



THE STATE OF
**COMMUNITY
CONSERVATION**
IN NAMIBIA



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

A review of Communal Conservancies, Community Forests and other community-based natural resource management initiatives

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The annual State of Community Conservation Report is a joint publication from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO). It is very much a collaborative effort. Conservancies and other community conservation organisations gather data throughout the year. This is then returned to them in poster form and used in adaptive conservancy management. The data are also supplied to the MEFT and the NACSO working groups to enable evaluation and reporting on programme achievements and challenges at a national level. Only key data are presented in this printed report. The full data are shared with partner organisations working in conservation and presented on our website: communityconservationnamibia.com

Contributors to the website and this report are far too numerous to mention individually, however, all staff of the MEFT and community conservation organisations are gratefully acknowledged for their contributions. We would also like to thank all enterprises, private sector partners, NGOs and individuals who provide data and information.

Published by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) Private Bag: 13306
Telephone: +264 61 284 2111 | Fax: +264 61 229 936

Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO) P O Box 98353 | Windhoek
Telephone: +264 61 230 888 | Fax: +264 61 237 036

Copyright: NACSO for text, maps and graphs. NACSO & WWF Namibia for photographs and individual photographers for all credited photographs

Text and review: Gail Thomson, MEFT & NACSO staff
Design & layout: Venture Publications (Pty) Ltd, Namibia
Printed by: John Meinert Printing (Pty) Ltd, Windhoek, Namibia
Photography: NACSO & WWF Namibia
Charts: Jaro Consultancy

First published: 2021

Suggested citation: MEFT/NACSO 2021. The state of community conservation in Namibia (Annual Report 2020). MEFT/NACSO, Windhoek.



Printing supported by: European Union.
This publication has been produced with the financial support of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of MEFT and NACSO and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

A full list of funding partners is presented on communityconservationnamibia.com.



THE STATE OF COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN NAMIBIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

A review of Communal Conservancies, Community
Forests and other community-based natural
resource management initiatives



CONTENTS



INTRODUCTION

Foreword	1
Who We Are	3
Community conservation online	4
Learning our Lessons from COVID-19	5
	6

NAMIBIAN COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

Providing emergency support during a global pandemic	10
Sustainable support for community conservation	12
Celebrating our Conservation Icons	14
Facts and Figures	16
The terminology of income, benefits and returns	18
CBNRM and the National Economy	20
CBNRM and the National Development Plan	21
	23

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION GOVERNANCE

Maintaining Governance Standards	24
Improving Financial Reporting	26
Governance Indicators and Gender Balance	28
Governance of Community Forests	29
Governance of Community Fisheries Reserves	31
Voices From the Field: Conservancy Governance	33
	34

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

Buffering livelihoods against the impact of COVID-19	36
Lessons learned for future livelihoods	38
Maintaining key partnerships in a pandemic	41
Tourism and hunting in a post-COVID world	42
Livelihoods in Community Fisheries Reserves	45
Livelihoods in Community Forests	48
	49

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Conservation during a pandemic	54
Wildlife monitoring using Event Books	56
Monitoring data and adaptive management	57
Wildlife population trends over time	59
Human-wildlife conflict	62
Combating Wildlife Crime	64
Natural resource management in Community Forests	68
Natural resource management in Fisheries Reserves	71
Voices From the Field: Community Game Guards	72
	74

CONSERVATION AT SCALE

The Kavango-Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation Area	76
	79

WHO'S WHO

Registered Conservancies	82
Registered Community Forests	84
NACSO Members	85
NACSO Associate Members	85
NACSO Working Groups	85
Government Agencies	86
Tourism Partners	86
Conservation Hunting Partners	88

FOREWORD

*From the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism,
Honourable Pohamba Shifeta*



The year 2020 tested Namibian resilience in every sector, as the COVID-19 pandemic threatened our health, economy and social structures in various ways. His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob declared a State of Emergency on the 17th of March 2020 and guided our country through this difficult time. Despite efforts to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, thousands of people succumbed to COVID-19 and we are still mourning the loss of our friends, relatives and family members. Our economy was subjected to unprecedented pressure, particularly in the tourism sector, as flights were suspended and lockdowns imposed in countries throughout the world, including Namibia.

Conservation is especially vulnerable to international shocks such as this one, as much of our budget within government and among rural communities is derived from international tourism. Only 10% of the expected 1.7 million international tourist arrivals in 2020 was realised, forcing many tourism operations across the country to shut down and slashing visitor numbers to our National Parks.

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) immediately recognised the threat this pandemic posed to our flagship Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme, which relies heavily on photographic and hunting tourists to support their operations and livelihoods. Data collected for previous State of Community Conservation Reports indicated the potential extent and severity of the impact on rural livelihoods. We estimated that over 3,000 jobs created by conservancies and their joint-venture tourism partners were at risk if we did not assist them during this time.

Poverty and desperation would have gripped these rural areas, as each person earning a salary has many dependents. The conservancies would have been crippled, not being able to retain their staff or cover basic operational costs for patrols, game counts, responding to human-wildlife conflict and preventing or reporting wildlife crime. Without functional conservancies and with desperation caused by deepening poverty, wildlife crime would have spiralled out of control. A study on the situation led by the University of Namibia described this pending disaster as a "perfect storm" that threatened rural livelihoods and Namibia's conservation record.

For these reasons, the MEFT responded quickly and decisively by establishing the Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF) to invite partners from all sectors within Namibia and internationally to assist us. Our long-term partnerships with non-governmental organisations, donors and other governments yielded fruits, as the United Nations Development Programme in Namibia (UNDP), Environmental Investment Fund (EIF), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Nedbank Go Green Fund, Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), B2Gold and Tourism Supporting Conservation (TOSCO) were among the first to

contribute to the Facility. Further, our established structure for financing allowed for the rapid, yet properly controlled, disbursement of these funds to conservancies and joint-venture tourism operators.

Having seen our prompt national response and trustworthy mechanism for support, the German government provided N\$ 96 million to this Facility as part of their larger commitment of N\$ 250 million to support our National Parks and the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA). With this support from both within and beyond Namibia's borders, the CBNRM programme was effectively shielded from the worst economic impacts of the pandemic.

Restrictions on gatherings due to COVID-19 made it difficult and in some cases impossible for many conservancies to meet the MEFT governance standards this year, which we fully appreciate. Annual General Meetings (AGM), in particular, were not held in conservancies where the quorum exceeded the maximum number of people allowed to gather under the prevailing restrictions. We are nonetheless pleased to note that 19 conservancies met all five governance requirements despite the pandemic, as they were able to hold their AGMs either prior to the lockdowns or after restrictions were loosened. Other conservancies adapted to the conditions and held smaller meetings to keep their members up to date with their activities.

In terms of natural resource management, the multi-year drought conditions in the north-western conservancies continue to affect the wildlife numbers counted during annual game counts. This situation has exacerbated human-carnivore conflict in the region, which the MEFT is continuing to monitor and intervene where necessary. Nonetheless, we are pleased to note that game counts, foot patrols, reporting of human-wildlife conflict and combatting wildlife crime all continued this year despite the pandemic. Our wildlife crime statistics for 2020 showed reduced poaching for high-value species, which reveals that our joint commitment to wildlife conservation has not diminished.

This year's report reflects the impact of COVID-19 and the steps taken by the MEFT, the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO) and our partners to minimise the negative consequences of this global crisis for our people and wildlife. Although we hope to see a recovery of international tourism arrivals soon, we are nonetheless committed to building resilience into the CBNRM programme to reduce the impact of such shocks in future. I would especially like to thank the many partners mentioned above for supporting our CBNRM programme during 2020 and encourage collective efforts to build a more resilient programme in the coming years.



WHO WE ARE

COMMUNITIES

Namibia's communal conservancies and community forests are self-governing entities legally recognised by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT). Conservancies receive training and support from the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO), which also partners with the Directorate of Forestry that supports community forests.

Each conservancy and forest has a constitution and elects a management committee. Conservancies and community forests work to conserve and protect the environment, and to earn revenue from the sustainable use of natural resources. There is also a community association within a national park, which is managed like a conservancy.

Six regional conservancy associations in Erongo, Kavango, Kunene, the north-central area and Zambezi act as representative umbrella organisations for conservancies in their areas.

MEFT

The mission of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism is to promote biodiversity conservation in the Namibian environment through the sustainable utilisation of natural resources and tourism development for the maximum social and economic benefit of our citizens.

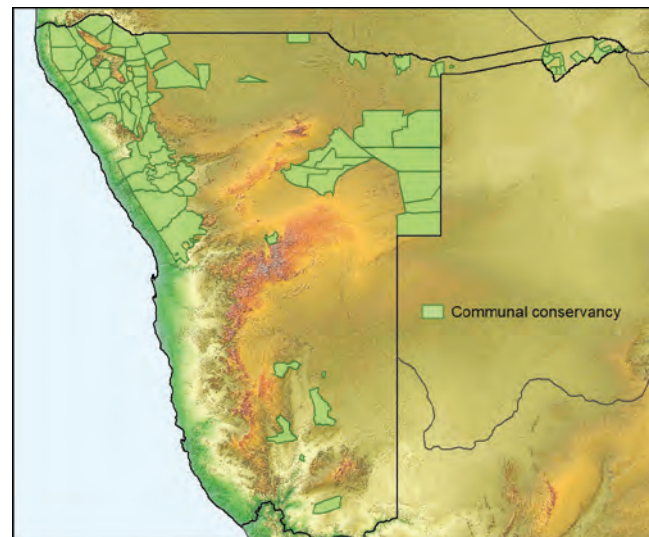
NACSO

NACSO is a networking organisation that coordinates the work of its members in partnership with the MEFT and other government ministries.

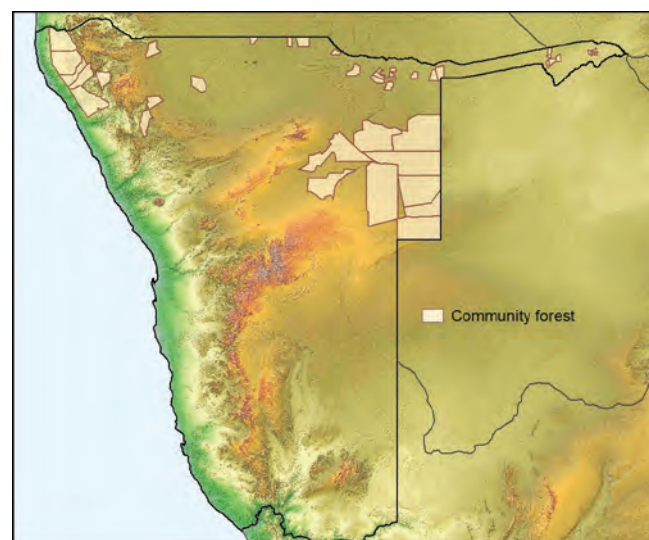
Full and associate members give direct support to conservancies in the form of training, advice, technical and logistical support, and advocate for sustainable development and links to the tourism industry.

WORKING GROUPS

Three working groups provide technical expertise: the Natural Resources Working Group (NRWG), the Institutional Development Working Group (IDWG), and the Business, Enterprises and Livelihoods Working Group (BELWG). These are flexible constellations of NACSO members and partners that pool experience and resources to provide effective support to conservancies, which are gazetted and fall under the legal responsibility of the MEFT.



Conservancies in 2020



Community forests in 2020

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ONLINE

Communityconservationnamibia.com

The story of community conservation continues to evolve and is reported in this publication each year. Yet the information presented here was not readily available online and therefore had an audience limited to those who already knew about CBNRM. Further, the statistics and topics presented in each annual report are not easily searchable in a hardcopy format. The State of Community Conservation in Namibia website was created to share the CBNRM story more widely and in an accessible, attractive format.

The home page introduces the visitor to the concept of CBNRM, emphasising the link between rural development and environmental conservation through a few highlighted case studies. Visitors who are not familiar with the programme can dive into articles about the programme history, explore recent facts and figures, and read more about NACSO and its partners. The aim of this section is to create an overall understanding of where CBNRM in Namibia comes from, where it is going, and how we plan to get there.

This online resource provides both general and specific information that is useful for visitors with a casual interest in the programme and those wanting more detailed, up to date statistics. The website complements this report and makes the information provided here more readily available to a global audience.



SCAN ME



2018 Chairperson's Forum



LEARNING OUR LESSONS FROM COVID-19

The challenges posed to the CBNRM programme during 2020 required urgent and decisive action at the time, but in hindsight it has left us with many thoughts to ponder. The global pandemic was an unprecedented external shock, particularly to communal conservancies that rely so heavily on international travellers to generate their income. The withdrawal of international tourism has revealed several weaknesses in the CBNRM programme that are more easily concealed during normal years.

The restrictions relating to COVID-19 tested CBNRM in a number of different ways; some of these tests were passed, while others highlight existing problems that need urgent solutions. By combining the positive and negative lessons we learned from our response to the pandemic, we can create a more fruitful and resilient programme in future.

RESILIENCE OF RURAL LIVELIHOODS

Communal conservancies rely heavily on tourism-based industries for their income, and until 2020 most of that tourism was from international visitors. International travel restrictions thus had an immediate impact on the financial viability of conservancies. Yet of even greater concern was the survival of their members, who struggled more than ever to meet their most basic needs this year.

In many rural areas, conservancies and community forests are the only locally based institutions to which people can turn to for help, yet we must ask if these institutions are sufficiently able to provide such help. Although the focus of CBNRM has been to link wildlife conservation with rural

development, we must reflect on whether the programme is making a real difference to the lives of rural people. This is a true measure of success that has not yet received enough attention.

The Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF) saved many jobs during this year in the CBNRM sector, but we must still ask whether more can be done to meet the needs of the many conservancy members who have not found employment in the sector. Is there a way that CBNRM can facilitate rural economic growth that is not overly dependent on international travel? Although initiatives such as CRRRF ensured the survival of conservancies, moving forward we need to explore ways to support rural households more directly during these tough times.

The programme continues to heavily emphasise conservancies, yet rural livelihoods are supported directly by other natural resources such as the harvest of timber and other plants, which falls under the remit of community forests. We failed to provide a proper and coordinated response to the moratorium on timber harvesting, which resulted in a loss of income and employment for community forests in the north-east. This report is a first step towards bringing greater attention community forests by providing more information on their current status from the Directorate of Forestry within MEFT.



Ronny Dampers
NACSO Chairperson

ADAPTING GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

One of the key means of linking conservancy management with members is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and similar General Meetings (GMs) held each year. Since the quorum required for AGMs in many conservancies is higher than the public gathering restrictions allowed, most conservancies were unable to hold their AGMs in 2020. As the model currently functions, much decision-making power lies with the AGM, as financial reporting, budgeting, approving plans, and elections are all held at these events. Yet perhaps the system has become too reliant on large meetings. Even in normal years, not all members can make it to these meetings and will therefore feel less involved with decision-making in their conservancies.

Some conservancies adapted to the public gathering restrictions by holding smaller village-level meetings that were used to inform members and discuss the conservancies' activities at that level. It is likely that more people are engaged during many smaller meetings than at one large meeting, so it is worth considering if a more decentralised form of decision-making might improve conservancy governance. Major decisions like committee elections and annual financial matters would still require an AGM as per the conservancies' constitutions, yet decentralised discussions around reports or plans that will be presented at AGMs or GMs would increase member input into these key documents.

Decentralised village-based decision-making platforms will not only increase the resilience of the programme to external shocks like COVID-19, but also empower conservancy members to make key decisions that directly affect their lives. To enable such governance changes, there is a need to review our compliance frameworks that currently focus on centralised decision-making platforms.

The disbursement of CRRRF grants to conservancies brought with them quarterly reporting requirements. Because the next quarter's funds were contingent on detailed reports regarding how the previous quarter's funds were spent, the financial reporting systems were

tightened. Prior to 2020 when most conservancies were generating their own funds, financial reporting was an annual exercise. Perhaps moving to a quarterly reporting system with assistance from support organisations (when the CRRRF is phased out) will improve conservancy financial accountability.

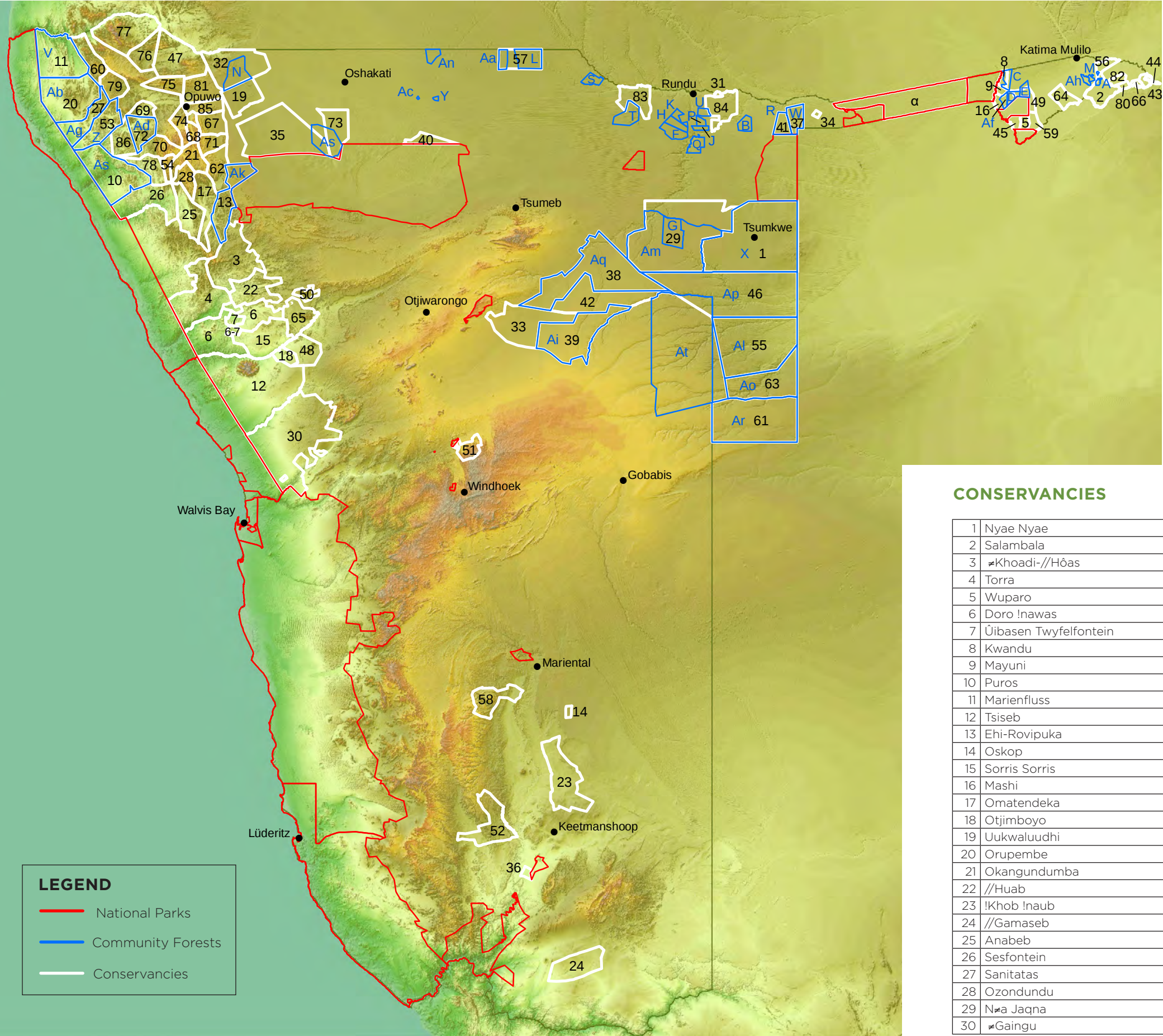
PROVIDING BETTER SUPPORT

When travel between regions in Namibia was restricted, many NACSO organisations could not reach some of the conservancies they regularly support. While the rest of the world moved online for their meetings, conservancies and community forests generally have poor Internet connectivity, thus limiting their communication options. As with the thoughts on conservancies, this situation showed the value of decentralised operations where support staff from NACSO and MEFT are located in the same region as the conservancies they assist.

The coordinated financial support provided through the CRRRF, which was established by MEFT and fully supported by all NACSO members and other partners, provides the best positive lesson from our year of COVID. As we move into a recovery period, we need to develop financial resilience in an equitable manner across the CBNRM programme. A collaborative, democratic decision-making platform similar to the CRRRF could become a model of equitable resource distribution at a national level. This platform sets the scene for more discussions and actions regarding resource mobilisation and coordinated financing for CBNRM activities.

The Namibian CBNRM programme has withstood the challenges posed by COVID-19 because of the strong partnerships that have been built to support it. Together we have ensured the survival of CBNRM and have learned valuable lessons in the process. Going forward, we must strengthen our partnerships further and commence a robust stock taking process to reflect honestly on both the strengths and shortcomings of CBNRM in Namibia. I look forward to working through this process with all our partners in the coming year.

FIGURE 1. NAMIBIAN CONSERVANCIES AND COMMUNITY FORESTS



COMMUNITY FORESTS

A	Bukalo	Y	Ohepi
B	Hans Kanyinga	Z	Okondjombo
C	Kwandu	Aa	Omufitu Wekuta
D	Lubuta	Ab	Orupembe
E	Masida	Ac	Oshaampula
F	Mbeyo	Ad	Otjiu-West
G	Mkata	Ae	Puros
H	Ncamagoro	Af	Sachona
J	Ncaute	Ag	Sanitatas
K	Ncumcara	Ah	Zilitene
L	Okongo	Ai	African Wild Dog
M	Sikanjabuka	Ak	Ehi-Rovipuka
N	Uukolonkadhi	Al	Eiseb
P	Cuma	Am	Nǀa Jaqna
Q	Gcwatjinga	An	Omundaungilo
R	George Mukoya	Ao	Omuramba Ua Umbinda
S	Kahenge	Ap	Ondjou
T	Katope	Aq	Otjituuo
U	Likwaterera	Ar	Otjombinde
V	Marienfluss	As	Otshiku-Shilthilonde
W	Muduva Nyangana	At	Epukiro
X	Nyae Nyae		

CONSERVANCIES

1	Nyae Nyae	31	Joseph Mbambangandu	61	Otjombinde
2	Salambala	32	Uukolonkadhi Ruacana	62	Orupupa
3	ǀKhoadi-//Hôas	33	Ozonahi	63	Omuramba ua Mbinda
4	Torra	34	Shamungwa	64	Bamunu
5	Wuparo	35	Sheya Shuushona	65	!Khoru !goreb
6	Doro !nawas	36	!Gawachab	66	Kabulabula
7	ǀuibasen Twyfelfontein	37	Muduva Nyangana	67	Okongoro
8	Kwandu	38	Otjituuo	68	Otjombande
9	Mayuni	39	African Wild Dog	69	Ongongo
10	Puros	40	King Nehale	70	Ombujokanguindi
11	Marienfluss	41	George Mukoya	71	Otuzemba
12	Tsiseb	42	Okamatapati	72	Otjiu-West
13	Ehi-Rovipuka	43	Kasika	73	!ipumbu ya Tshilongo
14	Oskop	44	Impalila	74	Okatjandja Kozomenje
15	Sorris Sorris	45	Balyerwa	75	Ombazu
16	Mashi	46	Ondjou	76	Okanguati
17	Omatendeka	47	Kunene River	77	Epupa
18	Otjimboyo	48	Ohungu	78	Otijkondavirongo
19	Uukwaluudhi	49	Sobbe	79	Etanga
20	Orupembe	50	///Audi	80	Nakabolelwa
21	Okangundumba	51	Ovitoto	81	Ombombo
22	///Huab	52	!Han /Awab	82	Lusese
23	!Khub !naub	53	Okondjombo	83	Maurus Nekaro
24	///Gamaseb	54	Otjambangu	84	Kapinga kaMwalye
25	Anabeb	55	Eiseb	85	Otjindjerese
26	Sesfontein	56	Sikunga	86	Otijkongo
27	Sanitatas	57	Okongo	α	Kyaramacan Association
28	Ozondundu	58	Huibes	6-7	Doro !nawas/ ǀuibasen Twyfelfontein Joint Management Area
29	Nǀa Jaqna	59	Dzoti		
30	ǀGaingu	60	Otjitanda		

NAMIBIA

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION





PROVIDING EMERGENCY SUPPORT DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Since the first State of the Community Conservation report was published in 2004, each consecutive year, the report has detailed the growth, challenges and opportunities that have come to define Namibia's Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme. In 2020, the programme was expected to build on its successes, particularly in tourism. Namibia's tourism industry anticipated the arrival of 1.7 million visitors, predicted to generate N\$ 26.4 billion (11.7% of overall GDP), and support over 123,000 jobs (16.4% of total employment).

Then COVID-19 struck. The world went into lockdown, and these expectations were dashed. Overnight, tourist arrivals stopped, and a substantial amount of funding for conservation in Namibia vanished. As new bans restricted travel, thousands of people lost their jobs, and thousands more jobs were at risk, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and economic hardship. Hit hardest were rural areas, where a six-year drought had already threatened many livelihoods. The 30-year effort to build Namibia's communal conservancy programme was under severe threat.

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) took bold step of launching the Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF) to ensure a coordinated response to the crisis.

The CRRRF task team reached out to their supporters to raise an initial combined target of approximately N\$ 46 million for communal conservancies. These funds were earmarked to secure salaries for conservancy game guards (including rhino rangers) and other fundamental conservancy operating costs. Conservancy staff members collectively support more than 6,000 family members, while their work supports the wildlife economy that generates an estimated US\$ 8 million per annum to these rural areas. Supporting game guards and rhino rangers is thus in line with broader goals of poverty eradication, food security and the sustainable future of rural communities.

In June 2020, emergency grants for 84 conservancies and 1 Association were agreed to. The first payments of N\$ 6,619,500 were disbursed to conservancies in the first quarter (May-July 2020) for salaries, management committee stipends and operating costs. The essential costs that were covered included anti-poaching patrols and human-wildlife conflict mitigation.

By the end of 2020, conservancies had received N\$18,918,797 through the Facility from various sources (see text box). Of all registered conservancies, only two conservancies had not received funds due to existing governance issues. All the other conservancies were able to pay 670 community game guards, 421 other conservancy staff their salaries and maintain basic natural resource management and

administration operations despite experiencing significant income shortfalls in 2020.

Local partners managed to successfully raise N\$ 25 million of the targeted N\$ 46 million. In addition to filling the funding gap for conservancy operations, these funds were directed towards community-based business enterprises (e.g. joint-venture lodges, small- to medium enterprises and craft centres) to ensure local employee retention.

In good times, these business enterprises and partnerships are the income generators of conservancies and pay the costs of conservation, including the deployment of the game guards. If the partnerships do not survive the pandemic, then conservancies will become dependent on donor funds or otherwise collapse. CRRRF thus provided financial assistance for the local tourism employees through an emergency grant process for joint-venture lodges. A grant manual for the private sector was developed that guided the submission of requests for support. It was agreed that the funding would provide initial support for 50% of the salaries, with half of that being repayable in the event of survival and return to agreed operational capacity. The

repayments would be targeted for future re-investment into the CBNRM programme.

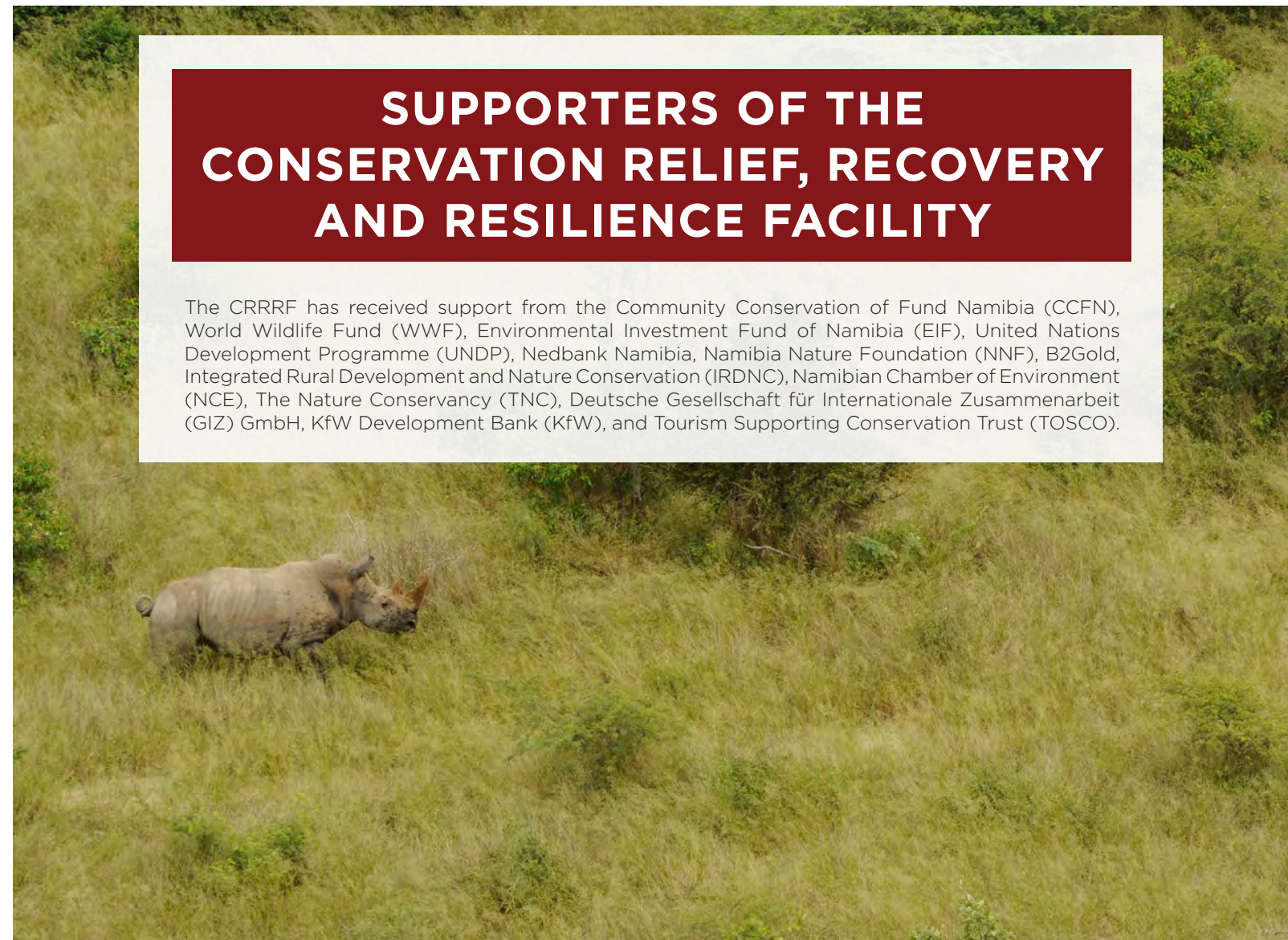
Thirty-five joint venture partnerships signed up to the CRRRF, with the initial period for six months running from July to December 2020. This has now been extended for another six months to June 2021. Currently, this provides support to over 899 staff, although funding requests continue to grow.

