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The World Factbook

Namibia

Introduction Namibia

Background: South Africa occupied the German colony of South-West Africa during World War I and administered it as a mandate until after World War II, when it annexed the territory. In 1966 the Marxist South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) guerrilla group launched a war of independence for the area that was soon named Namibia, but it was not until 1988 that South Africa agreed to end its administration in accordance with a UN peace plan for the entire region. Independence came in 1990 following multi-party elections and the establishment of a constitution. President NUJOMA is currently serving his third term as president.

Geography Namibia

Location: Southern Africa, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Angola and South Africa

Geographic coordinates: 22 00 S, 17 00 E

Map references: Africa

Area: *total:* 825,418 sq km
water: 0 sq km

land: 825,418 sq km

Area - slightly more than half the size of Alaska
comparative:

Land *total*: 3,936 km

boundaries: *border countries*: Angola 1,376 km, Botswana 1,360 km, South Africa 967 km, Zambia 233 km

Coastline: 1,572 km

Maritime *contiguous zone*: 24 NM

claims: *exclusive economic zone*: 200 NM

territorial sea: 12 NM

Climate: desert; hot, dry; rainfall sparse and erratic

Terrain: mostly high plateau; Namib Desert along coast; Kalahari Desert in east

Elevation *lowest point*: Atlantic Ocean 0 m

extremes: *highest point*: Konigstein 2,606 m

Natural diamonds, copper, uranium, gold, lead, tin, lithium, cadmium, zinc,
resources: salt, vanadium, natural gas, hydropower, fish
note: suspected deposits of oil, coal, and iron ore

Land use: *arable land*: 0.99%

permanent crops: 0%

other: 99.01% (1998 est.)

Irrigated land: 70 sq km (1998 est.)

Natural prolonged periods of drought
hazards:

Environment - very limited natural fresh water resources; desertification; wildlife
current issues: poaching; land degradation has led to few conservation areas

Environment - *party to*: Antarctic-Marine Living Resources, Biodiversity,
international Climate Change, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous
agreements: Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Wetlands
signed, but not ratified: none of the selected agreements

Geography - first country in the world to incorporate the protection of the
note: environment into its constitution; some 14% of the land is
protected, including virtually the entire Namib Desert coastal strip

People	Namibia
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Population: 1,927,447

note: estimates for this country explicitly take into account the effects of excess mortality due to AIDS; this can result in lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality and death rates, lower population and growth rates, and changes in the distribution of population by age and sex than would otherwise be expected (July 2003 est.)

Age structure: *0-14 years*: 42.5% (male 414,559; female 404,346)

15-64 years: 54% (male 517,469; female 522,549)
65 years and over: 3.5% (male 30,038; female 38,486) (2003 est.)

Median age: *total*: 18.3 years
male: 17.9 years
female: 18.6 years (2002)

Population growth rate: 1.49% (2003 est.)

Birth rate: 34.1 births/1,000 population (2003 est.)

Death rate: 19.17 deaths/1,000 population (2003 est.)

Net migration rate: 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2003 est.)

Sex ratio: *at birth*: 1.03 male(s)/female
under 15 years: 1.03 male(s)/female
15-64 years: 0.99 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 0.78 male(s)/female
total population: 1 male(s)/female (2003 est.)

Infant mortality rate: *total*: 68.44 deaths/1,000 live births
female: 65.06 deaths/1,000 live births (2003 est.)
male: 71.72 deaths/1,000 live births

Life expectancy at birth: *total population*: 42.77 years
male: 44.27 years
female: 41.22 years (2003 est.)

Total fertility rate: 4.71 children born/woman (2003 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 22.5% (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS: 230,000 (2001 est.)

HIV/AIDS - deaths: 13,000 (2001 est.)

Nationality: *noun*: Namibian(s)
adjective: Namibian

Ethnic groups: black 87.5%, white 6%, mixed 6.5%
note: about 50% of the population belong to the Ovambo tribe and 9% to the Kavangos tribe; other ethnic groups are: Herero 7%, Damara 7%, Nama 5%, Caprivian 4%, Bushmen 3%, Baster 2%, Tswana 0.5%

Religions: Christian 80% to 90% (Lutheran 50% at least), indigenous beliefs 10% to 20%

Languages: English 7% (official), Afrikaans common language of most of the population and about 60% of the white population, German 32%, indigenous languages: Oshivambo, Herero, Nama

Literacy: *definition:* age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 84%
male: 84.4%
female: 83.7% (2003 est.)

