MODULE 3.5, HANDOUT #1: Introduction to the historic developments related to wildlife utilisation (page 1 of 2)

"Namibia has long been at the African forefront in the development and application of successful wildlife use policies and practices. In 1967, visionary conservationists enacted the 1967 Nature Conservation Ordinance 31, providing private landowners with rights over wildlife use, thereby transforming the perception of wildlife competition to livestock production being a valuable asset. The legislative foundation of wildlife utilization in Namibia was refined eight years later through Nature Conservation Ordinance Number 4 of 1975. These incentive based reforms produced impressive results, precipitating a wide-scale recovery of wildlife populations on Namibia's private lands (43% of the country). By 1992, huntable game animals on private land were estimated to have more than doubled from 565 000 to 1.7 million.

As a consequence of military occupation, heavy commercial poaching and uncontrolled hunting by both the military and community members, wildlife populations in most communal areas in Namibia were at historic lows by the mid-1980s and early 1990s. In some communal areas, large game animals had been completely eradicated, while in others only fragmented populations remained. Prior to and immediately after independence, communal area wildlife population trends were largely downwards and in need of urgent assistance.

After Namibia's independence in 1990, a new era of enlightened conservationists strove to introduce equivalent rights and benefits for rural communities living in communal areas (41% of the country). In 1995, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) passed the "Wildlife Management, Utilization and Tourism in Communal Areas" policy. Shortly thereafter, in June 1996, the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1975 was amended, providing the legal basis for communities to gain rights over wildlife through the formation of conservancies. These changes aimed to empower rural communities with the same rights over wildlife which private landowners had benefitted from for 30 years and as a result catalyze a parallel wildlife recovery on communal lands" (Weaver *et al.* 2010).

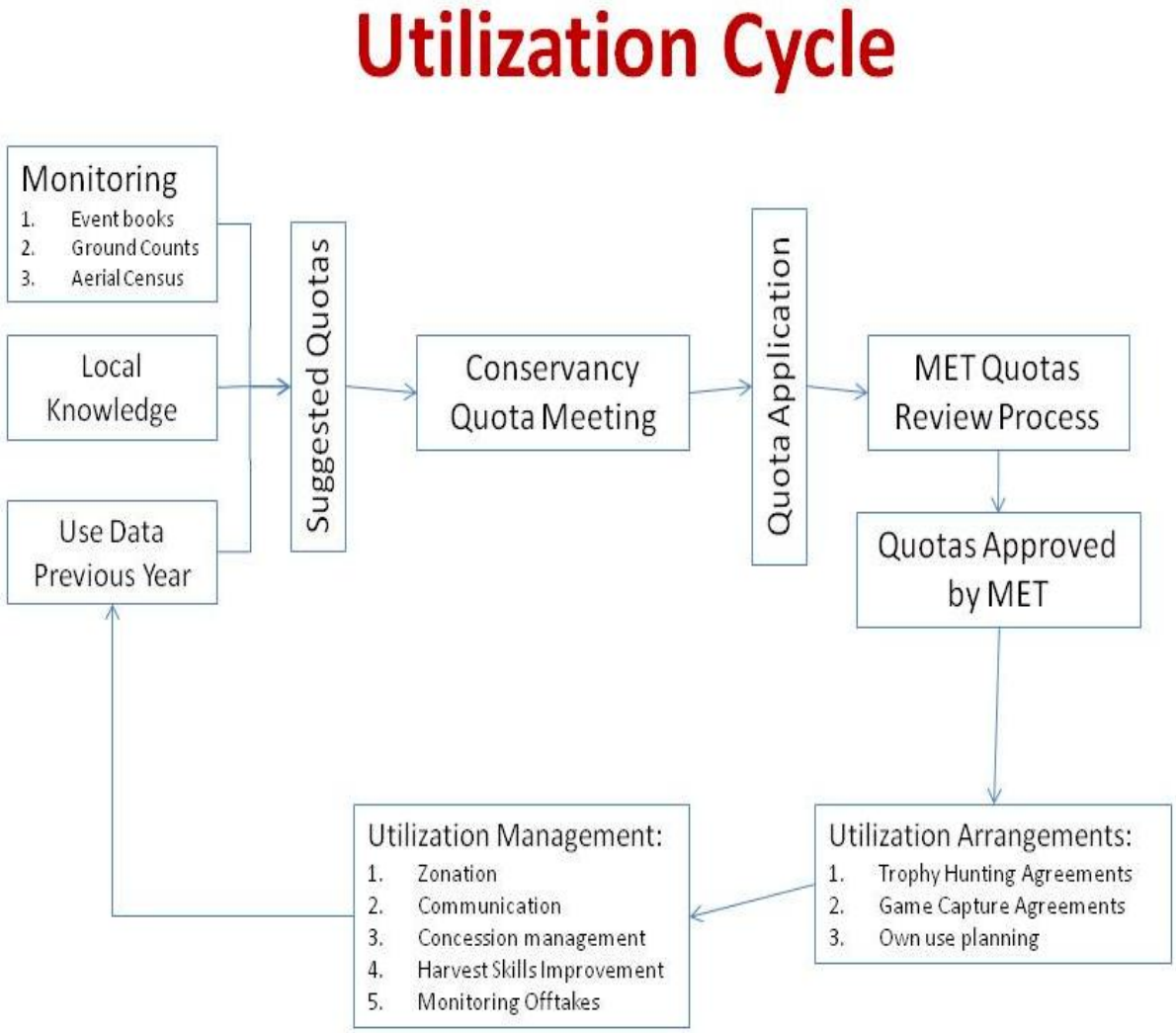
MODULE 3.5, HANDOUT #1: Introduction to the historic developments related to wildlife utilisation (page 2 of 2)

