



## What is the NACOMA project?

The Namibia Coast Conservation and Management (NACOMA) project in its short lifetime has taken great strides towards strengthening and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use on Namibia's coast.

The NACOMA project is advancing well in paving the way for a National Coastal Policy and the implementation of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management system for Namibia.

NACOMA, established in March 2006 in support of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, acts on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia and is tasked to complete its work by 2012. The Government of Namibia funds the project alongside the Global Environment Facility, with the World Bank as the executing agent.

The NACOMA Project's Global and Proj-

ect Development Objective is to strengthen conservation, encourage sustainable use of the coast's natural resources and to mainstream biodiversity conservation in coastal and marine ecosystems in Namibia.

The NACOMA project office only has a small staff compliment of five, based at Swakopmund.

NACOMA facilitates and coordinates the participation and inputs from various stakeholders. They include the line ministries, Regional Councils, Local Authorities, civil society, sectoral stakeholders (e.g. aquaculture, tourism, mining, etc) and support organisations (i.e. academic institutions and donor projects). It relies on the cooperation of partner projects and utilises the services and advice of local and international experts and scientists.

A Steering Committee, consisting of the line ministries, the National Planning Commission and the four coastal regions

(Kunene, Erongo, Hardap and Karas), monitors the project's implementation and promotes coordination, cooperation and communication between key sectors at national and regional levels.

An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Committee, constituted by the coastal regions, addresses issues of coastal conservation, management and planning. It serves as a high-level overall supervisory and advisory body to the project and liaises with the Steering Committee.

NACOMA established a special Contingency Management Committee to address its specific environmental problems in the dune belt and coastal area between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay. This is the most frequented and most popular area along Namibia's coast.

This forum consists of representatives from the Erongo Regional Council, the municipalities of Walvis Bay and Swakopmund, the Ministry of Environment and

Tourism, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, other line ministries, the Coastal Tourism Association of Namibia, adventure sports operators and concerned individuals.

NACOMA has also worked closely with the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem programme (BCLME), the Benguela Fisheries Interaction Training Programme (BENEFIT), the Support Protected Area Network project (SPAN), the Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Programme (SKEP), the German Development Corporation (GTZ), the Integrated Community-based Ecosystem Management project (ICEMA), the Distance Learning and Information Sharing Tool (DLIST) and the French Support to the Namibian Decentralisation Process.

NACOMA is also playing an important facilitating role in many other areas.

Recently, interventions by the NACOMA project and its partners have led to the

Namibian government agreeing to formally declare its entire coast and off shore islands as protected areas. In 2008 and 2009 three new areas were added to Namibia's coastal parks linking them up to a new mega-park provisionally called the Namib-Skeleton Coast National Park.

The new mega-park will link Namibia to Angola's Iona National Park and South Africa's Richtersveld National Park. The Etosha National Park may also soon be linked to the mega-park by the proclamation of the Kunene People's Park in the Kunene Region.

The newly proclaimed protected areas include the Dorob National Park in the Erongo Region, the Sperrgebiet National Park in the Karas Region and the new Namibian Islands' Marine Protected Area adjoining both Karas and Hardap coastal areas. The new park borders over 14 million ha of land and sea that is managed primarily for wildlife, biodiversity conservation and tourism. Together this represents

a contiguous area of about 25 million ha.

The NACOMA project has accomplished or is in the process of achieving the following, according to the project's specific objectives.

### 1. Common vision for Coastal Zone

During the intensive and extensive policy formulation process with civil society, scientists and government the following vision was formulated:

"We, the Namibian people want our coastal areas used in a wise manner, so that social, cultural, environmental and economic concerns are carefully balanced with the overall aim of sustainability in mind, and conservation and economic progress going hand in hand in an integrated manner. All our resources should be developed to their full, including our natural and human resources, with fair and transparent access to opportunities for all, now and into the future."

### 2. Develop & support implementation of Government's coastal policy

Namibia is already a giant step closer to its own coastal policy, a framework of joint decisions by government and civil society on how the sensitive stretch of land and sea should be managed to ensure that its biodiversity is preserved and that sustainable development takes place in harmony with the natural resources.

