[Template:Redirect](/wiki/Template:Redirect" \o "Template:Redirect) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:EngvarB](/wiki/Template:EngvarB) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) **Namibia** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en), [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)),[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) officially the **Republic of Namibia** ([German](/wiki/German_language): [Template:Audio](/wiki/Template:Audio); [Template:Lang-af](/wiki/Template:Lang-af)), is a country in [southern Africa](/wiki/Southern_Africa) whose western border is the [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean). It shares land borders with [Zambia](/wiki/Zambia) and [Angola](/wiki/Angola) to the north, [Botswana](/wiki/Botswana) to the east and [South Africa](/wiki/South_Africa) to the south and east. Although it does not border [Zimbabwe](/wiki/Zimbabwe), a part of less than 200 metres of the [Zambezi River](/wiki/Zambezi) (essentially a small bulge in Botswana to achieve a Botswana/Zambia micro-border) separates it from that country. Namibia gained independence from South Africa on 21 March 1990, following the [Namibian War of Independence](/wiki/Namibian_War_of_Independence). Its capital and largest city is [Windhoek](/wiki/Windhoek), and it is a member state of the [United Nations](/wiki/United_Nations) (UN), the [Southern African Development Community](/wiki/Southern_African_Development_Community) (SADC), the [African Union](/wiki/African_Union) (AU), and the [Commonwealth of Nations](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations).

The dry lands of Namibia were inhabited since early times by the [San](/wiki/San_people), [Damara](/wiki/Damara_(people)), and [Namaqua](/wiki/Nama_people) peoples. Since about the 14th century AD, [immigrating](/wiki/Immigrating) [Bantu](/wiki/Bantu_peoples) arrived as part of the [Bantu expansion](/wiki/Bantu_expansion). Since then the Bantu groups in total, known as the [Ambo people](/wiki/Ambo_people), have dominated the population of the country and since the late 19th century, have constituted a large majority.

In the late 19th century during European colonization, the [German Empire](/wiki/German_Empire) established rule over most of the territory as a protectorate in 1884. It began to develop infrastructure and farming, and maintained this German colony until 1915, when South African forces defeated its military. After the end of [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I), in 1920 the [League of Nations](/wiki/League_of_Nations) mandated the country to the United Kingdom, under administration by South Africa. It imposed its laws, including racial classifications and rules. From 1948, with the [National Party](/wiki/National_Party_(South_Africa)) elected to power, South Africa applied its [apartheid](/wiki/South_Africa_under_apartheid) policy also to what was known as South West Africa. In 1878 the [British Cape Colony](/wiki/British_Cape_Colony) had annexed the port of [Walvis Bay](/wiki/Walvis_Bay) and the offshore [Penguin Islands](/wiki/Penguin_Islands); these became an integral part of the new [Union of South Africa](/wiki/Union_of_South_Africa) at its creation in 1910.

In the later 20th century, uprisings and demands for political representation by native African political activists seeking independence resulted in the UN assuming direct responsibility over the territory in 1966, but South Africa maintained *de facto* rule. In 1973 the UN recognised the [South West Africa People's Organisation](/wiki/SWAPO) (SWAPO) as the official representative of the Namibian people; the party is dominated by the [Ambo people](/wiki/Ambo_people), who are a large majority in the territory. Following continued guerrilla warfare, South Africa installed an interim administration in Namibia in 1985. Namibia obtained full independence from South Africa in 1990. But [Walvis Bay](/wiki/Walvis_Bay) and the [Penguin Islands](/wiki/Penguin_Islands) remained under South African control until 1994.

Namibia has a population of 2.1 million people and a stable [multi-party](/wiki/Multi-party_system) [parliamentary democracy](/wiki/Parliamentary_democracy). Agriculture, [herding](/wiki/Herding), [tourism](/wiki/Tourism_in_Namibia) and the [mining industry](/wiki/Mineral_industry_of_Namibia) – including mining for gem diamonds, [uranium](/wiki/Uranium_mining), [gold](/wiki/Gold_mining), [silver](/wiki/Silver_mining), and [base metals](/wiki/Base_metal) – form the basis of its [economy](/wiki/Economy_of_Namibia). The large, arid [Namib Desert](/wiki/Namib_Desert) has resulted in Namibia being overall one of the [least densely populated](/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states_and_dependent_territories_by_population_density) countries in the world. Namibia enjoys high political, economic and social stability.

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## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The name of the country is derived from the [Namib Desert](/wiki/Namib_Desert), considered to be the oldest desert in the world.<ref name=at1315>Spriggs, A. (2001) [Template:WWF ecoregion](/wiki/Template:WWF_ecoregion)</ref> Before its independence in 1990, the area was known first as [German South-West Africa](/wiki/German_South-West_Africa) (*Deutsch-Südwestafrika*), then as South-West Africa, reflecting the colonial occupation by the Germans and the South Africans (technically on behalf of the British crown reflecting South Africa's dominion status within the British Empire).

### Pre-colonial period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

The dry lands of Namibia were inhabited since early times by [San](/wiki/San_people), [Damara](/wiki/Damara_(people)), [Nama](/wiki/Nama_people). From about the 14th century AD, immigrating [Bantu](/wiki/Bantu_peoples) arrived with the [Bantu expansion](/wiki/Bantu_expansion) from central Africa. From the late 18th century onwards, [Orlam](/wiki/Orlam) clans from the [Cape Colony](/wiki/Cape_Colony) crossed the [Orange River](/wiki/Orange_River) and moved into the area that today is southern Namibia.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Their encounters with the nomadic Nama tribes were largely peaceful. The missionaries accompanying the Orlam were well received by them,[[4]](#cite_note-4) the right to use waterholes and grazing was granted against an annual payment.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) On their way further northwards, however, the Orlam encountered clans of the [Herero](/wiki/Herero_people) tribe at Windhoek, [Gobabis](/wiki/Gobabis), and [Okahandja](/wiki/Okahandja), who resisted their encroachment. The Nama-Herero War broke out in 1880, with hostilities ebbing only after [Imperial Germany](/wiki/German_Empire) deployed troops to the contested places and cemented the status quo among the Nama, Orlam, and Herero.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn)

The first Europeans to disembark and explore the region were the Portuguese navigators [Diogo Cão](/wiki/Diogo_Cão) in 1485 and [Bartolomeu Dias](/wiki/Bartolomeu_Dias) in 1486, but the Portuguese crown did not try to claim the area. Like most of interior [Sub-Saharan Africa](/wiki/Sub-Saharan_Africa), Namibia was not extensively explored by Europeans until the 19th century. At that time traders and settlers came principally from Germany and Sweden. In the late 19th century [Dorsland trekkers](/wiki/Dorsland_trek) crossed the area on their way from the [Transvaal](/wiki/South_African_Republic) to [Angola](/wiki/Angola). Some of them settled in Namibia instead of continuing their journey.

