


Country profile 2024 – Namibia

Part 1. General information

1. Country information

	Full name of the country	Namibia
	Capital	Windhoek
	Official language(s)	English
	Main ports	Walvis Bay & Luderitz
	Coastline (km)	1570

2. Contacts

GI WACAF Focal point

Name	Shapua Kalomo
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IMO Focal point

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National representatives completing this document

Name	Job title	Organisation	Country	Email	Telephone
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3. Industry

Industry presence in the country	
Which industry partners from the <i>Oil & Gas</i> sector are present and operating in your country?	SHELL, TOTAL, CHEVRON, GALP, RHINO RESOURCES (upstream) – majority is downstream
Cooperation with the industry	
Is there working group/platform that brings together government and industry to address issues related to oil spill preparedness and response? If yes, please provide the name.	Yes. The National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan provides a framework for Government and Industry to cooperate in implementing the said Plan. In this regard the Industry is represented on key National Plan structures i.e. the Management Committee (MC) and the Operations Team (OT)
Is there sharing of human resources and equipment between industry and government during exercises and/or training?	Yes
Please list any other aspects relevant to cooperation between industry and government.	None

Part 2. Updating the Country Profile, identification of level of preparedness and priority actions

I. Institutional and legal context

1. Designation of responsible authority(ies)

Competent national authorities responsible for oil spill preparedness and response	
<i>Response at sea</i>	
Ministry/Department/Agency	Ministry of Works and Transport, Directorate of Maritime Affairs
Contact person responsible for oil spills at sea	Shapua Kalomo Acting Deputy Director, Marine Pollution Control and SAR
Address	Hanna Mupetami Street, Maritime House, GPS 22°56'53"S 14°30'56"E, Private Bag 5004, Walvis Bay, Namibia
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<i>Shoreline response</i>	
Ministry/Department/Agency	Ministry of Works and Transport, Directorate of Maritime Affairs

Updated in November 2024

Contact person responsible for shoreline oil spills	Shapua Kalomo
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<i>Authority(ies) responsible for implementation of IMO conventions</i>	
Ministry/Department/Agency	Ministry of Works and Transport
Contact person	Mrs. Esther N. Kaapanda, Executive Director
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2. Ratification of international conventions and national legislation

Ratification of international IMO conventions (related to oil spill prevention, preparedness and response, and to civil liability and compensation) and their transposition into national legislation				
	Status of ratification	National legislation that incorporates the Convention	Status of implementation	Observations/specific actions needed

Updated in November 2024

Prevention				
MARPOL 73-78	Done	In progress	Partly done. Transposition pending	There is a request to ITCP for support that incorporates marine pollution prevention and preparedness
Preparedness and response				
OPRC 90	Done	In progress	Done. National Plan in Place. Port Contingency Plans are under development.	
OPRC-HNS Protocol	Not done	In progress		Accession is estimated to be done in 2025. There is an on-going need to build awareness of the OPRC-HNS Protocol
Liability and compensation				
CLC 69	Not applicable			
CLC 92	Done	In progress		
Fund 92	Done	In progress		
Fund Prot. (2003)	Not done			Not a priority for now
Bunker Oil (BUNKER 2001)	Done	In progress		
LLMC 76				
LLMC 96	Not done			Accession to be prepared in 2025
HNS 2010	Not done			Accession to be prepared in 2025

