

## **REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

## NAMIBIA

## SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY POLICY

**Ministry of Fisheries** 

Implementation Period. 2022-2031

Policy developed in line with:

National Development Plan (NDP5);

Letter by His Excellency The President to the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019;

Cabinet Action Letter Decision No.6<sup>th</sup>/22.05.18/006 (1(c) and (h));

Cabinet Action Letter Decision No. 20th/22.11.16/002(2.13-2.17); and

Cabinet Action Letter Decision No. 10<sup>th</sup>/21.06.16/001 (4)

## 1. Acknowledgements

#### (to be completed in final draft)

#### Inter-Ministerial Policy Drafting Team and Directly Affected Institutions

- Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources blue economy policy coordination ministry;
- Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism;
- Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
- Ministry of Mines and Energy;
- Ministry of Works and Transport;
- Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs;
- Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation
- Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation;
- Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development;
- National Planning Commission; and
- Office of the Attorney General

## Table of Contents

	1.	Acknowledgements3		
	2.	Foreword6		
	3.	Acronyms and Abbreviations10		
	4.	Glossary of Concepts and Terms11		
	5.	Executive Summary14		
	6.	Introduction		
	7.	Background		
	8.	Rationale22		
	9.	Alignment23		
	10.	Guiding Principles25		
	11.	Policy Direction27		
Vision2				
	Missic	on28		
	12.	Goal		
	13.	Objectives		
	14.	Scope and Application of the Policy29		
	15.	Strategies: Policy Implementation Approach32		
	Criter	a for Sustainable Blue Economy activities32		
	16.	Sectors of Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economy34		
	Blue F	isheries34		
Blue Tourism				
	Blue E	liotechnology and Bioprospecting		

Blue Mining					
Blue Water Resources Development and Blue Desalination41					
Blue Renewable Energy42					
Blue Maritime Transport, Ports and Shipping43					
Blue Ca	arbon Trading (Carbon Sequestration)	46			
17.	Waste Management in the Sustainable Blue Economy	47			
18.	Implementation Framework and Principles	48			
Joint N	ational Monitoring Control and Surveillance	49			
Ecosystem Based Management50					
19.	Institutional Arrangements and Governance Frameworks	51			
20.	Legal and Regulatory Frameworks and Institutions	54			
21.	Resource Mobilization	61			
22.	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, Reporting	62			
23.	Advocacy and Dissemination (Communication Strategy)	63			
24.	Implementation Action Plans	63			
25.	Conclusion	64			

## Annex 1: List of consulted stakeholders (only those that attended)

Annex 2: Table of Laws and Policies

Annex 3: International Agreements

Annex 4: Criteria for qualifying sustainable blue activities / economies

## 2. Foreword

Marine and aquatic ecosystems are essential to human and planetary health, for climate and food security, employment, national and global economies. These ecosystems play an essential and often unrecognized role in the daily lives of all our inhabitants. Breathing itself would be impossible without the ocean, which produces half of the earth's oxygen<sup>1</sup>. Approximately 90 percent of the world's goods are traded across the ocean. Vast numbers of people work in marine industries; many of which rely on resources that only a healthy ocean can offer. The true value of marine and aquatic ecosystems may not yet be fully appreciated and these ecosystems continue to provide us with new insights. Sustainable ecosystem management needs to be comprehensively approached in an integrated manner in order to achieve a vision of protection, production and prosperity.

With marine and aquatic ecosystem health increasingly more at risk than formerly anticipated, different pressures cumulatively add up and contribute to rapid, unpredictable changes in these ecosystems. Ocean and Aquatic ecosystems play an essential, and frequently unrecognized role in every person's life, producing half the world's oxygen to breathe, absorbing atmospheric heat and carbon, and transporting about 90 % of traded goods around the world. Putting essential services provided by marine and aquatic ecosystems at risk is reckless, irresponsible and selfish toward future generations.

A novel forward-looking direction towards management of ecosystems that support all marine and aquatic activities is required. Such Sustainable Blue Economy requires proactive management to use these ecosystems wisely rather than using them up, with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> HLP Publication: Ocean Solutions that Benefit People, Nature and the Economy, p.8

sufficient environmental protection to lead to improved and continued production, with more equitable distribution of ecosystem benefits, services and resources.

Realizing this vision requires an integrated rather than sectoral approach, that rests on building blocks including the use of science and data to drive decision-making; engaging in long-term goal-orientated ecosystem planning; de-risking finance and encouraging "clean" innovative methods to mobilize investment; reduce both land- and vessel-based pollution; and change and adapt ecosystem accounting in order to reflect the true and intrinsic values of marine and aquatic ecosystems.

This new way of thinking is also marked by a shift from a narrow focus on gross domestic product (GDP) alone to one that takes account of both the monetary and nonmonetary benefits and assets of the marine and aquatic ecosystems.

This Policy attempts to indicate and reflect the need to re-adapt and update approach towards marine and aquatic ecosystem management. The ambitious aspirations could be attempted incrementally, in a step by step manner. Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economic Policy is based on the three interconnected pillars of sustainable ecosystem management: environmental protection, economic sustainability and social equity.

The principle of sustainable development permeates NDP5. As such, the plan frames the achievement of progress within a framework of ensuring the ability of future generations to thrive.<sup>2</sup> In the same spirit, NDP5 rests on the following four key pillars, namely:

<sup>2</sup> Derived from an Extract of His Excellency, President Dr Hage Geingob's speech at the launch of NDP 5

- Inclusive, Sustainable and Equitable Economic Growth;
- Build Capable and Healthy Human Resources;
- Ensure Sustainable Environment and Enhance Resilience; and
- Promote Good Governance through Effective Institutions.<sup>3</sup>

The present NDP is focused on the attainment of the above-mentioned four high level goals, during the implementation period of 2017 – 2022.

The first goal entails growing the economy, creating employment, and reducing poverty and inequality while the second goal aims at creating a skilled and healthy work force. The third goal strives to ensure that both the current and future generation enjoys the benefits of the country's natural resources sustainably. The fourth goal recognizes the pivotal role of creating a conducive environment for development and adherence to the rule of law.<sup>4</sup>

The purpose of NDP5 is to set out a roadmap for achieving the above while adhering to the four integrated pillars of sustainable development.

In line with its National Development Plan 5, and in accordance with Cabinet instructions issued in 2016, Namibia embarked on the development of a Sustainable Blue Economy Policy, in a determined effort to pursue, co-ordinate and promote the management and development of the country's marine and aquatic resources. This Policy is based on the above-mentioned three interconnected pillars of sustainable ecosystem management: environmental protection, economic sustainability and social equity.

<sup>3</sup> supra

<sup>4</sup> NDP 5: Executive Summary p. 5.

Spearheaded by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources as stated custodian of the Policy, a consultative process ensued. An Inter-ministerial Committee comprising Ministries involved in the management and regulation of marine and inland aquatic activities, is in turn informed by a Technical Inter-ministerial Committee on Sustainable Blue Economies, chaired by the Executive Director of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

Further recent guidance and direction comes from the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, assembled in 2018 and supported by teams of experts in all fields related thereto. In particular reference to Namibia's developing Sustainable Blue Economy Policy, the Panel addressed the seriousness, urgency and methodology for transformations to sustainability in less than ten years. The role of Namibia's President, His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob, as one of the 14 global leaders serving on this Panel, emphasizes the importance that Namibia attaches to maintaining and adapting her marine and other aquatic economies into the future, to meet pressing and demanding challenges.

## 3. Acronyms and Abbreviations

NDP5	National Development Plan 5
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
ED	Executive Director
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
CBD	Convention on Biodiversity
РРР	Public Private Partnership
BWM	Ballast Water Management
IMO	International Maritime Organization
STCW	Standards of Training, Certification, and Watch-keeping
MFMR	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
MWT	Ministry of Works and Transport
MAWLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
NPC	National Planning Commission
МЕНТІ	Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation
MIRC	Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation
MITSMED	Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development
SME	Small to Medium Enterprises

## 4. Glossary of Concepts and Terms

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

**Blue bonds**: innovative ocean financing instrument whereby funds raised are earmarked exclusively for projects deemed ocean-friendly and contribute to ocean health.

**Circular flow**: The **circular flow** shows how resources move in a constant loop from producers to consumers and back again.

**Clean technology**: any process, product, or service that reduces negative environmental impacts through significant energy-efficiency improvements, the sustainable use of resources, or environmental protection activities.

**Coastal**: commonly defined as the interface or transition areas between land and sea, including coastal wetlands; commonly "coastal" is confined to the relatively narrow strip of land and territorial waters.

Deep sea: marine water depths of 200metres and deeper.

**Equitability principle**: a basic rule developed from common law legal principles applied to achieve fairness in outcomes, all things considered. As 'equitable' is not the same as 'equal', this does not imply that all proponents / users / inhabitants are treated equally.

