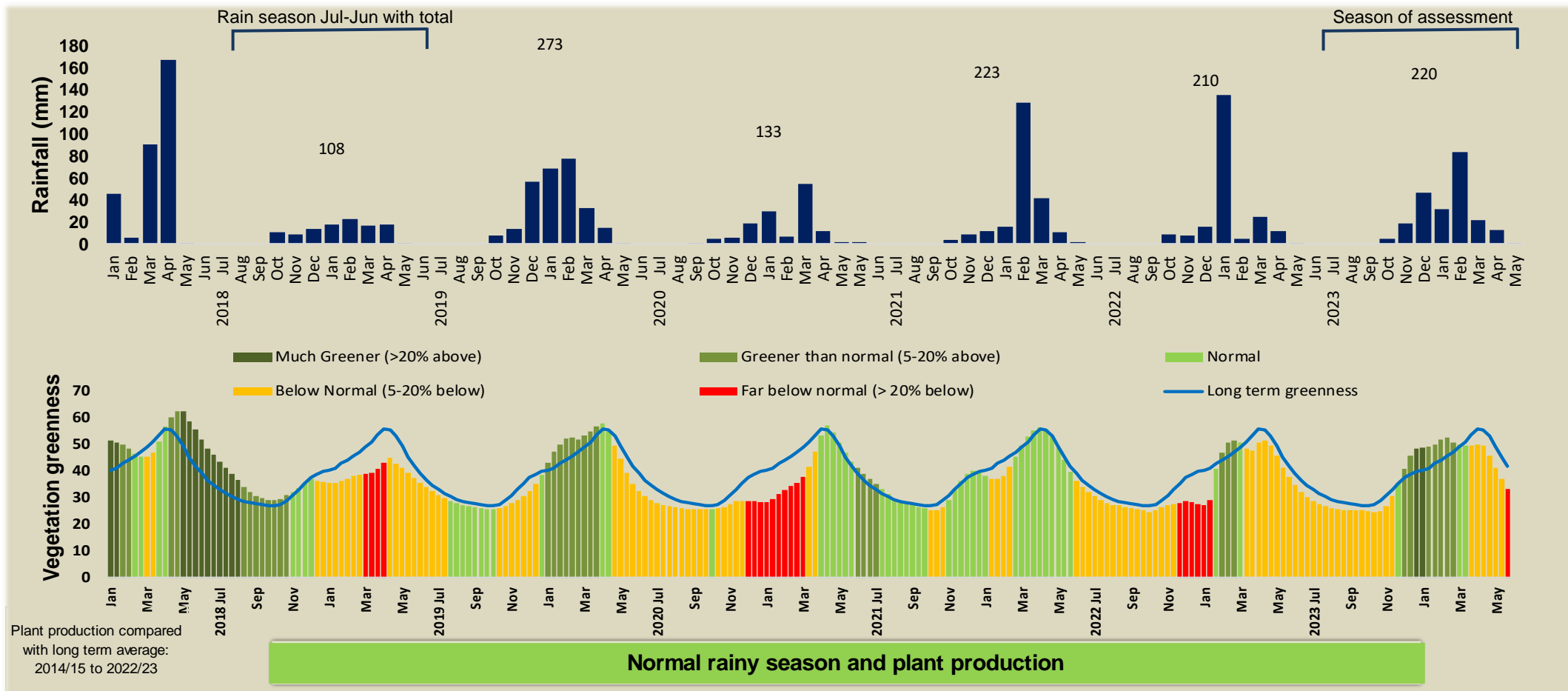# Kunene River
Climate and Vegetation Report
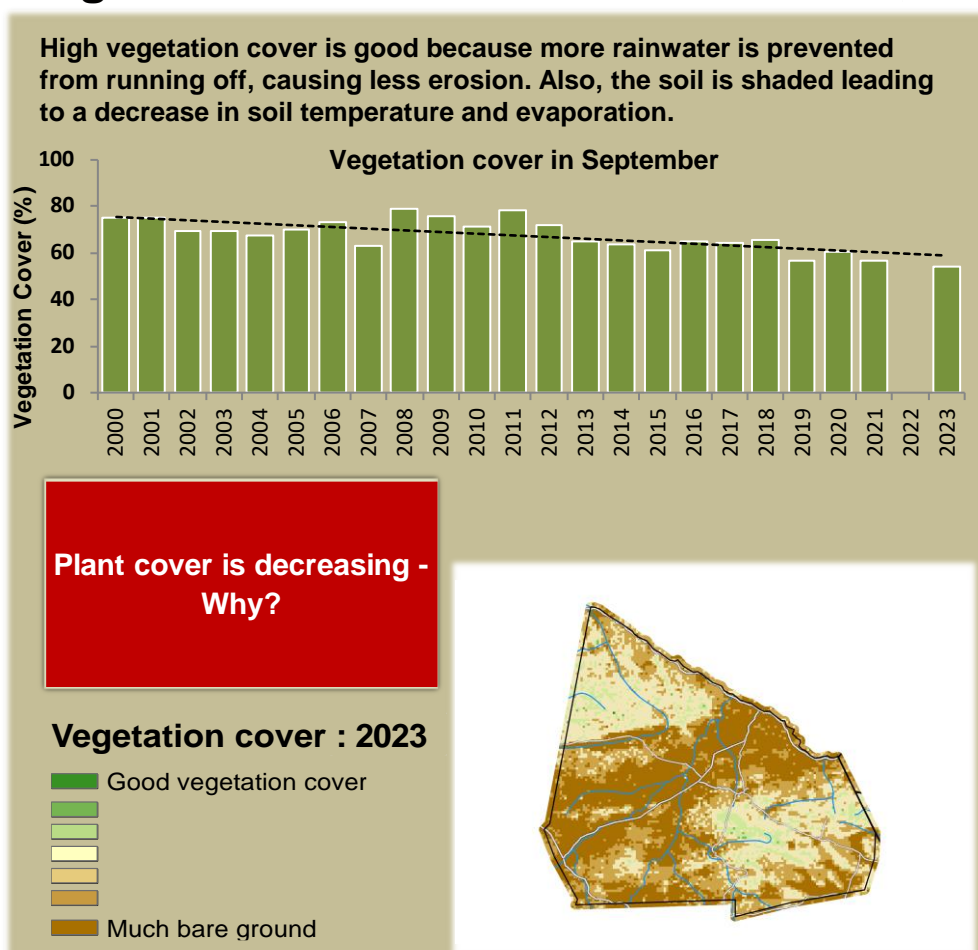
