



Republic of Namibia



**SDAC**  
Sustainable Development  
Advisory Council

*Annual Report*  
2020 / 2021





**ANNUAL REPORT  
2020 / 2021**



# Table of Contents

<b>FOREWORD BY THE HON. MINISTER .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>OVERVIEW BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE COUNCIL.....	4
1.2 FUNCTIONS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.....	4
1.3 APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW COUNCIL.....	4
1.4 INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL .....	5
1.5 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS DURING FINANCIAL YEAR 2020 / 21 .....	9
<b>2. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES DURING 2020/21 .....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 PROMOTING CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN ORGANS OF STATE, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANISATIONS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FUNDING AGENCIES, ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT .....	10
2.1.1. Organization of the third Sustainable Development Awards .....	10
2.1.2. Contribution to the 6th National Development Plan formulation process.....	11
2.1.3. Collaboration with the Global Sustainable Development Goals Advisory Forum.....	11
2.2 ADVISING THE MINISTER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY AND STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT, PROTECTION AND USE OF THE ENVIRONMENT .....	12
2.2.1. Development of the Second Integrated State of the Environment Report (ISOER).....	12
2.3 ADVISING THE MINISTER ON THE NEED FOR, AND INITIATION OR AMENDMENT OF LEGISLATION, ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT - AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2007 (ACT NO. 7 OF 2007) .....	17
2.4 DEVELOPMENT OF SDAC COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY .....	18
2.5 DEVELOPMENT OF SDAC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY (2021-2026) .....	18
<b>3. OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>4. FUTURE PRIORITIES .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>5. FINANCIAL REPORT .....</b>	<b>21</b>

# Foreword by The Hon. Minister



It is my humble honour and pleasure to present the annual report of the Sustainable Development Advisory Council (SDAC) covering the financial year 2020/2021, which coincides with the Government's fiscal year. As stipulated in Section 15 of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007), this report presents the activities of the SDAC during the period under review.

It is worth noting that the first SDAC was officially inaugurated in January 2013, and served for a total of six years. The current Council comprises of completely new members that were appointed in December 2019 and subsequently gazetted in February 2020. There is a diverse range of experience and expertise among the new Council members providing a stable team capable of delivering on its mandate. Sustainability is an integral part of the SDAC mandate and it is imperative that the SDAC continues to move forward in the spirit of establishing a permanent legacy of sustainable environmental, health and safety management systems for Namibia.

As the new Council looks forward to further engage with other stakeholders and fulfil its mandate in terms of promoting cooperation and coordination and advising the Government on critical environmental matters for sustainable development, I extend a warm welcome to the new members and thank the previous members for their services. I am confident that the new Council will diligently carry out its business at the economic, social, stakeholder and environmental levels amidst the challenges posed by the ongoing global pandemic.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke followed by a vertical stroke and a diagonal stroke that loops back to the horizontal one.

**Pohamba Shifeta**

*Hon. Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, MP*

# Overview by the Chairperson of the Council



This report presents the activities of the Sustainable Development Advisory Council (SDAC) during the financial year 2020/2021, which marks the first year of operations of the new Council appointed on 12th December 2019.

With determination to embrace their new responsibilities, the new SDAC members faced a very challenging first year in office. The very first meeting of the Council, which was scheduled for the second week of March 2020, had to be cancelled in the wake of the initial Covid-19 cases reported within the borders of Namibia at that time. Evidently with the sudden lockdown and uncertainty, the first Council meeting could only be realised in the month of June 2020. The Council managed to find its footing despite the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Highlights during the year under review, which are further detailed in this report, included the:

- Development of Namibia's Second Integrated State of Environment Report;
- Preparation of Namibia's Third Sustainable Development Awards;
- Identification of priority issues for incorporation in Namibia's 6th National Development Plan;
- Amendments to the Environmental Management Act of 2007;
- Development of a Sustainable Development Advisory Council Communications Strategy; and
- Development of a Sustainable Development Advisory Council Resource Mobilization Strategy.

At its first meeting, the Council adopted the key areas of concern identified by the predecessors, to form the basis of the new Council's work plan for the remainder of the financial year. During the year under review, the SDAC made considerable progress in reviewing its advisory role in addressing the country's sustainable development challenges. It became evident that the Council should develop a strategic plan to ensure the organisation's long-term effectiveness and sustainability, and also to ensure continuity beyond the current Council's term of office. This annual report will give you an insight into the operations and activities undertaken towards the realisation of Council's work programmes this year.

As I end this year's overview, I share my conviction that the SDAC will continue executing its programmes to provide innovative solutions and advice to support the National Development Plans and other Government plans that address economic growth, poverty, inequality, job creation, education, clean environment and safer communities. This we can achieve only through a collective and coordinated approach by all relevant stakeholders in the interest of Namibia's sustainable development. Let us seize this moment and continue crafting a formidable legacy for future generations.

**Gloria Namwi Simubali**

*Chairperson of the Sustainable Development Advisory Council*

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background to the Council

The Sustainable Development Advisory Council (SDAC) is a body of eight members appointed by the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, as provided for under Section 6 of the Environmental Management Act (EMA) of 2007. Four of the members represent the interests of the Government, while the other four members represent the interests of organizations, associations or institutions which are concerned with environmental matters. The members are appointed to serve for an initial period of three years and must have enough knowledge or experience on environmental matters to be able to make contributions towards the functions of the Council.

The Environmental Commissioner is an *ex officio* member, but may not vote on Council's decisions. Staff members from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) are mandated to provide clerical and secretarial services to the Council.

The names of all members and the dates of their terms of office must be published in the Government Gazette. The first Council, having been inaugurated in January 2013, served for two consecutive three-year terms (total six years), and none of the members could be returned for another term. Consequently, an allnew member Council was appointed in 2019.

## 1.2 Functions of the Sustainable Development Advisory Council

As outlined in Section 7 of the Environmental Management Act of 2007, the functions of the Council include:

- (a) Promoting co-operation and co-ordination on environmental issues relating to sustainable development amongst organs of state, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, the private sector and funding agencies;
- (b) Advising the Minister:
  - (i) on the development of policy and strategy for the management, protection and use of the environment;
  - (ii) on how to conserve biological diversity, on the sustainable use of the environmental resources and on access to genetic resources in Namibia;
  - (iii) on the best ways to monitor compliance with the principles of environmental management set out in Section 3 of the Environmental Management Act;
  - (iv) on the need to change existing laws or make new laws on matters relating to the environment;
- (c) Performing other functions assigned to it by the Minister.