**Freshwater**: Freshwater is water that contains only minimal quantities of dissolved salts, thus distinguishing it from sea water or brackish water.

**Natural resource accounting**: includes an assessment of the intrinsic value of natural resources; reflects an accounting system that deals with stocks and stock changes of natural assets, including biota and their ecosystems.

**Polluter Pays Principle**: the commonly accepted practice that those who cause and/or produce pollution should bear the costs of controlling / addressing it to minimize damage to human health and/or the environment.

**Precautionary principle**: enables decision-makers to adopt precautionary measures when scientific evidence about an environmental or human health hazard is uncertain and the stakes are high; requires a decision that opts for the side of caution, and taking preventive action in the face of uncertainty; shifting the burden of proof to the proponents of an activity, by requiring them to prove the absence of irreversible harm rather than requiring the regulator to provide evidence of likely harm; exploring a wide range of alternatives to possibly harmful actions.

**Renewable resource**: is a substance of economic value that can be replaced or replenished in less time than it takes to draw the supply down.

**Resource rent**: The economic rent of a natural resource equals the value of capital services flows rendered by the natural resources, or their share in the gross operating surplus; its value is given by the value of extraction. Resource rent may be divided between depletion and return to natural capital.

**Sustainable Blue Economy**: concept that promotes environmental protection, sustainability, social inclusivity and equitability, through activities in marine and aquatic ecosystems. By definition it is based on activities which incorporate effective environmental protection, are low carbon, efficient, clean, and based on sharing, circularity and resilience. The Sustainable Blue Economy concept is anchored in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its related goals and targets. It aims to directly

contribute to the realization of SDG 14 on Life Below Water, also contributing strongly to the realization of SDGs 1 and 2, which speak to the reduction and eradication of world poverty and hunger. It is based on the three sustainability principles of social equitability, sustainable economic development and environmental protection, thereby requiring sustainably managed ocean and aquatic activities to be ecologically balanced, economically efficient, and socially equitable.

**Sustainable Development Goals**: are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed within the United Nations to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all".

**Sustainable**: causing little or no damage to the environment and therefor able to continue over long periods of time; able to be maintained and continued; able to be use without being destroyed or completely used up; method of harvesting or using a resource in such a way that the resource is never depleted or completely used up.

**Tipping point**: the point at which a small change becomes significant enough to cause a larger, severe and sometimes catastrophic irreversible, unpredictable change. It can easily occur in systems that are already functioning at the limit of their capacity.

**Vision 2030**: Namibia' vision to be a prosperous and industrialized nation, developed by her human resources, enjoying peace, harmony and political stability by the year 2030. It outlines the process and broad strategies for development over the long-term.

## 5. Executive Summary

The Development of a Blue Economy Policy for Namibia began in 2016 under the direction from Cabinet and spearheaded by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources as custodian of marine and other aquatic ecosystems. In Namibia's draft Sustainable Blue Economy Policy, alignment is made towards effective protection, sustainable production and equitable prosperity, as called for both by NDP 5 and in the Transformations report by the High Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy, which was officially launched in Namibia in 2020. This clearly signaled Namibia's intention to promote a sustainable balance between economic growth and ocean health – in short adhering to the integration of the "three Ps": Protection, Production and Prosperity which contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainable ecosystems economy emerges only when economic activities are in balance with the long-term capacity of our marine and aquatic ecosystems to remain resilient and healthy. With the acceleration of ocean industry, it is by now clear that the ocean does not have an endless capacity or resilience to meet present human demand. For wise management, there must be clear understanding that damage to ocean life is neither easy to perceive in time to rectify, and difficult if not impossible to mitigate or reverse (due to limited understanding of ecosystem functioning in the deep, liquid and mobile ocean.)

Our marine and aquatic ecosystems are vast, their roles in our national and global economy and the lives of our nation's people so fundamental, that they represent an issue that is simply too important and too large to ignore. Sustainable management of these ecosystems can assist in the stable production of food security, generate renewable energy, and increase economic and environmental resilience. Whilst effort towards sustainable ocean economy is global, regional and local features endow different countries with different natural assets for sustainable economic opportunities. Fundamentally important ecosystem services are already provided from our waters by way of oxygen production, carbon sinks, and climate temperature regulation by absorption of heat. The Page 14 northern Benguela wind-driven upwelling system off Namibia's coast is recognized as one of the most biologically productive ocean regions in the world, positioning Namibia well to prosper from renewable food production in both fisheries and aquaculture, carbon sequestration and renewable wind energy. Likewise, Namibia's strategically important coastal ports on the African continent, could set a world example for encouraging lowemission, low-carbon and low-noise shipping. Namibia's draft Sustainable Blue Economy Policy presently recognizes a forward-looking need to maximize benefits without adversely affecting the ecosystems they are produced by and derived from. This is a tall order that is facing all countries in the world. This direction abandons the false choice or dichotomy which often positions environmental protection against economic development, as a fundamentally flawed perception and impression.

Building blocks include:

- Using science and data to drive future decision-making
- Engaging in forward-looking long-term, goal-oriented ecosystem-based planning;
- De-risking finance and encouraging clean innovation methods to mobilize investment;
- Preventing land-based pollution
- Developing and adapting ecosystem-accounting in order to reflect the true and intrinsic values of these natural systems.

This policy embraces a philosophy whereby stakeholders, including direct users of the ecosystems (such as fishers, shippers, energy producers and beach lovers, among others), and policy makers, governments, businesses and others - accept the new paradigm and work together towards achieving a common goal of healthy, productive ecosystems and resources into the long term. The Policy outlines the needs for integration, co-operation and collaboration between sectors operating within, benefiting from, and/or impacting on, our marine and aquatic ecosystems. In most areas, sustainable practices are needed that both allow the ocean to produce, and maintain ocean health. This new way of thinking is also marked by a shift from a narrow focus on gross domestic product (GDP) valuation alone, to natural resource

accounting in order to reflect the intrinsic value of marine and aquatic ecosystems. This provides economic assessments of both their monetary and nonmonetary benefits and assets.

For single sector management to progress to regulated enforcement of Sustainable Blue Economy principles, according to stipulated criteria, contained in Annex 4 as well as the body of this policy, consultative integration between sectors will be required to streamline and as necessary develop regulatory frameworks, with appropriate national direction and capacitation.

Although inter-ministerial consultation and discussion over possible and real overlap and/or conflict activities has existed for decades, the time has come to formalize, unify, integrate and as necessary update or improve legislation and procedural management of activities in our marine and aquatic environments - simply because the liquid interconnectedness and lack of physical boundaries in aquatic environments makes isolation of activities and their impacts difficult, unrealistic (especially in comparison to terrestrial environments) and often impossible. Examples are numerous: an easily recognized problem being plastic pollution carried by now to every location and depth in the global ocean, often distantly remote from its source.

With investments in sustainable ecosystem management becoming increasingly good business propositions for the Blue Economy, opportunities are increasingly being established and explored in Namibia, with more potential waiting. The novel discourse requires both a re-think and different approach: sufficient environmental protection in turn leads to improved production and more equitable distribution of ecosystem benefits, services and resources, resulting in an overall improvement to the well-being of all. Namibia is endowed with natural assets ideally suited to sustainable Blue Economy activities. Certainly exciting times for innovative and resourceful Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to explore new frontiers within an exemplary framework of ecosystems management, with seemingly endless blue potential, if managed and implemented correctly and according to appropriate, environmental barometers.

## 6. Introduction

Marine and aquatic ecosystems (ocean, lakes and rivers) play a critical role in sustaining life. The global ocean produces about 70% of the oxygen we need, regulates global temperatures, wind movements and rainfall patterns. In addition, it contains living organisms, minerals, provides energy, and is a medium for transport, tourism and defense. Marine and aquatic ecosystems are threatened by human activities, such as pollution by toxic waste and solids such as plastics, mining activities, overfishing and illegal unregulated and unreported fishing; climate change effects including ocean surface warming, acidification and oxygen depletion.

There is an urgent global need to take action aimed at sustaining the health of marine and other aquatic ecosystems, if they are to continue sustaining life on earth and providing essential ecosystem services. Marine and aquatic ecosystems are fragile, and unless mankind adopts a sustainable ecosystem approach towards their management and utilization of resources, ecosystem health and its ability to sustain life on earth will diminish, thereby affecting the livelihoods of millions of people.

Sustainable Blue Economy is a concept that promotes environmental protection, sustainability, social inclusivity and equitability, through activities in marine and aquatic ecosystems. The blue economy concept assumes that ocean, coastal and inland surface and ground waters, and atmospheric water are all interconnected into one global water ecosystem, with interdependent sustainability.

A Sustainable Blue Economy, by definition is based on activities which incorporate effective environmental protection, are low carbon, efficient, clean, and based on sharing, circularity and resilience.

The Sustainable Blue Economy concept is anchored in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its related goals and targets. It aims to directly contribute to the

realization of SDG 14 on Life Below Water, also contributing strongly to the realization of SDGs 1 and 2, which speak to the reduction and eradication of world poverty and hunger.