Fast facts:

- There are 59 conservancies in Namibia, which cover more than 13 million hectares. This represents over 16% of the country's surface area.
- Another 20-25 conservancies are in various stages of formation.
- Conservancies embrace around 230,000 residents, which represents 12% of the country's population.
- One in eight Namibian residents (or close to one in four in the rural areas) lives within a conservancy.
- Since the registration of the first four conservancies in 1998, CBNRM Programme income and benefits have grown from less than N$ 600,000 in 1998 to N$35.02 million in 2009.
- Joint venture tourism and trophy hunting generated the largest portions of income, bringing in N$16,946,268 and N$8,244,412 respectively.
- The enabling environment for this increase has come from government's commitment to the devolution of rights over wildlife and resources.
- Of the 59 conservancies, 33 are immediately adjacent to National Parks or in key corridors between protected areas.

(Source: Sproule and Denker, 2010).

MODULE 3.5, HANDOUT #2: Game utilisation cycle



MODULE 3.5, HANDOUT #3: Points to be considered regarding the operational environment for game management within conservancies

1. **For wildlife to compete with other forms of land use, it is essential that local people are able to receive tangible benefits from the wildlife**. Without these benefits, there is little incentive for people to accommodate wildlife and they will pursue other forms of land use. Similarly, placing onerous administrative systems onto communities that utilise wildlife could cause them to forgo wildlife as a land use and lead to a loss of wildlife.

2. **Whilst conservancies should strive to meet conservation standards, a conservancy is not a National Park**. It cannot be managed as such nor should it be judged as such.

3. It is anticipated that there will be conflict between humans and animals. Whilst a conservancy should strive to minimise this, **the rights of humans will ultimately have precedence over the rights of wildlife**.

4. Given the social needs, and the incentives necessary to make wildlife a competitive form of land use, **it is not appropriate to allow large numbers of animals to die during droughts**. Consequently, unlike a National Park where drought-related mass mortalities may be considered part of the natural process, a conservancy will intervene through harvesting to prevent such events.

5. In north-west Namibia, where rainfall is highly erratic and game species will experience boom and bust periods, **a dynamic quota-setting system will need to be in place** so that large numbers of animals can be rapidly removed during drought periods – i.e., harvesting at constant off-take rates is not appropriate in these regions.

6. Whilst a Conservancy Committee has influence, it does not have the legal powers to control visitors or inhabitants in the area. Accordingly, the conservancy cannot be held accountable for actions of irresponsible individuals. However, it is expected that **the conservancy will monitor and report illegal activity to the relevant authorities** and support these authorities in taking the necessary action.

MODULE 3.5, HANDOUT #4: **Activity with regards to trophy hunting**

This photograph was published internationally. It shows the carcass of a rhino that was dehorned by poachers.

Some conservationists found it so disturbing that they are now lobbying for an international ban on all forms of hunting, especially trophy hunting.

Write a letter to your local newspaper explaining the need for trophy hunting in your conservancy.

Outline the advantages for the community and how the sustainability of wildlife is ensured.

MODULE 3.5, HANDOUT #5: **Activity with regards to wildlife tourism**

The photo below was published in a local newspaper and shows how hunted game is skinned and cut into biltong along a roadside in one of our conservancies.

Discuss the negative impact that occurrences such as this might have on wildlife tourism and make suggestions on how it could be prevented.

Source: Republikein 14/08/10

MODULE 3.5, HANDOUT #6: SWOT analysis *self-assessment activity* (page 1 of 3)

Participants receiving training in Module 3.5 are not subject to formal assessment. However, you have now studied all the information on the different types of wildlife utilisation and you now need to apply what you have learned. You should be able to undertake steps towards the development of a Wildlife Management and Utilisation Plan for an imaginary conservancy, or even for your actual conservancy if it is an appropriate time to consider doing such a thing.

Possibly the best way to do begin doing this is by undertaking a **SWOT analysis**.

A **SWOT analysis** is a strategic planning method used to evaluate the **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities, and **T**hreats involved in a project or in a business venture. It involves specifying the objective of the business venture or project and identifying the internal and external factors that are favourable and unfavourable to achieving that objective.

MODULE 3.5, HANDOUT #6: **SWOT analysis *self-assessment activity*** **(page 2 of 3)**

Below is an example of how a SWOT analysis could look. The important aspect is that all possibilities are thought through before any decisions are taken.

Strengths could include: A variety of species Easy access for hunters Proximity to taxidermist Trained trackers	**Weaknesses** could include: Current drought Few trophy animals Incompetent management at the conservancy No reliable data on numbers of wildlife
Opportunities (turning weaknesses into strengths) Concentrate on venison hunting because of drought Live game capture and sell because of drought Training for management Do game counts	**Threats** Harvest too many animals Lose future opportunities for trophy hunting/market share Lose game due to drought Poaching if cattle die because of drought

MODULE 3.5, HANDOUT #6: SWOT analysis *self-assessment activity* (page 3 of 3)

The table below is an example of a method for a conservancy to determine the possible income that could be derived from wildlife utilisation. This is a handy tool to use when you draw up a budget.

Source of income		Kudu	Oryx	Other	Total possible income per activity
Trophy hunting	**Value**	N$5,000	N$3,000		**N$17,000**
	Number	X 1	X 4		
	Total	N$5,000	N$12,000		
Shoot and sell	**Value**	N$1,500	N$1,200		**NS21,000**
	Number	X 10	X 5		
	Total	N$15,000	N$6,000		
Other	**Value**				**N$**
	Number				
	Total				
TOTAL possible Income		**N$20,000**	**N$18,000**		**N$38,000**