Towards a Coastal Policy for Namibia, the Green Paper document that precedes the White Paper in the policy formulation process was introduced on 21 July 2009. This is the result of an extensive process of public consultation and specialist studies, followed by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Namibian Coast Conservation and Management Project since the policy formulation process started in early 2006.

The Coastal White Paper will be complet-

ed soon after when it will be submitted to Cabinet for approval and endorsement.

It is hoped that the National Coastal Policy will be implemented through appropriate institutional and legal means by 2011.

### 3. Clarify legal & regulatory frame work for integrated coastal zone development planning

The project has compiled and submitted recommendations on various options, which were distributed to its working groups among its stakeholders.

Work on this is progressing well and will be completed in due course.

Good progress is also being made between the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources on various management issues related to comanagement.

### 4. Harmonize institutional mandates & roles for integrated coastal zone management

One of the most important results of a Coastal Policy would be an Integrated Coastal Zone Management system for Namibia and the creation of the necessary management mechanisms and capacity.

The roles, responsibilities and mandates of government institutions involved in biodiversity conservation and coastal development need clarification and harmonization.

Stakeholders have already been engaged. These recommendations will form part of the eventual Coastal White Paper, which would recommend how Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) should be implemented.

### 5. Facilitate required training & practical skills to key stakeholders responsible for ICZM

Politicians as well as government officials, who would have to ensure that Namibia's coast is managed in an integrated way, are being equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills during a series of capacity building courses, at the coast and in Windhoek.

The coastal zone is often subjected to overlapping governance of local, regional and central governments, resulting in inter-agency conflicts and unclear policy regarding resource development, management and environmental protection.

Coastal zones throughout the world have historically been among the most heavily exploited areas because of their rich resources. Although a small percentage of the population of Namibia is living at the coast, there is a sharp conflict between the utilization of the resources and their sustainability over the long-term.

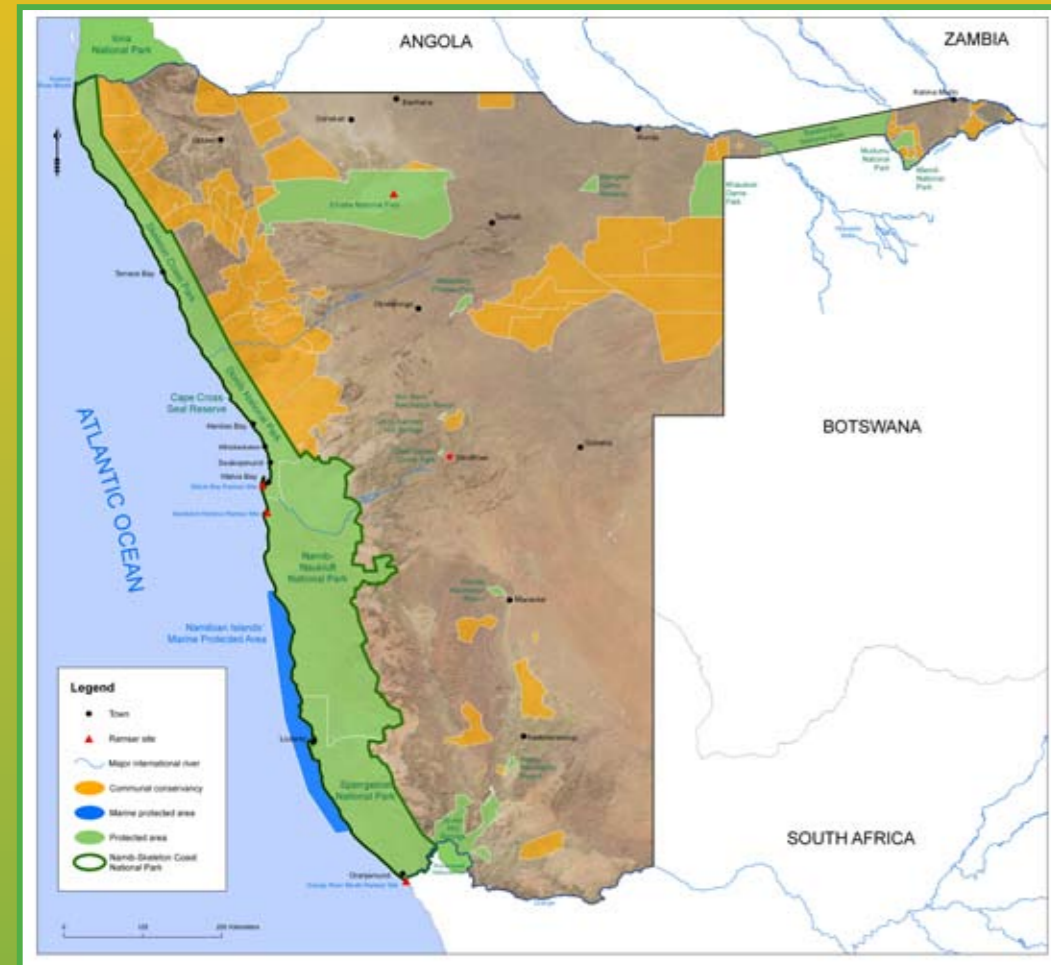
A management approach to maintain or restore coastal resources through good



