

Title: **Filling the Gap - Namibia's Aquaculture**

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Abstract: Namibia's aquaculture Industry is comparatively young but of recent it has picked up momentum. Previously, its importance was neglected. This was not just due to the then thriving marine resources, but also to inexperience in fish farming and fish consumption culture in most inland Namibians. According to Namibia's Vision 2030, inland extensive and semi-intensive freshwater aquaculture systems will provide food, income and employment for rural communities. The Government of the Republic of Namibia has made efforts in setting up and assisting aquaculture projects all over the country. As a consequence, the government has made significant investment in freshwater aquaculture development in Kavango, Caprivi and Omusati regions. Investment is in the form of pilot fish farming projects, extension services and fingerling production. The government-led initiative responds to the objective of national aquaculture policy. The policy objective calls for, inter alia, responsible and sustainable development of aquaculture to achieve socio-economic benefits for all Namibians. The purpose is to stimulate private aquaculture development, generate income, create jobs and improve food security. The paper assesses the net socio-economic effects of freshwater aquaculture investments in Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto and Otjozondjupa regions. The objectives were to gather basic production economic data associated with freshwater fish farming, as well as assessing the net socio-economic benefits of freshwater aquaculture pilot projects from the point of view of the beneficiaries by identifying the internal rate of return for individual projects and the net present value of their benefits.