



**Validation Workshop of
SADC Guidelines on Universal Access and Service (UA/S)
and
SADC Toolkit on Best Practices using UA/S Funds**



14-16 March 2011 – Windhoek, Namibia



giz



Facts about Namibia can be obtained at: <http://www.namibiatourism.com.na/fast-facts/>

About Namibia and Windhoek

The Republic of Namibia is a country in southern Africa whose western border is the Atlantic Ocean. It shares land borders with Angola and Zambia to the north, Botswana to the east and South Africa to the south and east. It gained independence from South Africa on 21 March 1990 following the Namibian War of Independence. Its capital and largest city is Windhoek. Namibia is a member state of the United Nations (UN), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), and the Commonwealth of Nations.

Safety

Theft isn't particularly rife, but visitors shall avoid walking alone at night, conceal their valuables in Windhoek or towns around the country and not leave anything in sight inside a vehicle.

Emergency

Ambulance (211111), Crime report (290 2239) - 24-hour phone service, Fire brigade (211111), Local police (228328), National police (10111)

Weather

Namibia's climatic variations correspond roughly to its geographical subdivisions. In the arid central Namib Desert, summer daytime temperatures may climb to over 40°C, but can fall to below freezing during the night. Rainfall is heaviest in the northeast, which enjoys a subtropical climate, and reaches over 600mm annually along the Okavango River. The northern and interior regions experience 'little rains' between October and December, while the main stormy period occurs from January to April.

Language

The official language is English. Until 1990, German and Afrikaans were also official languages. Many Namibians speak Oshiwambo as their first language, whereas the most widely understood language is Afrikaans. Among the younger generation, the most widely understood language is English. Both Afrikaans and English are used primarily as a second language reserved for public communication, but small first-language groups exist throughout the country.

Currency

The Namibian dollar (N\$) equals 100 cents, and in Namibia it's pegged to the South African rand, which is also legal tender in Namibia, at a rate of 1:1. This can be confusing, given that there are three sets of coins and notes in use, all with different sizes: old South African, new South African and Namibian. Namibian dollar notes come in denominations of N\$10, N\$20, N\$50, N\$100 and N\$200, and coins in values of 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents, and N\$1 and N\$5.

Visa

Participants from SADC countries does not necessarily require visa to Namibia.

Visitors from the following countries do not require visas for stays of up to 90 days: Angola, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Cuba, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, UK, USA, Mozambique, New Zealand, Portugal, Iceland, the Netherlands, Malaysia, Singapore, the Scandinavian countries, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Time Zones:

Summer time: GMT + 2 hours from the 1st Sunday in September to the 1st Sunday in April. Winter time: GMT + 1 hour from the 1st Sunday in April to the 1st Sunday in September.

Electricity:

220 volts AC, 50hz. Outlets are of the round three-pin type

Hotel

Safari Hotel and Conference center, Tel: + 264 61 29 68 000, Fax: +264 61 249 300, E-mail: court@safarihotelsnamibia.com, Website: www.safarihotelsnamibia.com

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