## 1.3 Appointment of the new Council

The current members of the Advisory Council were announced on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 by Hon. Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. Appointed in terms of Section 8 of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act 7 of 2007), the new members were gazetted in the Government Gazette 7133, dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and their term of office is three years, effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019. The composition of the new Council is as follows:

- ❖ Ms. Gloria Simubali – Chairperson, representing the State and currently serving as the Deputy Executive Director of the Geological Survey, Ministry of Mines and Energy
- ❖ Dr. Peter Tarr – Deputy Chairperson, representing the Namibia Chamber of Environment and currently serving as the Executive Director of the Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment
- ❖ Mr. Sylvester Mbangi – representing the State and currently serving as the Chief National Development Advice: Department of Macroeconomic Planning and Priority Setting, National Planning Commission
- ❖ Mr. Joseph Hailwa – representing the State and currently serving as the Director of Forestry, MEFT

- ❖ Mr. Petrus Nangolo – representing the state and currently serving as the Director of Land Reform, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
- ❖ Ms. Aina Maria Iteta - Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia
- ❖ Mr. Jonas Nghishidi - Project Manager NILALEG (representing the Environmental Economics Network)
- ❖ Ms. Hallo Angala – Representing the Namibia Young Women Association
- ❖ Mr. Timoteus Mufeti - Environmental Commissioner (ex-officio member)

The brief background of each member of the current Council is provided below.

## 1.4 Introduction of the new Members of the Council



Ms. Gloria Simubali's appointment as the Chairperson of the Council was announced by the Hon. Minister at the inauguration of the new Council on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Ms. Simubali is the Deputy Executive Director at the helm of the Geological Survey of Namibia, a department within the Ministry of Mines and Energy and has been in the employment of the Geological Survey at different levels since 2003. Her experience in geosciences spans over 19 years, working primarily in the public sector. She is registered as professional senior geoscientist with the Geoscience Council of Namibia and her expertise and experience covers geochemistry, economic and exploration geology. Ms Simubali is an alumna of the University of Namibia (UNAM) and the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) South Africa. She serves in various capacities on a number of local and international scientific and non-scientific organizations and committees where she either represents the Ministry, Government, Country or the African Continent.



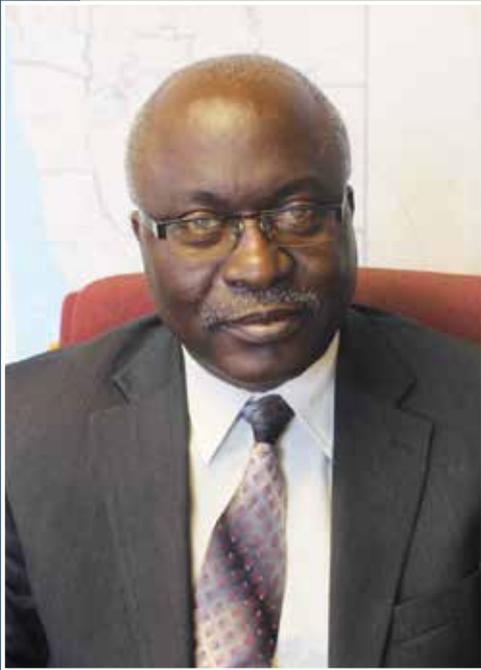
Appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Council at its first meeting, Dr. Peter Tarr is the founder and the Executive Director of the Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA), a consulting NGO operating throughout Africa. After an initial career in conservation (10 years) he became involved in impact assessment (20 years so far). As head of SAIEA, he is currently involved in leading capacity building and networking initiatives, promoting improved quality assurance in impact assessment, producing best practice environmental assessment tools and guidelines, and undertaking large and complex Strategic Environmental Assessments. He has worked mostly in Africa but also in South America and Asia. He has considerable experience with both public and private sectors, lending agencies, donors, SMEs, NGOs and community-based organisations. Dr. Tarr has a PhD in Environmental Management and Planning from Aberdeen University, Scotland.



Mr. Mufeti was appointed as the Environmental Commissioner in 2020 and holds a Master Degree in Science and Business Administration. With over 25 years of experience in the fields of environmental and natural resources management and conservation, he is an Environment / Natural Resources Scientist with educational knowledge, skills and professional experience in environmental systems and natural resources planning and management; Sustainable Development; Environmental Assessments (EAs) and Projects Management. He also possesses expertise and professional experience in fields of land use planning and management; coastal zones management; Environmental Management Systems (EMS); Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing.



Mr. Sylvester Mbangi is the Chief: National Development Advice in the Department of Macroeconomic Planning at the National Planning Commission. He holds a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Namibia and Masters in Financial Economics from the University of London School of Economics. He has worked in various capacities in three different directorates of Development Planning, Sectoral Planning and the Central Bureau of Statistics. He has been involved in the formulation and implementation of the National Development Plans (NDPs) from NDP1 to NDP5. He was the principal author and coordinator for NDP5. His areas of specialization include macroeconomic analysis and modelling, poverty reduction, inequality and entire socio-economic development include the impact of climate change on the economy. He also represents Namibia on developmental issues at the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), African Union (AU) and United Nations (UN) in particular about Finance, Regional Integrated Strategic Plans and Macroeconomic convergence, Agenda 2063 and 2030.



Mr. Joseph Hailwa has served as the Director of Forestry since 2004. Mr Hailwa possesses a BSC (Hon) in Forestry from the University of Wales and also possesses a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Maastricht. With extensive experience on all aspects of forestry management, Mr. Hailwa served as an Agricultural Technician and Assistant Lecturer at Ogongo College between 1984 to 1987. At Namibia's independence, Mr. Hailwa was appointed as the Head of Forestry activities in the Northern Region at the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development. He participated in awareness creation and law enforcement of the forestry activities and a proper forestry administration was introduced and thoroughly developed under his leadership in that region.



Mr. Petrus Nangolo has served as the Director of Land Reform and Resettlement in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform since 2015. Mr. Nangolo possesses Masters Degrees in both Disaster Management and Geo-Information Management and a National Diploma in Agricultural Science. Mr. Nangolo has a wide range of expertise and experience in the areas of agriculture; land administration, reform and resettlement; land use planning; and consultation and engagement with local communities, Regional Councils and Traditional Authorities.



Ms. Aina Maria Iteta has served as the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist for the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia since 2014. She has extensive expertise and experience in the areas of monitoring and evaluation policy frameworks, institutional planning, project development, ensuring compliance of projects with environmental and social safeguards, corporate governance and institutional performance review, agricultural management, international business, research as well as gender mainstreaming. Ms. Iteta possesses a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics and Masters in International Business.



