



Namibia



Basic Data in a nutshell

Area	825,418 sq km
Coastline	1,572 km
Administrative division	13 regions
Capital	Windhoek
Population / habitat density	2,055,080 = 2,5 habitants / sq km
Population growth rate	0.478%
Languages	English 7% (official), Afrikaans common language of most of the population and about 60% of the white population, German 32%, indigenous languages 1% (includes Oshivambo, Herero, Nama)
Economy	<u>Agriculture products:</u> millet, sorghum, peanuts, grapes; livestock; fish <u>Industries:</u> meatpacking, fish processing, dairy products; mining (diamonds, lead, zinc, tin, silver, tungsten, uranium, copper)
Terrain	mostly high plateau; Namib Desert along coast; Kalahari Desert in east
Climate	desert; hot, dry; rainfall sparse and erratic → the most arid African country → desiccated by the interplay of winds off the cold Atlantic and the hot southern African Basin
Natural Resources	diamonds, copper, uranium, gold, silver, lead, tin, lithium, cadmium, tungsten, zinc, salt, hydropower, fish
Biodiversity hotspot (according to Conservation International)	Succulent Karoo



(Source: CIA World Factbook)

Read more:

- CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- Human Development Reports: www.undp.org
- biodiversity hotspots: <http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/Pages/default.aspx>

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; Biodiversity hotspots of Conservation International; CBD Country Profiles; Country Study of the MET)





Selected indicators of development status	
HDI *)	0.650 (rank 125 of 177)
Life expectancy at birth	<i>male</i> : 44.39 years <i>female</i> : 41.79 years
GDP per capita (UNDP, 2005)	7,586 US\$/year
GDP composition by sector	<p>58,60% 10,60% 30,80%</p> <p>■ agriculture ■ industry ■ services</p>
Infant mortality	47.23 deaths/1,000 live births
Adult literacy rate (15 years and older)	85.0%
Population using an improved water source 1990/2004	57% / 87%
Children underweight for age (under age 5)	24%
Population below poverty line (2 US\$/day)	55.8%
Gini-Index for income distribution **)	0.743
Official Development Assistance (ODA) received	
Total amount / per capita (UNDP, 2005)	123,400,000 US\$ / 60.7 US\$
% of ODA in GDP 1990/2005	5.1% / 2.0%
Read more:	
- Human Development Reports: www.undp.org	
- UNDP Statistics for Namibia: http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_NAM.html	

(Sources: UNDP Human Development Report 2007; CIA World Factbook)

*) The Human Development Index (HDI) is a comparative index of social development status. The HDI is calculated on the basis of life expectancy, the literacy rate and real purchasing power per capita. The HDI is expressed as a value between 1 (high) and 0 (low)

**) The Gini coefficient is a measure of personal income distribution within a country or region. It is expressed as a value between 0 (distribution fully equitable) and 1 (distribution fully inequitable)



Biological Diversity in Namibia is ...

...the diversity of ecosystems:

five geographical areas:

- The Central Plateau: here is the majority of Namibia's population and economic activity
- The Namib Desert: in many areas there is little vegetation with the exception of lichens found in the gravel plains, and in dry river beds where plants can access subterranean water
- the Escarpment: the vegetation ranges from dense woodlands to more shrubby areas with scattered trees
- the Bushveld: generally flat, sandy soils; the adjacent Etosha Pan is ecologically important and vital to the huge numbers of birds and animals from the surrounding savannah
- the Kalahari Desert, home to the Succulent Karoo and to Inselbergs

main vegetation zones:

- Desert: 16% of the country (with less than 10mm of rainfall per year)
- Savannas: 64% of the country (with over 600mm of rainfall per year)
- Woodlands: 20% of the country
- subtropical wetlands, saline desert springs, limestone cave and sinkhole features