"As a community, we should not solely rely on the government for development, we should use our natural resources to bring income and development in our community. We should join hands, work together and do our part, in that way we are all contributing to the future of our environment and people." Allan Silubanga from the Sobbe Conservancy.

COVID-19 continues to test governments, institutions and individuals in unprecedented ways. The Namibian CBNRM programme has been severely challenged. The pandemic underscored the need to diversify Namibia's green economy, however, the coordinated support for the programme during this crisis was a silver lining to the pandemic.

SUPPORTERS OF THE CONSERVATION RELIEF, RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY

The CRRRF has received support from the Community Conservation of Fund Namibia (CCFN), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Nedbank Namibia, Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), B2Gold, Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC), Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, KfW Development Bank (KfW), and Tourism Supporting Conservation Trust (TOSCO).



SUSTAINABLE SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

In 2020, the CBNRM programme took a significant step towards self-reliance with the official launch of the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN). CCFN is designed as a vehicle for providing long-term support to the CBNRM programme as a whole and to address cross-cutting issues with targeted projects.

In 2008, the MEFT held a CBNRM Sustainable Strategy Workshop to investigate options for improving the long-term financial sustainability of the CBNRM programme, thus reducing its reliance on external donor funding. The outcome of the workshop was the formation of a Task Force (including MEFT, NACSO member organisations, WWF-Namibia, and other experienced individuals) to draft the CBNRM Sustainable Strategy that included a sustainable financing strategy.

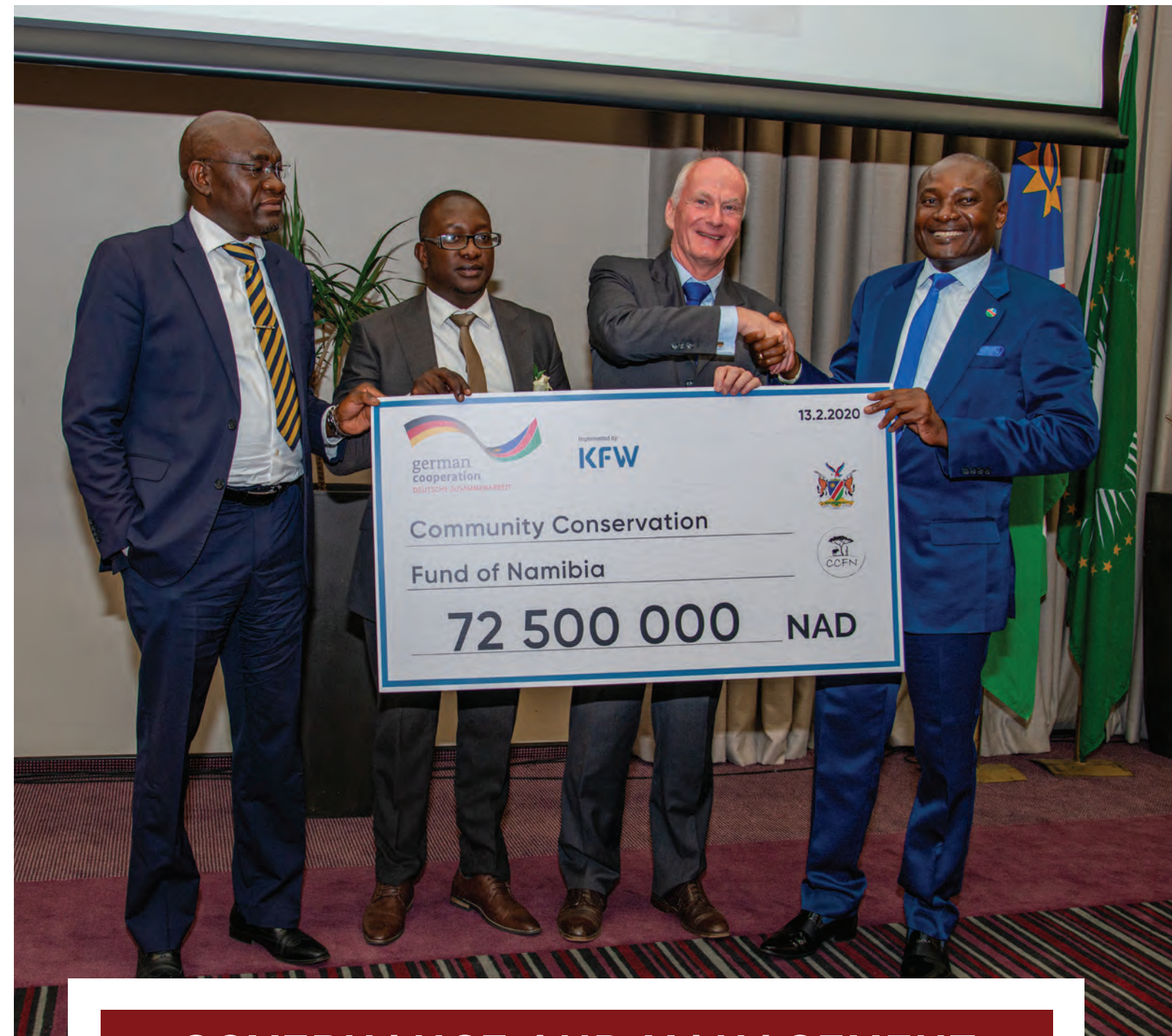
The idea for CCFN was born out of these deliberations. Today, CCFN raises, administers, manages, grows, and disburses funds to promote the sustainable development of communal conservancies, community forests, and related CBNRM entities. CCFN has identified three core areas for which it aims to secure financing for Namibia's communal conservancies, community forests and other CBNRM entities: Critical Support Services (formerly Minimum Support Packages); human-wildlife conflict mitigation; and Payment for Ecosystem Services.

Critical Support Services provide funding for core CBNRM activities and training that all conservancies need to operate effectively and comply with prevailing regulations. This includes (but is not limited to) natural resource management assistance (e.g. annual game counts),

governance and 'dripping tap' support for financial management, legal services and human resources capacity development. To provide this support in the long-term, CCFN has established an endowment fund with seed funding of approximately US \$800,000 million secured from ACACIA.

The CCFN human-wildlife conflict (HWC) fund is dedicated to working with conservancies on mitigation measures that will help to promote and maintain co-existence between humans and wildlife. This will in turn support biodiversity conservation and improve the resilience of rural livelihoods. At the official launch for CCFN, a four-year HWC project was launched, with core funding of € 5 million from KfW. The project will assist conservancies in developing sustainable human-wildlife management systems. CCFN, as the implementing agency, MEFT and other CBNRM stakeholders are working closely to ensure the success of this project.

Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) are made by a beneficiary or user of an ecosystem service to the provider of that service, thus creating a concrete way of aligning global finance with conservation objectives. Housed within CCFN, Wildlife Credits is a Namibian form of PES that rewards communities for verifiable conservation results. Results could include protecting wildlife corridors, monitoring and protecting critically endangered black rhinos, and tolerance for high conflict species such as lions. There is scope for expansion of the Wildlife Credits products to include more communal conservancies and a broader array of conservation results.



GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY CONSERVATION FUND OF NAMIBIA

CCFN is registered as a Non-Profit Association Incorporated under Section 21 of the Namibian Companies Act. It is governed by the Companies Act and its Articles of Association, and has a Strategy Plan, an Investment Strategy and various Internal Operations manuals and policies.

Under the patronage of the Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Namibia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relationships and Cooperation, CCFN is governed by a Board of volunteer directors, who are esteemed members of Namibia's public, private and civic sectors. The CCFN also has a Board-appointed Investment and an Audit and Risk committee.



www.ccf-namibia.org



CELEBRATING OUR CONSERVATION ICONS

Community conservation said farewell to two conservation icons in 2020 – Garth Owen-Smith passed away, while Chris Weaver retired from his position as Managing Director of WWF in Namibia. These two distinctive characters played different roles, yet their legacies to the CBNRM programme will be lasting.

Garth was a somewhat introverted, quietly determined man of the field who spent much of his time working side-by-side with communities, while Chris is an outgoing peoples' person, who worked long office hours and created networks both within and beyond Namibia's borders. Both men exhibited an undying passion for CBNRM and kept the big picture in focus, while still paying attention to important details. They shared a strong desire to develop the capacity and leadership skills of the people around them.

GARTH OWEN-SMITH

Garth worked closely with communities since the 1980s, particularly by encouraging traditional leaders to appoint community game guards, after developing this idea with traditional leader Joshua Kangombe. Garth and his partner Dr Margaret Jacobsohn soon established Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) to support the deployment of game guards and later to assist communities in establishing the first communal conservancies.

During the early days, many people – within communities, government, and donors – needed to know what conservancies were and how they would work before they could get on board with the idea. Garth and his team at IRDNC therefore focused on creating awareness among communities about the conservancy concept, while also developing relationships with the government and other support organisations.

The initial success of the programme garnered further support and interest both within and beyond Namibia's borders – the support organisations grew in number (eventually forming NACSO), farsighted government officials put policies in place to provide national support for CBNRM, and the programme became globally recognised as a community conservation success story. While the success of the programme goes far beyond the efforts of any individual, Garth's ability to share his understanding of community conservation was key to generating support at all levels and creating a common vision.

Garth was especially cherished for his wise advice and gentle yet firm approach to dealing with contentious issues. He showed genuine respect and care for the communities he worked with, even treating 'poachers' with fairness. This was in stark contrast to the concept of conservation held by his contemporaries in the pre-independence government, thus putting him in direct conflict with those in power at the time. His respectful approach nonetheless won him the trust and respect of many who would become the backbone of communal conservancies – leaders, game guards, and community members.

Despite COVID regulations keeping numbers low, representatives of conservancies from all over the country attended Garth's funeral in early 2020 to say their final farewells. Those present shared personal stories of how Garth had touched their lives and careers, with many expressions of heartfelt gratitude for his decades of devotion. In his honour, Dr Jacobsohn established the Grassroots Owen-Smith Community Ranger Awards (GOSCARs) to recognise dedicated community rangers whose work is an extension of Garth's contribution to community conservation.

CHRIS WEAVER

Chris arrived in 1993 and had his first memorable trip with Garth to what was then the Caprivi Region (now the Zambezi Region). This trip was an eye-opener, as he witnessed first-hand how a strong leader – Chief Moraliswani of Salambala – played a critical role in establishing this communal conservancy. Chris was a strong proponent of community-based natural resource management even before arriving in Namibia, but his experiences in the field were key to his understanding of and passion for the Namibian CBNRM programme.

Chris had been brought in to run the USAID-funded Living in a Finite Environment (LIFE) project that was run jointly between WWF and the then Ministry of Environment and Tourism (now MEFT). LIFE would go on to provide support for IRDNC and other partners in the CBNRM programme for 15 years, during which time the first conservancies would be gazetted.

One of the key aspects of Chris' work was to create links between Namibia and the rest of the world – not only for fund raising purposes, but also to raise the profile of the programme and share the lessons learned in Namibia with other countries. He frequently led international visitors on tours through the conservancies, thus enabling the people on the ground to share their experiences with a global audience. While Chris would provide information to his guests whenever necessary, he purposefully stepped into the background to promote Namibian voices and perspectives.

When Chris retired from his position as Director of WWF in Namibia, tributes poured in from all quarters. Staff

members expressed gratitude for his leadership, which included a real interest in their lives and careers, his open-door policy to listen to their difficulties and provide advice, and creating space for them to innovate within their respective roles. His outstanding work ethic and dedication to CBNRM inspired his team to give their best efforts, while his sense of humour and compassion created a comfortable working environment.

Those outside WWF who worked with Chris applauded his skills as a facilitator, effective fundraiser and visionary. His influence was felt throughout the WWF network and beyond, particularly in the field of CBNRM. In Namibia, Chris was acutely aware of the need to build local capacity and leadership, so he was ever willing to provide mentorship and advice to those outside his organisation. He was closely involved with the establishment of the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN), which is tasked with ensuring the long-term sustainability of the CBNRM programme.

THE LEGACY OF GARTH AND CHRIS

Although the shoes of these two conservation icons are difficult to fill, they both devoted much of their time to ensuring that the CBNRM programme would continue long after they left it. Having watched the CBNRM programme grow from its infancy, they made great efforts to ensure that it would reach maturity. The future of the programme now lies with the next generation who can take inspiration from the passion and dedication exhibited by Garth Owen-Smith and Chris Weaver.

They shared a strong desire to develop the capacity and leadership skills of the people around them.



FACTS AND FIGURES

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AT A GLANCE

At the end of 2020 there were...

86 registered conservancies and one community association

43 registered community forests

10 community fish reserves in 6 conservancies

19 tourism concessions in national parks and other state land held by **23** conservancies (some concessions are shared by multiple conservancies)

83 conservancies and one association using the **Event Book monitoring tool**

54 conservancies conducting annual game counts

50 conservancies with a game management and utilisation plan

45 conservancies with a zonation plan

763 game guards and resource monitors

50 conservancy management plans in place

45 conservancies with conservation hunting concessions

38 conservancies directly involved in tourism activities

26 sustainable business and financial plans in place

30 annual financial reports presented at AGMs

32 annual general meetings held

16% female chairpersons

45% female treasurers/financial managers

34% female management committee members

23% female staff members

64 joint-venture tourism enterprises with

902 full time and **62** part time employees

45 conservation hunting concessions with

109 full time and **25** part time employees

14 small/medium enterprises with

16 full time and part time employees

1057 conservancy employees

954 conservancy representatives receiving allowances

730 indigenous plant product harvesters and

15 craft producers

... in communal conservancies in Namibia

The tourism and hunting operators are those that have signed agreements with conservancies, due to COVID, not all of these would have been able to pay according to their contracts. Many of the employees and plant harvesters were paid through COVID relief grants from the CRRRF

WHAT'S BEING ACHIEVED Community conservation

Covers

180,083 km²

which is about

58.7% of all communal land,

with an estimated

233,100 residents

(6,800 residents supported by the Kyaramacan Association live in Bwabwata National Park)

Of this area, conservancies manage **166,179 km²** which comprises **20.2%** of Namibia

3M registered community forests cover, **85,192 km²** 84% of which overlaps with conservancies

Namibia's elephant population grew from around

7,600 to around

23,600

between 1995 and 2016 according to aerial survey data*

Namibia has the

largest free-roaming

population of **black rhinos in the world**

From the beginning of **1990**

to the end of **2020**,

community conservation contributed an estimated

N\$ 10.753 billion

to Namibia's net national income

Community conservation facilitated

3870 jobs in 2020

57 conservancies hosted a total of

145 enterprises based on natural resources**

Conservancy residents earned a total cash income of

N\$ 56,005,079

from enterprise wages, of which:

N\$ 29,684,336 was from joint-venture tourism

N\$ 23,318,976 from conservancies

N\$ 2,976,117 from conservation hunting

N\$ 25,650 from SMEs

Residents received

272,419 kg of game meat from hunting

Conservancies generated total cash income and in-kind benefits to rural communities of

N\$ 96,300,178

in 2020 of this

Conservation hunting generated **N\$ 31,634,430**

with a meat value of **N\$ 7,829,865**

Tourism generated **N\$ 47,400,635**

Indigenous plant products generated **N\$ 1,482,160**

and **miscellaneous income** (including interest) generated **N\$ 1,944,569**

Due to **COVID-19**, conservancies received **N\$ 13,838,384** in emergency support grants

Conservancy residents earned a total cash income of:

N\$ 159,132

from indigenous plants

N\$ 29,250

from crafts

N\$ 11,889,143

in cash benefits was distributed to conservancy residents and used to support community projects

*Craig, Gibson and Uiseb (2021) Namibia's elephants – population, distribution and trends. Pachyderm 62:35-52.

**Many of these enterprises would have been inactive during most of 2020 due to COVID-19



THE TERMINOLOGY OF INCOME, BENEFITS AND RETURNS

For clarity, the following terms are consistently used in this report:

INCOME - indicates cash income received as payment for goods or services, either by organisations or individuals

BENEFITS - indicates benefits distributed by a conservancy as dividends or social benefits, or by the private sector as fringe benefits and donations; these go to communities or individual households and can be divided into three types:

- Cash benefits are dividends paid to conservancy members from conservancy income
- In-kind benefits include meat distribution and fringe benefits from tourism employment such as staff housing, etc.
- Social benefits are investments in community initiatives including education facilities, health services, etc.

RETURNS - combine income and benefits and indicate overall returns, either to individuals, communities or conservancies.



CBNRM AND THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the CBNRM programme contributed half of its 2019 contribution (estimated N\$ 983 million) to the Namibian economy during 2020 (estimated N\$ 488 million, Figure 2). The programme nonetheless has made a cumulative contribution of N\$ 10.8 billion during the last 30 years. This contribution is 3.7 times greater than the cumulative investment into the programme through donors and support organisations, which is estimated at N\$ 2.9 billion. The estimated economic rate of return for the programme since 1990 is 18% (Table 1). The NNI contribution is estimated by taking into account the multiplier effects of international visitors (tourists and hunters) visiting Namibian communal conservancies.

Multiplier effects of industries related to CBNRM include:

- Airlines, hotels and car rental companies;
- Private sector tourism and hunting operations related to conservancies;
- Rental and taxes;
- Further spending generated by the additional income above.

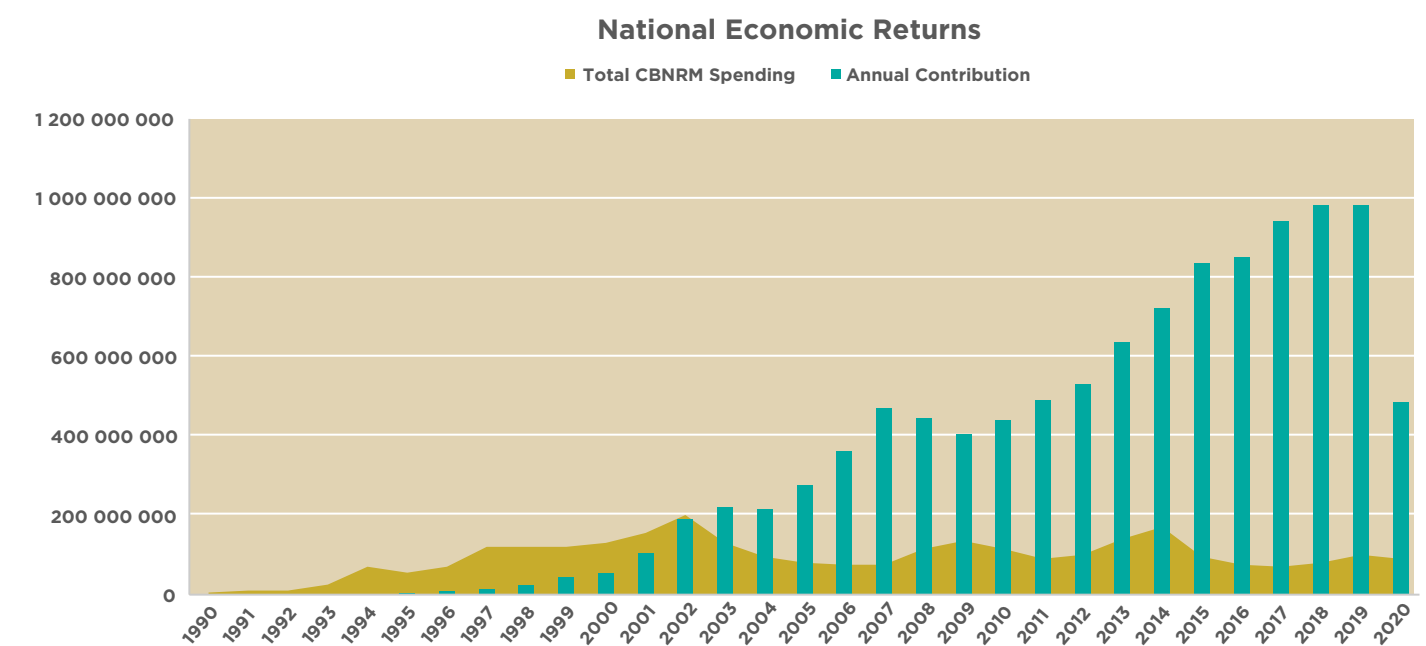


Figure 2. Estimates of the national economic returns from CBNRM compared to economic investment costs.

*Figures have been adjusted for inflation to be equivalent to the value of Namibia dollars in 2020. This means they are not directly comparable with those used in the 2019 Community Conservation Report, which used figures equivalent to the value of Namibian dollars in that year.



Investment into the CBNRM program has helped considerably in putting conservation and economic benefits in place.

Investment in the conservancy programme started before the first conservancies were officially gazetted in 1996, as community game guards were being trained and the communities mobilised around the concept of CBNRM. Investment was higher than economic returns until 2002, when the programme broke even (Figure 2). The economic returns stood at N\$ 488 million in 2020, cumulatively contributing N\$ 10,753 billion to the economy since 1990, which is 3.7 times greater than cumulative investment in the programme.

Table 1. The Economic Efficiency of CBNRM. Since 1990, the programme has had an economic internal rate of return of 18% and has earned an economic net present value of just over N\$ 1.6 billion. This is an exceptional economic return for a programme investment.

YEARS OF INVESTMENT	ECONOMIC RATE OF RETURN	NET PRESENT VALUE (N\$)
18	9%	113,949,292
20	12%	293,843,779
22	14%	517,907,418
24	15%	769,052,441
26	17%	1,093,296,790
28	18%	1,429,937,851
30	18%	1,648,686,251

Besides the monetary value of the programme, wildlife itself has a tangible value (minimally, as meat). Accurate population estimates for all species are difficult to determine, but we do know that wildlife numbers have increased since 1990, although drought conditions in the north-west have led to recent wildlife declines (Figure 16). The ecosystem services provided by plants and animals that are managed through CBNRM are also difficult to calculate in monetary terms, but these are nonetheless substantial contributions nationally and globally. The economic figures presented in Figure 2 and Table 1 indicate the more easily measurable impact of CBNRM only and therefore represent a partial estimate of its true positive impact.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Namibia's fifth National Development Plan consists of four pillars. Community conservation makes a significant contribution to each of these pillars in the following ways.

ECONOMIC PROGRESSION

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION:

-  generates **cash** and **in-kind benefits** to conservancies and members
-  promotes **economic development** and **poverty reduction** through livelihood diversification and private sector partnerships
-  facilitates **new jobs** and **income opportunities** in rural areas, especially within the tourism, hunting, natural plant products and craft sectors

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION:

-  promotes **gender equality** and the **empowerment of women** through equal access to employment and governance, resources and economic opportunities
-  increases household **food security** and reduces malnutrition through livelihood diversification and the provision of game meat
-  promotes **cultural pride** and the conservation of **cultural heritage** through responsible tourism and the development of living museums and other cultural tourism activities

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION:

-  makes **significant contributions** to environmental conservation, funded through tourism and conservation hunting income
-  promotes **equal access** to natural resources through formal management structures and participatory processes
-  encourages a **sense of ownership** over natural resources and responsibility for development
-  facilitates the **reduction** and **reversal** of **land degradation** and deforestation through mandated, structured and sustainable natural resource management
-  facilitates **integrated land-use planning** through formal management structures and collaboration with other community, government and private sector stakeholders
-  promotes **sustainable practices** and **increases agricultural productivity** through land-use diversification, structured and sustainable management, and activities such as conservation agriculture and community rangeland management

GOVERNANCE

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION:

-  promotes **democracy** in rural areas through community participation and democratic election of office bearers
-  emphasises **accountability, transparency** and **good governance** through performance monitoring and evaluation
-  emphasises the **equitable distribution** of returns
-  enables significant **capacity enhancement** through on-going training in governance, natural resource management and business, as well as in-service training in the private sector

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION GOVERNANCE



A REVIEW OF 2020



MAINTAINING GOVERNANCE STANDARDS

Community conservation is an inherently social and democratic endeavour, which requires good communication between the members, their elected representatives, and those employed to run the operations. In normal years, this would include holding an Annual General Meeting (AGM), distributing benefits according to a Benefit Distribution Plan (BDP), reporting on the use of wildlife as per a Game Management Utilisation Plan (GMUP) and producing accurate financial reports. Conservancy Management Committees (CMCs) must also be elected every few years according to each conservancy's constitution.

In early 2020, all of these activities were possible, but as restrictions relating to public gatherings tightened in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, AGMs that required a large quorum to take place were no longer possible. In conservancies where CMC elections were due, these had to be postponed. Furthermore, financial and movement restrictions greatly limited benefit distribution this year. Because conservancies were still hunting and receiving income from COVID relief grants, they were expected to comply with financial reporting requirements and game utilisation reporting regulations stipulated by MEFT.

Surprisingly, 19 conservancies managed to meet all of the compliance requirements of a normal year (dark green in Figure 3), either by holding their AGMs early in the year, or when restrictions eased enough to reach a small quorum (conservancies with fewer members have relatively small quorum requirements). Fifty conservancies met the two minimum compliance requirements for 2020 (game utilisation report and financial statement submitted, Figure 3). Some conservancies adapted to the public gathering restrictions by holding smaller meetings at village or block level to keep their members informed of the conservancy's activities.

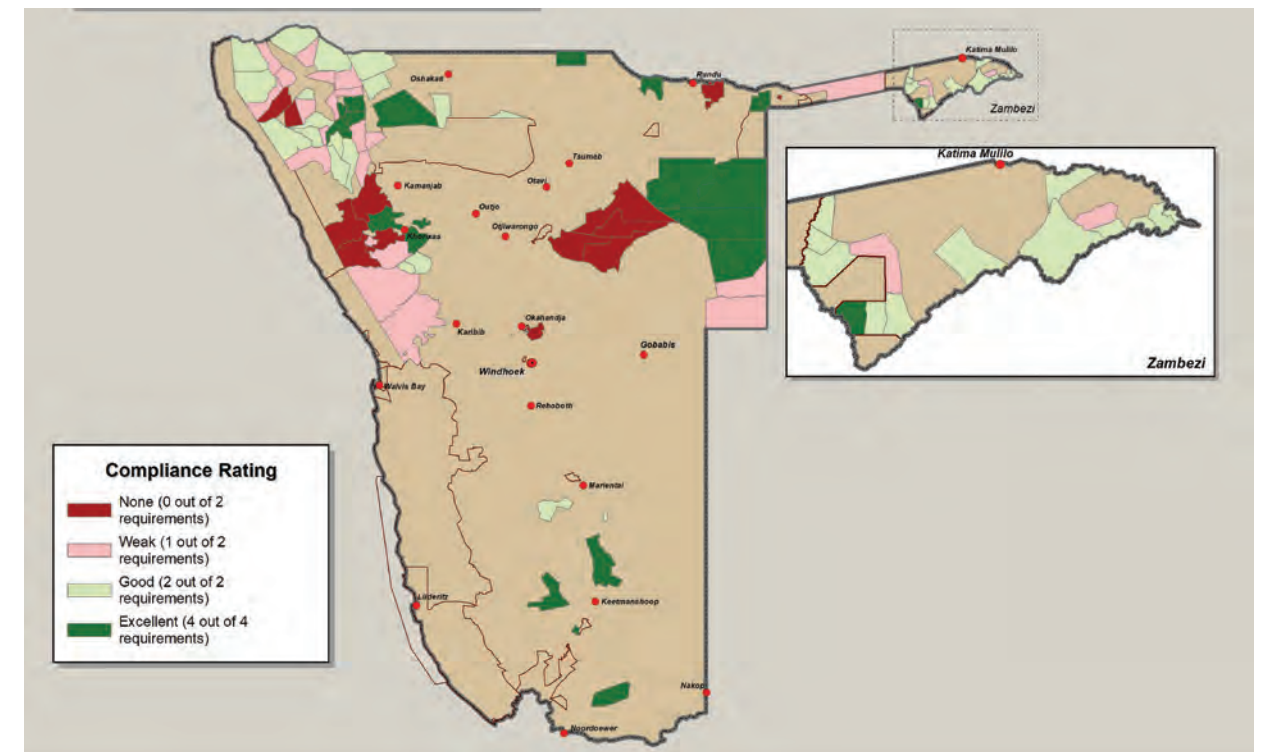


Figure 3. The institutional compliance of conservancies was measured by two (financial reporting and game management and use reporting), rather than the usual four (the above two plus holding AGMs and presenting benefit distribution plans), metrics during 2020. AGMs and benefit distribution were not possible for many conservancies due to COVID-19 restrictions. Nonetheless, 19 conservancies complied with the usual four requirements despite COVID.

Besides monitoring compliance, conservancy support entities evaluate the conservancies they work with on other governance metrics (e.g. member engagement, accountability, see Figure 4). These results (Figure 4) reveal that several conservancies were rated as “poor” this year, which is a regression from 2019 when they were rated as “weak” or “moderate”. While some of these changes may be due to the pandemic and its related impacts of social and financial hardship, more attention must be paid to these underperforming conservancies.