Mr. Jonas Nghishidi has 15 years of environmental compliance experience including developing and implementing environmental management systems, project management, policy development, community-based natural resource management and environmental economics. He is currently the head of the Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to eradicate poverty (NILALEG) Project, a partnership between the MEFT, University of Namibia and the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia. Mr Nghishidi co-authored the Sustainable Financing Strategies for Namibia's National Parks, Biodiversity Resource Mobilisation Strategy for Namibia, Access and Benefit Sharing Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Namibia's Sixth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014-2018) and Namibia's Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2022. Mr. Nghishidi has a Masters of Development Studies from the University of the Free State.



Ms. Hallo Angala is a creative and driven youth leader and is an alumna of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). Ms. Angala holds a Master's degree in Biotechnology from the Rhodes University in South Africa and has expertise in areas such as bioenergy, environmental health biotechnology, agricultural biotechnology and water management amongst others. Ms. Angala is a strong advocate for sustainable development and is the author of three children's books as part of a series called *Vivi and Oye* on climate change mitigation to create awareness on environmental challenges facing our planet today. She serves as the president of the National Young Women Association of Namibia and is currently enrolled as an MBA candidate at the University of Namibia majoring in Natural Resource Management.

## 1.5 Administrative Matters during Financial Year 2020 / 21

Two staff members from MEFT, who served as Secretariat for the previous Council, were assigned to continue providing clerical and secretarial services to the current Council. To strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat, a project support officer at the MEFT was seconded to assist with Council-related tasks and support with the organization of the Sustainable Development Awards.

The first scheduled meeting of the Council, which was set for March 2020, had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 lockdown and consequently, the first meeting only took place on 29th June 2020. At this meeting, the Council deliberated on the handover report from the previous Council, guiding principles of the Council and the Standard Operational Procedures Manual. Subsequently, an ad-hoc meeting of the Council took place on 22nd July 2020, mainly to draft the work plan for the Council for the remainder of the 2020/21 financial year.

The need for improved awareness of the existence and relevance of the Council, coupled with the need for adequate financial support for the Council's activities and operations, led to the establishment of two sub-committees, namely:

- ❖ Communication, Awareness and Media Liaison
- ❖ Resource Mobilization

The Council further held its 2nd and 3rd regular meetings on 23rd September 2020 and 17th March 2021 respectively. At these meetings, the Council focused mainly on the development of Namibia's Second Integrated State of Environment Report; preparation of Namibia's Third Sustainable Development Awards; and the amendments to the Environmental Management Act of 2007 among other operational matters. There were also considerable discussions to clarify the mandate of the Council and modalities for providing effective advisory services. It was then resolved to develop a strategic plan to guide the operations of the SDAC for the duration of their term of office and beyond to ensure continuation of the projects beyond the current Council's term.

The Secretariat ensured the timely payment of sitting allowance fees (N\$4,086.29 per sitting) to the members of the Advisory Council who are not in the full-time employment of the State as per Section 13 of the Environmental Management Act of 2007. Meanwhile, a proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Finance to consider Section 18(2) of the Public Enterprise Governance Act, 2019 (Act. No. 1 of 2019), which states that despite the provisions of any law to the contrary, full remuneration is payable to a member of a board who is in the full-time service of the State. If this proposal is approved, all Council members will be eligible to receive sitting allowances.

## 2. Report on Activities during 2020/21

The key activities of the Advisory Council during 2020/21 are summarized in this section. The 2020/21 work plan for the Council was established in line with the functions of the Council. This included:

### 2.1 Promoting co-operation and co-ordination between organs of state, non governmental organisations, community-based organisations, the private sector and funding agencies, on environmental issues relating to sustainable development

#### 2.1.1. Organization of the third Sustainable Development Awards



The Sustainable Development Awards, founded as a joint initiative of the Council and Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) in 2015, aims to identify and reward institutions including individuals who have demonstrated leadership, innovation and excellence in environmental sustainability.

During the period under review, a joint preparatory committee was established to commence with the preparations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the awards. Both the EIF and SDAC were represented on the joint preparatory committee and the following main activities were undertaken:

- ❖ Finalization of the concept note for the Awards, including the categories;
- ❖ Resource mobilization and partnership with sponsors and determining the worth/possible prizes for each category;
- ❖ Arrangement of the applications process, including the development of the application form, awareness-raising of the Awards and evaluation of the applications;
- ❖ Planning of the host event for the Awards.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the awards is being held under the theme "Accelerating the green economy transformation as we recover from COVID-19." This is meant to draw attention to the challenges faced by the environmental sector due to COVID-19 and therefore will recognise all those that continue to be committed to the transformation of Namibia into a green economy and continuously ensuring sustainable development.

There are 9 categories that have been proposed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> awards, namely:

- ❖ Private Sector Champions for Sustainable Development with 3 sub-categories for start-ups, Small and Medium Enterprises as well as established companies
- ❖ Community-level natural resource management and utilization initiatives
- ❖ Research and Development in the field of sustainable development
- ❖ Youth Action for Sustainable Development
- ❖ Pioneering journalism in the field of sustainable development (print, tv and radio)
- ❖ Women and Environment
- ❖ Sustainable Schools
- ❖ Green Financial Services
- ❖ Thought Leadership

The main stakeholders who made commitments to sponsor the Awards are FNB Namibia, BDO Namibia, Agricultural Bank of Namibia and Namibia Wildlife Resorts.

The official launch of the 3rd Sustainable Development Awards was done through a press conference held on the 18th of March 2021 in Windhoek. At the launch, an overview of the awards was given as well as a highlight of the theme of the awards, emphasizing that *“the third edition of the awards will recognize institutions and individuals in all spheres that have integrated environmental, social, economic, and management aspects of sustainable development into their businesses and operations”*.

Submission of applications or nomination entries for the Awards would close on Friday, 16th April 2021 and the crowning ceremony of winners is scheduled for the 21st May 2021 at the Safari Hotel in Windhoek.

### **2.1.2 Contribution to the 6th National Development Plan formulation process**

During the ad-hoc meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020, the Council discussed the issues identified as critical environmental issues and challenges for sustainable development by the previous Council and these included:

- i. Continued uncontrolled expansion of informal settlement areas and lack of integrated planning in urban areas.
- ii. Obstacles to investment in communal areas.
- iii. Insufficient enabling environment for the development of the renewable energy sector.
- iv. Inadequate long-term planning for water security and the development of alternative sources of supply such as desalination.
- v. Weak enforcement of existing legislation on the ground in the environment, fisheries, mining and forestry sectors.
- vi. Export of raw and unprocessed natural resources such as teak, dimension stone and semiprecious stones without sufficient beneficiation for Namibians.
- vii. Need for re-investment of environment levies into environmental protection measures.
- viii. Resource mobilization for investment in improved waste management.
- ix. Concerns regarding the filtering down of benefits to members of conservancies and Community Based Natural Resource Management Programme.

