MINISTRY OF
INDUSTRIALISATION
AND TRADE







NATIONAL TRADE POLICY 2023

United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

NATIONAL TRADE POLICY 2023



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FOREWORD

There is overwhelming global evidence that trade contributes to sustainable economic growth and development. The Government of Namibia is committed to ensure that trade remains a critical driver of our national development journey to create jobs and reduce unemployment; grow income and reduce inequality, and thereby reduce and alleviate poverty.

The National Trade Policy is framed within the scope of the trade-related objectives of Vision 2030, the National Development Plans, the National Industrial Policy and its execution strategy the "Growth at Home" strategy, the Harambee Prosperity Plans, focusing on boosting trade in goods and services, especially high value-added and diversified manufactured exports.

A key to achieve the objectives set out in the trade policy is to address the structural and supply-side challenges facing our economy, advancing formidable progress towards the transformation of Namibia's natural and resource-based comparative advantages into productive diversification, and placing significant priority on the development of the necessary capabilities towards value-addition such as infrastructure (both soft and hard), skills, knowledge, and innovation. We also need to encourage more domestic investment and foreign direct investment in productive sectors of our economy. Hence, the National Trade Policy is being launched at a time when Government has embarked on the development of Special Economic Zones, underpinned by both fiscal and non-fiscal investment incentives for manufacturers and exporters as well as the development of the International Trade Management Commission that will administer trade remedies and tariffs in order to safeguard domestic industries in line with international agreements.

As a small market economy, integrating into regional, continental, and global value chains will expand Namibia's trade opportunities. However, for our trade policy initiatives to render sustainable growth and development, they should be inclusive, promoting participation of micro, small and medium size enterprises and empowering women, youth and persons with disabilities as well as economically disadvantaged persons to benefit from trade opportunities. The National Trade Policy places greater emphasis on policy coherence across sectors of the economy, institutional coordination as well as effective implementation by both public and private stakeholders.

I would like to thank all stakeholders who have contributed to the development of the National Trade Policy and urge all of us to share this policy vision, mission and goal, working together towards its successful implementation and effective contribution to Namibia's national development.

Lucia Iipumbu
Minister of Industrialisation and Trade



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Since independence in 1990, Namibia's trade policy has been guided by a several trade-related laws and regulations administered by various Ministries and Agencies as well as bilateral, regional, and multilateral trading arrangements that the country is signatory to. The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) has developed the National Trade Policy to guide Namibia's trade relations with the rest of the world and to advance a coherent, coordinated and aligned policy framework for the development and management of trade in both goods and services.

The development of the National Trade Policy has benefited from a long process of technical and analytical work, consultations, and deliberations with a broad range of public and private stakeholders in Namibia. The Ministry acknowledges all the inputs received from such consultative workshops and technical engagements undertaken over the years. Importantly, the Ministry applauds the outcomes of the national stakeholder consultation and validation workshops which took place in Windhoek on the 10 March 2023 and 27 March 2023 respectively.

The National Trade Policy development has also benefited immensely from regional cooperation and integration processes in the context of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA).

The Ministry would like to acknowledge with profound thanks the technical and financial support received from the United Nations System, mainly the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), including the African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) and its Regional Office in Lusaka, the SADC Trade Related Facility (TRF), as well as technical work conducted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 2015/16, which provided a valuable guide on Namibia's trade policy framework.

Sikonga Haihambo
Executive Director: Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFCFTA
African Continental Free Trade Agreement

AGOA
African Growth and Opportunity Act

ATF
Agricultural Trade Forum

ATPC
African Trade Policy Centre

BIPA
Business and Intellectual Property Authority

BoN
Bank of Namibia

CMA
Common Monetary Area

CSI
Coalition of Service Industries

DRC
Democratic Republic of the Congo

EU
European Union

FENATA
Federation of Namibian Tourism Association

FIA
Foreign Investment Act

FTA
Free Trade Area

FDI
Foreign Direct Investment

GATS
General Agreement on Trade in Services

GATT
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

GDP
Gross Domestic Product

GVC
Global Value Chain

HPPs
Harambee Prosperity Plans

ICT
Information and Communication Technology

IPRs
Intellectual Property Rights

ITC
International Trade Centre

MAWLR
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform

MET
Ministry of Environment and Tourism

MIT
Ministry of Industrialization and Trade

MSMEs
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

NAMFISA
Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority

NAMPORT
Namibian Ports Authority

NamRA
Namibia Revenue Agency

NCCI
Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry

NDP
National Development Plan

NDP5
Fifth National Development Plan

NIDA
Namibia Industrial Development Agency

NIPA
Namibia Investment Promotion Act

NIPDB
Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board

NMA
Namibia Manufacturers Association

NQP
National Quality Policy

NSA
Namibia Statistics Agency

NSI
Namibia Standards Institution

NTB
Namibia Tourism Board

NTB
Non-Tariff Barriers

NTF
Namibia Trade Forum

OMAs
Office, Ministries and Agencies

SACU
Southern African Customs Union

SADC
Southern African Development Community

SDGs
Sustainable Development Goals

SDT
Special and differential treatment

SEZs
Special Economic Zones

SMEs
Small and Medium Enterprises

SPS
Sanitary and Phytosanitary

RISDP
Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan

RVCs
Regional Value Chains

TBT
Technical Barriers to Trade

TFA
Trade Facilitation Agreement

TFTA
Tripartite Free Trade Agreement

TRIPS
The Agreement on Intellectual Property Rights

TRQ
Tariff Rate Quota

UK
United Kingdom

UNCTAD
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

WTO
World Trade Organization



GLOSSARY OF CONCEPTS, TERMS AND JARGONS

For the purpose of this policy the following definitions apply:

Anti-dumping duties
Article VI of the GATT 1994 permits the imposition of anti- dumping duties against dumped goods, equal to the difference between their export price and their normal value, if dumping causes injury to producers of competing products in the importing country.

Countervailing duties
Tariffs levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country to counter the negative impact of import subsidies to protect domestic producers.

Coalition of Service Industry:
Creating public/private dialogues bringing together all relevant stakeholders to work on the development of service industry.

Cumulation
A concept in rules of origin, which allows an importer or exporter under certain circumstances to consider non-originating materials imported from third countries or processing carried out in a non-partner country as originating.

Customs duties/tariffs
Charges levied on goods when they cross international borders (tariffs on imported goods, mostly used to protect local industries, or generate revenue for government.

Dumping
Occurs when goods are exported at a price less than their normal value, generally meaning they are exported for less than they are sold in the domestic market or their-country markets, or at less than production cost.

Duty drawback
Duty drawback is a refund in payments that were initially collected upon importation of imports such for customs duties, taxes or other fees paid to Customs.

e-Commerce
A method of buying and selling goods and services online (using the internet), also referred to as 'digital' trade.

Export duty or taxes
Export taxes or duties are taxes on goods and services that become payable when goods leave the economic territory or when the services are delivered to non-residents.

Harmonised System (HS)
An international nomenclature developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO), which is arranged in six-digit codes allowing all participating countries to classify traded goods on a common basis. Beyond the six-digit level, countries are free to introduce national distinctions for tariffs and many other purposes.

Infant Industry
A new industry in its early stages of development and, thus, not yet capable of competing against established industry competitors.

Market Access
A company's ability to enter a foreign market by selling its goods and services in another country.

Rules of Origin
Laws, regulations and administrative procedures which determine a product's country of origin.

Safeguard measures
Action taken to a specific industry from an unexpected build-up/ surge of imports which threatens to cause serious injury to the importing country's domestic industry.

Sanitary and Phytosanitary regulations/measures
Government standards to protect human, animal and plant life and health, to help ensure that food is safe for consumption.

Special Economic Zone
An area in which the business and trade laws are different from the rest of the country, and their aims are to generate additional economic activity, promotion of exports of goods and services, promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources, creation of employment opportunities along with the development of infrastructure facilities.

Subsidies
A form of financial aid granted by the State or Public Body with the aim of promoting economic and social policy,

Technical Barriers to Trade
Technical Barriers to Trade result from legal requirements that countries enact to ensure that products are safe, to protect the environment, and to inform consumers about various aspects of a product (weight, size, packaging, ingredients, mandatory labelling, shelf-life conditions) or for reasons of national security.

Tariff Rate Quotas
A two-tiered tariff that combines import quotas and tariffs to regulate import products. In a given period, a tariff rate quota allows a lower tariff on imports of a given product within a specified quantity and a higher tariff on imports exceeding that quantity.

Trade in Services
Refers to the sale and delivery of an intangible product, called a service.

Trade Policy
Trade policy refers to the complete framework of laws, regulations, measures, and practices as well as international agreements, affecting imports and exports of goods and services.

Trade Remedies/Trade Defence Instruments
Actions taken in response to subsidies (countervailing duties), sales at less than fair value (anti-dumping) and import surges (safeguards).

- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
- INTRODUCTION



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This National Trade Policy is developed to guide Namibia's trade relations with the rest of the world and formulated within the scope of Vision 2030 - the country's policy framework for long-term national development, aspiring to take Namibia into a developed country status.

The National Trade Policy is shaped by the country's international and regional trade agreements, particularly the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreements, the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Agreement, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), amongst others. The Policy recognises the role of trade in promoting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The National Trade Policy focuses on both **trade in goods and services**. The latter, including **digital trade**, has become the most dynamic part of global trade; an essential input into the production of goods and services; an avenue for export diversification; and a significant contributor to inclusive growth, job creation and poverty alleviation. The development of services trade policies is vital in exploring new sources of efficiency improvements across all sectors of the economy.

Domestic trade, which is the exchange of goods and services within the boundaries of a country, can spur local production that meets basic needs and acts as a springboard to international trade. The National Trade Policy commits to the **improvement of an enabling business environment for domestic trade and investment**, particularly the promotion of local and regional development as centres of trade and investment, creating opportunities to equal participation through entrepreneurial development; nurturing the private sector to compete locally and globally, and giving close attention to the informal sector and economically disadvantaged groups in society.

The National Trade Policy acknowledges that policymaking involves **a series of domestic trade-offs vis-à-vis interests of domestic producers and consumers** as well as those of the trading partners. Therefore, it underscores the importance of **fostering an inclusive, consultative public-private dialogue** on instruments and measures available to stimulate and promote trade development.