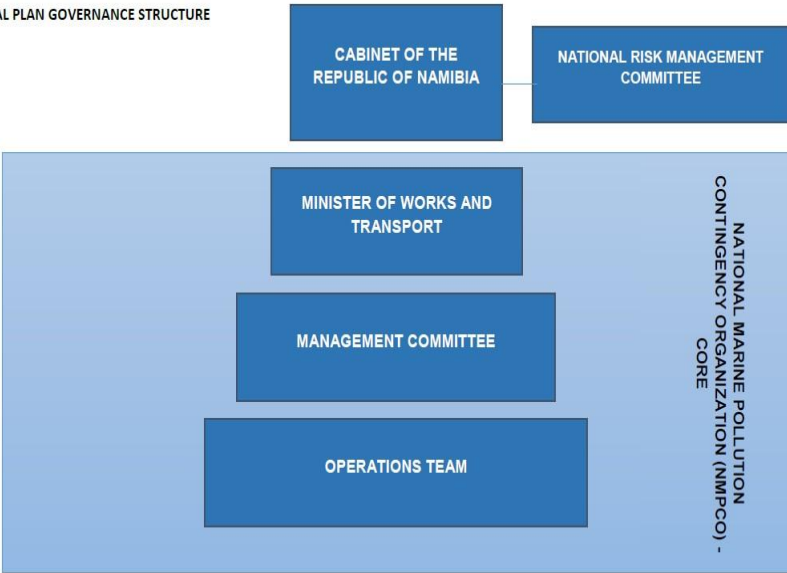
National legislation			
Maritime policies and regulatory framework	Do maritime policies or strategies exist? What is the responsible entity?	National Transport Policy 2017 National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan 2017 Responsible entity is the Ministry of Works and Transport.	
Ratification of IMO conventions	What are the main challenges/obstacles to ratification?	Lack of coordination	
		Lack of priority	
		Lack of legal expertise	X
		Lack of technical expertise	X
		Lack of financial resources	
Incorporation of IMO conventions	What is the procedure for incorporating IMO Conventions related to safety, marine pollution, and liability and compensation, into national legislation?	International treaties, once ratified by Namibia, becomes automatically applicable and have force of law in Namibia. This is in line with terms of the Namibian Constitution. However, these instruments need to be further transposed into Namibian law in order to have penalties for non-conformance.	
Incorporation of: • 1992 Fund Convention • Supplementary Fund Protocol	Does the related law identify the national authority responsible for the submission of oil reports?	National law has not been finalized. However, the Ministry of Works and Transport is responsible for submitting IOPC reports.	

II. National Oil Spill Contingency Plan

1. Development of a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP)

Document	
Name of NOSCP	The National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan
Status of NOSCP	Finalised and approved
Administrative act of initial approval – Number and date	Cabinet Decision - 5th/18.04.17/003, 18 April 2017
Date of last approved update	18 April 2017
Committee/working group responsible	National Plan Management Committee
Has the NOSCP been tested? Date and main comments	July 2023. Transboundary oil spill response exercise (Table-top)
What is the procedure for updating the NOSCP? Does the updated NOSCP have to be formalised through an administrative act (e.g. decree, law ...) for it to be applicable?	Cabinet approval is only required if the update relates to the substantive/high level provisions of the plan. Regular/procedural updates do not require Cabinet approval.

2. Coordination, notification policies and organisation of response

Organisation of response	
Does the NOSCP utilise concepts from the <i>Incident Management System (IMS)</i> ?	Yes. IMS is the adopted system for organizing a response operation in terms of the National Plan.
Is each defined role assigned to a person/function?	Yes
Are the contact details of the responsible persons contained in an annex?	Yes
Does the NOSCP incorporate the different preparedness levels (Tiers 1, 2, 3)?	Yes
<p>Organisation Chart An MoU has now been signed between all relevant (37 in number) organizations including both government and the private sector</p> <p>NATIONAL PLAN GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE</p>  <pre> graph TD Cabinet[CABINET OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA] --- NRM[NATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE] Cabinet --- Minister[MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT] Minister --- MC[MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE] MC --- OT[OPERATIONS TEAM] MC --- NMPCO[NATIONAL MARINE POLLUTION CONTINGENCY ORGANIZATION (NMPCO) - CORE] OT --- NMPCO </pre>	

Notification and reporting procedures	
Are the emergency, notification and follow-up procedures (reports, etc.) well defined? Do they include a template as well as an updated contact list? Yes	Yes
Can the NOSCP be activated in case of an oil spill caused by a non-ship source (e.g. offshore platform, pipeline, etc.)?	Yes
Coordination with local plans and the industry	
Are the local plans (port, terminal, etc.) referenced and integrated in the NOSCP?	Yes.
Are the contingency plans of oil and gas industry facilities referenced and integrated in the NOSCP?	Yes
Involving the local communities	
Is the involvement of local communities in case of oil spills and during exercises planned?	Yes
Follow-up and archive; compensation	
Is there a follow-up plan and archiving system that allows evidence to be stored?	Yes
Are compensation and the procedures for requesting compensation defined and integrated?	Partly