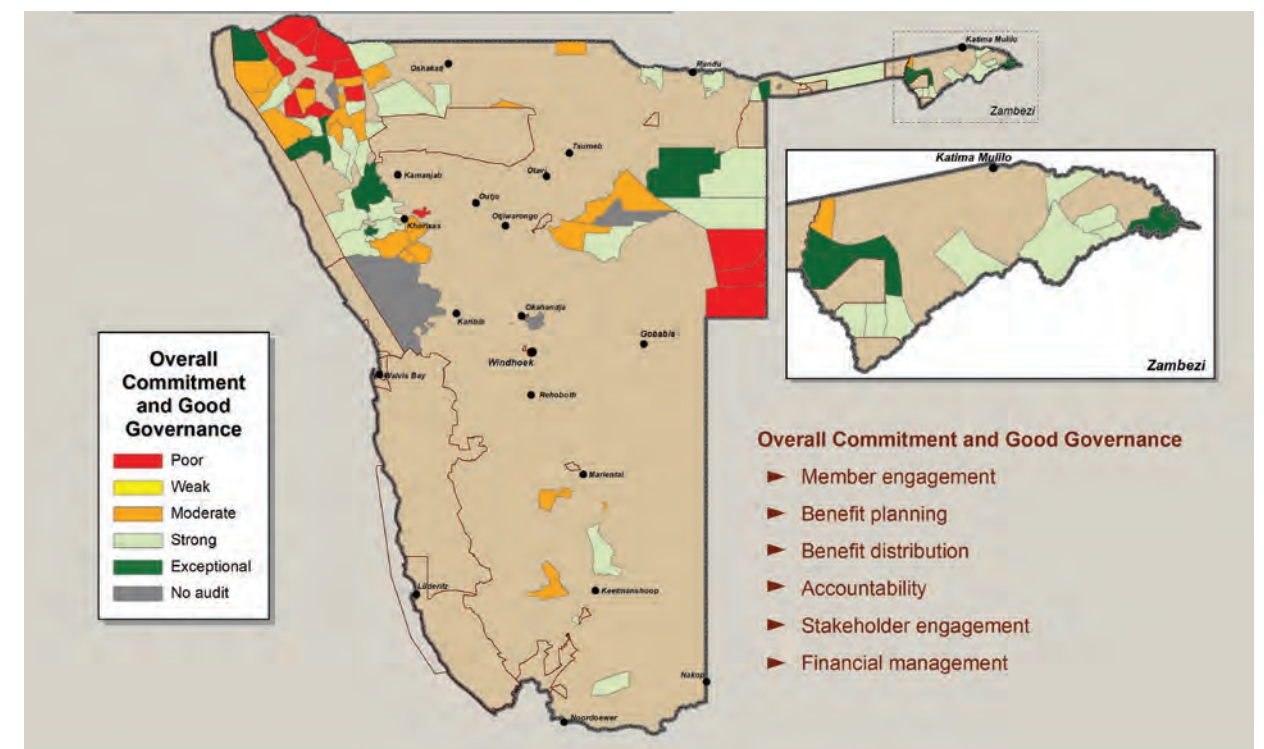
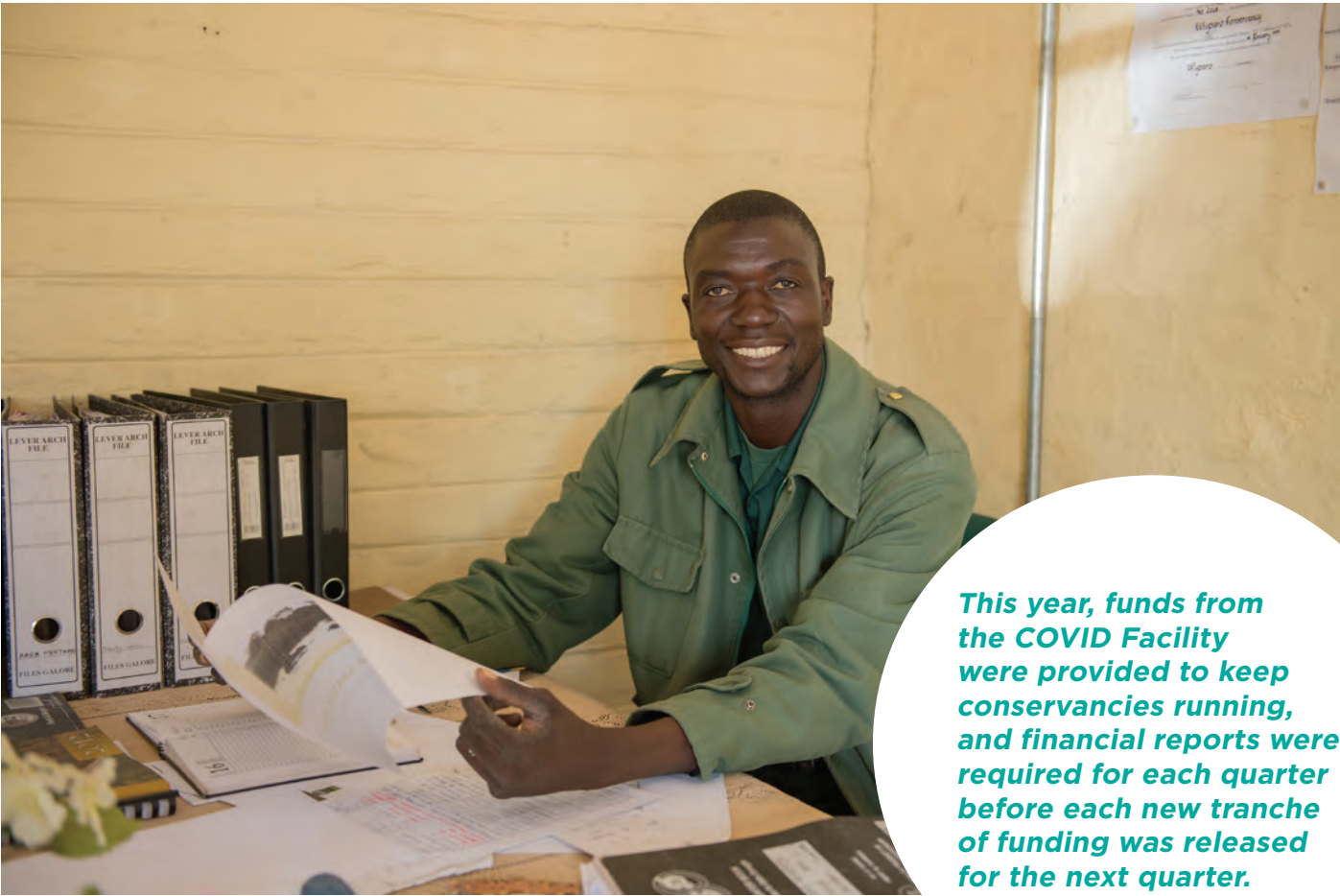


Figure 4. The aggregate results of the governance performance review, which included specific questions on member engagement, benefit planning and distribution, accountability, engagement with other stakeholders (e.g. joint venture partners) and financial management.



This year, funds from the COVID Facility were provided to keep conservancies running, and financial reports were required for each quarter before each new tranche of funding was released for the next quarter.

IMPROVING FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Institutional Development Working Group (IDWG), which comprises members of NACSO and MEFT staff, continue to support good governance practices within communal conservancies through training and performance tracking. This year, funds from the CRRRF were provided to keep conservancies running, and financial reports were required for each quarter before each new tranche of funding was released for the next quarter. This tightened financial reporting for this year, which resulted in less unaccounted funds than in other years where only annual reports are required.

Lessons learned during 2020 were therefore taken into 2021, whereby more frequent financial reporting will be required for funds from all sources. The on-going support for financial reporting (known as “dripping tap” support) within conservancies has borne some fruit by reducing financial mismanagement. This support includes improving the bookkeeping skills of conservancy administrators and oversight capacity among elected treasurers. Nonetheless, more can be done to improve this aspect of governance by working at regional rather than national levels.

In 2020, the IDWG reached out to MEFT and other colleagues who work at regional levels to get a better understanding of why some conservancies regularly fail to meet the financial reporting standards. Each regional team was tasked with creating an action plan to work with underperforming conservancies to improve their financial reporting standards.

The information from regional MEFT and NGO staff provided a useful starting point for determining where the weaknesses lie in the support provided to conservancies. The current tools for assessing governance performance, which includes monitoring compliance and a questionnaire filled in by relevant support organisations are also being reviewed to ensure that these are accurate reflections of the governance status of each conservancy. The next step will be to aggregate the information from the regional to the national level and hold a think tank meeting on the way forward to provide better long-term support for this crucial part of the CBNRM programme.

GOVERNANCE INDICATORS AND GENDER BALANCE

This year, just over half of the conservancies were able to cover their operational costs (Table 2), although 72% distributed some kind of benefits to their members (this includes meat from hunting). Only 40% of the reporting conservancies held their AGMs, due to COVID restrictions on public gathering. Only a third of the conservancies have sustainable business and financial plans, which is a concern for the remaining two-thirds of conservancies that could be addressed as part of the COVID recovery plan.

Table 2. Governance indicators for 86 conservancies and the Kyaramacan Association. Number of conservancies are those that fall into the category (e.g. are covering operational costs) and conservancies reporting are those that have provided data for that category.

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF CONSERVANCIES	CONSERVANCIES REPORTING	PERCENTAGE OF CATEGORY
Registered conservancies (incl. Kyaramacan assoc.)	87	87	100
Conservancies generating returns (excluding grant income)	62	87	71
> covering operational costs from own income	35	67	52
> distributing cash or in-kind benefits to members, or investing in community projects	48	67	72
Conservancies with management plans	50	80	63
> sustainable business and financial plans	26	80	33
Conservancy AGMs held	32	80	40
> financial reports presented at AGM	30	80	38
> financial reports approved at AGM	29	80	36
> budgets approved at AGM	29	80	36

Women leadership in conservancies has increased slightly from last year, with 16% of 80 reporting conservancies being led by female chairpersons. A third of the committee members are women and nearly half (45%) of the treasurers and financial managers are women. This latter figure shows that women are trusted with the important task of working with conservancy finances. Less than a quarter of conservancy staff members are female, however, which is likely due to a bias towards male game guards (Table 3).

Table 3. Gender balance within conservancy structures for 80 reporting conservancies. The percentage of category is the proportion of females out of the total number of people in that category (e.g. 324 female committee members out of 954 total committee members).

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	CONSERVANCIES REPORTING	PERCENTAGE OF CATEGORY
Conservancy management committee members	954	80	100
> female management committee members	324	80	34
> female chairpersons	13	80	16
> female treasurers/financial managers	36	80	45
Conservancy staff members	1057	80	100
female staff members	247	80	23



THE NAMIBIAN RURAL WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY

In 2009, ten women were supported by the Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU) to attend a meeting in South Africa where they heard about the Rural Women's Assembly that operates in 11 countries within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). At that meeting, the Namibian delegation decided to establish the Namibian Rural Women's Assembly (NRWA) that would be a national chapter of the larger regional RWA.

Since then, NRWA members have represented Namibian rural women at summits and conferences throughout Africa, implemented a Rural Women Empowerment Project in Namibia, and created awareness around issues such as land reform and Gender-based Violence. To further grow the influence and capacity of NRWA, it was established as a Trust

in 2020 after holding its first national conference and electing 12 members to the NRWA committee.

Formalisation will increase funding opportunities and ensure that the NRWA becomes a recognised stakeholder on issues that affect its members. The Namibia Development Trust (NDT) provided technical assistance for the NRWA prior to formal establishment, while the NACSO IDWG has recently come on board as a partner. They are seeking to use these and other institutional linkages to develop their own capacity and increase funding available for training and support of their members.

A defining feature of RWA's throughout SADC is that they are self-organised and driven by grassroots associations and alliances within their respective

countries. The NRWA operates in all 14 regions of Namibia, and those regions that are able to attract over 200 members become chapters of the NRWA. By the end of 2020, four regions had established chapters and six more were soon to follow. The broad membership base and widespread operations ensure that issues raised by rural women from all parts of Namibia can be brought to attention at national and international levels.

According to their mission statement, the NRWA exists to mobilise and empower rural women through advocacy, lobbying and networking. They made great strides towards this goal during 2020, despite the COVID-19 restrictions on travel and public gatherings. The advocacy issues they have identified include: land ownership, child marriages, discrimination, GBV, teenage pregnancies, food security, human-wildlife conflict and the impacts of climate change on women, among others. NRWA sensitises their members on these issues and works with government and other civil society organisations to find ways to address these challenges.

Food security is an on-going problem for many rural women, and the impact of COVID-19 and related economic woes have worsened the situation. NRWA therefore carried out an assessment of the food security situation in Namibia towards the end of December 2020 in preparation for a one-day conference with the theme: "Unlocking Opportunities for Improved Household Food Security". Representatives of 11 key stakeholders in the food production sector were invited to give presentations to 100 NRWA members during this conference. Those present were therefore able to identify opportunities for rural women to access technical, financial or in-kind assistance to improve their food security.

Besides capacity building and advocacy, NRWA opens the door for practical assistance to rural women. One of the steering committee members used the training she received in hydroponic fodder production (funded by Food and Agriculture Organisation) to train 50 more farmers in the Erongo Region. The Erongo chapter of NRWA further received a donation of seed worth N\$ 5,000 from the NNFU, which was given to 62 women from the Okapere Rural Women Gardening Project. In the Kunene Region, 50 hectares of land was donated by the Daure Daman Traditional Authority to women in the Sorris-Sorris Conservancy to be used as a vegetable garden.

Since its formalisation, the NRWA is now in a position to take off. This institution filled an important vacuum within the Namibian civil society sector, as there was no other organisation focusing specifically on the problems faced by rural women. As the NRWA grows in membership and influence, rural women will be able to present their challenges to policy-makers, donors and other partners. This strong network will further help women to share their knowledge and experiences with each other, thus developing resilience and strength within their communities.



Hon. Bernadette Jagger and Senior Traditional Councillor Chief Hanna Awaras handed over 50 hectares of land to the rural women of Sorris-Sorris Conservancy



GOVERNANCE OF COMMUNITY FORESTS

A community forest is declared under the Forest Act of 2001 based on a forest management agreement between the community and the Ministry (formerly the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, but now the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism). The Directorate of Forestry is mandated to support communities that want to establish community forests, ensure that they comply with legal requirements once established, and to monitor their performance over time. Traditional Authorities (TAs) and Communal Land Boards are key stakeholders that community forests must engage, since the rights granted to a community forest overlap with the powers granted to TAs and Land Boards.

In terms of governance, Standard Operating Procedures exist to maintain a standard of operations for community forests throughout Namibia (Figure 5). Each community forest must have a constitution and an elected management authority, which functions in the same way as a conservancy management committee. The Forest Management Plan (FMP) lays out how the forest resources will be used sustainably both by members of the community forest and non-members (provided the latter pay for a permit). Annual General Meetings are held to approve a budget that includes a Benefit Distribution Plan and the presentation of annual financial statements.

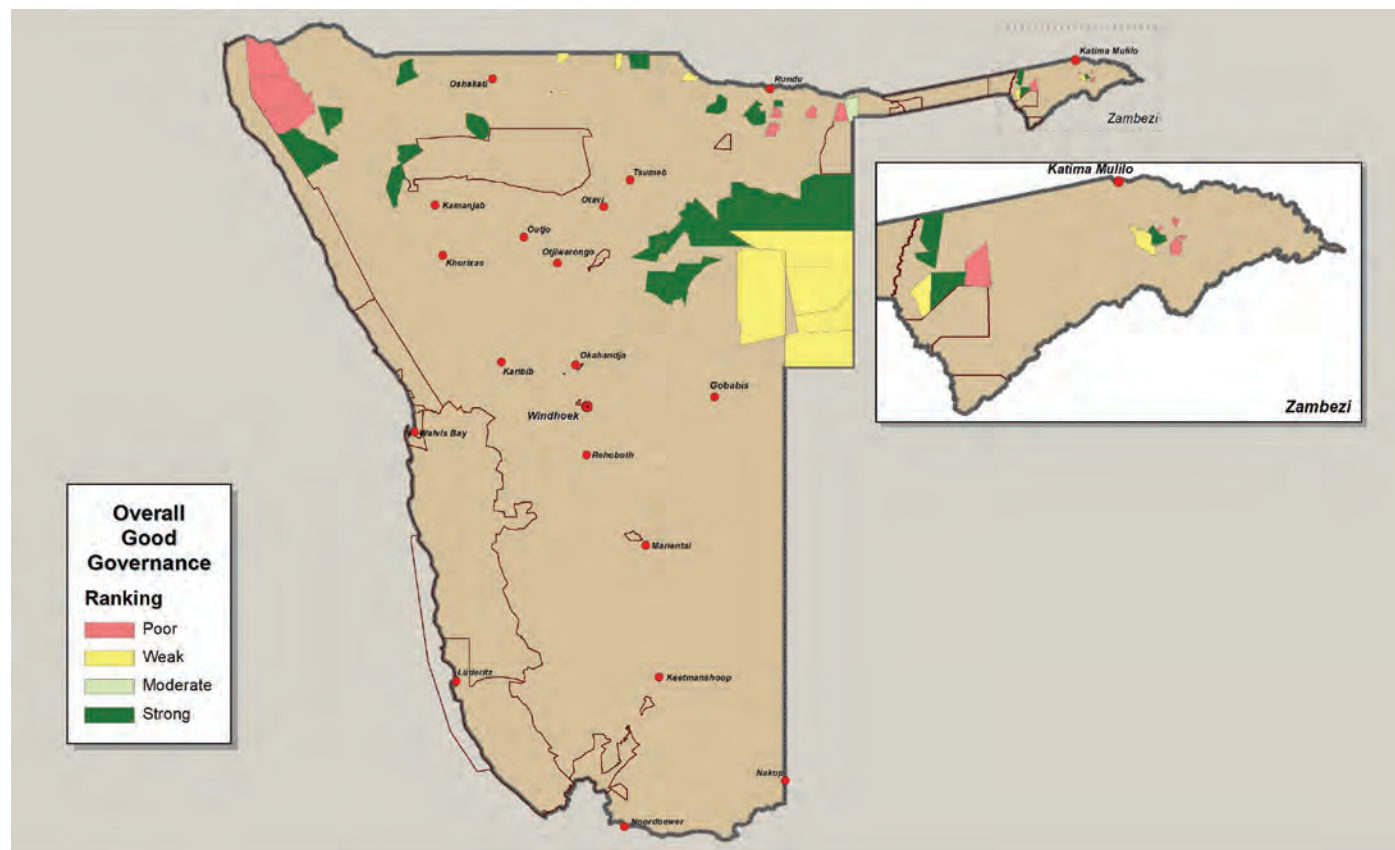


Figure 5. Governance in community forests. The standard of governance in community forests is measured following Standard Operating Procedures provided by the Directorate of Forestry. These include electing a forest management authority, holding AGMs, having a Forest Management Plan and Benefit Distribution Plan in place.

Conservancies and community forests can overlap extensively or entirely, which gives the community living in those areas rights to use both wildlife and plant resources for their benefit. In cases where the boundaries of the conservancy and the community forest match, the conservancy committee doubles as the forest management authority and the management plans are integrated into one overall plan (with one chapter for the FMP and one for the GMUP) and governance activities like AGMs are done jointly. Each entity nonetheless maintains its own constitution, although these are closely aligned (e.g. definition of membership are the same).

Riverine communities have rights over fish resources in line with the CBNRM policy and Inland Fisheries Resources Act.



GOVERNANCE OF COMMUNITY FISHERIES RESERVES

Following the Inland Fisheries Resources Act No 1 of 2003, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) can declare a section of a river as a community fisheries reserve. Before a reserve proposal is submitted to the Minister, the community that wants the reserve must prepare several key documents and obtain approval from the relevant Traditional Authority and Regional Governor. Upon declaration, a locally elected Inland Fisheries Committee (IFC) is granted the power to monitor and regulate fishing practices on behalf of their community. Where fisheries reserves are established within conservancies, the Conservancy Management Committee could also function as the Inland Fisheries Committee (IFC).

Each fisheries reserve must have a constitution that determines how the reserve will be managed, its objectives, and the powers of the IFC. Although the main purpose of establishing a fisheries reserve is to protect a valuable resource for subsistence use, some reserves may generate income by entering agreements with tourism operators that wish to offer catch-and-release fishing as an activity. In cases where income generation is likely, the reserve must have its own account and budget (linked with a benefit distribution plan), while financial statements should be reported at AGMs.

The fisheries reserve management plan outlines the specific areas on the river that are designated as reserves and the rules and regulations pertaining to fishing in the reserve. Each community may decide how strict these laws should be (as long as they are in line with Namibian law) and what kind of fishing equipment is allowed. For example, all fishing (regardless of equipment used) could

be banned within the reserve all year round or seasonally, or some fishing could be permitted within certain limits.

The key staff members in a fisheries reserve are fish guards and monitors. Fish guards are delegated power from MFMR to stop and board fishing boats when they suspect illegal fishing, seize boats or gear that have been used for this purpose, or seize any fish that are caught illegally. The task of fish monitors is to record legal catches made by local fishers on a regular basis to keep track of fish stocks. Reports from fish guards and monitors on their patrols and data collection should be provided regularly at community meetings to evaluate whether or not the reserve is achieving its objectives.

GOVERNANCE MILESTONES

The following governance milestones must be met before a fisheries reserve can be formally declared:

- Meetings held with community members and external stakeholders to gauge interest in establishing a fisheries reserve
- Inland Fisheries Committee elected by the community
- Proposed boundaries of reserve demarcated and mapped with a GPS
- Constitution developed and signed
- Fish guards and monitors appointed
- Reserve management plan developed

VOICES FROM THE FIELD:

CONSERVANCY MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Conservancies employ a variety of different officials to manage their day-to-day operations. The most critical employee is the manager who is responsible for all running operations. In larger conservancies or those with many activities, there are other Officers that oversee different aspects of the conservancy (e.g. Field Officers oversee game guards, Enterprise Officers oversee conservancy livelihood projects).

Each conservancy has an elected Management Committee, which comprises a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer, Vice-Treasurer, Secretary and Vice-Secretary, plus other committee members provided for in the constitution. Committee members offer their time and skills to their conservancies to provide oversight to ensure that the staff implement decisions made by conservancy members.

Conservancy officials and committee members from all over Namibia shared some of their thoughts about the work they do, why nature is important and their conservancies' response to COVID-19. They further welcomed international visitors back to Namibia as soon as travel restrictions are lifted.



Smith Shikoto,
Dzoti Conservancy

Smith Shikoto (Dzoti, Manager): "I learn a lot by working with people from different backgrounds and different levels of expertise. I like managing conflict. This is not an easy task but it's good when the job gets done."



Allan Silubanga,
Sobbe Conservancy

Allan Silubanga (Sobbe, Manager): "Being a manager for the conservancy is making a difference in my life because I can support my family and I enjoy my work. I am gaining experience and learning how to better manage and protect our natural resources."



Zita Mwanabwe,
Balyerwa conservancy

Zita Mwanabwe, (Balyerwa, Manager): "Nature is very important to us because we directly and indirectly depend on it for a living. We get meat from wildlife and some income through tourism and employment."



Tania Fisch, Khob !Naub Conservancy

Tania Fisch (Khob !Naub, Vice Treasurer): "We are part of nature, it is important to us because it gives us the resources that takes care of us, and that is why we should also take good care of it. I love being in nature because it allows me to connect with my inner self. Whenever I feel alone and lost, I go out to reflect to help me focus on brighter things."



Fabian Libanda,
Salambala Conservancy

Fabian Libanda (Salambala, Acting Manager): "Nature was created by God and we are custodians of the environment and have to look after it. Without nature there is no wildlife and beautiful trees. We depend on nature for everything."



Lameck Limbo,
Wuparo conservancy

Lameck Limbo (Wuparo, Enterprise Officer): "In this difficult time, let us focus on the broader picture, which is conservation. We need to stand our ground and protect our natural resources."



Victoria Thirion,
//Gamaseb Conservancy

Victoria Thirion (//Gamaseb, Secretary): "The effect of COVID-19 is not that bad on nature, but it has a huge impact on my job. I am unable to arrange meetings and do activities for the conservancy to move forward. I have a very positive feeling towards the future despite what we are currently going through."



Isaac Sililo, Sikunga Conservancy

Isaac Sililo (Sikunga, Field Officer): "The Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF) is very helpful because even though we continued with our work, our salaries were cut, and the Facility funds will be used towards helping with the game guard and staff salaries. If COVID continues this way things will go down so my hope is that we find ways to work around pandemic."



Jerome Mwilima,
Bamunu Conservancy

Jerome Mwilima (Bamunu, Manager): "A meeting was held with all conservancy staff and it was agreed that everyone should continue with their work despite the COVID situation."



Johannes J Schmidt, Huibes conservancy

Johannes Schmidt (Huibes, Secretary): "Namibia is a tourist friendly country. Please visit our conservancy and experience our beautiful landscape, special track routes, wildlife, and unique plants such as the Hoodia. From the Huibes conservancy, we are ready to welcome you back."



Fabian Libanda,
Salambala Conservancy

Fabian Libanda (Salambala, Acting Manager): "The area is well managed by community members who are well educated about conservation management and the benefits of conservation for future generations."



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code to access the full interviews of the conservancy staff quoted here.



IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS



A REVIEW OF 2020



Global travel restrictions and closed borders had a huge impact on the ability of conservancies and their members to generate economic returns.

BUFFERING LIVELIHOODS AGAINST THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

The main sources of returns for communal conservancies relate to international arrivals, either directly or indirectly. Photographic tourism, conservation hunting, and craft industries are all reliant on international customers. Global travel restrictions and closed borders thus had a huge impact on the ability of conservancies and their members to generate economic returns. Consequently, conservancy cash and in-kind benefits nearly halved this year compared to 2019 (Figure 6). The impact would have been much greater without financial assistance from the Conservation Relief, Recovery, and Resilience Facility (CRRRF).

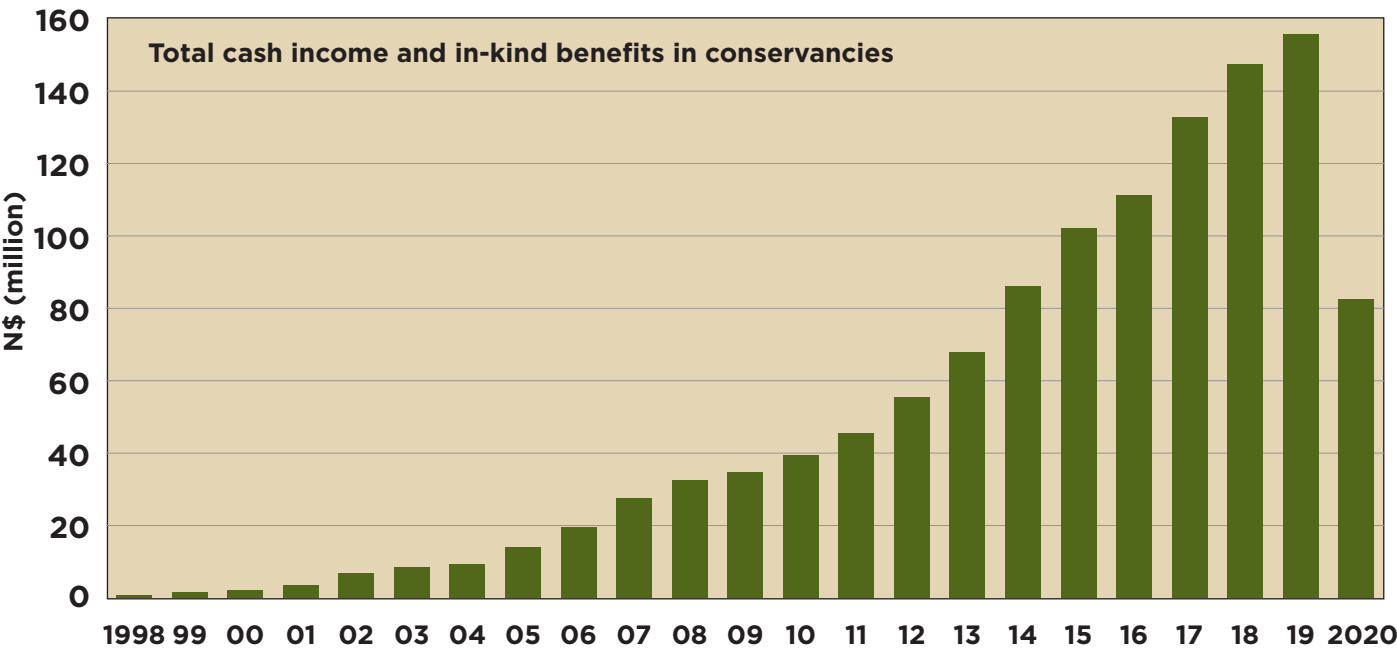


Figure 6. Total returns to conservancies and members excluding relief grants. This includes all directly measurable income and in-kind benefits being generated, and can be divided into cash income to conservancies including the Kyaramacan Association (mostly through partnerships with private sector operators), cash income to residents from enterprises (mostly through employment and the sale of products), and as in-kind benefits to residents (mostly the distribution of harvested game meat).

The number of conservancies earning N\$ 500,000 or more shrank somewhat, although normal levels of income would have been achieved prior to travel restrictions in early 2020 (Figure 7). Several conservancies that had never earned cash income were assisted through the CRRRF this year. The CRRRF thus buffered the impact of the pandemic on conservancy by covering critical costs for employing game guards and other key staff.

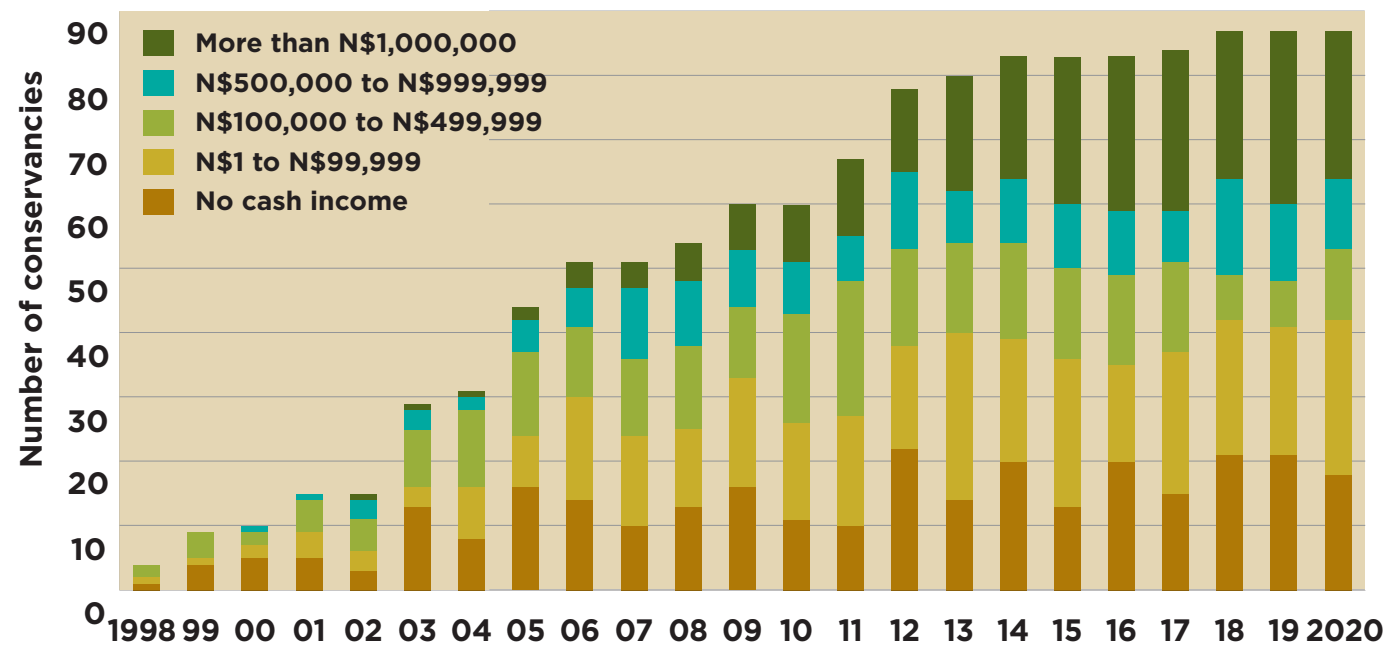


Figure 7. Earning power of conservancies (Including the Kyaramacan Association). The number of conservancies earning cash, divided into incremental categories. The earning potential varies greatly due to factors like size of conservancy, wildlife populations, and location relative to tourist routes. The “no cash income” category includes conservancies for which no financial data has been received for 2020.



