

NAMIBIA IS HEATING UP: WHAT DOES GLOBAL WARMING OF 1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS MEAN FOR NAMIBIA?

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NAMIBIA IS HEATING UP: WHAT DOES GLOBAL WARMING OF 1.5°C MEAN FOR US?

1.5°C is too much for Namibia

The world's temperatures have increased by 1°C since pre-industrial times. Global leaders have agreed to limit global warming well below 2°C, ideally 1.5°C.

Temperatures in Namibia are set to rise much more rapidly than the global average. As an arid country with a hot climate, a 1.5°C global increase will mean an increase of 2°C for Namibia, which could be exceeded within the next decade.

Namibia needs to act now to adapt to rapid changes in local weather and climate.

How is Namibia responding?

Namibia has developed a National Policy on Climate Change and identified adaptation and mitigation actions in the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, as well as its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

What can you do?



Seek out regular weather and climate forecasts to inform your farming practices and adapt to the changing climate.



Diversify your farming to include drought and flood resistant crops, heat-tolerant livestock breeds, and try to earn income from non-farming activities.



Practise soil and water conservation, through conservation agriculture, agroforestry, drip irrigation and water-demand management.



Implement rangeland management practices such as thinning of encroacher bush, reforestation, planting fodder grasses and avoiding overstocking.



Store surplus grain and fodder to use during periods of poor harvest.



Undertake controlled harvesting of local species such as mopani worms, mopani trees and freshwater fish, to preserve species diversity.



Share resources and join or establish community support groups, such as cooperatives, and credit and savings associations.



Take preventative measures to protect yourself against heat exposure and water-borne diseases, for example using mosquito nets and keeping hydrated.



What to expect

Decreasing annual rainfall across the country

Decreased rainfall and increased drying and expansion of hyper-arid areas may lead to a loss of productive land suitable for crops and livestock.

Increased health risk and disease

Increasing temperatures and changing rainfall patterns will change the prevalence of diseases. Malaria is expected to reduce in Namibia because the drier conditions may shorten the mosquito breeding season. However, increasing temperatures may result in outbreaks in new areas.

Increased extreme weather events

Floods and droughts may become more frequent and intense, affecting water availability, food production and people's livelihoods. Contaminated water sources from flood or drought events may cause cholera and hepatitis E.

Increasing local temperatures and heat waves

The semi-arid regions will experience the highest temperature increase, with extreme heat and water scarcity affecting crops and people's livelihoods. Heat waves will be longer and more frequent, making people more vulnerable to heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

Increased loss of local species and expanding desert zones

An estimated 30% of species will be lost, and expanding desert and shrublands may replace savannah grasslands. Biodiversity impacts may affect livestock production (due to reduced grazing), malnutrition, and the tourism industry.