The Council noted that these issues remain relevant and would require a coordinate approach by the relevant stakeholders to address them. It was decided to prioritize some of the challenges identified by the previous Council and then host working sessions and round table discussions on these challenges. In recognition of the various sectors and stakeholders required to address these national challenges, it was agreed to identify the issues that would feed into the development of 6<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan (NDP6) as part of the Council’s contribution to the NDP6 formulation process. The prioritized issues identified include:

- i. Informal settlements
- ii. Re-investment of environmental levies
- iii. Water security
- iv. Waste management
- v. Conservation, sustainable utilization and value addition to natural resources

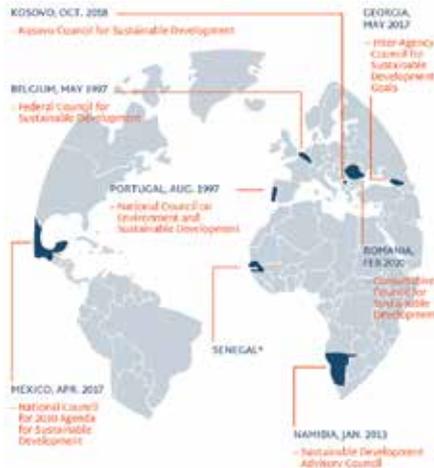
### **2.1.3 Collaboration with the Global Sustainable Development Goals Advisory Forum**

Through the previous Council, Namibia was involved in the establishment of the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Advisory Forum, which was launched at the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in 2019. It aims to promote the national implementation of the SDGs around the world and facilitate topical partnerships to exchange information and to improve national and local solution approaches and make them more effective. The Forum has a membership of approximately 40 national councils and had its first meeting in February 2020 where different working groups on the following thematic issues were established:

1. Financial Inclusion of Rural Women for Sustainable Development
2. Advocacy for Sustainable Development in Latin America
3. Transparency of Stakeholder Engagement in Francophone West-Africa

4. City Movers towards Voluntary Local Reviews – Digital Tracking-Platforms for Municipalities
5. Multi-Stakeholder Platform Processes and Regional Cooperation for National SDG-Delivery in Sub-Saharan Africa
6. Governance for Successful SDG-Advisory Bodies

A virtual meeting was held on 14th August 2020 between the representatives of the Sustainable Development Advisory Council of Namibia and representatives of the German Sustainable Development Advisory Council. The discussion covered the possibility of the Namibian Advisory Council to join the Steering Committee of the Global Forum of SDG Advisory Bodies; and to participate in one or more of the thematic areas of work that are being coordinated through different working groups.



The Council opted not to join the Steering Committee of the Global Forum of SDG Advisory Bodies at this stage, but participated in the working group on “Governance for Successful SDG Advisory Bodies”.

The Secretariat shared lessons from Namibia for an international research publication that seeks to identify the pathways and working modes for multi-stakeholder advisory bodies. This study is based on empirical insights from eight established multi-stakeholder advisory bodies around the world and is available at the following link:

[https://www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de/wpcontent/uploads/2021/05/Study\\_Pathways\\_for\\_MSPadvisory\\_bodies\\_2021.pdf](https://www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de/wpcontent/uploads/2021/05/Study_Pathways_for_MSPadvisory_bodies_2021.pdf)

## 2.2 Advising the Minister on the development of policy and strategy for the management, protection and use of the environment

### 2.2.1 Development of the Second Integrated State of the Environment Report (ISOER)

The Council, in collaboration with the MEFT, National Planning Commission and the Namibia Statistics Agency, with financial support from the Biodiversity Management and Climate Change II MEFT-GIZ Project, commenced the process to develop Namibia’s Second Integrated State of the Environment Report (ISOER). This is done in line with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the MEFT and Namibia Statistics Agency in 2017, which states that regular ISOERs will be developed in collaboration with the SDAC.

The main aim of the ISOER is to communicate credible, timely and accessible information about the condition of the environment to inform decision-makers and the general public. Decisionmakers require accurate and reliable information on different parameters of the environment. The ISOER is expected to provide quality and timely information, to allow for informed decisions relating to natural resource management and to set appropriate and targeted environmental policies. The ISOER is also expected to inform whether policy initiatives or environmental management approaches have been effective over time. Representatives from the SDAC were part of the steering committee established to oversee the development of the ISOER, which comprised of officials from the Council, MEFT, Namibia Statistics Agency and the National Planning Commission.

A joint venture of SRK Consulting of South Africa and Urban Dynamics of Namibia was appointed and contracted on 11th June 2020 to provide the consultancy services required for the development of the ISOER. The inception workshop was held virtually on 28th July 2020 to provide a roadmap towards the completion of ISOER. It was agreed that the work would be undertaken in three phases as follows:

- Phase 1 - Project inception, preparation and scoping phase
- Phase 2 - Data collection and consultation phase
- Phase 3- Final production and endorsement phase

As part of phase 1, the inception report was completed on 11th September 2020 and involved a benchmarking exercise, proposed structure and identified indicators for the report. It was agreed that the ISOER would follow the structure outlined in the United Nations Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics (FDES), which is portrayed in figure 1 below:

