

Municipality of Walvis Bay

Integrated Environmental Policy

Walvis Bay Moving Towards Realising Namibia's Vision 2030

2022 – 2030

Table of Contents

1	A Pledge of Support to the Integrated Environmental Policy	1
2	Introduction.....	2
2.1	Background.....	2
2.2	Responsibilities	3
2.2.1	National Government.....	3
2.2.2	Local Government Responsibilities	4
2.2.3	Civic Responsibilities	4
3	The Integrated Environmental Policy and its Implementation.....	6
3.1	Principles of Environmental Management.....	6
3.2	General Policy Directions	7
3.3	Tools	8
3.4	Sectors for Environmental Policy and Implementation	8
3.4.1	Environmental Conservation and Monitoring.....	8
3.4.2	Urbanisation.....	9
3.4.3	Environmental Health and Sanitation	9
3.4.4	Solid Waste	9
3.4.5	Water Resources	10
3.4.6	Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).....	11
3.4.7	Environmental Education and Awareness Raising	11
3.5	The Ten Priority Issues	11
3.6	The Way Forward	12

1 A Pledge of Support to the Integrated Environmental Policy

We, as leaders of local government and of the community of Walvis Bay, will within our means ensure that this Integrated Environmental Policy is implemented in all activities, plans, programmes and actions undertaken by local government in the performance of its obligations for service delivery and economic development in Walvis Bay.

We commit ourselves to the promotion of the Municipality of Walvis Bay Strategic Plan, Environmental Management Principles, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Vision 2030 and relevant national development plans as well as Agenda 2063. These aim to strike a balance between environmental and socio-economic developments that meet the needs of today whilst protecting and enhancing resources for use in the future, thus ensuring sustainable development. Sustainable Development means human use of a natural resource, whether renewable or non-renewable, or the environment, in such a manner that it may equitably yield the greatest benefit to present generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations including the maintenance and improvement of the capacity of the environment to produce renewable resources and the natural capacity for regeneration of such resources.

We further commit ourselves to initiating, supporting and driving strategies and actions in accordance with the principles and approaches of the Integrated Environmental Policy, and to ensure participation of other Walvis Bay stakeholders and role players.

This we do as stewards of our resources and promoters of environmental management, and I sign this as the Mayor on behalf of the Walvis Bay City Council.

Signed: _____

Cllr. Trevino Forbes

Date:

2 Introduction

2.1 Background

The desert meets the sea at Walvis Bay (WB). The large area of 1 124 square kilometres under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Walvis Bay's (WBM) is flanked by 60 kilometres of the cold, rich South Atlantic Ocean's coastline on its western, seaward side. To the north and east, the Namib Desert's dunes and plains surround the town. To the south, are the 12 600-hectare Walvis Bay wetlands, listed as a Ramsar Convention wetland in 1995, and the adjoining Kuiseb River Delta.

Walvis Bay is growing at a steady and manageable pace, with an estimated population of 79, 515 in 2012 according to Walvis Bay Municipal figures. With an estimated annual growth rate of 4.7%, the population for Walvis Bay is estimated to be at 109, 646 in 2019. As with most Namibian urban settlements, the residents of Walvis Bay are reliant on both renewable and non-renewable natural resources for their livelihoods. Since the 1950s, Walvis Bay has been the centre of the country's highly productive fishing industry, which now accounts for at least 5% of Gross Domestic Product. Walvis Bay is also Namibia's principal port, one of only two navigable natural harbours on the coastline, and the terminus of the Trans-Kalahari Highway. Tourism is one of Namibia's fastest growing industries and generates much needed employment and income resulting from visitors that come to experience the unique attractions offered by the meeting of desert and sea. Tourism at the coast has now been joined by the filming of commercials and features for screen and television. Walvis Bay also have an international Airport, which is Namibia's second international airport. The Namibia Airports Company upgraded new terminal, which was inaugurated in July 2016. Walvis Bay Airport is primed to become a leader in cargo handling for marine, coastal and mining activities in the area.

Assuring the prosperity of Walvis Bay's people and reducing the high levels of poverty depends strongly on properly managing the environmental assets of the town and its surroundings.

