THE STATE OF COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN NAMIBIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

a review of communal conservancies,
community forests and other CBNRM 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.

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FOREWORD

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

Namibia has adopted a number of innovative strategies to achieve biodiversity conservation within the framework of national development plans and poverty reduction. One of these strategies is the Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Programme, which allows the formation of communal conservancies. Rural communities that have formed communal conservancies and community forests have the right to manage their natural resources and generate income from the sustainable utilisation of plants, wildlife and tourism.

By the end of 2019, the CBNRM programme comprises 86 conservancies, 1 community conservation association and 43 registered and emerging community forests, affecting over 220,000 Namibians. Combined with state protected areas, tourism concessions and freehold land used for wildlife, 45.6% of Namibia's land surface is now under conservation. Importantly, CBNRM creates rural employment opportunities and supplements livelihoods, thus contributing to Vision 2030 and our commitment to meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Notwithstanding our pride in what has been achieved thus far, the MEFT is committed to the continuous improvement of the CBNRM programme, particularly in terms of delivering tangible benefits to rural communities. Our clear directive to the conservancies, which I reiterated during the 2019 National Chairperson's Forum, is that at least 50% of the income generated by the conservancies or community tourism concessions must be allocated towards community development projects. The MEFT and our partners are committed to assisting all conservancies to increase their revenue streams and cut unnecessary expenditure to meet this goal.

The MEFT is further committed to improving governance standards in all conservancies. Even conservancies that currently generate little income can still be efficient and accountable. All conservancies are thus expected to comply with key requirements by holding Annual General Meetings, presenting satisfactory annual financial reports to their members, holding free and fair committee elections, creating and implementing sound Benefit Distribution Plans and managing wildlife as per Game Management and Utilisation Plans.

Continuously improving our CBNRM programme primarily benefits Namibians, but it is also important to show our progress to the rest of the world. The Namibian delegation attending the 18th Conference of the Parties for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) understood the importance of showcasing our success and progress to defend our sustainable use policies.

Conservation hunting, in particular, comes under severe pressure at these and other international meetings. During a speech delivered to CITES, I emphasised the role that hunting plays in generating revenue that is linked to community development and rural livelihoods. I trust that the community representatives attending the meeting have a renewed appreciation for the seriousness of this matter and will encourage their conservancies accordingly. Additionally, it is imperative that hunting operators work within the legal framework set by the MEFT and adhere to high ethical standards.

The drought continued to impact many rural Namibians in 2019 and has exacerbated human-wildlife conflict in some conservancies. Due to climate change, severe droughts like this one are likely to occur more often, so we need to consider rural adaptation strategies to increase our resilience to climate change. This includes diversifying rural livelihoods and implementing policies that reduce human-wildlife conflict in the long-term.

In 2019 we celebrated two full years of zero rhino poaching in conservancies in the Kunene and Erongo Regions. These conservancies and their supporting organisations deserve international recognition for their role in protecting this species. This achievement further highlights the importance of collaboration between the MEFT, other government ministries, our NACSO partners and international donors. Many of these partners assist the MEFT with our efforts to combat wildlife crime throughout Namibia, which has resulted in reduced poaching incidents and increased arrests during this last year.

This year's State of Community Conservation Report reviews the progress made thus far and focuses on the twin challenges of increasing benefits and improving governance. Together with NACSO and our funding partners, the MEFT will provide the support required by our communities to take the CBRNM programme from strength to strength.

Honourable Pohamba Shifeta

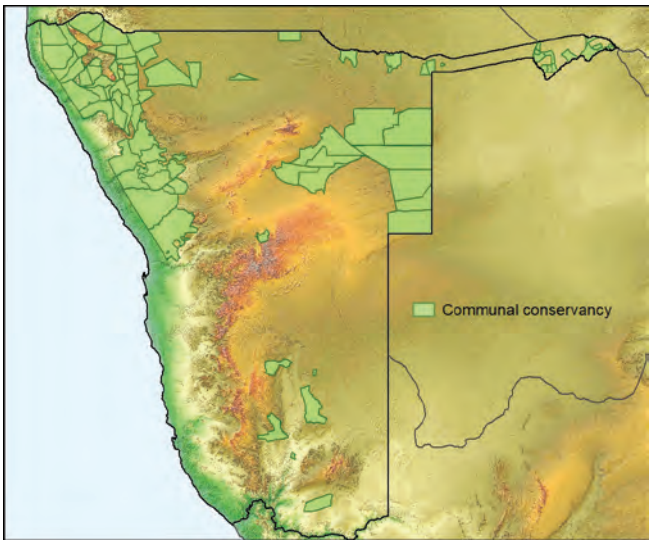
WHO WE ARE

COMMUNITIES

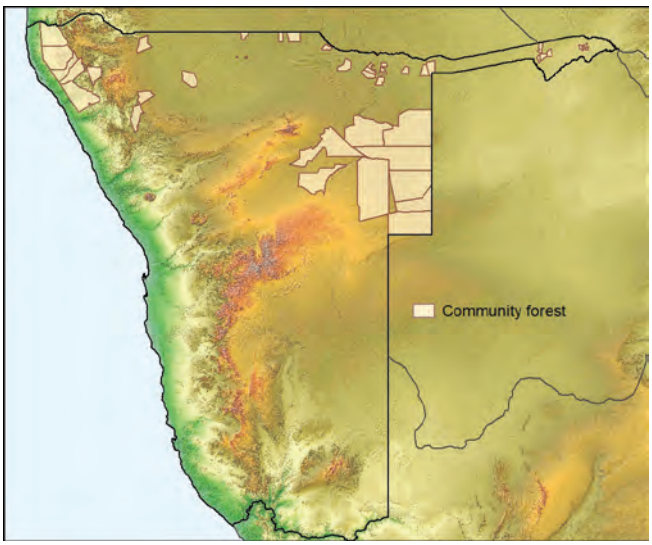
Namibia's communal conservancies and community forests are self-governing entities legally recognised by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT). Conservancies receive training and support from NACSO, which also partners with the Directorate of Forestry that supports community forests.

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.

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



Conservancies in 2019



Community forests in 2019

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.

Provides technical support to conservancies including training in natural resources management; community capacity building; institutional and economic development; financial and logistical assistance

IRDNC

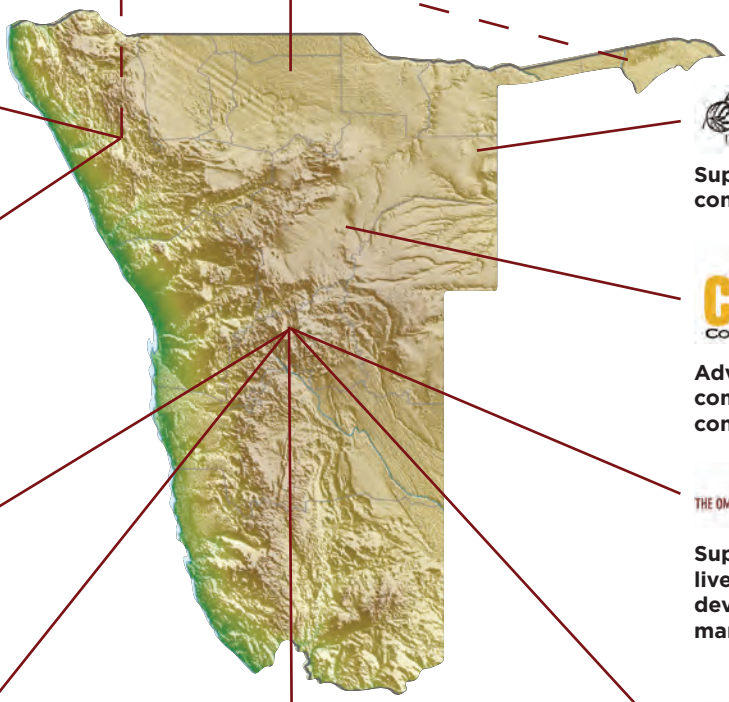
Namibia Nature Foundation

NDT

Implements rhino conservation and management, and responsible rhino tourism ventures

Links the tourism industry to local people, conservation organisations and research

Researches into the social effectiveness of CBNRM and conservancies in Namibia



Supports San communities in conservancies

Advises communal and commercial farmers on cheetah conservation

Supports sustainable livelihoods through the development, sales and marketing of quality crafts

Works to conserve Namibia's natural environment, to promote appropriate protection, wise use of natural resources and sustainable development

Provides legal advice to conservancies on constitutions, contracts, legal conflicts, conflict resolution, and advocacy on CBNRM issues

Provides technical support nationally to implementers in the fields of natural resource management, business and enterprise development, and institutional development




THE STATE OF COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN NAMIBIA WEBSITE *Communityconservationnamibia.com*

THE MANY BENEFITS OF A WEBSITE

The State of Community Conservation Report has been produced in print format for 16 years, and it is still used to create awareness and keep stakeholders up to date on progress. Nonetheless, a website can reach a much broader audience – from conservancy members in rural areas to people around the world who want to know more about the programme. The website also allows more in-depth articles about the programme's history, highlights and specialist topics to remain available from year to year, whilst new information and data are continuously added to the relevant sections. This wealth of knowledge is available at any time and on any kind of device.

Like this report, the website is jointly hosted by MEFT and NACSO, with their combined contributions providing the most comprehensive source of information on community conservation in Namibia. Besides being a public-facing platform for educational purposes, the site is useful for introducing new local staff members to the programme to create continuity and a common understanding for the way forward. International professionals looking to establish or strengthen community conservation in their own countries will also benefit from this invaluable resource.

SCAN ME

A QUICK GUIDE TO COMMUNITYCONSERVATIONNAMIBIA.COM

The website is easily navigated using four drop down menus and a search bar. The amount of information can be overwhelming, so these menus allow the visitor to take a quick glance at the programme, or dive deeper into any aspect of it that interests them.

The **Home** menu is a good place for the first-time visitor to start, as it introduces the CBNRM programme – the overall vision, main stakeholders, funding partners, history and basic national statistics. This provides a foundational understanding of the programme that is required to put the more detailed information into its appropriate context.

The **Support to Conservation** menu houses the three pillars of the programme – natural resource management, governance and livelihoods – that contain detailed sub-sections presenting the latest data and specialist articles on key topics. For those wanting to replicate similar models elsewhere, spending time on this part of the website will yield insights into the inner workings of the Namibian programme.

The **Impact of Community Conservation** menu takes a step back and considers the impacts of CBNRM in Namibia in terms of landscape-scale conservation efforts and its contribution to the national economy and sustainable development goals. An even broader view takes in the programme's global impact, from our direct neighbours with which Namibia manages Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) through to countries as far afield as Nepal.

Finally, **The Big Issues** menu focuses on four key topics that are consistently high on the agenda for CBNRM: governance, benefits, combatting wildlife crime and human-wildlife conflict. While the Support to Conservation section provides updated statistics on each of these sections of the programme, the strategic approach and guiding principles for dealing with each of these issues is explained here in detail.

A COMMON VISION

Maxi Louis – Director of NACSO

WORKING TOGETHER ON BENEFITS AND GOVERNANCE

NACSO is in full agreement with MEFT on the importance of increasing benefit flows to conservancy members and striving for good governance in all conservancies. We recognise that the goal of creating benefits from wildlife-based land use was one of the key reasons for the CBNRM programme being established in the first place. It is therefore of utmost importance that the communities who have established conservancies receive benefits for their role in conserving wildlife. The Minister's directive that at least 50% of conservancy income should be earmarked for benefit distribution is a good target for the programme going forward.

To that end, our member organisations worked with conservancies to put systems in place that improve the flow of benefits to community members and increase community engagement with their respective conservancies. Increased engagement leads to better governance and ultimately more equitable benefit distribution, so these things are closely linked. Furthermore, improving female representation in conservancy leadership roles and finding ways for marginalised communities to express their needs at the local, regional and national levels are key aspects of governance.

COMMUNITY VOICES HEARD ON ALL LEVELS

On the local level, NACSO looks at the level of engagement committees have with the smaller blocks into which conservancies are divided up – regular block or area meetings are useful for obtaining feedback and planning for the next year. At a regional level, we support the Conservancy Associations that have formed within the regions to improve their advocacy and coordination on common topics.

On the national level, the Chairperson's Forum provides a platform for discussing things that affect the whole country, the strategic direction of the CBNRM programme, national policies and international issues that affect Namibia. Some of the key points of discussion at the 2019 forum included the Human-Wildlife Conflict Policy, the Protected Areas and Wildlife Management Bill, and input for the Land Conference that happened later in the year. While National Chairperson's Fora occur bi-annually, more regular engagement through the regional associations ensure a two-way flow of information between conservancies and other stakeholders.

On the international level, we attended the 2019 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Conference of the Parties 18 (CoP18) in Geneva with five community representatives. Despite the change of date and venue due to problems in Sri Lanka, our team were well prepared. Along with their counterparts from other countries, they were very active during the CoP and ensured that the community voice was heard on this platform. We especially engaged with two CITES working groups, namely Livelihoods and Community Engagement, that are relevant to community conservation. The atmosphere at CoP18 was tense, but I was especially pleased with how our community representatives spoke up and presented their points of view on what can be an intimidating platform.

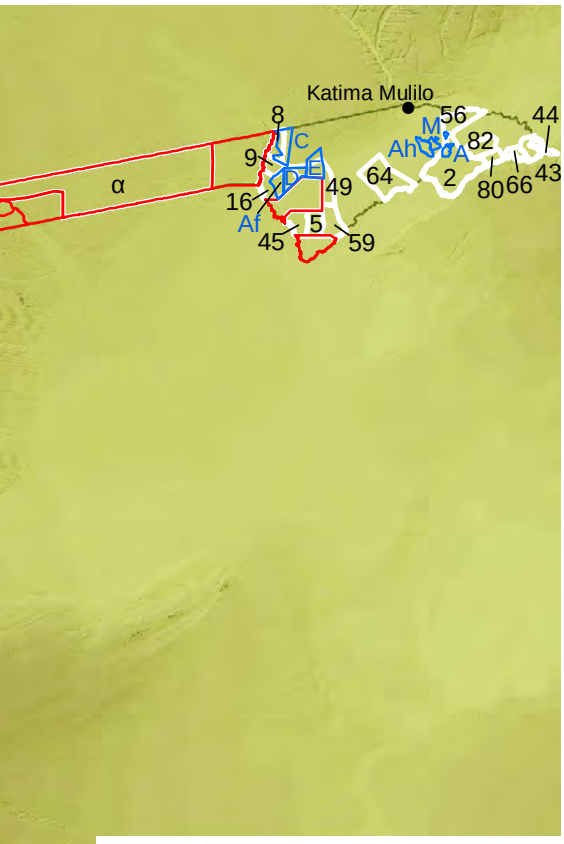
REFLECTIONS ON CITES COP18

Although the CITES decisions did not go our way in 2019, it was encouraging to see that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) spoke with one voice to articulate its concerns with the manner in which these decisions are taken. The SADC region supports healthy populations of many of the animals that are regulated through CITES, yet we receive little reward for our conservation efforts. Our delegation was well supported by Venture Media from Namibia who documented our CITES experience and provided a platform for sharing our perspective.

EYES ON THE FUTURE

With 86 conservancies and one community association, the CBNRM programme operates on a massive scale. The challenge we must continue to overcome is how to amplify the community voices from the village and farm right up to the global stage. Conservancy members are the ultimate custodians of our natural resources; they need to receive tangible benefits and be empowered to actively engage with issues that affect their lives and livelihoods.

FIGURE 1. NAMIBIAN CONSERVANCIES AND COMMUNITY FORESTS



COMMUNITY FORESTS

A	Bukalo
B	Hans Kanyinga
C	Kwandu
D	Lubuta
E	Masida
F	Mbeyo
G	Mkata
H	Ncamagoro
J	Ncaute
K	Ncumcara
L	Okongo
M	Sikanjabuka
N	Uukolonkadhi
P	Cuma
Q	Gcwatjinga
R	George Mukoya
S	Kahenge
T	Katope
U	Likwaterera
V	Marienfluss
W	Muduva Nyangana
X	Nyae Nyae

Y	Ohepi
Z	Okondjombo
Aa	Omufitu Wekuta
Ab	Orupembe
Ac	Oshaampula
Ad	Otjiu-West
Ae	Puros
Af	Sachona
Ag	Sanitatas
Ah	Zilitene
Ai	African Wild Dog
Ak	Ehi-Rovipuka
Al	Eiseb
Am	N≠a Jaqna
An	Omundaungilo
Ao	Omuramba Ua Umbinda
Ap	Ondjou
Aq	Otjituuo
Ar	Otjombinde
As	Otshiku-Shilthilonde
At	Epukiro

CONSERVANCIES

1	Nyae Nyae
2	Salambala
3	≠Khoadi-//Hôas
4	Torra
5	Wuparo
6	Doro !nawas
7	Ûibasen Twyfelfontein
8	Kwandu
9	Mayuni
10	Puros
11	Marienfluss
12	Tsiseb
13	Ehi-Rovipuka
14	Oskop
15	Sorris Sorris
16	Mashi
17	Omatendeka
18	Otjimboyo
19	Uukwaluudhi
20	Orupembe
21	Okangundumba
22	//Huab
23	!Khob !naub
24	//Gamaseb
25	Anabeb
26	Sesfontein
27	Sanitatas
28	Ozondundu
29	N≠a Jaqna
30	≠Gaingu

31	Joseph Mbambangandu
32	Uukolonkadhi Ruacana
33	Ozonahi
34	Shamungwa
35	Sheya Shuushona
36	!Gawachab
37	Muduva Nyangana
38	Otjituuo
39	African Wild Dog
40	King Nehale
41	George Mukoya
42	Okamatapati
43	Kasika
44	Impalila
45	Balyerwa
46	Ondjou
47	Kunene River
48	Ohungu
49	Sobbe
50	//Audi
51	Ovitoto
52	!Han /Awab
53	Okondjombo
54	Otjambangu
55	Eiseb
56	Sikunga
57	Okongo
58	Huibes
59	Dzoti
60	Otjitanda

61	Otjombinde
62	Orupupa
63	Omuramba ua Mbinda
64	Bamunu
65	!Khoro !goreb
66	Kabulabula
67	Okongoro
68	Otjombande
69	Ongongo
70	Ombujokanguindi
71	Otuzemba
72	Otjiu-West
73	Iipumbu ya Tshilongo
74	Okatjandja Kozomenje
75	Ombazu
76	Okanguati
77	Epupa
78	Otjikondavirongo
79	Etanga
80	Nakabolelwa
81	Ombombo
82	Lusese
83	Maurus Nekaro
84	Kapinga kaMwalye
85	Otjindjerese
86	Otjikongo
α	Kyaramacan Association
6-7	Doro !nawas/ Ûibasen Twyfelfontein Joint Management Area

NAMIBIA

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

Human wellbeing is inseparable from the plants, animals and ecosystems of the natural world. The concept of Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) recognises the connection between people and the natural world and empowers those most closely connected to nature to make decisions on how to use it for their current benefit and for future generations.

In Namibia, CBNRM principles provide the basis for developing a wildlife economy in rural areas, and they have also been applied to fish and plant resources. Grassroots governance structures called conservancies, community fish reserves and community forests create and implement rules for resource use and develop processes for the equitable distribution of benefits arising from such use.