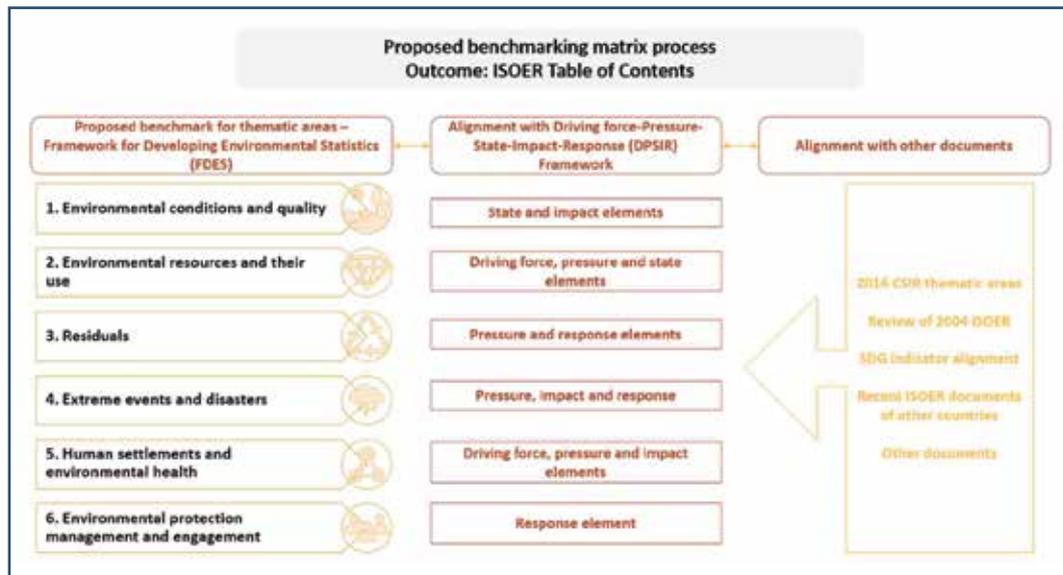


Figure 1: Agreed indicator structure for the ISOER

The data collection phase and development of the draft ISOER was undertaken from September to November 2020 and the draft ISOER was presented at a national consultative workshop held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The Environmental Commissioner officially opened this workshop, which was also attended by representatives of the Council. A final draft of the report was thereafter submitted by the consultancy team in December 2020 and then presented to both the Council and the Operational Management of the MEFT for their final inputs and endorsement. The final draft ISOER was presented to the Council during its third regular meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and was subsequently presented to the Operational Management of the MEFT on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Specific comments emanating from these meetings were transmitted to the consultancy team for incorporation and finalization of the report, which is expected by July 2021.

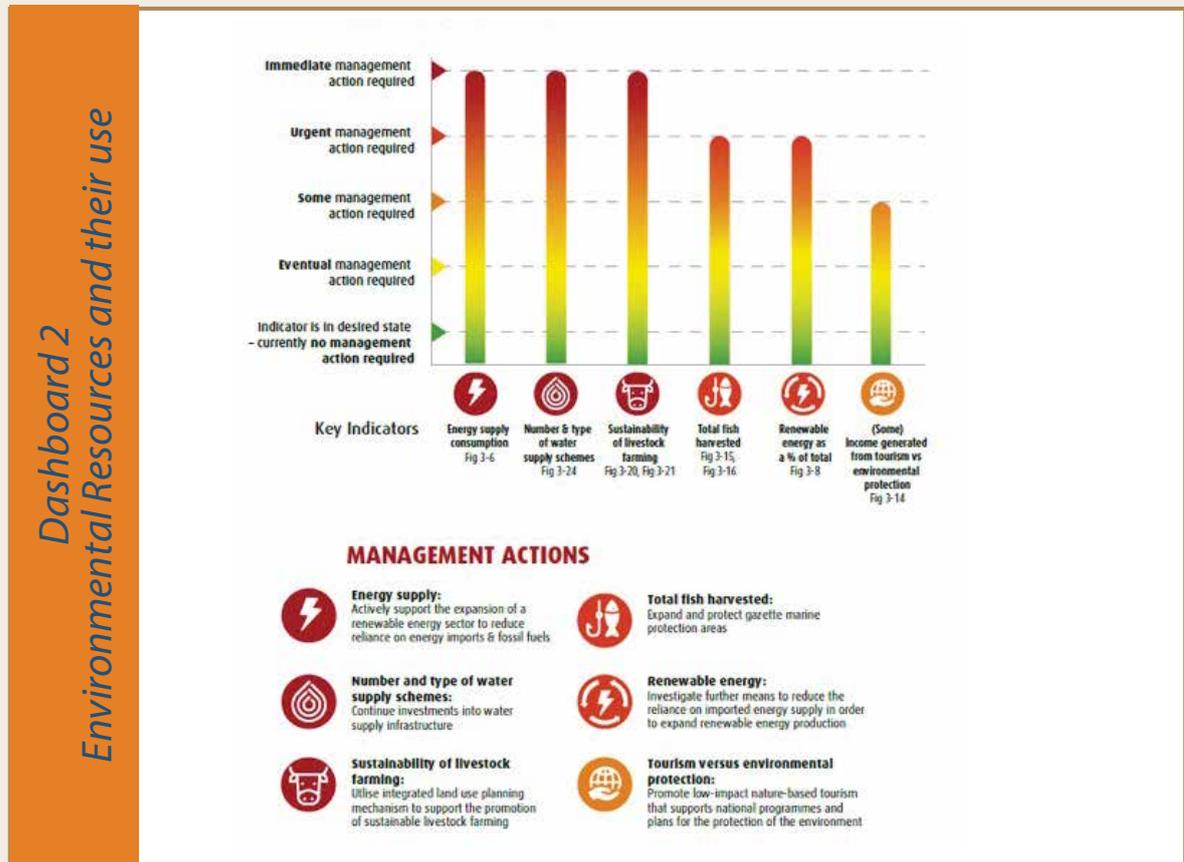
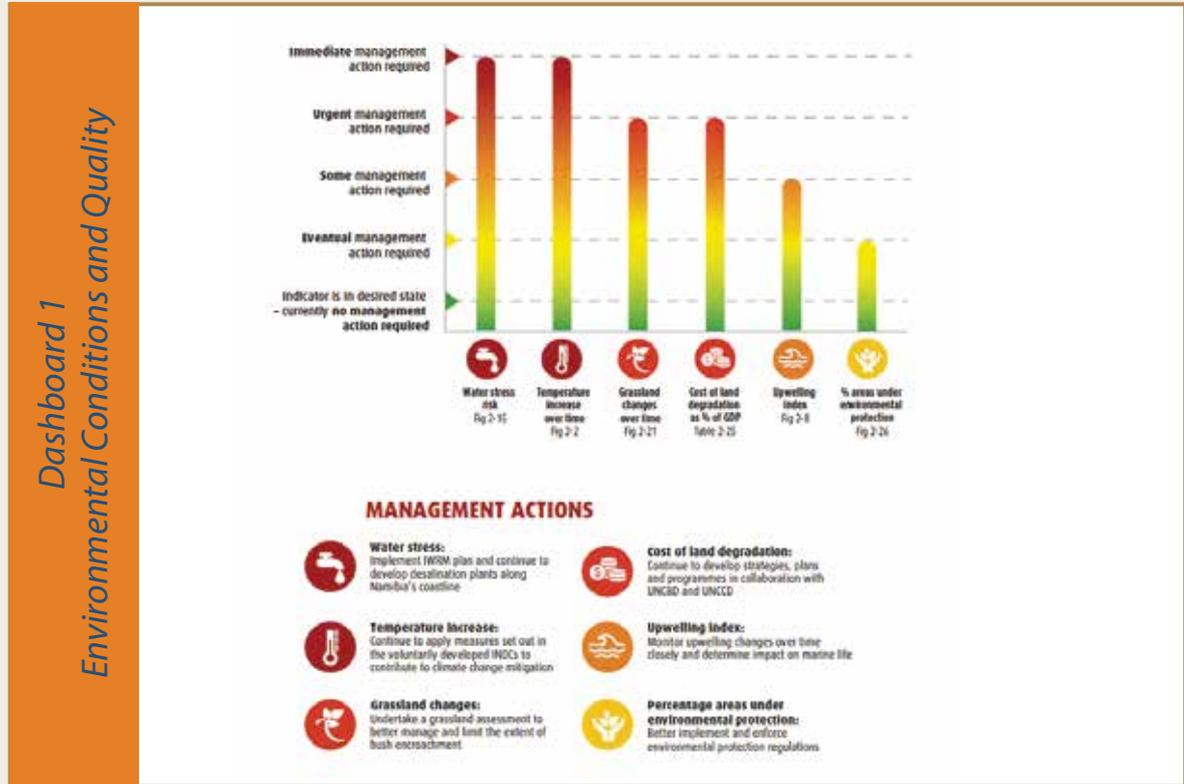
### Second State of Environment Report at a Glance

171 indicators, 287 references and 4 local perspective stories on land degradation in Oshana Region, nature-based tourism in Etosha-Kunene, Illegal Fishing in Kavango East, Water Supply in Windhoek.