"Walvis Bay, Your Oasis of Opportunities" is the slogan of the Municipal Council of Walvis Bay. The WBM recognises that to develop and maintain this Oasis it has a major responsibility to manage both its natural and man-made urban environments. The Mission Statement of the WBM thus reads:

To maintain a tradition of excellence in service delivery to ensure diversified social, economic and environmental opportunities to our residents, investors and visitors for improved growth and prosperity.

Recognising its responsibility to safeguard Walvis Bay's natural resources and to prevent pollution, one of the WBM's strategic theme, which focus on: *Social Transformation and Environmental Sustainability*.

The WBM has put in place this Integrated Environmental Policy to translate its responsibilities into action in such a way that it can effectively manage the precious and unique environment of Walvis Bay. This Policy integrates policy, strategy and implementation plan elements.

The Integrated Environmental Policy indicates the directions WBM will move towards in the forthcoming years to fulfil its responsibilities in managing the environment of Walvis Bay together

with the town's residents and institutions. It is a statement of purpose that commits the municipality to certain principles, policy directions, and tools for implementation. It serves as an adaptive, flexible framework for a series of sectoral strategies and action plans inspired by visions of a better environmental future. The Policy is directed at assuring the ongoing management of Walvis Bay's environment for the benefit of all its residents and visitors.

This Integrated Environmental Policy will run for a period starting from 2022 – 2030, following a revision of the last policy which expired in 2017.

2.2 Responsibilities

2.2.1 National Government

In the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, the country commits itself to sustainable development through environmental protection and wise resource management.

Article 95 (1), Promotion of the Welfare of the People, puts forward this intention as follows:

The State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting... policies aimed at:

(1) Maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilisation of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future...

In accordance with the Constitution, the national government has formulated policies and legislation directed at managing the environment:

- The Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations
- National Solid Waste Management Strategy (Cabinet Endorsed Decision 20th/21.11.17/004)
- Vision 2030, compiled as a long-term framework for sustainable development planning
- The National Development Plans (NDP 5, covering the period of 2017/18 – 2021/2022) guiding sectorial development for the country with the theme “working together towards prosperity”
- The Harambee Prosperity Plan II (covering the period 2021-2025)
- Public and Environmental Health Act, 2015 (Act No. 1 of 2015)
- Water Resources Management Act, 2013 (Act No. 11 of 2013)
- Fisheries and Marine Resources Act, 2000 (Act No.27 of 2000)
- National Policy on Climate Change for Namibia 2011 & Namibian National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2013 -2020 (and as revised/amended)
- Disaster Risk Management Act, 2012 (Act No. 10 of 2012)

In addition to national policies and legislation, Namibia has signed many international treaties and conventions aiming at protecting the global environment. The following are particularly important for Walvis Bay's Integrated Environmental Policy and its implementation:

- The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)
- The Marine Pollution Convention
- The Convention on Biological Diversity
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Agenda 2063 – African Union blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future

The Integrated Environmental Policy is both oriented by and follows national policies, legislation and multilateral agreements.

2.2.2 Local Government Responsibilities

The Local Authorities Act No. 23 of 1992 delegates power from the national level to local authorities to administer municipal areas. This includes the responsibility to manage natural resources.

The Municipality of Walvis Bay and its Council was established under the provisions of the Local Authority Act as a Class One Municipality, meaning that it is autonomous and self-financed. Municipal by-laws and policies regarding housing, environmental health, town planning, public participation and littering, amongst others, are all important for the implementation of the Integrated Environmental Policy.