### German rule[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|left|German church and monument to colonists in Windhoek](/wiki/File:Kirche_denkmal_nam.jpg) Namibia became a German colony in 1884 under [Otto von Bismarck](/wiki/Otto_von_Bismarck) to forestall British encroachment and was known as [German South-West Africa](/wiki/German_South-West_Africa) (*Deutsch-Südwestafrika*).[[5]](#cite_note-5) However, the Palgrave mission by the British governor in Cape Town had determined that only the natural deep-water harbour of [Walvis Bay](/wiki/Walvis_Bay) was worth occupying – and this was annexed to the Cape province of British South Africa.

From 1904 to 1907, the [Herero](/wiki/Herero_people) and the [Namaqua](/wiki/Nama_people) took up arms against the Germans. In calculated punitive action by the German occupiers, what has been called the 'first genocide of the Twentieth Century' was committed, as government officials ordered extinction of the natives.[[6]](#cite_note-6) In the [Herero and Namaqua genocide](/wiki/Herero_and_Namaqua_genocide), the Germans systematically killed 10,000 Nama (half the population) and approximately 65,000 Herero (about 80% of the population).[[7]](#cite_note-7)<ref name=Adhikari/> The survivors, when finally released from detention, were subjected to a policy of dispossession, deportation, forced labour, racial segregation, and discrimination in a system that in many ways anticipated the [apartheid](/wiki/Apartheid) established by South Africa in 1948.

Most Africans were confined to so-called native territories, which later under South African rule post-1949 were turned into "homelands" (Bantustans). Indeed, some historians have speculated that the German genocide in Namibia was a model used by [Nazis](/wiki/Nazism) in [the Holocaust](/wiki/The_Holocaust).<ref name=Madley/> The memory of genocide remains relevant to ethnic identity in independent Namibia and to relations with Germany.[[8]](#cite_note-8) The German government formally apologized for the Namibian genocide in 2004.[[9]](#cite_note-9)

### South African rule[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) South Africa [occupied the colony](/wiki/South_West_Africa) in 1915 after defeating the German forces during [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I). It administered it from 1919 onward as a [League of Nations](/wiki/League_of_Nations) [mandate territory](/wiki/Mandate_territory) (nominally under the British Crown). Although the South African government wanted to annex 'South-West Africa' into its official territory, it never did so. But, it administered the territory as its *de facto* 'fifth province.' The white minority of South-West Africa elected representatives to the whites-only Parliament of South Africa. They also elected their own local administration, the SWA Legislative Assembly. The South African government appointed the SWA administrator, who had extensive executive powers.

Following the League's replacement by the United Nations in 1946, South Africa refused to surrender its earlier mandate. The UN intended that it be replaced by a United Nations Trusteeship agreement, requiring closer international monitoring of the territory's administration and a definite schedule to achieve independence of Namibia. After the rise of the National Party in South Africa, it established [apartheid](/wiki/Apartheid) in both areas. The Herero Chief's Council submitted a number of petitions to the UN in the 1950s calling for it to grant Namibia independence but was not successful. During the 1960s, as European powers such as France and the United Kingdom granted independence to some colonies and trust territories in Africa, pressure mounted on South Africa to do so in Namibia.

In 1966 the [International Court of Justice](/wiki/International_Court_of_Justice) dismissed a complaint brought by Ethiopia and Liberia against South Africa's continued presence in the territory, but the U.N. General Assembly subsequently revoked South Africa's mandate. South Africa continued to exercise *de facto* rule while SWAPO expanded its guerrilla efforts to end that. In 1971 the International Court of Justice issued an "advisory opinion" declaring South Africa's continued administration to be illegal.[[10]](#cite_note-10) [thumb|Map of](/wiki/File:Namibia_homelands_78.jpeg) [Bantustans](/wiki/Bantustans), land set aside for black inhabitation, in South West Africa In response to the 1966 ruling by the International Court of Justice, [South-West Africa People's Organisation](/wiki/SWAPO) (SWAPO) military wing, [People's Liberation Army of Namibia](/wiki/People's_Liberation_Army_of_Namibia), a [guerrilla](/wiki/Guerrilla_warfare) group began their [armed struggle for independence](/wiki/Namibian_War_of_Independence).[[11]](#cite_note-11) It was not until 1988 that South Africa agreed to end its occupation[[12]](#cite_note-12) of Namibia, in accordance with a UN peace plan for the entire region.

### Land issues[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

During the decades of German and South African occupation of Namibia, white commercial farmers, most of whom came as settlers from South Africa and represented 0.2% of the national population, came to own 74% of the [arable land](/wiki/Arable_land).[[13]](#cite_note-13) Outside the central-southern area of Namibia (known as the "Police Zone" since the German era), which contained the main towns, industries, mines and best arable land, South Africa designated areas of the country as "homelands" for various tribes, including the [mixed-race](/wiki/Mixed-race) [Basters](/wiki/Basters), who had occupied the [Rehoboth District](/wiki/Rehoboth_District) since the late 19th century. It was an attempt to establish the [bantustans](/wiki/Bantustan), but most indigenous Namibian tribes did not cooperate.

South West Africa was formally recognised as Namibia by the UN; the General Assembly changed the territory's name by Resolution 2372 (XXII) of 12 June 1968.[[14]](#cite_note-14) In 1978 the [UN Security Council](/wiki/UN_Security_Council) passed [UN Resolution 435](/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_435), which laid out a plan for transition toward independence for Namibia. Attempts to persuade South Africa to agree to the plan's implementation were not successful until 1988, after years of warfare. The transition to independence finally started under a diplomatic agreement between South Africa, Angola and Cuba, with the USSR and the USA as observers. Under this, South Africa agreed to withdraw and demobilise its forces in Namibia. As a result, Cuba agreed to pull back its troops in southern Angola, who were sent to support the [MPLA](/wiki/MPLA) in its war for control of Angola against [UNITA](/wiki/UNITA). Angola also resolved its civil war.

A combined UN civilian and peace-keeping force called UNTAG ([United Nations Transition Assistance Group](/wiki/United_Nations_Transition_Assistance_Group)), led by Finnish diplomat [Martti Ahtisaari](/wiki/Martti_Ahtisaari), was deployed from April 1989 to March 1990 to monitor the peace process and elections, and to supervise military withdrawals. As UNTAG began to deploy peacekeepers, military observers, police, and political workers, hostilities were briefly renewed on the day the transition process was supposed to begin. After a new round of negotiations, a second date was set, and the elections process began in earnest.