LESSONS LEARNED FOR DIVERSIFYING LIVELIHOODS

In 2020, craft sales that rely heavily on tourism dropped by 98%, while the sales of indigenous plant products to other markets dropped by only 31% when compared with 2019 (Table 4). Similarly, community-based tourism enterprises experienced an 88% income drop when compared with 2019.

These comparisons reveal the critical importance of spreading income sources as much as possible to reduce financial risks within the programme. Community enterprises that rely solely on tourism income are the most vulnerable to a downturn in international arrivals, while those that use resources either directly (e.g. game harvesting) or for sale to non-tourist markets (e.g. plant products) were more resilient.

Table 4. Sources of returns to conservancies and their members in 2020. COVID impact is the percentage decline experienced in each category when compared with 2019 figures.

YEAR	CATEGORY	AMOUNT 2020 (N\$)	%	AMOUNT 2019 (N\$)	COVID IMPACT (% DECLINE)
2020	Joint-venture tourism (includes all cash income to conservancies and members)	46 453 579	48.2	93 486 012	50.3
2020	Conservation hunting (includes all cash income and meat to conservancies and members)	26 988 405	28.0	39 480 595	31.6
2020	Game harvesting for meat, conflict animals and live sales	4 646 025	4.8	6 363 201	27.0
2020	Miscellaneous	1 944 569	2.0	1 974 239	0.6
2020	Indigenous Plant Products	1 482 160	1.5	2 155 377	31.2
2020	Community Based Tourism	917 806	1.0	7 569 429	87.9
2020	Crafts	29 250	0.0	1 420 496	97.9
2020	Grants	13 838 384	14.4	N/A	N/A
		96 300 178	100	152 449 349	



The CRRRF buffered the impact of the pandemic on conservancies by covering critical costs for employing game guards and other key staff.



MAINTAINING KEY PARTNERSHIPS IN A PANDEMIC

In some cases, hunting outfitters had paid conservancies before the COVID pandemic reached Namibia in March 2020 for hunts that were yet to be conducted (under the guaranteed section of the quota) and game harvesting continued, thus reducing the financial losses from this sector. While income from wildlife use dropped by about a third, income from joint venture tourism partners crashed by two-thirds (Figure 8a). Overall returns from tourism halved (this includes salaries and other benefits to members), while hunting returns dipped by a third (Figure 8d). Non-monetary (in-kind) benefits to members, which include game meat from hunting and housing in tourism, slumped in both sectors (Figure 8b).

The full impact on joint-venture tourism was reduced through support from the CRRRF. Joint venture partners in photographic tourism are major employers in these rural areas, and as the lockdowns wore on thousands of jobs in this sector were threatened (Figure 8c). Some of the COVID relief funds were therefore directed to support local staff at joint venture lodges to minimise job losses during this time, while other relief funds were used to purchase crafts from women who relied on this source of income prior to the pandemic.

Agreements with all conservancy partners needed amendment once it became clear that international travel restrictions would last too long for recovery during 2020. Both hunting and tourism operations had to adjust their prices to attract more domestic hunters and tourists, which meant that less money was available to pay conservancy fees and employees. These partnerships are nonetheless critical for the post-COVID recovery period, so providing some leeway in the contracts was required to maintain the conservancy-operator partnerships.

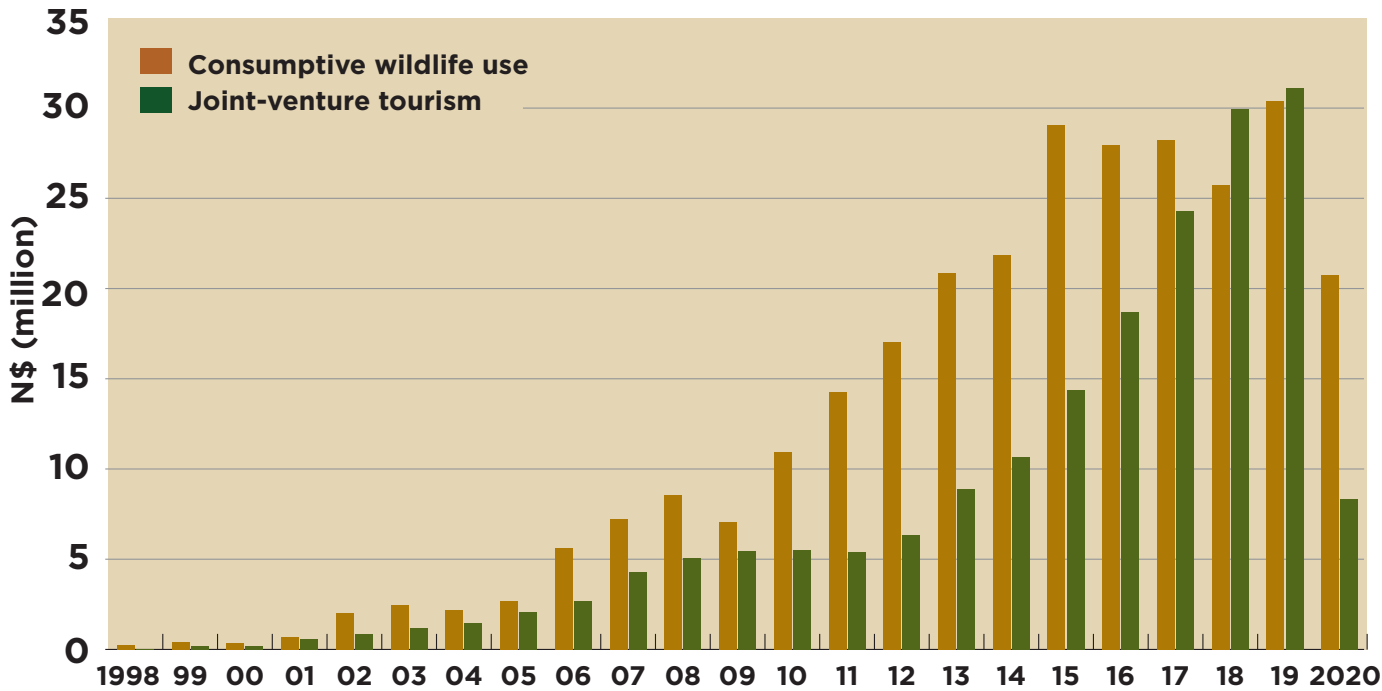


Figure 8a. Total cash payments to conservancies from hunting and tourism joint-venture operators. Cash fees paid from tourism operators dropped precipitously in 2020, while fees from hunting operators declined by a third.

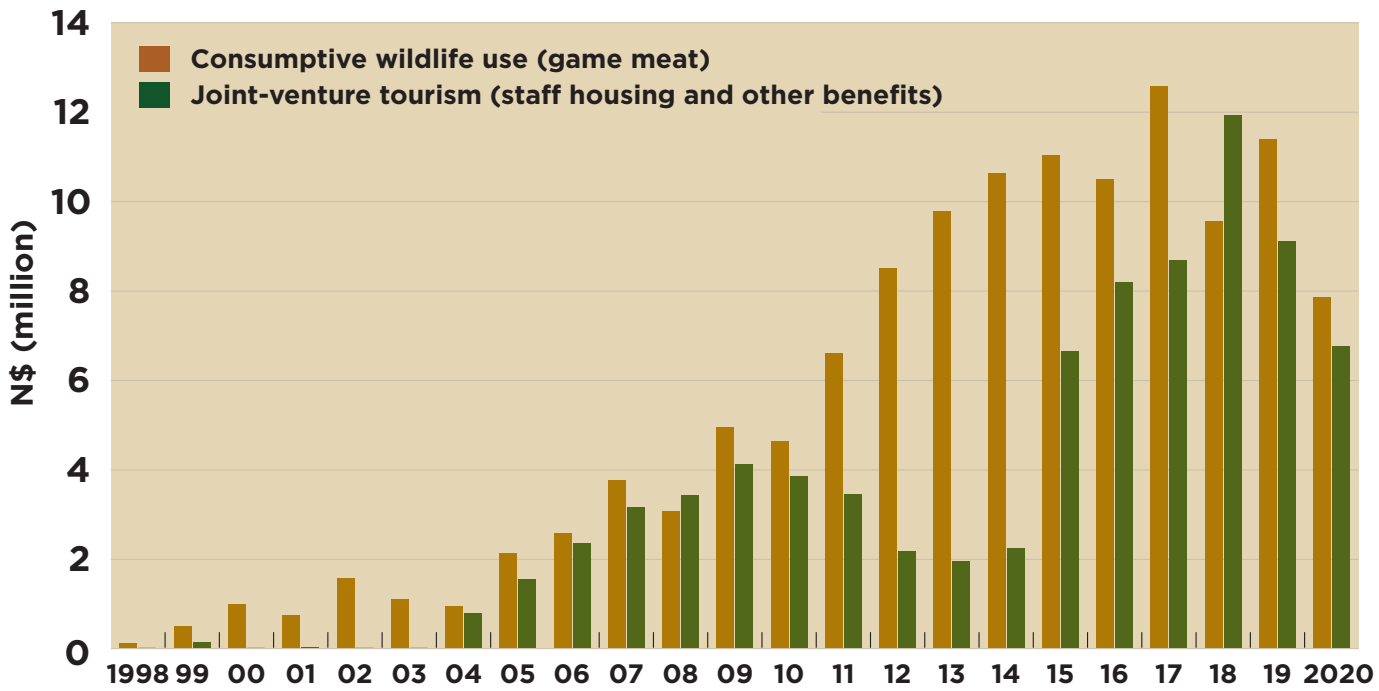


Figure 8b. In-kind benefits to conservancy members from tourism and hunting. Benefits from both sources declined in 2020. Fewer conservation hunts led to less meat for distribution within conservancies, while tourism operators were less able to afford in-kind benefits for their staff.

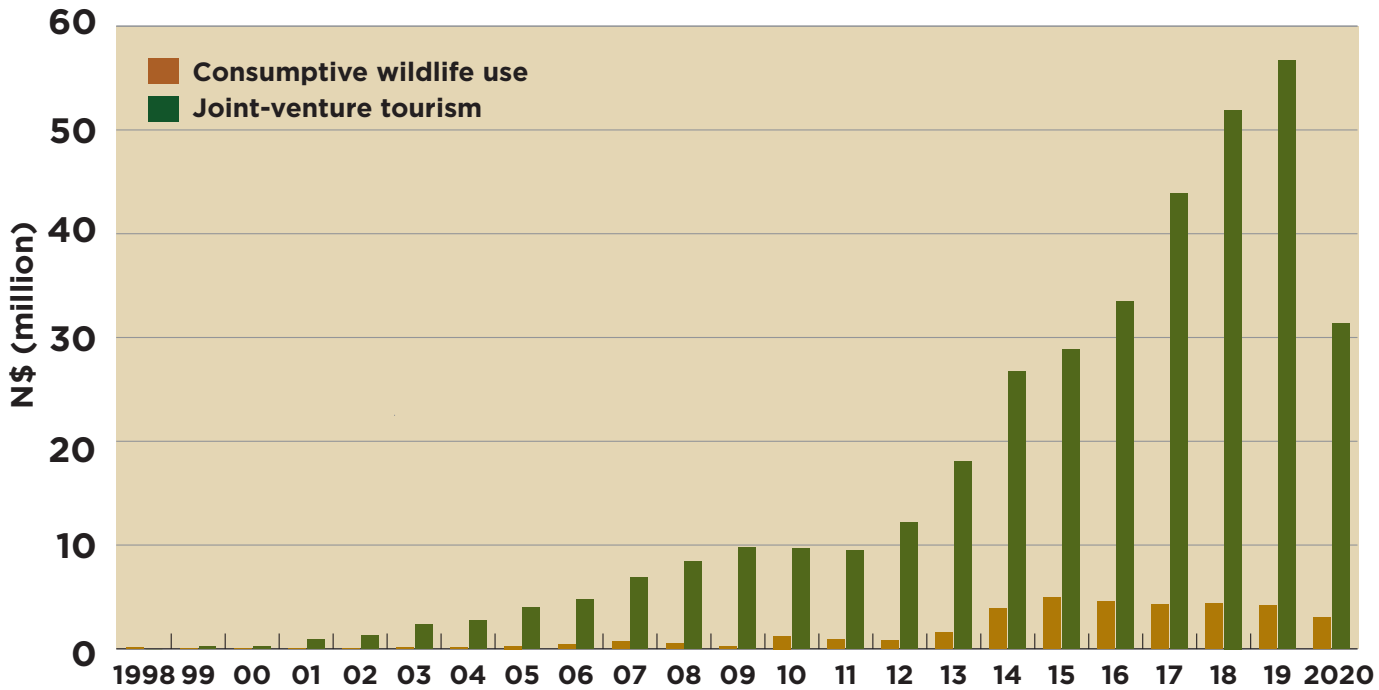


Figure 8c. Payments to conservancy members employed in the tourism and hunting sectors in their conservancies. The decline in tourism due to COVID-19 threatened employment in rural areas, which is a key benefit of this industry. Consequently, some of the CRRRF funding supported salaries for joint-venture employees.

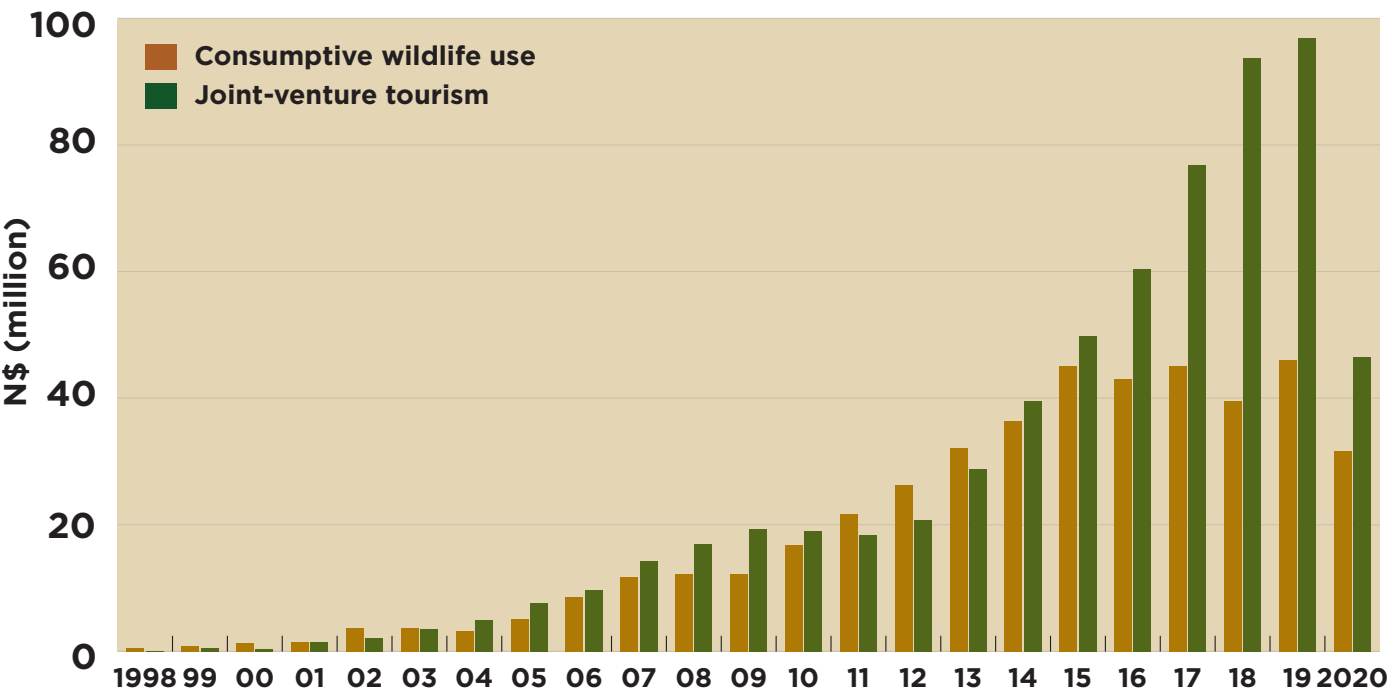


Figure 8d. Total returns generated by communal conservancies and their members from hunting and photographic tourism. Returns from the two sectors dropped in 2020, although the extent of the decline was much greater for tourism than for wildlife use.

Agreements with all conservancy partners needed amendment once it became clear that international travel restrictions would last too long for recovery during 2020.



TOURISM AND HUNTING IN A COVID WORLD

Conservation hunting and photographic tourism were both negatively affected by COVID-19, although hunting to a lesser degree. Income from these industries also flows differently: the conservancy's operating costs are more reliant on hunting fees than tourism fees, while tourism is a major source of employment for conservancy members (Figure 9). Additionally, whereas meat distribution benefits a large number of people who are not necessarily employed, other in-kind benefits from tourism are more limited to lodge staff members. Hunting and photographic tourism are therefore considered to be complementary sources of income and neither industry can fully replace the other.

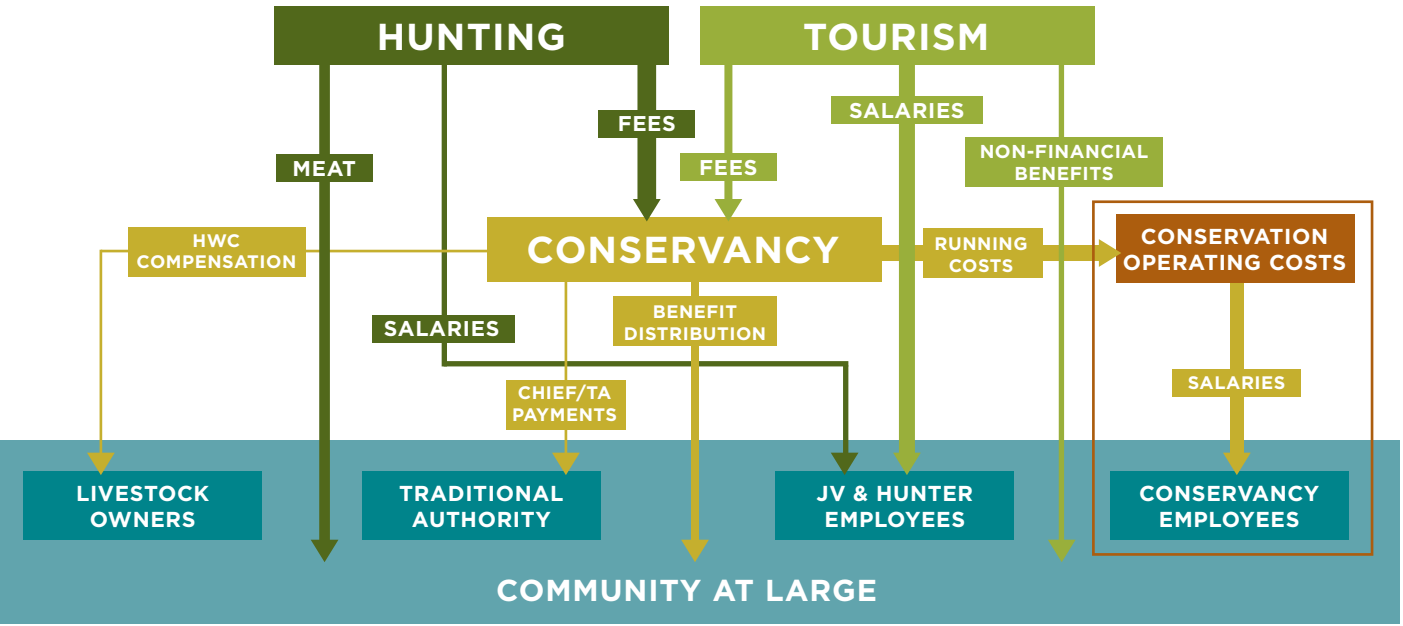


Figure 9. Benefit flows in conservancies. A schematic diagram showing income flows from tourism and conservation hunting to communities. The size of the arrows is in proportion to the size of income flows, based on average figures for conservancies in 2011-2013. Figure adapted from Naidoo et al. (2016). Complementary benefits of tourism and hunting to communal conservancies in Namibia. Conservation Biology. 30:628-638.

International visitors are a high value market for both photographic and hunting operators, and this sector has been the focus of most operators in conservancies in the past. Due to international travel restrictions, many conservancies relied almost entirely on external financial assistance received through the CRRRF (Figure 10a). To buffer future potential impacts, conservancies need to diversify sources of income, and one way to do this is to create more products for the domestic market. Cheaper hunting safaris and discount accommodation rates for Namibian or southern African visitors were required during the lockdown, and more of this kind of tourism might be required in future.

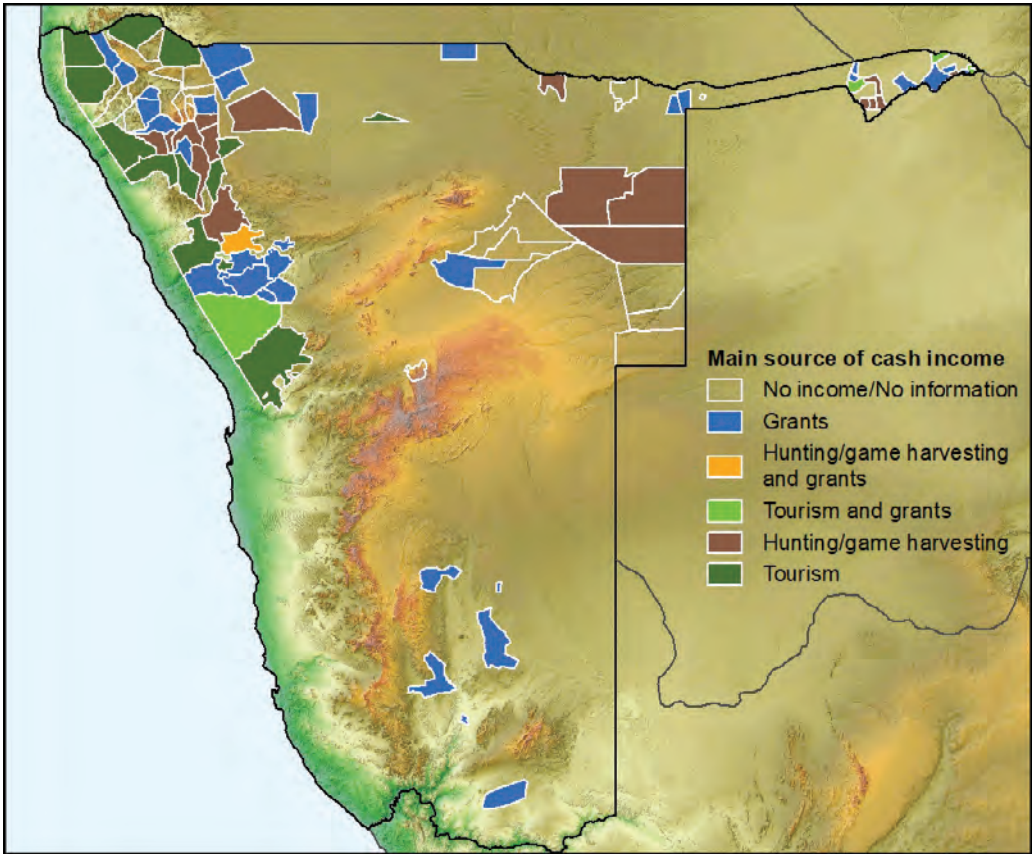


Figure 10a. In 2020, many conservancies relied heavily on grant funding, although some were still generating income from hunting and tourism (particularly in the early parts of 2020 before international travel restrictions).

Other potential challenges to these industries include the pressure to ban hunting and prevent trophy imports to key hunting markets, and the pressure on international flights due to climate concerns. The latter concern is more problematic for the photographic tourism industry, as larger numbers of visitors are required in this industry than in the hunting industry to generate a similar level of income. Trophy import bans threaten income from the hunting industry and if hunting were not available as a source of income in 2020, many more conservancies would not have been able to cover their operating costs (compare Figure 10b with Figure 10c).

Several conservancies that have no income in a usual year received some support through the CRRRF. However, external funding is unlikely to meet the financial needs of all conservancies and community forests in the long term. A better strategy is to create diverse revenue streams that rely on different markets, while meeting any critical financial shortfalls or providing support to conservancies that are not yet generating their own income through grants.

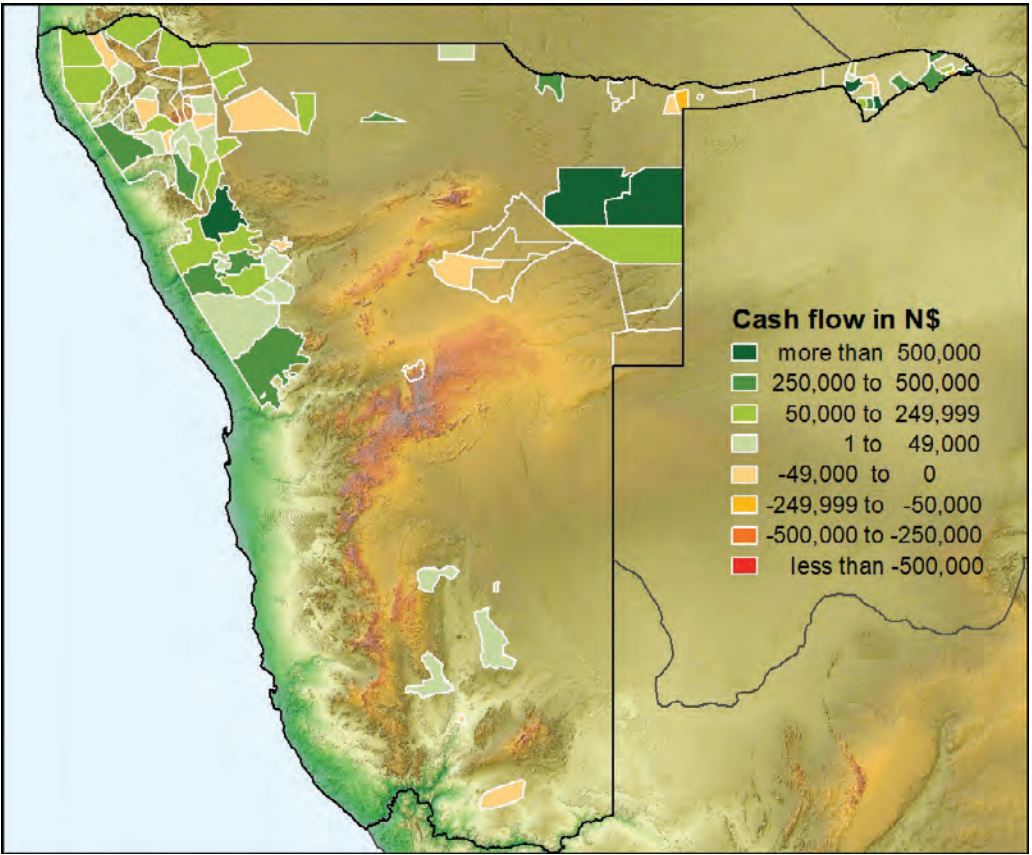


Figure 10b. Cash income generated by conservancies in 2020. This includes income from the CRRRF and other grants. The grants supported more conservancies than those that are able to generate income independently through either tourism or hunting.

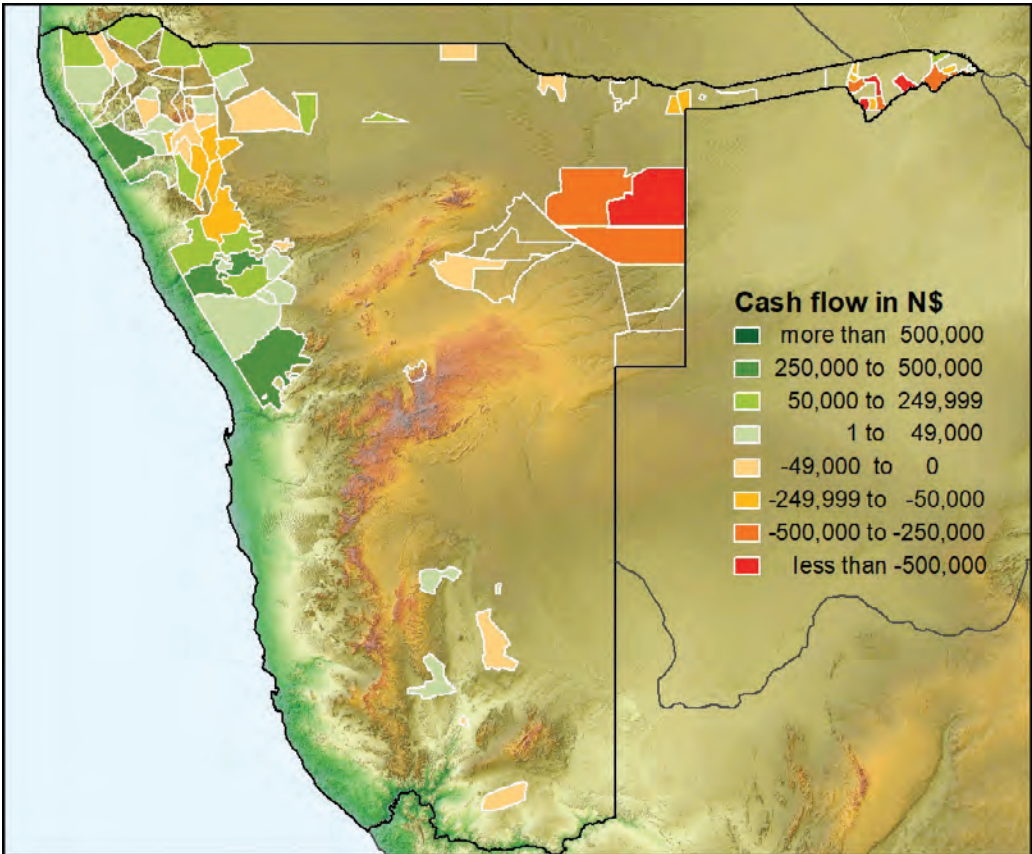


Figure 10c. The status of cash income under a hypothetical scenario of a hunting ban. Note that grants are still included.



LIVELIHOODS IN COMMUNITY FISHERIES RESERVES

Freshwater fish are an important part of the diets of people living in north-eastern Namibia (especially if crops fail), an additional source of income, and as part of cultural and social activities. Fish provide protein and micronutrients that are not otherwise easily obtainable for subsistence farmers, thus reducing the prevalence of malnutrition. Research has shown that fish was consumed almost daily 20-30 years ago, but only once a week in recent years.

This resource is under threat due to overfishing, as it is increasingly being exploited for commercial rather than subsistence purposes. Commercial fishers often come from elsewhere (other parts of the country or even other countries) and will move on to other rivers when fish stocks are depleted. Furthermore, the use of monofilament nets quickly results in overfishing, as they are three times more efficient in catching fish than multifilament gillnets (using monofilament nets is illegal in Namibia). Granting local people the rights to prevent or restrict fishing in certain key parts of the river and prevent the use of damaging fishing gear will thus sustain the long-term use of fish resources for local communities.