- Local Authority Act, 1992 (Act No. 23 of 1992)
- Walvis Bay Municipality: Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Regulations: Local Authorities, 1992 (Act No. 23 Of 1992)
- Walvis Bay Municipality: Regulations Relating to the Control of the Seas-Shore, the Sea and its Environment with or Adjoining the Area of Jurisdiction of the Municipality of Walvis Bay. 2004
- Municipality of Walvis Bay Strategic Plan (July 2021 – June 2026)

2.2.3 Civic Responsibilities

Walvis Bay is a town of citizens, interest groups and institutions: churches, sports and social clubs, schools, old age homes, voluntary organisations (Rotary and Lions clubs, etc.) and industry associations, amongst many others. The WBM is strongly committed to working both in a cross-sectoral fashion within the municipality, and in partnership with the town's residents. The WBM cherish good governance through its core values. The core values are non-negotiable style in which the Municipality of Walvis Bay and its partners will perform its services, the style in which the Municipality will travel its journey to realize its vision. The Core Values are expressed as follows:

Respect:

We respect all people including our team members, customers and partners; we respect them for who they are (their identity), their views and contributions, we show our respect being accessible and open to listen and appreciate others. We also respect our natural environment.

Accountability:

We are accountable for our seniors, team members, customers and citizens; we take the blame and credit for all that we are accountable or responsible for; people can therefore count and depend on us to do what we said we will do; we believe accountability is only possible when we are accessible, transparent and open to our stakeholders.

Professionalism:

We set and maintain high standards (best practices) in what we do; this reflects effectiveness, efficiency and quality work in our processes and end-products; we do not only appear presentable, but we act out of a positive attitude and self-discipline.

Integrity:

We are honest and fair in all we do; we play by the book, always being ethical and legal.

Teamwork:

Set and maintain high standards; we collaborate with one another; we optimally utilise all our available human resources capital, natural technological, social and intellectual resources; we believe that top performance, satisfaction and sustainability are achieved through involvement, knowledge sharing and buy in.

The promotion of teamwork and stakeholder involvement was strengthened through the establishment of the Walvis Bay Environmental Management Advisory Forum (WEMAF) in 2011. The main objective of this permanent broad-based multi-stakeholder forum is to advise, share, raise awareness, render support and take an active leading role in formulating, promoting, enforcing and implementing various environmentally related policies, programmes, plans, projects and activities within the jurisdiction of Walvis Bay in partnership with the Municipality of Walvis Bay and the main stakeholders.

The WBM will thus take a leading role in formulating, promoting and enforcing the Integrated Environmental Policy. But residents and their institutions, and visitors, will play an equally active role in supporting and ensuring the implementation of the Policy in real partnership with WBM.

Accordingly, all inhabitants of and visitors to Walvis Bay are to be collectively held responsible for the management of the unique environment of the town and its surroundings as an interaction between nature, society and the economy.

Sustainable development seeks to balance social, economic and natural needs so that the current generation can meet its needs without undermining the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This worthy intention must be translated into practical actions by all Walvis Bay residents for it to achieve real meaning.

3 The Integrated Environmental Policy and its Implementation

The Integrated Environmental Policy is inspired by the 12 principles of Environmental Management as stipulated in the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No7 of 2007) Section 3(2). These principles in turn motivate **five policy directions**, to which WBM commits itself. These directions act as the guiding **framework** for the implementation of the Policy on a medium-term **schedule**, using several specified **tools**. These tools will be applied in managing **seven environmental sectors**, based on the current status and a future vision for each sector. **Ten key, priority issues** for environmental management that fall within or crosscut the sectors are also to be addressed by management plans and activities.

3.1 Principles of Environmental Management

The following are the principles of environmental management: -

- a) renewable resources must be used on a sustainable basis for the benefit of present and future generations;
- b) community involvement in natural resources management and the sharing of benefits arising from the use of the resources, must be promoted and facilitated;
- c) the participation of all interested and affected parties must be promoted and decisions must consider the interest, needs and values of interested and affected parties;
- d) equitable access to environmental resources must be promoted and the functional integrity of ecological systems must be considered to ensure the sustainability of the systems and to prevent harmful effects;
- e) assessments must be undertaken for activities which may have a significant effects on the environment or the use of natural resources;
- f) sustainable development must be promoted in all aspects relating to the environment;
- g) Namibia's cultural and natural heritage including, its biological diversity, must be protected and respected for the benefit of present and future generations;
- h) the option that provides the most benefit or causes the least damage to the environment, at a cost acceptable to society, in the long term as well as in the short term must be adopted to reduce the generation of waste and polluting substances at source;
- i) the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste must be promoted;
- j) a person who causes damage to the environment must pay the costs associated with rehabilitation of damage to the environment and to human health caused by pollution, including costs for measures as are reasonably required to be implemented to prevent further environmental damage;

- k) where there is sufficient evidence which establishes that there are threats of serious or irreversible damage to the environment, lack of full scientific certainty may not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation; and
- l) Damage to the environment must be prevented and activities which cause such damage must be reduced, limited or controlled.