After the return of more than 46,000 SWAPO exiles, Namibia's first [one-person one-vote](/wiki/One-person_one-vote) elections for the constitutional assembly took place in November 1989. The official election slogan was "Free and Fair Elections". This was won by SWAPO although it did not gain the two-thirds majority it had hoped for; the South African-backed [Democratic Turnhalle Alliance](/wiki/Democratic_Turnhalle_Alliance) (DTA) became the official opposition. The elections were peaceful and declared free and fair.[[15]](#cite_note-15) The Namibian Constitution adopted in February 1990 incorporated protection for human rights, compensation for state expropriations of private property, and established an independent judiciary, legislature, and an executive presidency (the constituent assembly became the national assembly). The country officially became independent on 21 March 1990. [Sam Nujoma](/wiki/Sam_Nujoma) was sworn in as the first [President of Namibia](/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_Namibia) at a ceremony attended by [Nelson Mandela](/wiki/Nelson_Mandela) of South Africa (who had been released from prison the previous month) and representatives from 147 countries, including 20 heads of state.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Upon the end of [Apartheid in South Africa](/wiki/Apartheid_in_South_Africa) in 1994, the nation ceded [Walvis Bay](/wiki/Walvis_Bay) to Namibia.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### After independence[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

Since independence Namibia has successfully completed the transition from white minority apartheid rule to parliamentary democracy. [Multiparty democracy](/wiki/Multiparty_democracy) was introduced and has been maintained, with local, regional and [national elections](/wiki/Elections_in_Namibia) held regularly. Several registered political parties are active and represented in the National Assembly, although the [SWAPO](/wiki/SWAPO) has won every election since independence.[[17]](#cite_note-17) The transition from the 15-year rule of President [Sam Nujoma](/wiki/Sam_Nujoma) to his successor [Hifikepunye Pohamba](/wiki/Hifikepunye_Pohamba) in 2005 went smoothly.[[18]](#cite_note-18) Since independence, the Namibian government has promoted a policy of national reconciliation. It issued an amnesty for those who had fought on either side during the liberation war. The civil war in Angola spilled over and adversely affected Namibians living in the north of the country. In 1998, [Namibia Defence Force](/wiki/Namibia_Defence_Force) (NDF) troops were sent to the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo) as part of a [Southern African Development Community](/wiki/Southern_African_Development_Community) (SADC) contingent.

In 1999, the national government successfully quashed a secessionist attempt in the northeastern [Caprivi Strip](/wiki/Caprivi_Strip).[[18]](#cite_note-18) The [Caprivi conflict](/wiki/Caprivi_conflict) was initiated by the [Caprivi Liberation Army](/wiki/Caprivi_Liberation_Army) (CLA), a [rebel](/wiki/Rebellion) group led by [Mishake Muyongo](/wiki/Mishake_Muyongo). It wanted the Caprivi Strip to secede in order to form its own society.

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Sand dunes in the](/wiki/File:Namib_Desert_Namibia(2).jpg) [Namib Desert](/wiki/Namib_Desert), Namibia [thumb|right|Shaded relief map of Namibia.](/wiki/File:Namibia_Natural_Earth_1.jpg) [thumb|Namibia map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Namibia_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) At [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),[[19]](#cite_note-19) Namibia is the world's thirty-fourth largest country (after Venezuela). It lies mostly between latitudes [17°](/wiki/17th_parallel_south) and [29°S](/wiki/29th_parallel_south) (a small area is north of 17°), and longitudes [11°](/wiki/11th_meridian_east) and [26°E](/wiki/26th_meridian_east).

Being situated between the [Namib](/wiki/Namib_Desert) and the [Kalahari](/wiki/Kalahari_Desert) deserts, Namibia has the least rainfall of any country in sub-Saharan Africa.[[20]](#cite_note-20) The Namibian landscape consists generally of five geographical areas, each with characteristic [abiotic conditions](/wiki/Abiotic_component) and vegetation, with some variation within and overlap between them: the Central Plateau, the [Namib Desert](/wiki/Namib_Desert), the [Great Escarpment](/wiki/Great_Escarpment,_Southern_Africa), the [Bushveld](/wiki/Bushveld), and the [Kalahari Desert](/wiki/Kalahari_Desert).

The Central Plateau runs from north to south, bordered by the [Skeleton Coast](/wiki/Skeleton_Coast) to the northwest, the Namib Desert and its coastal plains to the southwest, the [Orange River](/wiki/Orange_River) to the south, and the Kalahari Desert to the east. The Central Plateau is home to the highest point in Namibia at [Königstein](/wiki/Königstein,_Namibia) elevation [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[21]](#cite_note-21) The [Namib Desert](/wiki/Namib_Desert) is a broad expanse of hyper-arid gravel plains and dunes that stretches along Namibia's entire coastline. It varies between 100 and many hundreds of kilometres in width. Areas within the Namib include the Skeleton Coast and the [Kaokoveld](/wiki/Kaokoveld) in the north and the extensive Namib Sand Sea along the central coast.<ref name=at1315/>

The Great Escarpment swiftly rises to over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Average temperatures and temperature ranges increase further inland from the cold [Atlantic](/wiki/Atlantic) waters, while the lingering coastal fogs slowly diminish. Although the area is rocky with poorly developed soils, it is significantly more productive than the Namib Desert. As summer winds are forced over the Escarpment, moisture is extracted as precipitation.[[22]](#cite_note-22) The Bushveld is found in north-eastern Namibia along the Angolan border and in the [Caprivi Strip](/wiki/Caprivi_Strip). The area receives a significantly greater amount of precipitation than the rest of the country, averaging around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per year. The area is generally flat and the soils sandy, limiting their ability to retain water and support agriculture.[[23]](#cite_note-23) The [Kalahari Desert](/wiki/Kalahari_Desert), an arid region that extends into South Africa and Botswana, is one of Namibia's well-known geographical features. The Kalahari, while popularly known as a desert, has a variety of localised environments, including some verdant and technically non-desert areas. The [Succulent Karoo](/wiki/Succulent_Karoo) is home to over 5,000 species of plants, nearly half of them endemic; approximately 10 percent of the world's [succulents](/wiki/Succulents) are found in the Karoo.[[24]](#cite_note-24) The reason behind this high productivity and endemism may be the relatively stable nature of precipitation.[[25]](#cite_note-25) Namibia's Coastal Desert is one of the oldest deserts in the world. Its sand dunes, created by the strong onshore winds, are the highest in the world.[[26]](#cite_note-26) Because of the location of the shoreline, at the point where the Atlantic's cold water reaches Africa's hot climate, often extremely dense fog forms along the coast.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Near the coast there are areas where the dunes are vegetated with [hammocks](/wiki/Hammock_(ecology)).[[28]](#cite_note-28) Namibia has rich coastal and marine resources that remain largely unexplored.<ref name=Sparks/>

