



Nature-Based Solutions Inventory for Namibia

June 2026

What Is the Nature-Based Solutions Inventory, and Who Is It for?

This inventory aims to showcase the variety of nature-based solutions (NbS) projects that have been completed recently or are currently under implementation in Namibia. It highlights the various responses across the country to the climate and biodiversity crisis and efforts to address the increasing risks and vulnerabilities brought about by a changing climate.

The inventory provides information on the approach taken by these projects, the climate and biodiversity risks they address, the intended beneficiaries, and the ecosystems they target. This information is beneficial for government officials, adaptation and conservation practitioners, and donors. It can help them understand the landscape of NbS implementation in the country; pinpoint existing gaps, potential synergies, and collaboration opportunities; and avoid duplication.

The inventory is a living document that has been developed by the International Institute for Sustainable Development under the Climate Adaptation and Protected Areas (CAPA) Initiative funded by Global Affairs Canada. The CAPA Initiative is implemented in Namibia by WWF Namibia and the Namibia Nature Foundation.

What Are NbS?

NbS are “actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits” (United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, 2022). These actions help people and communities mitigate against, and adapt to, climate change, and increase ecosystem resilience. They can also provide social co-benefits, by recognizing and involving all groups of people, especially underrepresented groups, as active agents of change in the implementation of NbS for adaptation projects. This involves assessing how climate change



will affect people of all genders and social backgrounds and identifying how NbS can help address these impacts.

Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) actions, a subset of NbS, are especially of interest: they use “biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change” (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2009). They include measures that protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use, and manage natural ecosystems, with the aim of strengthening the resilience of communities and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change.

Why Do NbS, Especially EbA, Matter for Namibia?

Namibia is among the most climate-vulnerable countries in sub-Saharan Africa because of its predominantly arid and semi-arid climate, limited rainfall, and high dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources (Chen et al., 2025; Government of the Republic of Namibia, 2021; World Bank Group, 2021). These conditions are not only future risks, recurrent droughts, rainfall variability, rising temperatures, water scarcity, desertification, and land degradation are already affecting the natural resource base on which agriculture in Namibia, livestock production, biodiversity conservation, tourism, and rural livelihoods depend (Government of the Republic of Namibia, 2020; World Bank Group, 2021). Namibia’s 2023 update to its Nationally Determined Contribution reflects this reality by prioritizing adaptation actions that strengthen food security, protect ecosystems, and biodiversity, improve water security, reduce climate-related health risks, and increase the resilience of infrastructure and settlements (Government of the Republic of Namibia, 2023).

These pressures are intensified by the fact that only a small share of Namibia’s rainfall remains available to recharge groundwater, support agriculture, or sustain vegetation. Namibia’s Fourth National Communication (NC4) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), notes that 83% of the country’s rainfall is lost through direct evaporation and 14% through evapotranspiration (Government of the Republic of Namibia, 2020). As a result, droughts and shifts in rainfall do not only reduce water availability, but they also affect soil moisture, vegetation cover, rangeland productivity, ecosystem condition, and the natural resource base that supports rural livelihoods. This is what makes nature-based solutions, particularly ecosystem-based adaptation, especially important for Namibia. They offer a cost effective and sustainable approach to adaptation, by addressing climate risk at the level where many of its impacts are felt: helping landscapes retain water, stabilize soils, maintain vegetation cover, and sustain the natural resource base that majority of Namibians depend on.

What Are We Learning About NbS in Namibia?

Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) is a cornerstone of NbS in Namibia. It empowers local communities to manage and benefit from natural resources sustainably. By integrating traditional practices with modern conservation techniques, CBNRM initiatives have successfully reduced human–wildlife conflicts, promoted biodiversity, and improved livelihoods.



Nearly all projects fuse biodiversity conservation with climate adaptation, and most are anchored in multifunctional objectives, combining dryland restoration, sustainable agriculture, and livelihood diversification. Gender equality and social inclusion is addressed explicitly by some projects. Projects such as the Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to Eradicate Poverty (NILALEG) and CAPA explicitly promote women-only groups, youth inclusion, and Indigenous leadership, alongside traditional knowledge integration, putting communities at the project's centre. Capacity building is embedded as a strategic pillar, often through local institutions and self-help groups, and reflected in training on EbA principles, climate-smart agriculture, governance, and market linkages. These projects consistently demonstrate the power of coupling local knowledge systems with adaptive governance, a model that Namibia is shaping into an actionable blueprint for NbS in the region.









National communications to the UNFCCC, the bio-economy strategy, and donor priorities (United Nations Development Programme, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit [GIZ] GmbH, Green Climate Fund) shape project design and main funding, while partnerships with WWF Namibia and Namibia Nature Foundation supplement financing and technical support. Outcomes include thousands of hectares restored, tree nurseries established, and biodiversity-based livelihoods strengthened through beekeeping and eco-tourism.

Distribution of NbS Projects in Namibia

Namibia's NbS projects presented in the inventory are distributed across nine regions, with some projects spanning multiple regions and conservancies. The Zambezi region, covering Bwabwata, Chetto, and wider communal conservancies, hosts five projects. The Kunene region, comprising Oranjemund, Palmwag, Purros, Kunene South, Kunene North, and Daures landscapes, features three projects. The Erongo region, particularly the Brandberg Geopark area, has one project. The Otjozondjupa region, covering savannah and woodland restoration areas, includes two projects. The Oshikoto region, covering communal conservancies, hosts one project. The Kavango East and West regions, covering watershed and community forest restoration landscapes, feature three projects. The Ohangwena region, covering dry woodland and savannah communal areas, has one project. Finally, the Omusati region, covering communal areas in north western Namibia, hosts one project. In total, the inventory documents 11 NbS for adaptation projects, with the highest concentration found in the Zambezi region.