Adapting in response to the current environmental conditions …
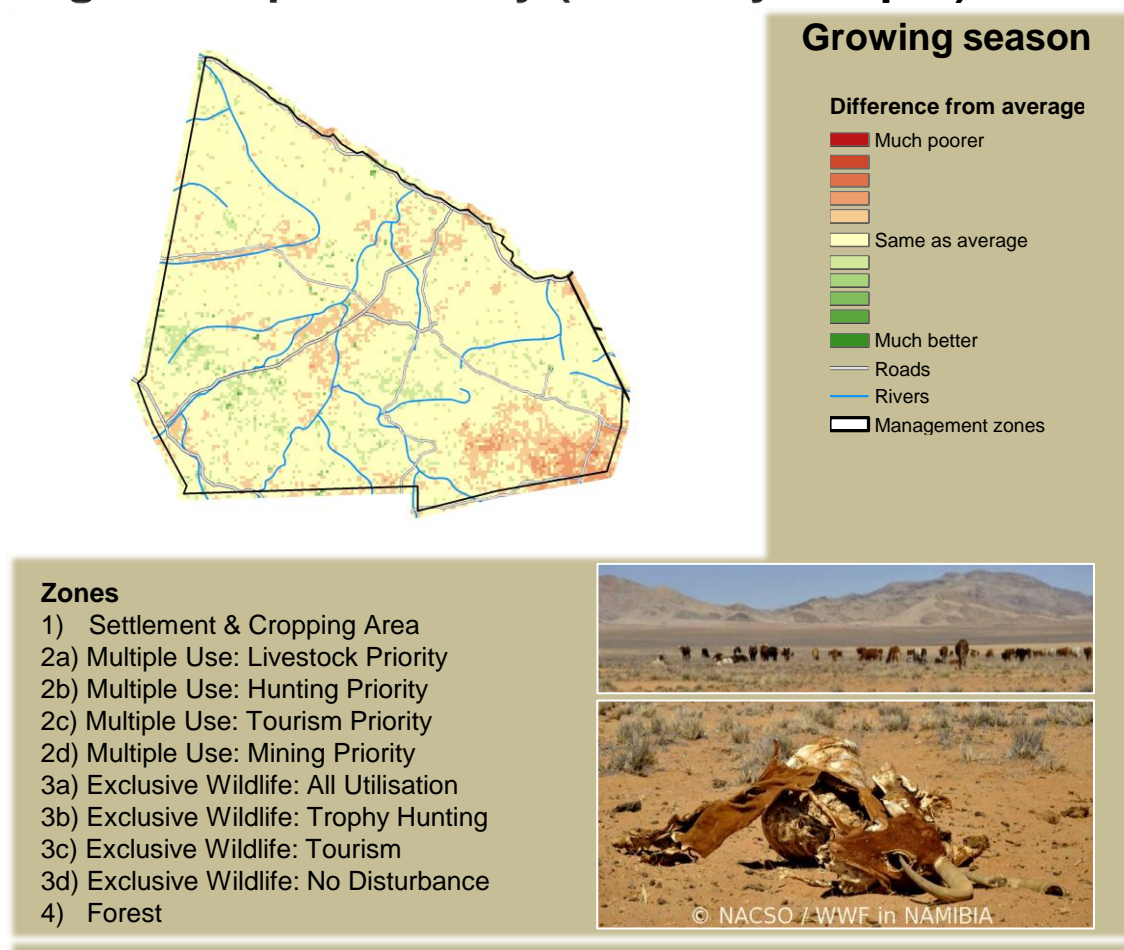
