



Namibia
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The role of Ecosystem Advisory Services in the management of the BCLME Blue Economy

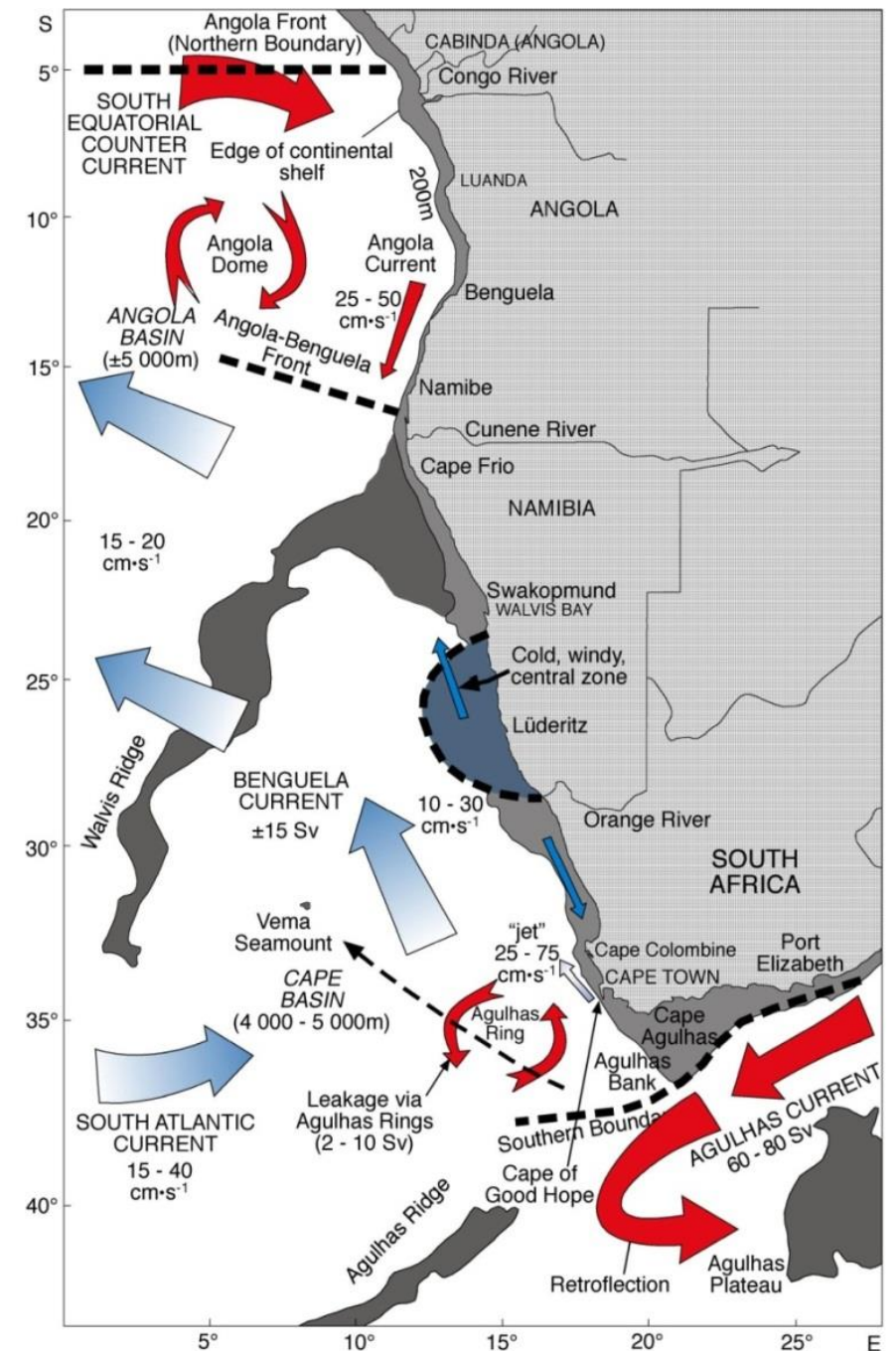
Technical Session Seven:
Sustainability, Energy Transition and ESG

Dr Paulus Kainge
Manager: Ecosystem Advisory Services

*Three countries sharing a productive ecosystem.
Três países que compartilham um ecossistema produtivo.*

The Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME)

- **Ecologically**, among the world's most productive LMEs, supporting rich fishes, seabirds, and marine mammals.
- **Economically**, contributes billions annually through fisheries, tourism, shipping, mining, and emerging blue economy sectors.
- However, conflicting objectives in blue economy management processes, between the biological sustainability of LMRs and socio-economic gains of the economic actors, are some of the **challenges** facing the BCLME
- Overfishing, climate change impacts, habitat degradation, and competing ocean uses.