[thumb|](/wiki/File:SAC_Namibia-cactus.jpg)[Fish River Canyon](/wiki/Fish_River_Canyon)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|Namibia is primarily a large desert and semi-desert plateau](/wiki/File:Namibia-1113.jpg) Namibia extends from 17°S to 25°S: climatically the range of the sub-Tropical High Pressure Belt. Its overall climate description is arid, descending from the Sub-Humid (mean rain above 500 mm) through Semi-Arid between 300 and 500 mm (embracing most of the waterless Kalahari) and Arid from 150 to 300 mm (these three regions are inland from the western [escarpment](/wiki/Great_Escarpment,_Southern_Africa)) to the Hyper-Arid coastal plain with less than a 100 mm mean. Temperature maxima are limited by the overall elevation of the entire region: only in the far south, [Warmbad](/wiki/Warmbad,_Namibia) for instance, are mid-40 °C maxima recorded.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Typically the sub-Tropical High Pressure Belt, with frequent clear skies, provides more than 300 days of sunshine per year. It is situated at the southern edge of the tropics; the [Tropic of Capricorn](/wiki/Tropic_of_Capricorn) cuts the country about in half. The winter (June – August) is generally dry. Both rainy seasons occur in summer: the small rainy season between September and November, the big one between February and April.[[30]](#cite_note-30) Humidity is low, and average rainfall varies from almost zero in the [coastal desert](/wiki/Skeleton_Coast) to more than 600 mm in the [Caprivi Strip](/wiki/Caprivi_Strip). Rainfall is highly variable, and droughts are common.[[31]](#cite_note-31) The [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) bad rainy season with rainfall far below the annual average occurred in summer 2006/07.[[32]](#cite_note-32) Weather and climate in the coastal area are dominated by the cold, north-flowing [Benguela current](/wiki/Benguela_current) of the Atlantic Ocean, which accounts for very low [precipitation](/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)) (50 mm per year or less), frequent dense fog, and overall lower temperatures than in the rest of the country.[[31]](#cite_note-31) In Winter, occasionally a condition known as [*Bergwind*](/wiki/Bergwind) ([Template:Lang-de](/wiki/Template:Lang-de)) or *Oosweer* ([Template:Lang-af](/wiki/Template:Lang-af)) occurs, a hot dry wind blowing from the inland to the coast. As the area behind the coast is a desert, these winds can develop into sand storms, leaving sand deposits in the Atlantic Ocean that are visible on satellite images.[[33]](#cite_note-33) The Central Plateau and Kalahari areas have wide [diurnal](/wiki/Diurnal_temperature_variation) temperature ranges of up to 30 °C.[[31]](#cite_note-31) *Efundja*, the annual seasonal flooding of the northern parts of the country, often causes not only damage to infrastructure but loss of life.[[34]](#cite_note-34) The rains that cause these floods originate in Angola, flow into Namibia's [Cuvelai basin](/wiki/Cuvelai_basin), and fill the *oshanas* ([Oshiwambo](/wiki/Oshiwambo): flood plains) there. The worst floods [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) occurred in March 2011 and displaced 21,000 people.[[35]](#cite_note-35)

### Water sources[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Namibia is the driest country in [sub-Saharan Africa](/wiki/Sub-Saharan_Africa) and depends largely on groundwater. With an average rainfall of about 350 mm per annum, the highest rainfall occurs in the [Caprivi](/wiki/Caprivi_Strip) in the northeast (about 600 mm per annum) and decreases in a westerly and southwesterly direction to as little as 50 mm and less per annum at the coast. The only perennial rivers are found on the national borders with [South Africa](/wiki/South_Africa), [Angola](/wiki/Angola), [Zambia](/wiki/Zambia), and the short border with [Botswana](/wiki/Botswana) in the [Caprivi](/wiki/Caprivi_Strip). In the interior of the country, surface water is available only in the summer months when rivers are in flood after exceptional rainfalls. Otherwise, surface water is restricted to a few large storage dams retaining and damming up these seasonal floods and their runoff. Where people do not live near perennial rivers or make use of the storage dams, they are dependent on groundwater. Even isolated communities and those economic activities located far from good surface water sources, such as mining, agriculture, and tourism, can be supplied from groundwater over nearly 80% of the country.[[36]](#cite_note-36) More than 100,000 boreholes have been drilled in Namibia over the past century. One third of these boreholes have been drilled dry.[[37]](#cite_note-37)

### Communal Wildlife Conservancies[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|Quivertree Forest,](/wiki/File:SAC_Namibia-bushveld.jpg) [Bushveld](/wiki/Bushveld) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Namibia is one of few countries in the world to specifically address [conservation](/wiki/Wildlife_conservation) and protection of [natural resources](/wiki/Natural_resources) in its constitution.[[38]](#cite_note-38) Article 95 states, "The State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting international policies aimed at the following: maintenance of [ecosystems](/wiki/Ecology), essential ecological processes, and biological diversity of Namibia, and utilisation of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future."[[38]](#cite_note-38) In 1993, the newly formed government of Namibia received funding from the [United States Agency for International Development](/wiki/United_States_Agency_for_International_Development) (USAID) through its Living in a Finite Environment (LIFE) Project.[[39]](#cite_note-39) The Ministry of Environment and Tourism, with the financial support from organisations such as USAID, [Endangered Wildlife Trust](/wiki/Endangered_Wildlife_Trust), [WWF](/wiki/World_Wide_Fund_for_Nature), and Canadian Ambassador's Fund, together form a Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) support structure. The main goal of this project is promote sustainable natural resource management by giving local communities rights to wildlife management and tourism.<ref name=UNEP/>

## Politics and government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[[File:Tintenpalast-Windhoek.jpg|thumb|

[Tintenpalast](/wiki/Tintenpalast), the centre of Namibia's government

]] [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Namibia is a [unitary](/wiki/Unitary_state) [semi-presidential](/wiki/Semi-presidential_system) [representative democratic](/wiki/Representative_democracy) [republic](/wiki/Republic).[[40]](#cite_note-40) The [President of Namibia](/wiki/President_of_Namibia) is elected to a five-year term and is both the [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state) and the [head of government](/wiki/Head_of_government).[[41]](#cite_note-41) However, while the President is both head of state and government, all members of the government are individually and collectively responsible to the legislature.[[40]](#cite_note-40) The [Constitution of Namibia](/wiki/Constitution_of_Namibia) guarantees the [separation of powers](/wiki/Separation_of_powers):[[42]](#cite_note-42)\*Executive: Executive power is exercised by the President and the [Government](/wiki/Cabinet_of_Namibia).

* Legislature: Namibia has a [bicameral](/wiki/Bicameralism) [Parliament](/wiki/Parliament_of_Namibia) with the [National Assembly](/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Namibia) as [lower house](/wiki/Lower_house), and the [National Council](/wiki/National_Council_of_Namibia) as the [upper house](/wiki/Upper_house).
* [Judiciary](/wiki/Judiciary): Namibia has a system of courts that interpret and apply the law in the name of the state.

While the constitution envisaged a [multi-party system](/wiki/Multi-party_system) for Namibia's government, the [SWAPO](/wiki/SWAPO) party has been [dominant](/wiki/Dominant-party_system) since independence in 1990.[[43]](#cite_note-43)

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Namibia follows a largely independent [foreign policy](/wiki/Foreign_policy), with persisting affiliations with states that aided the independence struggle, including [Cuba](/wiki/Cuba). With a small army and a fragile economy, the Namibian Government's principal foreign policy concern is developing strengthened ties within the Southern African region. A dynamic member of the [Southern African Development Community](/wiki/Southern_African_Development_Community), Namibia is a vocal advocate for greater regional integration. Namibia became the 160th member of the UN on 23 April 1990. On its independence it became the fiftieth member of the [Commonwealth of Nations](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations).[[44]](#cite_note-44)

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Update](/wiki/Template:Update) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Namibia does not have any enemies[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) in [the region](/wiki/Southern_African_Development_Community) but consistently spends more as a percentage of GDP on its military than all of its neighbours, except Angola. Military expenditure rose from 2.7% of GDP in 2000 to 3.7% in 2009, and the arrival of 12 [Chengdu J-7 Airguard](/wiki/Chengdu_J-7) jets in 2006 and 2008 made Namibia for a short time one of the top arms importers in Sub-Saharan Africa.<ref name=flying>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> By 2015, military expenditure was estimated at between 4% and 5% of GDP.<ref name=Insight2015>Insight 2015, p.33</ref>[[45]](#cite_note-45)[[46]](#cite_note-46) The constitution of Namibia defined the role of the military as "*defending the territory and national interests.*" Namibia formed the [Namibian Defence Force](/wiki/Namibian_Defence_Force) (NDF), comprising former enemies in a 23-year bush war: the [People's Liberation Army of Namibia](/wiki/People's_Liberation_Army_of_Namibia) (PLAN) and [South West African](/wiki/South_West_Africa) *Territorial Force* ([SWATF](/wiki/SWATF)). The British formulated the plan for integrating these forces and began training the NDF, which consists of a small headquarters and five battalions.

