



# The Blue Economy in Namibia

Nature's Benefits: Natural Capital in  
the South Atlantic

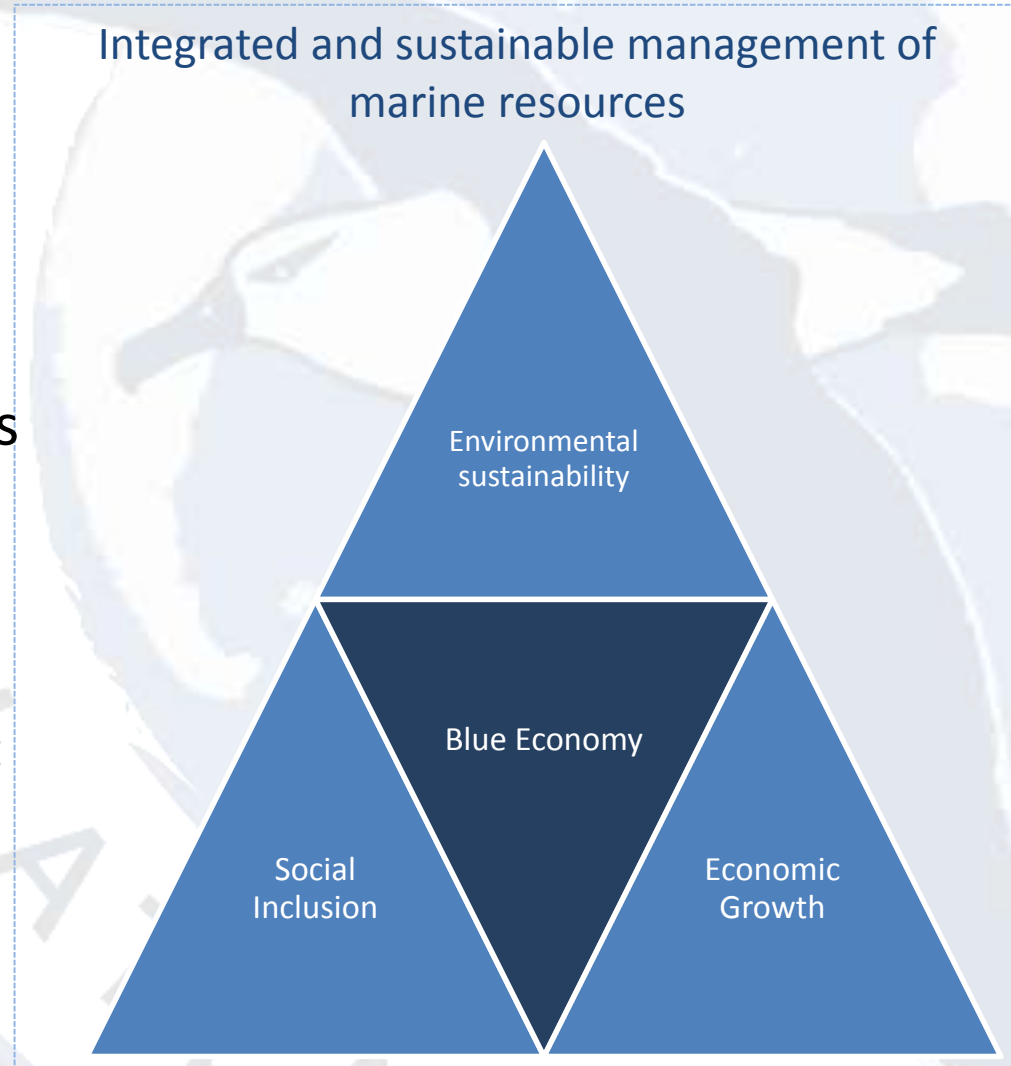
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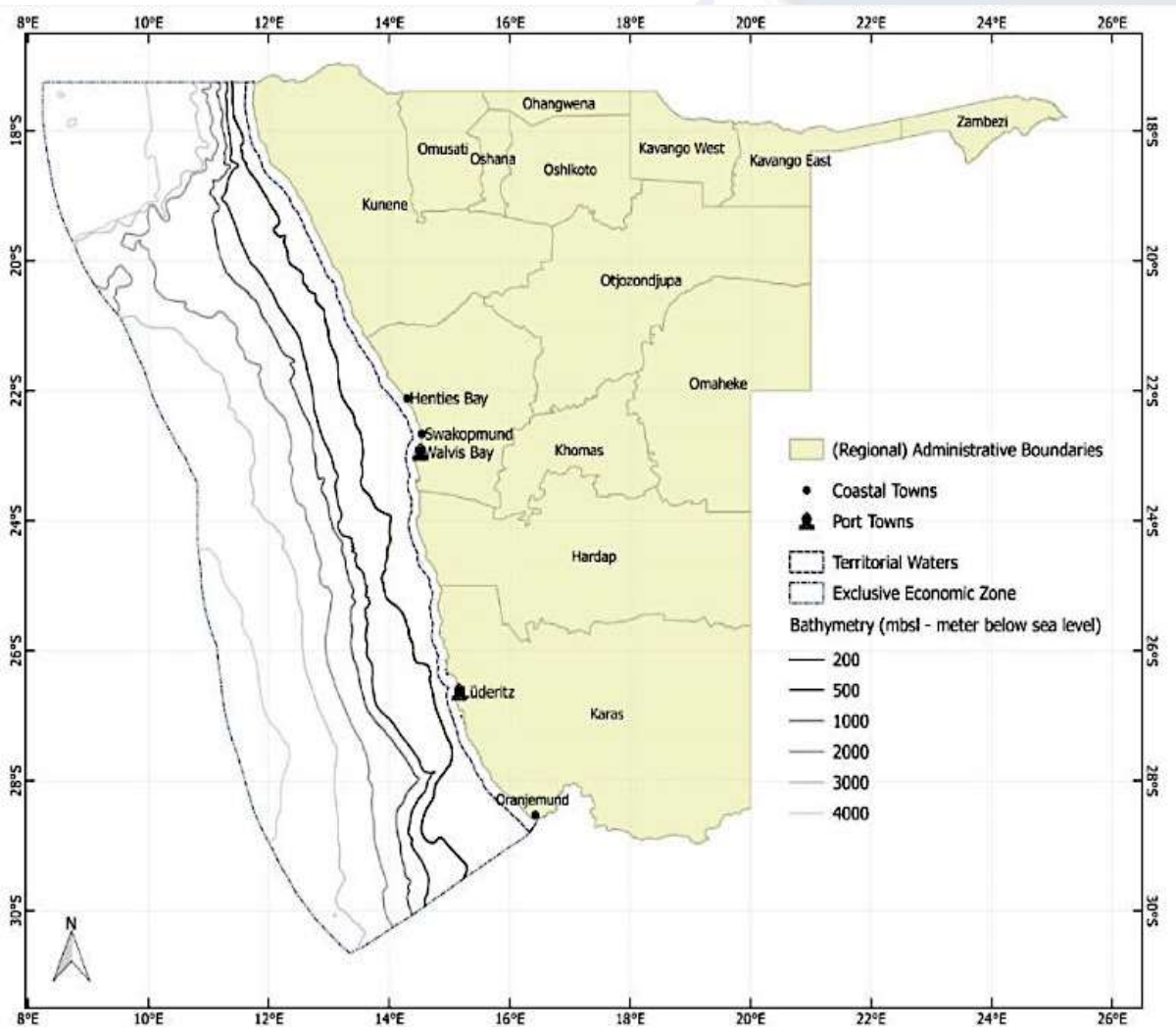
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1. Blue Economy concept and application
  2. Economic sectors of relevance to the Blue Economy in Namibia
  3. Ecosystem services underlying the Blue Economy
  4. Integration and sustainability: current status and further efforts
  5. Gaps and barriers
  6. Knowledge exchange and partnership in the South Atlantic