The National Trade Policy recognises that the **smallness of Namibia's domestic market, high levels of income inequality and unemployment** impose limitations for trade policy, especially as relating to import-substitution trade strategies. There is strong evidence to suggest that an **export-orientation strategy** within the context of establishing a better balance between imports and exports, while encouraging domestic demand is an appropriate policy orientation. Hence, the national trade policy prioritises the **diversification of domestic economic activity, exports and markets**, broadly based on strategic interventions and actions in the following areas:

- Improving capacity for diversification and value addition in production of goods and services.
- Diversification and increasing Namibia's exports of goods and services.
- Consolidation and diversification of export markets for Namibia's goods and services.
- Enhancing the National Quality and Standards Infrastructure.
- Attracting domestic and foreign direct investment in value addition production and services, including participation in regional value chains (RVCs) and global value chains (GVCs).
- Enhancing trade facilitation and related reforms and logistics, including strengthening Namibia's position as a regional trade, transport, and logistics hub.
- Increasing availability of affordable trade finance, including access to credit and insurance facilities.
- Enhancing the trade competitiveness of micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs), women, youth and persons with disabilities owned or led enterprises.
- Fostering an inclusive and competitive domestic business environment for trade in goods and services.
- Enhancing a legal and institutional framework for the management of trade in goods and services.
- Increasing institutional and technical capacity for national trade policy management.

The National Trade Policy seeks to improve **policy coherence** across all Offices/ Ministries/ Agencies (OMAs) dealing with the above-prioritised strategic intervention areas to create synergies towards industrialisation, export and investment promotion for sustainable trade development. **Coherence** is also recognized in terms of cross-cutting issues related to **gender, youth, environment, labour, intellectual property, technology transfer and innovation** as well as advancement of **digital transformation**, including **e-commerce**.

INTRODUCTION

Namibia is a small and open economy. Trade plays a critical role in Namibia's economy as evidenced by the share of trade in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, Namibia continues to under-perform in regional and global trade such that the country has not yet succeeded in exploiting meaningful market opportunities. Key challenges in Namibia's trade performance are grounded in some of the inter-related and self-reinforcing constraints:

- Persistent **structural constraints** to economic growth which continue to hamper growth, job creation and trade performance, especially on exports.
- A relatively **limited narrow industrial base**, primarily driven by extraction and limited processing of natural resources rather than by new high value-added and diversified productive capacities.
- The **smallness of the domestic market**, with high levels of **income inequality** (a Gini-coefficient index of 64 in 2021) and unemployment (standing at 33.4 percent in general and 46.1 percent for the youth in 2018).
- Inadequate levels of **domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI)** to spur productive diversification into new economic activities, including the required levels of productivity (skills and know-how).
- Slow progress in building **state capabilities** to support effective implementation and management of strategic initiatives in the prioritised industrial and trade-related policy areas, including public-private dialogue and partnerships.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Overview of economic performance

The productive base of the Namibian economy is **primarily driven by extraction and processing of natural resources**. Table 1 below provides for percentage sectoral contribution to GDP between 2019 and 2023.

Table 1: GDP by Activity Current prices - Percentage Contribution, 2019-2023

Industry	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Agriculture and forestry	4.5	6.5	6.9	6.1	4.9
Fishing and fish processing on board	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8
Mining and quarrying	9.1	9.3	9	11.9	14.4
Manufacturing	12.5	11	10.8	11.1	11.2
Services	**63.9**	**64.3**	**62.4**	**59.6**	**57.8**
Taxes less subsidies on products	7.4	6.2	8.2	8.7	8.9
Total Contribution to GDP	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

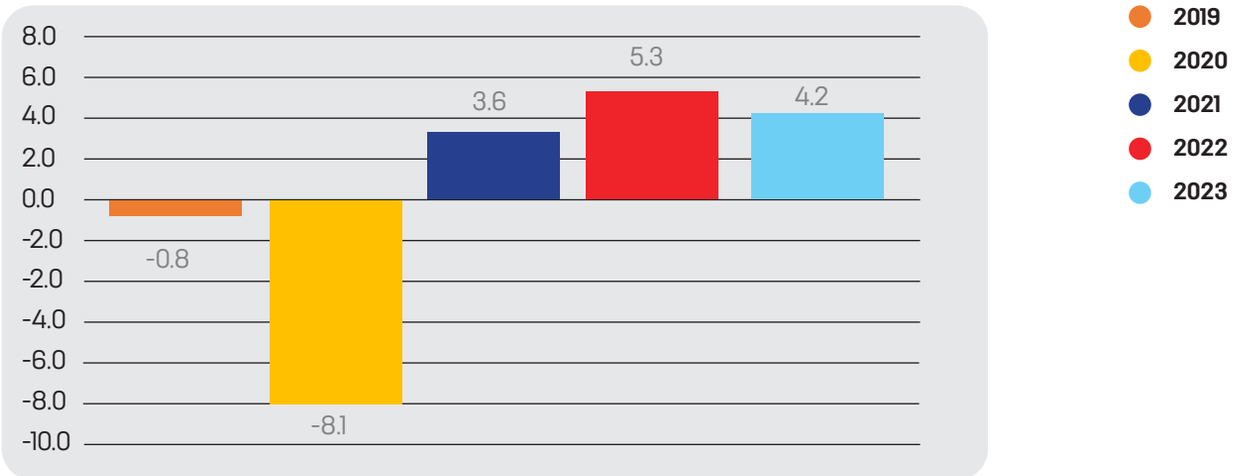
Source: Namibia Statistics Agency

Overall, Namibia's economic production structure has remained unchanged over years being characterised by **high levels of product concentration and less diversification**. The relatively **limited and less diversified manufacturing sector** is heavily dependent on inputs from the country's natural resource endowments.

The services sector is the biggest contributor to GDP, contributing on average around 62 percent of the country's GDP between 2019 and 2023. **Services sectors such as tourism, transport and logistics, information and communication technology (ICT), financial services**, health and educational services are key towards achieving Namibia's social-economic transformation.

The first phase of independence until 2015 (with exception of 1993), has experienced moderate rates of positive annual rates of economic growth. For example, between 2000 and 2015, GDP per capita grew at 3.1 per cent on average on account of an export boom in minerals (diamonds and metals). However, between 2016 and 2020, the economy has been in recession, which was further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2021, the economy has experienced limited recovery, registering an expansion by 4.2 percent in 2023. This recovery was on account of improved production of diamonds and uranium and positive real value addition in some services sectors such as the wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants, and information and communication. Chart 1 below indicates GDP percentage changes between 2019 and 2023.

Chart 1: GDP by Activity Constant 2015 prices - Annual Percentage Changes



Source: Namibia Statistics Agency

Going forward, Namibia will have to continue using its **comparative advantage in mining and energy, fishing and agriculture,** as well as **tourism** to exploit regional and global markets. Some of these sectors continue to hold potential for further processing and value addition, thereby playing a strategic role in the country's industrialisation process. **Renewable energy** is becoming a major and increasing activity in Namibia's energy generation mix. The immense potential exists for renewable power generation, including from solar, wind, and biomass source. The Government is committed to promoting renewable energy and work is in progress to establish a green hydrogen industry. Thus, there is a great potential for energy to find its place in Namibia's export basket.

Beyond the country's natural comparative advantage, Government is committed to **building a competitive advantage**, especially through industrial clustering – for example, in **special economic zones (SEZs)** aimed at stimulating the necessary economies of scale, lowering production and transaction costs, encouraging investment in domestic, regional, and global value chains, and promoting value-added exports.

The development of **services trade policies** is vital in exploring new sources of efficiency improvements across all sectors of the economy; as an input into the production of value-added goods and services; an avenue for diversification, and a significant contributor to inclusive growth, employment and poverty alleviation. Some key services sectors have specific policy and regulatory frameworks that may have an impact on trade in services. However, more work should be done to **enhance the services sector regulatory reforms and policy developments. A coalition of services industries (CSI)** is required to create the necessary dialogue on the development of service sector, including trade in services.

