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Chapter 1

167

1.1 167.guide

Texified version of data for Namibia.

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Namibia

1.2 167.guide/Namibia

Namibia

Geography (Namibia)
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 Communications (Namibia)
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1.3 167.guide/Geography (Namibia)

Geography (Namibia)

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Location:

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

Map references:

Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area: total area:

824,290 km²

land area:

823,290 km²

comparative area:

slightly more than half the size of Alaska

Land boundaries:

total 3,935 km, Angola 1,376 km, Botswana 1,360 km, South Africa 966 km,
 Zambia 233 km

Coastline:

1,489 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

short section of boundary with Botswana is indefinite; disputed island with
 Botswana in the Chobe River; quadripoint with Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe

is in disagreement; claim by Namibia to Walvis Bay and 12 offshore islands
 administered by South Africa; Namibia and South Africa have agreed to
 jointly administer the area for an interim period; the terms and dates to be

covered by joint administration arrangements have not been established at
 this time, and Namibia will continue to maintain a claim to sovereignty over

the entire area; recent dispute with Botswana over uninhabited Kasikili
 (Sidudu) Island in the Linyanti River

Climate:

desert; hot, dry; rainfall sparse and erratic

Terrain:

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

Natural resources:

diamonds, copper, uranium, gold, lead, tin, lithium, cadmium, zinc, salt, vanadium, natural gas, fish; suspected deposits of oil, natural gas, coal, iron ore

Land use:

arable land:

1%

permanent crops:

0%

meadows and pastures:

64%

forest and woodland:

22%

other:

13%

Irrigated land:

40 km² (1989 est.)

Environment:

inhospitable with very limited natural water resources; desertification

Note:

Walvis Bay area is an exclave of South Africa in Namibia

1.4 167.guide/People (Namibia)

People (Namibia)

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Population:

1,541,321 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:

3.46% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:

43.77 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:

9.13 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:

0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:

63.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population:

61.2 years

male:

58.57 years

female:

63.91 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:

6.46 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:

noun:
 Namibian(s)
 adjective:
 Namibian
 Ethnic divisions:
 black 86%, white 6.6%, mixed 7.4%
 note:
 about 50% of the population belong to the Ovambo tribe and 9% to the Kavangos tribe
 Religions:
 Christian
 Languages:
 English 7% (official), Afrikaans common language of most of the population and about 60% of the white population, German 32%, indigenous languages
 Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1960)
 total population:
 38%
 male:
 45%
 female:
 31%
 Labor force:
 500,000
 by occupation:
 agriculture 60%, industry and commerce 19%, services 8%, government 7%, mining 6% (1981 est.)

1.5 167.guide/Government (Namibia)

Government (Namibia)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 Republic of Namibia
 conventional short form:
 Namibia
 Digraph:
 WA
 Type:
 republic
 Capital:
 Windhoek
 Administrative divisions:
 13 districts; Erango, Hardap, Karas, Khomas, Kunene, Liambezi, Ohangwena, Okarango, Omaheke, Omusat, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa
 note:
 the 26 districts were Bethanien, Boesmanland, Caprivi Oos, Damaraland, Gobabis, Grootfontein, Hereroland Oos, Hereroland Wes, Kaokoland, Karasburg ←
 ,
 Karibib, Kavango, Keetmanshoop, Luderitz, Maltahohe, Mariental, Namaland, Okahandja, Omaruru, Otjiwarongo, Outjo, Owambo, Rehoboth, Swakopmund,

Tsumeb, Windhoek

Independence:
21 March 1990 (from South African mandate)

Constitution:
ratified 9 February 1990

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

National holiday:
Independence Day, 21 March (1990)

Political parties and leaders:
South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), Sam NUJOMA; DTA of Namibia (DTA; formerly Democratic Turnhalle Alliance of Namibia), Dirk MUDGE; ←
United
Democratic Front (UDF), Justus GAROEB; Action Christian National (ACN),
Kosie PRETORIUS; National Patriotic Front (NPF), Moses KATJIUONGUA; Federal
Convention of Namibia (FCN), Hans DIERGAARDT; Namibia National Front (NNF),
Vekuui RUKORO

Other political or pressure groups:
NA

Suffrage:
18 years of age; universal

Elections:
President:
last held 16 February 1990 (next to be held March 1995); results - Sam
NUJOMA was elected president by the Constituent Assembly (now the National
Assembly)

National Assembly:
last held on 7-11 November 1989 (next to be held by November 1994); results
- percent of vote by party NA; seats - (72 total) SWAPO 41, DTA 21, UDF 4,
ACN 3, NNF 1, FCN 1, NPF 1