3. Components of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan

Policy on use of dispersants	
Status of the policy on the use of dispersants	<p>The Policy is currently under development, at stakeholder consultation stage.</p> <p>Generally, the National Plan provides for usage but this is a high level policy provision. It needs to be beefed up with a separate/dedicate policy and guideline.</p>

The use of dispersants is considered as (first/second/last option/not an option).	Generally – last option	
State the name of the administrative act which details the policy on use of dispersants.	None. The National Plan makes provision – in general terms – about the option of using dispersants.	
Is there a list of approved dispersants? If yes, is it public?	No	
Is there an approval procedure? If yes, which authority is responsible for this?	At present, the Ministry of Works and Transport	
Is the same authority responsible for authorising the use of dispersants in emergency situations?	Yes	
Is the policy on the use of dispersants included in the NOSCP?	Yes - as a general principle.	
What are the geographic and bathymetric limits for use of dispersants?	Generally 5NM and 25m water depth	
Is there a stock of dispersants?	No	
Location of the storage sites	No applicable	
Name	Owner	Quantity
Sensitivity mapping and risk evaluation		
<i>Sensitivity maps</i>		
Status of sensitivity maps	Strategic and tactical maps – done for ecological, socio-economic and logistical features Further work is needed to develop tactical operational maps	
Responsible working group/committee	Done	
Are sensitivity maps included in the NOSCP?	Yes	
Date of validation and last update	27 February 2015	

Does the map cover the whole shoreline?	Yes
Are the sensitivity maps public?	Yes
In what format are the sensitivity maps available? Print or digital?	GIS and PDF
<i>Risk evaluation</i>	
Does the plan include drift patterns?	No
Does the NOSCP consider air surveillance in case of an incident (radar, satellite, aircraft, helicopter, etc.)?	Yes
Does the plan include a risk register and spill scenarios?	No. A risk assessment for Namibia and South Africa was published by the Benguela Current Commission in 2022. Available at: www.benguelacc.org/download/oil-risk-assessment-for-namibia-and-south-africa/
Is the Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA) included in the NOSCP?	Yes – in general terms
Shoreline evaluation and response plan	
Status of the shoreline response plan	No specific plan in place - could be developed alongside the proposed tactical operational maps
Which authority is responsible for shoreline response?	Ministry of Environment and Tourism in conjunction with the Ministry of Works and Transport (National Plan Manager)
Date of validation and last update	Not applicable
Is the shoreline response plan part of the NOSCP?	Yes
Does the shoreline response plan incorporate the Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT)?	Partially – the NOSCP mentions SCAT and a sub-regional workshop on shoreline response was hosted by Namibia in 2018 with GI WACAF support
Can volunteers participate in shoreline response? If yes, is there a volunteer management plan in case of oil spills?	No

Oiled waste management plan	
Status of the waste management plan	Not in place. Temporary storage sites and final disposal sites for hazardous waste are identified
Responsible working group/committee	Yes
Date of validation and last update	Not applicable
Is the waste management plan part of the NOSCP?	No
Does the waste management plan include transport, temporary storage and final disposal of waste?	No
Does the national legislation consider oiled waste as hazardous waste?	Yes
What legislative framework regulates waste management at the national level?	Environment Management Act 2007
Contingency plan for the safety of oiled wildlife	
Status of the contingency plan for the protection of oiled wildlife	Yes, this plan has been developed through funding from the Debmarine-Namdeb Foundation (2021) There are small wildlife response stockpiles Lüderitz & Oranjemund and some training has been undertaken, see www.giwacaf.net/site/assets/files/2197/gi_wacaf_presentation_-_sanncob.pdf
Responsible working group/committee	Yes
Date of validation and last update	Not applicable
Is the contingency plan for the protection of oiled wildlife part of the NOSCP?	Yes. The National Plan requires the development of Wildlife response guidelines.
Are there national bodies responsible for this? If yes, which ones?	Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Are there cooperation agreements with international specialised organisations?	No (though linkages to SANNCOB who have further connections to global network)

