FACTSHEET

STRENGTHENING ADAPTATION PLANNING AND COORDINATION IN NAMIBIA

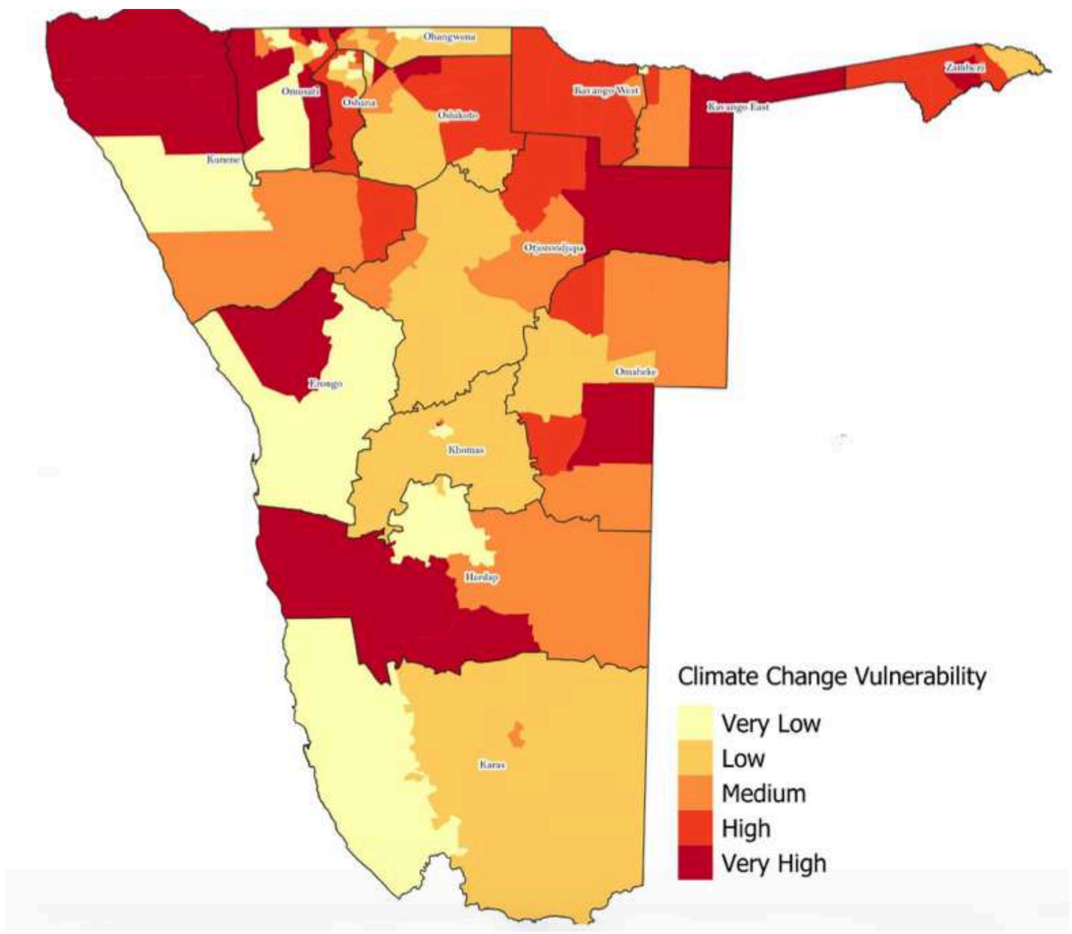


Fig. 1: Climate Change Vulnerability in Namibian Constituencies, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, 2019

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Oversight Body
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT)

Funding Source
Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Implementing Partner
Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF)

Duration
36 months

BACKGROUND

Namibia is highly vulnerable to climate change, with increasing exposure to droughts, floods, and rising temperatures. Over the past four decades, warming trends have intensified, with more frequent extreme heat and major drought events, including 2013, 2015, and 2019, the driest year in 90 years. Growing aridity continues to strain already scarce and unevenly distributed water resources.

Climate risks affect key sectors including agriculture, water, health, biodiversity, and infrastructure. With approximately 67% of the population living in rural areas and relying on rain-fed agriculture, livelihoods are highly sensitive to climate variability, with disproportionate impacts on women.