The [United Nations Transitional Assistance Group](/wiki/United_Nations_Transitional_Assistance_Group) (UNTAG)'s Kenyan infantry battalion remained in Namibia for three months after independence to help train the NDF and to stabilise the north. According to the [Namibian Defence Ministry](/wiki/Namibian_Defence_Ministry), enlistments of both men and women will number no more than 7,500.

## Administrative division[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Regions of Namibia Labelled Map](/wiki/Template:Regions_of_Namibia_Labelled_Map)

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Namibia is divided into 14 regions and subdivided into 121 constituencies. The administrative division of Namibia is tabled by *Delimitation Commissions* and accepted or declined by the [National Assembly](/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Namibia). Since state foundation four Delimitation Commissions have delivered their work, the last one in 2013 under the chairmanship of Judge [Alfred Siboleka](/wiki/Alfred_Siboleka).[[47]](#cite_note-47) Regional councillors are directly elected through secret ballots (regional elections) by the inhabitants of their constituencies.[[48]](#cite_note-48) Local authorities in Namibia can be in the form of municipalities (either Part 1 or Part 2 municipalities), town councils or villages.<ref name=alan>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Downtown](/wiki/File:Downtown_Windhoek,_Independence_Avenue.jpg) [Windhoek](/wiki/Windhoek) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Tsumeb-Main_Road.JPG)[Tsumeb's](/wiki/Tsumeb) main road

Namibia's economy is tied closely to South Africa's due to their shared history.[[49]](#cite_note-49)[[50]](#cite_note-50) The largest economic sectors are mining (10.4% of the gross domestic product in 2009), agriculture (5.0%), manufacturing (13.5%), and tourism.<ref name=usds>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Namibia has a highly developed banking sector with modern infrastructure, such as online banking and cellphone banking. The Bank of Namibia (BoN) is the central bank of Namibia responsible for performing all other functions ordinarily performed by a central bank. There are four BoN authorised commercial banks in Namibia: Bank Windhoek, First National Bank, Nedbank and Standard Bank.[[51]](#cite_note-51) According to the Namibia Labour Force Survey Report 2012, conducted by the [Namibia Statistics Agency](/wiki/De:Namibia_Statistics_Agency), the country's unemployment rate is 27.4%.[[52]](#cite_note-52) "Strict unemployment" (people actively seeking a full-time job) stood at 20.2% in 2000, 21.9% in 2004 and spiraled to 29.4% in 2008. Under a broader definition (including people that have given up searching for employment) unemployment rose to 36.7% in 2004. This estimate considers people in the [informal economy](/wiki/Informal_sector) as employed. Labour and Social Welfare Minister [Immanuel Ngatjizeko](/wiki/Immanuel_Ngatjizeko) praised the 2008 study as "by far superior in scope and quality to any that has been available previously",[[53]](#cite_note-53) but its methodology has also received criticism.[[54]](#cite_note-54) In 2004 a labour act was passed to protect people from job discrimination stemming from pregnancy and HIV/AIDS status. In early 2010 the Government [tender board](/wiki/Tender_board) announced that "henceforth 100 per cent of all unskilled and semi-skilled labour must be sourced, without exception, from within Namibia".[[55]](#cite_note-55) In 2013, global business and financial news provider, [Bloomberg](/wiki/Bloomberg_L.P.), named Namibia the top emerging market economy in Africa and the 13th best in the world. Only four African countries made the Top 20 Emerging Markets list in the March 2013 issue of Bloomberg Markets magazine, and Namibia was rated ahead of [Morocco](/wiki/Morocco) (19th), South Africa (15th) and [Zambia](/wiki/Zambia) (14th). Worldwide, Namibia also fared better than Hungary, Brazil and Mexico. Bloomberg Markets magazine ranked the top 20 based on more than a dozen criteria. The data came from Bloomberg's own financial-market statistics, IMF forecasts and the World Bank. The countries were also rated on areas of particular interest to foreign investors: the ease of doing business, the perceived level of corruption and economic freedom. In order to attract foreign investment, the government has made improvement in reducing red tape resulted from excessive government regulations making the country one of the least bureaucratic places to do business in the region. However, facilitation payments are occasionally demanded by customs due to cumbersome and costly customs procedures.[[56]](#cite_note-56) Namibia is also classified as an Upper Middle Income country by the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank), and ranks 87th out of 185 economies in terms of ease of doing business.[[57]](#cite_note-57) The [cost of living in Namibia](/wiki/Cost_of_living_in_Namibia) is relatively high because most of the goods including cereals need to be imported. Business monopoly in some sectors causes higher profit bookings and further raising of prices. Its capital city, Windhoek is currently ranked as the 150th most expensive place in the world for expatriates to live.[[58]](#cite_note-58) [Taxation in Namibia](/wiki/Taxation_in_Namibia) includes personal income tax, which is applicable to total taxable income of an individual and all individuals are taxed at progressive marginal rates over a series of income brackets. The value added tax (VAT) is applicable to most of the commodities and services.[[59]](#cite_note-59) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Sandstorm_while_driving_from_Swakopmund_to_Walfish_Bay,_2005.jpg) [B2](/wiki/B2_road_(Namibia)) between [Swakopmund](/wiki/Swakopmund) and [Walvis Bay](/wiki/Walvis_Bay), Namibia. Despite the remote nature of much of the country, Namibia has seaports, airports, highways, and [railways](/wiki/Rail_transport_in_Namibia) (narrow-gauge). The country seeks to become a regional transportation hub; it has an important seaport and several landlocked neighbours. The Central Plateau already serves as a [transportation corridor](/wiki/Transportation_corridor) from the more densely populated north to South Africa, the source of four-fifths of Namibia's imports.[[60]](#cite_note-60)

### Agriculture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Welcoming sign of the *Burgsdorf* farm in](/wiki/File:Schildburgsdorf.jpg) [Hardap](/wiki/Hardap_Region). About half of the population depends on agriculture (largely [subsistence agriculture](/wiki/Subsistence_agriculture)) for its livelihood, but Namibia must still import some of its food. Although per capita GDP is five times the per capita GDP of Africa's poorest countries, the majority of Namibia's people live in rural areas and exist on a subsistence way of life. Namibia has one of the [highest rates of income inequality](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_income_equality) in the world, due in part to the fact that there is an urban economy and a more rural cash-less economy. The inequality figures thus take into account people who do not actually rely on the formal economy for their survival. Although arable land accounts for only 1% of Namibia, nearly half of the population is employed in agriculture.[[60]](#cite_note-60) About 4,000, mostly white, commercial farmers own almost half of Namibia's arable land.[[61]](#cite_note-61) The governments of Germany and Britain will finance Namibia's [land reform](/wiki/Land_reform) process, as Namibia plans to start expropriating land from white farmers to resettle landless black Namibians.[[62]](#cite_note-62) Agreement has been reached on the [privatisation](/wiki/Privatisation) of several more enterprises in coming years, with hopes that this will stimulate much needed foreign investment. However, reinvestment of environmentally derived capital has hobbled Namibian per capita income.<ref name=Lange/> One of the fastest growing areas of economic development in Namibia is the growth of [wildlife conservancies](/wiki/Communal_Wildlife_Conservancies_in_Namibia). These conservancies are particularly important to the rural, generally unemployed, population.