The concept of a Sustainable Blue Economy is based on three (sustainability) principles, namely:

- Environmental protection and ecosystem management of activities in marine and other aquatic ecosystems;
- sustainable economic development;
- social and economic inclusivity leading to the improvement of livelihoods of people in countries wherein ocean and coastal resources are located; otherwise referred to as the equitability principle. (This does not automatically imply equal access to all rights or resource use, but rather speaks to fairness and reasonableness of outcomes, all things considered. In an ecosystem context, this includes the benefits all citizens of a nation receive by way of healthily functioning ecosystem services.)

Simply put, Sustainable Blue Economy requires sustainably managed ocean and aquatic activities to be ecologically balanced, economically efficient, and socially equitable.

This requires the protection and management of marine and aquatic resources, with a forward-looking long-term view aimed at ecosystem health, preservation, economic sustainability, improved livelihoods and employment provision.

Article 95(I) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia provides for the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia, and utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future.

Article 100 of the Constitution vests Sovereign Ownership of our Natural Resources in the Government: Land, water and natural resources below and above the surface of the land

and in the continental shelf and within the territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone of Namibia shall belong to the State if they are not otherwise lawfully owned.

UNCLOS (Article 192) imposes a general obligation for both states and the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to protect the entire marine environment, both within and outside areas of national jurisdiction.

Namibia's ocean and aquatic ecosystems provide, *inter alia*, jobs, food, minerals, energy resources, ecological services, recreation, and tourism opportunities, and play critical roles in marine transportation, manufacturing, and trade, as well as national security.

Namibia has enacted laws, policies, plans and strategies to regulate various uses of its marine and aquatic ecosystems, that are implemented and enforced by different line ministries. Even though these laws provide for the sustainable use of marine and other aquatic resources, the ministries responsible for implementation often operate in isolation, resulting in potentially conflicting uses of certain ecosystem spaces, and lack of synergy in maximizing the preservation and sustainable management of the entire sustainable blue economy.

Considering that activities in the ocean and inland waters occur within an interconnected liquid system, the time has come to develop a comprehensive policy to coordinate, manage and regulate sustainable blue economies (both markets and sectors), in order to ensure effective ecosystem management and equitable benefits for Namibians.

Such a policy should be developed jointly by all ministries that play a regulatory role in Namibia's sustainable blue sectors, as no one ministry can single-handedly address the three blue economy sustainability pillars in isolation. Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economy Policy provides a basis for identifying, coordinating, managing and regulating Namibia's sustainable blue sectors throughout the country's marine and aquatic ecosystems.

## 7. Background

Namibia is endowed with abundant marine and other aquatic resources. The country's inshore and EEZ water surface area is about 580,000 square kilometers, equivalent to about 65% of her land surface area. In volume, the ocean water within the EEZ supports marine life to depths of over 4000 metres.

Namibia's coastline is about 1,570 kilometers. Most of the coastal land is classified according to protected area status. The coastline traverses areas of unmatched beauty: sand dunes meeting the ocean, multiple recreational areas where beaching, surfing, windsurfing, angling and swimming are enjoyed, and areas of international historical significance.

Namibia's inland waters include the perennial Chobe, Kunene, Kavango, Zambezi and Orange rivers, which are located along the country's international borders, as well as ephemeral rivers, *oshonas*, floodplains, lakes and wetlands. Although the inland waters are limited in size when compared to Namibia's oceanic Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), they support crucial livelihoods of many Namibians, and have fragile ecosystems that need to be conserved by applying sustainable blue economy principles.

The country's blue economy comprises marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture, coastal mining, maritime transport and logistics, and marine, coastal and inland water tourism. Other potential blue economy activities and resources include coastal wind, tidal and wave energy, marine biotechnology and bioprospecting.

Namibia's marine and coastal areas are a major driver of the country's economic income.

Considering that Namibia's land is largely arid and that the ocean's productive volume within the EEZ is considerable, Namibia's sustainable economic development, and equitability, will largely be determined by the extent to which the country's sustainable blue economy resources are managed and conserved. There is therefore a need to continue development of Namibia's sustainable blue economy in an ecologically sustainable and economically equitable manner, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Namibia is signatory to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which provides overarching obligations for member states to protect the entire marine environment, both within and outside areas of national jurisdiction. This includes a legal framework for all rights and responsibilities in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The country is also signatory to multiple international conventions and agreements related to a sustainable blue economy internationally, and participates actively in various international fora on ocean matters.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is the Sherpa of a High Level Panel (HLP) on Sustainable Blue Economies, initiated in 2018, which consists of 14 world leaders. His Excellency, President Dr. Hage Geingob, actively participates on the HLP. Three African countries, Namibia, Ghana and Kenya serve on this Panel.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> See page ii) of Transformations for a Sustainable Ocean Economy A Vision for Protection, Production and Prosperity.

A main message emanating from directives issued by the HLP indicate that protection and maintenance of the ocean's health represents the best way to generate ocean-based wealth and make the most of the ocean's unique resources. In other words, practices that are sustainable need to allow the ocean to regenerate and produce.

The new paradigm shift moves away from a narrow focus on gross domestic product (GDP) to one that values both the monetary and nonmonetary (intrinsic) benefits and assets of the ocean.

Blue economy activities in Namibia are regulated mainly by the following line ministries: The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Works and Transport, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, and Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs.

Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economy Policy seeks to supplement existing policies, and provides a coordination mechanism for identifying, managing and regulating sustainable blue economies in Namibia's marine and aquatic ecosystems.

#### 8. Rationale

Namibia's marine and other aquatic ecosystems can significantly contribute to its economic transformation agenda as outlined in NDP 5. In order to capitalize on the potential of a sustainable blue economy, it is essential to create a governance framework that is aimed at strengthening linkages and coordination amongst stakeholders in order to protect - and equitably manage benefits derived from the ecosystems concerned.

This governance system is to be guided by a coordinating sustainable blue economy policy, which can be developed through review of existing policies and regulatory frameworks on activities in the ocean and aquatic ecosystems. There are several provisions in the country's national legislation that require meaningful consultation between the various line ministries before certain activities are undertaken. This includes a structured consultation and concurrence, for example between ministries responsible for mining, fishing and the environment before certain mining activities are undertaken, as required by the Minerals Act.<sup>6</sup>

Such inter-ministerial consultation structures take place mainly at technical level, as there are no explicit policy obligations to facilitate joint decision making at a ministerial level on cross-cutting issues. This Policy could lead to an institutional framework that facilitates improved inter-ministerial consultation to address this anomaly, in order to avoid potential clashes and confusion between different sectors.

## 9. Alignment

This Policy is aligned to the following Articles of the Namibian Constitution:

Article 95(I), provides for the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future. Measures to prevent mismanagement of resources and anti-corruption initiatives are also included under this purview.

Article 23(2), provides for the implementation of policies and programs aimed at redressing social, economic or educational imbalances in the Namibian society

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act No.33 of 1992

arising out of past discriminatory laws or practices. Certain access and economic utilization of Namibia's sustainable blue economy resources is associated with colonial era economic imbalances, which need to be addressed.

The Policy is further aligned to;

Vision 2030; Chapter 5: calls for the sustainable utilization of Namibia's aquatic resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

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

National Development Plan NDP5: calls for the development and implementation of the blue economy governance framework that sustainably maximizes economic benefits from marine resources and ensures equitable marine wealth distribution to all Namibians.

Further, this Policy takes into account the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN, Agenda 2063 of the Africa Union, and various other related international conventions and agreements<sup>7</sup> to which Namibia is a party.

<sup>7</sup> For example the 1982 United Nations Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS), 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with (Kyoto) Protocols (UNFCCC), 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change (under the UNFCCC), 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

## 10. Guiding Principles

This policy is guided by the following broad principles:

Effective environmental protection: In line with the provisions of the Namibian Constitution, sustaining the health of marine and aquatic ecosystems is a moral, intrinsic obligation on current generations. This is to ensure that such fundamental ecosystems continue to provide oxygen, food security and other essential ecosystem services for generations to come.

Namibia's sustainable blue economy approach will attempt to anticipate and incorporate impacts of climate change on our marine and other aquatic ecosystems.

Social Equity: As provided for in Article 23(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, realizing the full potential of a sustainable blue economy requires the effective inclusion of all societal groups, especially previously disadvantaged communities, women, youth, people with disabilities and economically marginalized groups in sustainable blue economy activities.

Conducive Investment Environment: for the promotion of sustainable blue economies, whilst at the same time ensuring that the larger part of the benefits accrue to the people of the country in which the resource is located (this also forms part of the equitability principle).

Sustainable blue activities need to incorporate effective environmental protection, are low carbon, efficient, clean, and equitable, and based on circularity and resilience.