Recreational catch-and-release fishing is offered as an activity by lodges in this part of Namibia, which may contribute directly or indirectly to rural livelihoods through payment for fishing licenses or employment. Fishing tourism stands to benefit from the presence of fisheries reserves, as more mature fish will be available to tourist fishers. With a formally established reserve, the community can generate income through fishing permits and agreements with local operators that facilitate recreational fishing.

LIVELIHOODS IN COMMUNITY FORESTS

The people living within a community forest have the right to use the plant resources within the forest, provided they follow the guidelines within the Forest Management Plan. This Plan includes Conditions of Use, which outline what plant resources members and non-members of the Community Forest can use, provided they obtain the necessary permission (e.g. timber harvesting requires payment for permits).

Besides income from permits, community forests may develop livelihood projects for their members with their own or donor funding, several of which reduce their members' reliance on timber products and thus reduce the pressure on their forests. These include brick-making (to reduce the need for wooden poles for construction), agricultural cooperatives, processing non-timber forest products to add value, and bush thinning projects, among others.

The moratorium on timber harvesting in the north-east due to sustainability concerns, combined with the impact of COVID-19 reduced the income generated by community forests in 2020. Seventeen of the 43 community forests generated a combined income of N\$ 582,408 in 2020, and 14 of these issued a total of 596 permits (income generated by three community forests was not associated with permits). Most of the permits were given for firewood and one community forest benefitted from the auction of confiscated timber (the only one that generated over N\$1,000,000 in Figure 11). The most commonly used non-timber product was Devil's claw (three community forests), while honey, marula, thatching grass and crafts were among the other products that generated income in community forests.

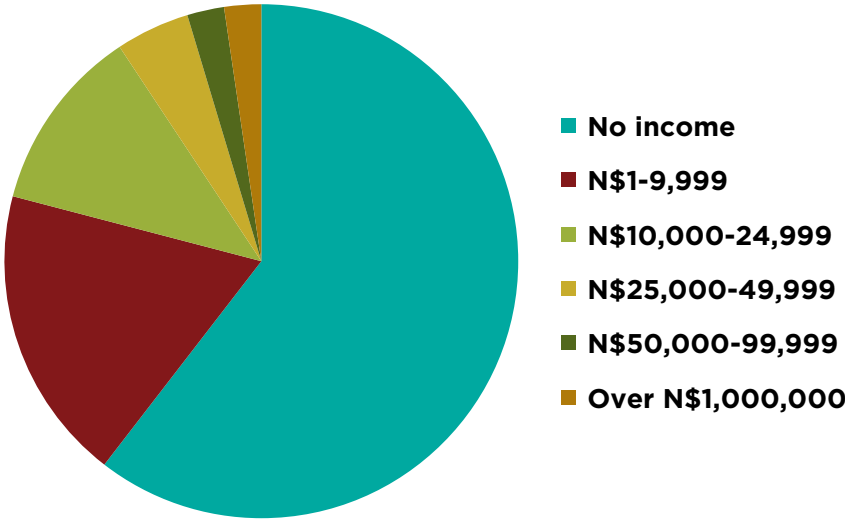


Figure 11. The proportion of community forests that earned cash income in 2020 through the sale of permits to use forest resources and alternative livelihood activities.



Community Forests empower locals to take responsibility and to become actively involved in management, thus increasing the value and benefits of forest resources.



UNLOCKING VALUE IN NATURAL RESOURCES

Namibia's arid ecosystems host a variety of unique plant species that have been used traditionally for medicinal or cultural purposes for centuries. Some of these products have attracted the attention of commercial pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies, which provide a lucrative market for these plant products. Plant harvesters are often women from poorer households, so generating cash income through plant harvesting provides a substantial boost to their livelihoods. Conservancies and community forests play a facilitative role to help harvesters reach the market and receive a fair price for their labours.

The Devil's Claw plant is native to the Kalahari (covering eastern Namibia, Botswana and parts of South Africa) and has been harvested and used as a traditional remedy for centuries. These qualities have since attracted the attention of international alternative medicine producers, which have used Devil's Claw to create natural remedies for pain and inflammation. In Namibia, many rural women living in the Kalahari know where the plant may be found and therefore harvest it for sale. The cash from these sales is an important supplement to their livelihoods.

Xoa//an /Ailae of Nyae Nyae Conservancy spoke about what this product means to conservancy members: "Devil's Claw is a good example of where the harvesters

of the conservancy benefit directly and can decide for themselves on how to use that money. Our members and especially women do not have many opportunities to earn cash income, and this (Devil's Claw) provides them with an opportunity to do this."

Devil's Claw harvesters can sell their product to any willing buyers, although these 'middlemen' will not give them the same price as they would get if selling directly to the product exporters. Paying for transport from the field where the harvest is done to the nearest major town further reduces the harvesters' profit margins. Several conservancies are therefore starting to play facilitative roles to link harvesters more closely with the end market.

Besides the economic benefits, training days are held to improve the quality of the harvest and ensure that it is done in a way that does not harm the long-term growth of the plant. Two Devil's Claw harvesters (N/haokxa Kagece and Xoan Kxam/oo) emphasise this point: "It is important to harvest properly so that the plant does not die, this allows us to harvest the same plant again in a few years. The training is vital, it shows us how to process Devil's Claw because it is a medicine, and we want to produce a good quality."

Community members from Nyae Nyae and N#a Jaqna Conservancies have harvested Devil's Claw in this

sustainable and organised fashion for 14 years with support from the Nyae Nyae Development Foundation Namibia (NNDFN). Other conservancies in the Kavango Omaheke Regions have started to organise Devil's Claw sales since 2018 with support from Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF). One of the Omaheke conservancies, Omuramba ua Mbinda, facilitated the sale of close to 3,000 kg that generated about N\$ 156,000 for the harvesters and N\$ 6,000 for the conservancy as a commission during their first organised sale in 2020.

Several conservancies have entered into multi-year contracts with EcoSo Dynamics, which is a Namibian Devil's Claw trader that is concerned about the social and environmental impacts of their trade. This trader offers a better price to harvesters for their product, in exchange for reliable information showing that the harvest is sustainable. Under these arrangements, the conservancy organises buying and selling days, and provides a storage place for the harvest in exchange for a small sales commission (e.g. 15%) – the balance goes directly to harvesters.

Receiving a better price for the product is a major benefit for harvesters, as Anna Mathias from N#a Jaqna Conservancy explains: "It is a medicine that goes out to help others and we are happy about this, but we also want to ensure that we benefit fairly. Harvesting Devil's

Claw is difficult, it is far, you need water and food and we take great care to harvest sustainably and produce a good quality product. The income from Devil's Claw is for many of our members the only source of income."

Besides Devil's Claw, several other plant products either have an established market or could be promoted for their medicinal or cosmetic properties. IRDNC has been working closely with conservancies in the north-west to identify plants that could be harvested for these purposes and create suitable management and benefit-sharing arrangements around these resources. Resin from the commiphora plant, which is used traditionally by Himba women for its fragrance, is now being harvested and sold to cosmetic companies.

Mopane seeds and the leaves of the "resurrection plant" (*Myrothamnus flabelifolius*) are also harvested and sold for cosmetic uses (the latter in anti-aging creams). IRDNC assisted multiple conservancies to establish a jointly owned processing facility in Opuwo. This facility pays harvesters for their raw materials, which are further processed to extract the essential oils that are sold to international buyers. In 2020, the Opuwo facility paid harvesters from eight conservancies in the Kunene Region for the commiphora resin, mopane seeds and *Myrothamnus* leaves they harvested.





LIVELIHOODS IN KING NEHALE CONSERVANCY

Named after the King that successfully led 500 men in the Battle of Namutoni in January 1904, King Nehale Conservancy has a historical connection to Etosha National Park. Their recent partnership with Gondwana Collection for a joint venture lodge just outside the park has created a new connection that should serve them well into the future.

Recognising that Etosha National Park has the potential to become an economic engine for communities in the north, MEFT opened the King Nehale Gate on the park's northern border into the conservancy in 2003. Fifteen years later, the Ministry granted an exclusive tourism concession and traversing rights into the park to King Nehale Conservancy, thus paving the way for the conservancy to negotiate with a joint venture partner for a new lodge.

In 2018, the conservancy signed an agreement with Gondwana Collection as their preferred tourism operator, and in June 2020, the Etosha King Nehale Lodge opened. The lodge reflects the history and culture of the local people, and provides training, skills development and employment for 33 conservancy residents. Tuyoleni Nghishe began his career at King Nehale as a porter, and today is a receptionist at the lodge. "But this isn't the end. My career will continue to advance because of this joint venture partnership," shared Nghishe.



Despite the low occupancy numbers in 2020 due to COVID-19, Gondwana kept its staff employed, which made all the difference to employees like Selma Paulus. "I am the main breadwinner in my family. My salary pays school fees and puts food on the table. It is essential to my family," said Paulus, who is an assistant chef at the lodge.

There was an upside to the downturn in tourism. With specials available to Namibians, residents of northern Namibia, who may have felt excluded by the tourism industry prior to Namibia's independence, embraced the lodge, gaining insight into joint venture tourism, the role of conservancies, and the importance of conservation.

The Tulongeni Craft Market is another way in which the conservancy supports the livelihoods of its members. Established in 2013, this market sells crafts produced in the conservancy. The craft producers include two men and 15 women. The women use traditional and recyclable materials to produce baskets, bags and other items, while one of the men carves items from mopane wood and the other makes hats from makalani palm leaves. These producers are based throughout the conservancy.

Linea Shilume, Treasurer of the Craft Market, explains how the market works: "The producer puts a price on their item and the craft centre puts on 10% to cover costs. This money goes to the treasurer, and the price costs goes to the producer." The sales manager at the Craft Market, Johanna Johannes, describes how this system has helped the crafters: "Prior to the opening of the Market, local women made crafts to use at home or sell at local street markets. They had to sit all day, waiting for a customer, but now the market does this selling for them, freeing up their time for work and time to create more crafts," added Johanna Johannes, sales manager at the Craft Market.

The placemats that adorn the dining tables at Etosha King Nehale Lodge were made by conservancy crafters and sold at the Craft Market. This sale was especially timely for the crafters given the impact on tourism caused by COVID-19. Hileni Nekondo, Chairperson of the Craft Market, said, "These crafts are a source of income for many women in this area. As we make the baskets, we come together to share new patterns and train other crafters with the skills that we have. We have the opportunity to go to various expos across the country to market and sell our handmade products. We are hoping to have the opportunity again in the future."



NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



A REVIEW OF 2020



CONSERVATION DURING A PANDEMIC

Global pandemics, international travel restrictions and national lockdowns do not directly affect the function of our natural ecosystems, but the indirect effects could have been dire. Conservancies are heavily reliant on international visitors for their income, which was all but halted soon after March 2020. International travel restrictions thus threatened to shut conservancies down altogether, resulting in no patrols, no response to human-wildlife conflict and a dramatic increase in rural poverty that could lead to a spike in wildlife crime.

The pandemic came hot on the heels of a multi-year drought, which is still affecting the north-western parts of the country. The drought massively reduced livestock and wildlife numbers, impoverished many rural households throughout Namibia and intensified human-wildlife conflict. The year 2020 thus provided a stern test to the resilience of the Namibian community-based model of natural resource management.

For the Natural Resource Working Group (NRWG), the challenge was to continue monitoring activities for wildlife, plant and fish resources, while keeping a close watch on human-wildlife conflict and wildlife crime. All of these activities rely on conservancy employees who spend most of their time in the field – game guards, resource monitors, fish monitors and guards. Securing funding for conservancies to pay these critical workers through the CRRRF was therefore essential to ensuring that conservation continued despite the global pandemic.

WILDLIFE MONITORING USING EVENT BOOKS

The Event Book monitoring system is at the heart of natural resource management. This system is often implemented before a conservancy is officially gazetted to allow emerging conservancies to start monitoring their resources as soon as possible. Without a monitoring system, conservancies could not tell if they have enough of any particular species to use it sustainably. Although game counts are done annually, and aerial surveys are completed every few years, there is no replacement for day-to-day monitoring on the ground using Event Books.

The Event Book system starts with small yellow books that community game guards keep with them at all times while on duty (Figure 12). They use their books to record incidents relating to wildlife (Events) during their daily activities. Incidents or events include cases of human-wildlife conflict (e.g. crops damaged or livestock killed), suspected poaching or wildlife deaths from unknown causes, sightings of locally rare species, wild fires, or any unusual observations. Which species sightings are monitored and what constitutes an Event that should be recorded is defined by the conservancies themselves, rather than externally, to increase ownership over the data collection process.

Once a month, the game guards report to their conservancy office and transfer the information from their yellow booklets to a blue monthly reporting chart. The chart is a simple bar graph that is filled in based on the number of Events recorded for that month (e.g. animals seen). This blue book contains monthly records from all game guards for that conservancy. Records from the blue book are transferred into a red book on an annual basis during an Event Book audit (Figure 12). These books are all kept at conservancy offices, such that interested conservancy members can access them.

Members of the NRWG transfer the information from the paper books at the conservancy offices to a computer each year as part of an Event Book audit, which allows further analysis at a national level. These audits provide opportunities for examining the quality of the data and speaking directly with game guards and conservancy managers to clarify any unusual records.

Without a monitoring system, conservancies could not tell if they have enough of any particular species to use it sustainably.



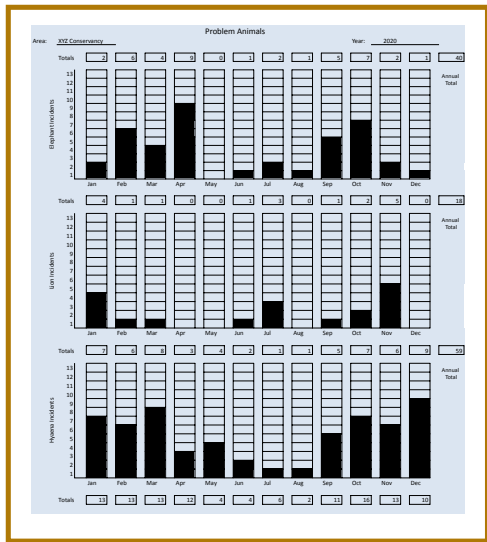
EVENT BOOK SYSTEM PROCESS

DAILY DATA COLLECTION

Problem Animals			Extent of loss										Action Taken		Name & Address of Complainant	Investigated by:				
			Location		Livestock killed							Damage confirmed?		Problem animal controlled by:						
Date	Problem Species	Place	South	East	Cattle	Sheep or Goats	Donkeys or Horses	Chickens	Crops/Gardens damaged	Infrastructure damaged	Human	Other	Yes	No	Relocated	Shot	Poisoned	Other		
1-Jan-20	Elephant	Khorikas	1945	2345	✓								✓						R.G. Human	G.C. Thomson
2-Jan-20	Hyena	Kamanjab	1894	2234		✓							✓						P.S. Lovemore	G.C. Thomson
3-Jan-20	Lion	Palimwag	1756	2154									✓			✓			S.K. Riemvas	G.C. Thomson
4-Jan-20	Cheetah	Katima	1835	2236									✓						B.T. Kasaona	G.C. Thomson
5-Jan-20	Elephant	Rundu	1945	2345									✓						R.G. Human	G.C. Thomson
6-Jan-20	Hyena	Khorikas	1894	2234										✓					P.S. Lovemore	G.C. Thomson
7-Jan-20	Lion	Kamanjab	1756	2154											✓				S.K. Riemvas	G.C. Thomson
8-Jan-20	Cheetah	Palimwag	1835	2236										✓					B.T. Kasaona	G.C. Thomson
9-Jan-20	Elephant	Katima	1945	2345										✓					R.G. Human	G.C. Thomson
10-Jan-20	Hyena	Rundu	1894	2234		✓									✓				P.S. Lovemore	G.C. Thomson
11-Jan-20	Lion	Khorikas	1756	2154												✓			S.K. Riemvas	G.C. Thomson
12-Jan-20	Cheetah	Kamanjab	1835	2236										✓					B.T. Kasaona	G.C. Thomson
13-Jan-20	Elephant	Palimwag	1945	2345										✓					R.G. Human	G.C. Thomson
14-Jan-20	Hyena	Katima	1894	2234		✓											✓		P.S. Lovemore	G.C. Thomson
15-Jan-20	Lion	Rundu	1756	2154										✓					S.K. Riemvas	G.C. Thomson
16-Jan-20	Cheetah	Khorikas	1835	2236										✓					B.T. Kasaona	G.C. Thomson



MONTHLY COLLATION



ANNUAL AUDIT



CONINFO DATABASE

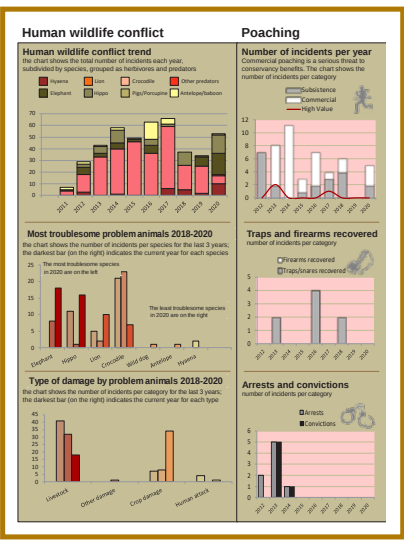


Figure 12. The Event Book system. Data collected daily by community game guards in their yellow books are transferred to an office register regularly, and once a month these records are entered into blue books at the office to show monthly trends over the year. At the annual Event Book audit, this information is transferred into red books that are used to reveal trends over multiple years. This information is further entered into an online database, which is presented in the annual State of Community Conservation Report and in posters that are sent back to the conservancies for adaptive management.



These audits provide opportunities for examining the quality of the data and speaking directly with game guards and conservancy managers to clarify any unusual records.

MONITORING DATA AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Data from monitoring activities are essential inputs into the CBNRM adaptive management system (Figure 13). Prior to data collection, conservancies, community forests and fish reserves have a set of objectives that generally include the sustainable use of specific natural resources. Management actions to increase those resources include protecting key areas used by the target species, setting sustainable harvest quotas, and managing how and when harvesting is done. The Event Books, game counts, plant inventories, fishing records and other data are used to determine whether the management actions are achieving the community's objectives and, if not, what needs to be changed.

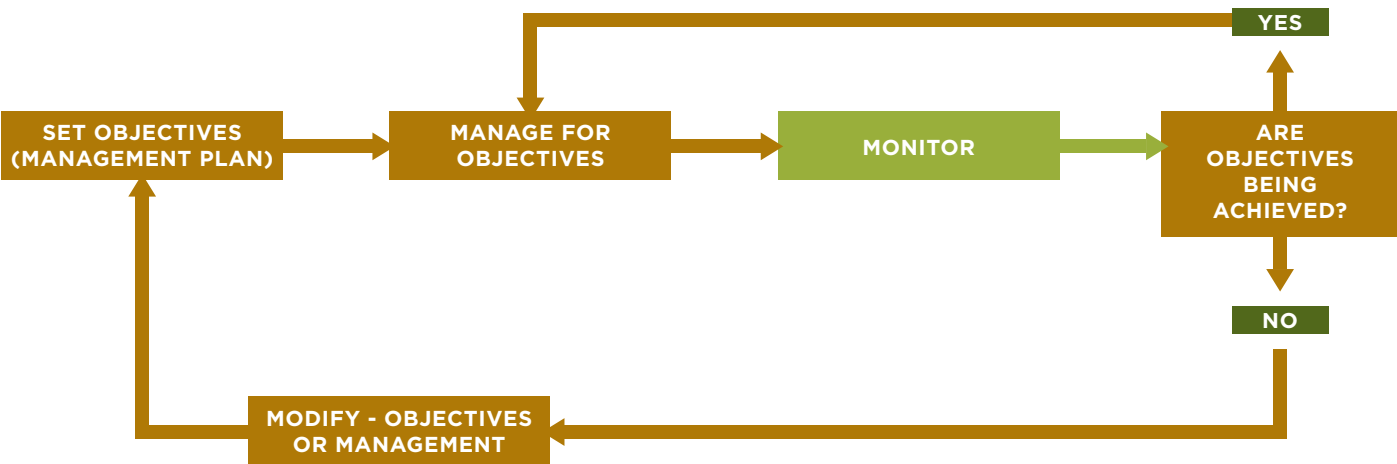


Figure 13. Adaptive management cycle.

An example of this system at work was the response to drought in the Kunene and Erongo Regions in north-western Namibia. A series of good rainfall years (2005-2011) stimulated the growth of wild herbivore populations, particularly springbok, thus allowing conservancies to use these animals for meat and conservation hunting. Since 2012, however, nearly all years have recorded well below-average rainfall and 2018/19 was the worst drought year in decades. Rangelands in the north-west are still in worse condition than the long-term average, although the north-east and some parts of the south recovered after good rains in 2019/2020 (Figure 14).

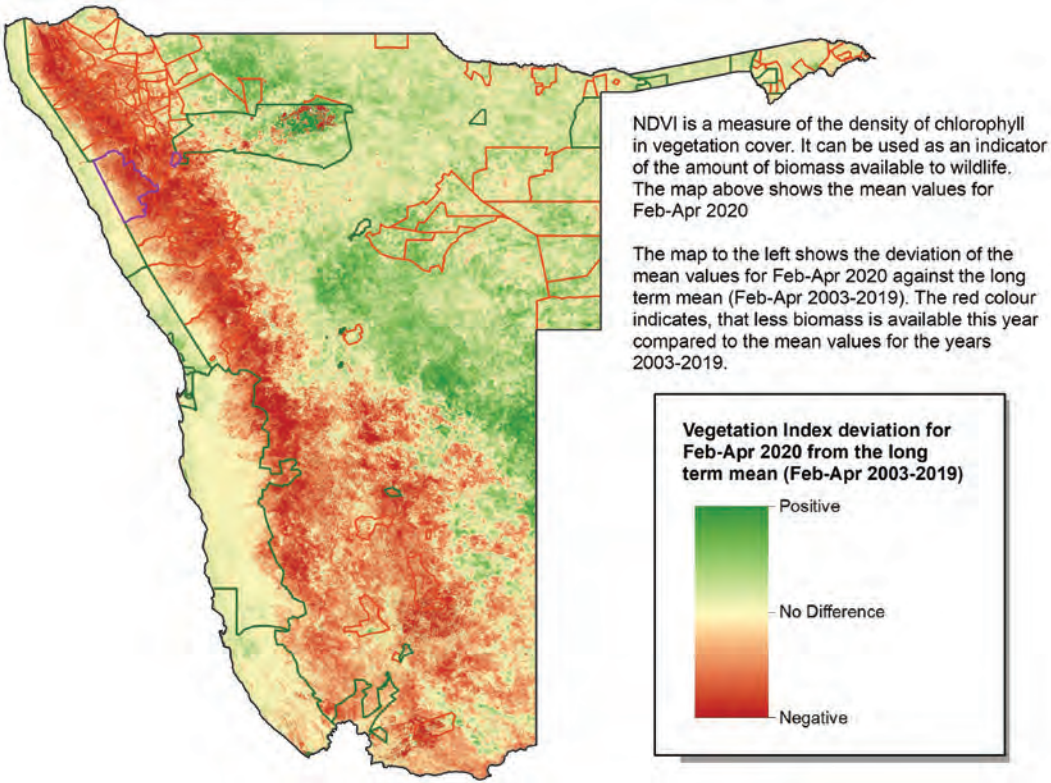
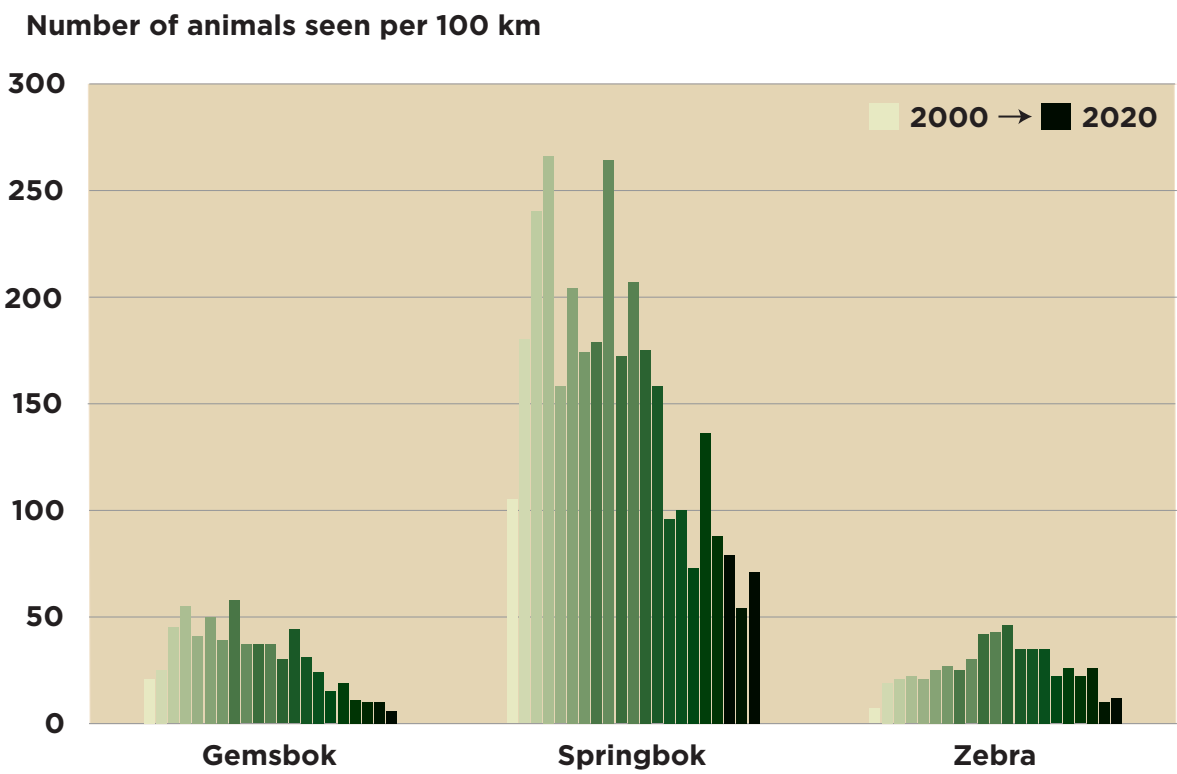


Figure 14. The Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) for Namibia towards the end of the 2019/20 wet season (21-31 May 2020). This index compares active vegetation growth during this time period with the long-term average at the same time of year.



Wildlife populations responded to deteriorating rangeland conditions by moving away from the worst affected conservancies, although some natural deaths were also recorded. The game counts, Event Book data, rainfall data, maps of rangeland condition and hunting reports all indicated the need for lower quotas to reduce the pressure on key herbivore species. Harvesting rates were therefore reduced in 2015 to less than half (springbok) or even a third (gemsbok) of the 2014 off-take, and even more drastically reduced in 2018 as the drought continued (Figure 15). Off-take in 2020 was further limited due to restrictions on international arrivals and therefore fewer hunting clients.



Animals Harvested

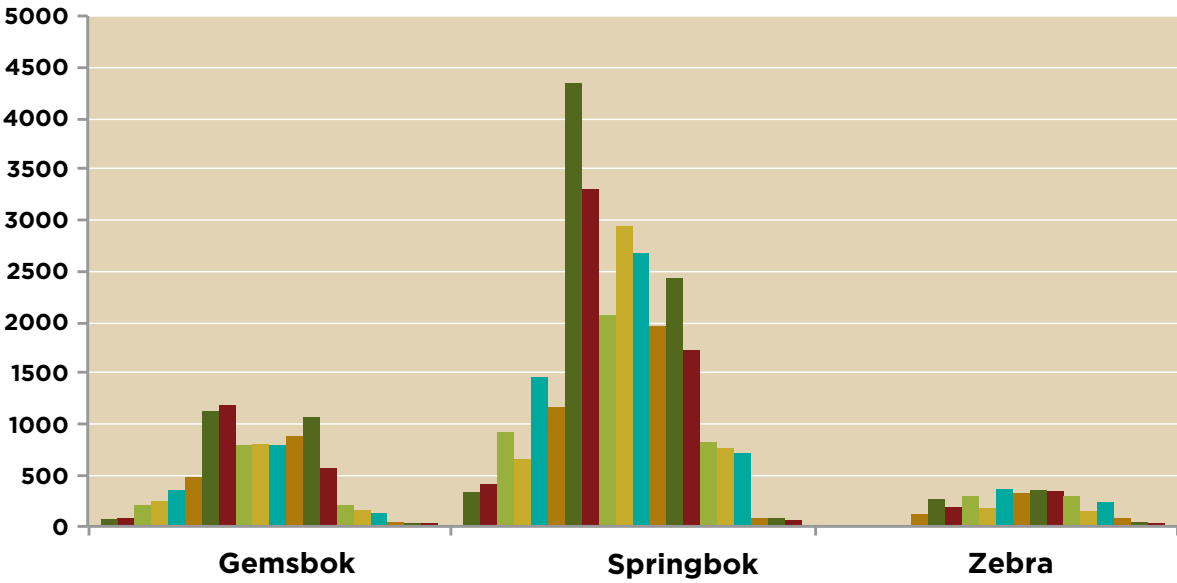
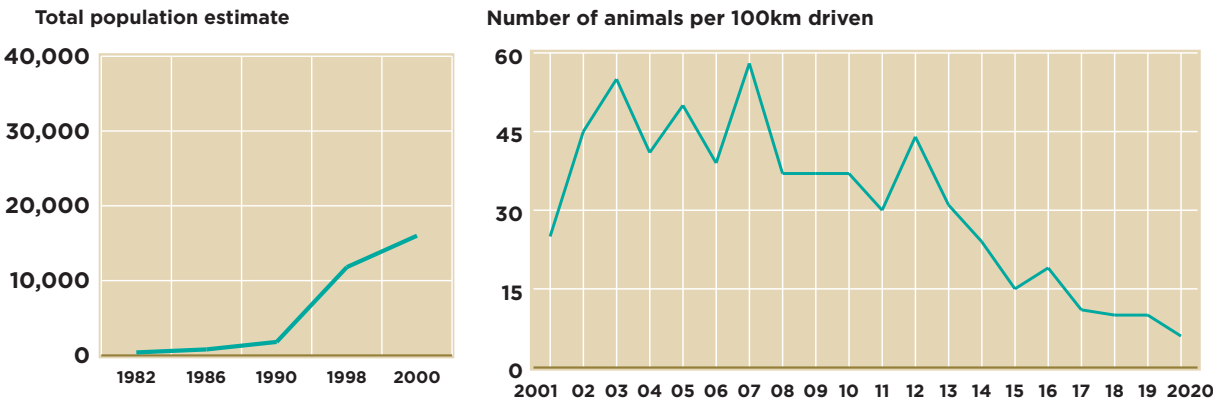


Figure 15. Trends of animals counted per 100km for three herbivore species on annual game counts in the Kunene and Erongo Regions (top) compared with harvesting trends over time for the same species (bottom).