An [aquifer](/wiki/Aquifer) called "Ohangwena II" has been discovered, capable of supplying the 800,000 people in the North for 400 years.<ref name=aqui>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Experts estimate that Namibia has 7720 km3 of underground water.<ref name=afr>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=aqmap/>

### Mining and electricity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Providing 25% of Namibia's revenue, mining is the single most important contributor to the economy.[[63]](#cite_note-63) Namibia is the fourth largest exporter of non-fuel minerals in Africa and the world's fourth largest producer of [uranium](/wiki/Uranium). There has been significant investment in [uranium mining](/wiki/Uranium_mining) and Namibia is set to become the largest exporter of uranium by 2015.[[64]](#cite_note-64) Rich [alluvial](/wiki/Alluvium) diamond deposits make Namibia a primary source for gem-quality diamonds.[[65]](#cite_note-65) While Namibia is known predominantly for its gem diamond and uranium deposits, a number of other minerals are extracted industrially such as [lead](/wiki/Lead), [tungsten](/wiki/Tungsten), [gold](/wiki/Gold), [tin](/wiki/Tin), [fluorspar](/wiki/Fluorspar), [manganese](/wiki/Manganese), [marble](/wiki/Marble), [copper](/wiki/Copper) and [zinc](/wiki/Zinc). There are offshore gas deposits in the Atlantic Ocean that are planned to be extracted in the future.[[66]](#cite_note-66) According to "The Diamond Investigation", a book about the global diamond market, from 1978, [De Beers](/wiki/De_Beers), the largest diamond company, bought most of the Namibian diamonds, and would continue to do so, because "whatever government eventually comes to power they will need this revenue to survive".[[67]](#cite_note-67) Domestic supply voltage is 220V AC. Electricity is generated mainly by thermal and hydroelectric power plants. Non-conventional methods of electricity generation also play some role. Encouraged by the rich uranium deposits the Namibian government plans to erect its first nuclear power station by 2018, also uranium enrichment is envisaged to happen locally.<ref name=Saveorsink>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[thumb|An example of Namibian wildlife, the](/wiki/File:Equus_burchelli_4.jpg) [Plains Zebra](/wiki/Plains_Zebra), one focus of tourism [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Tourism is a major contributor (14.5%) to Namibia's GDP, creating tens of thousands of jobs (18.2% of all employment) directly or indirectly and servicing over a million tourists per year.[[68]](#cite_note-68) The country is a prime destination in Africa and is known for [ecotourism](/wiki/Ecotourism) which features [Namibia's extensive wildlife](/wiki/Wildlife_of_Namibia).<ref name=goodshape>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

There are many lodges and reserves to accommodate eco-tourists. Sport hunting is also a large, and growing component of the Namibian economy, accounting for 14% of total tourism in the year 2000, or $19.6 million US dollars, with Namibia boasting numerous species sought after by international sport hunters.<ref name=Humavindu/> In addition, extreme sports such as [sandboarding](/wiki/Sandboarding), [skydiving](/wiki/Skydiving) and 4x4ing have become popular, and many cities have companies that provide tours.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The most visited places include the capital city of [Windhoek](/wiki/Windhoek), [Caprivi Strip](/wiki/Caprivi_Strip), [Fish River Canyon](/wiki/Fish_River_Canyon), [Sossusvlei](/wiki/Sossusvlei), the [Skeleton Coast](/wiki/Skeleton_Coast) Park, [Sesriem](/wiki/Sesriem), [Etosha Pan](/wiki/Etosha_Pan) and the coastal towns of [Swakopmund](/wiki/Swakopmund), [Walvis Bay](/wiki/Walvis_Bay) and [Lüderitz](/wiki/Lüderitz).[[69]](#cite_note-69) The capital city of Windhoek plays a very important role in Namibia's tourism due to its central location and close proximity to [Hosea Kutako International Airport](/wiki/Hosea_Kutako_International_Airport). According to The Namibia Tourism Exit Survey, which was produced by the [Millennium Challenge Corporation](/wiki/Millennium_Challenge_Corporation) for the Namibian Directorate of Tourism, 56% of all tourists visiting Namibia during the time period, 2012 – 2013, visited Windhoek.[[70]](#cite_note-70) The majority of [Namibian whites](/wiki/White_Namibians) and nearly all those who are [mixed race](/wiki/Basters) speak [Afrikaans](/wiki/Afrikaans) and share similar origins, culture, and religion as the white and coloured populations of South Africa. A large minority of whites (around 30,000) trace their family origins back to the [German](/wiki/German_Namibians) settlers who colonized Namibia prior to the British confiscation of German lands after World War One, and they maintain German cultural and educational institutions. Nearly all Portuguese settlers came to the country from the former [Portuguese colony](/wiki/Portuguese_West_Africa) of Angola.[[81]](#cite_note-81) The 1960 census reported 526,004 persons in what was then South-West Africa, including 73,464 whites (14%).[[82]](#cite_note-82) Namibia conducts a census every ten years. After [independence](/wiki/Independence_of_Namibia) the first Population and Housing Census was carried out in 1991, further rounds followed in 2001 and 2011.<ref name=2001Census>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The data collection method is to count every person resident in Namibia on the census reference night, wherever they happen to be. This is called the *de facto* method.[[83]](#cite_note-83) For enumeration purposes the country is demarcated into 4,042 *enumeration areas*. These areas do not overlap with constituency boundaries to get reliable data for election purposes as well.[[84]](#cite_note-84) The 2011 Population and Housing Census counted 2,113,077 inhabitants of Namibia. Between 2001 and 2011 the annual population growth was 1.4%, down from 2.6% in the previous ten–year period.<ref name=snapshot>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The Christian community makes up 80%–90% of the population of Namibia, with at least 75% being [Protestant](/wiki/Protestant). Estimated at half of the population, the [Lutheran](/wiki/Lutheranism) tradition of Protestantism is the largest religious group – a legacy of the German and [Finnish](/wiki/Finland) missionary work during the country's colonial times. 10%–20% of the population hold [indigenous](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples) beliefs.[[85]](#cite_note-85) Missionary activities during the second half of the 19th century resulted in many Namibians converting to Christianity. Today most Christians are Lutheran, but there also are [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholic), [Methodist](/wiki/Methodism), [Anglican](/wiki/Anglicanism), [African Methodist Episcopal](/wiki/African_Methodist_Episcopal_Church), [Dutch Reformed](/wiki/Dutch_Reformed_Church) and [Mormons](/wiki/Mormonism) (the [Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints](/wiki/Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-Day_Saints)).