A healthy marine and aquatic ecosystem environment can greatly contribute to sustainable economic inclusivity, equity and poverty reduction, and is thus essential to a sustainable future for Namibia. Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economy policy is guided by national and international legal instruments in that regard.

As such there is a need to:

- Continue to implement the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and legal framework thereunder. UNCLOS contributes to international peace and security, the equitable and efficient use of ocean resources, the protection and preservation of the marine environment, and the realization of a just and equitable economic order.
- Consequently conduct, implement and ensure a fair assessment of the long-term value of Namibia's marine and aquatic ecosystems resources and corresponding ecosystem services. This is to be quantified in ways that accord sufficient recognition to the intrinsic value of the ocean and aquatic systems.
- Invest in the human capital required to develop Namibia's sustainable blue economy, and thereby generate wealth, including resource rent, create employment and other direct and indirect, equitable benefits.
- Address current human activities that contribute to climate change impacts in the ocean such as acidification, oxygen depletion and ocean warming. This should include measures to mitigate where possible, and adapt to impacts of climate change in our ocean environment.
- Address current degradation of ocean and aquatic resources through unsustainable extraction of resources, pollution including plastic waste and chemical contamination, and destruction of marine and aquatic habitats.
- Enhance regional and international collaboration on sustainable management of Namibia's marine and aquatic ecosystems, including management of the Benguela current ecosystem and cooperation between all riparian countries sharing Namibia's transboundary rivers.
- Avoid isolated sectoral management of activities in marine and aquatic ecosystems, which makes it difficult to address cumulative impacts.

## 11. Policy Direction

#### Vision

To become a global leader in Sustainable Blue Economy governance, for the benefit of all Namibians.

This will require successful implementation of the three pillars (3 Ps)<sup>8</sup> upon which sustainable blue economy governance is founded:

- Environmental protection;
- Sustainable production, and
- Equitable Prosperity.

To recognize that the ocean and aquatic ecosystems will only be able to regenerate if and when the agendas of protection, production (of food, energy, oxygen) and human prosperity are managed sustainably, holistically and in an integrated fashion.

Thus the above 3 P's are to be viewed as entirely inseparable and compatible. $^9$ 

<sup>8</sup> See Executive Summary of HLP Publication: Ocean Solutions that Benefit People, Nature and the Economy.

#### Mission

To ensure a coordinated approach that enhances environmental productivity, through effective protection, and thereby results in sustainable economic activities, with more equitable outputs for the Namibian nation as a whole.

To this end a sustainable, ecosystem-based approach to the management of all sustainable blue economy activities in Namibia's marine and other aquatic ecosystems is to be ensured.

#### 12. Goal

The aim of this Policy is to ensure effective environmental protection, to enable sustainable development and thereby result in more efficient production and equitable benefits to the Namibian nation as a whole, for both present and future generations.

If this desired outcome is achieved, based on the 'three P' pillars set out above, it is referred to as a 'triple win' for all concerned, in terms of current international discourse on sustainable blue economies.<sup>10</sup>

10 supra

## 13. Objectives

The Objectives of this Policy are therefore to achieve the above-mentioned triple win as it is required to:

Effectively protect, maintain and restore the diversity, productivity, resilience and intrinsic value of Namibia's marine and aquatic ecosystems;

Promote sustainable development which is economically equitable, with particular consideration of previously disadvantaged Namibians, marginalized communities, women, youth and people with disabilities;

Ensure that marine and aquatic ecosystem activities are environmentally sustainable, minimize emission of greenhouse gasses, are based on clean technologies and circular material flows that reduce waste and promote recycling.

Strengthen coordination and collaboration mechanisms between government offices, ministries, agencies and other stakeholders.

## 14. Scope and Application of the Policy

This Policy is applicable, but not limited, to the following activities:

Harvesting, processing and trading of living marine and aquatic resources and products derived from them. This includes:

- Marine and inland waters fishing;
- Marine, coastal and inland aquaculture; and

• Collecting of marine products such as guano, shells, mussels and washed-up seaweed

Coastal Mining and exploration of marine non-living resources, this includes:

- Exploration and coastal mining of minerals such as diamonds;
- Oil and gas exploration, and deep-sea mining: requiring extreme caution because these activities are increasingly viewed as being 'conceptually unaligned with the definition of a sustainable ocean economy.<sup>11</sup>
- Coastal salt harvesting; and
- Coastal seawater desalination.

Generation of offshore renewable energy, such as:

• Wind energy;

<sup>11</sup> HLP Publication: Ocean Solutions that Benefit People, Nature and the Economy, p.61.

- Hydrothermal energy
- Wave and tidal energy.

Use of marine and other aquatic resources for pharmaceutical and other chemical purposes. This includes:

 Marine biotechnology and bioprospecting including Research and Development, healthcare, cosmetic, enzyme, nutraceutical and use in other industries.

Trade and commerce including -

- Shipping and maritime transport including crewing, maritime safety, security and environmental regulation;
- Shipbuilding and maintenance, dredging, salvage, marine insurance and finance
- Port infrastructure and operations including logistics services, port agency, ship chandelling and bunkering;
- Coastal industries, coastal towns infrastructure and other urbanization and development activities. This includes solid waste and wastewater disposal from ships and land-based activities; and
- Coastal, marine and river tourism activities including recreational hospitality accommodation services; wind surfing, marine life watching, angling, recreation and related activities;

Contribution by the ocean and rivers to environmental resilience: this includes-

- Carbon sequestration (capture and storage) as a mitigating factor to climate change;
- Coastal habitat protection and coastline resilience; and
- An intrinsic valuation of the existence of ocean, coastal and aquatic biodiversity.

## 15. Strategies: Policy Implementation Approach

The Government should conduct assessments of the long-term value of Namibia's marine and aquatic ecosystems and their corresponding ecosystem services, by applying natural resource accounting techniques and methodologies. This requires an intrinsic valuation of the ocean and aquatic ecosystems which includes the natural capital upon which its posterity depends.

#### Criteria for Sustainable Blue Economy activities

Sustainable Blue Economy sectors should broadly satisfy most of the criteria set out below.

These provide an overall guide: it is not expected that all blue economic activities will comply with every single aspect listed therein, however the criteria may be utilized by regulatory line ministries to develop specific scorecards with prescribed thresholds.

The Government may then adopt those criteria to develop regulations and evaluation score sheets aimed at evaluating the performance of Sustainable Blue Economic sectors. This could provide a basis for qualifying certain sectors as so-called Sustainable Blue Economies, and also address some aspects of licensing, setting resource rent levels etc. List of Blue Economy Criteria:

- The activity in question does not unduly threaten the stability, diversity, productivity, resilience, natural capital or intrinsic value of the marine or aquatic ecosystem.
- The activity in question provides equitable benefits for current and future generations by contributing to food security, poverty eradication, livelihoods, employment, equity, resource rent, and political stability.
- The activity in question is environmentally sustainable, based on clean technologies, renewable energy, and circular material flows.
- The activity in question is based on good governance and accountable systems.
- The activity in question is governed by public and private processes that are inclusive, holistic, precautionary, innovative, accountable and transparent, crosssectoral, long-term and inter-generational.

The Government should also:

Invest in research on blue economy aspects, as a means to increase reliance on information-based decision-making, which may include marine spatial planning and integrated maritime surveillance.

Invest in the human capital required to develop Namibia's sustainable blue economy, and hence generate equitable wealth, including resource rents, employment creation, and further direct and indirect benefits.

Identify and address human activities that contribute to climate change impacts on marine and aquatic ecosystems, including measures that attempt to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Develop and implement measures to mitigate the degradation of marine and aquatic ecosystem functions caused by:

- unsustainable extraction of resources;
- pollution, including chemical contamination of water bodies and dumping of plastic and other waste;
- destruction of marine and aquatic habitats.

Strengthen mechanisms to enhance regional and international collaboration on the sustainable management of marine and aquatic ecosystems.

Establish appropriate structures to enable integrated management of activities in marine and aquatic ecosystems.

## 16. Sectors of Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economy

#### Blue Fisheries

In line with the Marine Resource Act 2000 and FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Government, together with the private sector and other stakeholders in the fisheries sector shall continue to:

Rebuild fish stocks, discourage unsustainable fishing, and unsustainable extraction of living marine organisms, and substances derived from them.

Eliminate harmful fishing practices and overfishing, and promote approaches that promote growth, improve conservation, build sustainable fisheries, and end illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Implement the Port States Measures Agreement of the UN, as one of the means to address illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.

Promote investment, and innovation in both public and private sector, to enhance food security, poverty reduction, and the sustainable management of aquatic resource,

Collaborate with regional fisheries management organizations and other international partners in enhancing sustainable fisheries management.

