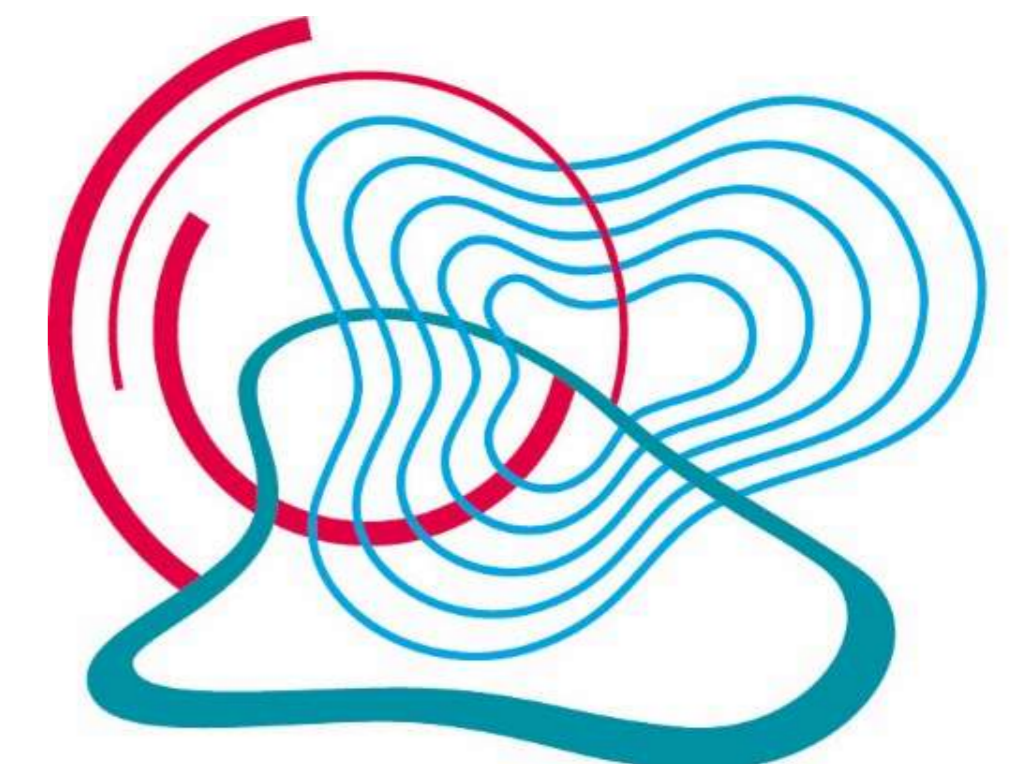


Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Services for MSP in Namibia



Helmholtz-Zentrum
hereon

Dr. Kira Gee and Dr. Andreas Kannen

Human Dimensions of Coastal Areas, Institute for Coastal Systems - Analysis and Modeling, Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon, Geesthacht

Dietlinde Nakwaya and Lineekela Kandjengo

University of Namibia, Henties Bay, Namibia



Why are coastal and marine ecosystem services important?

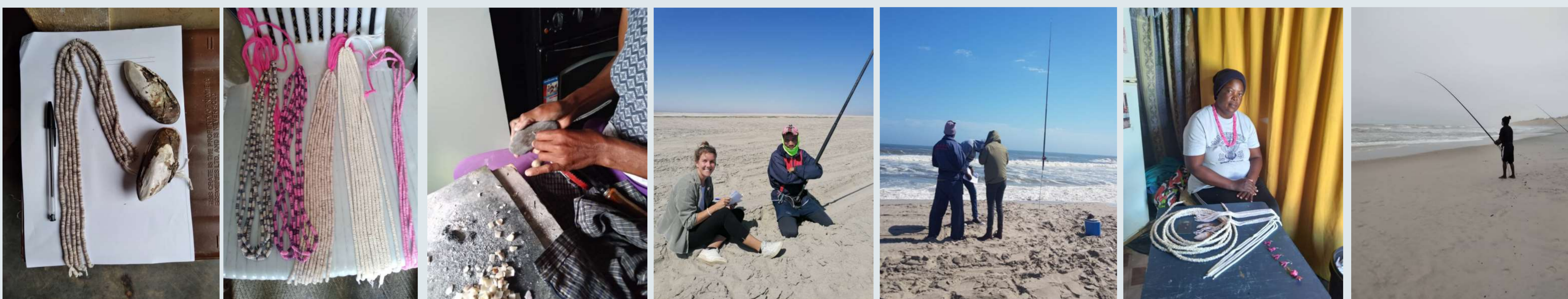
Planners, decision makers and stakeholders are often unaware of the value coastal and marine ecosystems provide to society.

A central question is which groups in society benefit from which ecosystem service. What exactly are relevant benefits, where in the country are these benefits realised, and what is needed for people and communities to sustain these benefits into the future? Learning more about the beneficiaries and what can be done to preserve ecosystem benefits is an important prerequisite for equitable planning and management decisions.

Artisanal fishers, shell collectors, and coastal tourism

Small-scale sectors are often underrepresented in marine and coastal planning.