# Biggest park in Africa: Namib-Skeleton Coast National Park

Greatest conservation achievement since

Namibia's Independence in 1990



governance has been proposed in international agreements and adopted worldwide called: Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

They should be able to manage the Namibian coast in an integrated way, ensuring that the coastal biodiversity is conserved and that socio-economic development takes place in harmony with the natural resources.

This capacity building has been carried out with the assistance of a group of international coastal environmental and planning experts.

A total of 307 certificates were handed over to officials who were trained between June and November 2009 in Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Resource Economics, Governance in Integrated Management, Tools for Sustainable Coastal Management, Data Management and Data Analysis and Strategic Planning.



## 6. Improve awareness about coastal biodiversity & environmental problems.

When the communication started in September 2007, it focused on the policy formulation process, which later on extended to various other coastal issues and activities.

Some of the important milestones and on-going activities are:

- In July 2008 the project launched the Coastodian Awareness and Education Campaign with its distinctive logo and slogan: ***Taking care of the coast, taking care of the future.*** This ongoing campaign is extended to the implementation of a Corporate Coastodian Programme during the middle of 2010. Corporate institutions (from small to big) are invited to become Corporate Coastodians. They will be required to comply with set environmental criteria.



- Information workshops for Namibian journalists in 2007 and 2009,
- The implementation and updating of the project's website: [www.nacoma.org.na](http://www.nacoma.org.na). Apart from the latest and focused information, various scientific and investigative reports as well as policies can be downloaded there.
- A resource book for upper-primary learners and teachers was published in 2009 and is being introduced into eight coastal schools as part of the Coastodian campaign.
- A School Essay Competition targeted at Grade 10 and 11 Learners in the coastal regions of Kunene, Erongo, Hardap and Karas. This competition was launched in the beginning of 2010 and invited learners to highlight the threats facing the Namibian coast and propose actions and policies to preserve the life in and on the beaches, the desert, wetlands, riverbeds and sea.

- The project commissioned the production of the film The Namib Desert Coast, to raise further awareness. It premiered at Swakopmund on 30 July 2009 and was screened several times thereafter on NBC TV and One Africa Television. DVD copies were distributed to key stakeholders and it will also be made available to the public at a nominal fee.
- The project initiated several clean up campaigns along the coast. The latest has been on 18 and 19 September 2009 during International Coastal Clean Up Day when 450 learners from schools in the Erongo and Karas regions collected more than 3 tons of rubbish.
- A Questions and Answers column is being published free of charge in the coastal community paper, Namib Times, from time to time.
- The project issues regular media releases to all Namibian electronic



- and print media and is always available for further information and help.
- Radio and television channels as well as newspapers and other publications often conduct interviews with the project.
- Special discussion programmes were initiated regarding coastal issues. These were featured on NBC TV's "Talk of the Nation" and "Good Morning Namibia".

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# NAMIBIA

## NACOMA paves way for Coastal Policy & Integrated Coastal Zone Management



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