Discourage destruction of marine and aquatic habitats, and limit physical alterations and landscape changes of coastal areas. This should include the establishment of at least 10% of Namibia's EEZ as marine protected areas (MPAs);

Discourage marine and aquatic pollution, especially dumping of plastics and other debris in the ocean, untreated sewerage and industrial waste;

Work with other international and regional partners to discourage harmful fishing subsidies and other trade practices that encourage overfishing, illegal fishing and scramble for ocean resources;

Encourage equitable participation of previously disadvantaged Namibians, especially women, youth, people with disabilities and economically marginalized communities in fishing, fish processing and fish trading activities;

Promote investment in value addition and other capacity enhancing activities to deter post-harvest losses along the entire value chain of capture fisheries and aquaculture trade; and

In line with recent recommendations and statements emanating from the High-Level Panel on a Sustainable Blue Economy, promote investment in marine, coastal and inland aquaculture for food security and economic development, including integrated multi-trophic aquaculture, seaweed aquaculture, shellfish aquaculture, and well-planned, sustainable fish rearing. The Aquaculture Act No 18 of 2002, and the FAO code of conduct for responsible fisheries provide the legal framework for sustainable aquaculture in Namibia. In line with circular aquaculture, the High-Level Panel strongly advocates non-fed mariculture (bivalve and seaweed cultivation);<sup>12</sup> some of these are already budding industries in the productive Benguela waters off Namibia, with huge potential for circular aquaculture.

The Government shall further continue vigilance measures as agreed by the 14 nation High Level Panel on Ocean Economy. These include measures against overfishing and illegal unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, harmful fishing subsidies, marine pollution especially plastics, and ocean-based actions on climate change.

#### Blue Tourism

Namibia recognizes that sustainable tourism based on marine and aquatic attractions is part of the blue economy. As one of the main drivers of Namibia's economy, this includes activities such as boat trips, marine mammals and bird viewing and photographing, winddune- kite- and wave-surfing, recreational fishing, and tourist travel to experience unique coastal and inland Namibian environments.

Namibia promotes sustainable eco-tourism that generates income for local communities, respects and maintains local cultures, traditions, and heritage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> HLP Publication: Ocean Solutions that Benefit People, Nature and the Economy, p.100.

In this regard, the Government, together with the private sector and other stakeholders in the tourism subsector shall:

Maximize equitable and local benefits from tourism through increased stakeholder engagement, while remaining open to foreign investment and economic liberalization;

Increase local, equitable benefits of tourism by creating local employment opportunities, improving capacity development programs, developing local supply chains, and promoting tourism based on cultural heritage;

Enforce sustainable handling and disposal of solid and liquid waste generated by the tourism sector;

Encourage use of sustainable energy in the tourism hospitality sector;

Encourage aquatic tourism to directly and indirectly support biodiversity conservation, so that natural resources are protected for the long-term sustainability of the tourism sector and the economy;

Consider the potential impacts of climate change when developing tourism projects, adopt and implement adequate disaster risk reduction policies and practices in order to increase the resilience of tourism sector to climate change; and

Incorporate core principles of sustainability such as clear land-use planning and development control policies into tourism programs, in order to explicitly address the impact of tourism on the environment and local communities.

The Government shall, in line with the Cabinet Decision on the Commonwealth Blue Charter, consider joining the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance, which is an agreement between member states, who have joined forces in the fight against plastic pollution, especially in oceans, and is co-chaired by Great Britain and Vanuatu.

#### Blue Biotechnology and Bioprospecting

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

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

In this regard, the Government, together with the private sector and other stakeholders in the blue economy shall:

Continue to implement the Access and Benefit Sharing Act<sup>13</sup> and its regulations in line with the 2010 Nagoya Protocol to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), under which researchers expecting to commercialize natural products are required to share benefits with the host country.

• These include monetary and non-monetary benefits, the latter generally consists of partnerships between researchers in developing and industrial countries, capacity building, and the transfer of appropriate technologies.

 $<sup>^{13}</sup>$  Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act No. 2 of 2017

Encourage international marine and aquatic research collaboration, as a means to developing Namibia's marine and aquatic biotechnology.

#### Blue Mining

Namibia's terrestrial mineral wealth has made the mining sector a major source of foreign direct investment. Diamond mining contributes importantly to Namibia's GDP. Alluvial diamonds washed in river flow from their inland sources to the coast, which has in the last 3 decades led to the retrieval of diamonds washed into the sea, are presently mined in water depths of up to 150 metres.

Deep sea mining, by definition ocean mining in water depths of 200metres and deeper, is presently regarded as difficult to align with the concept and approach of a sustainable blue economy, (and thus does not receive focused attention in the development of SBE). Before considering deep sea mining, which as yet is not taking place commercially anywhere in the world, a strong precautionary approach is advised, which should be informed by sufficient knowledge, and have specific regulations in place to ensure that any activity related to seabed mining is informed by science and ecologically sustainable. UNCLOS (Article 192) imposes a general obligation for both states and the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to protect the entire marine environment, both within and outside areas of national jurisdiction.

The Government shall:

Enforce environmentally sustainable exploration and present mining activities, whilst minimizing and managing the risks that these activities pose to marine and aquatic ecosystems.

Enforce the precautionary approach, strengthen the regulatory frameworks, and exercise the highest degree of caution, before authorization of seabed mining

activities, in order to avoid irreversible damage to marine and other aquatic ecosystems.

Ensure economic inclusivity throughout the issuance of mining licenses, and that beneficial ownership of companies conducting mining activities includes previously disadvantaged Namibians, especially women, youth, people with disabilities and marginalized communities.

Compel, through the existing legal framework, exploration and mining companies to conduct appropriate studies to ensure balance in the trade-off between mining and losses to the ecosystem and its associated services. Because of the potential incremental impact of deep sea mining into the future, strategies to forecast such trade-offs will rely on present international best practice initiatives for moratoria and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) to predict the effects that deep sea mining could have on ecosystem functioning and services. This is in line with the HLP's explanation regarding the exclusion of deep sea mining as well as oil and gas exploration from sustainable ocean economy, thereby not acknowledging them as recognized, sustainable blue economies.14

Continue to seek approval of its application to the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for the extension of its continental shelf by 150 nautical miles, and subsequent access to the seabed resources therein.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> HLP Publication: Ocean Solutions that Benefit People, Nature and the Economy, p.60.

#### Blue Water Resources Development and Blue Desalination

Namibia recognizes that securing access to freshwater will continuously become more difficult, especially in the context of climate change, which is already causing decreased rainfall patterns in the country. Global challenges on freshwater access has led to a 57% increase in desalination plants globally in the past 5 years, and about 150 countries are currently using desalination, in spite of its high energy costs.

The country is therefore expected to increasingly look to desalination, which has been recognized by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as an 'adaptation option' for freshwater supply in arid and semi-arid coastal countries. Currently, there are some desalination facilities in Namibia which are supplying limited amounts of freshwater to some coastal areas.

The relatively small-scale desalination in Namibia has to date been shown to have minimal ecological impact especially when seawater intake points, and warm brine discharges are located in open seas with sufficient tidal movements.

The Government shall, in collaboration with local authorities, water service providers and the private sector promote large scale desalination projects to ensure sufficient provision of freshwater to all Namibians.

In particular, the Government shall collaborate with the private sector to identify suitable financing, and access to reliable and cost-effective energy for large scale desalination projects.

The Government shall ensure that the location of desalination plants is not in sheltered enclosed bay areas, or in sea-life breeding areas, where the discharge of hot, highly saline water, and intake of seawater with larval stages of fish and other small organisms might cause significant ecosystem damage.

#### Blue Renewable Energy

Blue Renewable Energy includes wind energy, which has been successfully commercialized in many countries, wave and tidal energy and ocean thermal energy conversions which are still at experimental stages.

Namibia should continue to aim for an energy balance, which supplies sufficient, sustainable levels of cost-effective energy. Ample ocean wind, particularly around Lüderitz has prompted ongoing wind farm developments and tidal wave energy has development potential, to contribute further to reliable, clean energy in Namibia. Around Lüderitz there is already a wind farm in operation and there are several more in the pipeline.

The Government shall:

Promote investment in the development of aquatic renewable energy (such as wind, tidal, hydro-power,<sup>15</sup> wave and conversion of ocean thermal energy), aimed at ensuring energy security, and a stable, sustainable balance of overall energy sources to satisfy the country's needs and equitable development.

Use appropriate zoning and mapping tools, using coastal and inland spatial planning principles, in order to ensure that the location and space used by these energy sources for Namibia are in areas where they do not unjustifiably conflict with other sustainable blue economy or urban planning activities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Valuable input at a Windhoek stakeholder workshop suggested a significant increase in capacity at Namibia's Ruacana hydro powerstation in this regard.

#### Blue Maritime Transport, Ports and Shipping

Namibia recognizes the importance of global shipping in the trade of goods and services and therefore needs to continuously develop strategies to sustainably maximize economically equitable benefits from the growing maritime transport sector. In this regard, about 90% of goods traded internationally rely on global shipping, with this volume expected to quadruple by 2050.<sup>16</sup>

Namibia recognizes the strategic importance of the ports of Walvis Bay and Lüderitz as gateways for trade facilitation in goods and services for Namibia, SADC and the rest of the world. The government continues to invest in infrastructure development that will greatly facilitate maritime transport in Namibia.