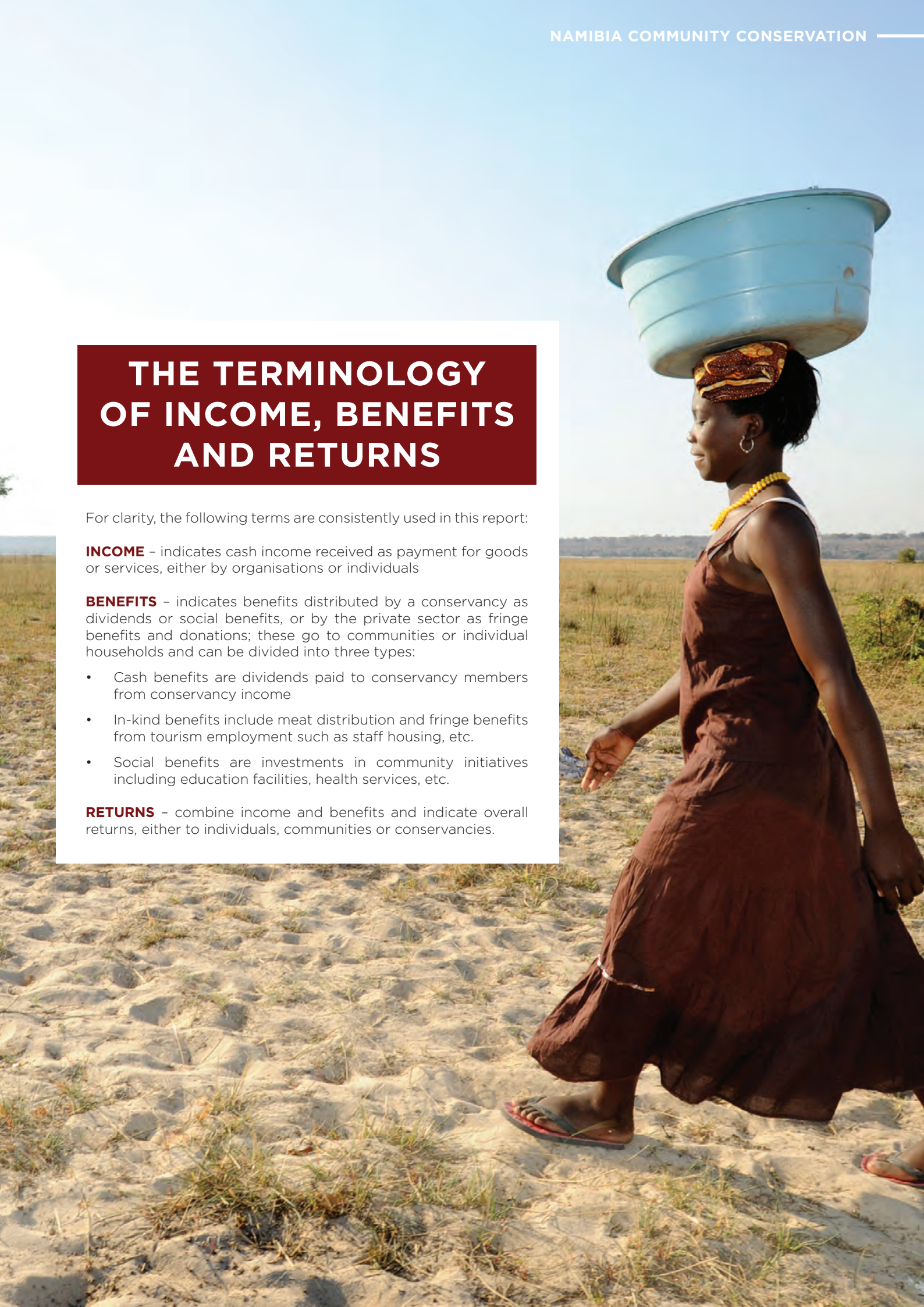
Conservancies manage their wildlife based on conditional rights granted to them by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT, formerly the Ministry of Environment and Tourism) and some have registered community fisheries reserves with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. Community forests operate under the same CBNRM principles as conservancies (and many overlap with these) and fall under the Directorate of Forestry. Forestry was incorporated into MEFT in 2020, thus bringing community forests under the same umbrella as conservancies.

Using natural resources wisely can increase the resilience of rural livelihoods to climate change and economic shocks, which can complement traditional livestock and crop farming. Further, the value of these resources can be greatly enhanced through tapping into international markets, which generate far greater returns than local use. While communities place cultural and existential value on plants and animals, generating tangible returns and creating employment opportunities help to offset the costs incurred by living near wildlife, reduce poverty, and improve food security.

Resilience in CBNRM relies on Namibia's diversity of natural resources and multiple layers of institutional support. While the people living in these rural areas are empowered to make their own decisions, they are not alone. MEFT sets the overall direction and maintains standards; NACSO members provide extensive technical and logistical assistance; private sector conservancy partners create a critical link between international markets and local communities to generate income and create jobs.

The framework of CBNRM creates space for further expansion into new markets with different products and testing new ideas for income generation. Photographic tourism and conservation hunting are the current financial mainstays for conservancies, while the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries offer opportunities for increasing the returns generated from plants for community members. Wildlife Credits is another promising approach that links payments from a broad range of potential investors to measurable, independently verifiable conservation performance on the ground.

The CBNRM programme is thus continuously evolving and adapting, whilst still entrenching the basic principles of good governance, equitable benefit distribution to support rural livelihoods, and sustainable natural resource management. This report provides an update on that growth and progress from the start of the programme until the end of 2019. The effect of the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 on the CBNRM programme due to international travel bans and national lockdowns will thus be included in the 2020 report.



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.

FACTS AND FIGURES

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AT A GLANCE

At the end of 2019 there were...

86 registered **communal conservancies and 1 community conservation association**

43 registered **community forests** and **2 community fish reserves**

19 **tourism concessions** in national parks or on other state land held by **23** conservancies (some conservancies share concessions)

86 conservancies using the **Event Book monitoring tool**

54 conservancies conducting **annual game counts**

71 conservancies holding **quota setting feedback meetings**

69 conservancies with **own-use harvesting quotas**

50 conservancies with **conservation hunting concessions**

57 conservancies with a **game management** and **utilisation plan**

49 conservancies with a **zonation plan**

627 **game guards** and **resource monitors** working in conservancies

57 **management plans** in place

27 **sustainable business** and **financial plans** in place

54 **annual financial reports** presented

67 **annual general meetings** held

13% **female** chairpersons

43% **female** treasurers/ financial managers

33% **female** management committee members

24% **female** staff members

38 conservancies directly involved with **tourism activities**

63 **joint-venture tourism agreements** with enterprises employing **1,167** **full time** and **87** **part time/seasonal** employees

50 conservation **hunting concessions** with **130** **full time** and **113** **part time/seasonal** employees

19 **small/medium enterprises** with **93** **full time** and **25** **part time/seasonal** employees

964 **conservancy** employees

975 conservancy representatives **receiving allowances**

683 **indigenous plant** product harvesters

941 **craft** producers

..... in communal conservancies in Namibia.

WHAT'S BEING ACHIEVED

Community conservation

Covers

180,083 km²

which is about

58.7% of all **communal land**,

with an estimated

227,802 **residents**

(6,526 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**

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

Namibia's elephant population grew from around

7,500 to around

22,800

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 **2019**, **community conservation** contributed an estimated

N$ 9.743 billion

to Namibia's **net national income**

Community conservation facilitated

5,178 jobs in **2019**

61 conservancies hosted a total of

170 enterprises based on **natural resources**

Conservancy residents earned a total cash income of

N$ 85,097,978

from wages, of which:

N$ 53,620,557 was from **joint-venture tourism**

N$ 21,949,245 from **conservancies**

N$ 3,354,376 from **conservation hunting**

N$ 6,173,800 from **SMEs**

Conservancies generated

N$ 155,656,833

in returns during 2019, of which:

Tourism (including craft sales) generated **N$ 105,565,821**

Conservation hunting generated **N$ 34,586,452** and **473,956 kg** of **meat distributed** to conservancy residents valued at **N$ 11,374,944**

Indigenous plant products generated **N$ 2,155,377**

Miscellaneous income (including items such as interest) **N$ 1,974,239**

Conservancy residents earned **cash income** of:

N$ 1,609,253 from **indigenous plants**

N$ 1,420,496 from **crafts**

N$ 17,649,480 was **distributed to residents** and used to support community projects by conservancies

*The African Elephant Status Report for 2016, published by the IUCN

CBNRM AND THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

While the CBNRM programme focuses primarily on empowering rural communities, the overall economic impact of the programme on the Namibian economy is substantial. Conservancies attract international visitors for the purposes of photographic tourism and conservation hunting; both of these industries have multiplier effects on the economy. When these are added to the direct returns generated by the programme, the Net National Income (NNI – Figure 2) contribution by CBNRM can be estimated. The CBNRM programme has thus become a valuable part of the Namibian economy, with a net present value of about N$ 1.5 billion (Table 1). In purely economic terms, the investment in the programme has been highly beneficial.

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.

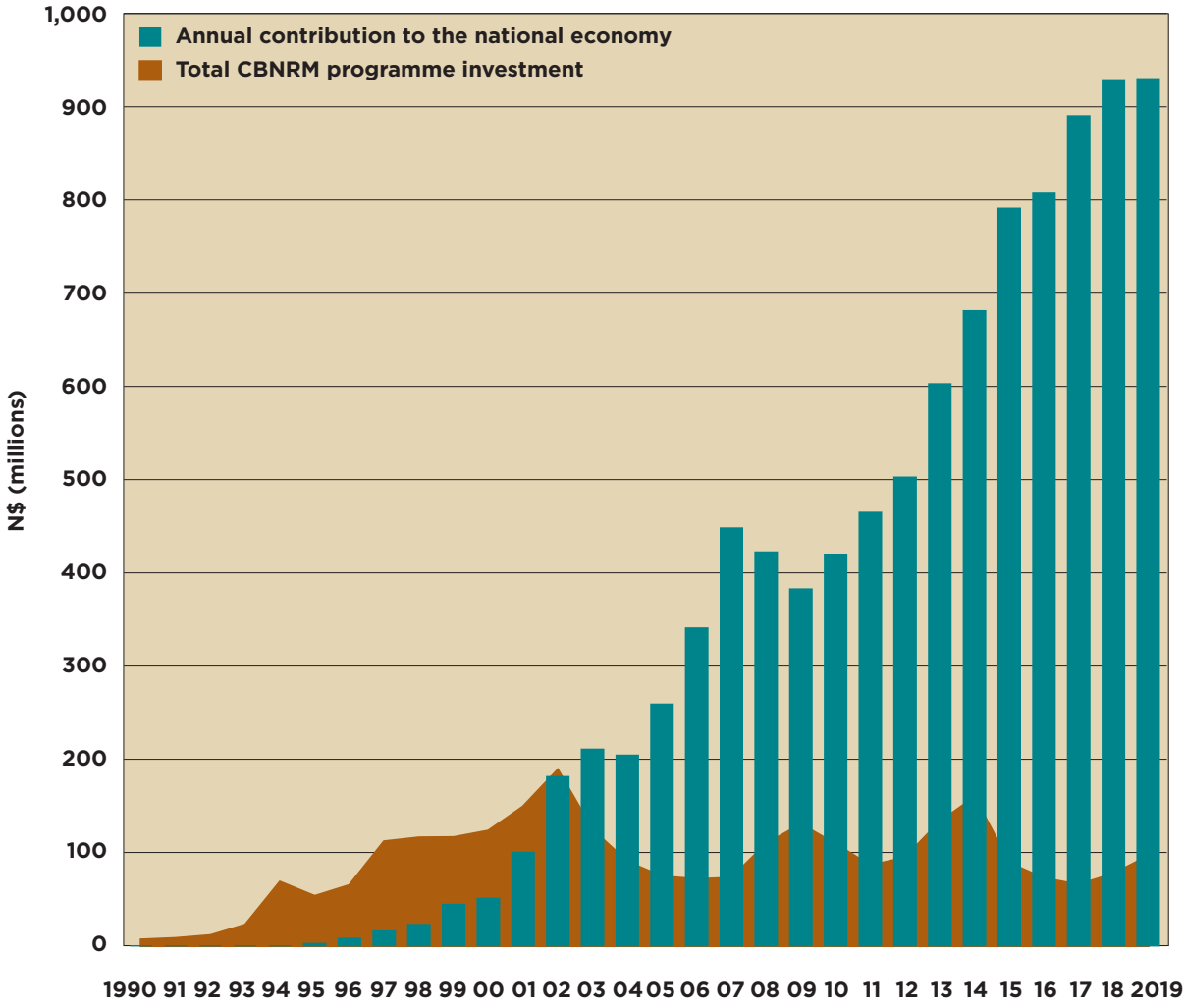


Figure 2. Estimates of the national economic returns from CBNRM compared to economic investment costs. Investment in the conservancy programme started before the first conservancies were officially gazetted in 1996, as community game guards were being trained and the communities mobilised around the concept of CBNRM. Investment was higher than economic returns until 2002, when the programme broke even. The economic returns stood at N$ 933 million in 2019, cumulatively contributing N$ 9,743 billion to the economy since 1990, far exceeding the level of investment.

***Figures have been adjusted for inflation to be equivalent to the value of Namibia dollars in 2019. This means they are not directly comparable with those used in the 2018 Community Conservation Report, which used figures equivalent to the value of Namibian dollars in 2018.**

The CBNRM programme has thus become a valuable part of the Namibian economy, with a net present value of about N$ 1.5 billion. In purely economic terms, the investment in the programme has been highly beneficial.

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$ 1.5 billion. This is a very positive economic return for a programme investment.

YEARS OF INVESTMENT	ECONOMIC RATE OF RETURN	NET PRESENT VALUE (N$)
17	6%	4,310,992
19	10%	187,115,432
21	13%	384,381,933
23	15%	607,978,689
25	16%	884,799,969
27	17%	1 199,517,580
29	18%	1 500,881,380

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. 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 figures presented here indicate the more easily measurable impact of CBNRM only and therefore represent a partial estimate of its true positive impact.

MARKETING CONSERVANCIES AS TOURISM DESTINATIONS

Conservationtourism.com.na

COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM AND THE NEW BREED OF TRAVELLER

International tourists are becoming ever more conscious of their impacts on the environment and the people in the countries they visit. There is a general trend away from mass tourism and towards more adventurous, authentic experiences. Visitors from cities and developed countries want to be immersed in nature and gain a new understanding of cultures and lifestyles that are worlds apart from their own.

Conservancies offer the kinds of experiences that this new breed of tourist is seeking – where African wildlife and spectacular landscapes meet indigenous cultures and ancient ways of living. Joint venture tourism partners have recognised the potential of community-based tourism products, and by the end of 2019 there were 63 joint venture agreements between conservancies and the private sector.

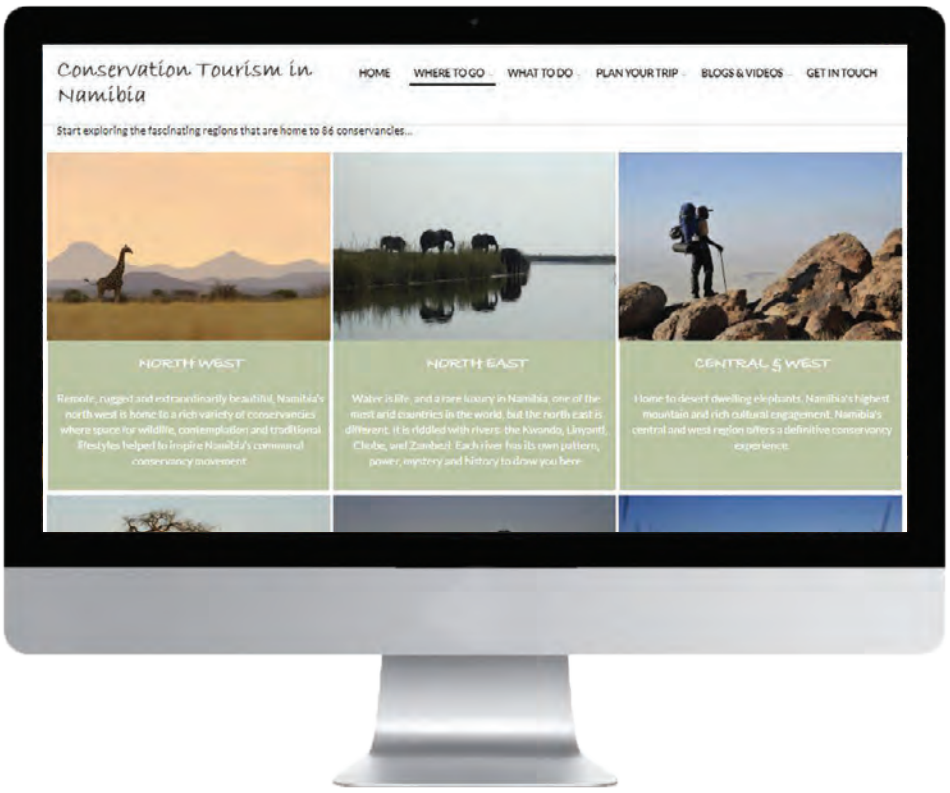
Yet there remains scope for growth in this sector, as many conservancies still do not have tourism partners, despite their potential for satisfying the demand for authentic tourism experiences. Furthermore, the success of established lodges leads to increased conservancy incomes, more employment opportunities and the potential for local business enterprises (e.g. craft production) to flourish. As increasing numbers of tourists use the Internet to investigate new destinations, NACSO decided that the time had come to revamp and update a website that markets community-based tourism in Namibia.

MARKETING THE UNIQUE CONSERVANCY TOURISM PRODUCT

The Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism launched the newly updated and expanded Conservation Tourism in Namibia website at the Namibian Tourism Expo in 2019. ConservationTourism.com.na showcases destinations and experiences in every part of the country and introduces potential visitors to the conservancy programme. These include lodges, campsites, living museums and traditional villages, and outlets for craft sales operating in conservancies (not all of these have formal joint venture agreements, while in some cases a lodge and campsite may fall under the same agreement). The latest upgrade makes the site compatible with mobile devices, since more people are starting to use these devices to surf the Internet.

The website targets the adventurous tourist who wants to go 'off the beaten track' to find Namibia's hidden natural gems and discover the diverse cultures of Namibian people. The **Where to Go** section describes what the visitor can expect from six different geographical areas in Namibia, with links to individual lodges provided in a map of each area. Similarly, **What to Do** highlights destinations that offer particular activities – for example, experiencing local culture, viewing wildlife and birds, hiking, biking and mountain climbing, fishing and boating. Under the **Plan Your Trip** section, visitors can find inspiration for journeys based on particular themes (e.g. geology, unique flora, or rural life), or discover destinations that even frequent visitors may have missed during their previous trips.

Several social media accounts have been set up to drive Internet traffic to the site, while the website itself functions as a channel to booking sites for joint venture lodges. As we step into a new decade, more tourists will be on the lookout for new adventures that are ethical, sustainable, and inclusive for indigenous people. Namibian conservancies and their partners are perfectly positioned to deliver just such an experience. ConservationTourism.com.na will take you there.



SCAN ME

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 2019

MONITORING COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE

One of the long-term goals for the CBNRM programme is for all conservancies to become financially and institutionally sustainable through good governance practices. Good governance relies on the conservancy management committees, who are elected representatives that oversee conservancy affairs, and the management staff who are responsible for the day-to-day office work. Conservancies have their own constitutions and processes for the committees to follow that aim to ensure accountability, equitable benefit distribution, and management continuity.

MEFT and NACSO and independent professionals constitute the Institutional Development Working Group (IDWG), which focuses on strengthening governance among community institutions in the CBNRM programme. Specifically, MEFT has issued guidelines for conservancy management, directives on financial management, and a list of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for conservancies. These guidelines and directives provide direction, but implementation must be monitored on a per-conservancy basis to ensure compliance.

This year, the IDWG instituted a governance performance review procedure based on objective evaluations from people who have worked closely with the conservancies they are evaluating. The new questionnaire for external evaluators includes specific questions about each of the five key governance issues – holding an AGM, free and fair committee elections, benefit distribution, game management and utilisation, and accurate financial reporting (Figure 3).

In addition to external evaluation on governance performance, each conservancy must report to MEFT on all five of these key recurrent compliance requirements annually. The resultant institutional compliance map (Figure 4) reveals that most of the conservancies in the Zambezi Region were compliant in 2019, with varying levels of compliance in Kunene and Otjozondjupa. Lack of compliance is of particular concern in the Erongo Region and among southern conservancies (where only one – !Khob !Naub – is fully compliant).

The IDWG seeks to increase compliance through capacity building for conservancy committees and staff, promoting deeper engagement between conservancy members and their committees, and providing a national platform to learn, share and reflect on progress and challenges. Similarly, MEFT and NACSO member organisations are provided with technical training to increase their capacity to support conservancies.

One of the long-term goals for the CBNRM programme is for all conservancies to become financially and institutionally sustainable.