<i>In-situ</i> burning policy	
Status of the <i>in-situ</i> burning policy	None
Responsible working group/committee	None. It could be useful to raise awareness of the technique
Date of validation and last update	Not applicable
Does the <i>in-situ</i> burning policy form part of the NOSCP?	No
What is the authorization procedure in case of an incident?	None
Other technical elements	
Does the NOSCP cover preparedness and response in the case of spills of hazardous and noxious substances (HNS)?	No

III. Response equipment, training/exercises and international cooperation

1. Transboundary cooperation and international assistance

Regional agreements	
What bilateral and/or regional cooperation response mechanisms are included in the NOSCP?	The National Plan makes provision for mutual assistance with Angola and South Africa and other states in general terms in the context of OPRC 90, Abidjan Convention, the SADC Protocol on Transport 1981, Communication and Metrology 1996, the Benguela Current Convention 2013, and general bilateral agreements and arrangements concluded with these countries.
Are transboundary exercises organised regularly? If yes, how often?	The 1 st transboundary exercise with Angola was organized in August 2019.

Date of the last transboundary exercise	August 2019
Transboundary transfer of expertise and equipment	
Are there specific customs and immigration procedures in place to facilitate the import of equipment and/or expertise?	Yes
If yes, what are the procedures?	In terms of the National Plan, Ministry of Finance will “will be responsible for facilitating expedient clearance (entry and exit) of imported combating equipment and materials during pollution response operations and ensure that, where applicable, customs and excise duties are waived for such equipment and materials.”
Assistance mechanisms	
Does your country participate in cooperation with projects/institutions aimed at improving preparedness and response? If yes, which ones?	Only projects under GIWACAF and IMO.
Is there mutual support between government and industry for the exchange of response equipment?	Not yet
Are mechanisms for mobilisation and access to public and private international assistance in place?	Upstream oil and gas activities are required to develop and seek approval of their oil spill contingency plans.

2. Training and exercises

Training	
<i>Courses</i>	
Does the country organise internal training for staff at all levels (based on the needs of the country and in accordance with international standards)?	No. There is currently no capacity for this activity Note that the national working group meets quarterly providing opportunities to schedule training alongside

<i>Exercises</i>	
Does the country organise national exercises (involving local and private sectors) at least once a year?	Yes
Education	
Does cooperation with universities to train future experts in environmental management	Not yet
and the management of industrial and environmental risks exist or is it planned?	Not yet

3. Equipment and national resources

Response equipment	
Government: Limited and largely obsolete. Equipment renewal programme planned. The BCC risk assessment (dated June 2022), section 6.1.9 concluded: “In Namibia, response equipment is available in Lüderitz and Walvis bays. However, it is insufficient and largely obsolete. There is a need for investment in strategically placed equipment due to the vast coastline. The deployment time depends on the proximity of the spill to Walvis or Lüderitz bays.”	Private sector: Various mainly port authority owned.
Centre for storage and maintenance of response equipment	In place
Planned acquisition of response equipment by the government	Required equipment for procurement have been identified (the private company and equipment supplier Vikoma provided a review in 2017). Procurement to take place once funds are available.
Inventories of public and private response equipment (annexed to the NOSCP)	In place

Procedure for the temporary loan of response equipment from the industry, in case of an incident	Not in place
Crisis control centre (rooms for meetings and communication)	In place but not suitably equipped i.e. (lacking modern communications and IT equipment)
Centre for resources, training and documentation for oil spill preparedness and for response management	In place
Capacity for intervention	
In case of TIER 1¹ oil spills, is there sufficient national oil spill response capacity to enact intervention measures?	Yes
In case of TIER 2 oil spills, is there sufficient national oil spill response capacity to enact intervention measures?	Very limited capacity
In case of TIER 3 oil spills, is there sufficient national oil spill response capacity to enact intervention measures?	No

¹ The definition of tiers 1, 2, 3 varies by country

4. Communication

Communication with the media and the public	
Are standard procedures in place for communication with the media during exercises and actual incidents?	Yes
Is there a practical and strategic training programme on communicating with the media, for decision-makers and other response stakeholders?	No