

**Pierre Dinan** : Hausse des pensions, etc.



**Gérard Boullé. Agro-industrie** : Perspectives et défis

**Thiruthiraj Pather** : O. Indien géopolitique

**Raj Daliah** : Autobus électriques côté face

**International. Inde** : Modi gagne et perd

**Édito** : Députés, à quoi cela sert-il ?

**David Ardill** : Économie bleue

**Omnicane** : Énergie verte

**Sadeck Vawda** : Médicaments parallèles

**France/Europe** : Montée de l'extrême droite

**Lynda Kok Shun** : Namibie, l'Eldorado pour notre énergie verte



**SPORT : J.O. PARIS 2024**



**BUDGET 2024/25**

# RÉPONSE DANS LES URNES



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# Namibia on the path to becoming a green hydrogen powerhouse

*Namibia's new discoveries of offshore oil reserves and natural gas, together with existing renewable energies (solar, wind, hydropower and biomass, adding both blue and green hydrogen), provide a unique opportunity to offer energy security to Africa, the Honorary Consul of Namibia tells Discover and Invest. "As one of the world's most politically stable countries, Namibia has positioned itself as an attractive destination for investors seeking growth and stability", adds Mrs Lynda Kok Shun. "The country is well positioned to help the world achieve its decarbonisation targets. It also stands ready to support Mauritius in its transition to green energy through woody biomass supply", she concludes in this interview.*

*It's been 34 years since Namibia gained independence from South African rule, and since then, the country has embarked on an economic transformation, diversifying from mining, agriculture and fishing to new pillars. Recently Namibia launched its Second Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPPII); that was in March 2021, with plans to develop green and blue economies. What does Namibia have to make these ambitions achievable?*

Namibia, a beacon of political stability in Africa, is poised to revolutionise the global energy landscape with its abundant renewable resources. As one of the world's most politically stable countries, Namibia has positioned itself as an attractive destination for investors seeking growth and stability.

With over 250 GW of renewable energy production capacity, Namibia stands out as a leading low-cost green Hydrogen producer and exporter. Its vast sun-kissed landscapes and wind-swept plains make it an ideal location for green production, with costs as competitive as US\$ 1.5/kg.

Strategically positioned on the south-western coast of Africa, Namibia serves as a vital trade conduit for landlocked countries in the region. The congestion-free port of Walvis Bay offers significant time savings for shipping lines, making it an attractive gateway to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) trade block.

**Having the resources only is not enough. Developing a sector needs proper infrastructure, legislations and technical capacities to attract investments. What has the State done so far?**

The Namibian Government has created an enabling environment for investment, with streamlined processes and transparent policies. Platforms like the SDG One platform facilitate access to development financing, supporting the commercialisation and growth of the green hydrogen industry.

Companies like Hyphen Hydrogen Energy (with its US\$ 10 billion project) have already embraced Namibia's potential, with plans for large scale green hydrogen plants for international, regional and domestic supply. Their investments underscore the country's attractiveness to both domestic and foreign investors, backed by a strong political environment and transparent regulatory framework.

Namibia's vision to become a net exporter of electricity and a key player in global decarbonisation efforts is becoming a reality. With long-term relationships with foreign investors and a commitment to sustainable development, Namibia is on the path to becoming a green hydrogen powerhouse.

Namibia's oil Discovery: a Game Changer for Economic Growth

Portuguese Oil and Gas Company Galp has made another oil discovery off the coast of Namibia, located close to recent discoveries made by Shell, Total Energies and Qatar Energy.

**As we talk about energy production, we learn that new oilfields have been discovered in Namibia. How will this discovery reshape the future of the country?**

In a significant development that has captured global attention, Namibia has recently announced the discovery of substantial oil reserves off its coast. In fact, Portuguese Oil and Gas Company Galp has made another oil discovery off the coast of Namibia, located close to recent discoveries made by Shell, Total Energies and Qatar Energy. This breakthrough marks a pivotal moment in the country's history, promising to reshape its economic landscape and position Namibia as a key player in the global energy market.

Namibia's oil discovery represents a watershed moment for the country, unlocking vast potential for economic growth and prosperity. For investors, this presents a unique opportunity to participate in the developing of a burgeoning energy sector with promising returns and positive societal impact. As Namibia embarks on its journey to harness its oil resources, investors have the chance to be part of a transformative chapter in the country's history.

**Discovering oil reserves is fantastic news, but oil exploration requires technical know-how in drilling, production, storage and commercialisation, and on top of that it requires huge investments. How does Namibia plan to attract investors**



**and expertise?**

Initial estimates of the discovery of oil reserves in Namibia's offshore waters suggest that these reserves could potentially rival those found in the neighbouring countries, signalling a transformative shift in Namibia's economic fortunes. The discovery of oil in Namibia presents lucrative opportunities for investors looking to capitalise on the country's burgeoning energy sector with some key benefits.

With the potential for substantial oil reserves, investors stand to reap significant returns on their investment in Namibia's oil sector. As exploration and extraction activities ramp up, the value of investments is expected to soar, providing attractive opportunities for investors.

Investing in Namibia's oil sector allows investors to diversify their portfolio and gain exposure to the energy market. With growing global demand for oil, particularly in emerging economies, investments in Namibia's oil reserves offer a hedge against market volatility and economic uncertainty.

Investors committed to sustainable development and corporate social responsibility can play a pivotal role in ensuring that Namibia's oil industry operates in an environmentally responsible and socially inclusive manner.