OVERALL COMMITMENT AND GOOD GOVERNANCE 2019

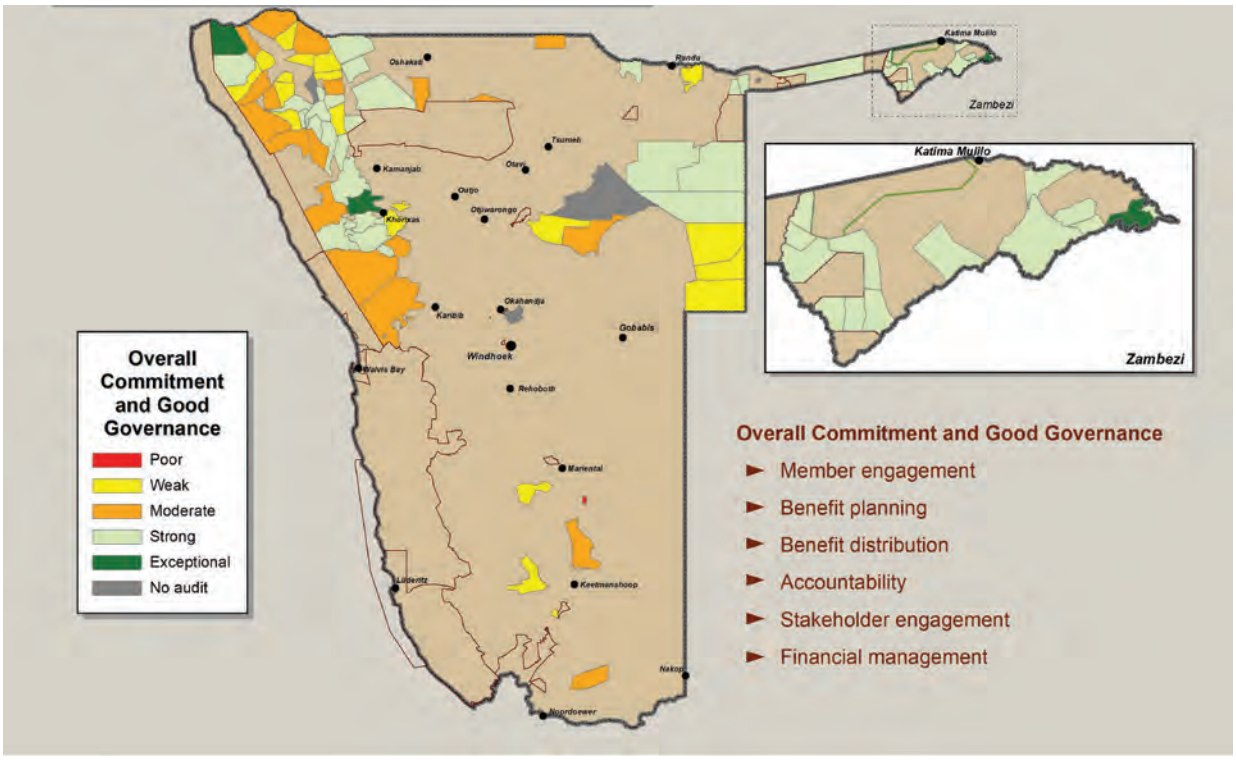


Figure 3. The aggregate results of the governance performance review, which included specific questions on member engagement, benefit planning and distribution, accountability, engagement with other stakeholders (e.g. joint venture partners) and financial management.

OVERALL INSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE 2019

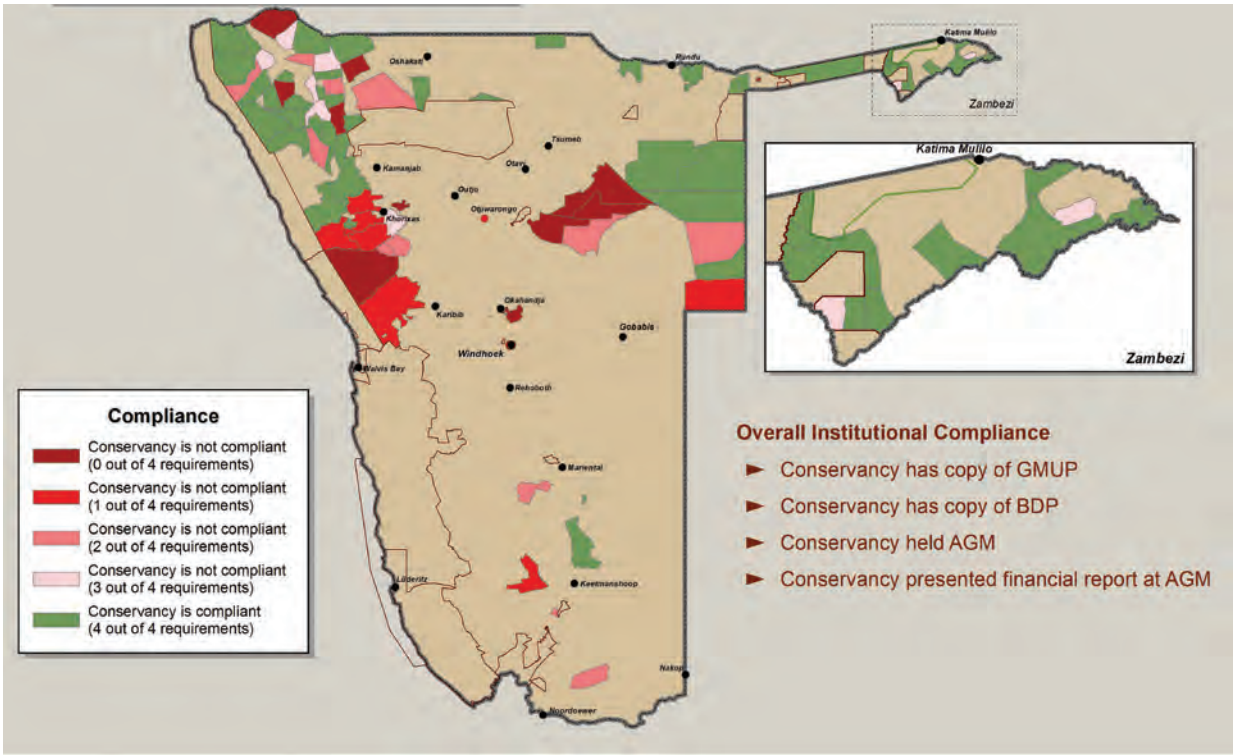


Figure 4. The level of compliance to four of MEFT's Standard Operating Procedures – the conservancy has a Game Management and Utilisation Plan and a Benefit Distribution Plan, and it held an AGM during which it presented a financial management report to members.

IMPROVING GOVERNANCE – ASSISTANCE AND CONSEQUENCES

While monitoring reveals where the issues are, these still need to be addressed through providing targeted assistance and, where necessary, taking punitive or corrective measures. Thus, conservancies will be enabled to meet the necessary requirements, but those that continue to mismanage funds or not report to MEFT, or fail to comply with the SOPs will face certain consequences.

In terms of assistance, the "dripping tap" financial management support programme was rolled out in several regions this year. As the term suggests, support is not just in the form of once-off training events, but on-going assistance for conservancy bookkeepers and committee members (particularly treasurers). Financial experts are brought in as consultants to set up financial monitoring systems and help reconcile budgets with expenses each year, with the aim of producing accurate financial reports. These consulting services are currently externally funded, but conservancies with higher incomes will be expected to contribute to these costs in future. Another long-term goal is to develop financial expertise within the conservancies such that expert consultants can be found locally.

Regarding consequences for mismanagement or noncompliance, MEFT have given clear directives to the conservancies that will be incorporated into the new Wildlife and Protected Areas Management Bill. While the Bill will strengthen the measures MEFT can take, they have already started implementing the directives. Where there is clear evidence that funds are being mismanaged or misappropriated, MEFT has the power to suspend the conservancy's accounts and/or restrict the use of funds until the problems have been investigated and resolved. Five conservancies' accounts have been suspended thus far, pending resolution of their specific issues.

The ultimate goal of this two-pronged approach is to increase transparency and capacity within conservancy governance structures, for the benefit of their members. The CBNRM programme is grounded in democratic decision-making, so the role of the supporting partners is to create an enabling environment for conservancies to be managed by the will of the people.

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Table 2. Governance indicators for 86 conservancies and the Kyaramacan Association. Data in the final column is the proportion of conservancies falling into that category (Cat.) of the total number that reported for this year (represented by N), or it is the proportion of a sub-category (e.g. female chairpersons) of the total number in that category (e.g. all chairpersons). Sub-categories (Sub-cat.) are identified by letters after the category number.

CAT. OR SUB-CAT.	CATEGORY (N = NUMBER REPORTING IN 2019)	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE OF CATEGORY
1	Registered conservancies (incl. Kyaramacan assoc.) (N = 87)	87	100%
2	Conservancies generating returns (N = 87)	65	75%
2a	-> covering operational costs from own income (N = 54)	30	56%
2b	-> distributing cash or in-kind benefits to members, or investing in community projects (N = 54)	43	80%
3	Conservancy management committee members (N = 82)	975	100%
3a	-> female management committee members (N = 82)	320	33%
3b	-> female chairpersons (N = 82)	11	13%
3c	-> female treasurers/financial managers (N = 82)	35	43%
4	Conservancy staff members (N = 82)	964	100%
4a	-> female staff members (N = 82)	232	24%
5	Conservancies management plans (N = 82)	57	70%
5a	-> sustainable business and financial plans (N = 82)	27	33%
6	Conservancy AGMs held (N = 82)	67	82%
6a	-> financial reports presented at AGM (N = 82)	53	65%
6b	-> financial reports approved at AGM (N = 82)	50	61%
6c	-> budgets approved at AGM (N = 82)	49	60%

Developing and supporting woman leadership and participation therefore remains high on the agenda for the CBNRM programme.

WOMEN FOR CONSERVATION IN THE KUNENE REGION

Increasing female participation in conservancies, as decision-making committee members and staff, is one of the pillars of good governance. While the proportion of women elected as treasurers is approaching parity at 43%, only 13% of the chairpersons and 24% of conservancy staff are women (Table 2). Developing and supporting woman leadership and participation therefore remains high on the agenda for the CBNRM programme.

In 2019, a group of 19 women from five conservancies in the Kunene Region were supported by IRDNC to establish their own association called Women for Conservation (WFC). The association has its own constitution and members who will discuss issues common among women living in conservancies and address these as a united group.

Their Vision statement reads: "Women of this association, United in One Voice, are guiding and supporting each other and all women in their communities and conservancies, making their voices heard and participating in discussions and decision-making especially related to conservation, so that all men, women and children in their areas are benefitting from wise and sustainable development."

Their objectives include strengthening women's voices, encouraging their participation in development, playing a stronger role in sharing knowledge and training, and bringing sustainable development to their communities through their respective conservancies. Their principles exhort members to "work openly, cooperatively and respectfully with each other", "not discriminate because of tribe, religion or education level", and "be committed to work hard and to volunteer their time and energy to the Objectives of the WFC."

The establishment of Women for Conservation is another stride towards gender balance and women empowerment within the CBNRM programme, which will have a positive impact on Namibian rural communities at large. These women are leading the way for others to amplify their voices and actively participate in programmes that affect them as mothers, daughters and pillars of their societies.

United in One Voice
WOMEN FOR CONSERVATION
Bringing Sustainable Development

DELIVERING ON THE PROMISE OF CONSERVANCIES THROUGH BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION

Bennett Kahuure – Deputy Director (Parks and Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

During the 2019 Conservancy Chairperson Forum, Hon. Minister Pohamba Shifeta emphasised his 2018 directive that 50% or more of the total income received by conservancies must be allocated towards community development projects. As a Ministry, we are working closely with the conservancies and their supporting organisations to help them reach this target.

Notwithstanding the many intangible and tangible benefits created through the conservancy system, there is scope for increasing the positive impact of the CBNRM programme specifically through community development projects. These projects have a lasting impact on the broader community by improving lives and creating opportunities for rural development.

Conservancies that generate substantial income from photographic tourism and conservation hunting are in a position to deliver these projects, provided that they manage their funds correctly and keep running costs low. Some running costs are critical to the functioning of the conservancy (e.g. salaries for key staff members) and must therefore be covered within each conservancy's annual budget. Our main concern lies with unnecessary and wasteful expenditure, especially when it is not approved by the broader conservancy membership. The minimum 50% target is achievable for many conservancies, provided they cut down on these excesses.

To this end, we are working with conservancies to establish better systems of financial management that ensure greater accountability and engagement with their membership. Conservancies are expected to comply with the Standard Operating Procedures and Financial Management Directives to ensure that they run their affairs in a transparent and accountable manner.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a critical platform for achieving this purpose. At the AGM, conservancy committees must forecast their income for the coming year and propose a budget that clearly presents what proportions of that income will be spent on running costs, savings/investments, and benefit distribution. Ideally, this last segment will comprise 50% or more of the proposed budget (see Figure 5 for the current status of benefits and conservancy incomes). Further, a clear benefit distribution plan must be developed with extensive community input and endorsed by members at an AGM.

The Namibian CBNRM programme exists by the will of the people, so it is only right that their needs should be a central concern for the Ministry and their elected conservancy committees. While the income growth witnessed over the last two decades of the programme is important, how that money is being spent is even more important.

CBNRM is about more than just numbers. It is about the people on the ground – the people who established conservancies in the first place and their children. The Ministry notes with pleasure the personal stories of beneficiaries from development projects undertaken by conservancies; we wish to see more of these in future. More than anything, the Minister's directive is aimed at improving the lives of rural Namibians who are conserving our valuable natural resources. We are working together with conservancies and our partners in civil society to achieve this goal.

LEVEL OF INCOME AND BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION IN 2019

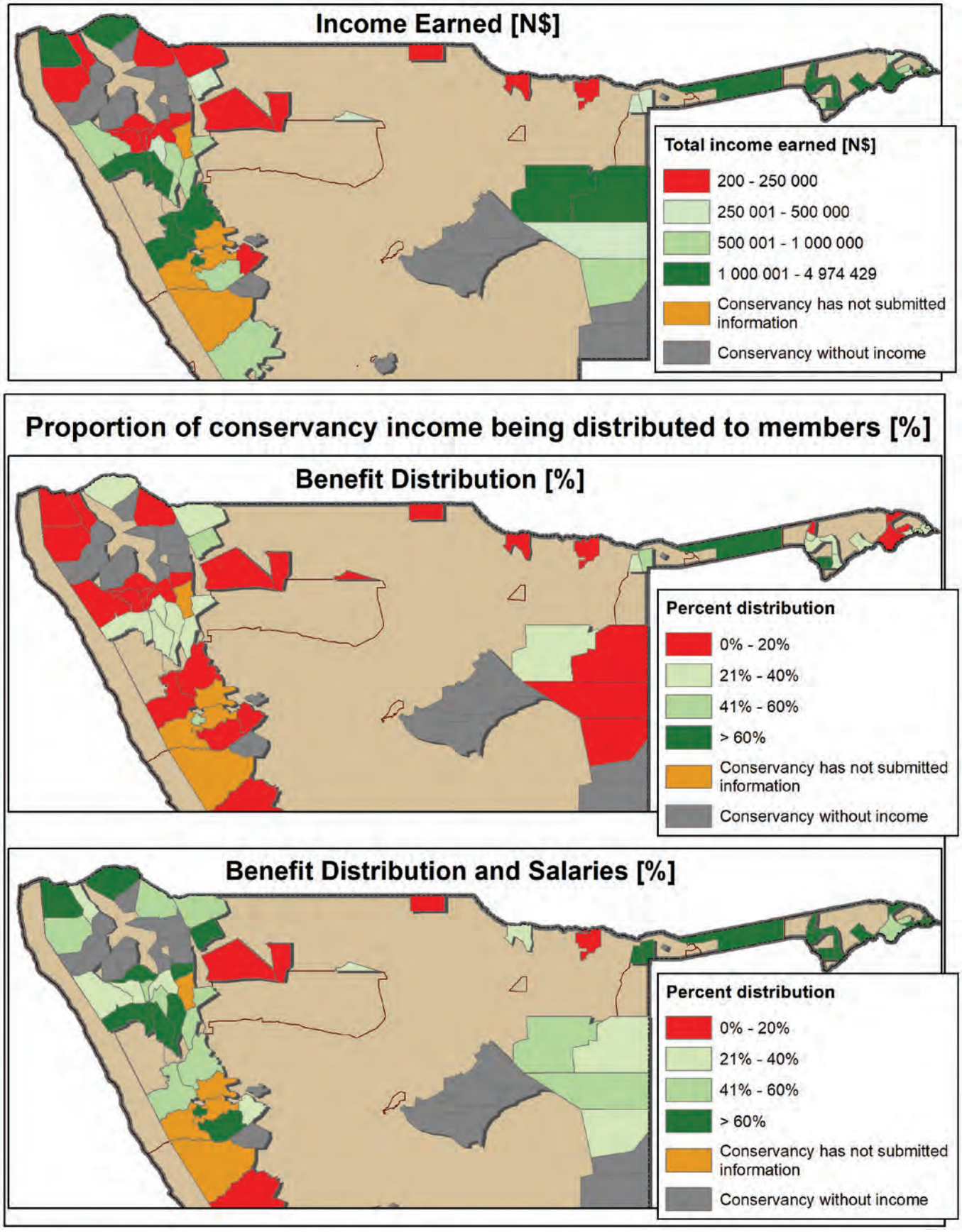
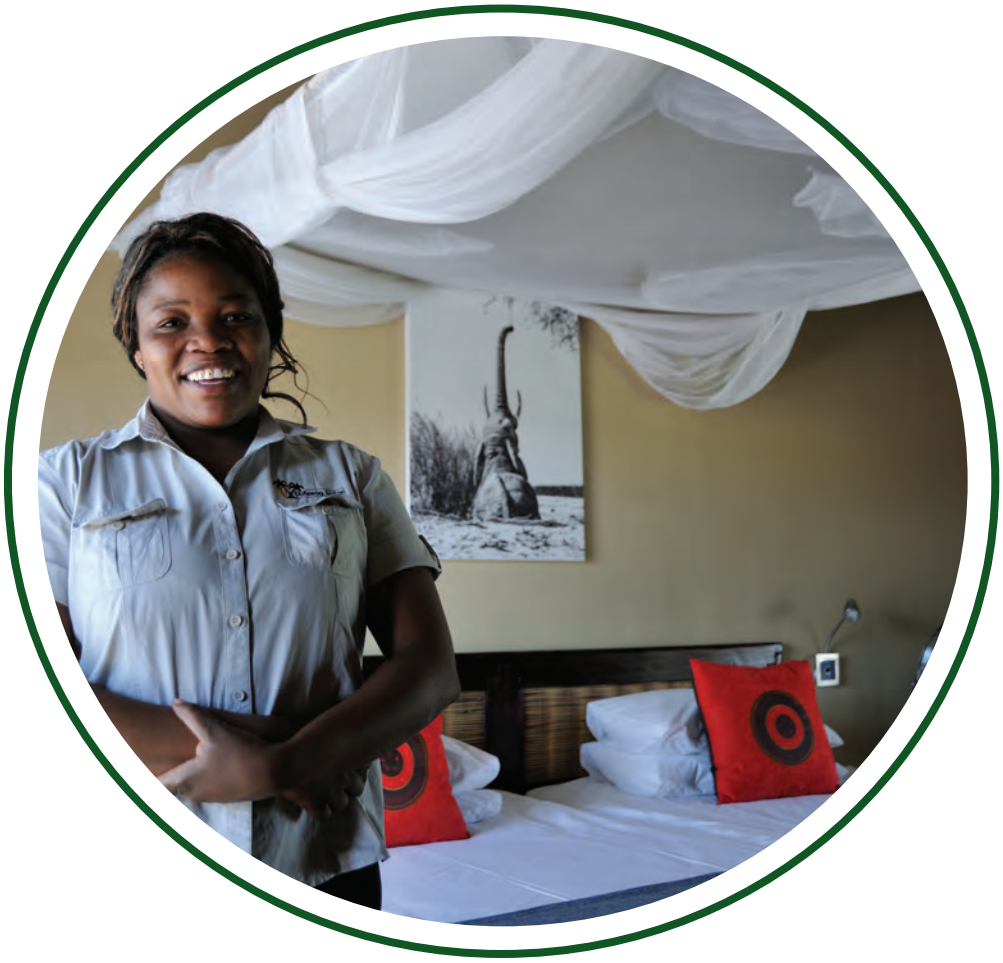


Figure 5. The current state of conservancy income generation (top map), the percentage of income that is spent on community benefits (middle map), and the percentage that is spent on benefits and salaries (bottom map). The MEFT directive is concerned with improving conservancy status in the middle map among those conservancies that generate sufficient income, which are currently in the northern parts of Namibia.