Despite commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement and the development of climate-responsive national policies, adaptation efforts remain fragmented. Limited technical capacity, data gaps, low private sector engagement and weak integration of climate risks into planning continue to constrain effective action.

Namibia's Nationally Determined Contributions identify the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) as a priority to provide a coordinated, evidence-based framework for adaptation, strengthen stakeholder coordination, and mobilise finance for resilience.

Fig 2: Sossusvlei, Hardap, Namibia © Arne Smith

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this project is to build the necessary knowledge base to for informed decision making, planning and prioritisation, as well as capacity building at local and national levels, provide a strategic direction for adaptation and enhancing cooperation, and leveraging additional funding by creating an enabling environment for private sector involvement in adaptation.

KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES

This project will support the NAP process through a set of integrated activities to strengthen adaptation planning, evidence, and financing.

A. Generating the Evidence Basis

1. Climate Projections & Modelling

The NAP will generate high-resolution (10 km × 10 km) climate projections to support precise and actionable decision-making. This level of detail is essential for sector-specific planning in areas such as water, agriculture, infrastructure, and disaster risk reduction, where climate impacts vary locally. It will support the identification of climate hotspots, improve the allocation of resources, and inform the design of targeted interventions for the most vulnerable areas and populations. In addition, downscaled projections will enhance the credibility and usability of climate information among national stakeholders, including planners, technical experts, and communities, and strengthen national capacity for evidence-based adaptation planning over the long term.

2. Vulnerability Assessments

Vulnerability assessments will be carried out to provide the evidence base needed to design effective and targeted adaptation actions. They will identify who and what is most at risk, including exposed sectors, geographic hotspots, and vulnerable populations.

The assessments will also clarify the drivers of vulnerability, including climate hazards and underlying socio-economic factors, to ensure that responses address root causes. This will support the prioritisation of adaptation actions, strengthen transparency in decision-making, and improve access to climate finance by providing robust evidence of climate risks and vulnerabilities.

3. Macro-economic Assessment and the Costs of Inaction

Cost estimation of climate change impacts and inaction will be undertaken to position climate change as an economy-wide issue. These assessments will quantify impacts on GDP, public finances, employment, and key sectors such as agriculture, water, and energy, providing a clear picture of economic risks. By comparing the costs of adaptation with avoided damages, they will support investment decisions and help prioritise interventions that enable efficient resource allocation deliver the greatest economic benefits.

B. Developing the Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

Following the generation of evidence, it will be used to identify and prioritise key climate risks at national and sectoral levels through risk screening, hotspot mapping, and sectoral analysis. Based on these priorities, NAP objectives will be translated into policy and structured into a national strategy outlining priority sectors, actions, geographic targeting, roles and responsibilities, and indicative budgets. An integrated monitoring, evaluation and learning (IMEL) system will be established to track progress. An implementation roadmap will be developed to sequence adaptation actions, including the scaling of financing mechanisms and the long-term integration of climate finance into national systems.

C. Resource Mobilisation Strategy

A resource mobilisation strategy will be developed to define pathways and institutional arrangements to enable the financing of adaptation priorities at scale. Cost estimates of adaptation priorities, alongside a financing gap analysis and identification of funding sources across public, private, and international finance, will inform the strategy. These will guide the prioritisation of bankable projects, the development of an investment pipeline, and the selection of appropriate financing instruments, including grants, concessional loans, and blended finance. The strategy will also strengthen the enabling environment through policy and regulatory measures and improved project preparation capacity, and establish a climate finance tracking mechanism to monitor the mobilisation, allocation, and use of adaptation finance.

STRENGTHENING PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT IN ADAPTATION

Historically, adaptation efforts have been largely government- and donor-driven. However, the private sector plays a critical role in advancing climate resilience, and its engagement in adaptation remains limited.