NbS Inventory

| 1 Climate Adaptation and Protected Areas Initiative | |
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| Implementation entity | The WWF and the International Institute for Sustainable Development, in partnership with the Namibia Nature Foundation |
| Project status | 2023–2026 |
| Location | Zambezi region: Bwabwata community, Chetto community |
| Intended beneficiaries | Local communities, including underrepresented individuals and groups, as well as conservation institutions |
| Societal challenges addressed by NbS |  Climate mitigation  Climate adaptation |
| |  Human health  Food security |
| |  Economic & social development  Biodiversity degradation & loss |
| |  Disaster risk reduction  Water security |
| Ecosystem(s) targeted | Modified and protected terrestrial habitats |
| Ecosystem services provided | Provisioning of food for consumption by people and wildlife, plant pollination, climate regulation |
| Description of NbS | <p>The project aims to restore 20 hectares of degraded land inside the Bwabwata National Park Multipurpose User Zone, using an assisted natural regeneration approach tailored to the dry landscape. Communities living within the park are being supported to plant 6,000 agroforestry trees to improve soil quality, enhance water infiltration, and recharge underground aquifers. To diversify livelihoods and strengthen resilience, the project procured and distributed 54 beehives, with 24 allocated to youth groups and 30 to women-headed households, while promoting apiary development and market linkages. Complementary interventions such as clustered farming systems, chili fencing and borehole refurbishment integrated conservation priorities with sustainable agriculture, contributing to food security, ecosystem restoration, and harmonious human-wildlife coexistence. The beekeeping and chili fences are also being explored as deterrents to reduce human-elephant conflict.</p> |



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| | <p>Overall, the key NbS for adaptation interventions include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restoring degraded land through assisted natural regeneration 2. Planting agroforestry trees to improve soil fertility, water infiltration, and aquifer recharge 3. Procuring and distributing beehives (with related training and safety apparel) for youth groups and women-headed households to promote apiary livelihoods 4. Delivering ecosystem services—such as soil conservation, carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement, and sustainable land use—through clustered farming systems 5. Establishing home gardens on 8 hectares of land, clustered around boreholes to optimize water use, including procuring garden tools and irrigation pipes for eight communities, supported by solar-powered borehole refurbishment 6. Value adding and developing market linkages for honey and chili products (processing, branding, product diversification) 7. Implementing human–wildlife coexistence measures using bees and chili plants as natural deterrents against elephants, while providing nutrition and income |
| <p>Climate risks addressed</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent droughts and dry spells • High temperatures • Reduced rainfall and rainfall variability |
| <p>Biodiversity risks addressed</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human–elephant conflict: using bee keeping to deter elephants and protect crops • Loss of native tree species: by restoring degraded land through afforestation, reforestation, and natural regeneration • Soil degradation and water scarcity: by planting agroforestry trees to improve soil health and groundwater recharge • Wildlife habitat degradation: by restoring ecosystems in Bwabwata National Park to strengthen biodiversity |
| <p>Reference</p> | <p>https://www.iisd.org/projects/climate-adaptation-and-protected-areas-initiative https://www.iisd.org/capa/kaza</p> |



| 2 Developing the Biodiversity Economy in Selected Landscapes in Namibia | | |
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| Implementation entity | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) | |
| Project status | Completed (2019–2024) | |
| Location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erongo and Kunene regions: Brandberg area (proposed Geopark site), Oranjemund, Palmwag, Purros area • Oshikoto region • Otjozondjupa region | |
| Intended beneficiaries | Local communities involved in biodiversity-based livelihoods (particularly those participating in community-based natural resource management), conservancies and farmers, tourism operators | |
| Societal challenges addressed by NbS |  Climate mitigation |  Climate adaptation |
| |  Human health |  Food security |
| |  Economic & social development |  Biodiversity degradation & loss |
| |  Disaster risk reduction |  Water security |
| Ecosystem(s) targeted | Arid and semi-arid ecosystems, including mountains, savannahs, wildlife conservancies, and cultural landscapes such as the Brandberg Geopark area | |
| Ecosystem services provided | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisioning services: sustainable harvesting (devil's claw, organic agriculture) • Regulating services: improved landscape management, ecosystem restoration • Cultural services: eco-tourism, crafts, living museums | |
| Description of NbS | The NbS intervention focused on transforming critical but fragmented protected areas such as national parks, communal conservancies, and private reserves into coordinated, economically viable landscapes while embedding biodiversity economy approaches into Namibia's national strategies. Its objectives were to strengthen climate resilient livelihoods, improve ecosystem connectivity, promote sustainable tourism, and mainstream biodiversity into policy frameworks. | |



Within this structure, the NbS for adaptation components included the following:

