

Table 1: Comparative overview of Namibia's trade-related institutional framework in regional integration schemes

Topic	Competent Authority				Status Quo
	Draft TFTA	SADC	SACU	Namibia	
Trade remedies	<i>Trade Remedies Sub-Committee</i> ¹	-	<i>SACU Tariff Board</i>	<i>Namibia Board of Trade</i>	No existing institution at national or regional level
NTBs	<i>Tripartite NTB Monitoring Unit</i>	-	-	TBT Enquiry Point at MTI	Web-based NTB monitoring mechanism
Trade Facilitation	<i>Sub-Committee on Trade Facilitation</i>	Sub-Committee on Trade Facilitation	-	TBT Enquiry Point at MTI	exists as well as national TBT point. Effectiveness in Namibia limited since private sector is not aware of existing institutions and services. ²
Standards, Metrology, conformity assessm, accreditation – SMCA	<i>Sub-Committee on SMCA</i>	SADC SQAM Expert Group SADCAS	-	Namibia Standards Institution (NSI)	NSI participates in SADC institutions and activities
SPS	<i>SPS Sub-Committee</i>	National SPS Committees		MAWF (lead) ³	National SPS and Food Safety

¹ Institutions marked in italic do not yet exist.

² Not one of the private sector representatives interviewed knew about the web-based NTB Monitoring Mechanism (www.tradebarriers.org) or was aware that the TBT Enquiry Point at MTI is supposed to follow-up reported NTBs in intra-regional trade.

³ Representatives of the National SPS and Food Safety Committee in Namibia are the Ministries of Fisheries and Marine Resources; Health and Social Services; Trade and Industry; Education, the Namibian Standards Institution; Environment and Tourism; and the City of Windhoek. Private sector stakeholders consist of the Agronomic, Meat and Karakul Boards; the Abattoir Association; the Agricultural Trade Forum and the Farmers Unions. Under the Committee, three subcommittees were established: Food safety, Livestock and Plant protection. Their terms of references are in the process of being drafted. The three subcommittees meet prior to the National committee and report back to this body (Kleih, 2012:25).

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	Draft TFTA	SADC	SACU	Namibia	
					Committee established.
Competition	<i>Competition Policy and Consumer Protection Forum</i>	-	-	Namibia Competition Commission (NaCC)	NACC cooperates on SADC level to share information on non-competitive behaviour
IPR	-	-	-	<i>Industrial Property Office and Industrial Property Tribunal</i>	Industrial Property Office and Industrial Property Tribunal not yet operational. MITSMED, Ministry of ITC, and Ministry of Environment are in charge
Dispute Settlement Body	<i>Dispute Settlement Mechanism</i>	<i>Dispute Settlement Mechanism</i>	<i>Tribunal</i>	n/a	No existing institutions

Source: Authors' compilation according to information quoted in the text.

Table 2: SWOT Analysis: Namibia's opportunities and challenges in Regional Integration

	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	OPPORTUNITY	THREAT	Policy Recommendation
EXPORT POTENTIAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighboring SADC countries have become medium-relevant export markets for selected products (e.g. beer, horse mackerel, milling product); • Long-standing relations and common history with a number of regional trading partners (e.g. Angola, Zimbabwe, SACU). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited export capacities; • Range of export products that is also produced in many countries in the region; • High transport costs for intra-regional trade; • Language barriers to major regional export markets (Angola, DRC). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SADC/TFTA market offers chance to expand value added exports: Potential market niches for Namibian agro-processed and manufactured products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -Protectionist tendencies in SADC/TFTA; • Changing rules and procedures (e.g. in Angola); • Region sources subsidized agricultural products from RoW (e.g. dairy/milling products), which substitute Namibian export products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen dialogue with private sector to assess what hampers exports to the region and to what extent Government can support export expansion (e.g. NTBs, custom facilitation...); • Enter into dialogue with Governments of main regional export markets (Angola, DRC) to negotiate how bilateral trade could be facilitated.
IMPORTS / INCREASED COMPETITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Namibia is already an open economy: being in a customs union with SA and having de facto a FTA with the EU about 87% of its total imports enter its territory duty free. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Namibia does hardly source from the region: only 2.4% of its total imports come from the non-SACU TFTA region (of which 75% were mineral products from two countries). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The region could <i>potentially</i> supply some of Namibia's agricultural imports, e.g. maize and wheat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Namibia's subsidized imports from RoW (e.g. wheat US and EU). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess options for increased sourcing from the region and address reasons for low level of regional imports, e.g. product quality, quantity, reliable delivery, NTBs etc.
REVENUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Namibia's high dependency on the CRP/trade duties as income source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Namibia's and South Africa's extremely limited trade with the non-SADC TFTA region; low level of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclude some of the 'top 10 revenue earners' from liberalization, e.g. worn clothing,

	STRENGTH	WEAKNESS	OPPORTUNITY	THREAT	Policy Recommendation
TRADE POLICIES			<p>MFN tariffs for intra-regional trade;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “top 10 TFTA revenue earners” account for > 82% of total hypothetical revenue from TFTA. 		<p>motor vehicles, sugar confectionary.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Namibia’s trade policies are transparent and predictable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Namibia’s trade policies are not fully compliant with its commitments in its trade agreements; No enforcement of trade policy provisions of SADC TP; doubtful that TFTA provisions can be enforced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Namibia has already committed itself to abolish extra duties and to phase out quantitative restrictions under the SADC TP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Namibia’s applied ‘protectionist shields’ (quantitative restrictions, import bans, export duties) are not compliant with the provisions of the SADC TP and the Draft TFTA; Unpredictable ad hoc trade policies within SADC are widespread; which hampers intra-regional trade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All SADC Governments need to enforce their trade policy commitments as stipulated in the SADC TP; Intra-regional dialogue on NTBs needs to be strengthened further; private sector needs to be aware and fully included.
TRADE RELATED POLICIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Namibia has already developed and implemented most trade-related policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint SACU policies not yet developed; Lack of technical expertise at national and regional level (e.g. on standards, SPS); Policy coordination between different regional levels unclear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevance of trade-related policies in international and regional trade agreements acknowledged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening policies at a national level while at the same time developing them at different regional levels risks to overextend Namibia Comprehensive set of trade-related policies risks overextending TFTA countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards joint SACU policies; Clarify roles of SADC vs. TFTA trade-related policies; avoid duplication.

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TRADE RELATED INSTITUTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Namibia has functioning institutions in most trade-related policy fields. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of Namibia's trade and trade-related institutions are new and/or face capacity constraints; Joint SACU institutions yet to be established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to strengthen trade-related institutions in order to implement regional and international trade commitments raised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening institutions at a national level while at the same time developing them at a SACU, SADC and TFTA level risks overextending Namibia TFTA countries have hardly the capacities to set-up/participate in the foreseen institutional framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen trade-related institutions at the national level; Work towards joint SACU institutions; Contribute to SADC/TFTA regional institutions IF the added value for Namibia is clear (e.g. in case of the SADC Accreditation Body – since Namibia does not have a national accreditation body); Clarify roles of SADC vs. TFTA institutional set-up; avoid duplication; Respect principle of subsidiarity, i.e. refer to the responsibility of the lower authority when possible.