National Council:
last held 30 November-3 December 1992 (next to be held by December 1998);
seats - (26 total) SWAPO 19, DTA 6, UDF 1

Executive branch:
president, Cabinet

Legislative branch:
bicameral legislature consists of an upper house or National Council and a
lower house or National Assembly

Judicial branch:
Supreme Court

1.6 167.guide/Government (Namibia 2. usage)

Government (Namibia 2. usage)

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Leaders:
Chief of State and Head of Government:
President Sam NUJOMA (since 21 March 1990)

Member of:
ACP, C, ECA, FAO, FLS, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IOM
(observer), ITU, NAM, OAU, SACU, SADC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO,
UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Tuliameni KALOMOH

chancery:

1605 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009 (mailing address is PO Box 34738, Washington, DC 20043)

telephone:

(202) 986-0540

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

Charge d'Affaires Marshall MCCAULEY

embassy:

Ausplan Building, 14 Lossen St., Windhoek

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P. O. Box 9890, Windhoek 9000

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FAX:

[264] (61) 229-792

Flag:

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

1.7 167.guide/Economy (Namibia)

Economy (Namibia)

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Overview:

The economy is heavily dependent on the mining industry to extract and process minerals for export. Mining accounts for almost 25% of GDP. Namibia is the fourth-largest exporter of nonfuel minerals in Africa and the world' ←
s
fifth-largest producer of uranium. Alluvial diamond deposits are among the richest in the world, making Namibia a primary source for gem-quality diamonds. Namibia also produces large quantities of lead, zinc, tin, silver ←
,
and tungsten. More than half the population depends on agriculture (largely subsistence agriculture) for its livelihood.

National product:
 GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$2 billion (1992 est.)
 National product real growth rate:
 2% (1992 est.)
 National product per capita:
 \$1,300 (1992 est.)
 Inflation rate (consumer prices):
 10% (1992) in urban area
 Unemployment rate:
 25-35% (1992)
 Budget:
 revenues \$864 million; expenditures \$1,112 million, including capital
 expenditures of \$144 million (FY 92)
 Exports:
 \$1.184 billion (f.o.b., 1991)
 commodities:
 diamonds, copper, gold, zinc, lead, uranium, cattle, processed fish, ←
 karakul
 skins
 partners:
 Switzerland, South Africa, Germany, Japan
 Imports:
 \$1.238 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

1.8 167.guide/Economy (Namibia 2. usage)

Economy (Namibia 2. usage)

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commodities:
 foodstuffs, petroleum products and fuel, machinery and equipment
 partners:
 South Africa, Germany, US, Switzerland
 External debt:
 about \$220 million (1992 est.)
 Industrial production: growth rate 4.9% (1991); accounts for 35% of GDP, ←
 including mining
 Electricity:
 490,000 kW capacity; 1,290 million kWh produced, 850 kWh per capita (1991)
 Industries:
 meatpacking, fish processing, dairy products, mining (copper, lead, zinc,
 diamond, uranium)
 Agriculture:
 accounts for 15% of GDP; mostly subsistence farming; livestock raising ←
 major
 source of cash income; crops - millet, sorghum, peanuts; fish catch
 potential of over 1 million metric tons not being fulfilled, 1988 catch
 reaching only 384,000 metric tons; not self-sufficient in food

Economic aid:

Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-87),
\$47.2 million

Currency:

1 South African rand (R) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:

South African rand (R) per US\$1 - 3.1576 (May 1993), 2.8497 (1992), 2.7653
(1991), 2.5863 (1990), 2.6166 (1989), 2.2611 (1988)

Fiscal year:

1 April - 31 March

1.9 167.guide/Communications (Namibia)

Communications (Namibia)

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Railroads:

2,341 km 1.067-meter gauge, single track

Highways:

54,500 km; 4,079 km paved, 2,540 km gravel, 47,881 km earth roads and ↔
tracks

Ports:

Luderitz; primary maritime outlet is Walvis Bay (South Africa)

Airports:

total:

137

usable:

112

with permanent-surface runways:

21

with runways over 3,659 m:

1

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

4

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

62

Telecommunications:

good urban, fair rural services; radio relay connects major towns, wires
extend to other population centers; 62,800 telephones; broadcast stations -
4 AM, 40 FM, 3 TV

1.10 167.guide/Defense Forces (Namibia)

Defense Forces (Namibia)

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Branches:

National Defense Force (Army), Police

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 324,599; fit for military service 192,381 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$66 million, 3.4% of GDP (FY92)