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

A REVIEW OF 2019



THE ECONOMICS OF CONSERVANCIES

Conservancies create a platform for rural development, both by providing direct benefits and by facilitating rural small to medium enterprises run by their members. This year, the total returns (cash plus the value of non-monetary benefits) from conservancies came to over N$ 150 million (Figure 6). While returns from tourism were similar to those in 2018, conservation hunting generated more returns this year than it had in any previous year (Table 3).

> ***This year, the total returns (cash plus the value of non-monetary benefits) from conservancies came to over N$ 150 million.***

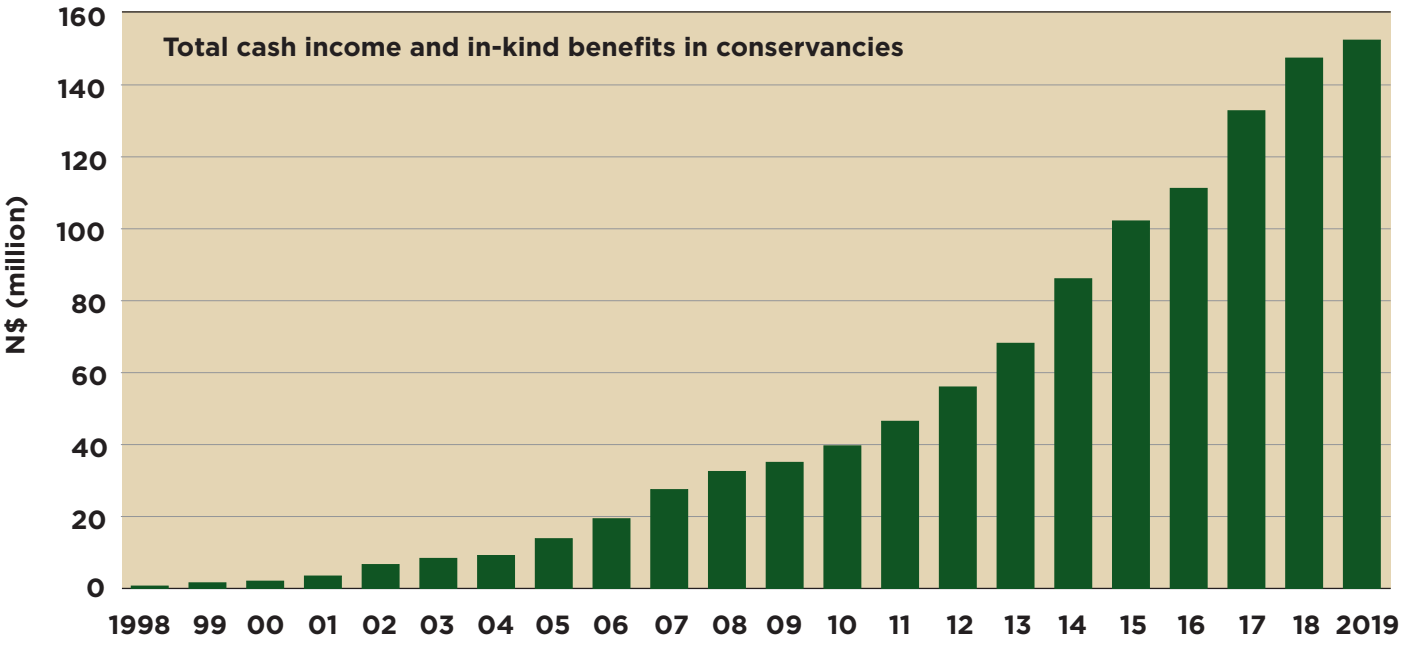


Figure 6. Total returns to conservancies and members. The total cash income and in-kind benefits generated in conservancies (including the Kyaramacan Association) grew from less than N$ 1 million in 1998 to over N$ 150 million in 2019. This includes all directly measurable income and in-kind benefits being generated, and can be divided into cash income to conservancies (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).

In each year of the programme, roughly half of the registered conservancies generated more than N$100,000 and over a quarter of them generated more than N$1 million per year since 2015 (Figure 7). New conservancies have been added nearly every year, and these generally take time to move up into the higher-earning income categories by increasing their resource base and attracting joint venture partners. Some of the older conservancies that remain in low-income brackets need extra support to identify income-generating opportunities and strengthen their natural resource management systems, although earning potential may be influenced by circumstances beyond conservancy control (e.g. location relative to tourism routes).

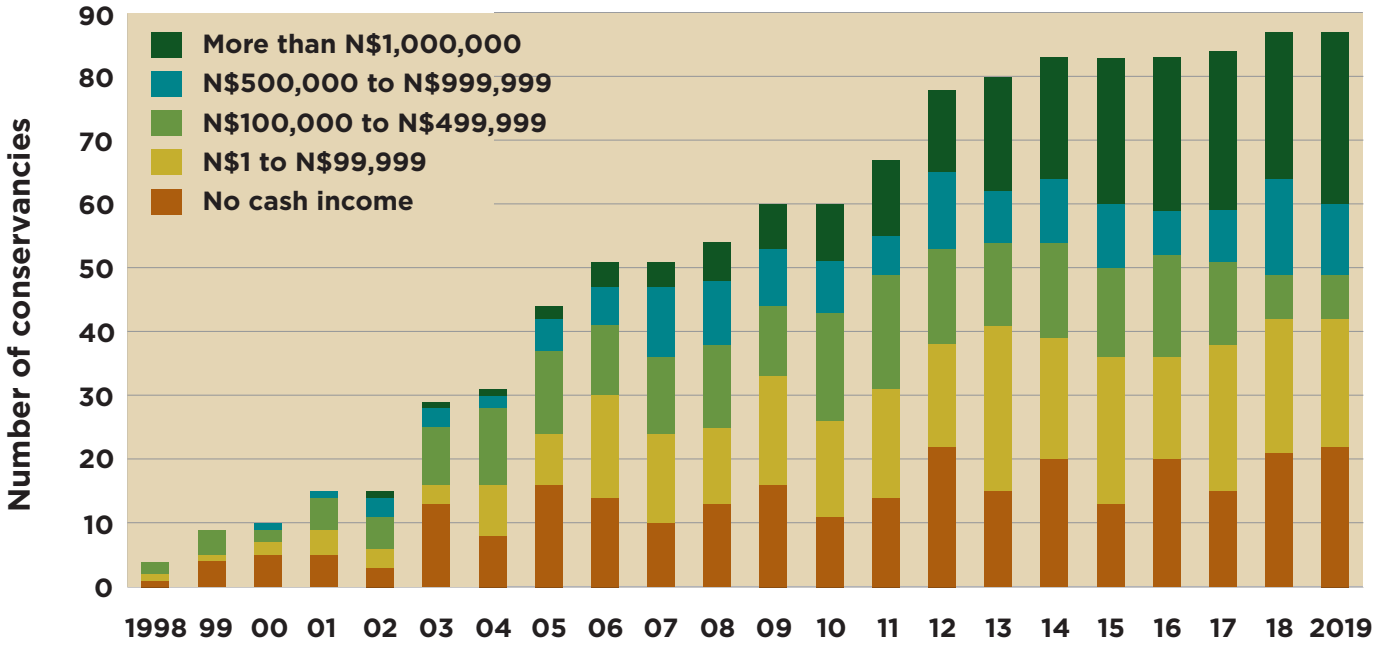


Figure 7. Conservancies earning cash income. The number of conservancies earning cash, divided into incremental categories (including the Kyaramacan Association). The earning potential varies greatly due to factors like size of conservancy, wildlife populations, and location relative to tourist routes. These and other factors make each conservancy more or less attractive for private sector partners and affect the potential for generating income from natural resource-based enterprises by the conservancy or its members.

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The earning potential varies greatly due to factors like size of conservancy, wildlife populations, and location relative to tourist routes.

Table 3. Sources of returns to conservancies and their members in 2019.

YEAR	SOURCE OF CASH INCOME AND IN-KIND BENEFITS TO CONSERVANCIES AND MEMBERS	VALUE IN N$	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
2019	Joint-venture tourism (includes all cash income to conservancies and members)	93 486 012	61.3
2019	Conservation hunting (includes all cash income and meat to conservancies and members)	39 480 595	25.9
2019	Community-based tourism	7 569 429	5.0
2019	Game harvesting for meat, conflict animals and live sales	6 363 201	4.2
2019	Indigenous plant products	2 155 377	1.4
2019	Miscellaneous (e.g. interest)	1 974 239	1.3
2019	Crafts	1 420 496	0.9
		152 449 349	**100**

The returns generated by conservancies include cash, like fees to the conservancy and wages to members, and in-kind benefits like meat. Employment opportunities for conservancy members created by joint venture tourism and conservation hunting partners are critical in these rural areas where unemployment is high. Joint venture tourism operators create substantial employment opportunities, while conservation hunting provides an important in-kind benefit – game meat for local consumption, which is a highly valued benefit associated with wildlife. Partners from both industries contribute to social projects aimed at the broader community within the conservancy.

The conservancies use cash income from various sources to cover their running costs and pay employees who manage the office and field employees (game guards and others) who monitor natural resources, respond to human-wildlife conflict and reduce illegal resource use. Following a Benefit Distribution Plan, each conservancy sets aside a portion of their budget for social projects; other examples of benefits include cash payments to all members, covering costs for funerals or granting scholarships. Some conservancies contribute to the Human-Wildlife Conflict Self-Reliance Scheme, which assists members who suffer from human-wildlife conflict through offset payments.

The intangible gains from CBNRM are, by nature, impossible to measure. They are nonetheless substantial. Conservancy members especially value local empowerment over the use of their resources and the opportunities to build local capacity and skills provided through the programme. Nationally, the programme is an important part of rural economic progression, social transformation, environmental sustainability (including climate change adaptation), and the promotion of good governance, as detailed in the fifth National Development Plan (see pp. 22-23).

INCREASING BENEFIT FLOWS TO MEMBERS

Developing five-year plans based on projected revenues helps committees identify parts of the budget that can be reduced to allow increased expenditure on social projects identified by members at the AGM.

The Business, Enterprise and Livelihoods Working Group (BELWG) of NACSO and MEFT provides support to conservancies and their members to enhance the benefits associated with conservancies through maintaining existing revenue streams and investigating opportunities for income diversification. NACSO members work with conservancies to increase benefit flows to their members, in line with the recent directive from MEFT that conservancies should strive to dedicate 50% of their income towards social development projects.

Increasing revenues is one side of the equation, while improving long-term financial planning is the other. Developing five-year plans based on projected revenues helps committees identify parts of the budget that can be reduced to allow increased expenditure on social projects identified by members at the AGM.

While some benefits bypass the conservancy financial books altogether (e.g. salaries paid directly to employees of joint venture partners), hunting and tourism fees are paid to the conservancy (Figure 8). The conservancy must use this income to maintain its offices and vehicles, pay their staff members, and cover conservancy committee costs. Currently, these costs take the bulk of the income generated in most conservancies, while benefits to members (e.g. social projects, cash transfers) comprise 25-30% of the budget. The goal is to increase this proportion of the budget to 50% for all conservancies that generate sufficient income.

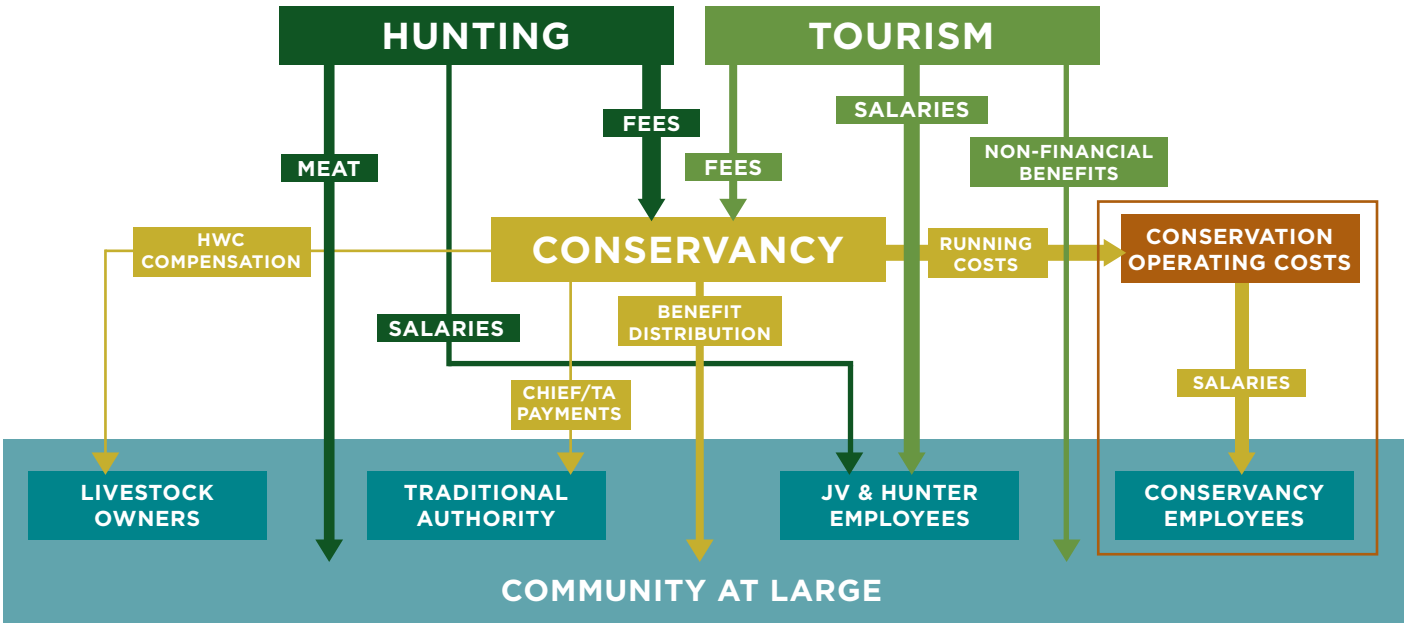

Figure 8. Benefit flows in conservancies. A schematic diagram showing income flows from tourism and conservation hunting to communities. The size of the arrows is in proportion to the size of income flows, based on average figures for conservancies in 2011-2013. Figure adapted from Naidoo et al. (2016). Complementary benefits of tourism and hunting to communal conservancies in Namibia. *Conservation Biology*. 30:628-638.

GENERATING RETURNS THROUGH TOURISM AND HUNTING

Conservancies can generate sustainable income through wildlife-based land uses, which include both tourism and hunting. This year, conservancies generated nearly equal amounts of cash income from tourism and conservation hunting (Figure 9a), as recent tourism growth levelled somewhat while hunting income increased. Whereas the overall returns (including salaries and other benefits accruing directly to community members) from tourism have noticeably overtaken hunting since 2016, the returns from hunting have fluctuated around N$ 40 million (Figure 9b). This growth of tourism over hunting is a reflection of the tourism boom that Namibia has seen during recent years.

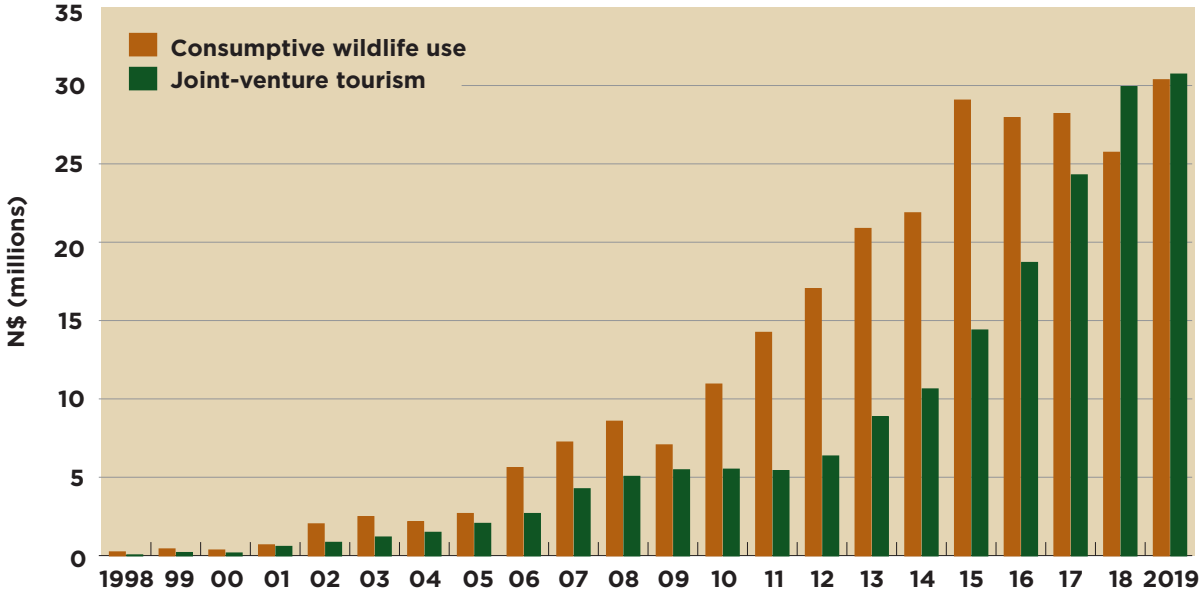

Figure 9a. In 2019, cash fees paid from conservation hunting and tourism operators to conservancies are roughly even, as income from conservation hunting picked up after a slump in 2018 while tourism growth levelled.

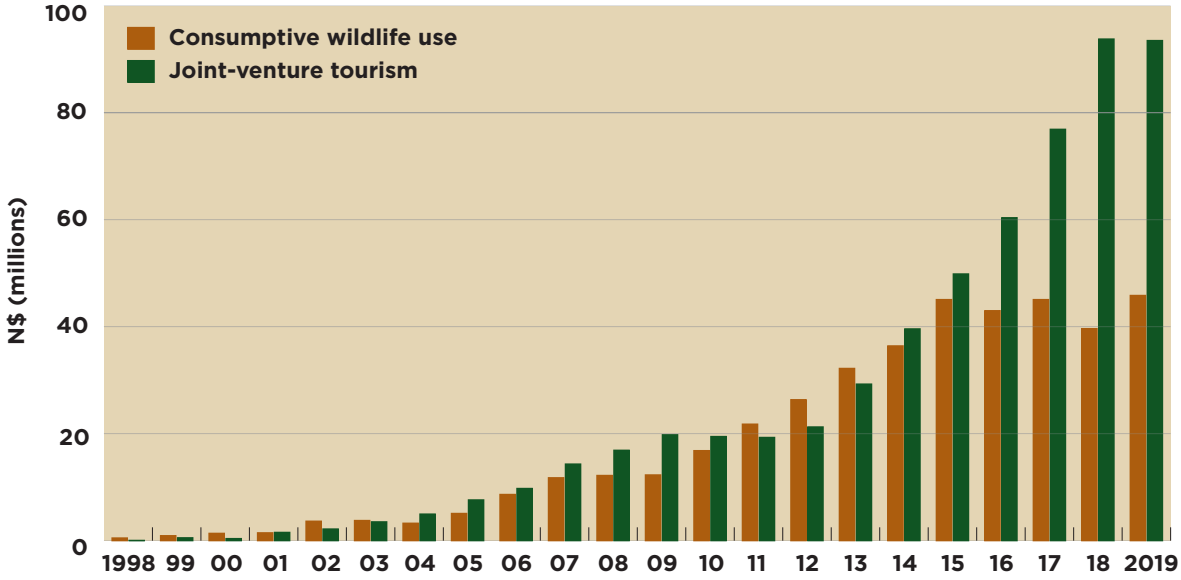

Figure 9b. Overall returns from the two sectors grew at a similar rate up until 2015, when the tourism sector started growing strongly while hunting returns remained stable. Growth in the latter industry is especially affected by drought.