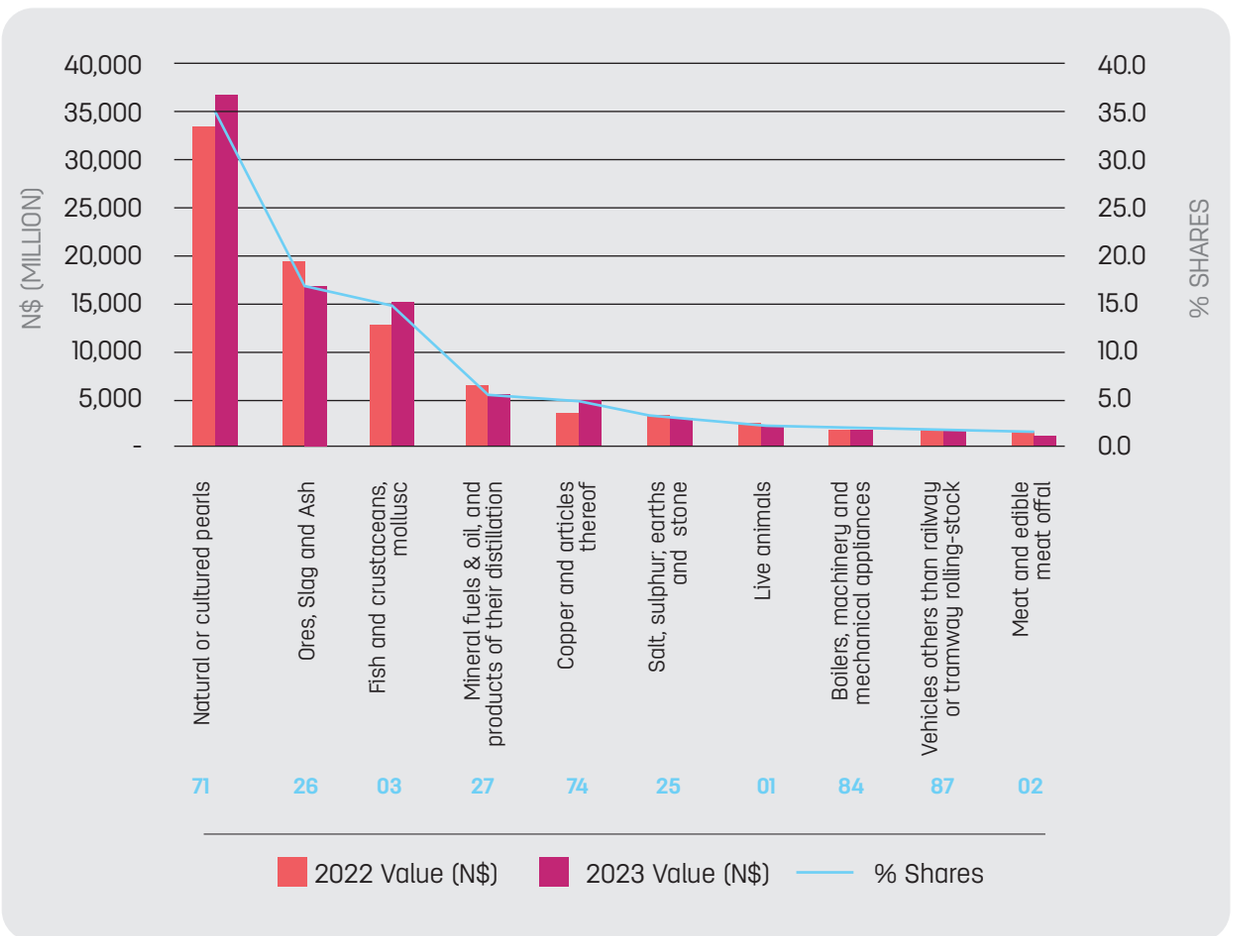
Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) play an important role in the Namibian economy, especially in terms of employment creation and adding value to the gross domestic product. The key trade challenge for small businesses is to enhance their ability to compete in regional and international trade in goods and services. Policy attention should tackle the hurdles MSMEs face (mostly women and youth-owned or led small businesses), in domestic and international markets. These relate mostly to levelling the trading field and addressing obstacles to entry. MSMEs face increasing trade costs as a result of non-tariff restrictions, limited market/trade information, costly product standards and certification procedures, burdensome customs and bureaucratic procedures, logistics and infrastructure costs, barriers on 'establishment', particularly for services MSMEs, poor access to trade finance, limited ICT connectivity, etc. These are critical entry points for participation in international trade.

Overview of trade performance

Namibia has experienced overall trade deficits over the years, i.e., the country is importing more goods and services than it is exporting. For example, Namibia recorded a trade deficit of N$ 32.4 billion in 2023 as compared to a deficit of N$ 31.6 billion in 2022.

Namibia's export basket has been dominated by mineral exports. Non-mineral exports included fish products, meat, beverages (beer), and live animals. Manufactured exports remained very limited in magnitude, mostly concentrated in the food and minerals sectors. In recent years, limited export diversification has taken place, with new items added on Namibia's export basket, namely refined gold, cut and polished diamonds, frozen mackerel, fluorspar, fresh grapes, dates and charcoal. However, the export basket of goods remains relatively low in economic complexity such that further diversification towards production of more high-value added manufactures remains critical. Chart 2 below provides for Namibia's top ten (10) export products in 2023.

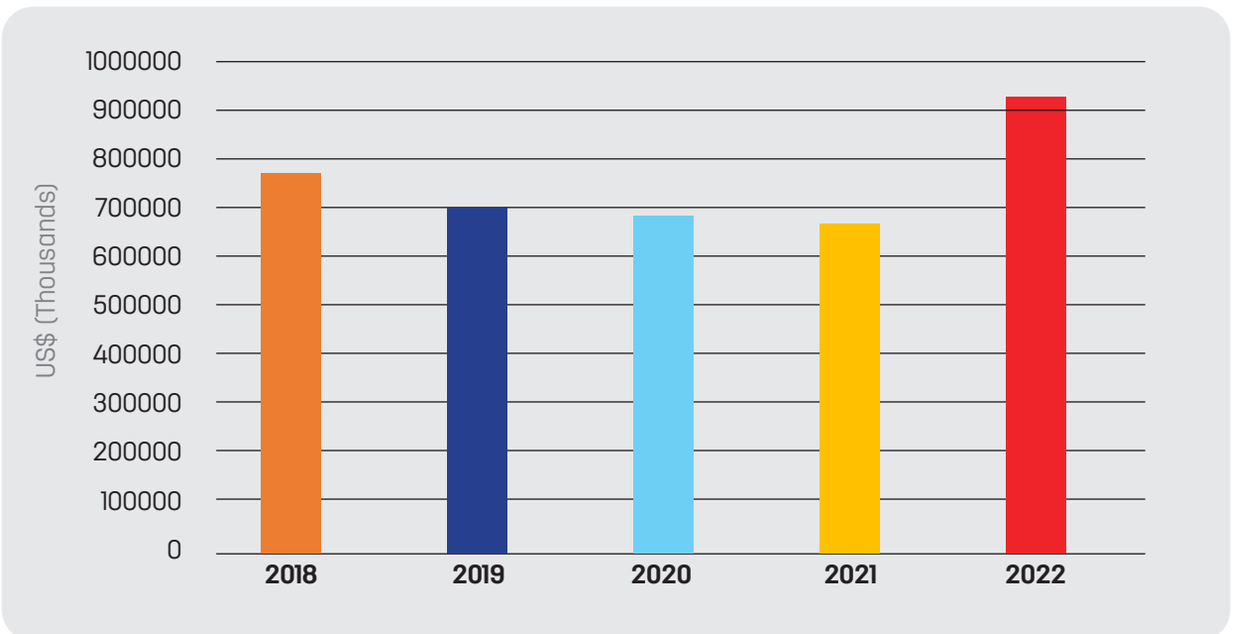
Chart 2: Namibia's Top Ten (10) Export Products



Source: Namibia's Statistics Agency

It is still impossible to obtain accurate **trade in services data**, particularly on services exports. Namibia's services exports remained limited, predominantly dominated by tourism and travel-related services. Charts 3 provides insights on Namibia's services exports.

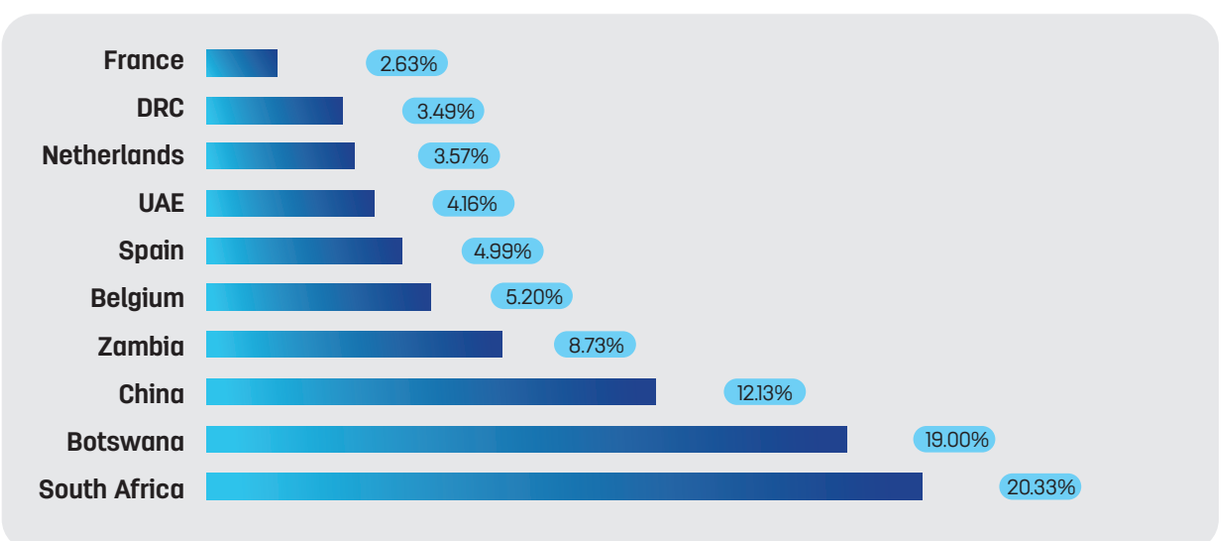
Chart 3: Namibia's Trade in Services Exports



Source: Trade Map (ITC) Map

A high level of concentration is also to be found in export destinations. While some new countries have been added to the export market portfolio, they are limited in magnitude, such that the top ten export markets have relatively remained the same over the years. Chart 4 indicates Namibia's top 10 export markets in 2023 with new market destinations of China, Botswana, UAE, Belgium and Zambia having emerged.