# Blue Economy: concept and applications

- Various definitions: merely developing marine economic activities  
**vs.** establishing a sustainable Blue Economy driven by investments in **natural capital, clean technologies** while **mitigating biodiversity loss**.
- Applications in SADC countries: Blue Economy strategy, developed in **South Africa, Mauritius, Seychelles**



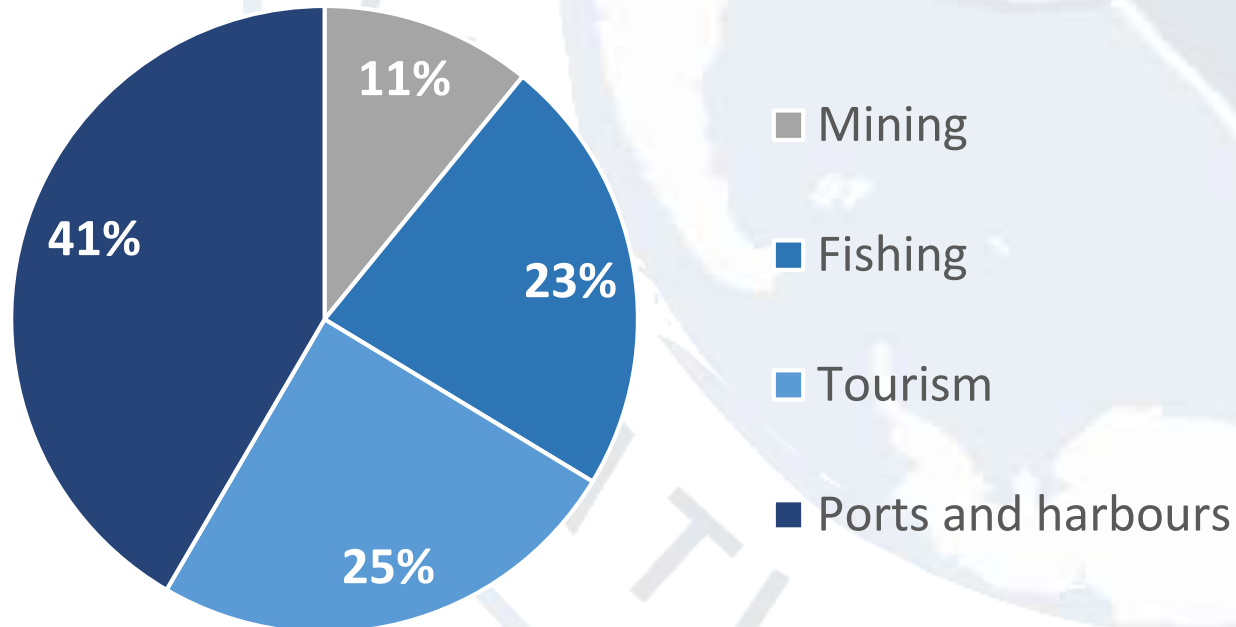
# Namibia's EEZ



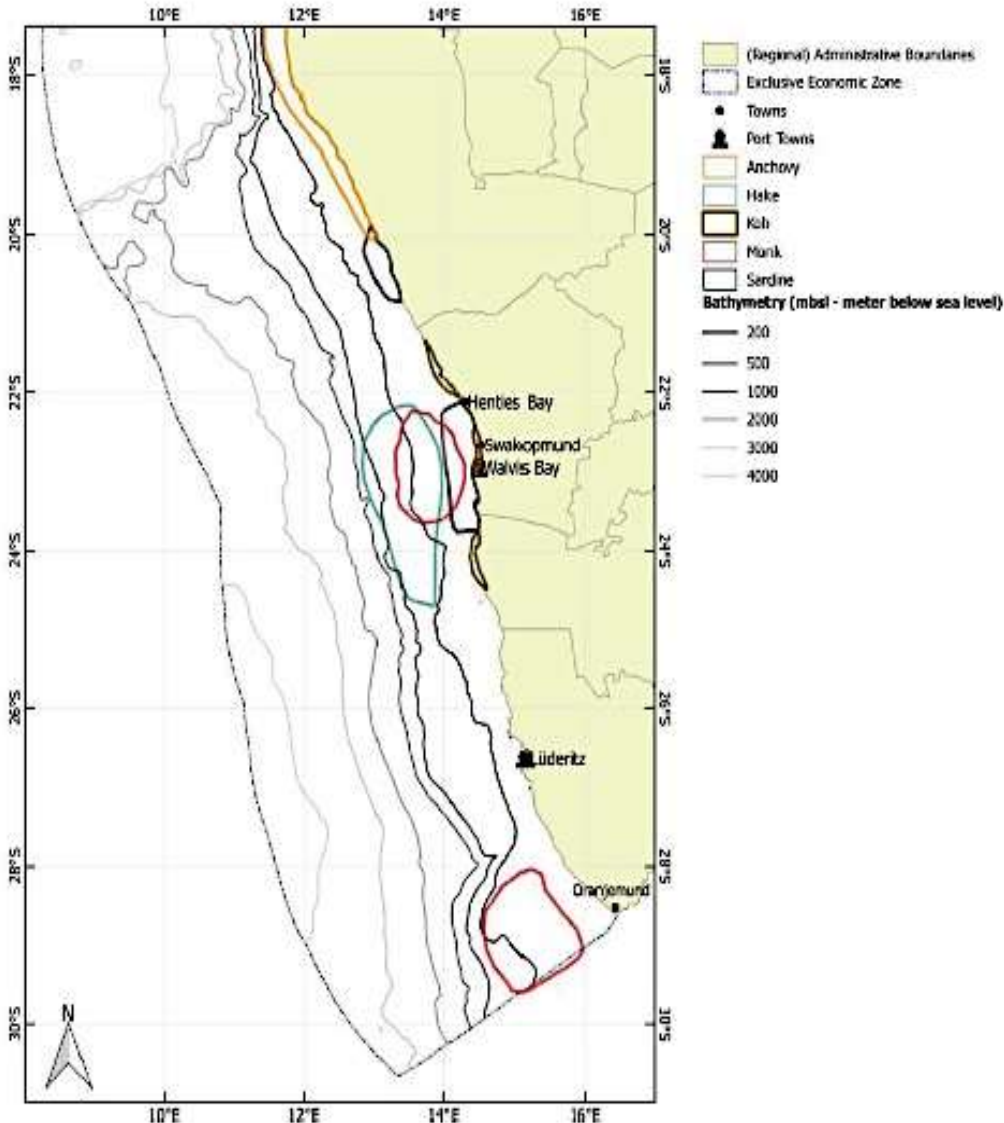
- Coastline 1,570km
- EEZ established in 1990 at independence, 200 nautical miles offshore

# Blue economy sectors

- Marine-based economy: estimated at around 10% of GDP, **USD 1.3bn**, and growing.