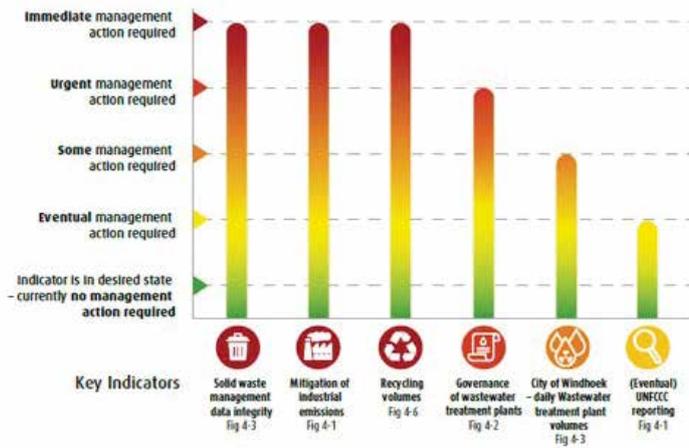


The report presents a dashboard for each of the components of environmental management statistics, for which the most relevant indicators were aggregated into an action dashboard. This approach provides a structured way forward and is intended to support policy-makers and decision-makers with the setting of priorities. It also indicates in which sub-components and underlying indicators intervention is most urgently needed.

The dashboards for each of the six components are displayed below:



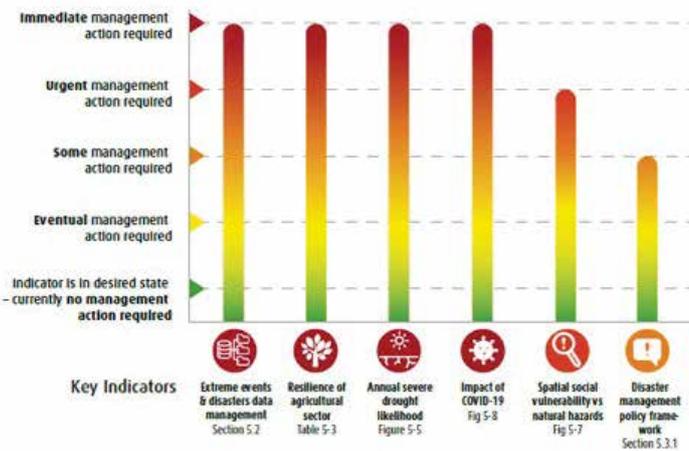
Dashboard 3  
Waste products and their management



MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Solid waste data:** Develop an integrated solid waste management database
- Mitigation of industrial emissions:** Develop and implement strategies to reduce industrial air emissions and land degradation
- Recycling volumes:** Establish a widespread culture of waste minimization and expand recycling systems
- Governance of wastewater treatment:** Registration, monitoring and management of WWTPs should be prioritised
- City of Windhoek wastewater treatment:** Improve the implementation of the MAWLR's permitting system for WWTPs to improve compliance
- UNFCCC reporting:** Continue reporting and follow up with actionable implementation plans related to reported data

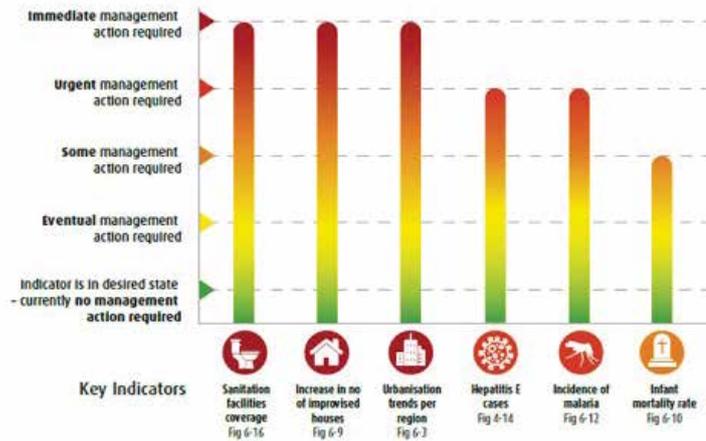
Dashboard 4  
Extreme events and disasters



MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Extreme events and disasters data:** Maintain & monitor disaster management infrastructure country-wide, including a database of extreme events and disasters.
- Resilience of agricultural sector:** Identify and implement climate-resilient crop farming practices and promote sustainable land management methods
- Annual severe drought likelihood:** Regularly update & continue to implement drought response plan to proactively address reoccurring severe drought
- Impact of COVID-19 management actions:** Strengthen WASH infrastructure and services to address weaknesses identified during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Spatial vulnerability vs natural hazards management action:** Continuously adapt National Disaster Risk Management Policy to increase the country's carrying capacity for potential natural disasters
- Disaster management policy framework management action:** Develop a priority-based response framework including high-level and multi-pronged policies to aid in improving early response approaches

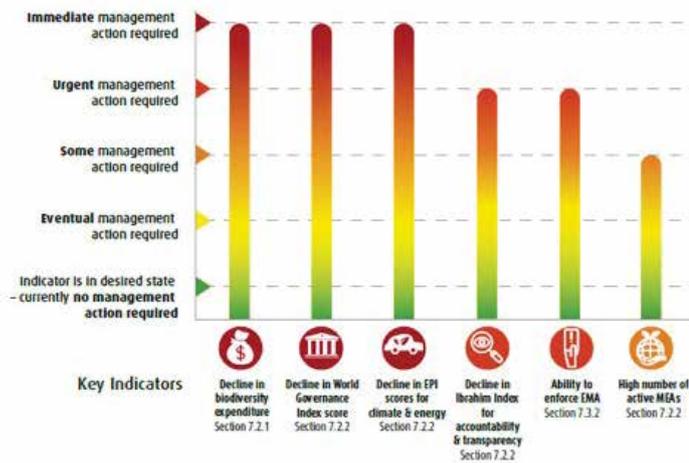
Dashboard 5  
Human settlements and environmental health



MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Sanitation facilities coverage:** Active implementation of national strategies to expand sanitation infrastructure to reach goal of improved sanitation for all by 2030.
- Increase in improvised houses:** Develop and implement programme to lower cost of land, subsidize essential services, lower building standards and allow incremental building of houses.
- Urbanisation trends per region:** Prepare a work programme to develop a national urbanisation strategy for Namibia.
- Hepatitis E cases:** Improve sanitation infrastructure to reduce the risk of Hepatitis E outbreaks.
- Incidence of malaria:** Improve on advances and investments into malaria management through collaboration with international investment partners.
- Infant mortality rate:** Continuously invest in the country's health system to improve maternal and infant health care.