Chart 4: Namibia's Top Ten (10) Export Markets, 2021



Source: Namibia's Statistics Agency

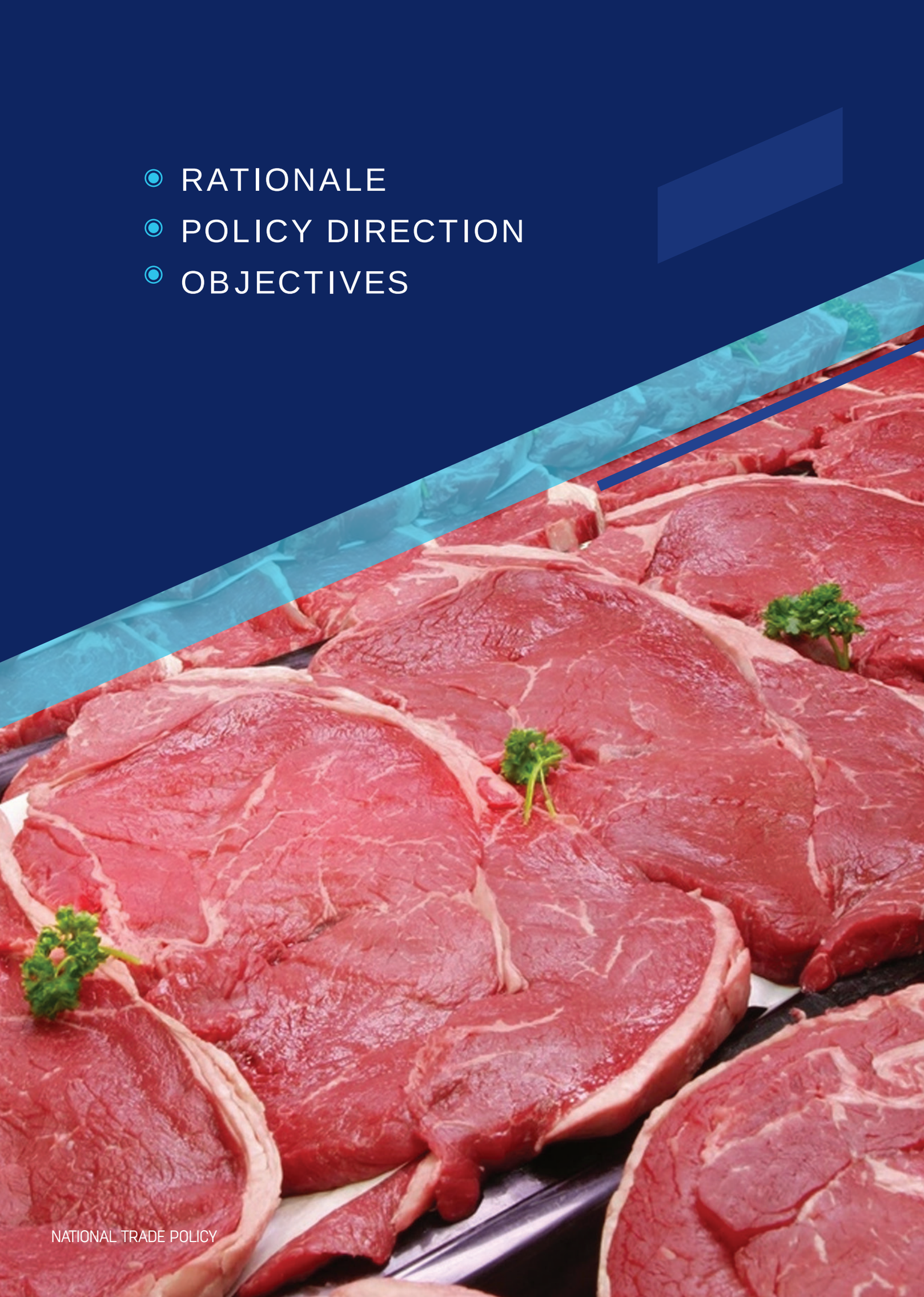
Export market diversification is an important trade policy objective as it allows Namibia to spread its risk when economic downturns in different export markets occur. New additions to the country's export product profile have a market diversifying effect. For example, the emergence of fresh grapes as Namibia's top agricultural product has significantly expanded the country's export markets beyond traditional destinations.

Problem Statement

Analysis of Namibia's overall trade in goods and services performance highlights the following key trade policy challenges:

Unfavourable Export growth trends	No significant trend of growth in exports over time. An export boom witnessed between 2002 – 2010 was generally driven by price booms of diamonds, gold, zinc, and copper and could not be sustained without structural transformation.
Export product concentration	Namibia predominantly exports diamonds, copper, zinc, fish, cattle and grapes. Despite the emergence of new products such as refined zinc, cut and polished diamonds, frozen mackerel, fluorspar and fresh grapes, the country's export basket remain relatively concentrated on few products with no significant transformation over the years
Low level of export product diversification	Manufactured exports remained very limited in magnitude and are concentrated in the food and minerals sectors. This highlights that the need to diversify export base through value addition.
Export market concentration	There have been relative changes in export destinations/ markets but have not resulted into substantial level of export market diversification. This highlights the need to diversify export markets, mostly through a concerted export promotion drive.
Low level of export of services	Export of services are mostly traded with South Africa and are predominantly related to tourism and travel-related services and transport services. A comprehensive analysis of trade in services is constrained by lack of data on services and the existence of an inadequate understanding of trade in services, including the proceedings, complexities, costs and benefits associated with services liberalisation.
Fragmented and uncoordinated policy and institutional framework	Nexus between industrial, investment and trade is not adequately mainstreamed into the policy and institutional framework

- RATIONALE
- POLICY DIRECTION
- OBJECTIVES



RATIONALE

Since independence in 1990, Namibia's trade-related interactions with the rest of the world has made references to a several national trade-related laws and regulations administered by various Ministries and Government Agencies; obligations and commitments related to the country's membership in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and other bilateral trading arrangements. The rationale for Namibia's trade policy document is to:

- Guide the country's trade relations with the rest of the world, considering new regional and international trade developments, including **trade in services and other trade-related issues**.
- Bring existing policy measures and practices which define how the country conducts its trade in goods and services into **a single, stand-alone policy framework** as one of the key priorities for the country's growth, poverty reduction and development.
- Specifically, to leverage **Government's Industrial Policy and "Growth at Home"** – an execution strategy for industrial development into a coherent national trade policy framework.
- Improve **policy coherence** across all the sectors of the economy in support of industrialisation and development, in recognition of the mutually supportive and reinforcing policy actions across Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs), and in creating synergies between industrial, investment and trade-related policies and strategies.

POLICY DIRECTION

VISION

To transform Namibia into a dynamic and competitive economy in which the trade sector acts as the engine for inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development.

MISSION

To build a diversified competitive trade sector as the means of stimulating higher rates of growth, employment and reduce inequality and poverty.

GOAL

To increase Namibia's diversified exports of goods and services and ensure continued access of Namibian firms and households to a wide range of high-quality goods and services.

OBJECTIVES

Overall objective

The overarching objective is to contribute towards Namibia's economic diversification by promoting and stimulating a competitive trade sector to increase exports of goods and services.

Specific objectives

The National Trade Policy is intended to achieve the following specific objectives:

- To diversify exports of high value manufactured goods and services.
- To increase Namibia's exports of goods and services in regional, continental, and global markets.
- To consolidate and diversify Namibia's existing markets for goods and services.
- To enhance Namibia's quality and standards infrastructure.
- To promote domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI) in value added goods and services.
- To enhance trade facilitation related reforms in order to expedite trade flows by reducing trade barriers.
- To promote the development and access to trade financing mechanisms and instruments.
- To empower micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), women and youth owned businesses, with critical entry points into international markets, including access to finance, production inputs, skills and market information.
- To enhance Namibia's inclusive and competitive domestic trading environment for goods and services.
- To establish and operationalise a legal and institutional framework for trade in goods and services administration.
- To raise Namibia's institutional and technical capacity to effectively negotiate and implement trade agreements and trade-related initiatives.

ALIGNMENT



ALIGNMENT

The National Trade Policy is aligned to the following national, regional, and international development policy agenda which are trade-related (not exhaustive).

National policy framework

- Vision 2030
- National Development Plans (NDPs)
- Harambee Prosperity Plans (HPPs)
- Namibia's Industrial Policy and its associated execution strategy – Growth at Home
- Investment Policy Framework (framed under Articles 16, 98 and 99 of the Namibian Constitution; 1990 Foreign Investment Act (FIA) and its 1993 amendments; the promulgated Namibia Investment Promotion Act (NIPA), Official Gazette No. 1660 of 31 August 2016 - but not yet being enforced).
- National Competition Policy (2020 – 2025)
- National Consumer Protection Policy (2020 – 2025)
- Revised National Quality Policy (2020 – 2025)
- Namibia Food Safety Policy (2014)
- Services policy and regulatory frameworks - governed by a variety of national policies, regulations, and agencies in services sectors.
- The National Policy on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- Namibian National Gender Policy (2010 – 2020)
- National Youth Policy (2020 – 2030)

Multilateral commitments and obligations

- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- World Trade Organization (WTO) - Key agreements: General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), Agreement on Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

Regional economic integration commitments and obligations

The National Trade Policy is aligned with Namibia's regional integration commitments and obligations, especially those that enhance greater cooperation in trade, investment and industrial policies and strategies towards diversification of regional productive base for goods and services. Specifically, the National Trade Policy is shaped by the following regional trade agreements and strategies:

- Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Agreement
- SACU Strategic Plan (2022 – 2027)
- SADC Protocol on Trade (1996) – in goods
- SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP)
- SADC Regional Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap (2015 – 2063)
- SADC Protocol on Trade in Services
- Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA)
- Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA)
- Namibia-Zimbabwe Preferential Trade Agreement

Other international trade relations and initiatives

- European Union – SADC Economic Partnership Agreement
- United Kingdom – SACU and Mozambique Economic Partnership Agreement
- SACU- European Free Trade Association Agreement
- SACU- Southern Common Market of the South Agreement
- African Growth and Opportunity Act
- SACU- Mercosur Trade Agreement

STRATEGIES AND INSTRUMENTS



STRATEGIES AND INSTRUMENTS

Strategies

The National Trade Policy prioritises the diversification of domestic economic activity, exports and markets, and enhancing economic competitiveness. Broadly, unleashing Namibia's potential in international trade with strategic interventions and actions in the following areas:

- Improving capacity for diversification and value addition in production of goods and services.
- Diversification and increasing Namibia's exports of goods and services.
- Diversification and consolidation of Namibia's export markets for goods and services.
- Enhancing the National Quality and Standards Infrastructure to raise the country's productive and trade competitiveness and promote access to high quality goods and services.
- Attracting domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI), in value addition and services, including promotion of participation in regional value chains (RVCs) and global value chains (GVCs).
- Enhancing trade facilitation and related reforms, and logistics.
- Increasing availability of affordable trade finance, including access to export credit and insurance facilities.
- Enhancing the trade competitiveness of micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs), women, youth and persons with disabilities owned or led businesses.
- Fostering an inclusive and competitive domestic business environment.
- Establishing and operationalising a legal and institutional framework for the management of trade in goods and services.
- Enhancing Namibia's institutional and technical capacity for national trade policy implementation.

Trade policy instruments and measures

Trade in goods

The following policy instruments and measures on trade in goods will be used to implement the National Trade Policy:

(a) Tariffs

Namibia's tariff regime is guided by the country's membership to the Southern African Customs Union (SACU). The SACU Agreement views the tariff as an important instrument for industrial development. Government shall:

- continue to emphasise the need for the formation of a SACU Tariff Board as provided for in Article 11 of the SACU Agreement through the relevant SACU structures; and
- accelerate the adoption of a legal instrument for the establishment and operationalisation of the National Body to manage trade and tariff-related matters as provided for in the 2002 SACU Agreement.