1. Organic farming and sustainable harvesting: 18 farmers trained in organic agriculture and 45 conservancy members capacitated in devil's claw harvesting under Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP+) standards, reducing vulnerability to drought and erratic rainfall
2. Eco tourism and cultural enterprises: establishment of Namibia's first Herero Living Museum, upgrading eight community campsites, and training 32 guides in ethical elephant tracking, creating climate proof income streams
3. Landscape connectivity and water resilience: coordinated management of parks, conservancies, and private reserves, plus piloting "routes and tracks" concepts to protect watersheds and reduce land degradation
4. Capacity building for climate smart practices: training communities in sustainable resource use, crafts innovation, and financial management; strengthening adaptive knowledge; and reducing overexploitation during climate stress
5. Policy mainstreaming: biodiversity economy embedded into Namibia's National Bio economy Strategy, ensuring continuity and scaling of NbS

Through these activities, the project demonstrated that it is possible to simultaneously address climate risks, conserve biodiversity, and strengthen local economies.:

Climate risks addressed









The project explicitly addressed identified climate risks of drought and prolonged dry spells that reduced water availability and crop yields, heat stress risk that affects both people and wildlife, and declining and variable rainfall causing water scarcity and shortages for communities and ecosystems. Specifically, the project did the following:

- Made ecosystems more climate resilient: by connecting protected areas into coordinated landscapes, the project improved habitat connectivity that would allow wildlife to move as temperatures rise and rainfall becomes erratic
- Anchored adaptation in national policy and helped institutionalize the biodiversity/bio-economy approach nationally
- Diversified and climate-proofed rural livelihoods: supported organic value chains (e.g., sustainable harvesting of devil's claw), which reduced community vulnerability to climate change
- Piloted the routes and tracks program, which guided where tourism should take place, thereby reducing degradation in sensitive areas, maintaining watershed functions, and reducing land-use pressures that are exacerbated by climate change



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| <p>Biodiversity risks addressed</p> | <p>The project actively addressed various biodiversity risks, including unsustainable harvesting of indigenous plants, habitat degradation and fragmentation, declining soil quality due to chemical inputs in agriculture, and wildlife threats from poaching, habitat encroachment, and human–wildlife conflict. The project specifically did the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressed the unsustainable harvesting of indigenous plants such as devil’s claw, by training conservancy members in sustainable harvesting practices that balance ecological protection with economic opportunities • Mitigated habitat degradation and fragmentation in vital biodiversity areas by promoting organic agriculture: these interventions improved soil quality, reduced reliance on harmful chemicals, and supported healthier, more resilient ecosystems • Confronted threats to wildlife populations, including habitat encroachment, poaching, and human–wildlife conflict, by promoting sustainable community-based tourism initiatives and ethical elephant tracking: these initiatives protected wildlife, while also generating local economic benefits |
| <p>Reference</p> | <p>https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/project/developing-the-biodiversity-economy-in-selected-landscapes-in-namibia-19-iv-097-nam-g-biodiversity-economy/</p> <p>https://the-eis.com/elibrary/sites/default/files/downloads/literature/The%20Biodiversity%20Economy%20in%20selected%20landscapes%20in%20namibia%20Project.pdf</p> <p>https://nbcnews.na/node/106067</p> |











| 3 Climate Change and Inclusive Use of Natural Resources | |
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| Implementation entity | The MEFT in partnership with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, with co-funding from the European Union |
| Project status | Completed (2021–2025) |
| Location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zambezi region • Kunene region • Otjozondjupa region • Kavango East region |
| Intended beneficiaries | 230,000 people living in Namibia's 86 communal conservancies and community forests, as well as vulnerable households in peri-urban areas |
| Societal challenges addressed by NbS |  Climate mitigation  Climate adaptation |
| |  Human health  Food security |
| |  Economic & social development  Biodiversity degradation & loss |
| |  Disaster risk reduction  Water security |
| Ecosystem(s) targeted | Savannahs, woodlands, wetlands and river basins, riparian ecosystems |
| Ecosystem services provided | Soil and water conservation; water retention and soil erosion control; carbon sequestration; provisioning services including non-timber forest products, grazing areas, and fisheries; habitat connectivity |
| Description of NbS | <p>The project advanced climate adaptation and equitable management of natural resources through the community-based natural resource management approach. NbS were embedded into community institutions and national frameworks, to strengthen governance, diversify livelihoods, and enhance ecological resilience.</p> <p>The project promoted sustainable harvesting of indigenous plants such as marula and devil's claw, creating equitable value chains that improved working conditions and incomes for more than 14,000 harvesters. It invested in enhanced water infrastructure, installing and rehabilitating water points to secure access for both people and wildlife during droughts. Communities were supported with wildlife-proof crop storage and spatial planning to reduce post-harvest losses and mitigate human-wildlife conflict. These measures safeguarded biodiversity while reducing vulnerability to climate shocks.</p> |