These two industries are viewed as equally important to the CBNRM programme (Figure 8), although their relative contributions vary from one conservancy to the next. By adhering to zonation plans and ensuring communication between different operators and the conservancy, both tourism and hunting can take place in the same conservancies. This diversity ensures greater resilience in times of crises and shocks of the conservancies' income streams. These industries are therefore not mutually exclusive and conservancies use them in a complementary manner.

The two industries nonetheless differ in terms of their clientele and their interactions with conservancies and their members. Conservation hunting relies on relatively few visitors paying a high price to hunt individual animals (usually older males), while providing meat from their hunts for conservancy members. Employment in this industry is relatively low and seasonal, but the meat generated is highly valued by beneficiaries from the broader community (Figure 9c). Photographic tourism requires more visitors that pay less per person than hunters, but their varied activities and accommodation requirements increases the number of people employed and therefore generates more cash income to households (Figure 9d). This tourism sector is not severely affected by drought and therefore provides a steady income for drought-affected areas that still have charismatic animal species.

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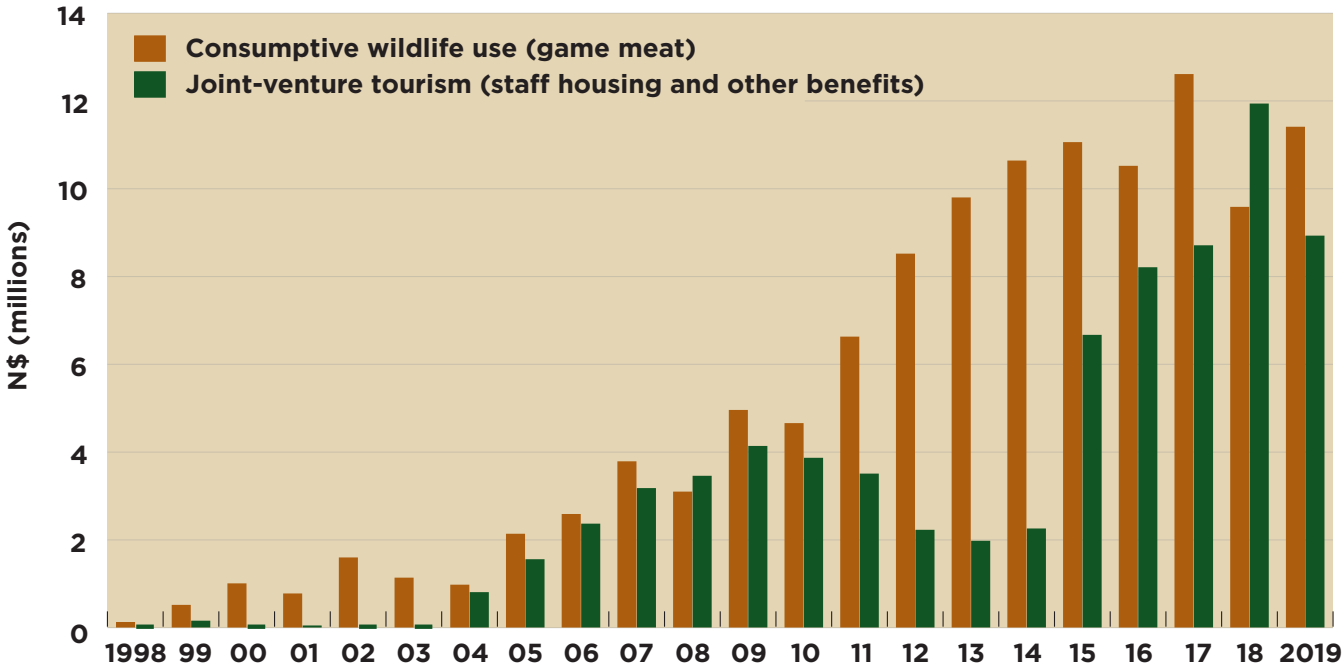


Figure 9c. In-kind benefits from tourism reached an all-time high in 2018, making up for a loss of game meat from hunting in that year. 2019 reverted to the usual pattern, as meat distribution once more generated greater value than in-kind benefits from tourism.

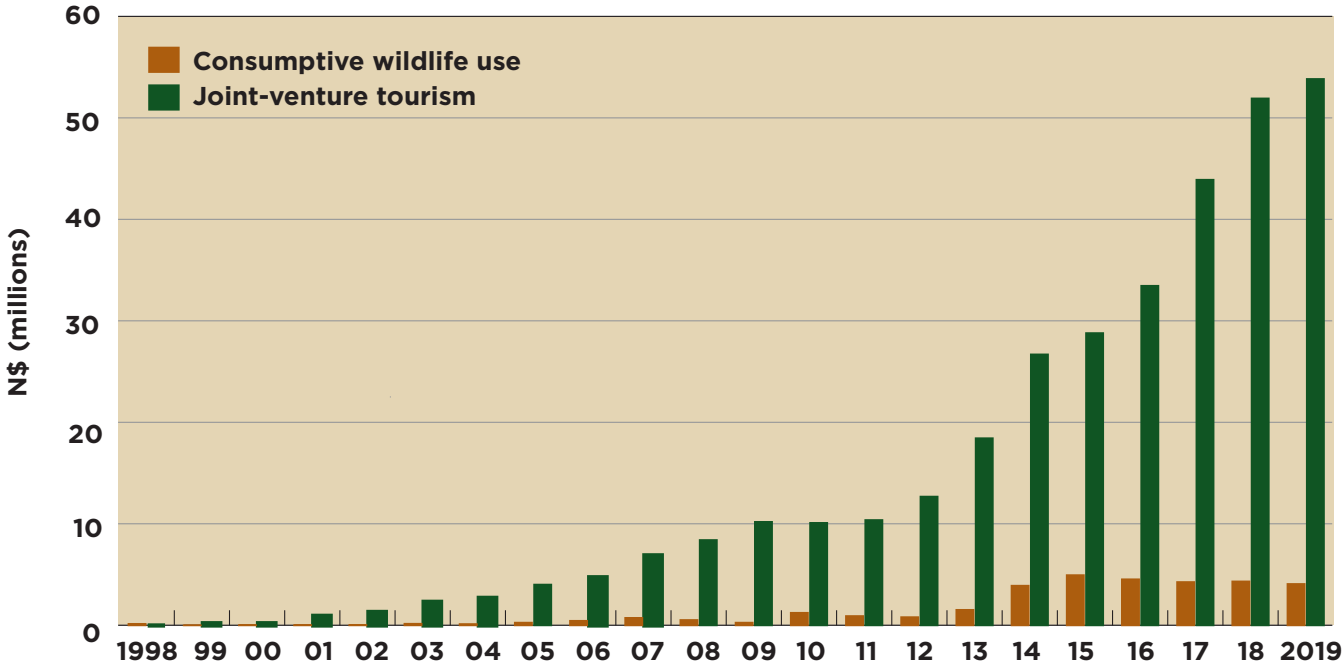


Figure 9d. The tourism industry provides significantly more employment than hunting. Salaries are reflected here as cash income to households.

These findings reveal that hunting has a greater positive impact on attitudes towards wildlife than tourism does, even though the latter generates more household level income through employment.

THE VALUE OF CONSERVATION HUNTING

The tangible values derived from conservation hunting for the whole conservancy programme are clear. On a per-conservancy basis, however, there is a large variation where conservation hunting may be the only or main source of income, or it may play a minor role when compared with tourism. (Figure 10a)

Local conditions that are outside the communities' control often determine which industry will predominate – e.g. poor road access, distance from major tourism routes, and uniform landscapes (e.g. flat topography) make developing viable photographic tourism products difficult. If these communities nonetheless conserve their medium to large mammal species, they can still attract conservation hunting partners (Figure 10a).

Despite international pressure to ban hunting, such a blanket approach will devalue conservation and therefore have a severe impact on those conservancies where local conditions are unfavourable for photographic tourism (Figures 10b and 10c). Furthermore, due to the low-volume, high-value nature of conservation hunting, this industry has a lower impact on the environment and a smaller carbon footprint than photographic tourism. This makes conservation hunting less vulnerable to mounting economic and social pressure on the volume of long-haul flights for photographic tourism.

Besides the value generated by hunting in terms of conservancy income, meat for households, and employment (by conservancies and hunting operators), hunting also provides significant intangible benefits for conservancy members. Recent research has shown that attitudes towards wildlife are more positive in conservancies generating high returns from hunting than in those generating similar returns from tourism or very low returns from either source[1].

These findings reveal that hunting has a greater positive impact on attitudes towards wildlife than tourism does, even though the latter generates more household level income through employment. There are a few possible reasons for this. The links between wildlife presence and meat provided by hunting are direct and tangible, while hunters also assist with problem animal control, which has a direct influence on farming activities. Jobs in tourism, by contrast, have an indirect link to wildlife because tourist motivations may not be widely known in the community. Furthermore, some lodges may require areas that are free from livestock or other forms of development, thus restricting community activities. Therefore the importance of hunting in promoting wildlife conservation generally amongst rural Namibians should never be underestimated.

1 Störmer *et al.* (2019) Investigating the effects of community-based conservation on attitudes towards wildlife in Namibia. *Biological Conservation* 233:193-200.

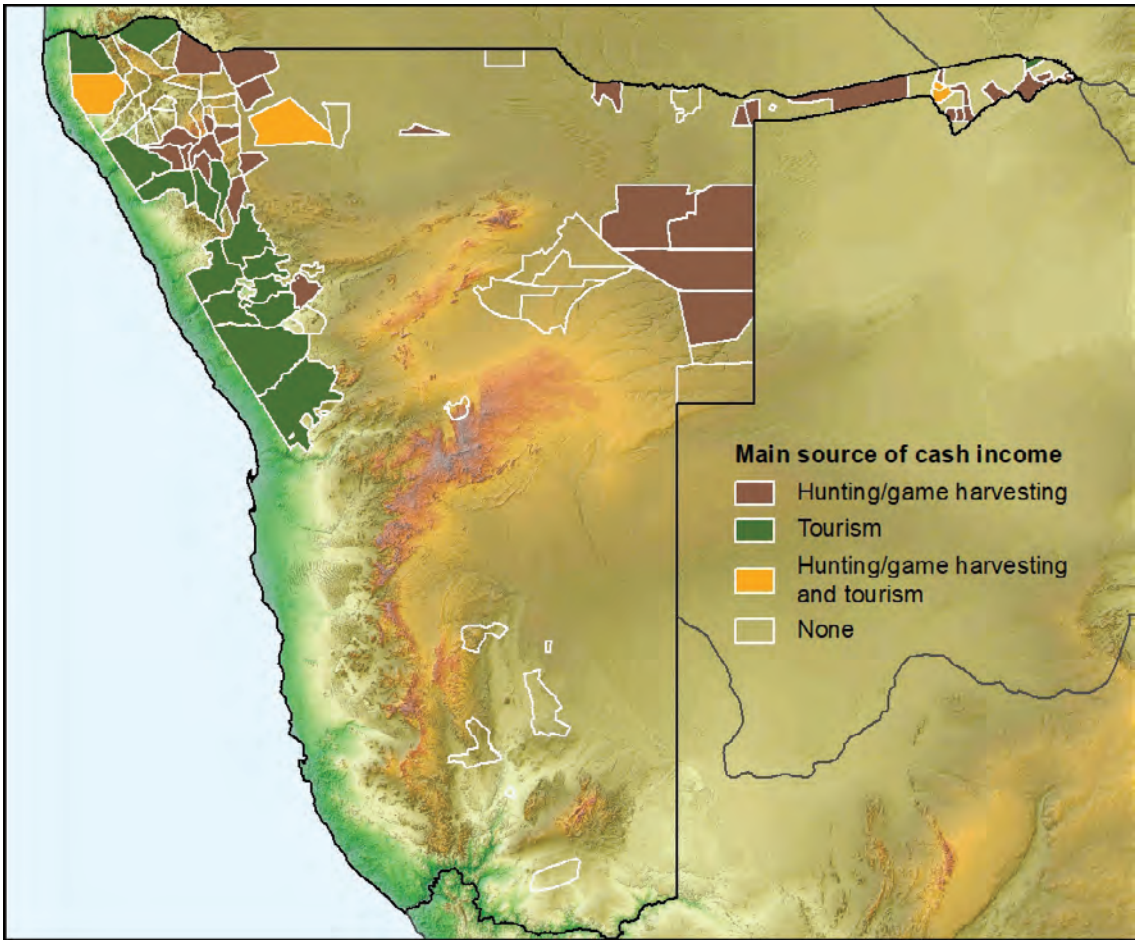


Figure 10a. Conservancies rely on hunting and tourism to a greater or lesser extent. Most conservancies in the north-east rely heavily on hunting, while several in the north-west rely mostly on tourism. A few have nearly equal contributions from both industries.

The links between wildlife presence and meat provided by hunting are direct and tangible, while hunters also assist with problem animal control, which has a direct influence on farming activities.

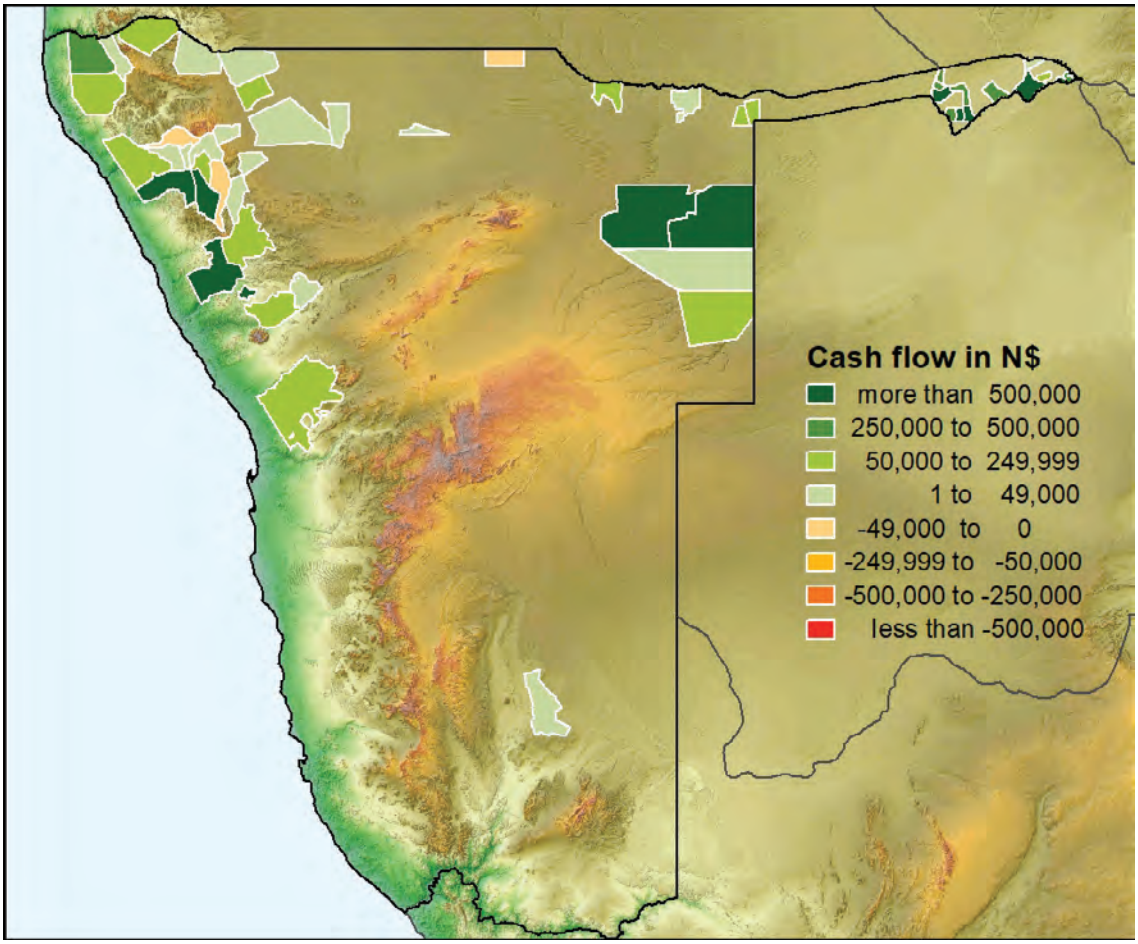


Figure 10b. With income generated from conservation hunting and photographic tourism, 49 of the 54 conservancies shown here earn more than their operating costs (positive balance - shades of green) while 5 currently have a negative balance (shades of orange).

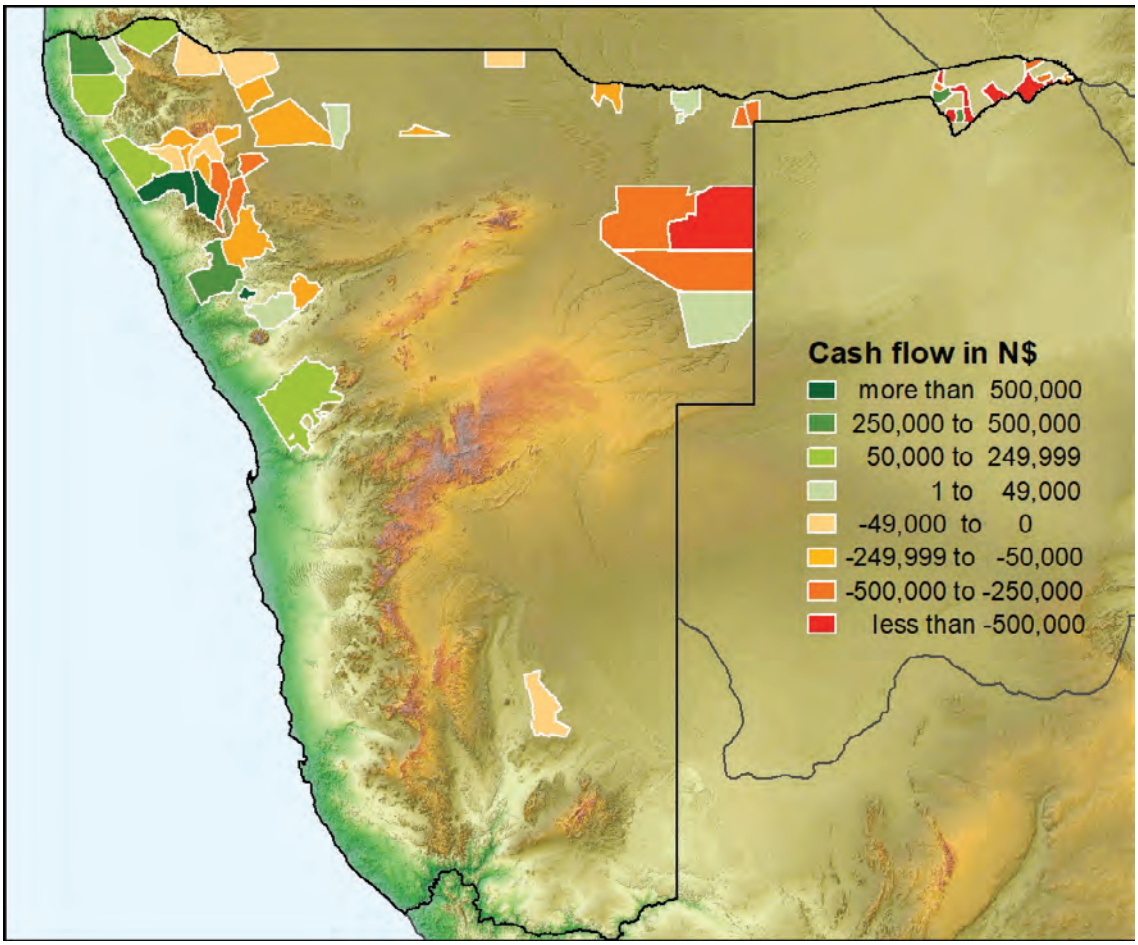


Figure 10c. If the income from conservation hunting was cut off (i.e. if hunting were banned), 37 of the 54 conservancies would have a negative balance (shades of orange) while only 17 would have a positive balance (shades of green).