**Is it that just anyone can invest in this newly discovered oil endeavour, especially at a time when the world is concerned with the negative effects of carbon footprint and sustainable development?**

International investors have the opportunity to forge strategic partnerships with Namibian authorities and local stakeholders in the development of the country's oil industry. Collaborative ventures can leverage the expertise and resources of parties, driving sustainable growth and mutual benefit.

The development of Namibia's oil reserves requires cutting-edge technology and expertise, presenting opportunities for technology firms and service providers to contribute to exploration, drilling, and production activities. Investors in these sectors can capitalise on the growing demand for innovative solutions in the oil and gas industry.

Investors committed to sustainable development and corporate social responsibility can play a pivotal role in ensuring that Namibia's oil industry operates in an environmentally responsible and socially inclusive manner. Investments in renewable energy projects, environmental conservation, (should that not be conservation?) initiatives, and community development programmes can generate positive impact alongside financial returns.

Namibia is well positioned to be at the forefront of helping the world to achieve



Lynda Kok Shun,  
OSK Honorary Consul

its decarbonisation targets. It stands ready to support Mauritius in its transition to Green Energy through woody Biomass supply.

#### **True to say that Namibia wants to secure its energy production. But how diversified is Namibia's energy mix to date?**

Namibia also possesses an abundance of biomass resources for producing wood pellets and wood chips which can be produced from encroacher woody species such as Black thorn and Sickle bush which increase up to 3% per annum. This phenomenon covers about 45 million hectares (450 million tons of biomass) of the rangeland. The Namibian Biomass sector has a well organised and represented producer network.

The country has developed innovative solutions in line of biomass logistics such as efficient harvesting and collection methods, often utilising a combination of local manual and machineries. This sector is increasingly adopting modern techniques including sustainable thinning practices and mechanised processing to meet the growing demand for woodchips and other value chains, especially in industries like bioenergy production, thus reducing reliance on fossil fuels, mitigating carbon emissions and contributing to climate change mitigation efforts.

#### **How is biomass quantified in Namibia's biomass sector?**

To ensure sustainable harvesting, various biomass assessment and monitoring tools are currently employed. These methods assess biomass density and distribution, aiding in effective resource management and utilization. This assessment allows us to determine the amount of extractable material versus the amount of materials to be left behind through sustainable thinning. The Namibian Biomass sector has methods such as Scientific Biomass Quantification Tool (BQT) and a web based Biomass Information System (BIS).

#### **What are the main acts and governance frameworks that regulate Namibia's biomass sector?**

Namibia implements sustainable biomass management practices through selective harvesting efforts where the Directorate of Forestry under the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) are the custodians of the biomass resources and have various frameworks to govern this sector. There are specific acts and policies in place to safeguard the environment, promote sustainable management and the utilisation of biomass resources in Namibia. The harvesting and utilisation of bush biomass requires permits which are stipulated in the Namibian Forestry Act 12 of 2001.

The following acts and frameworks guide activities of bush control and utilisation in Namibia

1. The Forest Act of 2001
2. Environmental Management Act of 2007
3. The National Strategy on the Sustainable Management of Bush Resource
4. The Governance Framework and management system for sustainable bush control in selected communal areas of Namibia.

All these documents provide legal and regulatory frameworks for biomass harvesting, processing, and trade, while ensuring environmental conservation and community participation in the sustainable utilisation of natural resources. These

### **To ensure sustainable harvesting, various biomass assessment and monitoring tools are currently employed.**

acts and frameworks establish clear guidelines and standards for biomass management, promoting transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement, resulting in fostering a conducive regulatory environment.

In addition to Namibian Government regulations, certifications such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) uphold stringent sustainability standards, endorsing responsible biomass production and forest management. These certifications carry significant weight, reassuring consumers and stakeholders about the sustainable origin and manufacture of biomass goods. Adherence to these certifications signifies dedication to environmental stewardship, social accountability, and ethical business conduct, thereby bolstering market competitiveness and access to high-value markets.

#### **What kind of infrastructure are being constructed to ensure the development of biomass for Namibia's domestic needs and to tap export opportunities?**

The Namibian Biomass Sector has a well organised and represented producer network, this reflects its capacity and commitment to sustainable production of feedstock capacities. The sector is increasingly adopting modern techniques, including sustainable thinning practices and mechanised processing, to meet the growing demand for woodchips and other value chains, especially in industries like bioenergy production.

Infrastructure includes processing plants and mobile equipment for biomass conversion into biofuel feedstocks such as woodchips. For example, the Biomass Industrial Park (BIP) in Otjiwarongo is in the process of being established as the primary receiver of biomass coming from the field for storing, processing and packaging. These are collection centres where biomass can be collected for different consumers both locally and internationally.

Additionally, Namibia has invested in road and railways and port infrastructure to facilitate the transportation and shipping handling of biomass from the BIP/other production anchor points to Walvis Bay Port, to ensure smooth logistical movement of biofuel to the international market.

#### **Seeing the direction Namibia has taken to foster its energy sector, what role does it intend to play on the continent in this field?**

Namibia's new discoveries of 11 billion barrels in offshore oil reserves and the large volumes of natural gas, together with the existing renewable energies such as solar, wind, hydropower and biomass, then adding both blue and green hydrogen provides a unique opportunity to offer energy security to Africa.

Namibia is well positioned to be at the forefront of helping the world to achieve its decarbonisation targets. It stands ready to support Mauritius in its transition to green energy through woody biomass supply.

**Renewable Energy – Think NAMIBIA**