Government Namibia

Country name: *conventional long form:* Republic of Namibia
conventional short form: Namibia
former: German Southwest Africa, South-West Africa

Government type: republic

Capital: Windhoek

Administrative divisions: 13 regions; Caprivi, Erongo, Hardap, Karas, Khomas, Kunene, Ohangwena, Okavango, Omaheke, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa

Independence: 21 March 1990 (from South African mandate)

National holiday: Independence Day, 21 March (1990)

Constitution: ratified 9 February 1990; effective 12 March 1990

Legal system: based on Roman-Dutch law and 1990 constitution

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Executive branch: *chief of state:* President Sam Shafishuna NUJOMA (since 21 March 1990)
head of government: Prime Minister Theo-Ben GURIRAB (since 28 August 2002)
cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the president from among the members of the National Assembly
elections: president elected by popular vote for a five-year term; election last held 30 November-1 December 1999 (next to be held NA 2004)
election results: Sam Shafishuna NUJOMA elected president; percent of vote - Sam Shafishuna NUJOMA 77%

Legislative branch: bicameral legislature consists of the National Council (26 seats; two members are chosen from each regional council to serve six-year terms) and the National Assembly (72 seats; members are elected by popular vote to serve five-year terms)
elections: National Council - elections for regional councils, to determine members of the National Council, held 30 November-1 December 1998 (next to be held by December 2004); National Assembly - last held 30 November-1 December 1999 (next to be held by December 2004)
note: the National Council is primarily an advisory body

election results: National Council - percent of vote by party - NA%; seats by party - SWAPO 21, DTA 4, UDF 1; National Assembly - percent of vote by party - SWAPO 76%, COD 10%, DTA 9%, UDF 3%, MAG 1%, other 1%; seats by party - SWAPO 55, COD 7, DTA 7, UDF 2, MAG 1,

Judicial branch: Supreme Court (judges appointed by the president on the recommendation of the Judicial Service Commission)

Political parties and leaders: Congress of Democrats or COD [Ben ULENGA]; Democratic Turnhalle Alliance of Namibia or DTA [Katuutire KAURA, president]; Monitor Action Group or MAG [Kosie PRETORIUS]; South West Africa People's Organization or SWAPO [Sam Shafishuna NUJOMA]; United Democratic Front or UDF [Justus GAROEB]

Political pressure groups and leaders: NA

International organization participation: ACP, AfDB, C, ECA, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICCT, ICFTU, ICRM, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM (observer), ISO (correspondent), ITU, NAM, OAU, OPCW, SACU, SADC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNMEE, UPU, WCL, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WToO, WTrO

Diplomatic representation in the US: *chief of mission:* Ambassador Leonard Nangolo IIPUMBU
chancery: 1605 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009
FAX: [1] (202) 986-0443
telephone: [1] (202) 986-0540

Diplomatic representation from the US: *chief of mission:* Ambassador Kevin J. McGUIRE
embassy: Ausplan Building, 14 Lossen Street, Windhoek
mailing address: Private Bag 12029 Ausspannplatz, Windhoek
telephone: [264] (61) 221601
FAX: [264] (61) 229792

Flag description: a large blue triangle with a yellow sunburst fills the upper left section and an equal green triangle (solid) fills the lower right section; the triangles are separated by a red stripe that is contrasted by two narrow white-edge borders

Economy Namibia

Economy overview: The economy is heavily dependent on the extraction and processing of minerals for export. Mining accounts for 20% of GDP. Rich alluvial diamond deposits make Namibia a primary source for gem-quality diamonds. Namibia is the fourth-largest exporter of nonfuel minerals in Africa, the world's fifth-largest producer of uranium, and the producer of large quantities of lead, zinc, tin, silver, and tungsten. The mining sector employs only about 3% of the population while about half of the population depends on subsistence agriculture for its livelihood. Namibia

normally imports about 50% of its cereal requirements; in drought years food shortages are a major problem in rural areas. A high per capita GDP, relative to the region, hides the great inequality of income distribution; nearly one-third of Namibians had annual incomes of less than \$1400 in constant 1994 dollars, according to a 1993 study. The Namibian economy is closely linked to South Africa with the Namibian dollar pegged to the South African rand. Privatization of several enterprises in coming years may stimulate long-run foreign investment.

GDP: purchasing power parity - \$13.15 billion (2002 est.)

GDP - real growth rate: 2.3% (2002 est.)

GDP - per capita: purchasing power parity - \$6,900 (2002 est.)

GDP - composition by sector: *agriculture*: 11%
industry: 28%
services: 61% (2001 est.)

Population below poverty line: 50% (2002 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share: *lowest 10%*: NA%
highest 10%: NA%

Inflation rate (consumer prices): 8% (2001)

Labor force: 725,000 (2000)

Labor force - by occupation: agriculture 47%, industry 20%, services 33% (1999 est.)

