



**Baseline Assessment Summary (September 2015)
Republic of Namibia / Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration**



**TECHNICAL EXPERTISE REQUEST:
Harmonization of the Visa Manual with the Immigration Control Act**

The Government of the Republic of Namibia acknowledged that the Visa Manual of 1990 does not reflect the new policies outlined in the current Immigration Control Act. Subsequently, the MHAI has set out to harmonize the Visa Manual and the Immigration Control Act so as to limit the amount of delays incurred in the visa processing system, as well as to improve security considerations including those related to visa fraud, human smuggling and terrorist activity. In addition, the MHAI aims to fully digitalize their visa processing system within the next three years, a transition which must be accounted for in the new Visa Manual.

Reasons of the request

Although the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration (MHAI) has already initiated the process of identifying lacunas in the current Visa Manual, no steps have been taken to further harmonize both



documents. It is in this context that the MHAI requested assistance to draft a series of recommendations to help with the harmonization of the Visa Manual with the Immigration Control Act. A successful harmonization will benefit the highly mobile populations of the region as well as support the important tourism industry in Namibia, while simplifying and adding security to the entire visa issuance process.

Learning from the Baseline Assessment:

- Namibia's Immigration Control Act remains an operational challenge due to inherent loopholes regarding its administration and interpretation by the courts there;
- Streamlining of visa services will enhance the development of tourism and facilitate a needs-based skills importation of foreign nationals in key sectors critical for Namibia's growth and prosperity;
- There are a number of stakeholders operating in the visas sector. They comprise government ministries and departments (e.g. Home Affairs, Finance & Tourism); state agencies, private sector and civil society groups.