In addition to domestic fleets of fishing, mining, and recreational vessels and visiting foreign ships, Namibia's maritime waters are part of a busy international shipping route for vessels en route to other destinations, as well as an attractive new frontier for research and exploration vessels.

The above –mentioned developments mean that the number of vessels present in Namibian ports and waters are going to increase significantly. This presents a potential threat of environmental damage and large-scale economic loss associated with a major maritime safety, security or pollution incident and the introduction of marine invasive species through ballast water and hull fouling.

The Government shall:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> HLP Publication: Ocean Solutions that Benefit People, Nature and the Economy, p.8

Continue to develop its port infrastructure, and related railway and road linkages, including their connectivity to regional and international corridors and logistics supply chains and promote the expansion of ship repair and maintenance facilities in order to take advantage of the continuing growth in global seaborne trade.

Promote compliance with international maritime instruments by strengthening maritime safety, security and environmental protection regulation across flag, port and coastal state regimes, including through an effective maritime administration and integrated maritime domain awareness system.

Ensure that Namibia achieves and maintains STCW (Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping)<sup>17</sup> whitelist status in order for Namibian-issued maritime certificates of competency to be recognized globally and thereby promote Namibia as a crewing nation. Accordingly, Namibian seafarers will be able to capitalize on the current and projected shortfalls in the supply of qualified seafarers globally and work on the international merchant fleet. This will not only enhance Namibia's reputation and standing as a maritime nation but will also address youth unemployment and generate much needed foreign exchange earnings for Namibia.

Address the urgent promulgation of the updated Merchant Shipping Bill, Marine Pollution Bill and Maritime Authority Bill, as well as consider the establishment of a Maritime Authority for Namibia.

Prioritize ratification and effective implementation of other relevant international instruments especially:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> under the IMO (International Maritime Organization)

- Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (LC), 1972 (and the 1996 London Protocol).
- Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007.
- Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000 (OPRC-HNS Protocol).
- International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea (HNS), 1996 (and its 2010 Protocol).
- The Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control for West and Central African Region (Abuja MoU).
- IMO Guidelines for the Reduction of Underwater Noise from Commercial Shipping to Address Adverse Impacts on Marine Life, 2014.
- IMO Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ships' Biofouling To Minimize The Transfer Of Invasive Aquatic Species, 2011.

Promote the availability in Namibian waters and ports of environmentally friendly marine fuels, especially green ammonia.

Ensure that the there is a sustainable talent pipeline across all key maritime transport sub-sectors including pilotage, shipping and logistics, port management, ship repairs and maintenance, and maritime administration including marine surveying, marine pollution preparedness and response, and search and rescue administration.

#### Blue Carbon Trading (Carbon Sequestration)

Namibia recognizes that carbon capture by living organisms in the form of biomass of marine or aquatic plants (such as phytoplankton), and storage within these ecosystems, are important regulators of climate.

These 'blue carbon sinks' present an important opportunity for ecosystem-based climate mitigation, at the same time contributing to the preservation of essential ecosystem services of oceans and aquatic systems.

The Government shall:

Take measures to conserve and enhance marine and aquatic biodiversity to increase carbon capture and storage in the form of, among others, algae, other aquatic biomass, and sediments

Develop capacity to quantify ocean carbon capture in the development of the emissions accounting of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change;

Pursue a carbon market approach, particularly for blue carbon schemes located in marine protected areas (MPAs).

Investigate the application of blue bonds, for example in the implementation and enforcement of the precautionary approach: positively trade off a country's (inter)national debt by refraining from certain harmful activities, or activities that fail to prove the absence of irreversible harm. Initiatives could include national debt for nature swap ideas, as for example in the Seychelles, where much of the EEZ has become a protected area.

## 17. Waste Management in the Sustainable Blue Economy

Namibia recognizes that pollution is a major threat to marine and aquatic ecosystems. Pollution sources include but are not limited to: insufficient disposal of municipal, landbased waste, plastics, wastewater; industrial discharges, chemicals, mining activities and ships. Whilst a national strategy exists for solid waste disposal (MEFT), responsibility for aquatic pollution seems fragmented between MAWLR, MWT, MEFT, MFMR.

Pollution results in contamination of the water column and causes destruction to marine and aquatic life, results in losses of biodiversity and fisheries, diminished recreation and tourism potential, human health impacts and a general reduction in ecosystem services. Pollution also exacerbates eutrophication, harmful algal blooms and so-called dead zones (hypoxic regions with oxygen levels too low to support most marine organisms).

Naturally occurring sulphur eruptions are not continuous, however due to Namibia's anoxic seabed, the environment is even more susceptible to imbalances and irreversible damage potentially caused by deep sea excavations (mining) and exploratory activities that liberate buried toxic substances into the water column.

Globally 80% of marine litter originates from land-based sources, and almost all floating marine litter consists of plastics. Entanglement and ingestion of plastics by marine animals, has been identified as a global problem.

Disposal of hazardous chemical waste into water by manufacturing facilities, from local vessel fleets and ships transiting through Namibian waters also poses a significant risk to the health of our ocean and aquatic systems.

The Government shall;

Strengthen compliance to regulations regarding the dumping of toxic waste, and other pollutants into water bodies.

Strengthen collaboration with regional and international partners to control transboundary (current-driven) movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal in line with international legal instruments.

Enforce international legal agreements such as the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

Commence with the process of phasing out single use plastics nationally.

Vigilantly guard against contamination of marine and aquatic ecosystems by emerging industries.

#### 18. Implementation Framework and Principles

Considering the interrelatedness of various activities in a sustainable blue economy, together with the interconnectedness of the liquid, aquatic environment, the implementation of this policy will require coordinated and concerted efforts to ensure satisfactory achievement of results. This requires each implementing institution to articulate, facilitate and incorporate their respective roles and activities in their strategic and annual plans, once this policy has been endorsed.

Implementation of this policy is to be based on the ecosystem approach to sustainable blue economic management.

Where necessary, each blue economy's line ministry, in consultation with the Interministerial Committee on Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economy, may develop policies, strategies and plans to implement this Policy, as well as regulations and scorecards.

#### Joint National Monitoring Control and Surveillance

Implementation of a blue economy policy requires effective monitoring, control and surveillance of the ocean and aquatic systems including enforcement against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; trans-shipment of contraband; human trafficking and piracy.

This also encompasses activities related to human and environmental safety, including search and rescue, weather forecasting, disaster response, and early detection and response to harmful threats such as oil spills, other pollution threats, invasive alien species, sea rise and coastal town evacuation plans.

Namibia has a well-developed marine fishery monitoring control and surveillance system, consisting of patrol vessels, aerial patrol planes and land-based vessel monitoring system (VMS), with marine scientific monitoring of the oceans by fisheries research vessels.

There is however limited official surveillance of other marine activities such as mining, shipping and recreational activities, which is currently done through self-regulatory measures such as submission of private sector reports on activities at sea.

The Government shall:

- consider expanding the official capacity of current monitoring, control and surveillance in the ocean and aquatic systems to cover all blue economy activities, to ensure their compliance to Namibian laws and international conventions.
- consider expanding current marine and aquatic scientific research to cover more ocean and aquatic system activities, in order to facilitate the acquisition of data and observations required for informed decision making.

#### **Ecosystem Based Management**

The Government recognizes the need to move from purely sectoral marine and aquatic management to an ecosystem-based approach that integrates and addresses certain potentially competing interests in the ocean and aquatic systems.

Humanity's expansion into the ocean and aquatic ecosystems for food, materials and space is currently unparalleled in history. Referred to as 'blue acceleration' or the "ocean rush", putting increasing strain on the carrying capacity of the ocean and other aquatic systems endangers their functioning. Because of its liquid mobile nature, the ocean cannot be cut into discrete sections; rather all activities cumulatively affect ecosystem functioning.

The fate of our ocean and aquatic ecosystems is directly linked to a broader, governmental and industrial shift towards the circular economy approach to consumer goods and production: a system where resources are used continually, with the highest possible value added, and recovered or regenerated as efficiently as possible at the end of their service.

The danger of cumulative impacts occurs when compounding activities and pressures increase beyond a certain tipping point: the interconnected ocean system may no longer be able to regenerate itself, thereby becoming unable to provide the ecosystem services and benefits people require.

Cumulative, compounding effects on ecosystems can become unexpectedly severe and larger than the sum of their parts

If such stressors start compounding on a large scale, potentially serious and fundamental indirect, 'second order' consequences occur.

Even more concerning is that such indirect effects may fundamentally shift key parts of the ocean and aquatic ecosystems from one state to another that is functionally different,

thereby becoming impossible to manage or anticipate, with potentially disastrous consequences, extreme climactic events and imbalances etc.