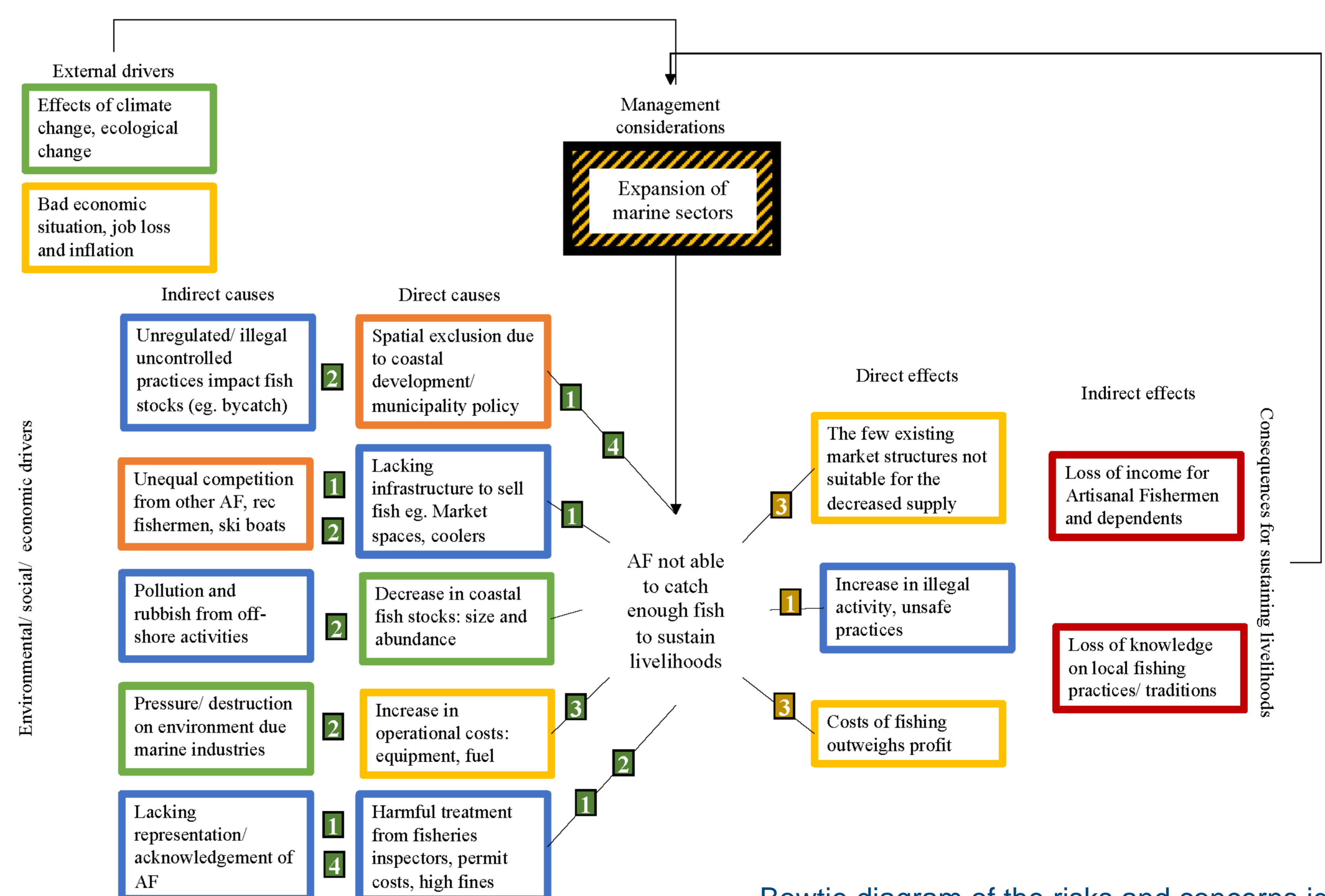
Currently, the focus of coastal and marine planning and management in Namibia is primarily on major maritime sectors such as commercial fisheries or mining. Less lucrative and informal sectors are less well represented. The NAMares project built an evidence base for three informal sectors and assessed the contribution of coastal and marine ecosystem services to the sustainable livelihoods of the respective communities.



Sustainable livelihoods: A risk-based approach

A social-economic risk assessment was carried out to understand what risks might impact artisanal fishers' livelihoods and how to address these.

The bowtie method was used to illustrate the major cause and effect pathways of different types of risk. This method is also useful for identifying intervention points for policy or management, designed to either eliminate the causes that lead to an undesirable event – such as fishers no longer able to fish – or mitigate the impacts of this event occurring. In the diagram, the main risk is shown at the centre. Coloured boxes refer to different problem settings (blue = institutional, green = environmental, orange = spatial, yellow = economic). Numbered boxes refer to potential measures or interventions that could be considered. The study demonstrates how embedded socio-economic vulnerabilities are adding to human-induced environmental impacts that come with development.



Bowtie diagram of the risks and concerns identified among artisanal fishers. Source: Van Toor, 2022.



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