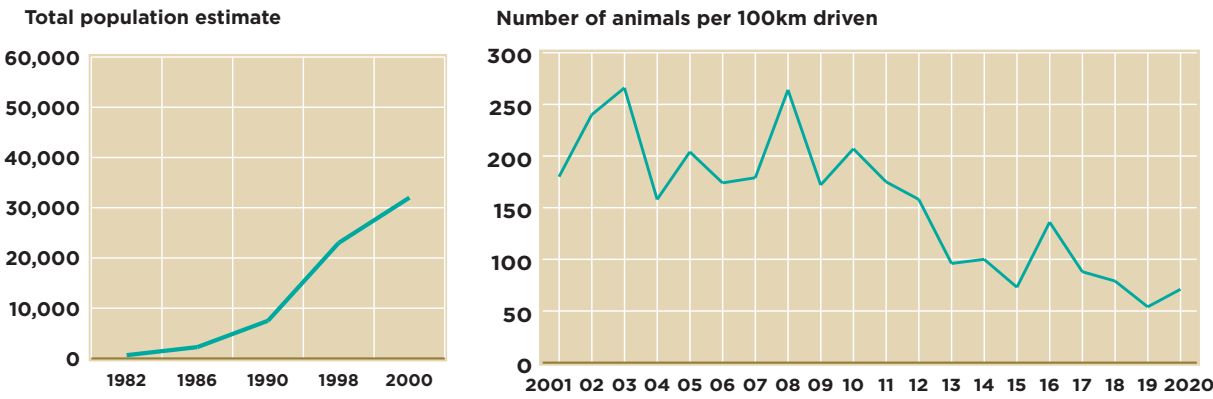
WILDLIFE POPULATION TRENDS OVER TIME

Populations of key herbivore species in the north-west remain low due to the on-going drought in most of the conservancies in the Kunene and Erongo Regions (Figure 16). Predator sightings in these regions remain fairly high when compared to the 2000s, although spotted hyaena and lion numbers have declined since all-time highs were reached in 2015 (Figure 17). Cheetah sightings increased this year, while leopard sightings remained stable; black-backed jackals and spotted hyaenas were the most commonly sighted predators this year.

Gemsbok



Springbok



Hartmann's Mountain Zebra

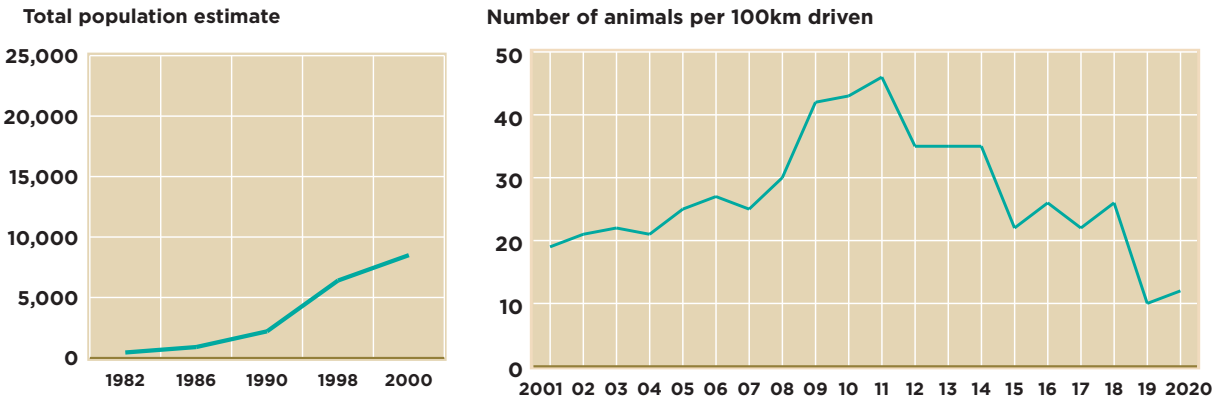


Figure 16. Wildlife population trends for three key herbivore species for Erongo and Kunene Regions. Figures on the left were produced from aerial survey-based counts prior to 2000. Figures on the right are from road-based counts (animals seen per 100 km driven). These graphs reveal trends over time, not total population estimates.

Sightings index

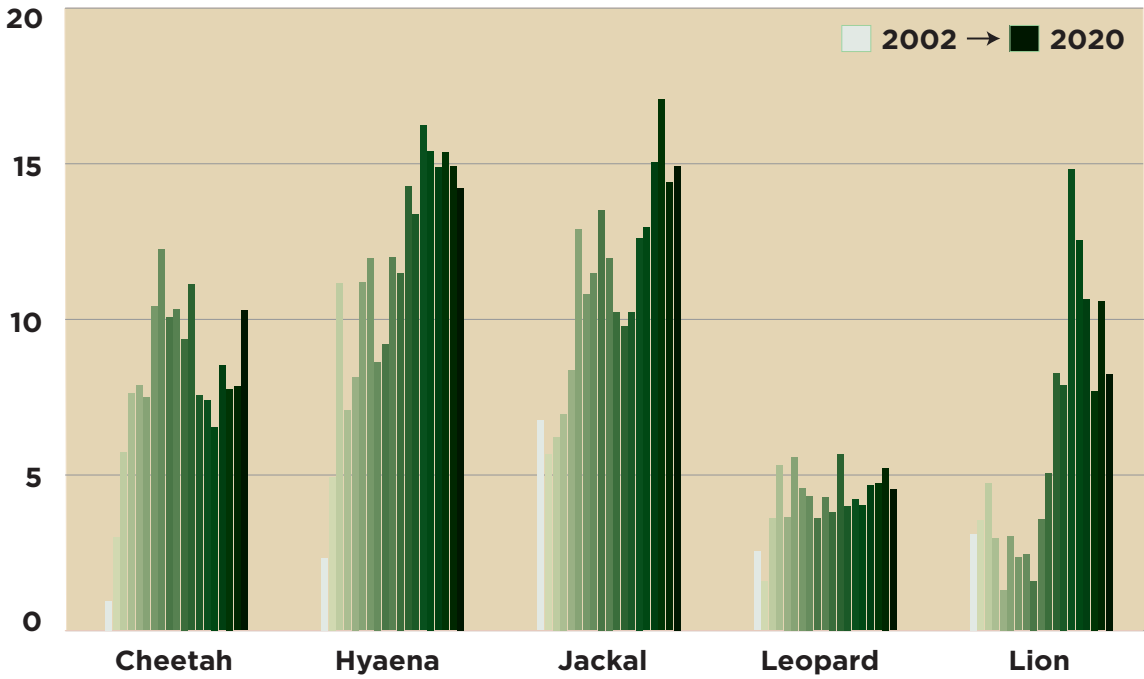


Figure 17. Predator sightings index for Erongo and Kunene Regions. This index is produced by dividing the number of physical sightings recorded during the year by the number of event books (one book per game guard).

Herbivore populations in the north-east are generally stable, although year-to-year fluctuations can be quite high. Impala was the most common species counted in the region for the first time in 2020, as elephant, buffalo and zebra numbers have come down from recent highs (Figure 18). Spotted hyaena, black-backed jackal and leopard sightings appear to have stabilised after the last few years of decline. Lion sightings have declined slightly over the last four years, whereas wild dog sightings have increased during the last two years (Figure 19).

Number of animals seen per 100 km

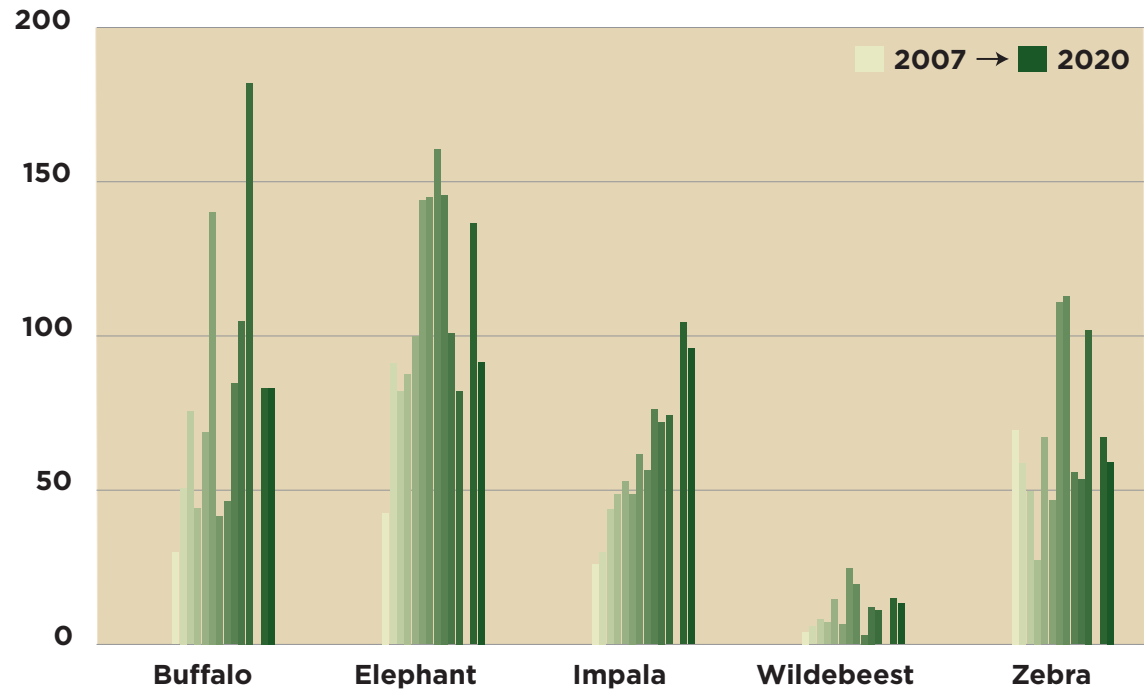


Figure 18. Wildlife population trends for five herbivore species in the north-east (including National Parks and conservancies). Counts for this region were not completed in this region in 2018. Counts in this region are done using walking line transects.

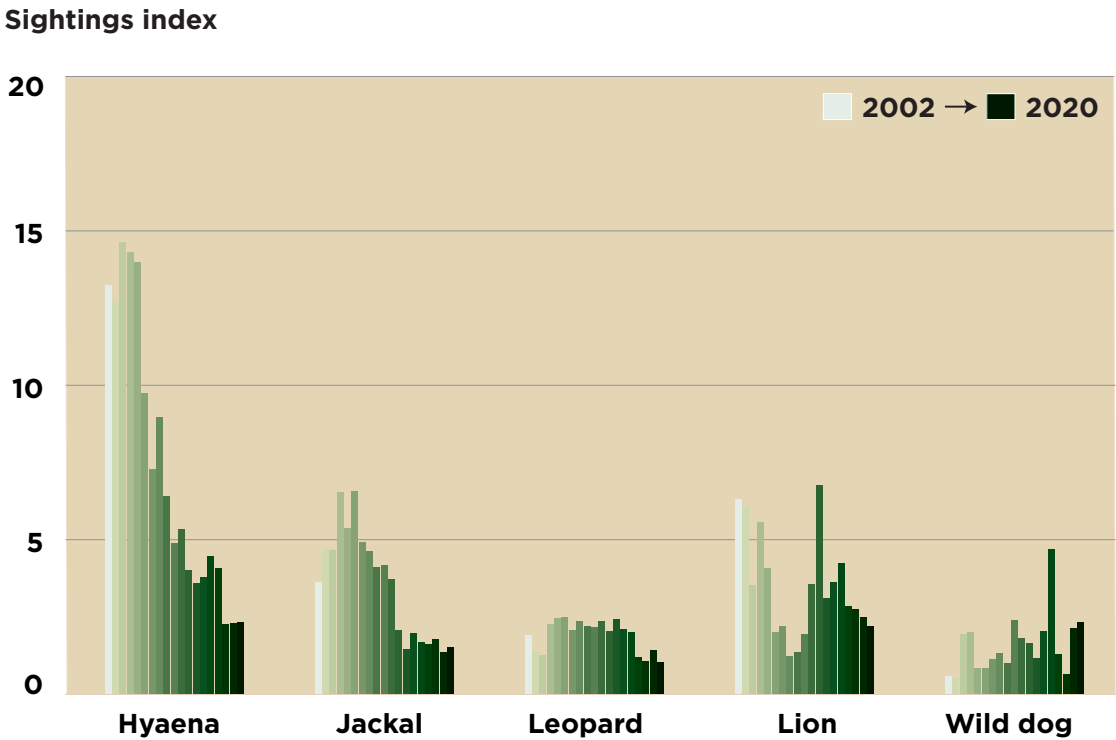


Figure 19. Predator sightings index for the north-east. This index is produced by dividing the number of physical sightings recorded during the year by the number of event books (one book per game guard).

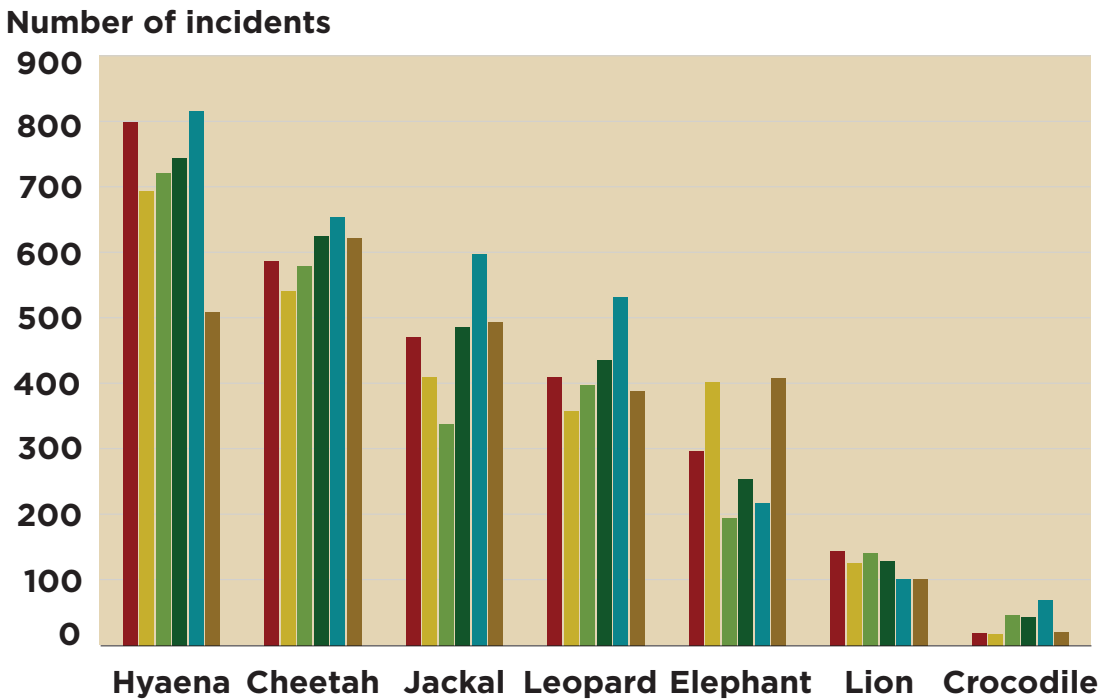


Figure 20. Human-wildlife conflict species and trends in the Erongo and Kunene Regions from 2015 to 2020.

Human-elephant conflict also increased in the Zambezi Region in 2020, although not reaching the same level as 2015 (Figure 21). The main form of conflict with elephants and hippopotamus in this region is damage to crop fields that are grown seasonally by subsistence farmers. Human-carnivore conflict (including crocodiles) continued at a similar level to previous years across all species.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Coexisting with wild animals can be costly, especially those animals that kill livestock or damage crops. Occasionally even human lives are lost to wildlife, which can generate fear and anger among the affected communities. Although conflict with wildlife can never be fully resolved, it must be managed and mitigated as much as possible within the CBNRM framework. To this end, MEFT, NACSO and partners work with conservancies on ways to prevent conflict (e.g. predator-proof livestock enclosures, using chilli deterrents around crop fields) and assist farmers who have experienced losses.

The Event Book monitoring system is critical to determining trends in conflict and identifying hotspots in each conservancy, thus guiding the implementation of mitigation measures. Prompt reporting of conflict incidents (within 24 hours) is further required for farmers to receive assistance through the Human-wildlife Conflict Self-Reliance Scheme. Payments through this scheme are intended to offset the cost of the damage, provided that incidents are confirmed through investigation by game guards or MEFT officers and measures were taken to protect the livestock or crops.

Incidents of livestock losses to the main conflict-causing carnivore species generally decreased in 2020 when compared with 2019 (although lion conflict remained constant). Although spotted hyaena usually cause the most livestock losses in the north-west, over 300 fewer incidents were reported to this species in 2020 compared with 2019. Instead, cheetah caused the most conflict in the north-west during this year, although cheetah incidents were also somewhat lower than 2019 (Figure 20).

Unlike carnivore incidents, elephant-related conflict in the north-west spiked during 2020 – the most expensive of these incidents involve the destruction of water infrastructure, as elephants try to access water at manmade reservoirs. While less expensive, the destruction of small household gardens by elephants can reduce food security, particularly among poorer woman-headed households.

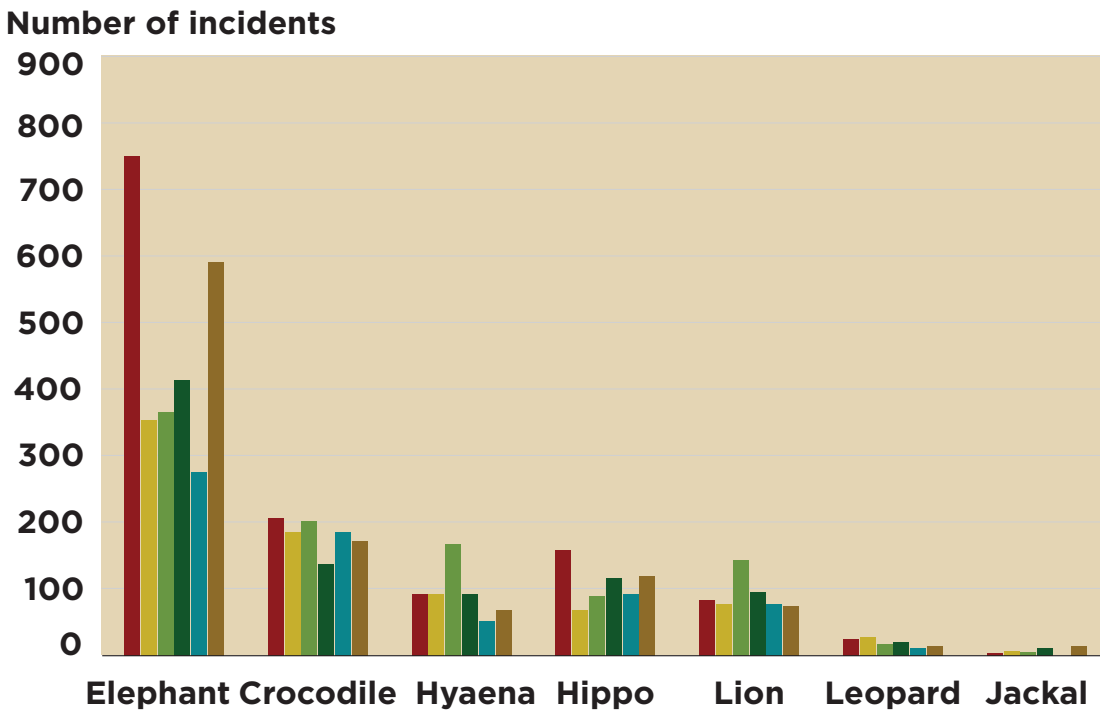


Figure 21. Human-wildlife conflict species and trends in the Zambezi Region from 2015 to 2020.

The level and type of human-wildlife conflict experienced varies throughout Namibia. Conservancies west of Etosha National Park have generally reported more conflict incidents than those in other areas (Figure 22). In Figure 23, the species reported to cause the highest number of incidents in this period are shown – note that this is not the amount of damage caused (e.g. livestock killed or crops damaged), but the number of incidents reported. As would be expected from Figures 20 and 21 above, spotted hyaena, cheetah (north-west) and elephant (primarily north-east) conflict predominates in several conservancies (Figure 23). Crocodile conflict is restricted to the perennial rivers in the north; black-backed jackal conflict is common in the south and central; African wild dog conflict is most frequently reported in two conservancies in the east. The remaining conflict-causing species are either the most frequently reported in only one conservancy each (e.g. hippo, caracal, antelope), or in a few geographically scattered conservancies (e.g. leopard, lion).

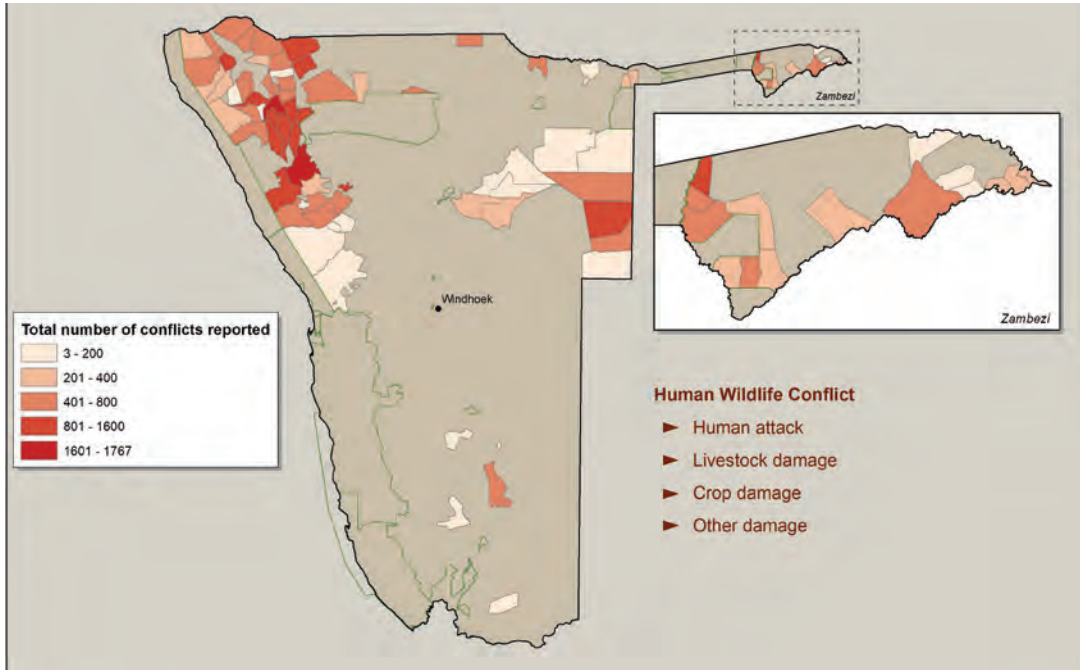


Figure 22. Number of conflict incidents reported in a five-year period by all conservancies. Darker red indicates higher reporting frequencies, not amount of damage caused. Some species may cause high levels of damage in a few incidents (e.g. surplus killing of livestock by lions and leopards).

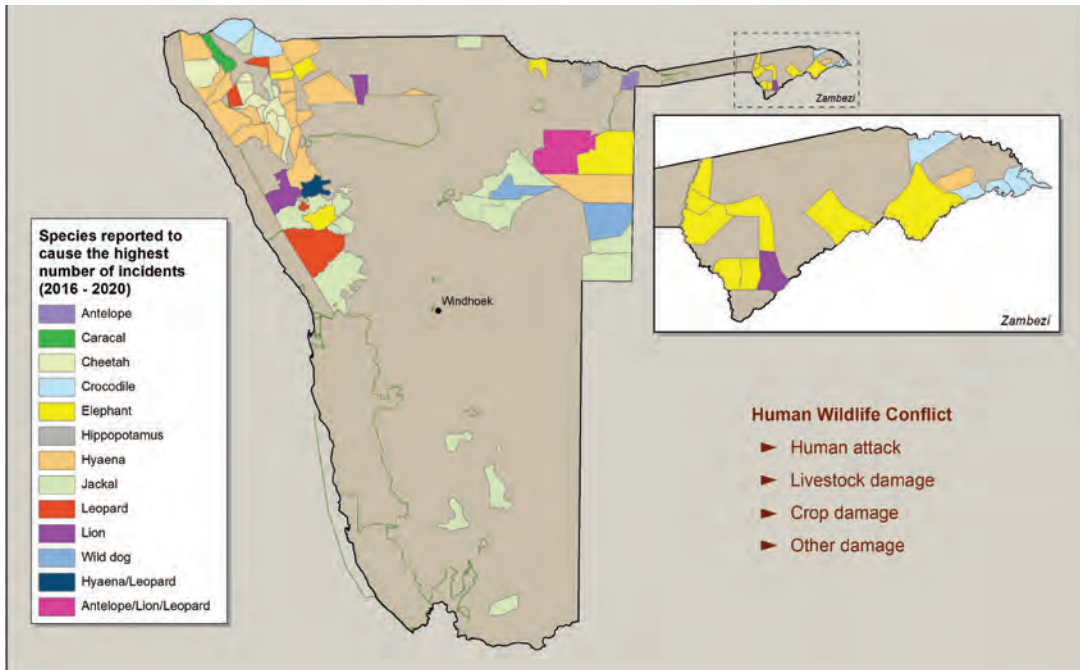


Figure 23. Species that were the most frequently reported to cause human-wildlife conflict in all conservancies in 2020. In a few cases there is a tie between two or three species. Most conservancies report conflict with several different species each year, so this is not a representation of all conflict experienced.



LIVING WITH ELEPHANTS – VISTORINA NANGOLO’S STORY

A makeshift gate of thorny branches blocks the track onto the farm, the only entrance to the homestead since the elephants destroy the steel gate. On the other side of the fence, Vistorina Nangolo walks purposely from the farm dam to the trough, inspecting the exposed pipes between the two dry water points. For forty years, Vistorina has farmed here at Chamuchamu near Oshivelo in the Oshikoto region. Etosha National Park is about ten kilometres to the south, as the crow flies or the elephant tramples.

“In the rainy season, elephants come and destroy the fields. In the dry season, elephants come looking for water. If they don’t find water in the dam or trough, they pull out the water pipes.” She speaks not with malice or anger towards the elephants, but with pragmatic realisation that this is what one must accept when living with elephants. There are three kilometres of water pipes between the pump that Vistorina maintains and the trough where her cattle and the elephants, her “other family” as she describes them, drink.

We will accept a lot from family. When the elephants break the gate and fences, Vistorina repairs them. When they destroy the water pipes, she replaces

them. She does this all at her own cost to protect her assets. She needs a fence to keep her cattle inside her property, and they need water to survive, so she fixes the pump when it breaks and continually repairs the pipes and fences.

“Some of my neighbours are grateful that this isn’t happening on their farm, and others are happy because when the elephants destroy my fence, their animals can come in and drink. Others feel pity because I bear the costs of repeated repairs, and they don’t help with the repairs or the costs.”

Vistorina’s reflections on her neighbours, their feelings and their lack of action, are also spoken with acceptance. For a woman who has buried her husband and four children, there are worse things than ungrateful neighbours or rogue elephants.

The King Nehale Conservancy has helped Vistorina by providing diesel for the water pump, and she is viewed with a mixture of awe and disbelief by the game guards. “We have issues with hyena and lion killing livestock, but elephants are a constant problem.” And, at least for now, they are constantly accepted. At 82 years old, Vistorina has plans to plant another field of mahangu next year.

COMBATTING WILDLIFE CRIME

One of the key threats to conservation across Africa is wildlife crime, which includes all illegal harvesting and trading of animals and plants, and their parts. This illegal use can be at the subsistence level (e.g. hunting for food) or at the commercial level, whereby poachers, loggers or fishers sell what they obtain. Commercial wildlife crime is of particular concern, as this illegal trade often escalates to organised crime levels and includes networks of criminals that are involved in other illegal activities (e.g. smuggling drugs).

Rhino horn, elephant ivory, pangolin scales and meat, and rosewood timber products all fetch extremely high prices in Eastern markets, although the people on the ground who poach or log illegally (thus taking the greatest risk) receive a tiny fraction of this value. Illegal fishing on a commercial level is usually to supply African markets. From the perspective of CBNRM, such illegal markets are effectively stealing high value resources from communities, thus limiting current and future uses of the affected species and undermining community conservation efforts.

Community conservation deploys game guards that provide the “boots on the ground” to deter, inhibit or stop these illegal activities when they occur, and alert the authorities to the presence of wildlife criminals in their areas. In the fisheries sector, removing illegal fishing nets from rivers in the north-east is important work carried out by community fish guards and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) inspectors. Similarly, natural resource monitors and community game guards (plus rhino rangers) in community forests and conservancies report any suspicious or illegal activities to the relevant authorities.

These efforts are known collectively as anti-poaching activities, whereby poaching (or logging, illegal fishing) activities are deterred, stopped or reduced. MEFT and MFMR deploy their own rangers and inspectors to carry out these activities in protected areas, and to provide support both within and beyond the CBNRM programme (e.g. on private lands or other state lands). Additional activities include increasing awareness among local communities of these problems and providing them with hotline numbers to call whenever they spot suspicious activities.

Law enforcement activities link with anti-poaching operations, as these cover every legal action from arrests to successful prosecutions. These activities are critically important to break up the criminal networks involved in illegal wildlife and timber trafficking. Investigators search for links between poachers and traffickers, dealers and others aiding and abetting these crimes. Successful prosecution requires close cooperation between investigators and prosecutors, while judges need to be aware of why this is an important issue in order to hand down appropriate sentences.

Active Collaboration amongst all stakeholders has continued to effectively curb wildlife crime in Namibia.



WILDLIFE CRIME TRENDS DURING A PANDEMIC

The economic downturn and restrictions relating to COVID-19 posed a significant threat to anti-poaching efforts relating to wildlife crime. However, the funding from the CRRF ensured that community conservation operations continued, including patrols to detect and deter wildlife crime. Effective law enforcement, largely unaffected by the pandemic, has been the central key to curbing high-value species crimes. Pre-emptive arrests in rhino cases have significantly disrupted poaching gangs, while the arrests of high-level dealers and kingpins in early 2020 disrupted trafficking routes out of Namibia and dismantled high-level wildlife crime syndicates. This led to the arrest of numerous lower level traffickers during the year, particularly for rhino-related crimes. Some swiftly concluded court cases and significant sentences for perpetrators of wildlife crimes have acted as an additional deterrent.

Poaching figures for rhinos, elephants and pangolins declined in 2020 across Namibia. This is the first year that a decline in pangolin seizures has been reported since this problem was first detected in 2015. Pangolin seizures reached a peak of 129 (52 of which were alive) in 2019, which dropped to 74 (8 of which were alive) in 2020.