Unemployment rate: 35% (1998)

Budget: *revenues*: \$883 million
expenditures: \$950 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1998)

Industries: meatpacking, fish processing, dairy products; mining (diamond, lead, zinc, tin, silver, tungsten, uranium, copper)

Industrial production growth rate: NA%

Electricity - production: 26.95 million kWh (2001)

Electricity - *fossil fuel*: 0%
production by *hydro*: 0%
source: *other*: 0%
nuclear: 0%

Electricity - 603.1 million kWh (2001)
consumption:

Electricity - 0 kWh (2001)
exports:

Electricity - 578 million kWh; note - electricity supplied by South Africa
imports: (2001)

Oil - 0 bbl/day (2001 est.)
production:

Oil - 13,000 bbl/day (2001 est.)
consumption:

Oil - exports: NA (2001)

Oil - imports: NA (2001)

Oil - proved 0 bbl (37257)
reserves:

Natural gas - 31.15 billion cu m (37257)
proved
reserves:

Agriculture - millet, sorghum, peanuts; livestock; fish
products:

Exports: \$1.21 billion f.o.b. (2002 est.)

Exports - diamonds, copper, gold, zinc, lead, uranium; cattle, processed fish,
commodities: karakul skins

Exports - EU 79%, US 4% (2001)
partners:

Imports: \$1.38 billion f.o.b. (2002 est.)

Imports - foodstuffs; petroleum products and fuel, machinery and equipment,
commodities: chemicals

Imports - US 50%, EU 31% (2001)
partners:

Debt - external: \$517 million (2002 est.)

Economic aid - ODA \$160 million (2000 est.)
recipient:

Currency: Namibian dollar (NAD); South African rand (ZAR)

Currency code: NAD; ZAR

Exchange Namibian dollars per US dollar - 10.54 (2002), 8.61 (2001), 6.94
rates: (2000), 6.11 (1999), 5.53 (1998)

Fiscal year: 1 April - 31 March

Communications Namibia

Telephones - 110,200 (2000)
main lines in
use:

Telephones - 82,000 (2000 est.)
mobile cellular:

Telephone system: *general assessment:* good system; about 6 telephones for each 100 persons
domestic: good urban services; fair rural service; microwave radio relay links major towns; connections to other populated places are by open wire; 100% digital
international: fiber-optic cable to South Africa, microwave radio relay link to Botswana, direct links to other neighboring countries; connected to Africa ONE and South African Far East (SAFE) submarine cables through South Africa; satellite earth stations - 4 Intelsat (2002)

Radio broadcast stations: AM 2, FM 39, shortwave 4 (2001)

Radios: 232,000 (1997)

Television broadcast stations: 8 (plus about 20 low-power repeaters) (1997)

Televisions: 60,000 (1997)

Internet country code: .na

Internet Service Providers (ISPs): 2 (2000)

Internet users: 45,000 (2002)

Transportation Namibia

Railways: *total:* 2,382 km
narrow gauge: 2,382 km 1.067-m gauge (2002)

Highways: *total:* 66,467 km
paved: 9,172 km
unpaved: 57,285 km (2000)

Waterways: none

Ports and harbors: Luderitz, Walvis Bay

Merchant none (2002 est.)
marine:

Airports: 135 (2002)

Airports - with *total: 21*
paved runways: *over 3,047 m: 2*
2,438 to 3,047 m: 2
1,524 to 2,437 m: 13
914 to 1,523 m: 4 (2002)

Airports - with *total: 114*
unpaved *2,438 to 3,047 m: 2*
runways: *1,524 to 2,437 m: 22*
914 to 1,523 m: 71
under 914 m: 19 (2002)

Military	Namibia
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Military National Defense Force (Army, including Air Wing), Police
branches:

Military *males age 15-49: 459,474 (2003 est.)*
manpower -
availability:

Military *males age 15-49: 274,015 (2003 est.)*
manpower - fit
for military
service:

Military \$73.1 million (FY02)
expenditures -
dollar figure:

Military 2.4% (FY02)
expenditures -
percent of
GDP:

Transnational Issues	Namibia
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Disputes - commission established with Botswana to resolve small residual
international: disputes along the Caprivi Strip, including the Situngu marshlands
along the Linyanti River; Botswana residents protest Namibia's
planned construction of the Okavango hydroelectric dam on Popa
Falls; managed dispute with South Africa over the location of the
boundary in the Orange River; dormant dispute remains where
Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe boundaries converge;
Angolan rebels and refugees still reside in Namibia

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Nationalrat: 26 Mgl., je zwei pro Region). *Parteien*: Südwestafrikan. Volksorganisation (SWAPO), Demokrat. Turnhallenallianz (DTA), Vereinigte Demokrat. Front (UDF).