Seasonal trends in rainfall and vegetation (2023 / 2024 Season)
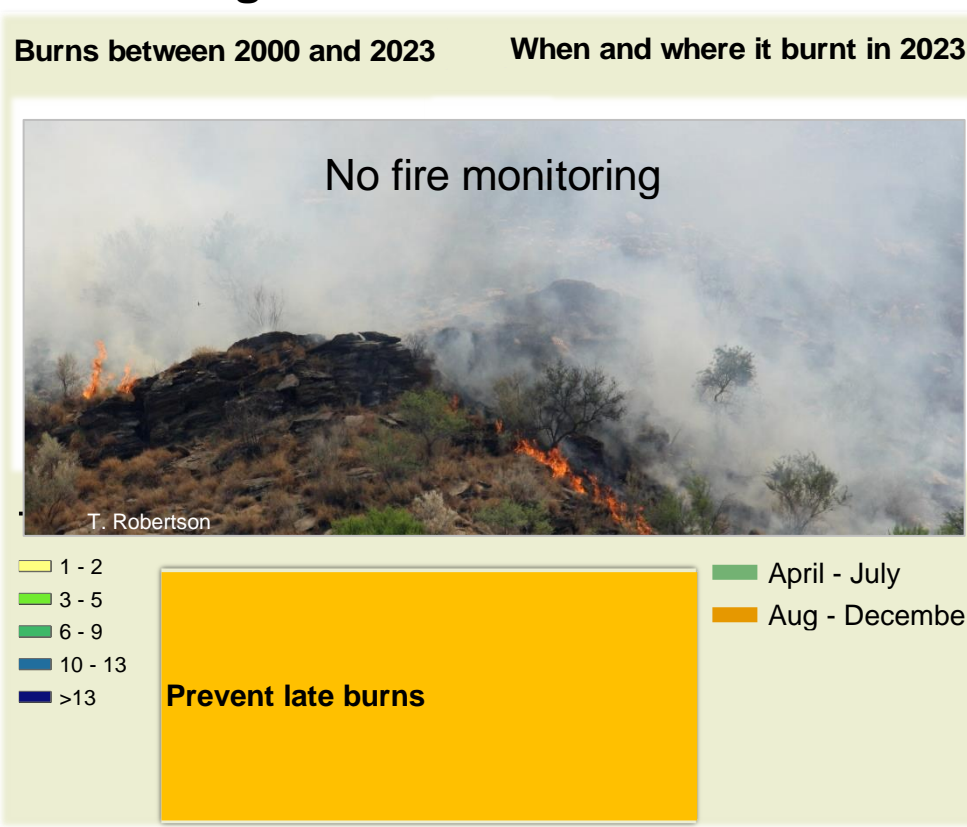
Rain season Jul-Jun with total