- forest area (2005): 76,600 sq km (9.28% of the national area)
- 0% of the total land area was naturally covered by forests
- Namibia's most significant "biodiversity hotspot" is the Sperrgebiet, which is the restricted diamond mining area in the Succulent Karoo floral kingdom, it is one of the few arid biodiversity hotspots in the world: it is a refuge for an exceptional level of succulent plant diversity, shaped by the winter rainfall and fog of the southern Namib Desert
- Moreover it features one of the most productive marine upwelling system in the world

...the diversity between and within species:

- 292 species of mammals, 642 bird species, 269 reptile species, 73 frog species, 8,064 insect species, 607 fish species
- 4,471 plant species; 30 trees are endemic to Namibia; one third of the world's succulents are found in the Karoo
- The species richness of many groups is only modest compared to other countries
- High degree of endemism; the currently highest rate of endemism is 93.75 % from Kuiseb Delta
- The marine system features low species richness, but high abundance, in many taxa



Efforts to protect Namibian biodiversity:

- first country in the world to incorporate the protection of the environment into its constitution; some 14% of the land is protected, including virtually the entire Namib Desert coastal strip
 - 196 protected areas (2003) which cover 5.6% of the total land area
 - 3.83% of total land area (31,590 sq km) are strictly protected (according to IUCN categories I and II)
 - 4 Ramsar Sites (i.a. Sandwich Harbour, Walvis Bay), 0 biosphere reserves and 1 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Twyfelfontein or /Ui-//aes)
- Namibia previously decided to prepare goals and outline strategies for all 15 parks by 2001, and to double conservation areas of conservancies by 2005. However, the status of implementation of these targets is not specified

Read more:

- biodiversity hotspots: <http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/Pages/default.aspx>
- CBD Country Profile Namibia: <http://www.cbd.int/countries/?country=na>
- Global Environmental Outlook of the UNEP (GEO-4): http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4_Report_Full_en.pdf
- Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET): <http://www.met.gov.na/default.htm>
- The National Clearing House Mechanism (CHM): <http://www.dea.met.gov.na/programmes/biodiversity/biodiversity.htm>
- Third National Report to the CBD (2005): <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/na/na-nr-03-en.pdf>
- Summary of the Country Study of the MET: http://www.met.gov.na/programmes/biodiversity/biod_cs/summary.PDF
- Namibian Biodiversity Database: <http://www.biodiversity.org.na/>
- Biodiversity in German Development Cooperation: www.gtz.de/biodiversity
- WWF Namibia: http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/africa/where/namibia/index.cfm
- Earthtrends Country Profiles: http://earthtrends.wri.org/country_profiles/
- UNESCO World Heritage List: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>
- UNESCO Man and Biosphere: <http://www.unesco.org/mab/>
- Ramsar Sites: <http://www.ramsar.org/sitelist.pdf>

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; Biodiversity hotspots of Conservation International; CBD Country Profiles; World Resources Institute – Earthtrends; UNDP 2005; Country Study of the MET; Namibian Biodiversity Database)

Namibia's current environmental challenges are:

very limited natural fresh water resources

Poor land management on farmlands → land degradation has led to few conservation areas

Mining and fossil fuel exploration

desertification

wildlife poaching

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; CBD Country Profiles; Country Study of the MET)



Cultural diversity in Namibia is based on...

...different ethnic groups:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - black 87.5% - white 6% - mixed 6.5% <p><i>note:</i> about 50% of the population belong to the Ovambo tribe and 9% to the Kavangos tribe; other ethnic groups includes Herero 7%, Damara 7%, Nama 5%, Caprivian 4%, Bushmen 3%, Baster 2%, Tswana 0.5%</p>
...different religions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christian 80% to 90% (Lutheran 50% at least) - indigenous beliefs 10% to 20%

(Source: CIA World Factbook)

Ecological Footprint	1,1 global ha/person
Biocapacity	4,4 global ha/person

Within the global comparison, Namibia ranges on place no. 42 - see bar chart,
http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator_detail.cfm?country=NA&indicatorid=13

(Source: www.footprintnetwork.org)