Given the enormity of literally everything that is at stake, these effects need to be considered in decisions, even where there is scientific uncertainty regarding certain outcomes. This is where and why International Law requires the application and enforcement of the precautionary approach. Absence of scientific certainty regarding potential harm is sufficient reason to prohibit proposed activities / developments, until such time that the absence of irreparable or irreversible harm can be proven. In other words, sufficient evidence needs to be supplied, that no irreversible harm or impacts will occur. Three international law principles, also the 3 P's, complement one another in this regard, the other two being the Polluter Pays principle and the preventative principle.

The Government shall:

- ensure rigorous and effective enforcement and implementation of the precautionary principle, polluter pays principle and the preventative principle;
- meaningfully enforce the consideration of cumulative compounding effects on ecosystems;
- continue to expand the number and size of current Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to cover at least 10% of the total EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) area.
- consider the gazetting of areas that are less than 200 meters deep, and currently restricted to most commercial fishing activities.

## 19. Institutional Arrangements and Governance Frameworks

The Government has established an Inter-ministerial Committee and technical Committee in order to facilitate the development of Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economy Policy. The Inter-ministerial Committee consists of the Ministers from the Ministries listed below, and the technical committee consists of appointed experts from these Ministries.

The members of the Inter-Ministerial - and Technical Committee on Blue Economy include:

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, whose Executive Director is also the chairperson of the committee.

The Ministry of Works and Transport;

The Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism;

The Ministry of Mines and Energy;

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform;

The Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation;

The Ministry of Industrialization and Trade;

The Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs;

The Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation;

The Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation;

The National Planning Commission and

The Office of the Attorney General.

Each blue economy line ministry may develop regulations, strategies and action plans, aimed at the implementation of this policy.

Future development of policies, strategies and plans relating to aquatic and marine ecosystems should include the principles of this sustainable blue economy policy, and be developed in consultation with the Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee on Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economy before gazetting and implementation.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Blue Economy shall meet at least once a year to consider the report of the Technical Committee and shall present a report of their deliberations and recommendations to Cabinet.

The Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee on Blue Economy shall meet at least biannually to review implementation progress of this policy, and to present a report to the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Blue Economy.

The Chairperson of the Cabinet Committee on Blue Economy shall establish a permanent secretariat for Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economy Policy.

The Inter-ministerial Committee may appoint a National Expert group and a National Advisory Group in order to advise on matters relating to the implementation of the policy. The expert group is to comprise of scientific, economic, legal and other experts from research institutions, universities and the private sector.

The advisory group is to consist of representatives from various blue economy sectors in Namibia, non-governmental organizations, representatives of coastal and riparian communities, artisanal fishers, small scale miners, small scale eco-tourism, and organizations involved in advocacy on ocean, aquatic, and sustainable blue economy issues.

## 20. Legal and Regulatory Frameworks and Institutions

In principle there are no explicit regulatory clashes or conflicts that hinder implementation of Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economy Policy.

This Policy should be implemented in line - and where necessary - with additions to current and future regulatory frameworks of various sustainable blue economy line ministries.

This is a national Policy coordinated through Government, mainly aimed at facilitating and regulating activities of all stakeholders, including private sector, civil societies, government agencies, and others operating in the ocean and aquatic systems, to comply with stipulated, sustainable blue economy principles and integration.

The activities proposed in this Policy will collectively be implemented by the private sector, civil society, non-governmental, inter-governmental and government agencies and other stakeholders.

Successful implementation of Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economy Policy requires coordination of – and by - the blue economy line ministries on activities in the ocean and other aquatic environments.

Such coordination should remove conflicts, maximize economic contribution of various blue economy activities to national development, enhance socio-economic inclusivity, and facilitate ecosystem sustainability.

However, to this end some of the Acts and legislation tabled hereunder have been critically analyzed as lacking in certain, sustainable blue economy ethos and principles

The section below outlines the relevant National Institutions and legal instruments pertinent to the regulation and implementation of Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economies

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

- Marine Resources Act, no 27 of 2000, as amended by Marine Resources Amendment Act No 9 of 2015 - provides for the conservation of the marine ecosystem and the responsible utilization, conservation, protection and promotion of marine resources on a sustainable basis.
- Aquaculture Act No 18 of 2002 provides for the regulation, control and sustainable development of aquaculture activities and resources
- Inland Fisheries Act No 1 of 2003 provides for the regulation of inland fisheries and related resources

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources will be the custodian of this policy, and is also responsible for the implementation and coordination of blue fisheries activities.

**The Ministry of Mines and Energy -** is responsible for regulating prospecting and mining activities, and granting of minerals and petroleum rights in Namibia. Additionally, the Ministry is mandated to carry out geological research in support of mineral exploration and geo-environmental monitoring of mining activities. In terms of sustainability most of the

Acts listed below require an EIA clearance before the specified 'activity' (as defined in each Act) is allowed.<sup>18</sup>

- Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act No. 33 of 1992 provides for reconnaissance, exploration, production and disposal of minerals in Namibia.
- Petroleum Act no 2 of 1991- provides for reconnaissance, exploration, production and disposal of, and the exercise of control over petroleum licenses.
- Renewable Energy Policy 2017, to enable access to modern, clean, environmentally sustainable, and affordable energy services for all Namibians
- Diamonds Act 1999 (Act no. 13 of 1999) provides for control measures in respect of the possession, the purchase and sale, the processes and the import and export of diamonds.
- Minerals Policy of Namibia 2003 provides for government to enact a legal framework to facilitate sound marine exploration and mining activities.

It is noted that deep-seabed mining (classified as mining at marine depths of more than 200 metres) is not included in the High-Level Panel's articulation as a 'Sustainable Blue Economy'.<sup>19</sup> Sea-bed mining currently requires an extreme precautionary approach.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> In terms of sustainable blue requirements this is not sufficient; International Seabed Authority (ISA) regulations stipulate at the very least EIA requirements for all activities as defined, which includes exploration.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> HLP Publication: Ocean Solutions that Benefit People, Nature and the Economy, p.60.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Transformations for a Sustainable Ocean Economy: A Vision for Protection, Production and Prosperity p. 10

The Ministry of Mines and Energy is responsible for the implementation of sustainable blue energy and blue mining activities, and the coordination thereof.

**The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism** - is responsible for promotion of the sustainable management of the environment and the use of natural resources by establishing principles for decision making on matters affecting the environment. The Ministry exercises control over activities which may have significant effects on the environment by implementing the following Acts of Parliament:

- Environmental Management Act 2007 (Act no. 7 of 2007) Provides for general environmental protection and defines principles of environmental management
- Nature Conservation Ordinances Act 1975 (Act no 4 of 1975), as amended by Nature Conservation Amendment Act No. 3 of 1996 - Governs conservation of biodiversity and enables the declaration of protected areas.
- Namibia Tourism Board Act 2 001 (Act no. 21 of 2001) To promote tourism in Namibia

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism will be responsible for the implementation of the blue tourism, blue biotechnology and bioprospecting activities as well as blue carbon and the coordination thereof.

**The Ministry of Works and Transport** - is responsible for ensuring safety of life and property at sea and to control marine pollution from shipping. This Ministry regulates maritime transport in the territorial sea, internal waters and areas under Namibian jurisdiction, which includes the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as indicated below. This ministry exercises control in terms of the following Acts of Parliament:

 Merchant Shipping Act No 57 of 1951, as amended - provides for the control of merchant shipping and related matters.

- Marine Traffic Act 1981 (Act No 2 of 1981 provides for the regulation of marine traffic in Namibia and related matters.
- Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone of Namibia Act No 3 of 1990 determines and defines the territorial sea, internal waters, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of Namibia, and provides for related matters incidental thereto.
- Wreck and Salvage Act 2004 (Act no 5 of 2004) provides for the salvage of ships, aircraft and life and the protection of the marine environment.
- Namibia Ports Authority Act 1994 (Act No 2 of 1994) provides for the establishment of the Namibian Ports Authority to undertake the management and control of ports and lighthouses in Namibia.
- Prevention and Combating of Pollution of the Sea by Oil Act No.6 of 1980 as amended by Act 24 of 1991 - Provides for the prevention and combating of pollution of the sea by oil; to determine liability in certain respects for loss or damage caused by the discharge of oil from ships, tankers or offshore installations. Importantly, the definition of 'prohibited area' regarding the prevention of oil discharges from any ships, tankers or offshore installations includes Namibia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) as well as internal waters.

**International Agreements** falling under the ambit of the Ministry of Works and Transport include the following:

- The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 related thereto and by the Protocol of 1997 (MARPOL);
- The 2004 International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention);
- The International Maritime Organization agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2050, measures on bio-fueling, and guidelines to reduce underwater noise from commercial ships, and

 The 1972 London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter and its Protocol. (This treaty requires urgent ratification by Namibia).