Namibia is home to a small [Jewish](/wiki/Judaism) community of about 100 members.[[86]](#cite_note-86)

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Although its official language is English, Namibia is a multilingual country as it is illustrated on these examples in English, German,](/wiki/File:NamibiaMehrsprachigkeit.jpg) [Afrikaans](/wiki/Afrikaans) and [Oshiwambo](/wiki/Oshiwambo_language). Up to 1990, English, [German](/wiki/German_language_in_Namibia) and [Afrikaans](/wiki/Afrikaans) were official languages. Long before Namibia's independence from South Africa, SWAPO was of the opinion that the country should become officially monolingual, choosing this approach in contrast to that of its neighbour South Africa (which granted [all 11 of its major languages](/wiki/Languages_of_South_Africa) official status), which was seen by them as "a deliberate policy of ethnolinguistic fragmentation."[[87]](#cite_note-87) Consequently, SWAPO instituted English as the sole official language of Namibia though only about 3% of the population speaks it as a home language. Its implementation is focused on the civil service, education and the broadcasting system.<ref name=kriger>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> Some other languages have received semi-official recognition by being allowed as medium of instruction in primary schools. It is expected of private schools to follow the same policy as state schools, and "English language" is a compulsory subject.<ref name=kriger/> As in other postcolonial African societies, the push for monolingual instruction and policy has resulted in a high rate of school drop-outs and of individuals whose academic competence in any language is low.[[88]](#cite_note-88) According to the 2011 census, the most common languages are [Oshiwambo](/wiki/Oshiwambo) (the most spoken language for 49% of households), [Nama](/wiki/Nama_language)/[Damara](/wiki/Damara_language) (11.3%), Afrikaans (10.4%), [Kavango](/wiki/Kavango_languages) (9%), [Otjiherero](/wiki/Otjiherero) (9%).<ref name=snapshot/><ref name=census2011>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The most widely understood and spoken language is [English](/wiki/English_language). Both Afrikaans and English are used primarily as a second language reserved for public communication.

Most of the white population speaks either German or Afrikaans. Even today, [Template:#expr:(2016-1915)](/wiki/Template:#expr:(2016-1915)) years after the end of the German colonial era, the German language plays a role as a commercial language. Afrikaans is spoken by 60% of the white community, German is spoken by 32%, English is spoken by 7% and Portuguese by 1%.[[85]](#cite_note-85) Geographical proximity to Portuguese-speaking Angola explains the relatively high number of [Portuguese speakers](/wiki/Portuguese_speaker); in 2011 these were estimated to be 100,000, or 4–5% of the total population.[[89]](#cite_note-89)

### Largest cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Largest cities of Namibia](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Namibia)

## Sport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [right|thumb|150px|The](/wiki/File:Namibia_Rugby_Team.jpg) [Namibia rugby team](/wiki/Namibia_national_rugby_union_team) The most popular sport in Namibia is [association football](/wiki/Association_football). The [Namibia national football team](/wiki/Namibia_national_football_team) qualified for the [2008 Africa Cup of Nations](/wiki/2008_Africa_Cup_of_Nations) but has yet to qualify for any [World Cups](/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup).

The most successful national team is the [Namibian rugby team](/wiki/Namibia_national_rugby_union_team), having competed in five separate World Cups. Namibia were participants in the [1999](/wiki/1999_Rugby_World_Cup), [2003](/wiki/2003_Rugby_World_Cup), [2007](/wiki/2007_Rugby_World_Cup), [2011](/wiki/2011_Rugby_World_Cup) and [2015](/wiki/2015_Rugby_World_Cup) [Rugby World Cups](/wiki/Rugby_World_Cup). [Cricket](/wiki/Cricket) is also popular, with the [national side](/wiki/Namibia_national_cricket_team) having played in the [2003 Cricket World Cup](/wiki/2003_Cricket_World_Cup).

[Inline hockey](/wiki/Inline_hockey) was first played in 1995 and has also become more and more popular in the last years. The Women's inline hockey National Team participated in the 2008 [FIRS](/wiki/FIRS) World Championships. Namibia is the home for one of the toughest footraces in the world, the [Namibian ultra marathon](/wiki/Namibian_ultra_marathon). The most famous athlete from Namibia is [Frankie Fredericks](/wiki/Frankie_Fredericks), sprinter (100 and 200 m). He won four Olympic silver medals (1992, 1996) and also has medals from several World Athletics Championships. He is also known for humanitarian activities in Namibia and beyond.

Golfer [Trevor Dodds](/wiki/Trevor_Dodds) won on the PGA Tour in 1998 (The Greater Greensborough Open) and won 15 tournaments in his career. He achieved a career high world ranking of 78 in 1998.

The [Swakopmund Skydiving Club](/wiki/Swakopmund_Skydiving_Club) in [Swakopmund](/wiki/Swakopmund) was founded in 1974, and operates still today from [Swakopmund Airport](/wiki/Swakopmund_Airport).

## Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

Although Namibia's population is fairly small, the country has a diverse choice of media; two TV stations, 19 radio stations (without counting community stations), 5 daily newspapers, several weeklies and special publications compete for the attention of the audience. Additionally, a mentionable amount of foreign media, especially South African, is available. Online media are mostly based on print publication contents. Namibia has a state-owned Press Agency, called [NAMPA](/wiki/Namibia_Press_Agency).<ref name=Rothe>Rothe, Andreas (2010): Media System and News Selection in Namibia. p. 14-96</ref>

The first newspaper in Namibia was the German-language [*Windhoeker Anzeiger*](/wiki/Windhoeker_Anzeiger), founded 1898. Radio was introduced in 1969, TV in 1981. During German rule, the newspapers mainly reflected the living reality and the view of the white German-speaking minority. The black majority was ignored or depicted as a threat. During South African rule, the white bias continued, with mentionable influence of the Pretoria government on the "South West African" media system. Independent newspapers were seen as a menace to the existing order, critical journalists threatened.<ref name=Rothe/>[[90]](#cite_note-90)<ref name=Links>Links, Frederico (2006): We write what we like: The role of independent print media and independent reporting in Namibia</ref>

The daily newspapers include the private publications [The Namibian](/wiki/The_Namibian) (English and other languages), [Die Republikein](/wiki/Die_Republikein) (Afrikaans), [Allgemeine Zeitung](/wiki/Allgemeine_Zeitung_(Namibia)) (German) and [Namibian Sun](/wiki/Namibian_Sun) (English) as well as the state-owned [New Era](/wiki/New_Era_(Namibia)) (predominantly English). Except for the largest newspaper, The Namibian, which is owned by a trust, the other mentioned private newspapers are part of the [Democratic Media Holdings](/wiki/Democratic_Media_Holdings).<ref name=Rothe/>