The Convention



Three countries sharing a productive ecosystem
Três países partilhando um ecossistema produtivo



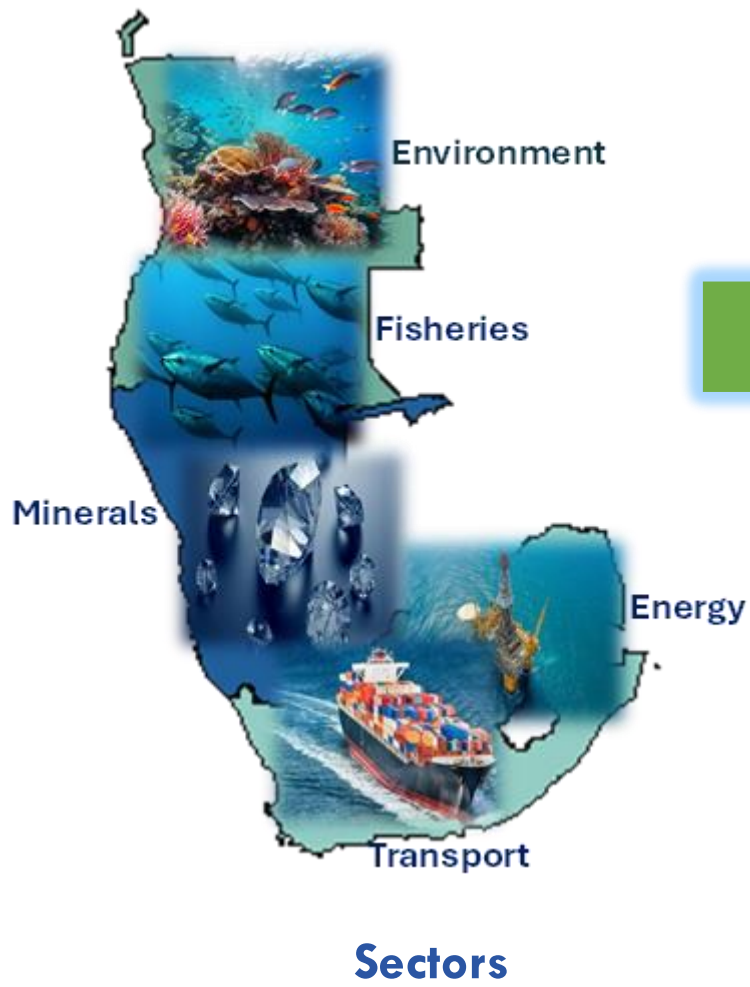
THE BENGUELA CURRENT CONVENTION

BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

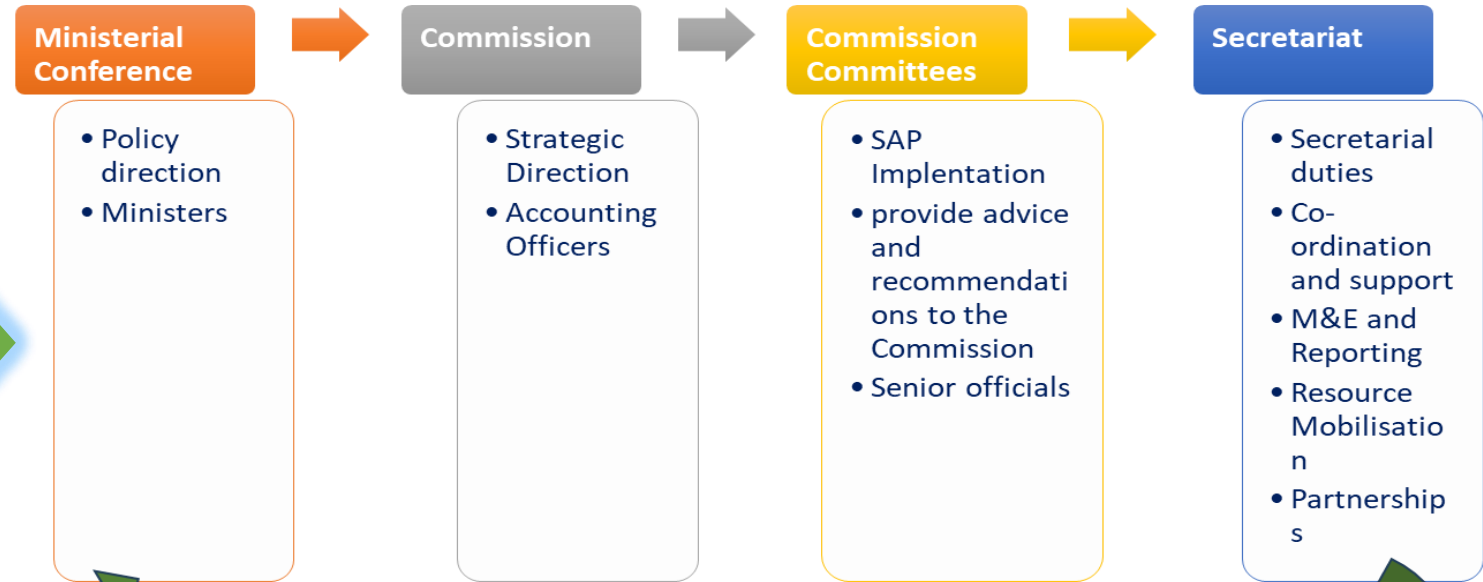
- The Benguela Current Convention (BCC) is a multi-sectoral, inter-governmental organisation established by Angola, Namibia and South Africa.
- Signed in 2007, formalized in March 2013, and entered into force on 10 December 2015.
- Lead regional collaboration for integrated management, sustainable development and protection of the environment using an ecosystem approach to ocean governance in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME).
- **Objective** - to promote a coordinated regional approach to the **long-term conservation, protection, rehabilitation, enhancement and sustainable use** of the BCLME, **to provide economic, environmental and social benefits.**