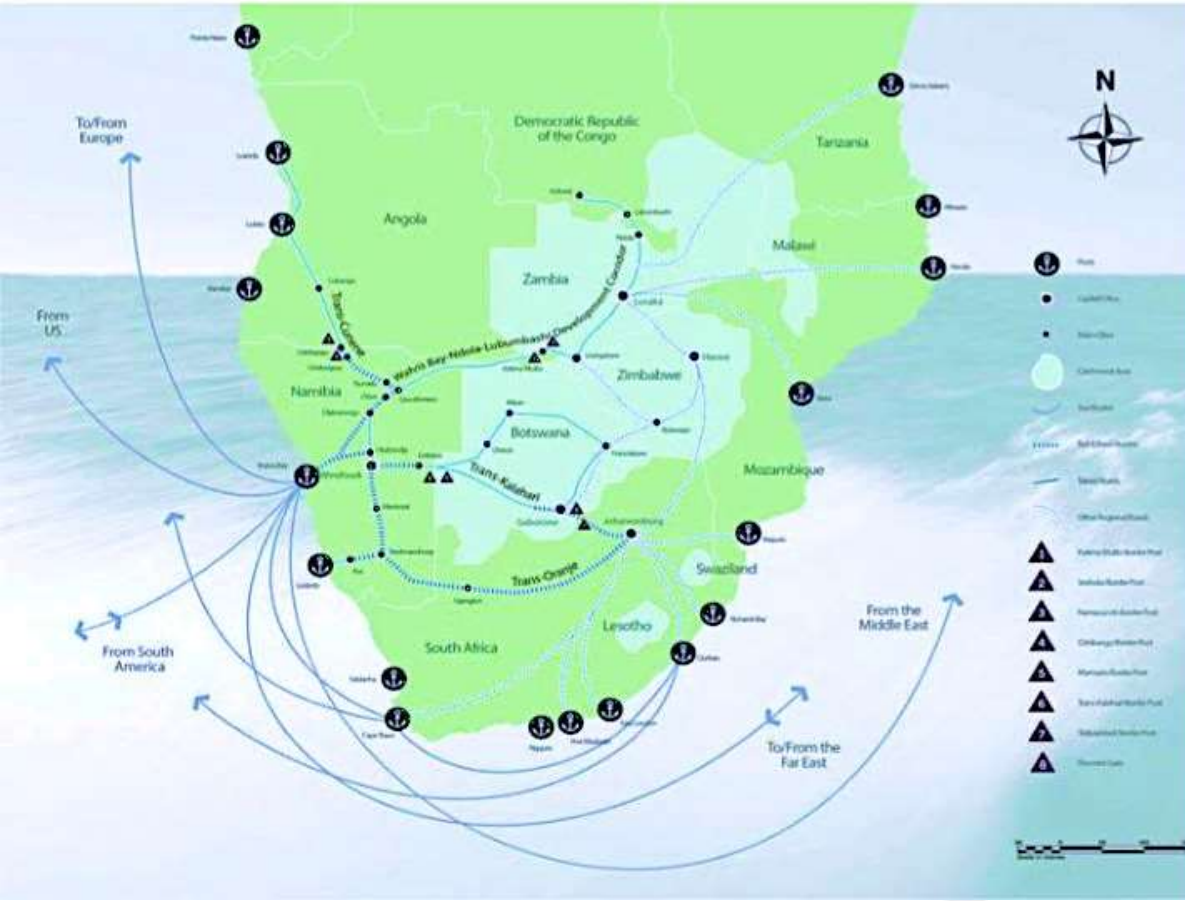
# Fisheries



- Successfully rebuilt after independence
- Limited GDP contribution (2-3%) but **important social impact** (jobs)
- 19 commercial fisheries mostly for **export**
- Careful management with **8 TAC controlled species**
- But **sustainability concerns remain**
- Alternative: mariculture