After 2.5 years of no rhino poaching incidents in the north-western communal conservancies, two incidents were recorded in which four rhinos were poached during 2020 (an estimated 31 rhinos were poached throughout Namibia). Nonetheless, pre-emptive rhino arrests – where poachers are caught before they kill a rhino – continued to save rhinos during this period (46 arrests made) and more rhino-related arrests were made during 2020 than any previous year (145 in total), even though poaching losses were at their lowest since 2013. During these arrests, 21 rhino horns were seized, which is more than double the seizures made during 2019.

An estimated 11 elephants were poached in Namibia this year, which is two less than last year and continues the downward trend since 2016 (for both rhinos and elephants, the poaching date is estimated based on the age of discovered carcasses). Namibia plays an important role in disrupting ivory trafficking in the KAZA region by arresting traffickers who try to sell ivory in Namibia that is obtained from poaching in other countries. In 2020, 62 elephant tusks were seized (from at least 31 elephants; single tusks are regularly seized) and 64 arrests were made relating to elephant poaching and/or trafficking. Transboundary cooperation is essential in this area, and Namibian wildlife crime teams work closely with their counterparts in Botswana and Zambia to disrupt these international trafficking networks.

Unlike the decreases reported for poached high-value species, poaching for meat increased in some parts of Namibia during 2020 (the Erongo Region was a hotspot). Over 200 carcasses of large mammals (84 of which were gemsbok) were confiscated during this year, which is possibly linked in part to economic desperation created by the pandemic situation. This figure includes incidents on freehold and communal lands, and state protected areas.

HOLISTIC AND COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO TACKLING WILDLIFE CRIME

Efforts to combat wildlife crime in Namibia are not solely linked to anti-poaching and law enforcement activities. The key to success is through a holistic, community-based approach that includes education, awareness, and collaboration at many levels. Government agencies, conservancies, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and national and international donors all play important roles in the overall strategy.

The Blue Rhino Task Team (joint initiative between the MEFT Intelligence and Investigation Unit and the Protected Resources Division of NAMPOL) plays a key role in coordinating government efforts, while NACSO members work closely with each other and communal conservancies. The U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Global Environment Facility, KfW, the Wildcat Foundation, Rooikat and WWF all provide assistance in the form of funding, technical assistance and training to government agencies and NACSO member organisations.

The USAID's Combatting Wildlife Crime Project (CWCP), which started in 2017, has provided funding for Save the Rhino Trust (SRT), IRDNC, Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), Legal Assistance Centre (LAC), Namibia Development Trust (NDT), TRAFFIC and the NACSO Natural Resource Working Group to run awareness raising and training events in the Erongo and Kunene Regions. In the north-east, CWCP supports MEFT and the Prosecutor-General's Office with funding and specialist training. Their work in the north-east is part of a much larger KAZA-wide project.

This year, the annual Rhino Pride celebrations were much smaller than usual due to COVID restrictions on public gatherings. Nonetheless, 15 members of the Opuwo Youth Rhino Club held a march on World Rhino Day and several rhino-related events and discussions were held online. NNF and SRT held smaller meetings with nine Rhino Youth Groups throughout the north-west during 2020, thus reaching 195 members of these groups. Other events held to raise awareness around wildlife crime (in both the north-west and the north-east) targeted schools, traditional authorities, taxi drivers and sports teams.

Save the Rhino Trust organised their inaugural Kunene Rhino Awards event in March 2020 just prior to COVID restrictions. This event recognised the efforts of conservancy rhino rangers, whereby 200 prizes were awarded under more than a dozen performance categories. Receiving such recognitions boosted morale among patrol teams and led to increased patrol efforts in the months that followed, despite COVID restrictions.

Combatting wildlife crime initiatives are not just limited to awareness and community pride, however, as this holistic approach includes providing alternative livelihoods, reducing human-wildlife conflict and rewarding community conservation efforts through Wildlife Credits. Consequently, all CBNRM activities that support livelihoods, governance and natural resource management efforts ultimately contribute to reduced wildlife crime in communal areas.

The key to success is through a holistic, community-based approach that includes education, awareness, and collaboration at many levels.



NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN COMMUNITY FORESTS

Resource monitors are employed by community forests to conduct patrols, report illegal harvesting activities and assist with taking forest resource inventories. The Forest Management Plan includes a zonation plan that delimits which areas may be harvested, an annual allowable cut indicating the number of live trees, poles and dead wood to be harvested, and a Conditions of Use section that includes restrictions, penalties for illegal use and permit prices for forest resources. The resource monitors are tasked with monitoring these activities to ensure that the people using the forest resources are doing so in accordance with these plans.

Each community forest should complete a forest inventory every five years to establish the current state of their forest resources and thus guide the issuing of harvest permits. The National Forest Inventory team from the Directorate of Forestry (DoF) officials take the lead in this process and provide training for resource monitors and community members to collect the necessary data.

Completing an inventory is a time- and labour-intensive task, as teams of people are sent to sample plots marked on a GPS to collect detailed information on the trees within a radius of 20m of the GPS point. Within this radius, every tree that is greater than 10cm in diameter at breast height (DBH = 1.3m from the ground) is identified to species level and measured in terms of its log length (i.e. the useable part of the tree were it to be harvested). Saplings that fall between 5-10cm in DBH are identified and measured and even smaller seedlings of species that could become trees are measured within a radius of 10m from the GPS point. Qualitative data is also collected from each sample area, as trained observers describe the site in terms of its potential for grazing, timber harvesting, non-timber forest products, among other general descriptions.

This exercise requires 4-5 days of initial training for the data collectors and several days in the field to cover many sample sites – the number of sites depends on the size of the forest, accuracy required and resources available. The forest inventory should be conducted every 5-10 years for each community forest and included in an updated Forest Management Plan (FMP). Due to financial constraints in the community forests and the DoF, only 19 of the 43 registered community forests have up-to-date forest inventories (Figure 24). Five more are expected to complete their forest inventories by end of the DoF 2021/2022 financial year (marked as pending in Figure 24).

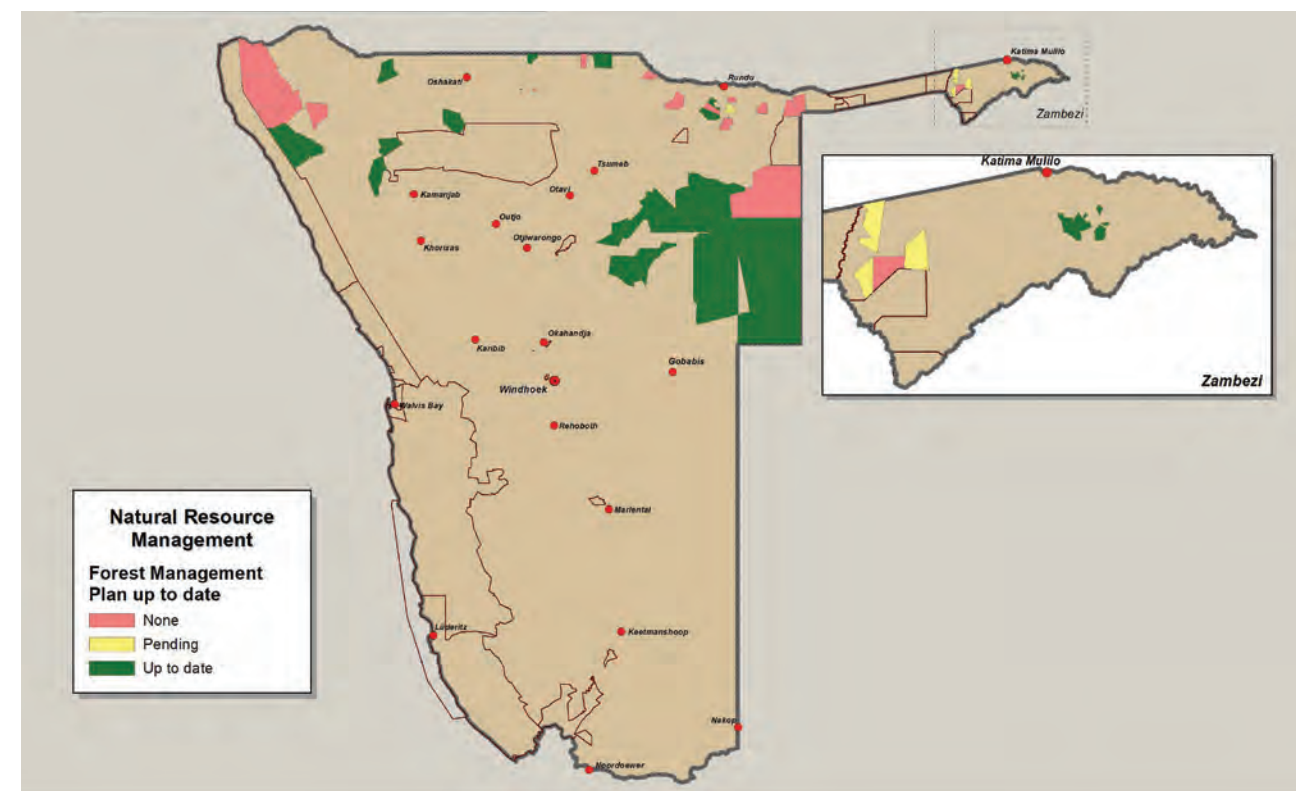


Figure 24. The status of Forest Management Plans in community forests. An up-to-date FMP requires a recent forest inventory that details what forestry resources are available for harvest.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN FISHERIES RESERVES

The fish guards and fish monitors work together to reduce illegal fishing and assess the status of fish stocks in the fisheries reserves. By protecting parts of the river that are important for fish breeding or ecosystem function (Figure 25), fish stocks in the rest of the river are likely to recover. This allows fishing to continue on other parts of the river and, if done sustainably, should result in better catches both in terms of the size and numbers of fish caught over time.

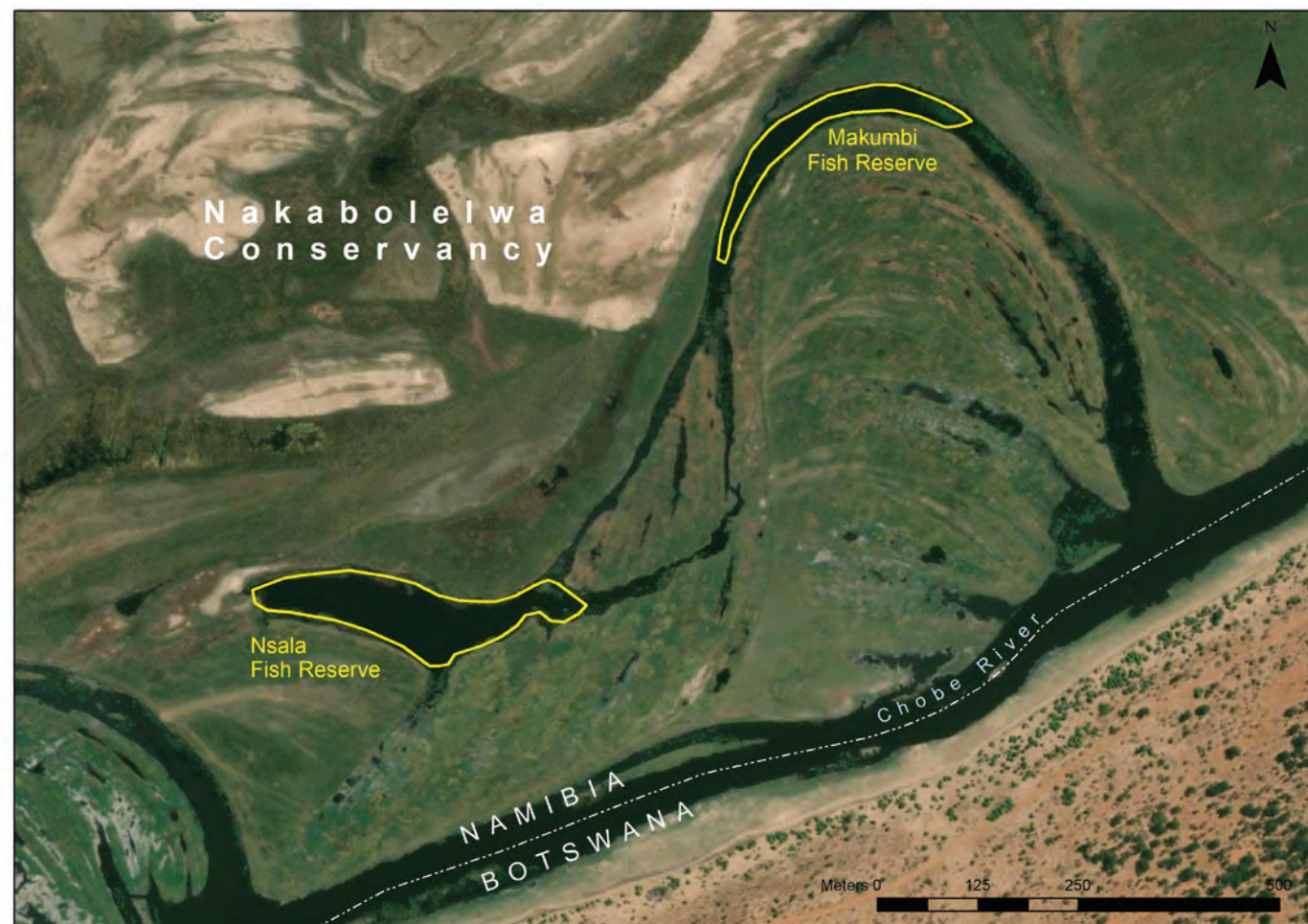


Figure 25. Fisheries reserves demarcated within Nakabolelwa Conservancy.

Fish guards are tasked with regularly patrolling the reserve to detect illegal fishing activities and remove illegal nets from the river. They are therefore trained as fish inspectors and thus greatly increase the capacity of MFMR to control illegal fishing. Where arrests are required, the fish guards would work together with MFMR inspectors and the police.

Fish monitors collect data on legal fish catches on a regular (weekly or twice a week) basis by visiting boat landing sites in their area to find out how much fish was caught using what methods. They are trained by fisheries scientists to accurately identify fish species and fill out data collection sheets. Adaptive management principles can then be applied based on the information collected over time. The monitor's data sheets are archived at the local MFMR offices to be kept for future reference. Monitoring data from the fisheries reserve in Sikunga Conservancy reveal that fish catch rates have increased up to five times within the reserve and doubled in fishing areas adjacent to the reserve.



Fish guards are tasked with regularly patrolling the reserve to detect illegal fishing activities and remove illegal nets from the river.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD:

COMMUNITY GAME GUARDS

Community game guards are the “boots on the ground” who monitor and conserve wildlife on behalf of their communities. Game guards (also called environmental shepherds) are essential for implementing the Event Book system by recording all significant wildlife-related events in their yellow books.

Other activities include patrolling their areas to prevent and/or report wildlife crime, responding to incidents of human-wildlife conflict (including providing advice on mitigation measures), and raising awareness about the importance of wildlife within their communities. Some have become specialised rhino, lion and elephant rangers that focus on monitoring and conserving those species.

Some of the game guards shared their concerns relating to COVID and recent wildlife declines, why they appreciate their jobs, and messages for their communities and support institutions.



Marius Vainen Kock,
Oskop Conservancy

Marius Vainen Kock (Oskop, Game Guard): “My job also gives me the opportunity to get in touch with nature. Exploring the landscapes, seeing wildlife and the combination is fascinating and relaxing. I am proud to be a game guard and would like to become an expert in the field of conservation.”



Pineas Kasaona,
Anabeb Conservancy

Pineas Kasaona (Anabeb, Game Guard): “Our patrols help to counter poaching in the area. The community never knows where we are, but they constantly see fresh tracks and poachers retreat because they are not sure whether we are in the area or not.”



Herman Kasaona,
Otjimboyo Conservancy

Herman Kasaona (Otjimboyo, Elephant Ranger): “I have skills to identify elephant behaviours and educate my fellow community members.”



Kachana Mukushi,
Lake Liyambezi Emerging Conservancy

Kachana Mukushi (Lake Liyambezi Emerging Conservancy, Game Guard): “There has been a decrease in poaching and an increase in wildlife. The awareness raising activities are effective.”



Ella !Hoas, ≠Khoadi-//Hôas Conservancy

Ella !Hoas: (≠Khoadi-//Hôas, Environmental Shepherd): “Wildlife numbers decreased and water points dried up, due to the persistent drought over the years. We still need to build our tourism industry and without wildlife, tourism will not be possible.”



Kapurwa Kapiringi,
Orupupa Conservancy

Kapurwa Kapiringi (Orupupa, Game Guard): “We as game guards try our level best to protect our natural resources. This job means a lot to me because it helps me take care of my family and community.”



Himaundu Hinu,
Orupupa Conservancy

Himaundu Hinu (Orupupa, Game Guard): “I will try to encourage the whole community to look after our natural resources and teach them the importance of conserving our nature. We pray that this COVID-19 will come to an end so that things can go back to normal.”



Maleska Harases,
≠Khoadi-//Hôas Conservancy

Maleska Harases (≠Khoadi-//Hôas, Environmental Shepherd): “It is so important to continue the work we do and to educate our children so that they will still be able to see wildlife in our area in the future.”



Festus Tjimbi,
Otjimboyo Conservancy

Festus Tjimbi (Otjimboyo, Volunteer Game Guard): “I am appealing to our potential tourists to visit Namibia as usual once the pandemic subsides. We as community game guards will make sure that you will enjoy the same scenery with wildlife when you visit after the coronavirus. I thank you.”

SCAN ME



Scan the QR code to access the full interviews of the conservancy staff quoted here.



Hofney Hoeb, Torra Conservancy

Hofney Hoeb (Torra, Rhino Ranger): “These animals are our future. Since I was young, I travelled around with my father, Sebulon Hoeb who worked for Save the Rhino Trust since 1990, so in many ways, this is my family inheritance. I love my job and this connection to my father.”



Martha Lambert,
//Audi Conservancy

Martha Lambert (//Audi, Volunteer Game Guard): “Walking around in the field, seeing wildlife and the beautiful landscapes makes my day. My conservancy does not generate income at the moment and so, we do this voluntarily.”



Gert Kasupi, ≠Khoadi-//Hôas Conservancy

Gert Kasupi (≠Khoadi-//Hôas, Rhino Ranger): “I love my job. Being a Rhino Ranger has helped us to change our livelihoods at home, my kids are also able to go to school as I can cater for their essential needs.”

CONSERVATION

AT SCALE





Namibia's national parks cover 16.8% of the land surface and protect a portion of every major ecological biome in the country. While some biomes are well represented within the parks (e.g. pans and the Succulent Karoo), several biomes are underrepresented within the parks system (e.g. Oshanas/floodplains and the Nama Karoo). Communal conservancies and community forests (jointly covering 21.9% of Namibia) cover several of these less protected biomes more extensively than the parks, thus greatly expanding the areas in each biome that are under sustainable land management (Figure 26).

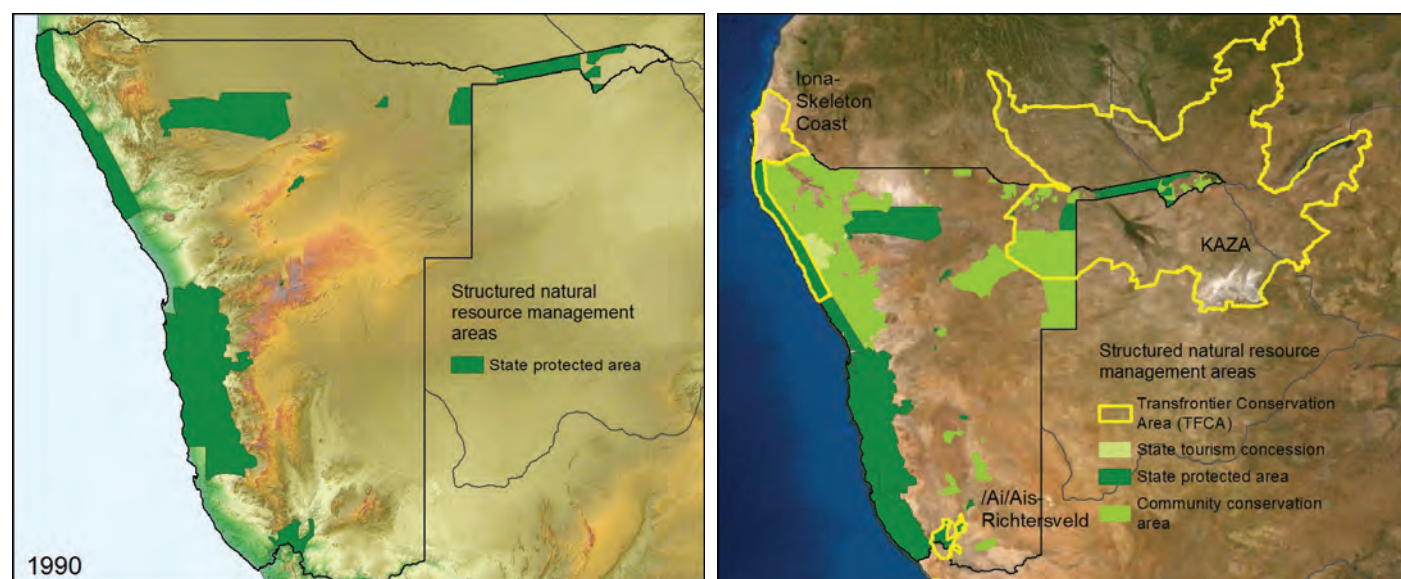


Figure 26. In 1990, the only areas under conservation management in Namibia were state-protected national parks. By 2020, this area had expanded significantly, especially through the addition of communal conservancies and community forests. Namibia is also party to three Trans-frontier Conservation Areas with neighbouring countries.

Parks and community conservation areas have distinctly different goals and reasons for being established. The needs and rights of people living in conservancies and community forests are prioritised, with the ultimate goal of linking sustainable development with nature conservation in these areas. National parks (NPs) are more focused on protecting species and ecosystems, generally in the absence of people (with Bwabwata NP being a notable exception).

These two systems of land management can operate side-by-side for mutual benefit: community lands can function as wildlife corridors that link separate national parks, while neighbouring communities can benefit from their association with parks. In some cases, tourism concessions within a park can directly benefit the neighbouring communities. Indirect benefits to park neighbours include attracting joint venture tourism partners, boosting wildlife populations and fees and meat from hunting opportunities.

Both parks and conservancies were established with human goals (i.e. to conserve nature and/or generate income) and constraints in mind, which means that their boundaries do not necessarily make ecological sense. Ecosystem management therefore requires a larger landscape-scale approach that goes beyond park and conservancy boundaries. This includes fostering better working relationships among conservancies at regional and sub-regional levels and between conservancies and neighbouring national parks. Aligning conservancy land use zones with each other and using data on animal movements to identify wildlife corridors between parks are therefore priorities for landscape conservation in Namibia.

THE KAVANGO-ZAMBEZI TRANS-FRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA

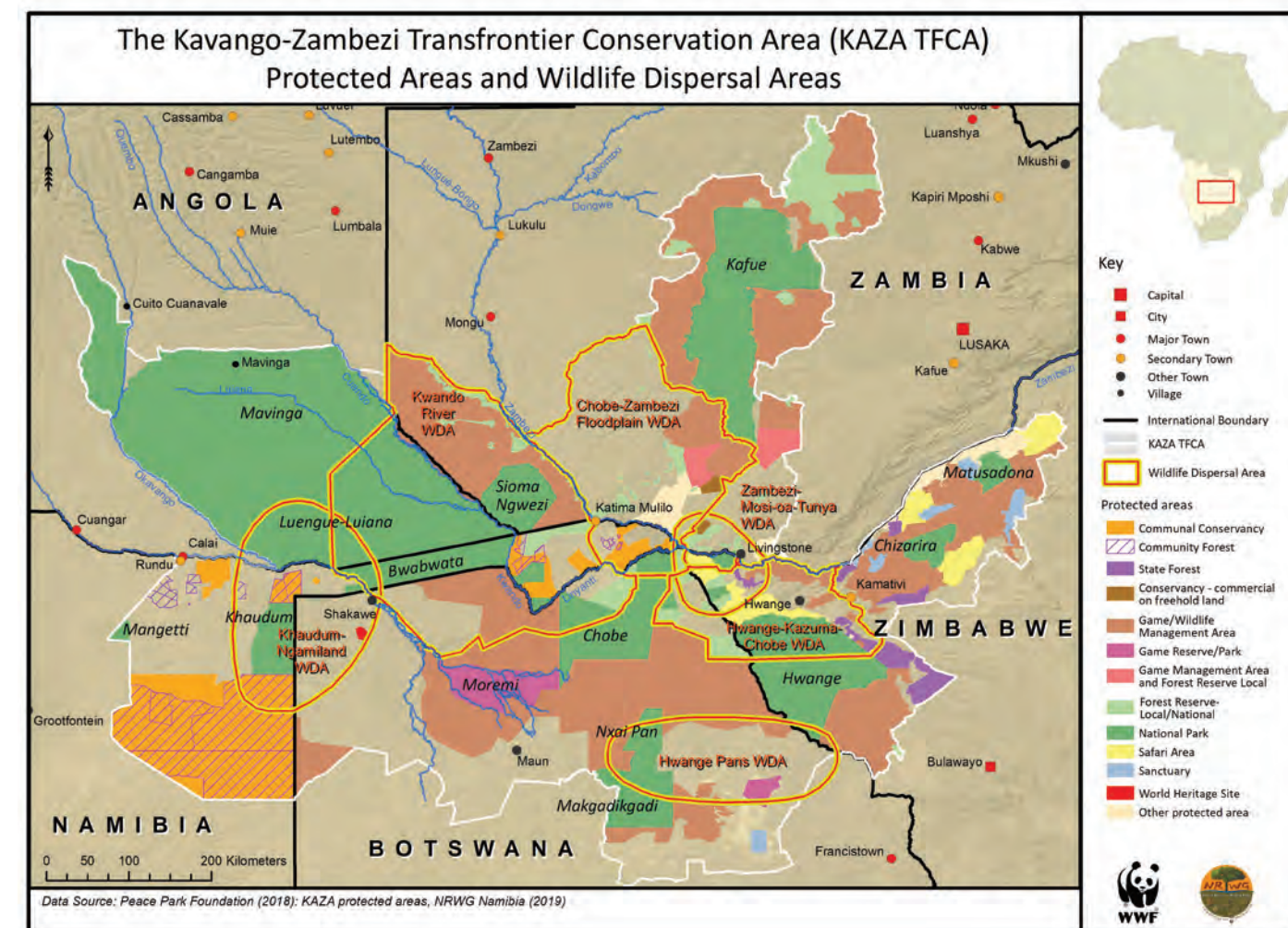


Figure 27. The Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), overlaid with key wildlife dispersal areas (WDAs).

Like other manmade boundaries, international borders frequently cut across natural ecosystems and animal migration routes. Managing such ecosystems is more complex than arrangements within a particular country, as different governments need to cooperate and agree on certain key issues. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) TFCA, where five countries have agreed to work together to conserve a globally significant ecosystem. Adding to this complexity is the mix of land uses within each country, which include national parks, community conservation areas and several towns and villages.

Within Namibia, Kyaramacan Association (in Bwabwata NP), 22 communal conservancies (6 of which have 10 fisheries reserves) and 22 community forests fall within the KAZA TFCA (Figure 27). The town of Katima Mulilo is close to the centre of KAZA, while Rundu is on the furthest western edge. Although north-eastern Namibia is a relatively small part of KAZA, its central position is strategically important for wildlife movements. Furthermore, some of Namibia's CBNRM practices (e.g. game counts, fisheries reserves) can be introduced to other countries.

A key part of Namibia's role in KAZA is maintaining and securing several key wildlife corridors that include Namibia, with some animals crossing Namibia entirely (Figure 28). Several existing conservancies and state protected areas (including the Zambezi State Forest) fall within these corridor areas. The corridor around the Kwando River includes the eastern parts of Bwabwata NP (where the Kyaramacan Association is located) and the Mudumu Complex of national parks and conservancies. Another key corridor crosses the Chobe floodplains and the Zambezi River, passing through several conservancies, while the final one connects Khaudum NP, the western part of Bwabwata NP with southern Angola and north-western Botswana.

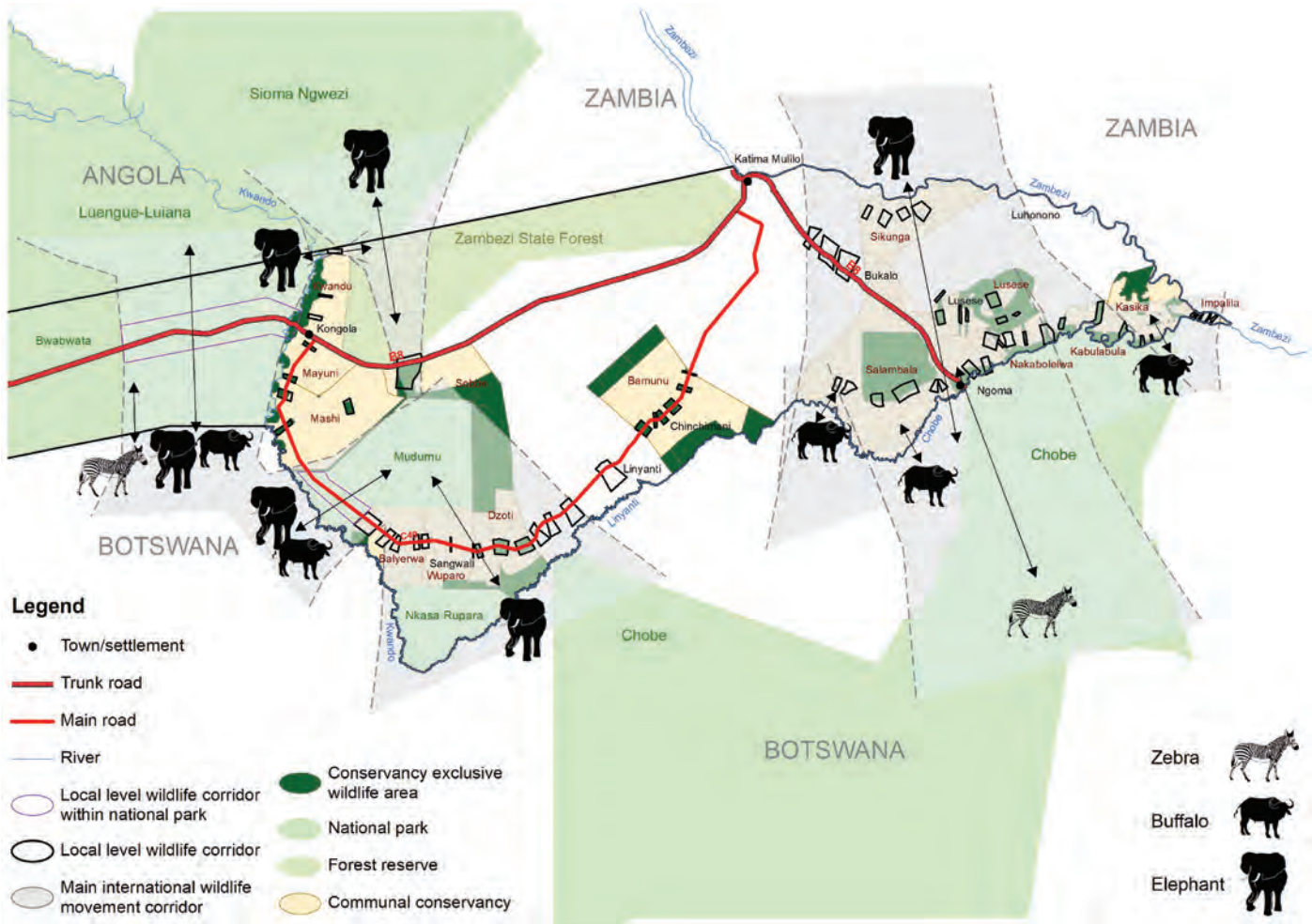


Figure 28. Known wildlife migration routes within the KAZA landscape that go to and from Namibia or cross it to connect countries on either side of the Zambezi Region. Large carnivores (not shown here) also move through these countries following similar routes.

