

## **Chapter 8: Conclusions**

### **8.1 Namibia's contribution to climate change**

The contribution of greenhouse gases from Namibia is negligible. Namibia was estimated to be a net sink of GHG's in the year 1994, although there is still a large degree of uncertainty around the magnitude of uptake of carbon by savannas in Namibia.

### **8.2 Namibia's vulnerability to climate change**

As an arid country with a high reliance on natural resources, Namibia is highly vulnerable to climate change. Climate change, especially changes in rainfall distribution, will have the greatest effect on Namibia. Water scarcity is already the major constraint to development and this is likely to be exacerbated under the existing climate change scenarios. Namibia is also very vulnerable in sectors such as human health, crop and livestock production, coastal flooding and impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity.

### **8.3 Actions taken in support of the Convention**

A Namibian Climate Change Committee has been established; a three-volume country study has been produced to improve understanding of impacts, vulnerable sectors and possible mitigation options and in the form of this report, the Initial National Communication has been submitted to the UNFCCC.

### **8.4 Identification of priority needs**

Numerous research needs have been identified as well as opportunities for cost-effective technological and financial support in adapting to the impacts of climate change. Namibia has also identified opportunities for mitigation or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. All of these proposals must be prioritized and implemented in consideration of climate change and other global environmental commitments.

### **8.5 Conclusion**

As an arid, agriculturally marginal country with a low economic growth and flexibility, and a high dependence on natural resource based industries, including subsistence agriculture and tourism, Namibia currently has limited capacity to adapt to climate change impacts. Namibia is therefore considered to be among the highly vulnerable African countries with regard to climate change.