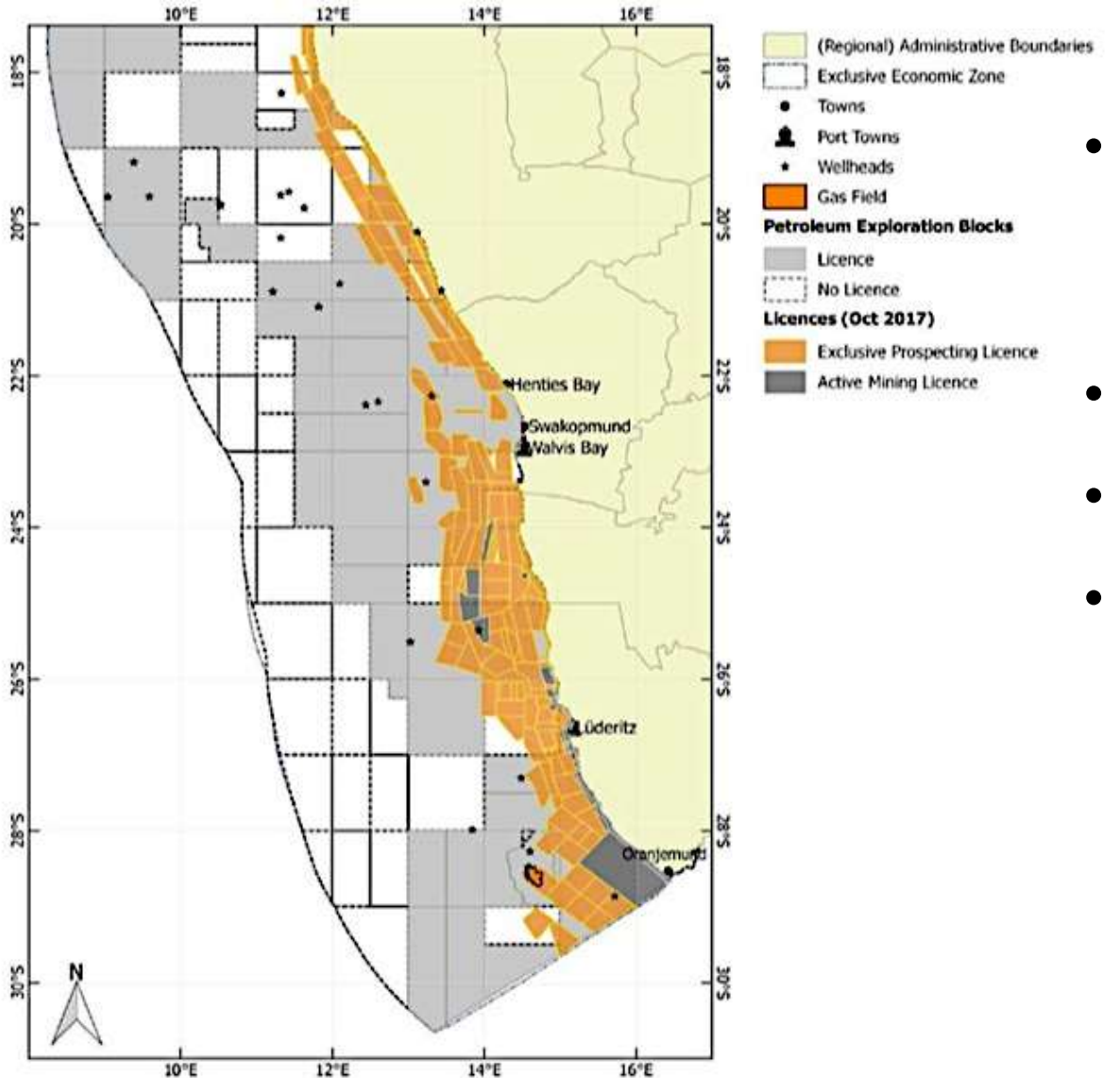
# Transport

- 4.7% of GDP and growing
- Walvis Bay: a key transport hub



Expansion investment: **doubling the port capacity** and creating a trade corridor from the port to all SADC countries

# Offshore mining



- **Diamonds:** a major product for the Namibian Economy
- **Phosphate:** a controversy
- **Gas and oil** exploration
- Limited knowledge on impacts of seismic exploration



# Tourism

- Limited to **three small coastal towns**, but slowly growing
- Opportunities for development: marine and coastal **wildlife** (penguins, seals, seabirds), diving (at least 300 shipwrecks)
- Main challenge: **accessibility and infrastructure**
- Cruise tourism to be developed (on a route including SAOTs?)