3.2 General Policy Directions

Inspired by the Principles of Environmental Management above and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the WBM is committed to the following sustainable development goals:

- GOAL 3: Good health and Well-being - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- GOAL 5: Gender Equality - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation - Ensure access to water and sanitation for all
- GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.
- GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality
- GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
- GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- GOAL 13: Climate Action - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy.
- GOAL 14: Life Below Water - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- GOAL 15: Life on Land - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

- GOAL 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goals - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

3.3 Tools

The Integrated Environmental Policy will be implemented by the WBM and residents using the following tools:

- Adherence to existing national policies and laws, international treaties and strategies, and municipal policies and regulations;
- Development of new appropriate municipal regulations, policies, plans and programs;
- Evaluating the impact of new urban and industrial developments in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations: Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007).
- Environmental education programmes and awareness campaigns;
- The design and implementation of small- and medium-scale Local Action Projects to tackle environmental management issues and raise awareness, especially on natural resource savings (e.g., water, energy); and the management of the Environmental Fund to finance environmental management activities;
- The implementation of Environmental Management Systems;

Reporting on the environmental management activities through the municipality's quarterly and annual (state of the environment) reporting.

3.4 Sectors for Environmental Policy and Implementation

The Integrated Environmental Policy is committed to taking a sectoral approach to the management of Walvis Bay's natural and man-made environment.

The vision of the future for seven sectors now follows in summary form:

3.4.1 Environmental Conservation and Monitoring

Walvis Bay's ecosystems are characterised by high levels of biodiversity and are the habitat of threatened species, notably the Damara Tern. The proclamation of the Dorob National Park in 2010, elevated the protection status of the Damara Tern breeding areas along the Coastline and Dune Belt between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. These are vital conservation areas, as biodiversity in these areas is being threatened by human activities such as developments, off-road driving, uncontrolled tourism and recreational activities.

The Coastal Area will be managed collaboratively with stakeholders in such a fashion that it achieves its potential as a true asset for all Walvis Bay residents in conservation, production, and recreation terms. To keep Walvis Bay clean, the Walvis Bay Municipal Council will continue to support the implementation of the Team-Up-To-Clean-Up initiative. The Team-Up-To-Clean-Up is an initiative by the Department of Water, Waste and Environmental Management which aims to consolidate efforts and working together towards keeping Walvis Bay clean. The initiative is divided into two areas. The first one is hosting of quarterly clean ups campaigns in different parts of Walvis Bay. The second one is the nine thematic areas which represent problem areas were selected and each of the Themes, was assigned a champion Councillor and two supporting staff members from a relevant thematic department. The idea of allocating themes is to have a focused responsibility over a certain aspect, to work together as a team and come up with practical innovative solutions for improving the conditions/status quo of that specific Theme.

In general, the fragility of the marine, the delta and the desert ecosystems will be respected, and conservation activities continued and enhanced where necessary to conserve biodiversity.

3.4.2 Urbanisation

Walvis Bay continues to urbanise, both from natural growth and immigration. While this is occurring at a manageable pace, pressure is nonetheless put on the timely provision of housing, infrastructure and services, and the environmental health of some residents is undergoing significant stress. A vision for the Sustainable Urbanisation Sector encompasses three areas: Sanitation, Solid Waste and Environmental Management. All new town ship establishments and other activities listed in the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) regulations will undergo EIAs before commencing. Effective implementation of the EIA regulations ensures that the development activities Walvis Bay undertakes are not only economically sustainable but are protective of the world's environment on which we and future generations all depend. Urban Development will be guided by the Integrated Urban Development Framework (2012 – 2030).