Dashboard 6  
Environmental protection, management and engagement



MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Decline in Biodiversity Expenditure:** Proactively identify and source funding for the protection of biodiversity and conservation.
- Decline in World Governance Index score:** Continue strengthening and maintaining governance structures and processes.
- Decline in EPI scores for climate and energy:** Develop and implement strategies to reduce air emissions and reduce reliance on fossil-fuel based energy imports.
- Decline in Ibrahim Index for accountability and transparency:** Strengthen Namibia's implementation of good governance practices that relate to transparency and accountability.
- Ability to enforce EMA:** Strengthen regulator's capacity to enforce EMA and related regulations.
- High number of active MEAs:** Strengthen the implementation of active MEAs to ensure that cross border environmental protection priorities are addressed.

The second ISOER concludes with recommendations for effecting change and highlights urgent short-term management actions for the next 5 years, important medium-term management actions for the next 5-10 years and long-term management actions for more than 10 years that are intended to lead Namibia towards improved environmental management based on the findings of the second ISOER.

## **2.3 Advising the Minister on the need for, and initiation or amendment of legislation, on matters relating to the environment - Amendment to the Environmental Management Act of 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007)**

During the second meeting of the Council held on 23rd September 2020, the Environmental Commissioner presented the proposed additions, substitutions and insertions (amendments) to the Environmental Management Act. The key issues being addressed through the proposed amendments to the Act include:

- Lack of reference to Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) in the Act. SEAs are normally taken on the levels of policies, plans and programmes and there is currently no provision in the Act for SEAs. Part IV of the current Act is now to be repealed with a new Part on SEAs.
- Limited guidance on procedures and processes for the issuing of fines to companies and institutions that are not in compliance with the provisions of the Act.
- Need to expand and categorize the listed activities under the Act: the expansion and reclassification of the activities into Activities A (requiring full Environmental Impact Assessment) and Activities B (smaller-scale activities for which Scoping Report and Environmental Management Plan may be sufficient), is considered necessary to improve the efficiency of implementation.
- Regulation of Environmental Assessment Practitioners: concerns have been raised that Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) are currently not regulated and that there is a lack of quality control in the sector. There is no mention of EAPs in the current Act.
- Roles and responsibilities of the Competent Authority: Section 32 (1) of the Act requires proponents to submit applications for environmental clearance through the Competent Authority. This provision has caused delays in the process and has led to the need for closer collaboration between the Directorate of Environmental Affairs and these Authorities.
- Insufficient focus on compliance with Environmental Management Plans and monitoring and enforcement of the Act.
- Insufficient provisions to ensure the rehabilitation and restoration of sites. A robust mechanism is included in the amended Act to ensure that funds for rehabilitation are safeguarded by companies. This will take the form of an insurance scheme or bond, which would only be accessible for rehabilitation purposes.

The Council deliberated on the proposed additions, substitutions and insertions to the Act and the outcome of the discussion was communicated to the Hon. Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism as the official view of the Council on the proposed amendments in a letter dated 24th March 2021. A summary of the Council's comments on the proposed amendments is provided below:

- i. The Council observed that the amendments to the Act changed considerably from the original consultations that were undertaken and proposed that it may be necessary to undertake further consultations and provide feedback on the proposed amendments to stakeholders. As result, the Council expressed concern about supporting the proposed amendments as they were presented.
- ii. Regarding the role of the Minister in prescribing requirements for accrediting laboratories as per the proposed insertion of section 19B, the Council suggested that the Minister should not prescribe the requirements for accrediting laboratories but rather make sure that accredited facilities are used when samples are analysed.
- iii. With regard to the proposed insertion of Section 22A on the admission of guilt and payment of fines without an appearance in court, the Council advised to be cautious with this provision and suggested that the

insertion of a safeguard is needed to prevent culprits from paying the fine repeatedly merely to avoid appearing in court.

- iv. The Council discussed at length the proposed insertion of Section 43A on the registration of Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs). The Council is of the view that the Environmental Commissioner cannot be the one to register EAPs and that this needs to be done through a Statutory Body. The Council therefore proposed that provision for the establishment of a Statutory Body should be made in the Act. However, in the absence of a Statutory Body, the current amendment Bill may only call for the formal registration of EAPs without making provision for the Environmental Commissioner to be the one to register the EAPs and then provide the details for a formal registration process in the regulations.
- v. The Council cautioned against the potential use of the concept of biodiversity offsets as a means for companies to secure ownership of land in terms of the proposed insertion of Section 48B. The deletion is therefore recommended of Section 48B (3) (b) which states that “the offset measures contemplated in subsection (2) (c) are (b) often provided by securing land at another site and managing such land over a period of time to replace those significant environmental matters which were lost”.
- vi. In terms of the proposed insertion of Section 48D on environmental standards, there are some concerns about the Minister prescribing standards for variables such as water, air and soil which other line Ministries are responsible for regulating. The Council recommended that the preparation of environmental standards is carried out in close collaboration with the Namibia Standards Institute and the other OMAs as appropriate
- vii. The Council discussed in detail the Sections of the Act relating to the composition of the Council. There are no specific recommended amendments to these Sections of the existing Act. The Council considered an amendment to ensure the youth are represented in the Council however it was concluded that this matter could be dealt with in the regulations if considered necessary or through the discretion of the Minister.

## 2.4 Development of SDAC Communications Strategy

The Council identified the low levels of awareness of its existence as a challenge to its operations and effectiveness. For this reason, it established a sub-committee on Communication, Awareness and Media Liaison. One of the main tasks of this sub-committee was to develop a SDAC Communications Strategy, which was duly done during the period under review.