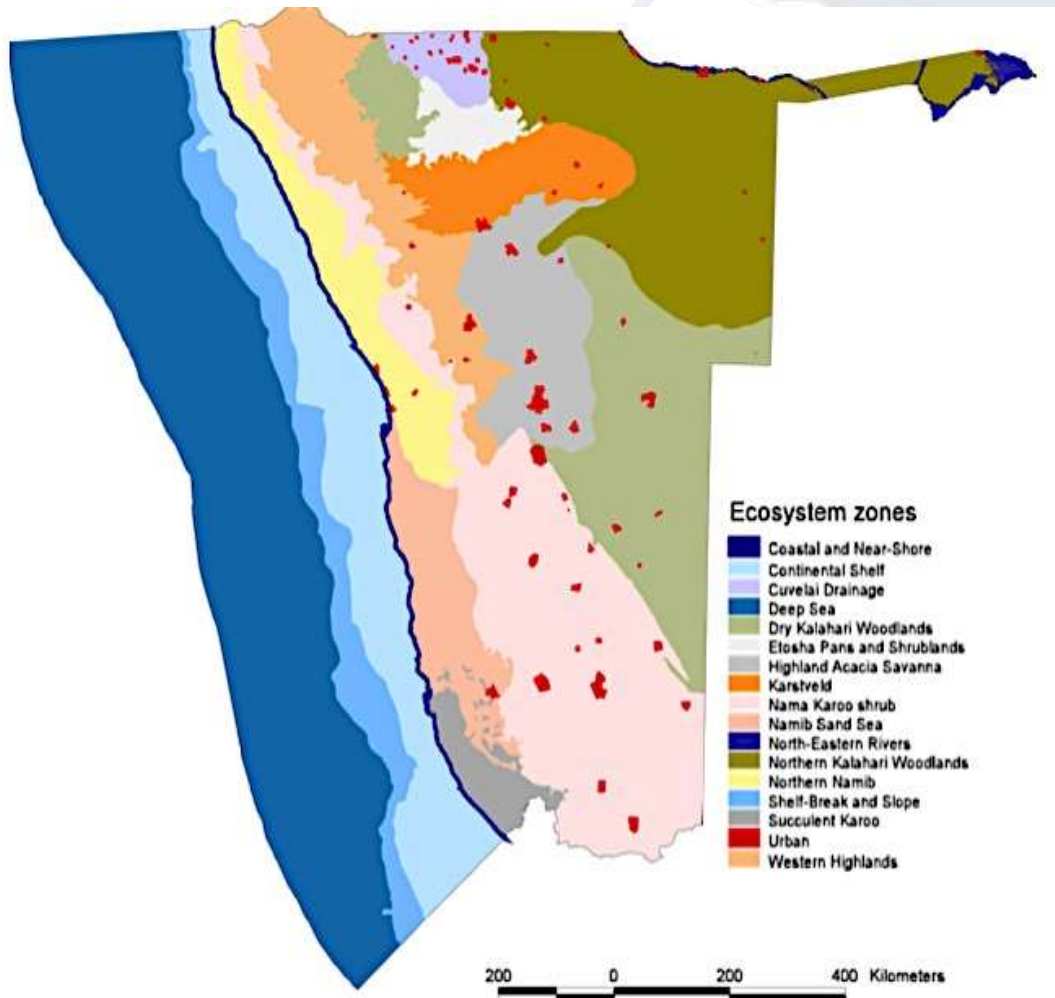


# Other minor sectors

- Desalination: 1 plant
- Guano industry
- Offshore renewable energy: coastal wind farm