3.4.3 Environmental Health and Sanitation

The environmental health of Walvis Bay's residents will be improved, as guided by existing municipal policies, strategies, regulations, emergency and disaster risk management plans and programmes, with particular attention to outbreaks of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Covid-19, Hepatitis's, other virus pandemics, parasites and substance abuse (alcohol and drugs) as well as outbreaks of non-communicable diseases.

The generally, existing good sanitation facilities and services in Walvis Bay will continuously be extended to all residents.

3.4.4 Solid Waste

Littering in the streets, in public open spaces and the seashore, which is unsightly and can affect the environmental health of residents, will be curbed. At the same time, the waste problem will be tackled at source and the reduction of overall waste will be promoted through recycling initiatives.

Solid waste management in Walvis Bay will be planned and improved in line with the principles of the Waste Hierarchy (Figure 1), where waste minimisation and recycling are preferred to waste treatment and disposal. In addition, the longer-term planning will integrate the Circular Economy into the various relevant policies of Namibia (Figure 1). The Circular Economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (i.e., make, use, dispose) in which resources are kept in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum value from them whilst in use, then the products and materials are recovered and regenerated at the end of each service life. In addition, Duty of Care principles will be considered (e.g., for waste transport) in the implementation of the Strategy.

The Municipality of Walvis Bay will strive to enter into private partnership with relevant stakeholders in the operation and control of the Walvis Bay Refuse Landfill Site as well as the establishment and operation of a Waste-to-Energy Generation Facility.

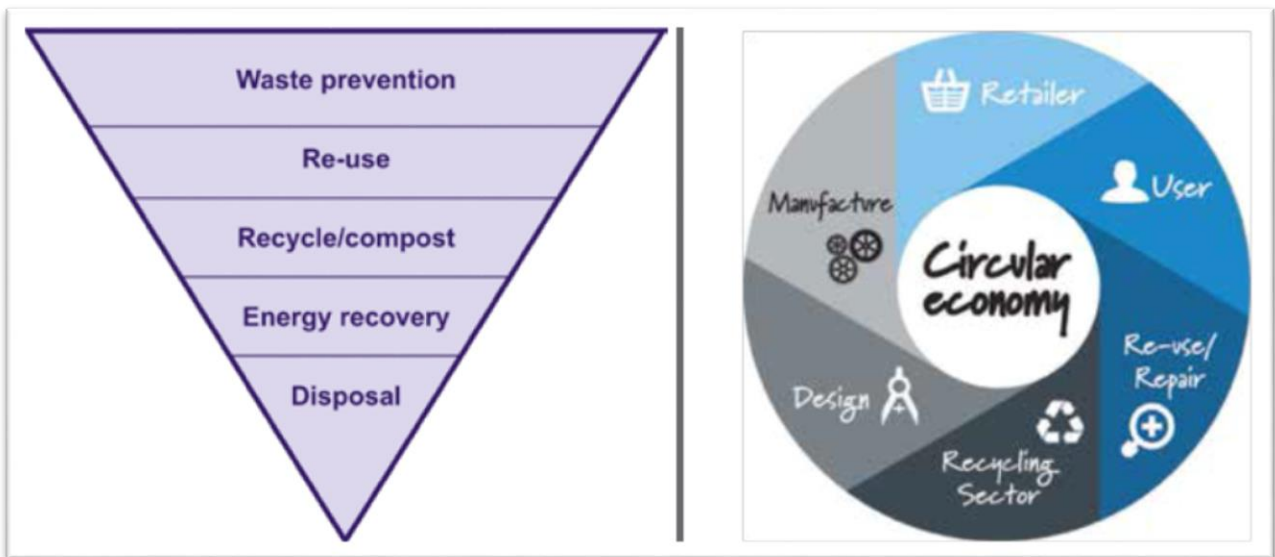


Figure 1 Waste hierarchy and circular economy (National Solid Waste Management Strategy, 2018)

3.4.5 Water Resources

Walvis Bay does not have a body of fresh water of its own and depends on distant underground water sources. Water is now taken from the Kuiseb Delta aquifer, which is limited in capacity. The demand for water is increasing due to population growth and urban and economic (including mining) development.

