**Table S1:** Description of candidate indicators of social vulnerability. Rationale of a given variable and references supporting the variable`s relevance as of an indicator of social vulnerability. All indicators were taken from the NSA: Inter-censal Demographic Survey 2016.

| Indicator | Unit | Rationale | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total population** | Inhabitants | Areas with different population densities have different abilities to respond to hazards | Cutter et al. [7], Cutter et al. [15], Rygel et al. [26], Krishnan[35,36], Silva & Kawasaki [37], Dintwa et al. [42], Luetkemeier & Liehr [43], Chakraborty et al. [101]. |
| **Population density** | Inhabitants /km$^2$ | | |
| **Population in rural area** | % | Rural residents may be more vulnerable to natural hazards due to lower incomes and higher dependency on local resources | |
| **Population in urban areas** | % | Increase in population density and urbanization increases the populations' vulnerability to natural hazards. | |
| **Female population** | % | Women are often more vulnerable to environmental disasters, especially during recovery, often due to sector-specific employment, lower wages, and family responsibilities | |
| **Male population** | % | Male population are often less vulnerable to the impacts of hazards than women | |
| **0-4 years old** | % | Children are among the most vulnerable groups of the population | |
| **5-14 years old** | % | | |
| **15-59 years old** | % | Young and middle-aged men are vulnerable due to risk-taking behavior. On the other hand, high number of young men reduces vulnerability as they are able to able to carry out activities during emergency situations | |
| **60+ years old** | % | Women and the elderly are often considered among the most vulnerable groups to environmental hazards. | |
| **Total unemployment** | % | High unemployment rate implies high vulnerability | Cutter et al. [7], Cutter et al. [15], Krishnan [35,36], Silva & Kawasaki [37], Luetkemeier & Liehr [43], Chakraborty et al. [101]. |
| **Male unemployment** | % | | |
| **Female unemployment** | % | | |
| **Youth unemployment** | % | | |
| **Average household income** | United States dollar (USD) | High income population have better capacity and resources to recover from the impacts of natural hazards faster than poor population. | Cutter et al. [7], Cutter et al. [15], Krishnan [35,36], Silva & Kawasaki [37], Luetkemeier & Liehr [43], Chakraborty et al. [101]. |
| **Income per capita** | USD/person | | |
| **Average household size** | inhabitants/households | Families with large numbers of dependents or single-parent households often have limited resources to carter for the needs of each member during hazards; Households headed by women are more vulnerable to environmental hazards | Cutter et al. [7], Cutter et al. [18], Krishnan[35,36], Chakraborty et al. [101]. |

***Table S1 cont.***

| Indicator | Unit | Rationale | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Male headed households** | % | Families with large numbers of dependents or single-parent households often have limited resources to carter for the needs of each member during hazards; Households headed by women are more vulnerable to environmental hazards | Cutter et al. [7], Cutter et al.[18], Krishnan[35,36], Chakraborty et al. [101]. |
| **Female headed households** | % | | |
| **Child headed households** | % | | |
| **Farming -dependence** | % | Occupations, such as farming may be severely impacted by natural hazard and the population which heavily depends on these sources of livelihood might be socially marginalized and usually requires further support to cope with post hazard impacts. | Cutter et al. [15], Krishnan[35,36], Chakraborty et al. [101] |
| **Pension -dependence** | % | | |
| **Salaries** | % | | |
| **Cash remittance** | % | | |
| **Business - dependence** | % | | |
| **Drought relief assistance** | % | | |
| **Literacy rate 15 + years** | % | Less educated population lack the capacity to understand hazard awareness and implement adaptation strategies. High number of and well-educated work force will result in a successful management of resources. Even though some parts of the country are more exposed to natural hazards, adaptation measures can still be afforded and some negative impacts can be limited if the communities are wealthy and educated | Cutter et al. [15], Krishnan[35,36], Chakraborty et al. [101] |
| **Population with disabilities** | % | Population with special needs are highly vulnerable to natural hazards. Their invisibility, for example, makes them ignored during recovery. | Cutter et al. [7], Rygel et al.[26] |
| **HIV prevalence** | % | Communities with healthier population can have a high adaptive capacity, as they are able to work or implement adaptation measures in place. High rate of HIV/AIDS reduces the ability of population to adapt and responds to disasters. | Cutter et al. [7], Krishnan [35,36], Chakraborty et al. [101] |

**Table S2:** Description of candidate indicators of natural hazards. * indicates indicator used in the final assessment.

| Category | Variable | Abbreviation | Unit | Data source | Rationale | Maximum | Minimum | Mean | Median |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wildfire | Wildfire: Average burned area *(2007-2017) | AreaB | $Km^2$ | Department of Remote Sensing and Forest research, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry of Namibia | Wildfires are among the most common hazards in Namibia, causing considerable damages to properties and ecosystems. The intensity and severity of fires is expected to intensify with climate change and agriculture expansion. | 9108 | 0 | 2160 | 701 |
| Drought | Livestock deaths* (2018-2019) | LivestD | Number of Livestock | Namibia's Agricultural Input and Household Food Security Situation Report (2019) | The impact of climate change is evident in Namibia, particularly on the agriculture sector. Impacts include livestock deaths due to extreme droughts. | 17955 | 0 | 6301 | 3590 |
| | Food insecure population due to drought* (2013) | FInsP | Number of people | The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Situation Report No. 01 (Namibia) | Droughts are common in Namibia, and have a major impact on food production/agriculture. Food insecurity is a frequent consequence of extended droughts. | 80720 | 4928 | 29403 | 20497 |
| Flood | Human mortality due to floods* (2009) | HumM | Number of people | World Health Organization (WHO) - Response to the 2009 floods emergency in Namibia, 2010 | Floods occur mainly in the northern regions of the country. They are caused by heavy rainfalls and relate to the specific hydrological regimes of this region. Although causalities are typically not high, they are important indicators of flood impacts . | 48 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| | Health facilities affected by floods (2009) | HealF | Number of facilities | WHO- Response to the 2009 floods emergency in Namibia, 2010 | Floods disrupt essential services such as education and healthcare, particularly in rural areas. Damage to healthcare facilities compromise the ability to take actions against water-borne diseases triggered by floods. | 10 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| | Schools affected by floods* (2008) | ScholA | Number of schools | UNICEF-Immediate needs report, 2008 | Floods disrupt essential services such as education and healthcare, particularly in rural areas. Impact on education facilities …. ? | 44.0 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| | People displaced by flood* (2017) | PopDis | Number of people | UNICEF: NAMIBIA,2017 Humanitarian Situation Report - #5 | Destruction of homesteads and extent of humanitarian interventions are important indicator of flood impacts | 2655 | 0 | 238 | 0 |
| | Households displaced by flood (2017) | HousDis | Number of households | UNICEF: NAMIBIA,2017 Humanitarian Situation Report - #5 | Destruction of homesteads and extent of humanitarian interventions are important indicator of flood impacts | 122 | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| | Population affected by flood (2009) | PopAF | Number people | Namibia's Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report 2009 | Destruction of homesteads and extent of humanitarian interventions are important indicator of flood impacts | 228842 | 0 | 48659 | 3988 |
| | Households affected by floods (2009) | HousAF | Number of households | PDNA report 2009 | Destruction of homesteads and extent of humanitarian interventions are important indicator of flood impacts | 38140 | 0 | 8181 | 623 |
| | Estimated damages from floods* (2009) | EstDam | US$ million | PDNA report 2009 | Destruction of homesteads and extent of humanitarian interventions are important indicator of flood impacts | 37 | 0 | 10 | 7 |