



# STRATEGIC HORIZONS IN NAMIBIA'S FISHERIES

NAVIGATING ECONOMICS, SUSTAINABILITY, AND  
GOVERNANCE FOR A BLUE ECONOMY,



SOVEREIGNPIALPHAFRANCE LTD

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Namibia's fishing sector is pivotal to the country's economy, contributing 4.1% to the GDP and 15% to export revenues. Governed by the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade, and Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MITSMED) under the Foreign Investment Act of 1990, the sector is buoyed by Namibia's membership in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The industry is notably diverse, including marine, freshwater, and aquaculture sub-sectors. The fisheries industry is a significant revenue generator, with marine landings alone totalling around 550,000 tons and an average worth of NAD 10 billion (approx. 625 million EUR) as of 2017. Primarily, the exports include hake and horse mackerel. Namibia ranks third in Africa and 30th globally in fish capture, emphasising the sector's economic potential. Despite its promising outlook, the industry grapples with illegal fishing, high operational costs, and limited access for disadvantaged communities.

Furthermore, over-exploitation and the decline of certain fish stocks add a layer of complexity to the challenges faced. The government has actively been implementing policies to foster sustainability and equitable development. The report assesses the sector's organisational performance and readiness for change. Governance is pivotal for the industry's success, emphasising transparency, anti-corruption measures, and effective governance mechanisms.

The report utilises statistical data from various global and continental agencies like FAO, WTO, UNCTAD, ILO, and the World Bank. It employs quantitative methods, including statistical analysis and machine learning models, to unearth patterns and trends that could inform future strategy and policymaking. The role of intangible assets like human capital and governance quality are also given prominence, challenging traditional economic methods of assessment that focus on tangible assets. It's recommended that a nuanced approach encompassing social, economic, and environmental aspects be adopted for future policy formulation. Investing in technological and infrastructural upgrades, focusing on sustainable practices, and employing data analytics for decision-making could further grow the sector. There is an urgent need for a multi-stakeholder framework that combines government oversight, industry participation, and community engagement to build a sustainable and profitable fisheries sector. The Namibian fishing sector is at a crossroads where strategic planning, supported by robust data analytics and inclusive governance, could set the stage for a sustainable and economically rewarding future. Given current trends and challenges, immediate action is required to responsibly harness the sector's full potential.

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