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| | <p>The project further fostered nature-positive livelihood diversification through eco-tourism, small-scale processing of natural products, and sustainable harvesting practices. This broadened income streams for rural households, reducing dependence on climate-sensitive activities. At the same time, community-based organizations were strengthened through training, governance reforms, and inclusive decision making, embedding transparency and resilience into local institutions.</p> <p>At the national level, the project provided technical assistance to the MEFT, supporting the implementation of regulatory frameworks and coordination of climate adaptation strategies. It contributed to updating Namibia's nationally determined contributions and developing actionable implementation plans, ensuring alignment with international climate commitments while mainstreaming NbS into national policy.</p> <p>The NbS of restoring ecological integrity, diversifying livelihoods, and embedding climate resilience into governance were crucial for safeguarding biodiversity and delivering human well being under changing climate conditions.</p> |
| Climate risks addressed | <p>The project addresses climate risks including drought, soil degradation, unpredictable rainfall, and temperature extremes.</p> |
| Biodiversity risks addressed | <p>The project addresses biodiversity risks including human-wildlife conflict, habitat loss, overexploitation of forest resources, and species loss.</p> |
| Reference | <p>https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/discussions/gcca-news-supporting-conservancies-and-forests-namibia_en</p> <p>https://www.giz.de/en/projects/climate-change-and-inclusive-use-natural-resources</p> <p>https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/library/project-fiche-gcca-support-coordination-and-implementation-nationally-determined-contributions-ndc-namibia_en</p> |











| 4 Building resilience of communities living in landscapes threatened by climate change through an ecosystem-based adaptation approach | | |
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| Implementation entity | The MEFT in partnership with the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia | |
| Project status | Ongoing (2022–2026) | |
| Location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern landscape • Kunene South and Daures landscape • Kunene North landscape • Lower Eastern landscape • North Central landscape • Kavango East and Kavango West regions • Zambezi East • Zambezi West | |
| Intended beneficiaries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 216,000 people, half of them women • 60,000 direct and 156,000 indirect beneficiaries (about 7.5% of Namibia's population) through community conservancies, forests, local associations, and institutions across Namibia | |
| Societal challenges addressed by NbS |  Climate mitigation |  Climate adaptation |
| |  Human health |  Food security |
| |  Economic & social development |  Biodiversity degradation & loss |
| |  Disaster risk reduction |  Water security |
| Ecosystem(s) targeted | <p>Protected areas, including communal conservancies, community forests, rangelands, and water catchments characterized by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • savannah • semi-arid ecosystems • woodland ecosystems | |
| Ecosystem services provided | Water regulation and supply; soil fertility and erosion control; biodiversity conservation; provisioning wild foods, fruits, timber, firewood, income, medicines, etc., through sustainable natural resource use; climate regulation and carbon sequestration. | |
| Description of NbS | The project implements ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) actions that strengthen both social and ecological systems to sustain livelihoods and facilitate value chains of natural resources in Namibia. It is designed to enhance the climate resilience of Namibia's productive landscapes by restoring ecosystem integrity and strengthening community adaptive capacities. | |



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| | <p>At the ecological level, the project restores degraded ecosystems and climate-proofs them through locally driven adaptation plans. It promotes sustainable rangeland and water catchment management, biodiversity protection, and ecosystem service delivery through support to communal conservancies and community forests. Landscape-level management strategies and compliance monitoring systems are established to guide sustainable land use, while climate risk is integrated into spatial planning and land allocation processes, empowering over 100 individuals to lead these efforts.</p> <p>On the socio-economic side, the project invests in eco-enterprises and supports small- to medium-sized enterprises to strengthen natural resource value chains and improve market access. Communities receive training and capacity building to apply EbA principles and manage resources sustainably. Knowledge products, policy briefs, and community exchanges document and disseminate best practices, while advocacy ensures EbA is mainstreamed into national development plans and policies.</p> <p>Together, these interventions create a comprehensive NbS framework: restoring ecosystems, building resilient livelihoods, embedding adaptation into governance, and scaling knowledge across Namibia's productive landscapes. This integrated approach ensures climate resilience is achieved not only through ecological restoration but also through empowered communities and strengthened institutions.</p> |
| <p>Climate risks addressed</p> | <p>The project responds to the following climate risks and threats to livelihoods and ecosystems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased frequency and severity of droughts • shifts in rainfall patterns • land degradation and reduced agricultural productivity • water scarcity that affects both people and ecosystems |
| <p>Biodiversity risks addressed</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation of communal conservancies and community forests • Loss of ecosystem integrity and biodiversity • Unsustainable land-use practices that threaten ecosystem services • Indigenous species decline, through the preservation of natural habitats and corridors • Fragmentation of wildlife habitats |
| <p>Reference</p> | <p>https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/sap006 https://www.eif.org/na/uploads/files/SAP006%20-%20EbA%20Project%20Factsheet.pdf</p> |



| 5 Harnessing Coping Strategies via a Holistic Approach for Community Adaptation to Climate Change | | |
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| Implementation entity | Creative Entrepreneurs Solutions (CES) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) | |
| Project status | Completed (2009–2012) | |
| Location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omusati • Oshana • Oshikoto • Oshana • Kavango regions | |
| Intended beneficiaries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsistence farmers and pastoralists, particularly in semi-arid and vulnerable regions • Natural resource-dependent communities, including women and youth • Community-based organizations, NGOs, and local institutions working in agriculture, land management, and natural resource governance | |
| Societal challenges addressed by NbS |  Climate mitigation |  Climate adaptation |
| |  Human health |  Food security |
| |  Economic & social development |  Biodiversity degradation & loss |
| |  Disaster risk reduction |  Water security |
| Ecosystem(s) targeted | Dryland and semi-arid ecosystems; savannah woodlands; wetlands and floodplains (especially in the Zambezi region); agricultural landscapes affected by land degradation; pastoral rangelands | |











