path through the sustainable utilisation of its key ecosystem services; however, the country's aridity, high-water scarcity and poor land management remain a change. These challenges are compounded by high levels of poverty, unemployment, the Covid-19 pandemic, and the resultant economic downturn.



Key messages From National Stakeholders on Stockholm +50



UNDP, with the financial support from the Government of Sweden, provided technical support to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) on the Stockholm +50 national consultation for Namibia which

took place between April and May 2022. The consultations aimed to stimulate an inclusive whole-of-society and whole-of-government dialogue on the main themes which amongst others were: *Climate Action, Water, Affordable And Clean Energy, Gender Equality, Good Health and Well-Being*. Namibians joined the discourse around the world to add their voice in celebrating this historical event.

Through these consultations and other nationally organised events, the celebrations aim to act as a springboard to accelerate the implementation of the UN Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, including the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement on climate change, the post-2020 global Biodiversity Framework and encourage the adoption of green post-COVID-19 recovery plans. In Namibia, national consultations were held to encourage stakeholders at all levels to cooperate, with various national and local leaders, academic, children, youth, and women leaders, NGOs, and private sector groups participating in the consultations. The “*Leave no one behind*” mantra in resource management and development across sectors and at all levels starting from the local level was constantly discussed and how this can promote biodiversity conservation and a sustainable future.

Table 1: Key Messages for the National Consultations

KEY MESSAGES	RELATED ACTION
<p>LEGAL FRAMEWORK: There is insufficient enforcement of environmental laws -</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the existing environmental laws and frameworks as a top priority to strengthen the legislation, the administrative frameworks and the enforcement thereof.
<p>RESOURCE MOBILISATION: There is limited access to climate-related finance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued awareness creation and training on project preparation grants, and access to multilateral funding institutions. There is an opportunity for public-private partnerships in renewable energy, food security, financing, complementary action in developmental projects and joint planning. Acceleration of the national COVID-19 recovery plan. -
<p>CLIMATE CHANGE: Climate action from the grassroots levels to support communities to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be mandatory civic responsibility to ensure that local consultations and engagement at grassroots levels address marginalised and vulnerable groups Additional resources are needed to support social development programmes that are outlined in the national development plans
	<p>Restoration and regeneration of the climate Nature-based solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land restoration initiatives such as agroforestry through community forests should be upscaling to complement the achievement of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Intensive promotion of affordable clean energy such as renewables and green hydrogen. The circular economy can be used as an integral tool for local and national planning to achieve the sustainable development of towns with efficient waste management practices
<p>BIODIVERSITY: Strengthen legal frameworks in protecting the environment, biodiversity, and the rights of the vulnerable communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The green economy initiatives can be used to promote biodiversity conservation Environmental, biodiversity and human rights laws, policies and frameworks can be strengthened to promote inclusivity, responsibility, and transparency in resource mobilisation and management. Extensive research on value addition, and improvement of nature-based products. The lack of knowledge amongst their groups, makes it challenging to instil conservation efforts, hence the need for more education for all vulnerable groups, especially marginalised communities.
<p>GENDER, YOUTH, MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender mainstreaming for sustainable development in Namibia should be implemented at all levels (local, regional, national).

**EDUCATION, AWARENESS
CREATION AND CAPACITY**

BUILDING: Curriculum
development -.

- Streamlining vulnerable groups, gender and marginalised in all developmental projects should be made mandatory.
- Training, awareness and capacity building on human rights and the sensitization of vulnerable groups including women on how important their voice is heard.

- The drive towards sustainability also affords an opportunity to review the current education curriculum and spread sustainable education at all levels of academia.
- The education system can be modelled in such as to ensure that society from a young age is trained and aware of the benefits of sustainable biodiversity management and the importance of climate change mitigation to encourage a green earth.
- There is a need for capacity building and mindset change for greater environmental concern, stronger political will, and an improved platform for continuous dialogue.
- Environmental and social safeguards should be prioritised, adopted and implemented at local, regional, national and international levels

DIGITALISATION: The lack of
financial, technical, and human
resources and updated
technologies

- ICT transformation through digitalisation can improve efficacy and information distribution
- There is a need for high investment in ICT
- The COVID-19 pandemic offered Namibia the understanding that ICT is critical for developmental planning, productivity and progress monitoring remotely. This can also spread to the digitalisation of all sectors to increase efficiency and delivery of services.