The Ministry of Works and Transport will be responsible for the implementation of the blue transport, ports and shipping activities, and the coordination thereof.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform - is responsible for regulating surveys, demarcations and allocating use of land in Namibia; this includes those seabed areas over which Namibia has jurisdiction under UNCLOS (the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea). This Ministry is also responsible for safe, non-polluted, potable freshwater supply to the nation. This ministry undertakes its mandate in terms of the following Acts of Parliament:

- Land Survey Act No 33 of 1993 regulates the manner in which land surveys are to be conducted.
- Water Act No 54 of 1956 (regulates the conservation and use of water for domestic, agricultural, urban and industrial purposes);
- Water Resource Management Act no 11 of 2013 (to promote, develop, manage and utilize agriculture, water and land resources sustainably).

The above Water Resource Management Act also contains excellent, novel provisions aimed at monitoring and pollution control in water, which, importantly, is defined to include the sea.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform will be responsible for the implementation of the blue water resource management activities and the coordination thereof.

**The Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs** - is responsible for the defense of the territorial integrity and national interests of Namibia throughout the land, territorial sea and EEZ of Namibia, as demarcated by the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act No 3 of 1990 (as amended by Act no. 30 of 1991). The Ministry undertakes this mandate in terms of the Defense Act No 1 of 2002.

This ministry will be responsible for the defense of the territorial integrity and national interests of Namibia throughout the land, territorial sea and EEZ of Namibia.

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

The National Planning Commission – is responsible for planning and spearheading the course of national development, coordinating public policy processes, planning national priorities and directing the course of national development; also coordinating the implementation of National Development Plans, as part of the implementation process of Vision 2030 depository of public policies.

This Agency is responsible for the overall integration, monitoring and evaluation framework measuring the implementation of national policies.

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

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

**The Ministry of Industrialization and Trade** - is responsible for spearheading the development and expansion of the country's trade, investment, and industrial sector, as important sources of economic growth, employment creation and the country's economic competitiveness in the regional and international arena.

This Ministry will be responsible for the promotion of industrial activities, investment and facilitation of trade in the marine and aquatic ecosystems, in line with Namibia's obligations towards the bilateral, regional and multilateral trading systems.

**The Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation**: is responsible for the coordination of research activities, and will be responsible for coordinating the overall research, science and technology pertaining to Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economy Policy.

## 21. Resource Mobilization

The Government is committed to pursuing a sustainable blue economy approach. This requires substantial short, medium and long term financing in order to create jobs, resource rent and other equitable benefits.

The stakeholders responsible for the policy implementation will explore various innovative financing mechanism for such implementation, including the collaboration and sharing of resources. This includes but is not limited to:

Using revenue or resource rent from marine and other aquatic resources to finance their blue economy development;

Blue bonds and other carbon market approaches;

Punitive approaches such as the polluter pays principle, by-catch fees, fines; and

Collaboration with national and international development partners for the financing of sustainable blue economy activities.

The Government may consider using resource rent mechanisms, such as levies and fees, to sustainably finance research, infrastructure and other developments of its blue economies (markets, activities, sectors), as is currently the case in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

The Government may endeavor to recover costs associated with the management of marine protected areas through carbon trade schemes such as blue bonds, and fees on sustainable recreational activities.

The Government should ensure official monitoring control and surveillance activities of all blue economy activities are financed by the resource users, and that interventions such as cleanup activities after oil spills and other pollution are paid for by the relevant users through the 'polluter pays principle'.

The Government should continue to partner with development organizations, either bilaterally or through regional and international frameworks to which Namibia is party, to finance activities in sustainable blue economic development.

## 22. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, Reporting

In Order to realize the objectives and goals of this Policy, a framework for monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and reporting may be implemented.

The Key Stakeholder Ministries implementing this policy should incorporate the activities under this policy in their strategic and annual plans, and progress on implementation shall be reported to the National Planning Commission on an annual basis. The implementation of this Policy is to be monitored and evaluated by the National Planning Commission. The National Planning Commission shall consolidate, evaluate progress, in consultation with the Technical Committee and submit the final report to the Inter-Ministerial Committee.

## 23. Advocacy and Dissemination (Communication Strategy)

In order to ensure effective implementation of Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economic Policy, there is a need for effective, targeted and structured dissemination of sustainable blue economy information as widely as possible in Namibia. Communication strategies on Namibia's sustainable blue economy shall include the following:

After Cabinet approval, dissemination of relevant information to be broadcasted using various mass media platforms. These information materials shall be translated into local languages to ensure grassroots understanding of blue economy policy.

Incorporation of sustainable ocean and blue economy aspects into the teaching curricula of schools, colleges, universities, campuses and other tertiary educational institutions, as well as the orientation programs of all staff in public and private sustainable blue economy sectors.

International Ocean Day on 8<sup>th</sup> June every year could provide an important compass opportunity in this regard.

## 24. Implementation Action Plans

Since the initial stages of Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economic Policy Formulation, and the identification of relevant, Ministerial stakeholders, a number of Ministries have initiated

the drafting of their respective implementation action plans pertinent to this National policy.

Once cabinet has approved Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economic Policy, each sustainable blue economy Ministry should finalize – and cascade<sup>21</sup> their respective sustainable blue economy objectives and requirements into their strategic – and annual work plans, including, where possible, their budgetary requirements and implications.

These implementation action plans are typically reviewed every five years or on an ad hoc basis as the need arises, with the current ones running for the period of 2017-2022.

#### 25. Conclusion

In line with National Development Plan 5, Namibia is determined to pursue a sustainable blue economy approach in the development and management of the country's marine and aquatic resources. This Policy will guide the coordination and promotion of sustainable and equitable economic opportunities in our marine and aquatic eco-systems, in terms of the principle of sustainable development by integrating the three pillars, namely, environmental protection, economic sustainability and social equitability throughout our marine and aquatic blue economy sectors. This policy calls for the development and management of these resources to be conducted in a way that equitably benefits Namibians, without adversely affecting the country's marine and aquatic ecosystems. Namibia's sustainable Blue Economy is open for investment, to both local and international

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> National Planning Commission: (2018) *Official Guidelines for the Public Policy Making Process (PPMP) in Namibia*, p. 8.

investors to build an environmentally sustainable and socially equitable, sustainable blue economy, which is equitable towards all Namibians, both present and in the future. All stakeholders are therefore called upon to commit to the implementation of Namibia's Sustainable Blue Economy Policy.

Annexure 1: List of consulted stakeholders

(only those that attended)

## Annexure 2: Table of Laws, Policies & Plans

National Development Plan (NDP5);

Marine Resources Act No 27 of 2000, as amended by Marine Resources Amendment Act No 9 of 2015);

Aquaculture Act No 18 of 2002;

Inland Fisheries Act No 1 of 2003;

Environmental Management Act No 7 of 2007;

Land Survey Act No 33 of 1993;

Water Act No 54 of 1956;

Water Resource Management Act No 11 of 2013;

Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act No 3 of 1990 (as amended by Act no. 30 of 1991).

The Defense Act No 1 of 2002;

Nature Conservation Ordinances. Act of 1996, as amended by Nature Conservation Amendment Act No 3 of 2017;

Namibia Tourism Board Act 2 001 (Act no. 21 of 2001)

Merchant Shipping No 57 1951, as amended;

Marine Traffic Act No 2 of 1981, as amended;

Wreck and Salvage Act No 5 of 2004;

Namibia Ports Authority Act No 2 of 1994;

Prevention and Combating of Pollution of the Sea by Oil Act No.6 of 1980 as amended by Act 24 of 1991; and

Land Survey Act No 33 of 1993

Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act No 33 of 1992;

Diamonds Act No 13 of 1999;

Petroleum (Exploration & production) Act No 2 of 1991, as amended by Petroleum Laws Amendment Act No 24 of 1998;

Renewable Energy Policy 2017

Minerals Policy of Namibia 2003

## Annexure 3: International Agreements

1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships as modified by the Protocols of 1978 & 1997 and its Annexes (MARPOL Convention);

2004 International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention);

1972 London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter and its Protocol;

1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

1992 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and associated Protocols, such as the 2010 Nagoya Protocol;

1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with (Kyoto) Protocols (UNFCCC), 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change (under the UNFCCC

FAO code of conduct for responsible fisheries

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

# Annexure 4: Criteria for qualifying sustainable blue activities / economies

List of Blue Economy Criteria:

- The activity in question does not unduly threaten the stability, diversity, productivity, resilience, natural capital or intrinsic value of the marine or aquatic ecosystem.
- The activity in question provides equitable benefits for current and future generations by contributing to food security, poverty eradication, livelihoods, employment, equity, resource rent, and political stability.
- The activity in question is environmentally sustainable, based on clean technologies, renewable energy, and circular material flows.
- The activity in question is based on good governance and accountable systems.
- The activity in question is governed by public and private processes that are inclusive, holistic, precautionary, innovative, accountable and transparent, cross-sectoral, long-term and inter-generational.