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| Ecosystem services provided | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil fertility and erosion control: through sustainable land management practices and agroforestry • Water regulation and availability: improving catchment management, conserving wetlands, and enhancing water harvesting • Biodiversity conservation: protecting native species and ecosystems, and supporting eco-tourism and traditional livelihoods • Provisioning services: including improved crop yields, increased fuelwood availability, and access to wild foods and medicinal plants • Climate regulation: through tree planting, rangeland management |
| Description of NbS | <p>The project employed community-based adaptation strategies to build resilience to climate change by integrating climate risks into sustainable, community-based natural resource management. It focuses on adjusting agricultural and pastoral practices to reduce climate-induced land degradation, while enhancing ecosystem resilience and biodiversity co-benefits. The NbS interventions involved piloting agroforestry, rangeland management, and climate-resilient dryland farming practices. These interventions improved food security, household nutrition, and income generation while reducing ecosystem degradation and building community resilience to climate change. The piloted NbS intervention included the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agroforestry and reforestation in degraded areas: using indigenous species such as <i>Faidherbia albida</i>, various trees were planted across target sites, contributing to soil improvement, biodiversity restoration, and reduced reliance on unsustainable fuelwood harvesting. 2. Community-based rangeland management: rotational grazing and pasture monitoring efforts restored degraded pasture in some zones and helped reduce overgrazing pressures. 3. Climate-resilient dryland farming practices: conservation agriculture techniques were used, such as ripping and furrowing to improve soil structure and water retention, application of compost and biochar, and use of drought-tolerant pearl millet varieties. |
| Climate risks addressed | <p>The project addresses the following current and projected risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased temperature • decline in rainfall, worsening aridity • frequent floods • frequent droughts <p>Threats to food and water security, increased deforestation and desertification from unsustainable coping responses, and soil degradation that reduces crops and grazing productivity were also addressed.</p> |



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| <p>Biodiversity risks addressed</p> | <p>The project responds to the following biodiversity stressors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • habitat loss from overgrazing and deforestation • species decline due to ecosystem stress • indigenous plant pressure from firewood demand and cropland spread • agrobiodiversity loss from monocropping • wetland overuse and aquatic strain |
| <p>Reference</p> | <p>https://www.adaptation-undp.org/projects/cba-namibia-harnessing-coping-strategies-holistic-approach-community-adaptation-climate</p> <p>https://www.adaptation-undp.org/sites/default/files/resources/namibian-president-visits-siya.pdf</p> <p>https://www.adaptation-undp.org/sites/default/files/resources/undp_nambia.pdf</p> |











| 6 Youth Beekeeping – Climate Crowd Initiative | | |
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| Implementation entity | WWF Namibia, in partnership with the Bushman Honey Project, the MEFT, and the Zambezi Beekeepers Association | |
| Project status | Completed (2025) | |
| Location | Zambezi region: Muyako, Omega 3, and Luitcixom communities | |
| Intended beneficiaries | Rural youths in Zambezi region (12 youths trained, 4 per community) | |
| Societal challenges addressed by NbS |  Climate mitigation |  Climate adaptation |
| |  Human health |  Food security |
| |  Economic & social development |  Biodiversity degradation & loss |
| |  Disaster risk reduction |  Water security |
| Ecosystem(s) targeted | Forests and woodlands, as habitat for pollinators and a source of honey; savannah and grassland ecosystems, to support natural grasses for pollination | |
| Ecosystem services provided | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisioning: honey, bee products, wax • Regulating: pollination for crops and wild plants, climate regulation via forest conservation • Supporting: biodiversity conservation (bee colonies, habitat maintenance) • Cultural: Indigenous beekeeping knowledge preserved | |
| Description of NbS | <p>The project focused on apiculture as an NbS intervention. It trained 12 youths in eco friendly beekeeping through a two week workshop led by the Bushman Honey Project and the MEFT. Each youth received four beehives, protective gear, and honey extracting machines. Training covered bee biology, hive inspection, honey harvesting, processing, and marketing. A WhatsApp group was created for ongoing mentorship.</p> <p>This initiative diversifies livelihoods away from climate sensitive agriculture, combats declining crop yields and livestock health due to drought, and empowers youth with new income streams. An initial trial harvest produced 1.8 litres of honey, demonstrating early success.</p> <p>The project stems from the Climate Crowd, WWF's global initiative in which community observations of climate impacts are collected using structured interviews, analyzed, and used to co design adaptation projects with local partners. The Climate Crowd produces survey data sets, analytical reports, and pilot projects that directly address climate risks while strengthening biodiversity-friendly livelihoods. Its model emphasizes locally led solutions, integration of Indigenous knowledge, and capacity building.</p> | |