The preciousness and scarcity of Walvis Bay's water will continue to be recognised and water will be used in a water-wise and sparing fashion, not wastefully, to ensure both the ongoing conservation and re-use of fresh water. The Walvis Bay Municipal council is committed to supporting the national

government in looking for additional water sources such as the development of the desalination plant and water carriage system.

3.4.6 Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

The Namibian Cabinet has tasked the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) to coordinate the process of MSP in Namibia. In this capacity, MFMR collaborates with all relevant national authorities that have a mandate relating to marine planning and management. MSP also engages all other stakeholders concerned (marine users and regulators) to ensure and enable a cooperative process in working towards agreed Marine Spatial Plan(s).

MSP will support achieving the country's shared vision for its ocean which is: "A healthy, safe and well understood marine and coastal environment that is sustainably and transparently governed and delivers optimised social and economic benefits to Namibia."

3.4.7 Environmental Education and Awareness Raising

No specific educational courses about their local environment are provided to Walvis Bay's learners. The public also needs to be provided with the necessary information to participate effectively in environmental issues and management in their areas of work and residence.

Learners and residents will be well informed, made aware, articulate, and proud of their environment as well as committed to live and work in and conserve their unique desert and marine surroundings.

3.5 The Ten Priority Issues

Ten key, priority issues have emerged for environmental management in Walvis Bay as follows:

- Conserving, utilising and managing Walvis Bay's Biodiversity;
- Optimising the Utilisation of Potable Water and Purified Effluent Discharge;
- Reducing and Improving on Air, Marine and Soil Pollution in Walvis Bay;
- Mitigating and be Resilient Against Climate Change Impacts and Effects;
- Alleviating Extreme Poverty and Hunger through the Creation of Environmental Related Employment Opportunities; (urban gardening).
- Managing and Controlling Beach Access, Off-Road Driving and other Recreational Activities;
- Promoting Sustainable and Adequate Housing Provision and Access to Sanitation Facilities to all Walvis Bay Residents;
- Eradicating Littering Hotspots in Walvis Bay and on the Beach ;

- Raising Awareness, Educating and Promoting Participation and Ownership of Residents, particularly Learners, on Walvis Bay's Environment and its Ecosystems, and
- Developing a Local, National and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

3.6 The Way Forward

The implementation of the Integrated Environmental Policy is scheduled as follows:

The policy will run for the period of 2022-2030, the policy will be implemented through the outputs of the WB LA 21, ICLEI and UN-Habitat projects as well as the EMA requirements. Currently ongoing work of the key sectors and priority area projects:

- A detailed Walvis Bay Climate Change Strategic Action Plan (WBCCSAP) was developed for the entire town. The WBCCSAP presents possible innovative small-scale mitigation and adaptations measures on climate change which will be implemented under the coordination of Walvis Bay Municipality, Environmental Management Section, in collaboration with other key stakeholders, such as Namport, line Ministries and all WEMAF stakeholders. This WBCCSAP can be married with the Walvis Bay Local Authority Local Authorities Disaster Risk Management Committees' (WBLADRM) framework, programmes and plans.
- Continue to work with our partners and stakeholders through WEMAF, MSP, National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan, National Solid Waste Management Strategy Advisory Panel, WBLADRM and any other environmental management committees.
- Environmental Impact Assessments and Compliance Monitoring.
- The WBM Environmental Fund will continue to operate to provide funding for environmental management activities and initiatives, as well as Local Action projects, which will be designed and implemented by WBM in close partnership with residents and their associations. The projects will highlight the Priority Issues for environmental management that are listed above. The experience from these projects will serve as feedback on the effectiveness of the tools mentioned above and create general environmental awareness in the Walvis Bay community.
- An Environmental Management System will be refined for complete implementation within the short-term for the entire Environmental Section of the WBM.

The experience of and learning from implementing the above will serve as input during the revision period (2030-2040) of the Integrated Environmental Policy. In this period, revision will be conducted with input from internal and external interested and affected parties and all programs, policies and plans.