(b) Tariff-Rate Quotas

Government shall:

- continue to use tariff rate quotas (TRQs) as a trade policy instrument in trade agreements with some trading partners, where it is feasible and agreed.

(c) Export Taxes

Government shall:

- maintain the use of export levies and taxes on certain commodities in order to meet certain trade and industrial development needs; and
- use export levies or taxes based on an evidence-based analysis of the costs and benefits to the domestic economy, especially to producers and consumers.

(d) Import and Export Licensing

Government shall:

- maintain the import/export licensing regime in accordance with WTO rules.

(e) Trade Defence Instruments

Government shall:

- apply trade defence instruments (anti-dumping and countervailing duties and safeguards) in accordance with WTO disciplines and those in the Namibia's bilateral and regional trade agreements;
- expedite the establishment of the National Trade Board or Body as an institution to be responsible for the application of trade remedies in the 2023/24 financial year; and
- ensure that the necessary institutional and technical capacity is developed towards effective application of trade defence instruments.

(f) Quality, Technical and Safety Standards/ Technical Barriers to Trade

Government shall:

- promote standardization of products for the safety of consumers and protection of the environment and improved access to global and regional markets;
- support the Namibia Standards Institution (NSI), (in terms of financial and technical resources) to implement the National Quality Policy (NQP) and its action plan;
- support the NSI to review and/or develop NQP related regulations, particularly those related to industrial and scientific and legal metrology and food safety;
- upgrade quality and standards infrastructure in accordance with the needs identified in the NQP and build the necessary technical capacity; and
- support interventions aimed MSMEs, gender and youth enterprises in meeting quality standards.

(g) Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Government shall:

- negotiate with trading partners to base SPS measures on international standards;
- support the use of digital technologies in the SPS system, including in risk assessment and verification of SPS compliance such as electronic certificates; and
- support the building of sustainable technical and institutional capacity in SPS areas, with a view to enhance Namibia's trade competitiveness.

(h) Rules of Origin

Government shall:

- negotiate with trading partners to make rules of origin more flexible and less restrictive in order to improve the country's competitiveness, especially utilising supportive cumulation provisions to access inputs required for local value addition and promote participation in regional and global value chains;
- support the harmonisation of rules of origin regimes, especially in the context of regional market integration initiatives such as the AfCFTA, the Tripartite FTA and the SADC FTA; and
- promote the use of electronic systems for the management of rules of origin across trade agreements.

(i) Infant Industry Protection

Government shall:

- utilise infant industry protection, where deemed feasible, and in accordance with existing commitments assumed in the country's trade agreements;
- explore innovative interventions to nurture infant industries within the context of available policy space instruments, especially under Article 26 of the SACU 2002 Agreement, including utilisation of the SACU rebate facility; and
- take cognizance of the need to balance infant industry protectionism with the need to mitigate its potential costs by exploring other means to assist emerging enterprises to raise their competitiveness, such as effective implementation of industrial upgrading interventions.

(j) Duty Drawback Scheme
Government shall:
- improve the utilisation the SACU Rebate System, which is a policy instrument designed to stimulate manufacturing and agricultural production in the country.

(k) Special Economic Zone Scheme
Government shall:
- develop a comprehensive regime for SEZ, in order to attract both domestic and foreign investment, contributing to economic diversification of Namibia's productive and export structure.

(l) Buy Namibian Initiative
Government shall:
- support the promotion of the use and consumption of goods and services produced in Namibia, especially through public procurement measures/requirements and other initiatives.

(m) Subsidies
Government may:
- use subsidies and incentives directed at encouraging exports of finished goods and services.

(n) Import and Export Prohibitions and Restrictions
Government may:
- also restrict imports or exports by utilising relevant WTO provisions and those negotiated in bilateral, regional and international trade agreements dealing with health of humans, animals or plants; the environment; treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value; public morals; intellectual property rights; national security; exhaustible natural resources; and natural disasters.

Trade in services

For trade in services, the instruments and measures will be influenced by how services are supplied, in terms of the four (4) modes of supply under the World Trade Organisation (WTO)'s General Agreement on Trade in Services as provided in **Appendix 1**.

The cross-cutting nature of many services industries and various regulatory agencies involved in service sector development requires collaboration across a wide range of offices, ministries and agencies (OMAs). Priority action will have to focus on building a coalition of public and private stakeholders towards improved coordination and policy coherence in the services sector. Priority sectors for trade policy, include the following:

Tourism and travel-related services
Addressing challenges, especially as relating to new products, regulatory bottlenecks, and skills shortages. Enhancing the utilization of digital platforms for the marketing of tourism, with emphasis on exploiting opportunities arising from the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) which includes trade in services. This will facilitate the diversification of markets for tourism services beyond the traditional ones.

Transport services
The transport and logistics sector has the potential to play a more significant role in the economy. With two of the eight Southern African transport corridor Trans-Kalahari via Botswana; Trans- Caprivi and Trans-Cunene via Angola to DRC; Trans- Orange via South Africa. These corridors feed into the Walvis Bay Corridor and to the broader SADC region. It is only befitting that improving market conditions (especially in regional markets) for Namibian transport operators can contribute to increased exports of transport services. There are challenges in some transport modes that requires require strategic policy attention and regulatory reform.

Information and communication technology services
The information and communication technology (ICT) sector is a vital enabling economic sector linked to other services and manufacturing. However, the sector will need to play a much greater role in the Namibian economy by promoting regulatory reform that promotes competition and cost reduction. High cost of internet services and low diffusion of computing equipment to businesses and private consumers will need to be addressed, including skills development and provision of incentives for

investment in ICT-enabled businesses. ICT sector can particularly be important for trade inclusivity by involving the youth.

Professional services

The traditional "regulated professions" in Namibia such as legal, accounting, architecture, engineering services are predominantly inward looking (depending mostly on procurement contracts) rather than export-oriented. There are strong views that the regulatory regimes on many professional services are outdated and not in tandem with international best practices.

Creative and cultural industries

Creative and cultural industries (CCI) are proving to be key sub-sectors in many economies globally, including in developing countries, providing opportunities for the youth. They range from folk art, festivals, music, paintings and performing arts, including more technology-intensive subsectors such as film industry, broadcasting, digital animation and video games, and fields such as architectural design and advertising services. These industries are intensive in creative skills and generation of income through trade and intellectual property rights. This can be enhanced through increased protection of intellectual property rights especially on digital networks.

Educational and health services

Namibia already exports educational and health services and there is potential for further growth. For example, out of the total student population of nearly 12,000 at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) in 2020, more than 700 international students were from all over the world. Medical or health tourism is becoming an increasing phenomenon worldwide, which is attracting a great deal of attention in a number of countries. Consultations undertaken in the context of Namibia's National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy have recommended that educational and health services should be added as important priority services sectors for Namibia in the context of AfCFTA negotiations.

Energy-related services

Energy-related services are dominated by electricity of which between 40 and 60 percent is imported from South Africa. Government has recognized the need to reduce energy imports through increasing production, especially of renewables such as solar, wind and biomass. Namibia is also working on establishing a green hydrogen industry and expects to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) flows based on its green ammonia and hydrogen production potential. Namibia has the potential to become a net exporter of power to the rest of the southern African region.

Financial services

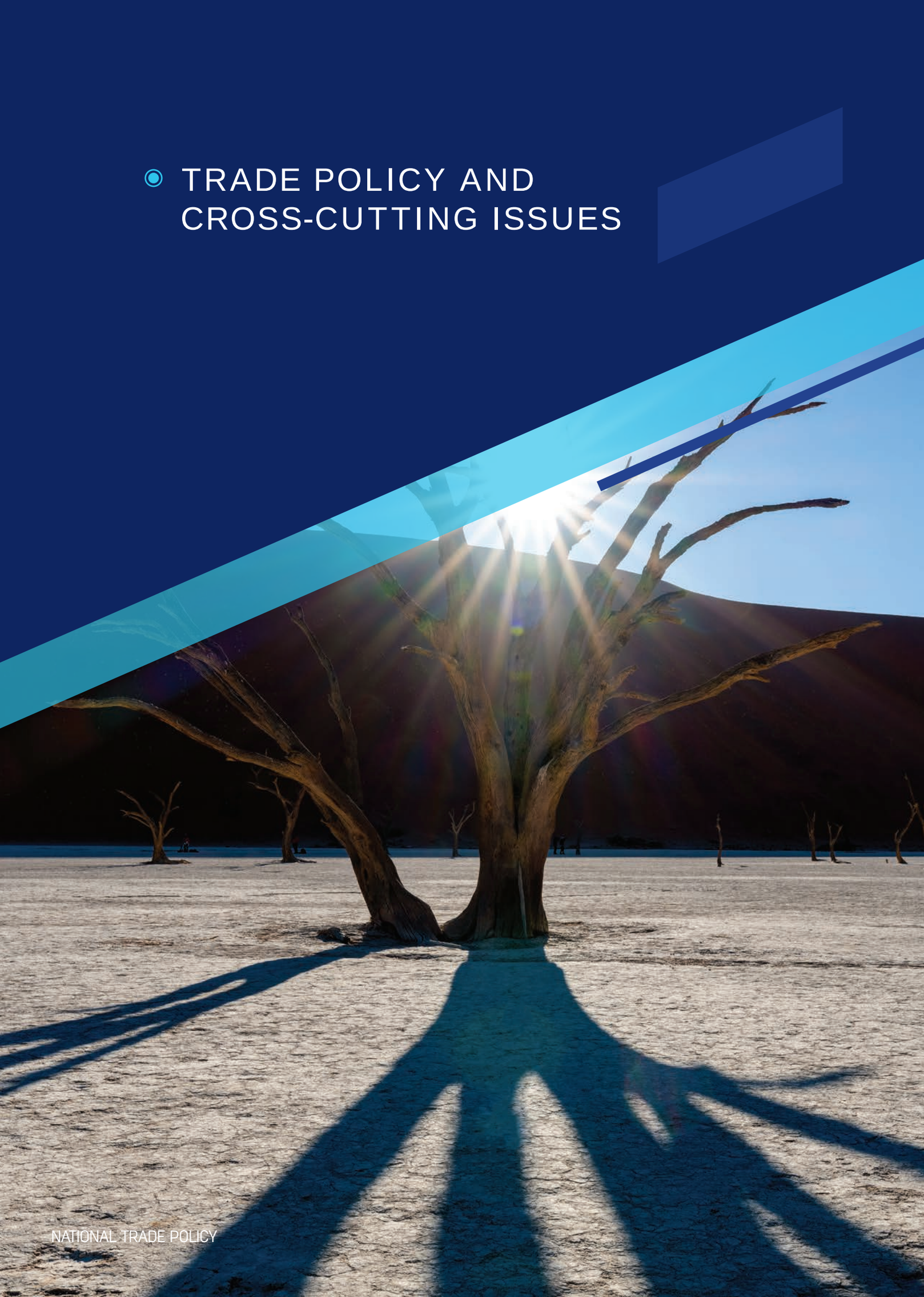
Namibia has a relatively sound and well-functioning financial sector which can provide a wide variety of financial services to consumers. A Financial Sector Strategy (2011 -2021) was developed and has led to new financial institutions and improved access to financial services. Bank of Namibia – the regulator of the banking services, has encouraged new entrants into the market, and this has relatively promoted competition, lowered costs and improved access to financial services. The Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA), an independent institution that regulates and supervise financial institutions in the financial services in the public interest has been established and has become a reputable authority locally and internationally. It is working closely with its counterparts in Africa to establish solid regulatory frameworks. The export of financial services in Namibia has increased over the years, almost quadrupling in value from N$ 94 million in 2009 to N$ 452 million in 2018.