Other mentionable newspapers are the tabloid [Informanté](/wiki/Informanté) owned by [TrustCo](/wiki/Trustco_Group_Holdings), the weekly [Windhoek Observer](/wiki/Windhoek_Observer), the weekly [Namibia Economist](/wiki/Namibia_Economist), as well as the regional [Namib Times](/wiki/Namib_Times). Current affairs magazines include [Insight Namibia](/wiki/Insight_Namibia), [Vision2030 Focus magazine](/wiki/Vision2030_Focus_magazine)[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) and [Prime FOCUS](/wiki/Prime_FOCUS). [Sister Namibia](/wiki/Sister_Namibia) Magazine stands out as the longest running NGO magazine in Namibia, while [Namibia Sport](/wiki/Namibia_Sport) is the only national sport magazine. Furthermore, the print market is complemented with party publications, student newspapers and PR publications.<ref name=Rothe/>

The broadcasting sector is dominated by the state-run [Namibian Broadcasting Corporation](/wiki/Namibian_Broadcasting_Corporation) (NBC). The [public broadcaster](/wiki/Public_broadcasting) offers a TV station as well as a "National Radio" in English and nine language services in locally spoken languages. The nine private radio stations in the country are mainly English-language channels, except for Radio Omulunga (Oshiwambo) and Kosmos 94.1 (Afrikaans). Privately held [One Africa TV](/wiki/One_Africa_Television) has competed with NBC since the 2000s.[[91]](#cite_note-91) Compared to neighbouring countries, Namibia has a large degree of media freedom. Over the past years, the country usually ranked in the upper quarter of the [Press Freedom Index](/wiki/Press_Freedom_Index) of [Reporters without Borders](/wiki/Reporters_without_Borders), reaching position 21 in 2010, being on par with Canada and the best-positioned African country.[[92]](#cite_note-92) The [African Media Barometer](/wiki/African_Media_Barometer) shows similarly positive results.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) However, as in other countries, there is still mentionable influence of representatives of state and economy on media in Namibia.<ref name=Rothe/> In 2009, Namibia dropped to position 36 on the Press Freedom Index.[[93]](#cite_note-93) In 2013, it was 19th.[[94]](#cite_note-94) In 2014 it ranked 22nd [[95]](#cite_note-95) Media and journalists in Namibia are represented by the Namibian chapter of the [Media Institute of Southern Africa](/wiki/Media_Institute_of_Southern_Africa) and the [Editors' Forum of Namibia](/wiki/Editors'_Forum_of_Namibia). An independent media ombudsman was appointed in 2009 to prevent a state-controlled media council.<ref name=Rothe/>

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[thumb|Secondary school students](/wiki/File:42817_06.JPG) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Namibia has free education for both Primary and secondary education levels. Grades 1–7 are primary level, grades 8–12 secondary. In 1998, there were 400,325 Namibian students in primary school and 115,237 students in secondary schools. The pupil-teacher ratio in 1999 was estimated at 32:1, with about 8% of the GDP being spent on education.[[96]](#cite_note-96) Curriculum development, educational research, and professional development of teachers is centrally organised by the National Institute for Educational Development (NIED) in Okahandja.[[97]](#cite_note-97) Most schools in Namibia are state-run, but there are quite a few private schools also part of the country's education system. There are four teacher training universities, three colleges of agriculture, a police training college, and two universities: [University of Namibia](/wiki/University_of_Namibia) (UNAM) and [Namibia University of Science and Technology](/wiki/Namibia_University_of_Science_and_Technology) (NUST).

## Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[Life expectancy](/wiki/Life_expectancy) at birth is estimated to be 52.2 years in 2012 – among the lowest in the world.[[98]](#cite_note-98) The AIDS epidemic is a large problem in Namibia. Though its rate of infection is substantially lower than that of its eastern neighbour, Botswana, approximately 13.1% of the adult population [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) infected with HIV.[[99]](#cite_note-99) In 2001, there were an estimated 210,000 people living with HIV/AIDS, and the estimated death toll in 2003 was 16,000. According to the 2011 UNAIDS Report, the epidemic in Namibia "appears to be leveling off."[[100]](#cite_note-100) As the HIV/AIDS epidemic has reduced the working-aged population, the number of orphans has increased. It falls to the government to provide education, food, shelter and clothing for these orphans.[[101]](#cite_note-101) The [malaria](/wiki/Malaria) problem seems to be compounded by the AIDS epidemic. Research has shown that in Namibia the risk of contracting malaria is 14.5% greater if a person is also infected with HIV. The risk of death from malaria is also raised by approximately 50% with a concurrent HIV infection.<ref name=Korenromp/> Given infection rates this large, as well as a looming malaria problem, it may be very difficult for the government to deal with both the medical and economic impacts of this epidemic. The country had only 598 physicians in 2002.[[102]](#cite_note-102)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

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* [Outline of Namibia](/wiki/Outline_of_Namibia)
* [Index of Namibia-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Namibia-related_articles)
* [Communications in Namibia](/wiki/Communications_in_Namibia)
* [Music of Namibia](/wiki/Music_of_Namibia)
* [United Nations Commissioner for Namibia](/wiki/United_Nations_Commissioner_for_Namibia)
* [Visa policy of Namibia](/wiki/Visa_policy_of_Namibia)
* [Shark Island Concentration Camp](/wiki/Shark_Island_Concentration_Camp)

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### Lists[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

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* [List of cities and towns in Namibia](/wiki/List_of_cities_and_towns_in_Namibia)
* [Namibian cultural association](/wiki/Namibian_cultural_association)
* [List of villages and settlements in Namibia](/wiki/List_of_villages_and_settlements_in_Namibia)
* [List of Namibians](/wiki/List_of_Namibians)
* [List of schools in Namibia](/wiki/List_of_schools_in_Namibia)
* [List of national parks of Namibia](/wiki/List_of_national_parks_of_Namibia)
* [List of South-African Administrators-General in South West Africa](/wiki/List_of_South-African_Administrators-General_in_South_West_Africa)

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

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### Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

### General references[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

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* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Namibia](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/namibia.htm) from *UCB Libraries GovPubs*
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [Key Development Forecasts for Namibia](http://www.ifs.du.edu/ifs/frm_CountryProfile.aspx?Country=NA) from [International Futures](/wiki/International_Futures)

Government

* [Republic of Namibia](http://www.grnnet.gov.na) Government Portal
* [Chief of State and Cabinet Members](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/world-leaders-1/world-leaders-n/namibia.html)

Education

* [Polytechnic of Namibia](http://www.polytechnic.edu.na)

Corruption

* [Namibia Corruption Profile](http://www.business-anti-corruption.com/country-profiles/sub-saharan-africa/namibia/snapshot.aspx) from the [Business Anti-Corruption Portal](/wiki/Business_Anti-Corruption_Portal)

Tourism

* [Template:Wikivoyage-inline](/wiki/Template:Wikivoyage-inline)
* [Etosha National Park](http://www.etoshanationalpark.org/)
* [Sossusvlei](http://www.sossusvlei.org/)

UN peacekeeping

* [UN peacekeeping in Namibia](http://knbsz.gov.hu/hu/letoltes/szsz/2013_1_spec.pdf)

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[Template:Namibia topics](/wiki/Template:Namibia_topics) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes)

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