BCC Sectors

Organization Structure

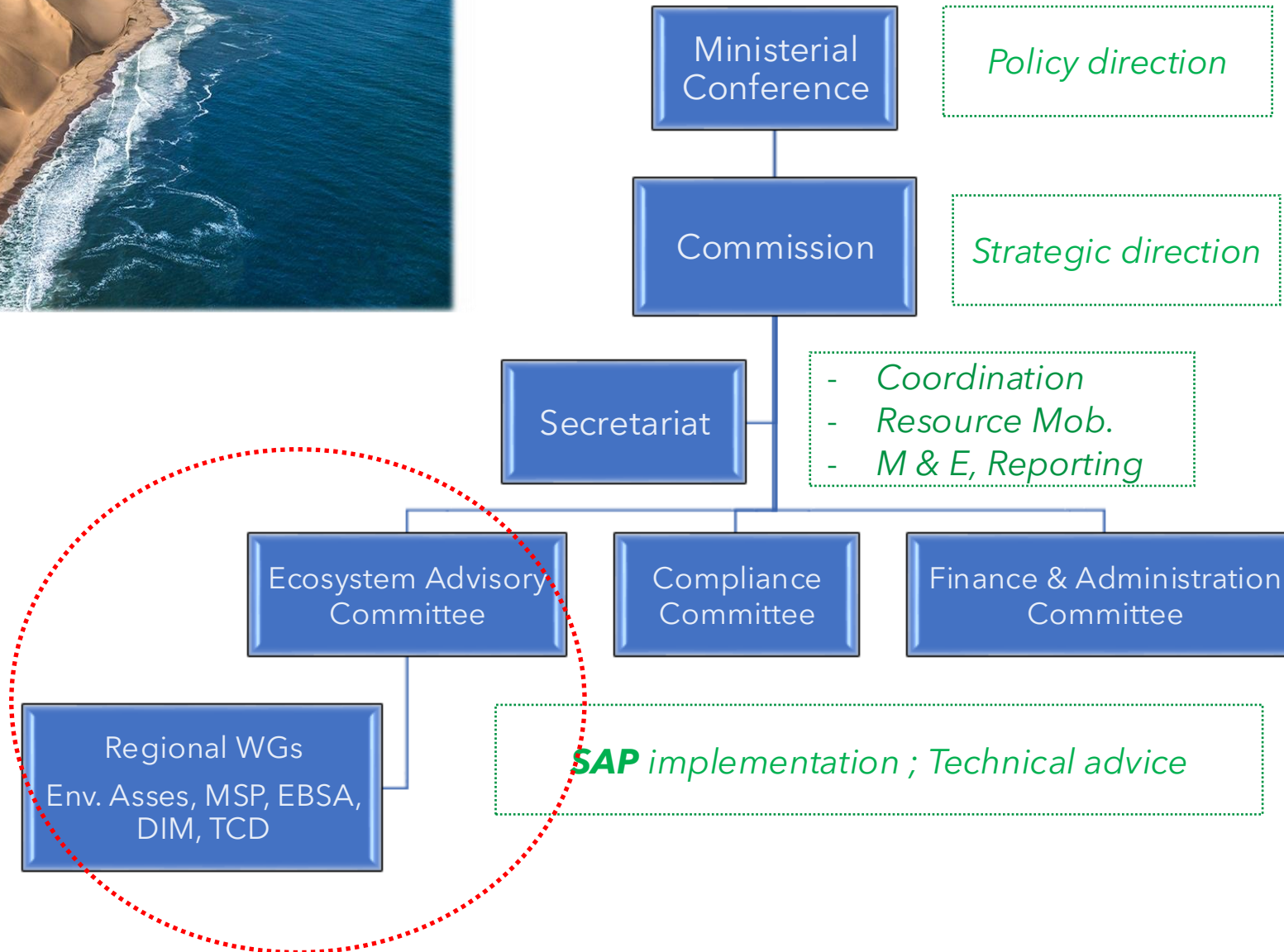


Convention Structures



National Ministries/Departments

BCC | Structure & Governance



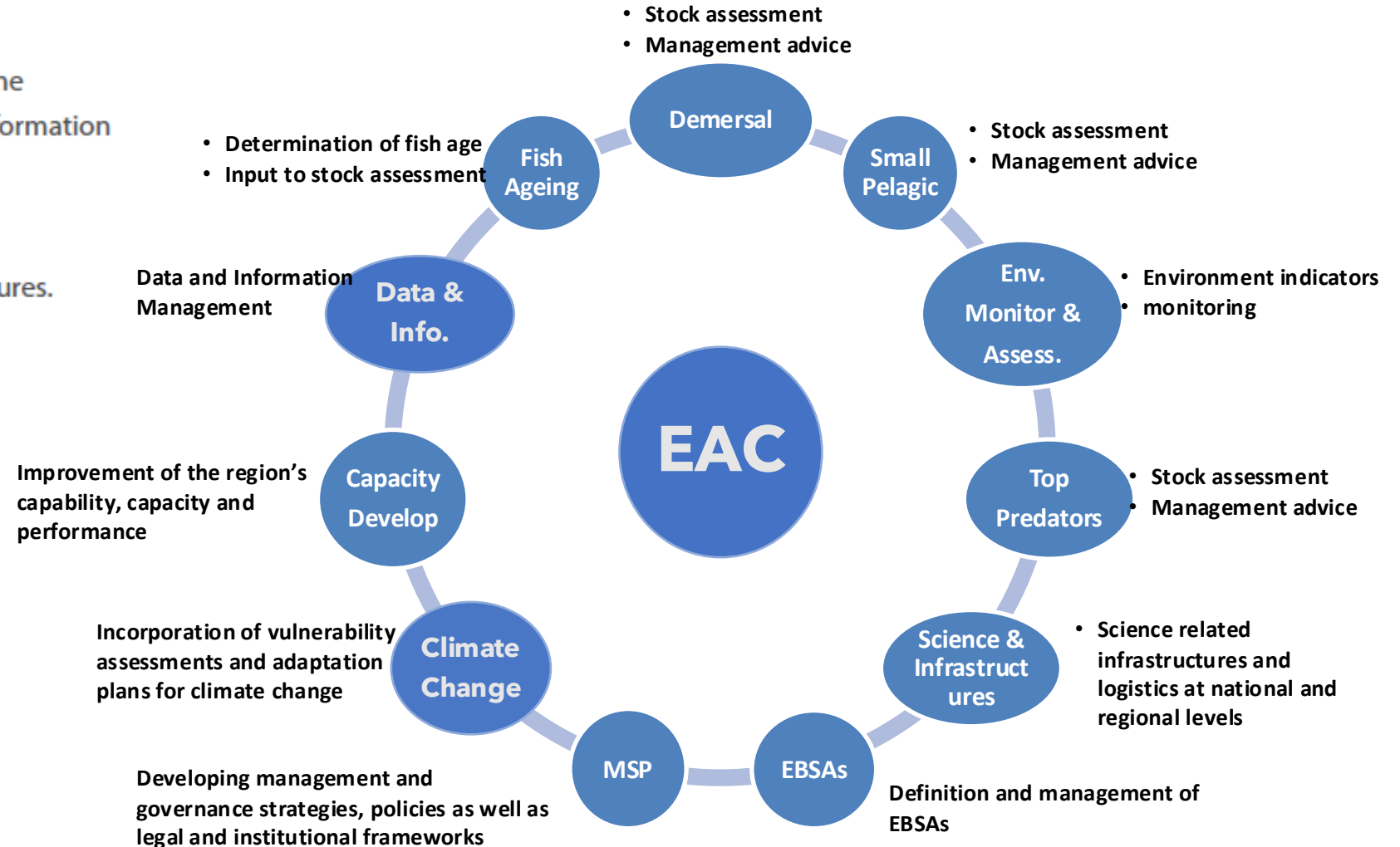
Working Groups of the EAC

Article 10 The Ecosystem Advisory Committee

The Ecosystem Advisory Committee shall provide to the Commission the best scientific advice and relevant information available and shall -

- (a) establish and manage a science programme; and
- (b) recommend conservation and management measures.

The EAC shall be responsible for providing the **Commission**, in a timely manner, with **best scientific advice and relevant information** on the management, conservation and protection of the BCLME, and sustainable utilization of the marine resources **applying the precautionary principle** and the ecosystem approach to ocean governance.



Ecosystem Advisory Services

- Establish and manage a **science programme**:
 - to develop conservation and management measures to prevent, abate and minimize **pollution**
 - to develop management or conservation measures for **transboundary fishery resources**;
 - to enhance understanding of the dynamics of important trans-boundary **marine resources and examine linkages with environmental processes**;