Government shall:

- Undertake regulatory assessments of the services sectors in Namibia, focusing on the priority sectors identified in the regional and continental trade in services negotiations framework. In addition, educational, health as well as creative and cultural services will receive priority attention.
- Support the improvement of the collection of statistics on services trade and investment.
- Support the development and implementation of export-readiness programmes, targeted at services firms and professionals interested in exporting services, particularly in regional and African markets.
- Pursue market access in the context of regional integration initiatives such as SADC FTA, Tripartite FTA and AfCFTA.
- Pursue further opening services sectors in which Namibia has high potential for attracting foreign investment (mode 3), or services in which you need to increase efficiency and to improve other services and manufacturing.
- Stimulate and facilitate the development of online businesses in the services sector for cross border (mode 1) supply of services.
- Support the skills enhancement in the services sectors through liberalisation of specific professional services through mutual recognition agreements and Mode 4 delivery.
- Encourage the establishment of a Coalition of Service Industries.

NATIONAL TRADE POLICY 2023

TRADE POLICY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES



TRADE POLICY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Inclusivity, gender and youth issues

The benefits of trade should be inclusive and sustainable, reaching all segments of the Namibian society. The National Trade Policy is committed to identifying, understanding and addressing obstacles to the full participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities in trade. Specifically, inclusivity will be promoted through strategies and action aimed at improving access to financial services, skills development, and markets; meeting quality standards for goods and services in domestic, regional and global markets, and boosting human capital for trade. Upgrading ICT skills and improving digital connectivity should be key to enhance inclusivity in trade and development.

Trade and environment

Trade, investment and industrialization are inter-related and mutually supportive. Regional and global value chains have sharpened the interdependence between trade and foreign direct investment (FDI), as companies combine trade with investment to organise supply of inputs, expand into new markets, access knowledge, and provide services to consumers. Increasingly, trade agreements include investment provisions, addressing a broader set of policy issues that influence strategies of firms. Government will ensure a coordinated policy approach that govern trade, investment and industrialisation to ensure policy coherence. Namibia has signed a number of trade-related conventions, covering issues such as environmental pollution, dumping of toxic industrial waste materials, preservation of biodiversity, protection of flora and fauna, and limiting ozone-depleting materials and substances that cause global warming and climate change. Within the context of the country's green and blue economic development strategies, including exploitation of wind, solar and bio-gas resources, Namibia is committed towards a zero-emission status country.

Trade and intellectual property rights

Intellectual property (IPR) is concerned with legal rights granted by governments to encourage innovation and creative output by ensuring that creators reap the benefits of their inventions or works. Government is committed to strengthen the intellectual property system in Namibia by examining the role of IPR in encouraging technology transfer and the creation of a sound and viable technology base. Government shall enforce IPR such as trademark counterfeiting and piracy. More so that counterfeit goods are usually of inferior quality, deceiving and harmful to consumers, and causing economic losses. Government is also committed to protect the country's intellectual property assets, including economic benefit of indigenous knowledge, natural resources, and cultural assets. In addition, Namibia will promote partnerships and the transfer of emerging technologies, such as in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, clean energy, and information and communication technologies.

E- commerce and digitalization

Digital trade encompasses digitally enabled transactions of trade in goods and services that can either be digitally or physically delivered, and that involve consumers, firms, and the public sector. Underpinning digital trade is the movement of data, which requires further regulatory protection. Digitalisation is critical in reducing the costs of participation in regional and international trade. It may also be opening up new inclusive opportunities for women, youth and persons with disabilities to participate in trade. Government will develop the legal and regulatory framework that foster business and consumer confidence and give a greater role for e-commerce as a driver of business growth and trade promotion, including exports of goods and services. In doing this, policy recognises the need to bridge the digital divides and capacity building.

Trade and labour

Trade is generally regarded as a source of economic growth and employment. Opening up markets, i.e., liberalising trade is deemed to be beneficial for the overall economy. However, some parts of the economy benefit more than others. In some cases, domestic production decreases and workers lose jobs. Such economic shifts within an economy can involve wage adjustments and unemployment. The search for investment may lead to circumstances where cheap labour, compromising labour standards and resulting in limited protection for the rights of workers, exploitation of child labour, discrimination and repression of organised and bargaining rights, poor working conditions, etc. Government remains committed to the upholding of labour standards in conformity with the domestic labour law and international labour standards. Government will also utilise social safety nets for workers affected by developments in trade.

NATIONAL TRADE POLICY 2023



IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS/ FRAMEWORK



IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS/ FRAMEWORK

Institutional arrangements

- The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) is the custodian for the formulation and implementation of policies to increase trade in goods and services, attract investment and expand the country's industrial base. Reference to MIT includes all the public enterprises falling under it, namely Namibia Competition Commission (NaCC), Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA), Business Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) and the Namibia Standards Institution (NSI).

- While MIT will be responsible for the strategic management and implementation of the National Trade Policy, respective agencies will be expected to manage and facilitate aspects of trade policy which falls within their mandates. MIT will work in partnership with key Organizations/Ministries/Agencies (OMAs), private sector and non-governmental (civil) society organisations. To maximise coordination and synergies with other national economic policies, additional mechanisms will be established to improve coordination among institutions that are involved in trade and investment development and promotion, including on trade-related areas such as trade in services.

- While Government provides the policy and regulatory environment for trade and investment, the conduct of trade in domestic, regional and international markets should be led, managed and owned by the private sector. At the operational level, businesses are encouraged to establish their own administrative and coordination mechanisms through their associations, and to partner with Government in the implementation of the policy.

Implementation Plan and Timeframe

- The National Trade Policy will be operationalised through an implementation action plan over a period of five (5) years as outlined below:

Policy Objective 1: To diversify exports of high value manufactured goods and services															
Strategy	**Activity**	**Output**	**Key Indicators**	**ase-line**	**Base-line**	**Timelines and Targets per year**				**Budget (NAD '000)**					**Actors/ Responsible Entity**
						2024/25	**2025/26**	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	**023/24**	**2024/25**	**2025/26**	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	
Improving capacity for diversification and value addition in production of goods and services.	a) Revise the Industrial Policy and Execution Strategy, with targeted interventions.	Revised Industrial Policy and Execution Strategy, with targeted interventions.	An Industrial Policy and Execution Strategy, with targeted interventions revised.	0	1	-	-	-	-	300	-	-	-	-	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA)
	b) Improve existing incentives for manufactured goods.	Incentives package for manufactured goods improved and utilized.	No of firms benefiting and utilizing Incentives package for manufactured goods.	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	-	-	-	-	-	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA); Namibia Manufacturers Association (NMA)
	c) Invest in skills development	A skilled development program developed and implemented.	No of firms benefitting from the skills development program.	0	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	500	500	500	500	500	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA); Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)
	d) Establish Special Economic Zones (SEZs)	Operational Special Economic Zones (SEZs)	Special Economic Zones (EPZ) Bill enacted and promulgated. No of firms operating in Special Economic Zones (SEZs)	0 0	1 40%	- 50%	- 60%	- 70%	- 80%	300 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Office of the Attorney General Namibia Industrial Development Agency NIDA); Namibia Manufacturers Association (NMA); Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB);
	e) Negotiate provisions in preferential trade agreements to support value addition and beneficiation, such as in rules of origin.	Provisions in preferential trade agreements supporting value addition and beneficiation, such as in rules of origin, utilized	Number of preferential trade agreements utilized.	50%	60%	80%	90%	100%	100%	200	-	-	-	-	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF); Namibia Manufacturers Association (NMA); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI), Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)
	f) Promote sourcing of competitive imports of goods and services (inputs) for value addition	Competitive sourcing of imports (inputs, intermediation) encouraged.	% increase in imports (inputs, intermediates)	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%	-	-	-	-	-	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF); Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA); Namibia Manufacturers Association (NMA); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI), Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)
	g) Develop sectoral plans and growth strategies on the priority sectors for value addition, regional and global value chains (leveraging on SACU/ SADC work)	Sectoral plans and growth strategies on the priority sectors for value addition, regional and global value chains	Sectoral plans and growth strategies developed	20%	40%	60%	80%	90%	100%	300	300	300	300	300	Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA); Namibia Manufacturers Association (NMA); Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB);
Policy Objective 2: To increase Namibia's exports of goods and services in regional, continental, and global markets															