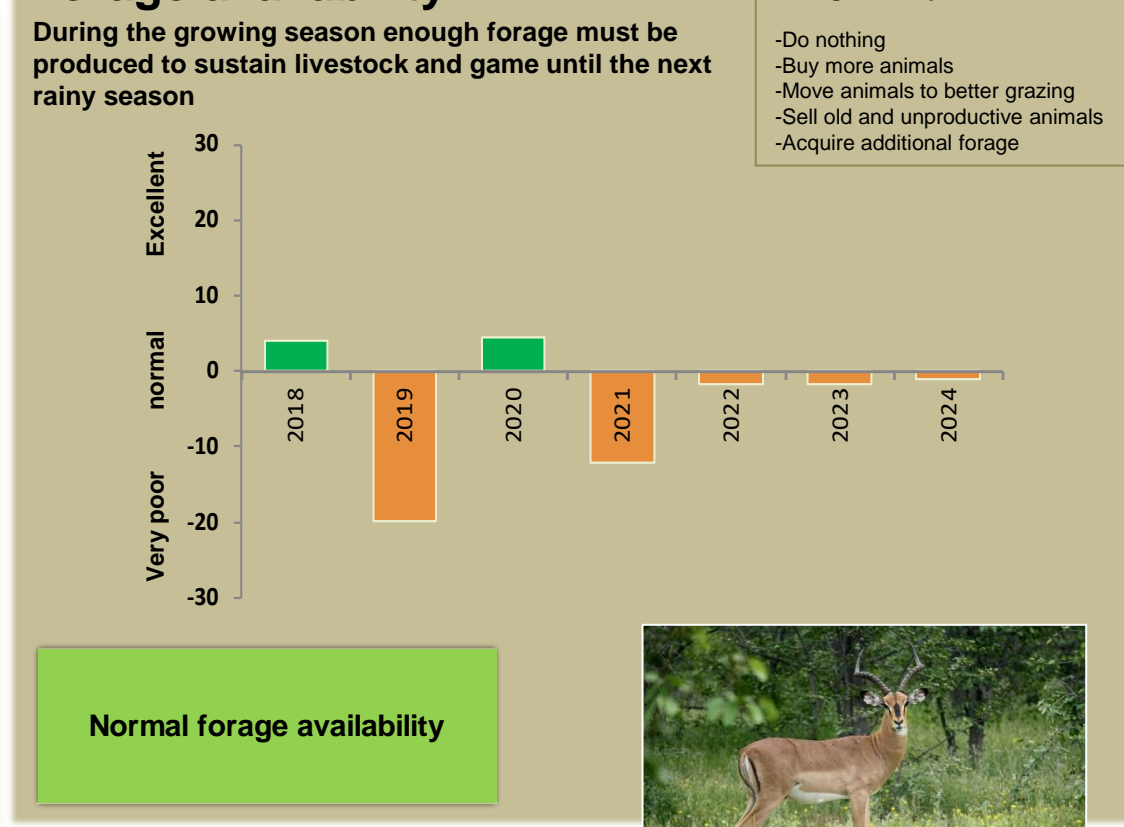Season of assessment

Rainfall (mm)

273   133   223   210   220   108

- Much Greener (>20% above)
- Greener than normal (5-20% above)
- Normal
- Below Normal (5-20% below)
- Far below normal (> 20% below)
- Long term greenness

Vegetation greenness

Plant production compared with long term average: 2014/15 to 2022/23

Normal rainy season and plant production

Vegetation cover trend (2000 - 2023)

High vegetation cover is good because more rainwater is prevented from running off, causing less erosion. Also, the soil is shaded leading to a decrease in soil temperature and evaporation.

Vegetation cover in September

Vegetation Cover (%)

Plant cover is decreasing - Why?

Vegetation cover : 2023

- Good vegetation cover
- Much bare ground

Vegetation productivity (February to April) 2024

Growing season

Difference from average
- Much poorer
- Same as average
- Much better
- Roads
- Rivers
- Management zones

Zones
1) Settlement & Cropping Area
2a) Multiple Use: Livestock Priority
2b) Multiple Use: Hunting Priority
2c) Multiple Use: Tourism Priority
2d) Multiple Use: Mining Priority
3a) Exclusive Wildlife: All Utilisation
3b) Exclusive Wildlife: Trophy Hunting
3c) Exclusive Wildlife: Tourism
3d) Exclusive Wildlife: No Disturbance
4) Forest

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Fire management

Burns between 2000 and 2023   **When and where it burnt in 2023**

No fire monitoring

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- 1 - 2
- 3 - 5
- 6 - 9
- 10 - 13
- >13
- April - July
- Aug - December

Prevent late burns

Forage availability

During the growing season enough forage must be produced to sustain livestock and game until the next rainy season

Management Options

-Do nothing
-Buy more animals
-Move animals to better grazing
-Sell old and unproductive animals
-Acquire additional forage

Excellent

normal

Very poor

2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

Normal forage availability

T. Robertson

Climate and vegetation patterns assist in our understanding of the status of wildlife and livestock in the conservancy for the effective management of these resources.