The main objectives of the Communications Strategy are to:

- Build awareness of the SDAC among a wide but defined group of audiences and user groups.
- Develop communication channels with a defined group of stakeholders
- Develop feedback mechanisms for a varied group of stakeholders
- Provide vital information about environmental issues to a defined group of audiences
- Influence specific policies or policymakers around key aspects of the environment

The Communications Strategy provides further guidance on the communication principles and guidelines to be followed, the target audience of the Council, communication methods and focus as well as actions with timelines and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

## 2.5 Development of SDAC Resource Mobilization Strategy (2021-2026)

The Council identified the limited budgetary allocation as a key challenge and the need to mobilize additional resources to ensure the increased sustainability of its operations. For this reason, it established a sub-committee on Resource Mobilization. One of the key functions of the subcommittee was to develop a Resource Mobilization Strategy, which was duly undertaken.

The Resource Mobilization Strategy seeks to broaden the resource base of the Council by exploring alternative sources of funding to reduce dependence on resources from the government allocation and to strengthen the effectiveness of the Council secretariat. Its overall objective is to ensure that there is a clear, systematic, predictable and well-coordinated approach to soliciting, and utilization, reporting, monitoring, and evaluating resources both from government and other development partners.

The Resource Mobilization Strategy contains goals that will be monitored and reported on during the period 2021/22 – 2025/2026 as follows:

- a) **Goal 1:** More effective and efficient resource mobilization that provides requisite funding.
- b) **Goal 2:** Strengthened government and potential donor partnerships.
- c) **Goal 3:** A diversified financial base that increasingly contributes to resource needs.
- d) **Goal 4:** An enabling environment is established that supports financial relationship management.

Each goal has a set of related indicators to measure progress towards reaching the corresponding targets. This will form the quantitative data against which progress will be reported to the Advisory Council over the duration of the Resource Mobilization Strategy 2021/22 - 2025/26.

## 3. Operational Challenges

As part of the handover report presented to the first meeting of the Council on 29th June 2020, the challenges experienced by the previous Council were identified and discussed. The main challenges identified were:

**Lack or limited awareness about SDAC** – The SDAC is not widely known and much less its mandate on sustainable development promotion. As a result, demands put on the Council for advisory services is limited to a select few, with the Council primarily viewed by sectoral agencies as an advisor to the MEFT Minister.

**Inadequate internal processes** – Owing to the size of the secretariat as well as the availability of the seconded staff members for Council-related work, the internal processes that will generate advisory opinion that is evidence-based and factual are inadequately developed. The Council needs to develop and integrate streamlined processes for generating discussion and position papers, for conducting investigations as well as for other Council interventions.

**Inadequate resources for mobilizing technical expertise** – The Council will need to adequately access technical skills to perform its advisory function successfully. The general inadequacy of funding from the state, as well as its limited resource mobilization capacity, if it persists, will have negative implications for the Council's core mandate.

**Inadequate secretariat capacity** – Linked to inadequate funding, the current situation with regard to limited availability of seconded staff for administrative work of the Council significantly inhibits its work.

**Restrictive and unclear mandate for SDAC** – Although the Council by name is expected to render advisory services related to sustainable development to all organs of state, current hosting arrangements and mandate restricts it to the arena of environmental issues. As sustainable development encompasses more than this, there is opportunity to explore formal ways of expanding the mandate for the Council to truly live up to its broad mandate to be an advocate and gatekeeper for the imperative of sustainable development in Namibia.

**Weak partnership arrangements and stakeholder relations** – The Council has limited partnership arrangements in place, while key stakeholder engagements are not actively pursued towards joint initiatives and action, e.g. on thematic issues identified by sectoral agencies. Going forward these need to be prioritized as partnerships can unlock additional resources for the work of Council and introduce multiplier effects for some of its activities.

**Advocacy of SDAC strengthened** – The Council has not generally activated its advocacy function targeting the general public and key stakeholders on sustainable development. As such it will need to strengthen its capacity to become a competent advocate for sustainable development and bring its voice to varied stakeholders throughout Namibia.

**Inadequate Funding for SDAC agenda** – The Council activities are mainly funded by the MEFT budgetary allocation appropriated through the Ministry of Finance. The current budget allocation of approximately N\$80,000 per year from the MEFT barely covers the operational expenses of the Council and makes it almost impossible for the Council to achieve its broad mandate. The resources mobilized from international partners have also been limited and largely confined to predetermined project specific interventions. With this budgetary provision, the Council cannot undertake significant work that could further Namibia’s sustainable development agenda such as Strategic Environmental Assessments and consultations on the identified critical environmental issues.

**No or limited shared vision amongst key stakeholders** – The varied perceptions that exist around the SDAC and its mandate amongst key stakeholders, as well as conflict that arise from competing interests (social and economic), viz a viz environment, show that there is either no or limited shared vision on sustainable development. The Council will have to endeavour, through awareness raising and collaborative engagements, to address this shortcoming as it can negatively affect its work on sustainable development.

## 4. Future Priorities

Building on the established operational and administrative procedures together with the identified critical issues, the Council will develop a strategic framework to provide effective and delivery-focused advisory services to the appointing authority. The focal areas for the remaining term of office for the Council are:

- ❖ Formulation of a five-year Strategic Plan to guide the strategic operations of the Council
- ❖ Hosting of the third and fourth Sustainable Development Awards
- ❖ Finalization and launch of Namibia's Second Integrated State of Environment Report
- ❖ Promulgation of the amendments to the Environmental Management Act of 2007
- ❖ Hosting information sessions and public discussions on topical issues relating to sustainable development
- ❖ Formulation of position papers to feed into NDP6 on the following issues:
  - a. Informal settlements
  - b. Re-investment of environmental levies
  - c. Water security
  - d. Waste management
  - e. Conservation, sustainable utilization and value addition to natural resources
- ❖ Implementation of the Council's Communication Strategy
- ❖ Implementation of the Council's Resource Mobilization Strategy
- ❖ Support to the MEFT in implementing the Cabinet Directive regarding the feasibility of phasing out plastic bags.

## 5. Financial Report

The table below presents an overview of expenditures relating to the activities of the Advisory Council during 2020/21 financial year<sup>1</sup>.

Expenditure Item	Expenditure (N\$)	Source of Funding
1. ISOER Consultancy and related expenses	1,751,000.00	GIZ
2. Preparation of the third edition of the Sustainable Development Awards	369,380.40	EIF and other sponsors of the Sustainable Development Awards
3. Catering for SDAC standard and adhoc meetings	4,800.00	GIZ
4. Awareness Materials and Printing and Website Maintenance	1,200.00	GIZ
5. Sitting allowance and travel-related expenses for non-state representatives	65,380.64	MEFT
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,191,761.04</b>	

<sup>1</sup> In cases where funding is provided by partner organizations, this funding is managed by the partner organization.







**For further information on the Sustainable Development Advisory Council**

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