Policy Objective 2: To increase Namibia's exports of goods and services in regional, continental, and global markets															
Strategy	**Activity**	**Output**	**Key Indicators**	**aseline**	**Base-line**	**Timelines and Targets per year**				**Budget (NAD '000)**					**Actors/ Responsible Entity**
						2024/25	**2025/26**	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	**023/24**	**2024/25**	**2025/26**	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	
Diversification and increasing Namibia's exports of goods and services.	a) Develop a National Export Development and Promotion Strategy and an implementation Action Plan	A National Export Development and Promotion Strategy	A National Export Development and Promotion Strategy developed	0	1	1	-	-	-	300	300	-	-	-	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI); Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)
	b) Negotiate preferential market access for Namibian exports of goods and services	Preferential market access agreements (goods & services) negotiated and implemented	No of preferential market access (goods & services) agreements negotiated and implemented	50%	1	1	1	1	1	300	300	300	300	300	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI)
	c) Monitor and facilitate elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) in regional, continental and international markets.	Improved institutional and technical capacity to monitor and eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) on goods and services	No of tariffs and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) on trade in goods and services reduced or eliminated	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	200	200	200	200	200	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI)
	d) Strengthen Namibia's capacity to collect data on goods and services trade.	Improved capacity for the collection of data on goods and services trade	Annual Reports on data on goods and services trade	50%	1	1	1	1	1	300	300	300	200	100	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA); Bank of Namibia (BoN); Coalition of Service Industries
	e) Conduct policy and regulatory assessment for services sectors, with emphasis on those with under-developed or weak regulatory frameworks.	Policy and regulatory assessment for services sectors conducted.	Audit Report on services regulatory framework and recommendations on regulatory reforms	0	1	1	-	-	-	300	300	-	-	-	Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Services Regulatory Agencies; Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB); Coalition of Service Industries
	f) Develop a policy and regulatory framework on e-commerce/ digital trade.	A policy and regulatory framework on e-commerce/digital trade	A policy and regulatory framework on e-commerce/digital trade developed	0	1	1	-	-	-	300	300	-	-	-	Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB); Coalition of Service Industries
	g) Conclude Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) on professional services standards and qualifications with selected trading partners.	Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) on professional services standards and qualifications with selected trading partners concluded.	No of MRAs on professional services concluded	0	1	1	1	1	1	100	100	100	100	100	Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA); Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade; Coalition of Service Industries; Namibia Trade Forum (NTF)

	h) Develop targeted Tourism Marketing Programs in targeted markets, especially in non-traditional markets.	Tourism Marketing Programs in targeted markets, especially in non-traditional markets developed.	No of Tourism Marketing Programs undertaken	0	1	1	1	1	1	500	500	500	500	500	Namibia Tourism Board (NTB); Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET); Federation of Namibian Tourism Associations (FENATA); Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI)
	i) Undertake training and capacity building activities to enhance Service Excellence/ Culture in hospitality and travel-related businesses.	Training and capacity building activities to enhance Service Excellence/ Culture in hospitality and travel-related businesses undertaken.	No of persons trained, disaggregated by sex, age, etc.	30%	1	1	1	1	1	200	200	200	200	200	Namibia Tourism Board (NTB); Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET); Federation of Namibian Tourism Associations (FENATA); Hospitality Association of Namibia (HAN); Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI)
	j) Continuously reform the Visa Regime targeting leisure, business and health visitors, including the use of e-visa platforms, in line with international best practices.	Reform of the Visa Regime targeting leisure, business and health visitors, including the use of e-visa platforms, in line with international best practices undertaken.	No. of Visa regime reforms implemented.	60%	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration; Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)
	k) Establish a Coalition of Services Industries (CSI) to ensure improved collaboration and coordination of trade-in-services development.	Coalition of Services Industries (CSI) established.	No of services firms and regulators participating in the Coalition arrangements	0	1	1	1	1	1	100	100	100	100	100	Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI)

Policy Objective 3: To consolidate Namibia's existing markets for goods and services

Strategy	Activity	Output	Key Indicators	aseline	Base-line	Timelines and Targets per year				Budget (NAD '000)					Actors/ Responsible Entity
						2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
Diversification and consolidation of Namibia's exports markets for goods and services.	a) Undertake market intelligence and research studies to identify export markets	Market intelligence and research studies undertaken.	No of market intelligence studies undertaken	0	1	1	1	1	1	300	300	300	300	300	Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Ministry of Industrialization and Trade (MIT); Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI); Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)
	b) Organise trade missions and support participation of export-ready businesses in trade fairs and exhibitions in regional; continental and international markets; including the use of digital platforms	Trade missions and support for participation of export-ready businesses in trade fairs and exhibitions undertaken.	No of trade missions undertaken. No of trade fairs and exhibitions participated. No of businesses benefitted from trade missions, trade fairs and exhibitions.	0	1	1	1	1	1	500	500	500	500	500	Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB); Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI)

Policy Objective 4: To enhance Namibia's quality and standards infrastructure															
Strategy	**Activity**	**Output**	**Key Indicators**	**aseline**	**Base-line**	**Timelines and Targets per year**				**Budget (NAD '000)**					**Actors/ Responsible Entity**
						2024/25	**2025/26**	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	**023/24**	**2024/25**	**2025/26**	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	
Enhancing the National Quality and Standards Infrastructure to raise the country's productive and trade competitiveness	a) Develop a National Standardization Strategy	National Standardization Strategy developed	No of national standards developed	0	1	1	1	1	1	300					Namibia Standards Institute (NSI); Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT)
	b) Upgrade relevant laboratories and equipment to ensure uphold accreditation.	Relevant laboratories and equipment upgraded and accredited	No of laboratories and equipment upgraded and accredited	0	1	1	1	1	1	700	700	700	700	700	Namibia Standards Institute (NSI)
	c) Develop and promulgate national approach to technical regulations.	National approach to technical regulations developed and bills and regulations promulgated	No of technical regulatory bills promulgated	50%	1	1	-	-	-	300	300	-	-	-	Namibia Standards Institute (NSI); Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Office of the Attorney General
	d) Develop capacity on managing technical regulations and standards and public awareness.	Capacity on managing technical regulations and standards and public awareness enhanced.	No of persons trained on technical regulations and standards	30%	1	1	1	1	1	300	300	300	300	300	Namibia Standards Institute (NSI)
			No of public awareness interventions held	30%	4	4	4	4	4	200	200	200	200	200	Namibia Standards Institute (NSI)
	e) Build the technical capacity for the management of sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures and public awareness	SPS technical capacity building and public awareness programme	No persons trained on SPS	30%	1	1	1	1	1	300	300	300	300	300	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR); Agronomic Board, Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF); Meat Board of Namibia
			No of public awareness on SPS held	30%	4	4	4	4	4	200	200	200	200	200	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR); Agronomic Board, Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF); Meat Board of Namibia

Policy Objective 5: To promote domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI) in value added goods and services															
Strategy	**Activity**	**Output**	**Key Indicators**	**aseline**	**Base-line**	**Timelines and Targets per year**				**Budget (NAD '000)**					**Actors/ Responsible Entity**
						2024/25	**2025/26**	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	**023/24**	**2024/25**	**2025/26**	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	
Attracting domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI); in value addition and services; including promotion of participation in regional value chains (RVCs) and global value chains (GVCs).	a) Reform Namibia's investment regime; particularly the enactment of the revised investment legislation.	Reformed Namibia's investment policy and regulatory regime	Namibia Investment Promotion Facilitation Act enacted and promulgated	0	1	-	-	-	-	300	-	-	-	-	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)

Policy Objective 6: To enhance trade facilitation related reforms in order to expedite trade flows by reducing trade barriers															
Strategy	**Activity**	**Output**	**Key Indicators**	**aseline**	**Base-line**	**Timelines and Targets per year**				**Budget (NAD '000)**					**Actors/ Responsible Entity**
						2024/25	**2025/26**	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	**023/24**	**2024/25**	**2025/26**	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	
Enhancing trade facilitation and related reforms, and logistics.	a) Fully implement the National Single Window (NSW)	National Single Window implemented	% reduction of export and import transaction costs	0	20%	30%	40%	50%	100%	500	500	500	500	500	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI); Ministry of Works and Transport; Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration; Walvis Bay Corridor Group; Namibia Logistics Association, Namibia Ports Authority; Trans-Kalahari Corridor Secretariat; Walvis Bay Port Users Association; Namibia Trade Forum; Namibia Standards Institution; Namibia Agro-Marketing and Trading Agency. Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform; Namibia Agronomic Board; Meat Board
			% in reduction in time of exporting and importing	0	20%	30%	40%	50%	100%						
			% level of implementation of the measures of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%						
				50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%						
	b) Enhance the capacity of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) towards effective implementation of Namibia's trade facilitation commitments.	Capacity of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) enhanced	No of NTFC members trained	50%	70%	100%	100%	100%	100%	200	200	-	-	-	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI); Ministry of Works and Transport; Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration; Walvis Bay Corridor Group; Namibia Logistics Association, Namibia Ports Authority; Trans-Kalahari Corridor Secretariat; Walvis Bay Port Users Association; Namibia Trade Forum; Namibia Standards Institution; Namibia Agro-Marketing and Trading Agency. Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform; Namibia Agronomic Board; Meat Board
	c) Fully implement Namibia Trade Facilitation Roadmap (2019 – 2025)	Namibia Trade Facilitation Roadmap (2019 – 2025) implemented	% level of implementation of activities in the Road Map	30%	50%	70%	80%	90%	100%						Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI); Ministry of Works and Transport; Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration; Ministry of Safety and Security; Walvis Bay Corridor Group; Namibia Logistics Association, Namibia Ports Authority; Trans-Kalahari Corridor Secretariat; Walvis Bay Port Users Association; Namibia Trade Forum; Namibia Standards Institution; Namibia Agro-Marketing and Trading Agency. Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform; Namibia Agronomic Board; Meat Board

	d) Improve border agency cooperation on border procedures; including inspection and non-intrusive inspections.	Border Agency cooperation enhanced	No of Border Agencies effectively participating in the coordinated border management process	50%	100%										Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA)
	e) Develop an Integrated Border Management Administrative IT system	An integrated Border Management System	An integrated Border Management System established and operationalised	0	50%	100%									Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA)
	f) Complete the establishment of a One-Stop Border Post with Botswana at the Trans-Kalahari Corridor.	A One-Stop Border Post with Botswana	A One-Stop Border Post with Botswana established and oper-ationalnalised	0	50%	100%									Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA)

Policy Objective 7: To promote the development and access to trade financing mechanisms and instruments