GUARDING CONSERVATION HUNTING BENEFITS FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

The 18th Conference of Parties (CoP18) for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was held in 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. Namibia's government delegation was accompanied by NACSO, members of the Namibian media, and community representatives from five conservancies. Despite the conservation success stories from Namibia and other southern African countries, their policies regarding conservation hunting come under immense pressure on this international platform.

Two of the community representatives – Christopher Mbangu and Eric Xaweb – reflected on their experience at CITES CoP18, which was a first time for both of them. As chairperson of Sikunga conservancy, Christopher understood that he was part of something much bigger when participating at CITES, "We had a huge task ahead to take part in the discussions as [community] representatives from southern Africa and defend our countries," he recalls, "especially on the argument about why we use trophy hunting as a conservation tool." Similarly Eric, manager of Tsiseb conservancy, attended wanting "to learn more about this and see how I can contribute to the debate on behalf of my people and future generations to come."

CoP18 was a huge event, with delegates from countries all over the world and numerous observers from non-governmental organisations. Christopher and Eric soon realised that Namibia had few allies and were up against a far more powerful opposition. Eric's first impression was one of David vs. Goliath: "I noticed that a lot of people that attended were not from Africa," he goes further, "I felt so small because my presence will not be valued anymore because of the colour of my skin." Christopher was further surprised to find opponents even in Africa, "In Africa it was only the SADC [Southern Africa Development Community] countries that were on one side, it was sad to see that our African counterparts such as central, east and west African countries were on the other side. We felt so little. It was as if our voices and experiences didn't matter anymore."

This experience nonetheless gave both representatives a new perspective on the Namibian government and the CBNRM programme. Christopher explains, "I was impressed when the Minister of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism gave a very good speech in the general meeting," his favourite part of the Minister's speech emphasised that "each country has the right to make their own laws and rules…. we cannot be forced to ban elephant hunting while we, the people that live side by side with them knows that they can be very destructive." Eric also gained new insight: "I was surprised to learn that there were so many global politics around conservation. I went there with little information but now I understand. I need to applaud our government for the effort they put in to support us."

During the CoP there are smaller sessions where specific issues are discussed that provide a platform for community voices. Christopher gave a presentation on behalf of Namibian communities regarding their support of elephant hunting to help reduce human-wildlife conflict and pay for protecting elephants and other wildlife. Meanwhile Eric got involved in the general discussions around this topic and others relating to communities.

They both returned with important messages for their home communities. Eric wants to create awareness in Namibia about how the CBNRM system compares with others: "I learned that it is only in Namibia where communities are really involved in decision making about our natural resources." Therefore, "We need to support the government and try to bring the best out of this programme because people are looking at us and they will use any single mistake to discard our methods." Similarly, Christopher says that Namibian communities – "Need to show them [opponents] that our method is still working by working hard to minimise poaching. This way we can prove to them that we are doing our best for the animals."

DIVERSIFYING INCOME WITH WILDLIFE CREDITS

The income generated by tourism and conservation hunting currently supports most Namibian conservancies, yet both of these industries rely on international tourism and they do not necessarily connect conservation action directly with community benefits. The CBNRM programme therefore needs to diversify income streams into conservancies in such a way that community conservation is recognised and rewarded. One promising income model that achieves this goal is Wildlife Credits.

Wildlife Credits is based on a payment for ecosystem services model, whereby measurable conservation performance (e.g. number of animal sightings increasing) is rewarded with cash payments to the conservancy. Suitable Wildlife Credits products are decided in each community, according to local conditions and the species or area to be conserved. For the financing of the Wildlife Credits scheme, private sector partners and/or large conservation agencies are sought out to either pay directly to a conservancy that has performed or to invest into a central Wildlife Credits fund that makes the payment on their behalf. Local tourism operators may also add to payments from the Wildlife Credits fund for their respective conservancies.

Several pilot projects have shown how the Wildlife Credits concept works and have explored different ways of implementing the same idea. In Wuparo and //Huab conservancies, the performance payments are linked to tourist sightings of lions and rhinos, respectively. Lions pose a major challenge for conservation, as their damage to livestock and the fear they arouse reduces local tolerance for this species. Rhinos are not a conflict species, but they are a challenge to conserve due to the high value placed on their horn by commercial poachers. Paying for rhino sightings recognises the valuable role conservancies play in protecting this species.

In Sobbe Conservancy, the system has been adapted to reward the community for maintaining an ancient elephant movement corridor. In this case the partner is Distell Namibia (producer of Amarula liqueur), which uses images of elephants to market their product. The contribution from Distell was invested into the national Wildlife Credit fund that then entered into an agreement with the conservancy. Annual payments are based on evidence for the corridor remaining free of crop fields and human development; evidence of elephant use obtained through satellite images and camera trap photographs. This version of the model reveals that Wildlife Credits is highly adaptable and can be used even in areas where tourism or hunting operators are not present.

Once funds are received through the Wildlife Credits system, each conservancy can decide how to use them, according to local priorities. In Wuparo, Wildlife Credits payments based on lion sightings by guests at Nkasa Lupala lodge (one of the Wild Waters Group of Lodges) were used to fund the construction of six predator-proof kraals that are proven to reduce lion attacks. In //Huab, payments based on rhinos seen by guests of Huab Under Canvas (an Ultimate Safaris Camp) are used to strengthen rhino community conservation measures through employing more rhino rangers and improving other security measures. Sobbe conservancy once again shows the flexibility of the system, as these funds contributed to their electrification project for several villages to improve the living standards of those living near elephant corridors.

Wildlife Credits holds enormous promise for Namibian conservancies, as diversifying income streams and creating direct links between benefits and conservation are both key priorities for the conservancy programme. These successful pilot projects reveal that innovative thinking can lead to sustainable positive outcomes for people and wildlife.

COMMUNITIES BENEFIT FROM THEIR CONSERVANCIES

BAMUNU CONSERVANCY – ELECTRICITY AND WATER TO RURAL VILLAGES

The Bamunu Conservancy dedicated N$ 2 million of their budget to undertake community development projects in 2019, which is over 50% of their annual income derived from conservation hunting. In deciding which community projects to start with this income, the conservancy held consultative meetings with villages in each of the five settlement zones.

In 2016, they found that people wanted electricity to improve their standard of living. The conservancy therefore initiated a village electrification project that is now at 60% completion. They bought six electrical transformers (one per village) and assisted individual households with their connections. An estimated 540 people (295 women and 245 men) have benefitted from the project thus far. Electricity creates opportunities for establishing new businesses (e.g. welders, barbers, and shops where refrigeration is required), facilitates evening activities (e.g. children doing homework, families watching television), and allows households to use appliances for various reasons.

Ms Mutuli Suzan and Mr. Maani Victor at Chinchimani village.

Muketela village in Bamunu opted to use conservancy funds to improve their water supply for household and farming purposes. They bought and installed a water pump and pipes to supply households, troughs for livestock, and to water a community garden. Produce from the garden is used to improve food security and generate funds to support schoolchildren. The conservancy has also drilled boreholes and repaired an old windmill to supply water for elephants and other wildlife, with the aim of reducing human-wildlife conflict near water points.

Besides these special projects focusing on electricity and water, the conservancy supports the traditional leaders and a local sports tournament, as directed by members during the Annual General Meeting.

San children in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy planting Moringa, Paw Paw and citrus trees

NYAE NYAE CONSERVANCY – CASH BENEFITS AND FRUIT TREES

The San community in Nyae Nyae have very few employment opportunities, so the members of this conservancy have opted for cash benefits since 2002. Cash enables households to buy essentials like pots, blankets, clothes and food, which is more flexible than receiving food parcels alone. Besides cash, the conservancy benefit distribution plan includes seed for village gardens, financial assistance for funerals, support to their traditional authority and school uniforms.

The conservancy employs 27 people full-time as game guards, Devil's claw resource monitors, and a water team that helps maintain water infrastructure. These jobs support the conservancy's goals and provide much-needed stable income for many households. The Chairperson of the conservancy, Xoan/'an /Ai!ae says "the rights of the community to decide how it benefits from conservancy activities is really important, in an area where people have few options for jobs or livelihoods, making a choice on what type of benefits they receive has a significant impact on people's lives".

Recently, the conservancy established a tree-planting project among several villages. The local Ministry of Agriculture Water and Fisheries provided paw paw and guava plants while other local suppliers have provided various citrus, grapes, custard apple, and moringa plants among others. Active pest control and co-planting insect repelling plants means that no pesticides are needed, which would be costly and damaging to the environment. Schoolchildren were involved in the planting project in each village – their efforts will be rewarded when they can eat the fruit of trees they helped to plant!

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A REVIEW OF 2019

USING AND MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCES

The sustainable use of natural resources lies at the heart of the CBNRM programme. Plants and animals support all communal area residents through the ecosystem services they provide. Conservancies can derive even greater benefits from these same resources by linking with international markets directly or through partners in the private sector.

High-value natural resource products include: wildlife and picturesque landscapes for photographic tourists, older male animals for conservation hunting, plant derivatives for medicinal and cosmetic uses, recreational fishing and handmade authentic crafts. Other locally valued products include meat, fish and plants harvested for consumption and other purposes. Using these resources sustainably to generate revenue and support rural livelihoods is critical for the long-term success of each conservancy and community forest.

The support structure around the CBNRM programme further provides conservancies with methods for monitoring their own resource use and a means of accessing information collated from larger areas. Experts from NACSO member organisations make up the Natural Resources Working Group (NRWG) that works closely with the government and conservancies to collect, analyse and publish data relating to natural resources. This information is valuable for decision-making purposes at the conservancy, regional and national scales.

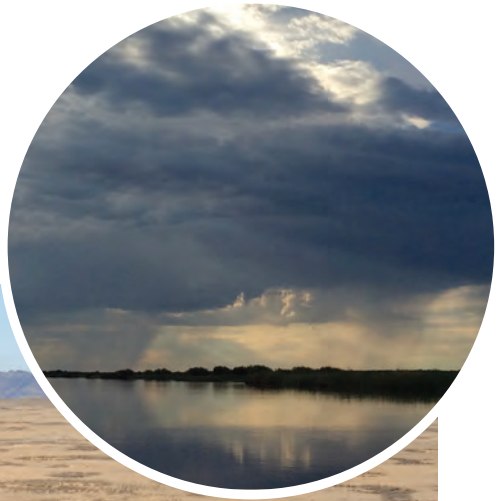
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

ADAPTATION IN THE FACE OF DROUGHT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The natural environment changes all the time. Sometimes, change occurs in natural cycles, but human-caused changes are increasingly prevalent. Although it is not one of the major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, Namibia finds itself on the sharp end of climate change. Two of the key threats associated with climate change are drought and associated food insecurity for rural Namibians.

Below-average rainfall was recorded in 2019 for conservancies in all regions. For those in the north-west and south, this is part of an eight-year drought, while in the east, the last good rains were received during the 2016/17 season (Figure 11a). The continued drought, especially in the west and south, has affected vegetation growth, as measured using remote sensing techniques (Figure 11b). This in turn greatly reduces the food available to both domestic and wild herbivores.

> ***Two of the key threats associated with climate change are drought and associated food insecurity for rural Namibians.***



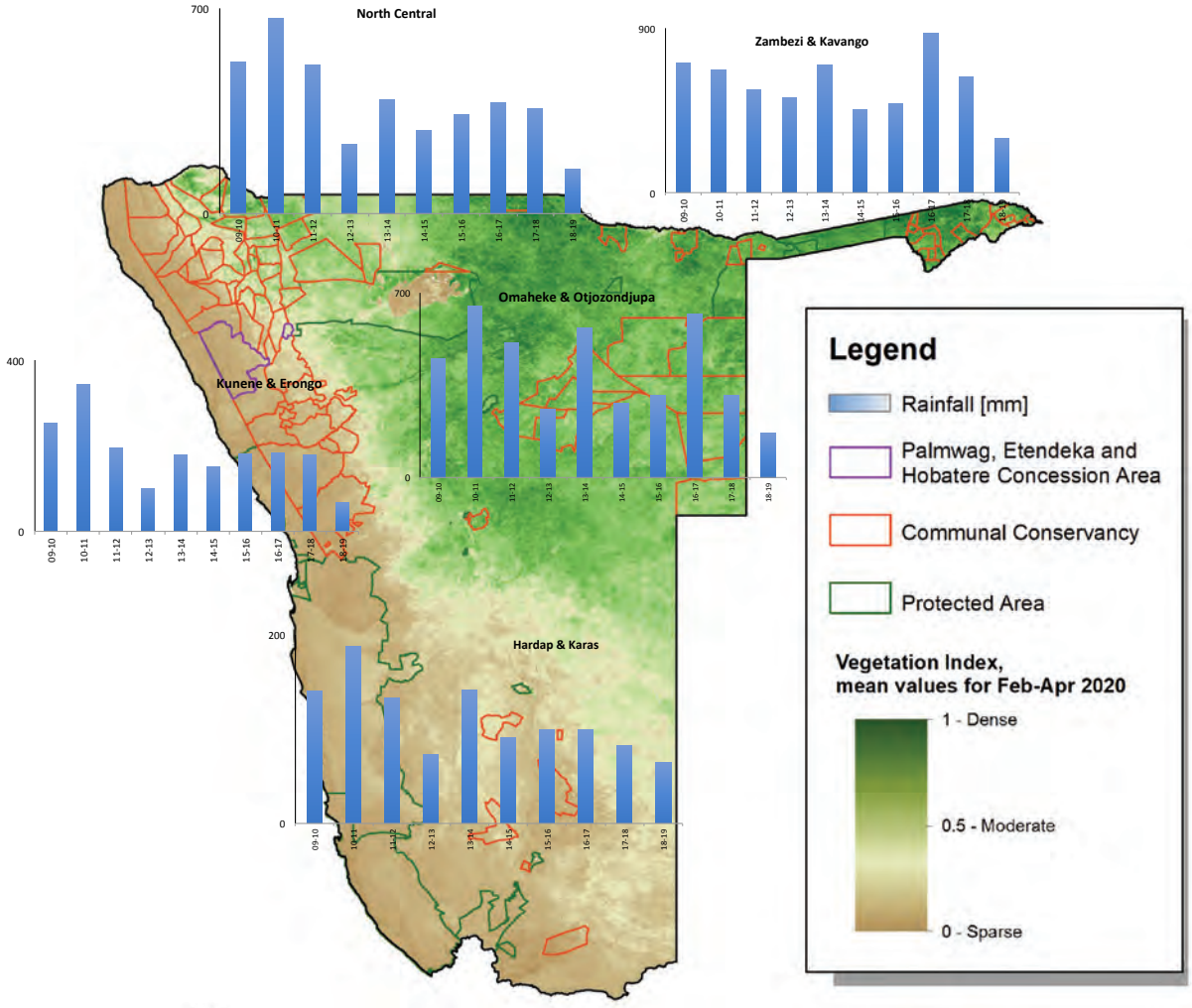


Figure 11a. The state of Namibia's vegetation in early 2020. The average rainfall graphs overlaid here cover the last ten wet seasons (from 2009/10 to 18/19) recorded by conservancies in five parts of Namibia.

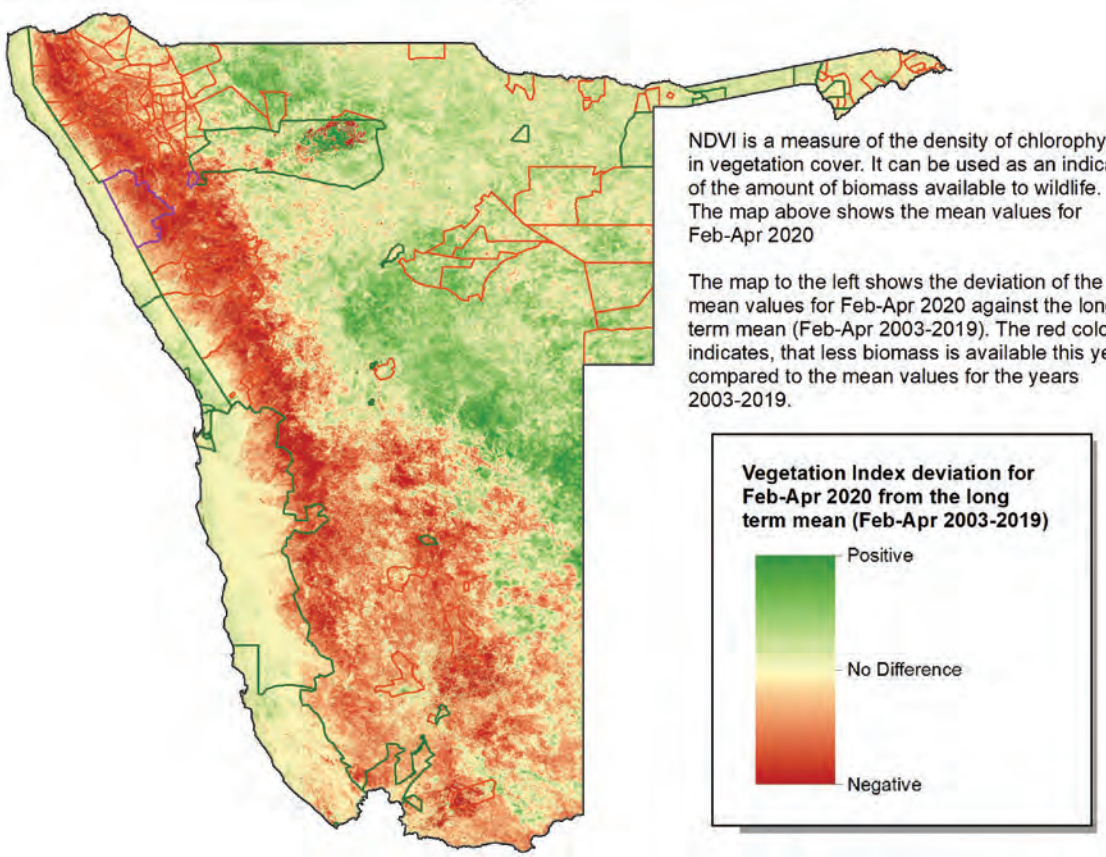


Figure 11b. The impact of long-term drought in the north-west and south of Namibia is shown by the red shades, indicating less active vegetation growth in early 2020 when compared with the long-term average for these areas.

> ***Adaptive management is a simple concept whereby plans are made based on the best available data, management actions are taken, the outcomes are monitored and this information is finally fed back into plans for the next period.***

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND QUOTA SETTING

Conservancies use wildlife to generate funds, while many of their members rely on livestock or rain-fed crop production (in the north and east). All of these sources of income are at risk during prolonged drought. It is in the face of challenges like this – which are likely to become ever more frequent – that the adaptive management approach used in CBNRM is most valuable. Adaptive management is a simple concept whereby plans are made based on the best available data, management actions are taken, the outcomes are monitored and this information is finally fed back into plans for the next period (Figure 12).

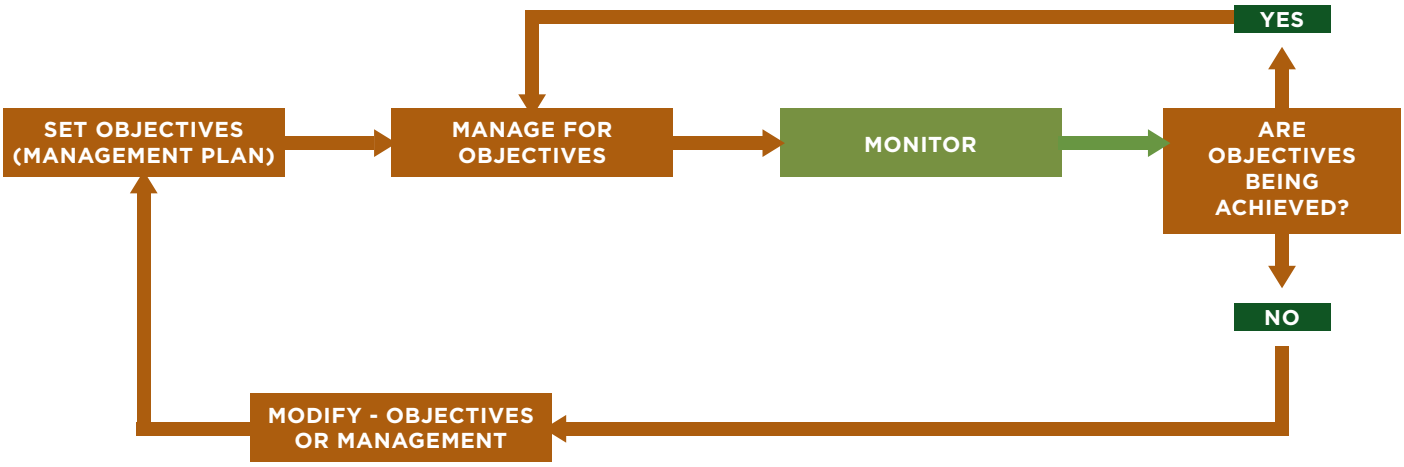


Figure 12. The adaptive management cycle

The tri-annual quota setting exercise was completed in 2019, which is based on the adaptive management principles. Once the quotas are officially approved through the process explained here, annual meetings are held to review quotas and adjust them where necessary. Quota setting is nonetheless an important process that sets the bar for the next three years.