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| Climate risks addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Droughts: through diversified livelihoods less dependent on rainfall • Extreme temperatures: through resilient beekeeping practices • Changing rainfall/flooding: through reduced reliance on climate sensitive farming • Economic vulnerability: through biodiversity friendly honey value chains |
| Biodiversity risks addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decline in pollinator populations: through sustainable beekeeping • Habitat degradation: through sustainable hive placement • Overexploitation: through alternative livelihoods reducing ecosystem pressure • Loss of Indigenous knowledge: through revitalized beekeeping traditions |
| Reference | <p>https://wwfclimatecrowd.org/project/beekeeping-for-youths/ https://wwfclimatecrowd.org/about/</p> |



| 7 Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL-IP) – Namibia | | |
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| Implementation entity | The MEFT; the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform; and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; supported by the Global Environment Facility | |
| Project status | Ongoing (2020–2027) | |
| Location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kavango East region: Rundu and surrounding villages • Cuvelai landscape: Omuthiya area | |
| Intended beneficiaries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smallholder farmers in Kavango East • Local communities dependent on woodland resources • Women and youth groups engaged in farming and forest product value chains • Community-based organizations managing communal lands | |
| Societal challenges addressed by NbS |  Climate mitigation |  Climate adaptation |
| |  Human health |  Food security |
| |  Economic & social development |  Biodiversity degradation & loss |
| |  Disaster risk reduction |  Water security |
| Ecosystem(s) targeted | Miombo–Mopane woodlands (dryland forests critical for biodiversity and livelihoods); savannah and rangeland ecosystems supporting livestock and crop production | |
| Ecosystem services provided | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisioning services: non-timber forest products, fodder, fruits, fuelwood, water regulation for crops/livestock • Regulating services: soil fertility improvement, erosion control, climate resilience, wildfire mitigation • Supporting services: biodiversity conservation, pollinator habitats, regeneration of degraded lands • Cultural services: preservation of traditional farming and woodland management practices | |



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| Description of NbS | <p>The project's NbS intervention seeks to transform production systems in the Miombo–Mopane woodlands through an integrated landscape approach that avoids, reduces, and reverses land degradation. Its primary goal is to restore ecological integrity while contributing to Namibia's national commitment to land degradation neutrality. Restoration measures include training farmers to integrate indigenous trees such as marula, camel thorn, and corky monkey orange into crop and livestock systems. This agroforestry approach enhances soil fertility, improves water retention, provides fodder and shade, and strengthens biodiversity. Soil and water conservation practices are promoted through the construction of gabion structures and contour bunds to control erosion, alongside conservation tillage, mulching, and crop rotation to retain soil moisture. Community seed banks are established to safeguard traditional and climate-resilient crop varieties, ensuring genetic diversity and resilience under drought conditions. In addition, community-based forest management plans are developed to secure sustainable use of woodland resources and prevent further degradation. Reforestation, including along riverine zones, is promoted.</p> <p>Building on these ecological foundations, the project advances livelihood diversification and resilience. Value chains for non-timber forest products such as fruits, honey, and fodder are supported to generate income while maintaining biodiversity. Climate-smart agriculture practices increase yields and reduce vulnerability to drought, while improved storage technologies cut post-harvest losses and strengthen food security. By diversifying production systems and embedding resilience into household farming, communities reduce reliance on unsustainable practices and expand opportunities for women and youth. These livelihood measures complement restoration, ensuring that ecosystems thrive while households benefit from improved nutrition, income, and adaptive capacity.</p> |
| Climate risks addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recurrent droughts leading to reduced soil moisture and crop failure • Prolonged dry spells that undermine rain-fed agriculture • Increased frequency and severity of bushfires in dry woodlands • Soil erosion and gully formation due to intense rainfall events |
| Biodiversity risks addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss from unsustainable land use and agricultural expansion • Declining wildlife populations due to fragmentation and poaching • Overgrazing degrading rangelands and reducing plant diversity • Loss of indigenous vegetation critical for pollinators and local food systems |

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| 8 Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to Eradicate Poverty (NILALEG) | |
|---|---|
| Implementation entity | The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism with financial support from the United Nations Development Programme; other key partners include the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia and the University of Namibia |
| Project status | Completed (2019–2025) |
| Location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ohangwena region: Okongo • Kavango West region: Nkulivere • Zambezi region: Bukalo • Kunene and Omusati regions: Ruacana • Kunene region: Omaoipanga |
| Intended beneficiaries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth groups, women's groups, and informal community groups, including the San groups (!Xun, Hai om, Jul'hoansi, Khwe, Naro, !Xoo) as well as the Ovatie, OvaZemba, and OvaHimba communities • Community-based organizations include gazetted/registered communal conservancies and community forests • Farmers' associations |
| Societal challenges addressed by NbS |  Climate mitigation  Climate adaptation |
| |  Human health  Food security |
| |  Economic & social development  Biodiversity degradation & loss |
| |  Disaster risk reduction  Water security |
| Ecosystem(s) targeted | Dry woodland and savannah landscapes, particularly in remote, dry, mountainous terrains; community forests and regional forest reserves |
| Ecosystem services provided | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisioning services: gathered foods (roots, wild berries), non-forest products, water for livestock and agriculture • Regulating services: erosion control, climate resilience, wildfire mitigation • Supporting services: habitats for biodiversity and pollinators are crucial to local food systems • Cultural services: sacred lands, traditional knowledge systems, identity preservation |

**Description of NbS**

The project implemented various restoration-focused NbS interventions that directly enhanced ecosystem integrity and climate resilience. It prioritized ecosystem restoration, complemented with livelihood diversification.

In the Omaopanga landscape (Omusati region), an earth dam was rehabilitated to secure water for crop production, while a community tree nursery with 400 seedlings was established to benefit 2,000 conservancy members. Ten reseeded grassland sites, each covering one hectare, were protected during the rainy season and opened for livestock in the dry season, providing fodder reserves for over 3,000 members.