 - for **marine mining, and oil & gas production**, in order to identify priority research areas, impacts on the ecosystem ...;
- Establish and manage a socio-economic programme:
 - to collect and analyze data for the **development of value chains** of transboundary marine resources and services;

Ecosystem Advisory Services



- Collect, analyse and interpret data on fish stocks/LMR, biodiversity, and ocean health.
- Monitor oceanographic changes, and predict harmful algal blooms, shifts in fish distribution, and other climate-driven impacts.
- Guide trade-offs between economic activities (fishing, oil exploration, tourism) and the need to protect critical habitats [**EBSAs/PBAs**]
- Translate science into actionable management recommendations [**Policy, Governance**].
- Provide structured scientific and technical advice to decision-makers to guide sustainable management of marine and coastal resources.
- Harmonize policies across Angola, Namibia, and South Africa
- Harness ocean resources for economic growth while preserving ecosystem health [**Blue Economy**].
- Allocate ocean space for multiple uses without degrading ecosystems [**MSP**]
- Protect biodiversity that attracts visitors [**Eco-Tourism**]

For the BCLME to remain a pillar of the Blue Economy, we need:

- **Investment in Scientific research:** data collection & accessibility, management, analysis and interpretation
- **Conducive political economy:** Scientific advices to be followed ...
- **Science-to-policy** interface – *peer-reviewed vs grey literature*
- Transboundary / regional Blue Economy management
- **Empower Communities** – Include local knowledge in decision-making.

Ecosystem Advisory Services



- The BCLME is a **living engine** that sustains LMRs, supports coastal livelihoods, and drives economic growth.
- Ensure that this **natural wealth** continues to sustain us for generations after generations [**BCC Vision**].
- **Ecosystem Advisory Services** are therefore a bridge between science, governance, policy, and sustainable economic development.
- The Benguela Current is more than a current — it is a lifeline.
- With a strong **Ecosystem Advisory Services**, we can navigate the delicate balance between use and preservation.
- We can ensure that the Blue Economy becomes a reality, where effective **Protection**, efficient **Production**, and equitable **Prosperity** thrives.

EEF-NANSEN
PROGRAMME



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



European
Union





Thank You / Obrigado !

1 Strand Street Swakopmund – Namibia
Private Bag 5031, Swakopmund – Namibia
Tel: +264 64 406901 | info@benguelacc.org
www.benguelacc.org