Following the system in Figure 13, data are first collected from as many reliable sources as possible for each species or group of species under consideration. These include conservancy game counts, Event Book reports from community game guards, reports on how the quotas were used during the previous year, aerial survey data (where appropriate) and any relevant data from other sources.

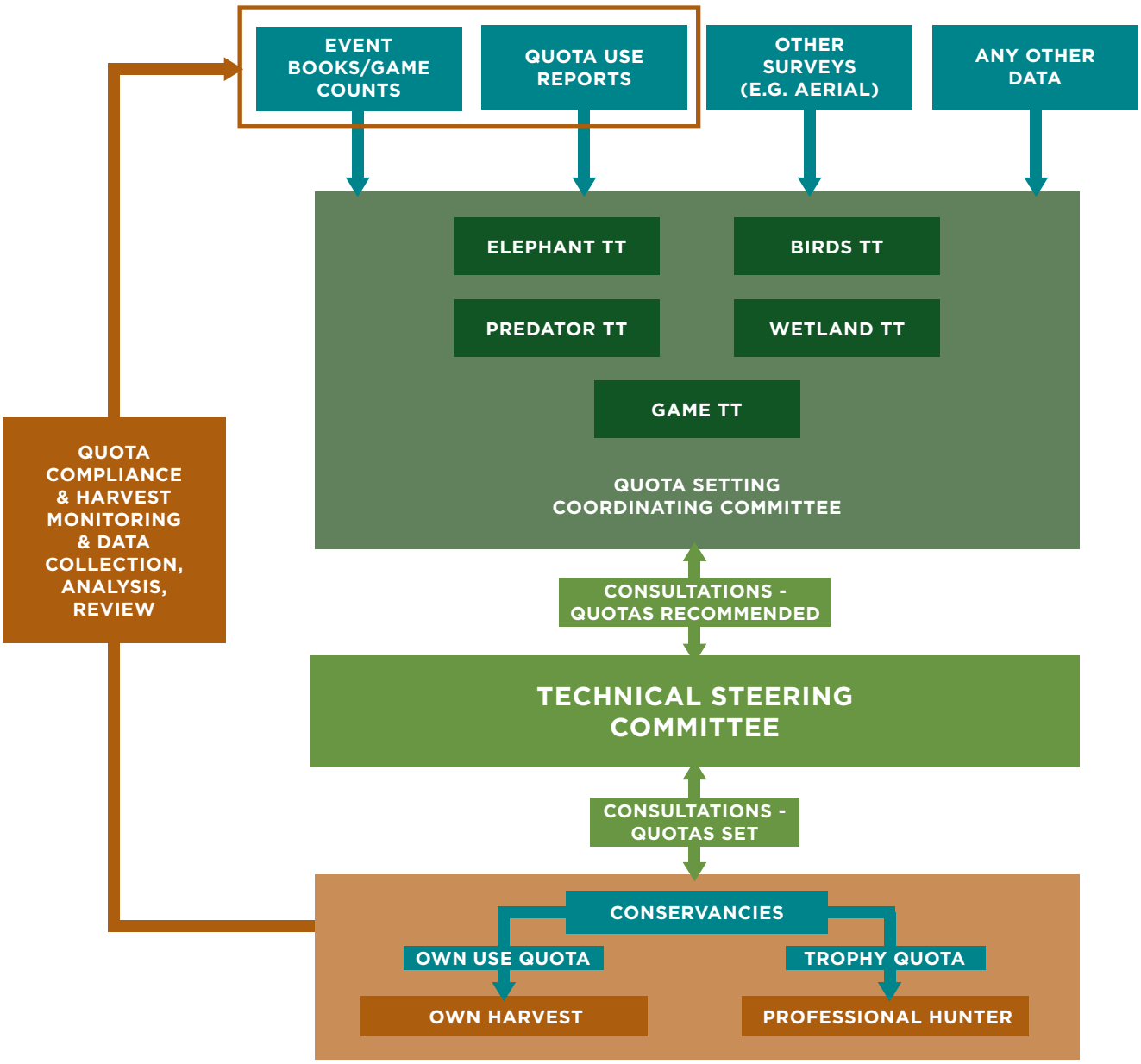


Figure 13. The quota setting process. Quota setting occurs every three years using data from various sources and discussions among all stakeholders. Quotas are reviewed annually between quota setting years. TT = Task Team operating under the Quota Setting Coordinating Committee.

These data are used to produce data-derived quotas, which are then translated into recommended quotas that are discussed at the conservancy level. The conservancies may want to reduce or increase the quotas for particular species based on their objectives, so these negotiations are an important step in the process. Finally, the agreed quotas are approved by MEFT and used as the basis for issuing permits for conservation hunting and "own use" (i.e. harvesting for meat used at conservancy or traditional authority meetings).

The quota for conservation hunting is small but valuable, as hunting clients are willing to pay large fees for taking older male animals. The conservancy negotiates a contract with a hunting partner that has the requisite Professional Hunter's license and has access to international markets. 100% of that negotiated fee is paid to the conservancy; the hunting client is charged more than this to cover other costs and the hunting operator's own fees (e.g. accommodation, hunting guide salaries, etc.).

All hunts, regardless of quota type, are monitored using a permit and tagging system, which ensures that quotas are not overused. The tagging system was piloted for the first time in 2019 to further improve the quota monitoring system. Reports from the game guards who monitor the hunts and the hunting operator are then fed back into the adaptive management system, along with other data collected during that year.

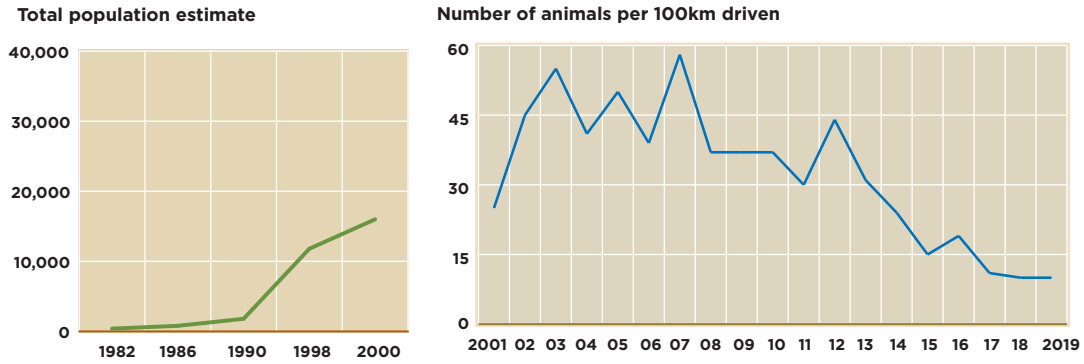
GAME MONITORING AND UTILISATION

Wildlife numbers are monitored in a number of different ways – game guards record sightings in their event books during regular and fixed foot patrols, annual counts are conducted by teams of observers driving on roads or sitting at waterholes, depending on the area, and aerial surveys are done every few years in some areas. All of these data together provide an overall picture of how different species are faring. Using multiple methods allows conservancies to monitor an array of species that cannot all be counted using only one method.

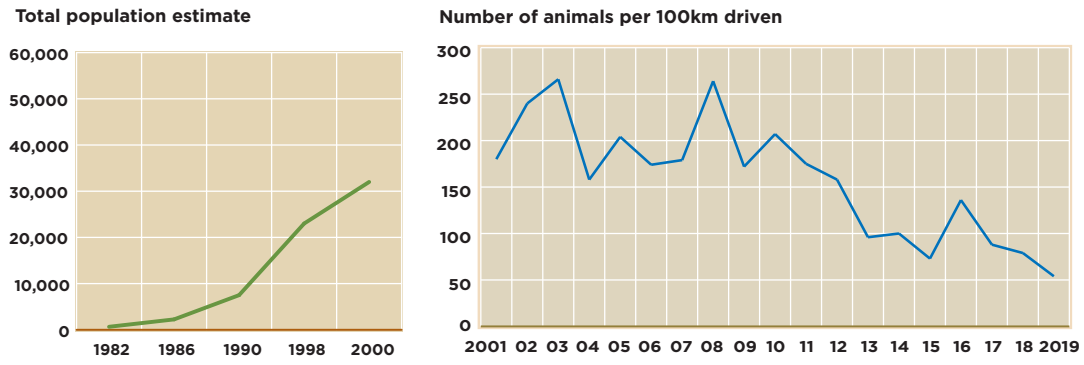
The annual road-based game count in the north-west focuses on plains game that are easily seen from the road – the 2019 results revealed the effects of prolonged drought (Figure 14). The gemsbok population remains extremely low, with numbers similar to 2017 and 2018. Springbok and Hartmann's mountain zebra populations are still declining, the latter quite sharply when compared with 2018.

While the zebra decline is cause for concern, one must also take into account the limitations of road-based counts when counting this species. Hartmann's mountain zebra range widely and, in response to drought, tend to retreat further into the mountainous areas where some grazing still remains. Few or no roads exist in these mountains, so zebras in these areas will not be counted on road-based game counts. The figures nonetheless reveal that the zebra population has been affected by drought – through increased mortality and/or by moving into inaccessible areas.

Gemsbok



Springbok



Hartmann's Mountain Zebra

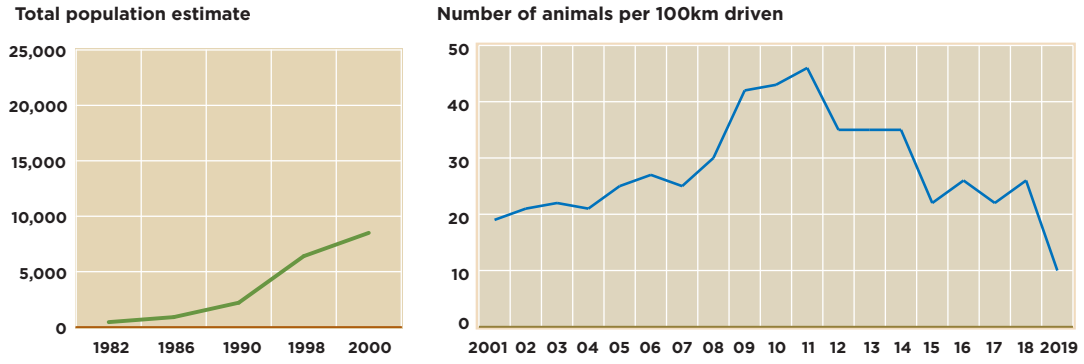


Figure 14. North-west population estimates. Population trends for three indicator herbivore species in the north-west. The main driver of these trends is the long-term drought in this region. Figures on the left were produced from aerial survey-based counts prior to 2000. Figures on the right are from road-based counts (animals seen per 100 km driven). These graphs reveal trends over time, not total population estimates.

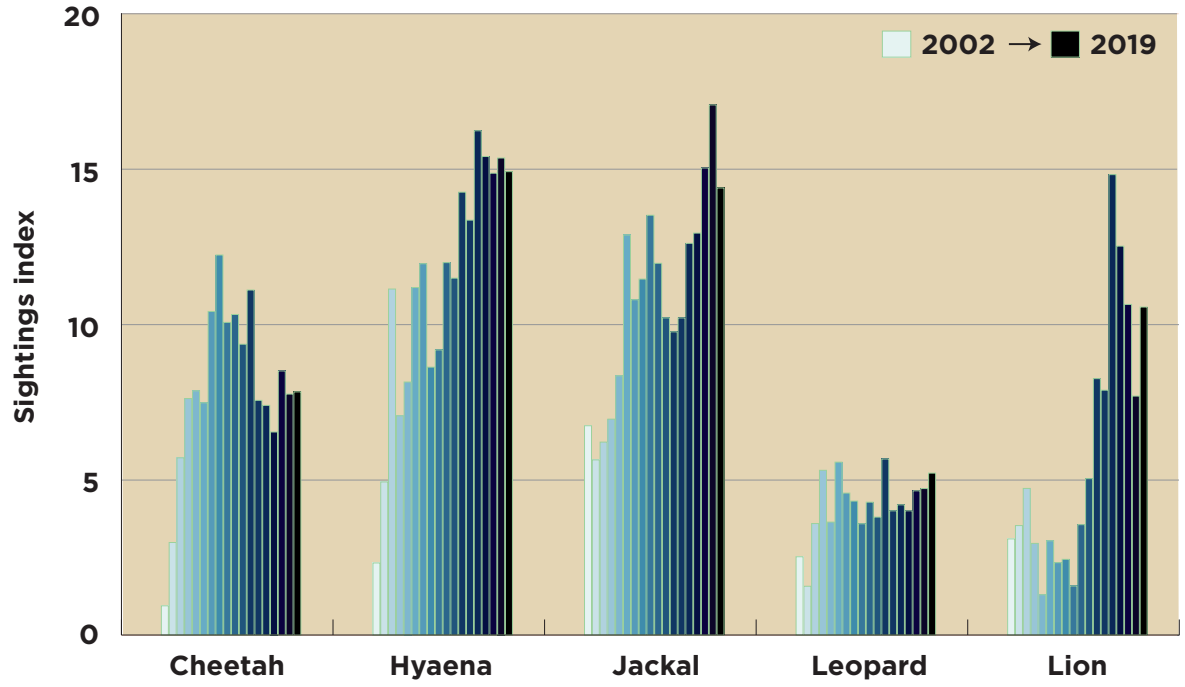


Figure 15. Predator sighting index for Erongo-Kunene Regions. The predator sightings in the north-west recorded by community game guards reveal that spotted hyaena and black-backed jackal numbers remain high, while cheetah and leopard populations are low but stable. Lion numbers appear to have rebounded somewhat from their drop in 2018 and are now similar to the 2017 estimate.

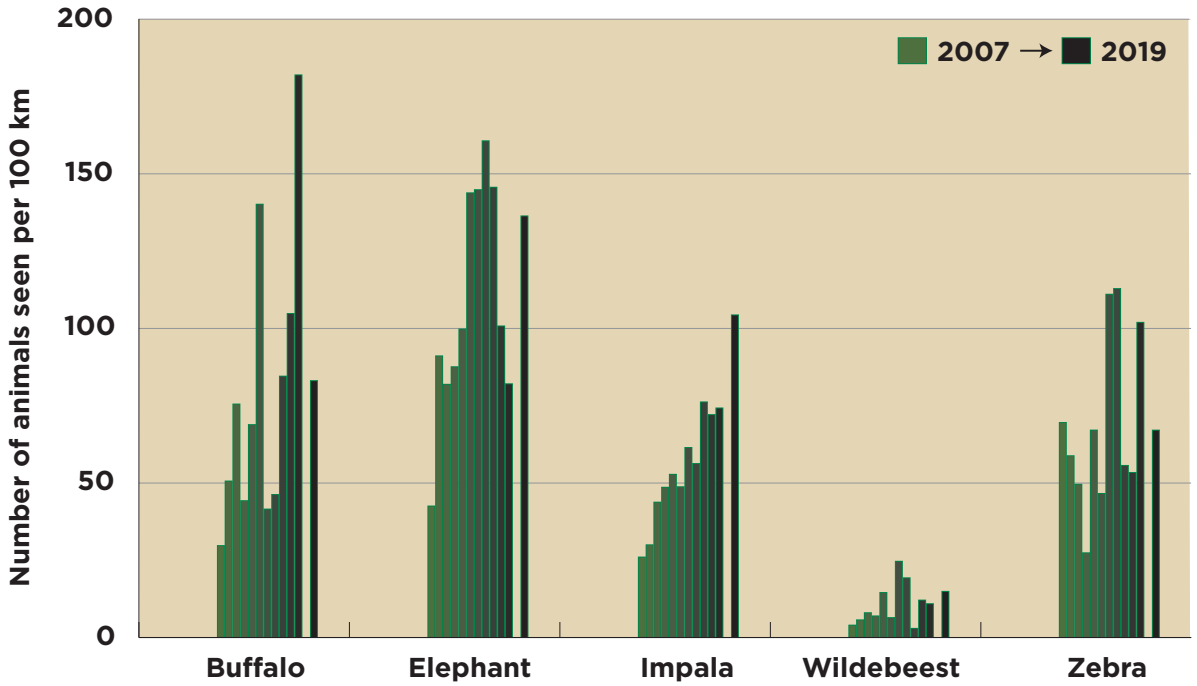


Figure 16. North-east game count. The game count in the north-east includes both the National Parks and conservancies, as these support the same wildlife populations. Most key herbivore populations are fluctuating (most notably buffalo that reached a record high in 2017), but the overall trend is stable. Impala populations are an exception, as they have been steadily increasing and 2019 was a record high for this species.

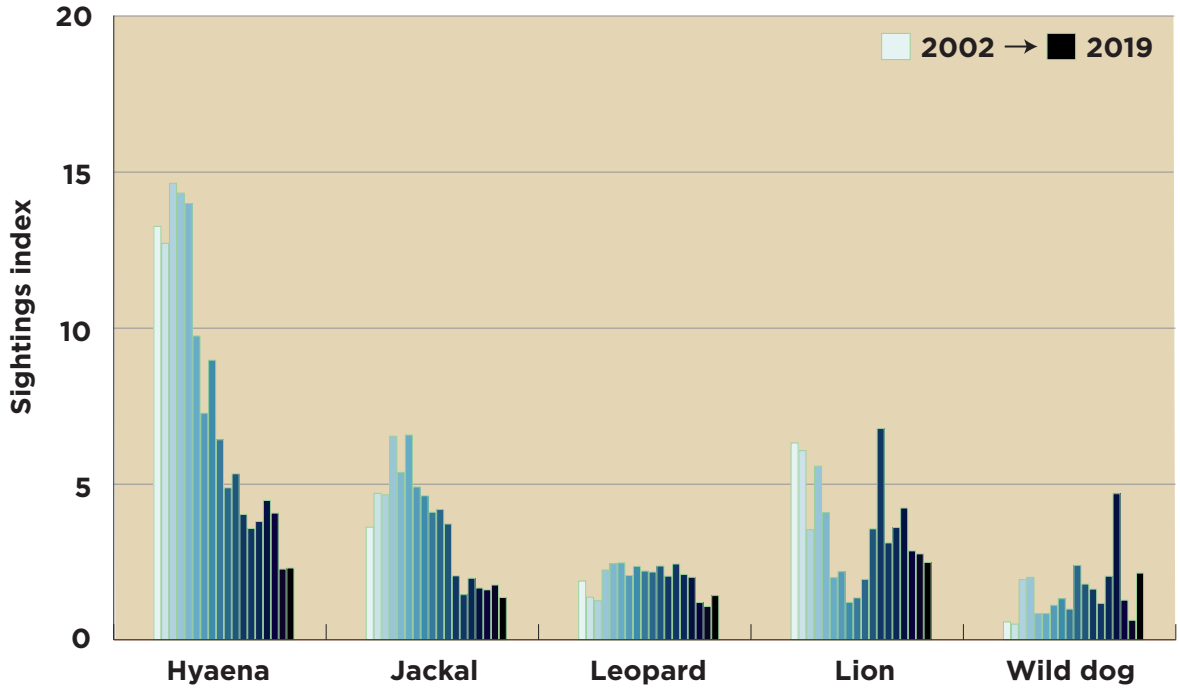


Figure 17. Zambezi game sightings on fixed-route foot patrols. The declining trends for spotted hyaena and black-backed jackal in the north-east are in contrast to opposite trends for these species in the north-west. Leopard and lion populations appear to be stable, whilst wild dog populations are low and fluctuating.