In the Ruacana landscape (Kunene region), restoration efforts included a fodder-grass seed-bank demonstration site to improve rangeland conditions, an indigenous tree nursery to revegetate degraded areas and improve soil health, and gabion structures to rehabilitate gullies by slowing water flow, trapping sediment, and supporting new vegetation growth.

In the Kavango West region, the project provided extension support and agroforestry training to encourage smallholder farmers to integrate indigenous tree species into their agricultural systems. This practice enhances soil fertility, improves water retention, and provides additional income through the sale of non-timber products.

In the Zambezi region, communities were engaged to clear invasive species and to protect indigenous vegetation. This activity would not only lead to the natural regeneration of native plant species, but it would also restore biodiversity and improve land productivity.









In Omuani and Okovingava, indigenous tree species such as corky monkey orange, marula, *Berchemia discolor*, and camel thorn were propagated for restoration and income generation. The project further supported the demarcation of two regional forest reserves of 10,000 hectares and the establishment of infrastructure for sustainable management and restoration.

Complementing these ecological measures, the program also advanced livelihood-focused NbS interventions that strengthened food security and diversified income streams. In Omaopanga, the Okatjandja Kozomenje Community Project improved nutrition and created jobs by producing affordable vegetables and fruits. In Ruacana, a small stock-revolving scheme distributed 220 goats to 20 marginalized farmers, including youth and people with disabilities, alongside training in animal husbandry. Horticultural crops introduced at the Ongete nursery further boosted production and household incomes, while fodder-seed harvesting created new market opportunities for farmers.



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| Climate risks addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought, which reduces harvests from rain-fed crops and garden produce • Land degradation that affects agricultural viability • Food insecurity linked to climate-driven crop failures and unpredictable natural resource availability • Reduced access to wild food, worsened by drought and environmental degradation • Increased intensity of bushfires • Human–wildlife conflict: wild animals that threaten gardens for food sources |
| Biodiversity risks addressed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss due to unsustainable land use and desertification • Decreased wildlife populations due to habitat fragmentation and poaching • Biodiversity degradation caused by overgrazing and agricultural expansion |
| Reference | <p>https://www.undp.org/namibia/stories/sustainable-success-nilalegs-integrated-approach-enhances-livelihoods-and-biodiversity-northern-namibia</p> <p>https://afr100.org/project/namibia-integrated-landscape-approach-enhancing-livelihoods-and-environmental-governance</p> <p>https://nilaleg.eif.org.na/</p> <p>https://meft.gov.na/projects/nilaleg-project/313/</p> |











| 9 Community-Based Adaptation Project – Onamulunga Combined School Garden Project | |
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| Implementation entity | Creative Entrepreneurs Solutions, a Namibian NGO, supported by the Global Environment Facility through the United Nations Environment Programme |
| Project status | Completed (2011) |
| Location | Oshikoto region: part of the broader seven northern regions of Namibia, where 60% of the population resides |
| Intended beneficiaries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 87 grade 9 and 10 students at Onamulunga Combined School; families and households; the wider Onamulunga community and nearby schools; and over 2,000 households across the 20 participating communities (indirect reach) • Teachers and school staff are involved in curriculum integration • The wider community through replication in nearby schools and households |
| Societal challenges addressed by NbS |  Climate mitigation  Climate adaptation |
| |  Human health  Food security |
| |  Economic & social development  Biodiversity degradation & loss |
| |  Disaster risk reduction  Water security |
| Ecosystem(s) targeted | Semi-arid dryland agricultural ecosystems; degraded farmlands and rangelands; aquatic systems; school-based micro-ecosystems used for demonstration and replication |
| Ecosystem services provided | Soil fertility enhancement, water regulation, food production and nutrition security, climate regulation, carbon sequestration |
| Description of NbS | <p>The project demonstrated NbS interventions of ecosystem restoration and sustainable agriculture practices at a learning institution. Implemented in the drought-prone Oshikoto region of northern Namibia, the NbS interventions represented a community-driven NbS model that integrates climate-resilient agriculture into education, ecosystem restoration, and household livelihoods.</p> <p>Agroforestry and fruit orchard establishment at the school added 50 trees to degraded plots, improving vegetation cover, carbon storage, and biodiversity. Conservation agriculture techniques, including ripping, mulching, and residue incorporation, restored soil health, while organic composting enhanced fertility.</p> |



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| | <p>The project cultivated nutrient-rich, climate-resilient crops such as cowpeas, spinach, carrots, oyster mushrooms, and sunflowers, directly supporting the school feeding program and improving nutrition. Horticultural practices boosted household food supplies. Aquaculture systems utilized harvested flood and rainwater for small-scale tilapia farming, diversifying production while recycling water resources.</p> <p>Importantly, trained students applied adaptive techniques in their home gardens, and over 70% of local households adopted resilient practices such as improved crop selection and water-saving technologies. These outcomes strengthened food security, reduced vulnerability to drought, and advanced gender inclusion, with girls actively managing the garden and benefiting from improved school attendance.</p> <p>The project also introduced water harvesting and micro-drip irrigation systems that achieved water savings, alongside drought-resistant crop varieties that delivered yield increases compared to traditional crops.</p> |
| <p>Climate risks addressed</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent droughts: soil degradation and desertification • Erratic rainfall • Climate variability: reduced agricultural productivity • Increased frequency of extreme weather events, including floods (e.g., 2010–2011 floods severely impacting communal farmers) |
| <p>Biodiversity risks addressed</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of traditional crop varieties and agrobiodiversity • Depletion of soil nutrients and water retention capacity • Encroaching desertification from unsustainable land use and climate stressors • Habitat loss and land degradation due to deforestation and land overuse • Decline in soil biota from chemical inputs • Pressure on native vegetation from overharvesting and land clearing • Low crop diversity and reliance on non-resilient species • Overfishing driven by food insecurity |
| <p>Reference</p> | <p>https://www.adaptation-undp.org/resources/community-based-adaptation-project-pilot-sites-onamulunga-school-garden-project</p> <p>https://www.adaptation-undp.org/sites/default/files/resources/cba_onamulunga_-_alm_project_profile_0.pdf</p> <p>https://www.adaptation-undp.org/resources/cba-namibia-country-programme-strategy-english</p> |