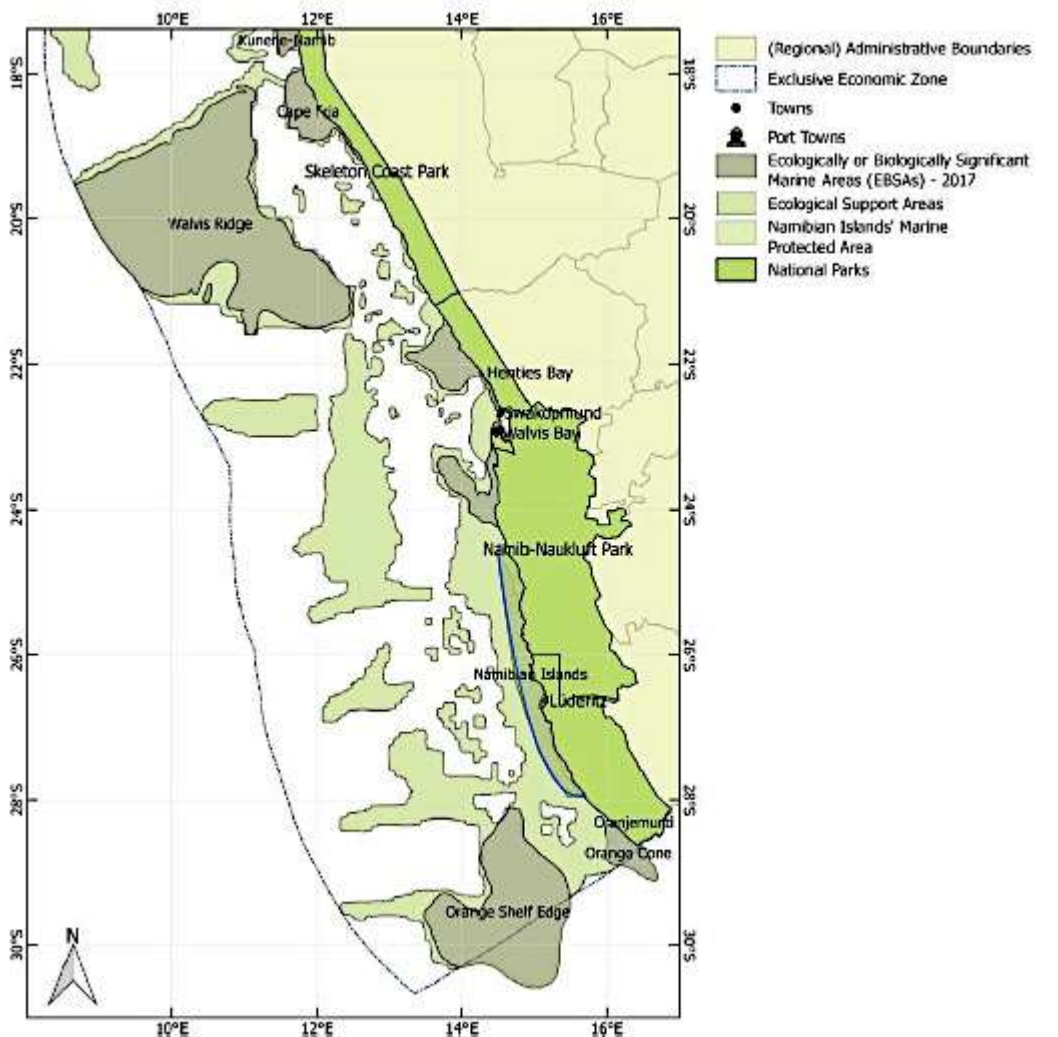


# Marine ecosystem services



- **Four main ecosystems** identified in the EEZ
- **Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem:** highly productive and essential for Namibian fisheries and marine tourism.

# Sustainable Management



- Marine conservation effort in Namibia is limited
- Need to improve ecosystem-based management
- Knowledge of climate change impacts limited

# Integrated Management

- The challenge: reducing **conflicts between sectors and space use**, enhancing cooperation and create synergies
- Ongoing initiatives
  - Marine Spatial Planning process
  - Blue Economy governance framework
  - Ocean governance project by the Benguela Current Commission

# Gaps and barriers

- Lack of institutional cooperation and limited interest in marine conservation so far
- Knowledge gaps
  - Limited knowledge at **ecosystem level**
  - **Climate change impacts** on marine resources
  - Impacts of various economic activities on species and habitat (mid-water trawling, phosphate mining, brine effluent from desalination, seismic exploration)
  - **Marine natural capital**
- Opportunities for further research and development projects

# Knowledge exchange and partnerships in the South Atlantic

- BCLME project with Benguela Current Commission
- Atlantic Large Marine Ecosystems project (UNDP-GEF)
- Further partnership to be built with SAOTs:
  - Knowledge platform on SA marine ecosystems, marine natural capital, climate change impacts....
  - Cooperation on Fishing management
  - Tourism routes: cruises and flights



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