Securing these corridors requires a multi-pronged approach that incorporates the needs of human communities and the ecological requirements of the animals that pass through the area. Mitigating human-wildlife conflict, reducing wildlife crime and developing alternative livelihoods and/or better farming practices to reduce pressure on the corridors will jointly contribute to conserving KAZA. Monitoring wildlife through ground and aerial surveys throughout the region is important to measure the relative success of these initiatives over time.

The WWF Dreamfund is supporting IRDNC to assist five communities who want to establish conservancies (Figure 29), while community game count procedures have been shared with Zambian communities. To address human-wildlife conflict, predator-proof livestock kraals have been built to reduce conflict with carnivores, while the maintenance of elephant corridors through the Wildlife Credits scheme reduces crop losses to elephants. As part of the goal to reduce wildlife crime, the fund provided Forestry officials in the Zambezi State Forest with a vehicle, resulting in several arrests for illegal logging.

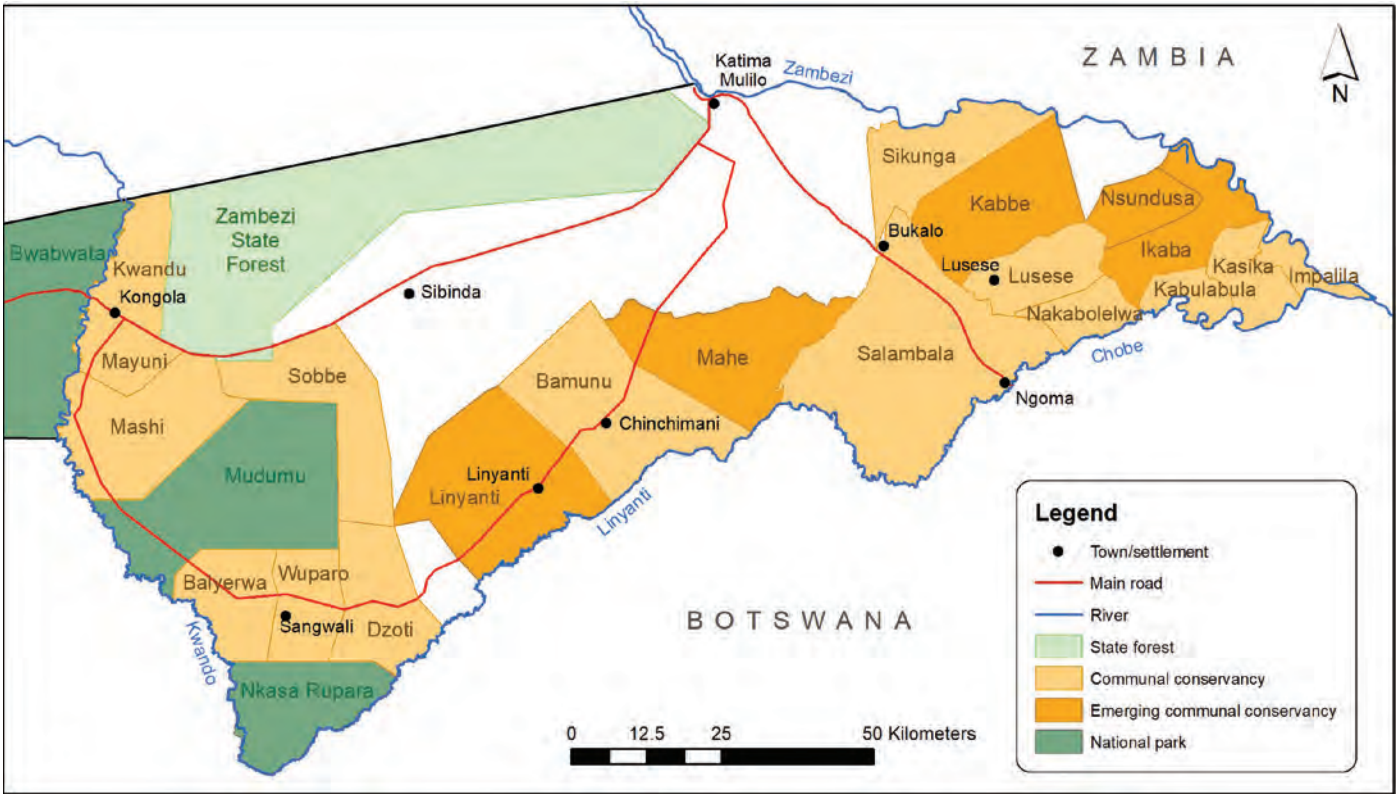


Figure 29. Conservancies and national parks to the east of the Kwando River, including five emerging conservancies that are being supported by the IRDNC with funding from the WWF Dreamfund.



To address human-wildlife conflict, predator-proof livestock kraals have been built to reduce conflict with carnivores, while the maintenance of elephant corridors through the Wildlife Credits scheme reduces crop losses to elephants.

REGISTERED CONSERVANCIES

MAP NO.	NAME	APPROX. PEOPLE	REG. DATE	CONTACT
36	!Gawachab	200	Jun-05	081-552 6657
52	!Han /Awab	614	May-08	081-302 4554
23	!Khob !naub	2137	Jul-03	081-662 2386
65	!Khoru !goreb	1811	Sep-11	081-692-6373
30	#Gaingu	2911	Mar-04	081-752 9003
3	#Khoadi-//Hoas	5079	Jun-98	081-395-3988
50	//Audi	853	Oct-06	0813789129
24	//Gamaseb	1647	Jul-03	081-231 1543
22	//Huab	1381	Jul-03	081-670-7500
39	African Wild Dog	4617	Sep-05	081-261 5539
25	Anabeb	1495	Jul-03	081-468 4699
45	Balyerwa	1307	Oct-06	081-379-7127
64	Bamunu	2304	Mar-11	081-214-4357
6	Doro !nawas	1472	Dec-99	081-240 3125
59	Dzoti	2023	Oct-09	081-271-0554
13	Ehi-Rovipuka	1432	Jan-01	081-297 0311
55	Eiseb	1567	Mar-09	081-284 9859
77	Epupa	4871	Oct-12	081-326 6900
79	Etanga	1780	Mar-13	081-311 1584
41	George Mukoya	1109	Sep-05	081-430 1911
58	Huibes	750	Oct-09	0816026703
73	Iipumbu ya Tshilongo	2460	May-12	081-256-0894
44	Impalila	966	Dec-05	081-355 7321
31	Joseph Mbambangandu	1801	Mar-04	081-371 3548
66	Kabulabula	457	Nov-11	081-439 8464
84	Kapinga kaMwalye	3746	Aug-18	081-625-3029
43	Kasika	1097	Dec-05	081-887-5212
40	King Nehale	5089	Sep-05	081-289-0017
47	Kunene River	6901	Oct-06	081-347 1624
8	Kwandu	3866	Dec-99	081-645 6933
82	Lusese	1195	Oct-14	081-364 4462
11	Marienfluss	340	Jan-01	081-836 0950
16	Mashi	2433	Mar-03	081-221 6778
83	Maurus Nekaro	12787	Aug-17	081-203 9578
9	Mayuni	2594	Dec-99	081-855 0777
37	Muduva Nyangana	1737	Sep-05	081-353 9749
29	N#a Jaqna	3891	Jul-03	081-627 9846
80	Nakabolelwa	802	Oct-14	081-656 7378
1	Nyae Nyae	3143	Feb-98	081-311 7621
48	Ohungu	1315	Oct-06	081-747 9382
42	Okamatapati	1996	Sep-05	081-672 0563
76	Okanguati	2338	May-12	081-230 8007
21	Okangundumba	2129	Jul-03	081-228 7708
74	Okatjandja Kozomenje	1898	May-12	081-699 0220
53	Okondjombo	100	Aug-08	081-336 3985
57	Okongo	2918	Aug-09	081-437 7541
67	Okongoro	1870	Feb-12	081-215 3069

MAP NO.	NAME	APPROX. PEOPLE	REG. DATE	CONTACT
17	Omatendeka	2539	Mar-03	081-283 7564
75	Ombazu	3207	May-12	081-431 6825
81	Ombombo-Masitu	2962	Oct-14	081-419 9982
70	Ombujokanguindi	701	Feb-12	081-349 5376
63	Omuramba ua Mbinda	513	Mar-11	081-298 7150
46	Ondjou	2969	Oct-06	081-229 2587
69	Ongongo	881	Feb-12	081-632 9117
20	Orupembe	187	Jul-03	081-722 8590
62	Orupupa	1494	Mar-11	081-246 8197
14	Oskop	75	Feb-01	081-314 2420
54	Otjambangu	1872	Mar-09	081-353 2935
78	Otjikondavirongo	3669	Mar-13	081-565 4765
86	Otjikongo	210	Aug-18	081-434 2270
18	Otjimboyo	323	Mar-03	081-658 6055
85	Otjindjerese	2062	Aug-18	081-472 3411
60	Otjitanda	575	Mar-11	081-283 9550
38	Otjituuo	5921	Sep-05	081-229 2587
72	Otjiu-West	831	May-12	065-685 160
68	Otjombande	1633	Feb-12	081-260 4556
61	Otjombinde	4782	Mar-11	081-322 4923
71	Otuzemba	457	Feb-12	081-565 2855
51	Ovitoto	4495	May-08	081-224 4721
33	Ozonahi	11381	Sep-05	081-749 1466
28	Ozondundu	395	Jul-03	081-459 0310
10	Puros	1163	May-00	081-664 2020
2	Salambala	8923	Jun-98	081-824 8399
27	Sanitatas	148	Jul-03	081-740 3987
26	Sesfontein	1839	Jul-03	085-657 8118
34	Shamungwa	140	Sep-05	081-692 0035
35	Sheya Shuushona	3542	Sep-05	065 25 2088
56	Sikunga	2476	Jul-09	081-252 0968
49	Sobbe	1085	Oct-06	081-321 5917
15	Sorris Sorris	950	Oct-01	081-397 1340
4	Torra	1330	Jun-98	081-759 8470
12	Tsiseb	2645	Jan-01	081-231 1371
7	Uibasen Twyfelfontein	230	Dec-99	067-68 7047/8
32	Uukolonkadhi Ruacana	35958	Sep-05	081-347 6455
19	Uukwaluudhi	983	Mar-03	081-485 1784
5	Wuparo	1027	Dec-99	081-580 6344
7	Uibasen Twyfelfontein	230	Dec-99	081-703 9530

REGISTERED COMMUNITY FORESTS

CF ID	YEAR	NAME	AREA KM²
1	Feb-2006	Masida	197
2	Feb-2006	Lubuta	171
3	Feb-2006	Kwandu	212
4	Feb-2006	Bukalo	53
5	Feb-2006	Ncumcara	152
6	Feb-2006	Ncaute	118
7	Feb-2006	Ncamagoro	263
8	Feb-2006	Mbeyo	410
9	Feb-2006	Hans Kanyinga	277
10	Feb-2006	Mkata	865
11	Feb-2006	Okongo	765
12	Feb-2006	Uukolonkadhi	848
13	Feb-2006	Sikanjabuka	42
14	Mar-2013	Orupembe	3565
15	Mar-2013	Nyae Nyae	8992
16	Mar-2013	Sanitatas	1446
17	Mar-2013	Marienfluss	3034
18	Mar-2013	Puros	3562
19	Mar-2013	Okondjombo	1644
20	Mar-2013	Zilitene	81
21	Mar-2013	Sachona	122
22	Mar-2013	Likwaterera	138
23	Mar-2013	Katope	638
24	Mar-2013	Cuma	116
25	Mar-2013	Otjiu-West	1100
26	Mar-2013	Gcwatjinga	341
27	Mar-2013	George Mukoya	486
28	Mar-2013	Kahenge	267
29	Mar-2013	Muduva Nyangana	615
30	Mar-2013	Ohepi	30
31	Mar-2013	Omufitu Wekuta	270
32	Mar-2013	Oshaampula	7
33	Oct-2018	Omuramba Ua Umbinda	3217
34	Oct-2018	Ondjou	8729
35	Oct-2018	Otjituuo	6132
36	Oct-2018	Otjombinde	5891
37	Oct-2018	Otshiku-Shilthilonde	1088
38	Oct-2018	African Wild Dog	3824
39	Oct-2018	Ehi-Rovipuka	1980
40	Oct-2018	Eiseb	6625
41	Oct-2018	N=/=a Jaqna	6303
42	Oct-2018	Omundaungilo	237
43	Feb-2019	Epukiro	10923

NACSO

NACSO MEMBERS

Cheetah Conservation Fund

067 306225
www.cheetah.org

Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC)

061 228506
www.irdnc.org.na

Legal Assistance Centre (LAC)

061 233356
www.lac.org.na

Multi-disciplinary Research Centre and Consultancy (MRCC-UNAM)

061 2063051
www.unam.edu.na/mrc

Namibia Development Trust (NDT)

061 238003
www.ndt.org.na

Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF)

061 248345
www.nnf.org.na

Nyae Nyae Development Foundation of Namibia (NNDFN)

061 236327
www.nndfn.org

Omba Arts Trust (OAT)

061 242799
www.omba.org.na

Save the Rhino Trust (SRT)

064 403829
www.savetherhinotrust.org

NACSO ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Kavango East- and West- Regional Conservancy and Community Forest Association

Cell: 081 3539749
PO Box 344, Rundu

Kunene Regional Community Conservancy Association

Cell: 081 3978066
PO Box 294, Opuwo

Erongo Regional Conservancy Association

Tel: 081 2139137
PO Box 40, Uis

Kunene South Conservancy Association

Cell: 081 3400196
Email: chairperson.skca@gmail.com

North Central Conservancies & Community Forests Regional Association

Cell: 081 2994698
PO Box 8489, Ondangwa

Namibian Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS)

Tel: 061 306450
www.NEWS-namibia.org

Tourism Supporting Conservation (TOSCO)

Tel: 081 4535855

WWF in Namibia

Tel: 061 239945
PO Box 9681, Windhoek

Sustainable Development Services

Tel: 061 220555
Email: annie.s@iway.na
PO Box 5582, Ausspanplatz, Windhoek

Environment & Development Consultant

Tel & Fax: 061 237101
PO Box 9455, Eros, Windhoek, Namibia

NACSO WORKING GROUPS

NACSO Business, Enterprises and Livelihoods Working Group

Tel: 061 230888
www.nacso.org.na

NACSO Institutional Development Working Group

Tel: 061 230888
www.nacso.org.na

NACSO Natural Resources Working Group

Tel: 061 230888
www.nacso.org.na

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
Tel: 061 284 2520
www.met.gov.na

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
Directorate of Water Affairs
Tel: 061 208 7266
www.mawf.gov.na

Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture
Tel: 061 293 3111
www.moe.gov.na

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Tel: 061 205 3084
www.mfmr.gov.na

Ministry of Mines and Energy
Tel: 061 284 8111
www.mme.gov.na

Minister of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare
Tel: 061 283 313
mgecw.gov.na

TOURISM PARTNERS

JOINT VENTURE	AREA	CONSERVANCIES	PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER	CONTACT
//Huab Under Canvas	Kunene South	//Huab	Ultimate Safaris	Tel:+264 61 248137; www.ultimatesafaris.na
Brandberg White Lady Lodge	Kunene South	Tsiseb	Naude de Jager	Tel: +264 64 684 004; www.brandbergwllodge.com
Camp Kipwe	Kunene South	Twyfelfontein-Uibasen	Visions of Africa	Tel: +264 61 232 009; www.kipwe.com
Camp Kwando	Zambezi	Mashi	Losange Lodges - Johann Liebenberg	Tel: +264 81 206 1514; www.campkwando.com
Camp Synchro	Kunene North	Marienfluss	Ryan Felix Christinger	Tel: +264 65 685 102; www.campsyncro.com
Camp Wildi	Kunene North	Sanitatas	House on the Hill	Tel: +264 81 124 6826; knott@iafrica.com.na
Chobe River Lodge	Zambezi	Salambala	Gondwana Collection	Tel: +264 61 230 066; www.gondwana-collection.com
Chobe Savannah Lodge	Zambezi	Kasika	Desert & Delta Safaris	Tel: +27 83 960 3391; www.desertdelta.com
Chobe Water Villas	Zambezi	Kasika & Impalila	Olthaver and List Leisure Hotels	Tel: +264 61 207 5365; www.chobewatervillas.com
Damaraland Camp	Kunene South	Torra	Wilderness Safaris Namibia	Tel: +264 61 274 500; www.wilderness-safaris.com
Desert Rhino Camp & Hoanib Camps	Kunene North	Anabeb, Sesfontein & Torra	Wilderness Safaris Namibia	Tel: +264 61 274 500; www.wilderness-safaris.com
Doro Inawas Lodge	Kunene South	Doro Inawas	Wilderness Safaris Namibia	Tel: +264 61 274 500; www.wilderness-safaris.com
Driefontein Lodge	Kunene South	Torra	Namibia Collection	Tel: +264 61 375 300; www.namibia-collection.com/
Epupa Falls Lodge & Campsite	Kunene North	Epupa	Kaokohimba Safaris	Tel: +264 65 685 021; www.kaoko-namibia.com
Etaambura Lodge	Kunene North	Orupembe	Namibia Conservancy Safaris	Tel: +264 64 406 136; www.kcs-namibia.com.na
Etendeka Mountain Camp	Kunene North	Anabeb & Omatendeka	Big Sky Lodges	Tel: +264 61 239 199; www.etendeka-namibia.com
Grootberg Lodge	Kunene South	≠Khoadi-//Hôas	Journeys Namibia	Tel: +264 61 308 901; www.grootberg.com
Hoanib Valley Camp	Kunene North	Sesfontein	Natural Selections Safaris	Tel:+264 6102256616 www.naturalseletion.travel
Hobatere Lodge	Kunene South	≠Khoadi-//Hôas	Journeys Namibia	Tel: +264 67 333 017; kh.conservancy@gmail.com
Hobatere Roadside & Halt	Kunene North	Ehrovipuka	Oasis Adventure Travel & Lodging	Tel: +264081033701856; Gawie@wildveld.com

JOINT VENTURE	AREA	CONSERVANCIES	PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER	CONTACT
House on the Hill	Kunene North	Orupembe	House on the Hill	Tel: +264 81 124 6826; knott@iafrica.com.na
Inchingo Chobe River Lodge	Zambezi	Impalila	Zambezi Queen Collection (Mantis)	www.chobe.com/ichingo-chobe-river-lodge.php
Jackalberry Tented Camp	Zambezi	Wuparo	Wild Waters Exclusive Camps & Lodges	Tel:+264 66 686101; rugero.micheletti@gmail.com
Kapika Waterfall Camp	Kunene North	Epupa	Kapika Waterfall Camp	Tel: +264 65 685 111; www.kapikafalls.com
Kavango Retreat	Kavango	George Mukoya; Muduva Nyangana	Namibia Exclusive Safaris	Tel: +264 81 128 7787; www.nes.com.na
KAZA Safari Lodge & Cascade Island Lodge	Zambezi	Impalila	Flame of Africa	Tel: +27 31 762 22424; www.flameofafrica.com
Kazile Lodge	Zambezi	Mashi	African Monarch Lodges	Tel: +264 81 124 4249; www.africanmonarchlodges.com
Khaudum Camp	Kavango	George Mukoya & Muduva Nyangana	Namibia Exclusive Safaris	Tel: +264 81 128 7787; www.nes.com.na
King Nehale Lodge	North Central	King Nehale	Gondwana Collections	Tel: +264 61 230 066; www.gondwana-collection.com
Kuidas Camp	Kunene North	Torra	Skeleton Coast Safaris	Tel: +264 61 224 248; www.skeletoncoastsafaris.com
Kunene River Camp	Kunene North	Marienfluss	Skeleton Coast Safaris	Tel: +264 61 224 248; www.skeletoncoastsafaris.com
Kunene River Lodge	Kunene North	Kunene River	Kunene River Lodge	Tel: +264 65 274 300; www.kuneneriverlodge.com
Leylandsdrift Camp	Kunene North	Puros	Skeleton Coast Safaris	Tel: +264 61 224 248; www.skeletoncoastsafaris.com
Madisa Lodge and Camp	Kunene South	Sorris Sorris	Whipp's Wilderness Safaris	Tel: +264 81 698 2908; www.madisacamp.com
Mashi River Safaris; Mavunje Campsite	Zambezi	Mashi	Mashi River Safaris	Tel: +264 81 461 9608; mashiriversafaris@gmail.com
Nambwa Lodge	Zambezi	Mayuni	African Monarch Lodges	Tel: +264 81 124 4249; www.africanmonarchlodges.com
Namushasha Lodge	Zambezi	Mashi	Gondwana Collection	Tel: +264 61 230 066; www.gondwana-collection.com
Nkasa Lupala Tented Lodge	Zambezi	Wuparo	Wild Waters Exclusive Camps & Lodges	Tel: +264 81 147 7798; www.nkasalupalalodge.com
Nkasa West Lodge Concession	Zambezi	Wuparo, Balyerwa & Dzoti	Natural Selections Safaris	Tel:+264 6102256616 www.naturalseletion.travel
Okahirongo Elephant Lodge	Kunene North	Puros	Lions in the Sun	Tel: +264 65 685 018; www.okahirongolodge.com
Okahirongo River Lodge	Kunene North	Marienfluss	Lions in the Sun	Tel: +264 65 685 018; www.okahirongolodge.com
Okandombo Safari Camp	Kunene North	Epupa	Jan Izaak Cornerius Coetzee	Tel: +264 81 22752022; corniecoetzeesafaris@iway.na
Omarunga Lodge & Campsite	Kunene North	Epupa	Camelthorn Safaris	Tel: +264 64 403 096; www.omarungalodge.com
Omatendeka Lodge	Kunene North	Omatendeka	Namibia Exclusive Safaris	Tel: +264 81 128 7787; www.nes.com.na
Ongongo Camp	Kunene North	Anabeb	Ongongo Hospitality Training Centre CC	Tel: +264 61 239 643; www.ongongo.com
Olupale Safari Lodge	North Central	Ipumbu ya Tshilongo	Namibia Collection	Tel: +264 61 375 300; www.namibia-collection.com/
Palmwag Lodge and Campsite	Kunene North	Anabeb, Torra & Sesfontein	Gondwana Collection	Tel: +264 61 230 066; www.gondwana-collection.com
Puros Bush Lodge & Community Campsite	Kunene North	Puros	Jimmy Marais and Hein Truter	Tel: +264 61 251 661; https://puros.wild-exp.com/
Rupara Campsite	Zambezi	Wuparo	Wild Waters Exclusive Camps & Lodges	Tel: +264 81 147 7798; www.nkasalupalalodge.com
Serondela Lodge	Zambezi	Kabulabula	Wild Waters Exclusive Camps & Lodges	Tel: +264 81 147 7798; www.serondelalodge.com
Serra Cafema	Kunene North	Marienfluss	Wilderness Safaris Namibia	Tel: +264 61 274 500; www.wilderness-safaris.com

JOINT VENTURE	AREA	CONSERVANCIES	PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER	CONTACT
Sharwimbo River Camp	Zambezi	Mashi	P.B Varmaak	Tel: +264 81 1240489; www.sharwimbo.com
Sheya Shuushona Lodge	North Central	Sheya Shuushona	Namibia Exclusive Safaris	Tel: +264 81 128 7787; www.nes.com.na
Skeleton Coast Central - Shipwreck Lodge	Kunene North	Puros; Sesfontein	Trip Travel	Tel: +264 61 228104; www.journeysnamibia.com
Skeleton Coast North	Kunene North	Puros, Orupembe, Sanitatas, Etanga, Okondjombo	Skeleton Coast Fly-in Safaris	Tel: +264 61 224 248; www.skeletoncoastsafaris.com
Sorri-Sorris Lodge	Kunene South	Sorris Sorris	Namibia Exclusive Safaris	Tel: +264 81 128 7787; www.nes.com.na
Spitzkoppe Lodge	Kunene South	≠Gaingu	Spitzkoppe Lodge CC - Melt Hugo	Tel: +264 81 1287751; www.spitzkoppelodge.com
Tsaurab Camp (EHRA)	Kunene South	Sorris Sorris	EHRA & Tsaurab Wildlife Development CC	Tel: +264 64 402 501; info@desertelephant.org
Twyfelfontein Country Lodge	Kunene South	Twyfelfontein-Uibasen	Namibia Country Lodges	Tel: +264 61 374 750; www.twyfelfonteinlodge.com
Uukwaluudhi Safari Lodge	North Central	Uukwaluudhi	Uukwaluudhi Safari Lodge	Tel: +264 65 273 504; www.uukwaluudhi-safarilodge.com
White Sands Lodge and Campsite	Kyramacan Association	Kyaramacan Association	Rovejema Lodge and Camping Group	Tel: +264 81 338 3224; www.whitesands.com.na
Zambezi Mubala Lodge & Camp	Zambezi	Sikunga	Gondwana Collections	Tel: +264 61 230 066; www.gondwana-collection.com
Zambezi Queen	Zambezi	Kasika; Kabulabula	Mantis Collection	Tel: +27 21 715 2412; www.zambeziqueen.com

CONSERVATION HUNTING PARTNERS

CONSERVANCY	REGION	HUNTING OPERATOR	OPERATOR EMAIL
//Huab	Kunene	Omuwiwe Hunting Lodge	pieter@omuwiwe.co.za
≠Khoadi-//Hõas	Kunene	Estreux Safaris	info@estreuxsafaris.com
Anabeb	Kunene	WildVeld Safaris	markmisner@comcast.net
Balyerwa	Zambezi	Divan Labuschgne Safaris CC	huntingdivan@gmail.com
Bamunu	Zambezi	A.S.S Hunting Safaris in Partnership with Chapungu-Kambako Hunting Safaris (Pty) Ltd	hafeni@gmail.com
Dzoti	Zambezi	Ondjou Safaris cc	vhsaf@africaonline.com
Eiseb	Omaheke	Dzombo Hunting Safaris	wasserfallj42@gmail.com
Epupa	Kunene	Cornie Coetzee Hunting Safaris	corniecoetzeesafaris@iway.na
George Mukoya	Kavango East	Ekuja Hunting Safaris	ekuja.hunting@gmail.com
Impalila	Zambezi	Sable Hills Safari Namibia cc	sablehillssafarinamibia@gmail.com
Kabulabula	Zambezi	Rigby Safaris	
Kasika	Zambezi	Sable Hills Safari Namibia cc	sablehillssafarinamibia@gmail.com
King Nehale	Oshikoto	Van Heerden Safaris (Pty) Ltd	vhsaf@africaonline.com
Kunene River	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na
Kwandu	Zambezi	Jamy Traut Hunting Safaris cc	jamytraut@gmail.com
Kyarmacan Association	Zambezi	Ndumo Hunting Safari cc	karl@huntingsafari.net
Kyarmacan Association	Kavango East	Hunt Africa Safaris	info@huntafrica.com.na
Lusese	Zambezi	Game Trackers Africa	jaco@gametrackersafrica.com
Mashi	Zambezi	Omujeve Safari (Pty) Ltd	corne@omujevesafaris.com / cornek79@gmail.com
Maurus Nekaro	Kavango West	JJ Hunting Safaris	jaco.vanheerden@ymail.com
Mayuni	Zambezi	Jamy Traut Hunting Safaris cc	jamytraut@gmail.com
Muduva Nyanga	Kavango East	Ekuja Hunting Safaris	ekuja.hunting@gmail.com
N#a Jaqna	Otjozondjupa	Thormahlen & Cochran Safari (Pty) Ltd	peter@africatrophyhunting.com
Nakablolelwa	Zambezi	Game Trackers Africa	jaco@gametrackersafrica.com
Nyae Nyae	Otjozondjupa	SMJ Hunting Safaris cc	smj@iway.na

CONSERVANCY	REGION	HUNTING OPERATOR	OPERATOR EMAIL
Okangundumba	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na
Okongoro	Kunene	Wild Namibia Hunting Safaris cc	groblerbrink@gmail.com
Ombujokanguindi	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na
Omuramba Ua Mbinda	Omaheke	Dzombo Hunting Safaris	wasserfallj42@gmail.com
Ondjou	Otjozondjupa	Thormahlen & Cochran Safari (Pty) Ltd	peter@africatrophyhunting.com
Orupembe	Kunene	Estreux Safaris	info@estreuxsafaris.com
Orupupa	Kunene	WildVeld Safaris	markmisner@comcast.net
Otjambangu	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na
Otijkondavirongo	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na
Otjombinde	Omaheke	Dzombo Hunting Safaris	wasserfallj42@gmail.com
Otuzemba	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na
Salambala	Zambezi	Nature Hunting Safaris	naturesolutions@iway.na
Sesfontein	Kunene	Leopard Legend Hunting Safaris	info@leopardlegend.com
Sikunga	Zambezi	Ndumo Hunting Safari cc	karl@huntingsafari.net
Sobbe	Zambezi	Ndumo Hunting Safari cc	karl@huntingsafari.net
Torra	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na
Tsiseb	Erongo	African Hunting Safaris	denkerk@erongosafaris.com
Uukolondkadhi-Ruacana	Omusati	Track a Trail Safaris	trackatrailsafaris@hotmail.com
Uukwaludhi	Omusati	Uukwaluudhi Safari Lodge PTY (Ltd)	johan@satib.com
Wuparo	Zambezi	Caprivi Hunting Safari cc	caprivihuntingsafaris@iway.na





Community conservation in Namibia grew out of the recognition that wildlife and other natural resources are vital in communal areas, and that the value of these resources can be unlocked if local communities are empowered to manage and utilise resources themselves.

For more information go to: communityconservationnamibia.com