| 10 Namibian Coast Conservation and Management Project (NACOMA) | | |
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| Implementation entity | The MEFT, supported by the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank | |
| Project status | Completed (2005–2015) | |
| Location | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kunene region: Skeleton Coast National Park and Northern Namib Desert coastal ecosystems • Erongo region: Dorob National Park, Walvis Bay Lagoon and wetlands, Swakopmund coastal zone, Henties Bay coastal zone • Karas region: Sperrgebiet National Park, Lüderitz coastal zone and wetlands, Southern Namib Desert coastline | |
| Intended beneficiaries | Local communities in coastal towns, community-based organizations and conservancies managing natural resources, government institutions (MEFT, local authorities) through strengthened governance frameworks | |
| Societal challenges addressed by NbS |  Climate mitigation |  Climate adaptation |
| |  Human health |  Food security |
| |  Economic & social development |  Biodiversity degradation & loss |
| |  Disaster risk reduction |  Water security |
| Ecosystem(s) targeted | Coastal dune systems, wetlands and estuaries (e.g., Walvis Bay Lagoon); marine and coastal biodiversity hotspots; community-managed conservancies and protected areas | |
| Ecosystem services provided | Coastal protection against erosion and flooding; biodiversity conservation and habitat restoration; sustainable fisheries and eco-tourism opportunities; climate regulation and carbon storage in coastal ecosystems; water regulation through wetland restoration | |
| Description of NbS | The NbS involved embedding biodiversity conservation into Namibia's coastal governance and development planning, through a coastal zone management system. The project restored degraded wetlands and dune systems to act as natural buffers against climate change impacts, supported the proclamation of new coastal parks and conservancies, and strengthened community-based organizations to manage resources sustainably. | |



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| | <p>Additionally, urban and community-based initiatives were implemented to demonstrate how NbS could be integrated into local governance and livelihoods. In Walvis Bay Municipality, the project focused on wetland restoration and biodiversity monitoring, ensuring that the internationally significant lagoon and estuary systems were rehabilitated and safeguarded. Conservation principles were also embedded into urban planning processes, aligning development with ecological resilience.</p> <p>In Swakopmund Municipality, NACOMA carried out awareness campaigns and mainstreamed biodiversity into local development plans, strengthening community understanding of coastal ecosystem services and ensuring that conservation was reflected in municipal decision making.</p> <p>In Lüderitz Municipality, the project emphasized community engagement in sustainable resource use and promoted eco-tourism ventures, enabling residents to benefit economically from biodiversity conservation while reducing pressure on fragile coastal habitats. Together, these pilots showcased how NbS could be applied at the municipal level to balance ecological protection with social and economic development.</p> <p>The project delivered clear NbS results across Namibia's coast. It supported the proclamation of Dorob National Park, adding over 1.6 million hectares of protected coastal ecosystems, while wetland and dune restoration improved resilience against flooding and erosion. Communities benefited through grants and training for conservancies, enabling eco-tourism and sustainable harvesting. At the governance level, biodiversity safeguards were mainstreamed into fisheries, mining, and tourism policies, reducing development pressures. The project also established a coastal biodiversity database and monitoring framework and ran awareness campaigns with schools, councils, and private sector actors, strengthening knowledge and stewardship of coastal biodiversity.</p> |
| <p>Climate risks addressed</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding from sea level rise: causing coastal erosion • Increased climate variability affecting fisheries and tourism • Drought and desertification pressures • Extreme weather events impacting coastal communities |
| <p>Biodiversity risks addressed</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of coastal and marine biodiversity due to unsustainable development • Habitat degradation in wetlands, estuaries, and dune systems • Decline in ecosystem services from overuse and pollution • Encroaching desertification and land degradation • Pressure on native vegetation and species from urban expansion and industrial activities |

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CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND PROTECTED AREAS (CAPA) INITIATIVE

The Climate Adaptation and Protected Areas (CAPA) Initiative seeks to promote nature-based solutions (NbS) to strengthen climate resilience and protect biodiversity in and around protected areas and critical ecosystems. The CAPA Initiative, funded by Global Affairs Canada, will work with local communities, traditionally underrepresented groups, women's groups, and national and local authorities in Belize, Fiji, the Greater Virunga Landscape, and the Kavango–Zambezi Landscape to implement site-specific activities that respond to the risks, vulnerabilities, needs, and priorities of local communities and ecosystems, as identified through comprehensive assessments of the climate, gender, biodiversity, and conflict contexts. The CAPA Initiative is led by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

To learn more, visit <https://www.iisd.org/capa>.

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