Strategy	Activity	Output	Key Indicators	aseline	Base-line	Timelines and Targets per year				Budget (NAD '000)					Actors/ Responsible Entity
						2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
Increasing availability of affordable trade finance; including access to export credit and insurance facilities.	a) Undertake a study on trade finance mechanisms and instruments in Namibia.	Study Report on trade finance in Namibia	Study Report on trade finance in Namibia prepared	0	1	-	-	-	-	300	-	-	-	-	Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB); Development Bank of Namibia (NDB); Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA); Financial Institutions
	b) Conduct training courses and awareness workshops on trade finance	Training courses and awareness workshops on trade finance undertaken	No of training courses and awareness workshops undertaken No of firms/ business persons trained on trade finance	0 0	7 60	7 60	-	-	-	300	300	-	-	-	Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB); Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Development Bank of Namibia (NDB); Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA); Financial Institutions

Policy Objective 8: To empower MSMEs; women and youth owned businesses; with critical entry points into international markets; including access to finance; production inputs and market information

Strategy	Activity	Output	Key Indicators	aseline	Base-line	Timelines and Targets per year				Budget (NAD '000)					Actors/ Responsible Entity
						2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
Enhancing the trade competitiveness of micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs), women, youth and persons with disabilities owned or led enterprises	a) Facilitate the development and access to trade finance for MSMEs, women; youth; and persons with disabilities owned enterprises.	Trade finance mechanism for MSMEs, women; youth; and persons with disabilities owned enterprises developed.	No of MSMEs, women, youth and persons with disabilities owned or led enterprises accessing trade finance instruments	0	1					100					Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI); Namibia Development Bank (NDB); AgriBank; Ministry of Sport; Youth and National Service; Ministry of Gender Equality; Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare; National Youth Council (NYC)

	b) Support MSMEs; women and youth and persons with disabilities owned businesses to engage in trade.	MSMEs; women and youth and persons with disabilities owned businesses trained/ capacitated engage in trade.	No of MSMEs, women and youth and persons with disabilities trained on trade issues	0	100	100	100	100	100	200	200	200	200	200	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI); Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service; Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare; National Youth Council (NYC)

Policy Objective 9: To enhance Namibia's inclusive; competitive domestic trading environment for goods and services															
Strategy	**Activity**	**Output**	**Key Indicators**	**aseline**	**Base-line**	**Timelines and Targets per year**				**Budget (NAD '000)**					**Actors/ Responsible Entity**
						2024/ 25	**2025/ 26**	**2026/ 27**	**2027/ 28**	**023/ 24**	**2024/ 25**	**2025/ 26**	**2026/ 27**	**2027/ 28**	
Fostering an inclusive and competitive domestic business environment.	a) Improve capacity to investigate and address anti-competitive business/ trading practices.	Capacity to investigate and address anti-competitive business/ trading practices enhanced.	No of competition personnel trained	50%	80%	100%				100	100	-	-	-	Namibian Competition Commission (NaCC); Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT)
	b) Enact and promulgate the National Competition Act.	National Competition Act enacted and promulgated.	No of anti-competitive business trading practices investigated, addressed, and resolved.	0	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	Namibian Competition Commission (NaCC); Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT)
	c) Enact and promulgate the National Consumer Protection Act	National Consumer Protection Act enacted and promulgated.	No of consumer protection cases reported and resolved	0	1	1	1	1	1		100	100	100	100	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Consumer Protection Office in MIT
	d) Improve institutional and technical capacity for adequate protection of the consumers.	Improved institutional and technical capacity for adequate protection of the consumers.	No of persons trained in consumer protection No of consumer protection cases reported and resolved	0	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	
	e) Undertake a comprehensive review of Namibia's intellectual property system; taking in in account of its role in trade development and transfer of technology and diffusion.	A comprehensive review of Namibia's intellectual property system undertaken.	Review Report and recommendations of the National Intellec-tual Property Rights System	0	1	-	-	-	-	300					Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA); Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT)
	f) Continuously reform the business environment in terms of business entry, business regulations and reduction of administrative costs.	Business regulatory environment continuously assessed and reformed.	Assessment Report on the Business Environment (opening business; utility connections, labour, financial services, international trade, taxation, dispute resolution, market competition)	0	1					300					Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA); Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)

Policy Objective 10: To establish and operationalize a legal and institutional framework for trade in goods and services administration

Strategy	Activity	Output	Key Indicators	aseline	Baseline	Timelines and Targets per year				Budget (NAD '000)					Actors/ Responsible Entity
						2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
Enhancing a legal and institutional framework for the management of trade in goods and services	**a)** Fast-track the development and implementation of the International Trade Management Bill	International Trade Management Bill developed	International Trade Management Bill enacted and promulgated	0	1					200					**Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT)**; Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Office of the Attorney General
	b) Establish the National Trade Body to manage international trade.	National Trade Body established	National Trade Body operationalized	0		1					Tbc				**Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT)**; Namibia Trade Forum (NTF)
	c) Build the necessary institutional and technical capacity of the National Trade Body	Capacity building mechanism for the National Body developed	No of personnel trained	0	1	1	1	200	200	200					**Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT)**; Namibia Trade Forum (NTF)
	d) Establish a Coalition of the Services Industries to promote services development and trade in services	Coalition of the Services Industries established	Coalition of the Services Industries fully operational No of meetings and umbrella activities held	0 1	1 2	2	2	2	2	200	200	200	200	200	**Namibia Trade Forum (NTF)**; Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI

Policy Objective 11: To increase Namibia's institutional and technical capacity to effectively negotiate and implement trade agreements and trade-related initiatives

Strategy	Activity	Output	Key Indicators	aseline	Baseline	Timelines and Targets per year				Budget (NAD '000)					Actors/ Responsible Entity
						2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
Enhancing institutional and technical capacity for national trade policy management	a) Develop a comprehensive trade negotiations and implementation framework for Namibia	A comprehensive trade negotiations and implementation developed	No of trade agreements on trade in goods and services negotiated	7	1	1	1	1	1	300	300	300	300	300	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT); Namibia Trade Forum (NTF); Services Ministries and Services Regulators; Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI); Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF); Office of the Attorney General
	b) Develop and implement a national trade policy capacity building programme	A trade policy capacity building programme developed	No of persons trained in trade policy management	0	1	1	1	1	1	300	300	300	300	300	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT)

- LEGAL AND REGULATORY ARRANGEMENTS
- FINANCING MECHANISM/ RESOURCE MOBILISATION

MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK



LEGAL AND REGULATORY ARRANGEMENTS

The National Trade Policy is consistent and aligned with existing national and regulatory framework in Namibia. However, its full implementation will require enforcement through certain acts, regulatory bodies or institutions. The following are envisaged:

- Promulgation of the Namibia Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill (NIPFA), encompassing the treatment and support for domestic and foreign investors and providing for sector reservations for Namibian investors.

- Development of the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy to support the diversification of the economy and enhance structural economic transformation and the promulgation of the SEZ Bill.

- The establishment of the National Trade Body as envisaged under the SACU Agreement and the promulgation of the Trade Management Bill.

- The development of the legal and regulatory framework for e-commerce in Namibia.

FINANCING MECHANISM/ RESOURCE MOBILISATION

- Government is committed to fund the implementation of the National Trade Policy and, where possible secure additional resources from development cooperating partners, public/private partnerships (PPPs) and other sources of funding.

- Namibia has developed an **Aid for Trade Framework and Strategy** aimed at leveraging trade for economic growth and development. This could be revised to serve as the basis for further engagement with development partners and possible sources for resources/financial support.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

- The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) will serve the principal institution for overseeing the implementation, monitoring evaluation of the National Trade Policy.

- Through a strengthened institutional coordination and implementation framework, the Ministry in collaboration with its statutory bodies, and other public and private stakeholders, will be required to conduct periodical monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the National Trade Policy.

- The National Trade Policy should not be static but a dynamic document which is subjected to an evaluation and review after five (5) years. The review will account for new national priorities and circumstances as well as regional and international developments.

- CONCLUSION
- REFERENCES



CONCLUSION

The National Trade Policy lays a framework for guiding Namibia's participation in international trade; maximizing the benefits from regional and global markets, and minimising the costs of openness to trade through deliberate strategic interventions and utilization of feasible policy instruments and measures on trade in goods and services.

The policy recognizes that the fundamental challenge to trade performance in Namibia is grounded in structural constraints to growth as result of a narrow industrial base driven by extraction and limited processing of natural resources rather than by high value-added and diversified productive capacities. This requires more domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI) to spur productive diversification into new economic activities, including the required levels of skills, know-how. Namibia should further build the **capabilities of government agencies** to support effective implementation and management of strategic initiatives in the prioritised industrial and trade-related areas, including **public-private dialogue and partnerships**.

The National Trade Policy is a dynamic and flexible document which will be subjected to a review after five (5) years, to take into account emerging national priorities and developments in regional and global markets.

Appendix 1: Definition of Services Trade and Modes of Supply

The definition of services trade under the GATS is four-pronged, depending on the territorial presence of the supplier and the consumer at the time of the transaction. Pursuant to Article I:2, the GATS covers services supplied.

- from the territory of one Member into the territory of any other Member (Mode 1 - Cross-border trade);
- in the territory of one Member to the service consumer of any other Member (Mode 2 –Consumption abroad);
- by a service supplier of one Member, through commercial presence, in the territory of any other Member (Mode 3 - Commercial presence); and
- by a service supplier of one Member, through the presence of natural persons of a Member in the territory of any other Member (Mode 4 - Presence of natural persons).

Box A: Examples of the Modes of Supply (from the perspective of an "importing" Member A)

Mode 1 - **Cross-border:** Users in A receive services from abroad through the telecommunications or postal network. Such supplies may include consultancy or market research reports, tele-medical advice, distance training, or architectural drawings.
Mode 2 - **Consumption abroad:** Nationals of A have moved abroad as tourists, students, or patients to consume the respective services.
Mode 3 - **Commercial presence:** The service is provided within A by a locally-established affiliate, subsidiary, or office of a foreign-owned and -controlled company (bank, hotel group, construction company, etc.).
Mode 4 - Movement of natural persons: A foreign national provides services within A as an independent supplier (e.g., consultant, health worker) or employee of a foreign service firm (e.g., consultancy, hospital, construction company).

Source: WTO Secretariat (Trade in Services Division)

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