Landesnatur:

N. gliedert sich in drei küstenparallele Großräume: An der Küste liegt die Wüste Namib. Sie wird im O begrenzt durch die Große Randstufe, d. h. den Steilanstieg zu den zentralen Hochländern in 1 000–2 000 m Höhe, die von Bergländern überragt werden. Der O gehört zur abflusslosen Beckenlandschaft der Kalahari mit der Etoschafanne. Die Winter sind trocken, die Sommer heiß. Charakteristisch sind Niederschlagsarmut und große tages- und jahreszeitliche Temperaturschwankungen. Dornstrauchsavanne überwiegt im O und im Zentrum.

Bevölkerung:

Den größten Anteil haben die Bantuvölker – von ihnen sind die im N lebenden Ambo (Ovambo) mit 49,8 % der Gesamtbevölkerung die stärkste Gruppe –, daneben Herero, Tswana, Bergdama, Nama und Buschmänner. Im Raum Rehoboth leben Mischlinge (>Baster<). Die 6,4 % Weißen gehören der kalvinist., luth. oder anglikan. Kirche bzw. christl. Sekten an.

Wirtschaft, Verkehr:

Bedeutendster Wirtschaftszweig ist der Bergbau. Diamanten werden in der südl. Namib gewonnen, Uranerz bei Swakopmund. Die Mine von Tsumeb gilt als eine der reichsten der Erde (Kupfer, Blei, Zink, Silber, Cadmium, Germanium). Neben der Erzverhüttung ist die Viehzucht sowie die Fisch- und Fleischverarbeitung bedeutend. Das Eisenbahnnetz ist 2 354 km lang, das Straßennetz 57 000 km (davon 3 033 km asphaltiert). Internat. ✈ bei Windhuk.

Geschichte:

Die Errichtung deutscher und südafrikan. Schutzherrschaft: Ende des 15. Jh. Entdeckung durch Portugiesen, im 16. Jh. Einwanderung der Herero. Großbrit. annektierte 1878 die Walfischbai, 1883 erwarb der dt. Kaufmann F. A. Lüderitz den gesamten Küstenstreifen zw. Oranjemündung und 22° s. Br.; 1884 dt. Schutzgebiet (Dt.-Südwestafrika); 1903–07 Aufstand der Herero und Nama gegen die dt. Kolonialmacht. 1920 erhielt die Südafrikan. Union das bis dahin dt. Gebiet vom Völkerbund als C-Mandat zugesprochen. 1966 entzog die UN-Vollversammlung Südafrika das Mandat, 1968 gab sie dem Land den Namen Namibia. Der Internat. Gerichtshof erklärte 1971 die fortgesetzte Präsenz Südafrikas in N. für illegal. Als nat. Befreiungsbewegung der mehrheitlich schwarzen Bevölkerung von N. wurde die South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) 1963 durch die OAU anerkannt, 1976 von der UN-Vollversammlung zur >einzigsten und authent. Vertretung des namib. Volkes< erklärt.

Der Weg zur Unabhängigkeit: Südafrika lockerte die Apartheidpolitik und stimmte einer Verfassungskonferenz aller elf ethn. Gruppen zu (nach ihrem Tagungsort in Windhuk >Turnhallenkonferenz< gen.). Die SWAPO lehnte den von der Turnhallenkonferenz 1977 beschlossenen Verfassungsplan ab, beteiligte sich nicht an den im Dez. 1978 durchgeführten Wahlen zu einer verfassungsgebenden Versammlung und verstärkte (unterstützt von kuban. Truppen) den bewaffneten Kampf. Die UN bemühten sich daraufhin vergeblich um eine Verfassungsordnung für N. mit politisch (nicht ethnisch) geprägter Repräsentation. Die von Südafrika eingesetzte Regierung konnte die angespannte Lage nicht unter Kontrolle bringen. Unter internat. Druck kam 1988 der Unabhängigkeitsprozess wieder in Gang, nachdem dieser mit dem Abzug der kuban. Truppen aus Angola verknüpft werden konnte. Am 22. 12. 1988 vereinbarten die Rep. Südafrika, Angola und Kuba internat. überwachte freie Wahlen zu einer verfassungsgebenden Versammlung. Diese fanden im Nov. 1989 statt; die SWAPO konnte dabei 57 %, die DTA rd. 29 % der Stimmen erringen. Am 21. 3. 1990 wurde N. als letztes afrikan. Land unabhängig, erster Präs. wurde S. Nujoma (SWAPO). Zum 1. 3. 1994 trat Südafrika seine Exklave Walfischbai an N. ab.³

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