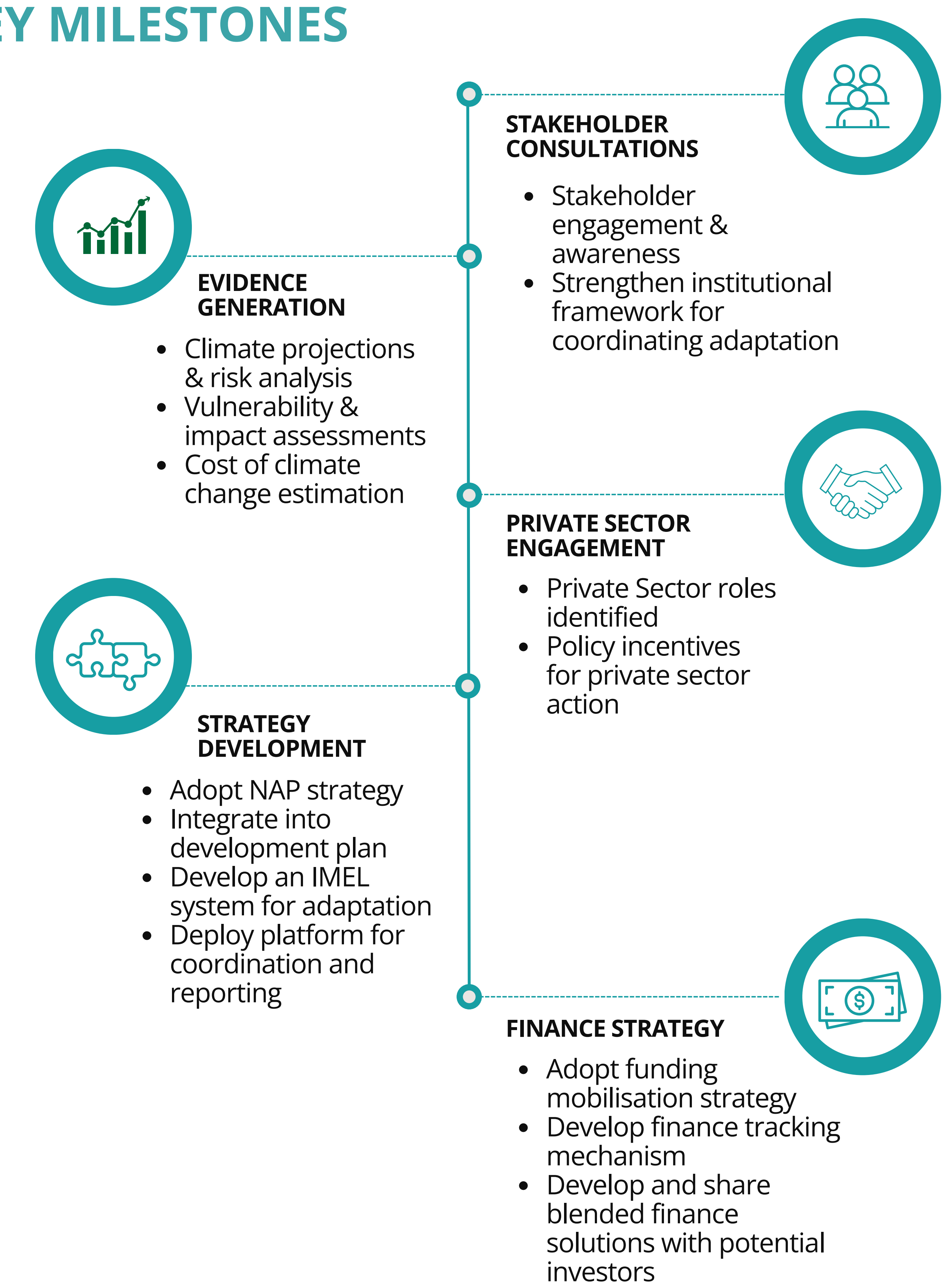
The NAP aims to address this gap by promoting structured and meaningful private sector participation. This includes:

1. Identifying roles and opportunities for different types and scales of private sector actors to contribute to climate resilience in Namibia
2. Assessing barriers to participation and exploring practical solutions to address constraints
3. Developing concrete action points to guide and strengthen private sector engagement in adaptation
4. Exploring policy and regulatory options that can catalyse and incentivise private sector involvement in adaptation planning and implementation
5. Identifying targeted public finance interventions to attract and scale private investment in adaptation
6. Creating an enabling environment for sustained private sector participation in climate resilience efforts

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Adaptation planning governance and institutional coordination strengthened
- Evidence basis used to design adaptation solutions for maximum impact
- Private sector engagement in adaptation catalysed
- Adaptation finance increased

KEY MILESTONES



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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