The declining trends for spotted hyaena and black-backed jackal in the north-east are in contrast to opposite trends for these species in the north-west.

Because of the drought, conservancies voluntarily gave up the part of the quota known as "shoot and sell", whereby certain plains game species were harvested and their meat sold.

QUOTA UTILISATION

The prolonged drought has greatly impacted the health of wildlife populations in all affected areas (Figure 14), even though most species are still present in these areas and therefore species diversity remains high in the north-west and north-east. Because of the drought, conservancies voluntarily gave up the part of the quota known as "shoot and sell", whereby certain plains game species were harvested and their meat sold. Following the principles of adaptive management, this decision will be revised once game populations have recovered to pre-drought levels. Conservancies want wildlife populations to recover, despite the fact that grazing herbivores compete with the cattle kept by many conservancy residents. Grazing competition intensifies during drought and, like the wildlife, many cattle have died from starvation.

The own use quota, used for conservancy and traditional authority events, is still available as much fewer animals are harvested for this purpose. Similarly, the conservation hunting quotas are still used, as this form of hunting targets a very small proportion of the population yet generates large returns. Nevertheless, the purpose of a quota is to establish the maximum sustainable harvest, it is not a target that needs to be met. Combining both types of hunting, most species were hunted well below quota in 2019 (Figure 18), which ranged from 0% of the lion quota to 97% of the buffalo quota used. Notably, only 8% of the Hartmann's mountain zebra and 6% of the springbok quota was used this year, in response to drought-related population declines.

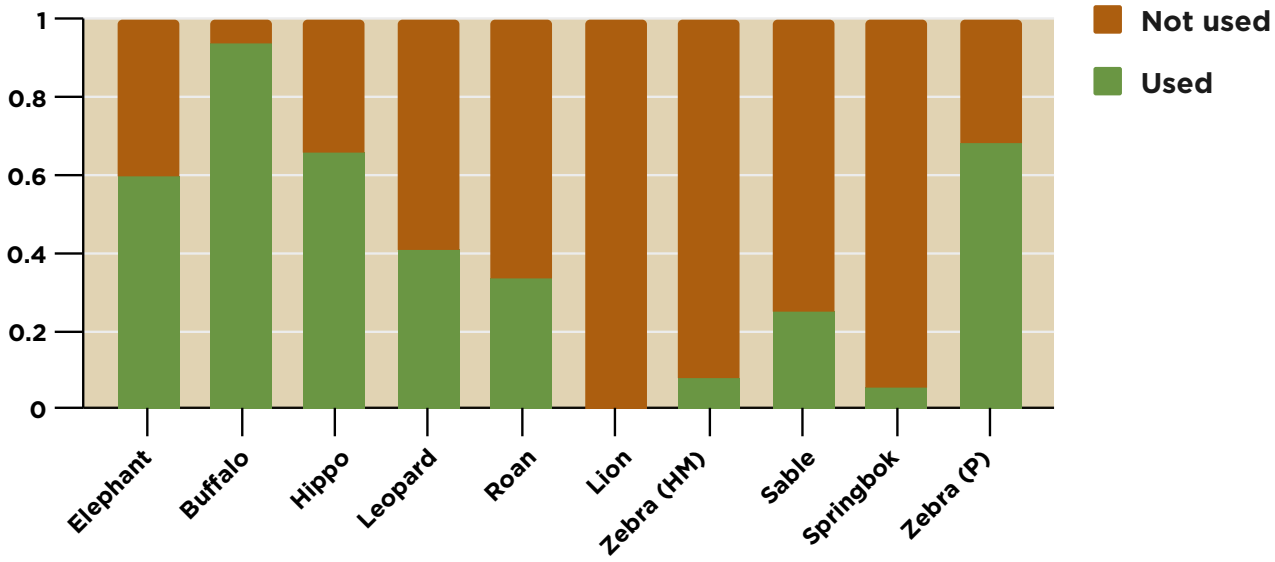


Figure 18. Quota utilisation in 2019. The proportion of the overall 2019 hunting quota that was used during the year, for the top ten income-generating species in all conservancies. HM = Hartmann's mountain; P = Plains. The quota is set as a maximum limit, but actual numbers taken during each year will vary.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Living with wildlife comes at a cost, particularly wildlife that is dangerous or competes with humans or their livestock for limited resources. This cost is one of the greatest threats to local support for conservation efforts. Finding ways for people and wildlife to coexist, and offsetting the damages when there is conflict, is thus an important task for all stakeholders. MEFT has provided the broader guidelines with the Human Wildlife Conflict Policy and more specialised management plans for high conflict species like lions in the north-west. NACSO partners and conservancies work with government officials to implement these policies and plans in an effort to reduce human-wildlife conflict.

Community game guards report all conflict incidents in their Event Books, which provides valuable information on trends, species involved, and the types of losses that occur (Figure 19a and 19b). Under the Human-Wildlife Conflict Self Reliance Scheme, farmers are assisted with some money to offset the costs of their losses, provided they reported the incident within 24 hours, the evidence for the claim is substantiated by a game guard or MEFT official, and he or she has taken reasonable precautions to protect their property prior to the incident.

In the Zambezi Region, elephants cause more conflict than other species, mainly by destroying crop fields. In the Erongo and Kunene Regions, the top four commonly reported species to cause conflict are carnivores that kill livestock, with spotted hyaenas causing the highest number of losses. Elephants in this region destroy infrastructure (e.g. water points) and small household gardens.

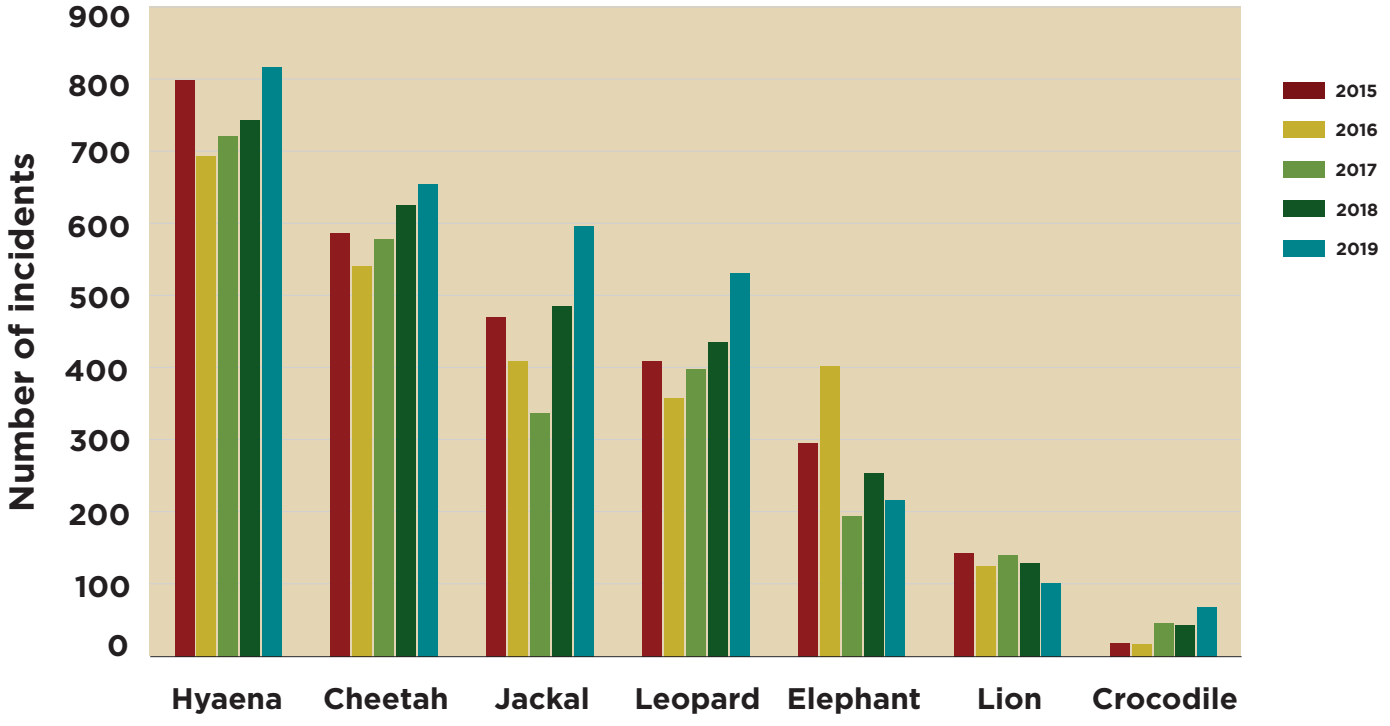


Figure 19a. Human-wildlife conflict species and trends in the Erongo-Kunene. Drought tends to benefit predator populations initially, as prey species are weakened and congregated around scarce resources. However, this same trend increases conflict incidents, as both domestic and wild herbivores become vulnerable to attack. Conflict with the four most problematic species (spotted hyaena, cheetah, black-backed jackal and leopard) in the north-west has generally been increasing in the last three years. In the same period, elephant conflict has remained relatively stable.

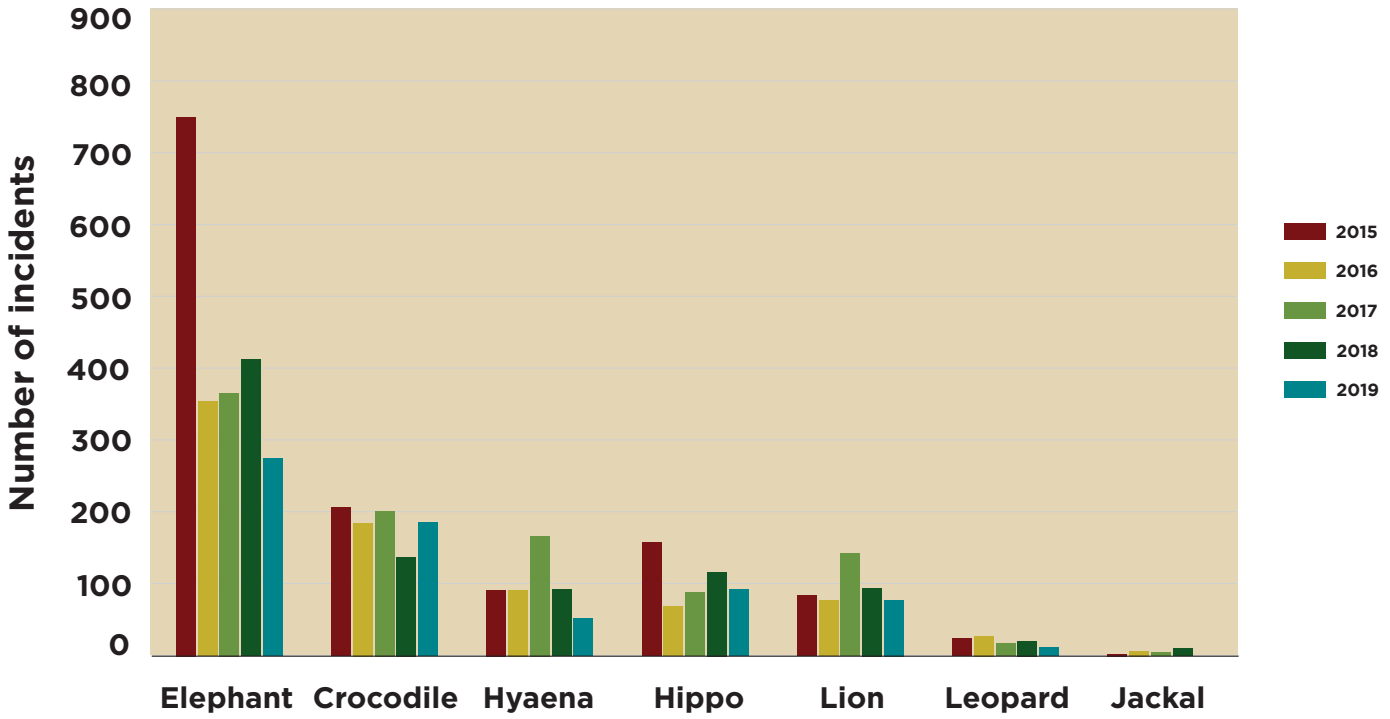


Figure 19b. Human-wildlife conflict species and trends in the Zambezi Region. Human-elephant conflict is the biggest issue in the Zambezi Region, but the number of incidents reported has dropped since the high in 2015. Crocodile conflict remains a constant problem, while spotted hyaena conflict has declined, possibly due to population declines for this species

In the vast majority of conflict cases, the incidents are only reported and the animal is not killed. Yet where there is a perceived threat to human life or the problem is persistent, the animal is killed. Lions are killed disproportionately more than the conflict they cause in the north-west, primarily because they threaten valuable adult cattle or large numbers of small livestock at once, and are perceived to be a threat to human life. In 2018, lions were killed as a result of conflict in 10% of the incidents where they caused livestock losses. This decreased to 4% in 2019, which is an encouraging result of the efforts made to mitigate human-lion conflict in the region.

> ***Human-elephant conflict is the biggest issue in the Zambezi Region, but the number of incidents reported has dropped since the high in 2015.***

LION RANGERS

MANAGING HUMAN-LION CONFLICT IN THE NORTH-WEST

The success of CBNRM has provided the conditions for predators such as lions to thrive. In the north-west, the lion population has increased in numbers and range – from 20 lions occupying about 7,000 km^2 in the late 1990's to 112-139 lions occupying over 40,000 km^2 in 2018. This success in terms of lion conservation has nonetheless come at a cost to conservancy residents that farm with livestock.

The on-going drought in the north-west has exacerbated conflict between people and predators. Research[1] in the Puros, Sesfontein and Anabeb conservancies confirmed that cattle herds declined by an average of two-thirds between 2014 and 2017. About a third of reported cattle losses were attributed to predation (mainly spotted hyaenas and lions), while two-thirds of donkey losses were attributed to predation – mainly by lions. Despite these problems, three-quarters of the 85 livestock-owning households interviewed said that they were willing to live with lions on communal lands. However, 40% said they would try to kill lions that killed their livestock.

Reducing the number of livestock losses caused by lions is therefore a key intervention that will benefit both people and predators. The Lion Ranger programme, established by MEFT and a consortium of conservation and research partners, takes a community-based approach to addressing this problem.

Since reactivating the project in 2018, over 30 community game guards have been selected and trained as Lion Rangers. They receive classroom and field-based training from lion experts and form part of Rapid Response Units for human-lion conflict. Lion locations are obtained through an early warning system that is being piloted in the region. A series of five towers have been erected in conflict hotspots that receive data when approached by collared lions (25 have been collared thus far). Approaching lion information is automatically relayed to the Rapid Response Units, who alert farmers in the vicinity and assist them to prevent conflict from occurring. Improving livestock protection by building predator-proof livestock kraals in conflict hotspots is another aspect of this multi-faceted programme. The Lion Rangers respond to livestock loss incidents and provide farmers with information on how to avoid future losses.

The success of this programme depends directly on the conservancies and their residents being willing to live alongside lions. The programme started with Sesfontein, Puros and Anabeb that were earmarked by MEFT as those with high levels of human-lion conflict. The project has since expanded to include Ehi-Rovipuka, ≠Khoadi-//Hôas, Omatendeka, Orupupa, Sorris Sorris, Torra, and Tsiseb, as these have requested assistance with reducing human-lion conflict.

The Lion Center
University of Minnesota

DESERT LION CONSERVATION

Namibian Lion Trust
FOR LIONS • FOR LIFE • FOR OUR FUTURE

TOSCO
TOURISM supporting CONSERVATION

1 Heydinger, Packer & Tsaneb (2019). Desert-adapted lions on communal land: Surveying the costs incurred by, and the perspectives of, communal area livestock owners in northwest Namibia. Biological Conservation 236: 496-504.

COMBATTING WILDLIFE CRIME

Wildlife crime targets a range of species and is perpetrated by a complex network of local and international criminals for a wide diversity of reasons. Types of wildlife crime include killing protected species for food or for financial gain, being in possession of or dealing in illegal wildlife products, or helping others to poach or traffic wildlife or wildlife products. Namibian conservation and law enforcement partners are actively countering these and other environmental crimes, such as illegal logging.

Vulnerable high-value species such as elephant, rhinos and pangolin receive particular attention. High-value wildlife crime is driven by international markets (mostly in Asia) and is coordinated by well-connected international crime syndicates, members of which operate in Namibia and neighbouring countries. North-eastern Namibia, which shares borders with three countries, has become a conduit for trafficking wildlife products between countries.

Anti-poaching and law enforcement activities are distinct, yet complementary, strategies used to combat wildlife crime. Anti-poaching activities seek to minimise poaching events through patrols, community awareness and other security measures such as dehorning rhinos. Law enforcement investigates criminal activity and seeks to apprehend suspects, including poachers, dealers and a range of aiders and abettors. Investigators work closely with the prosecution to ensure that perpetrators receive appropriate penalties, which should act as a deterrent for others.

Addressing wildlife crime clearly requires an organised, collaborative approach among conservation stakeholders. MEFT spearheads the national fight against wildlife crime together with the Namibian Police Force (NAMPOL) and other government agencies, while conservancies (supported by NACSO members) are involved specifically in protecting wildlife in the communal conservancy areas. Community support is vital for both anti-poaching (through game guards and rhino rangers) and law enforcement, as local people can alert the authorities to suspicious activities and assist investigations.

Vulnerable high-value species such as elephant, rhinos and pangolin receive particular attention.

No rhinos were poached in the Erongo and Kunene Region communal conservancies during 2019 – which is a testament to the hard work being done in these conservancies.

RECENT WILDLIFE CRIME TRENDS

After many years of minimal wildlife crime in Namibia, rhino and elephant poaching started once more in 2012, reaching a climax in 2015. Meanwhile, pangolin poaching was first recognised as a major problem in 2014 and has been increasing since then.

Countrywide, 45 rhinos were poached in 2019, down from 74 in 2018. No rhinos were poached in the Erongo and Kunene Region communal conservancies during 2019 – which is a testament to the hard work being done in these conservancies. Carcasses of 12 poached elephants were found in the north-eastern part of Namibia in 2019, which is the lowest number since 2014 (includes conservancies and National Parks).

It seems that ivory trafficking from neighbouring countries is a bigger problem than local elephant poaching, however, with 116 tusks seized during the year in the Zambezi Region. Finally, 123 pangolins were seized in various locations throughout Namibia (49 of which were alive, rehabilitated and released) – it is difficult to tell where the pangolins were caught, as poachers are usually apprehended trying to sell them in urban areas far from the capture location. Wildlife crime is tackled at the national level, thus protecting wildlife on communal land, freehold farms and reserves, and state-owned protected areas.

CREATING AWARENESS AND BUILDING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A key strategy to prevent wildlife crime in conservancies is sensitising members who know what is going on around their farms or villages. Criminals planning to poach wildlife cannot avoid being seen by at least a few conservancy members, so if members are aware of the importance of high-value species and the threat posed by wildlife crime, they are more likely to report suspicious activities.

The Rhino Pride campaign in the Erongo and Kunene Regions is aimed at creating this broader awareness and increasing community support for combatting wildlife crime. World Rhino Day (22nd September) was celebrated in Khorixas to recognise the two years of zero rhino poaching in the north-west. Some of the key campaign messages include: highlighting the threats of wildlife crime to community-based tourism, social problems caused by criminal networks, and advertising the different ways people can report suspicious activities.

The ultimate goal is to minimise poaching, rather than just catch poachers. The partnerships created between government, conservancies, support organisations and funding partners provide a strong network that even organised wildlife criminals will find difficult to evade. 2019 marks another year of decreased wildlife crime incidents and increased arrests in Namibia, yet this success is no reason to rest. Continually improving investigation and justice systems while capacitating communities will ensure that Namibian partners remain one step ahead of the criminals.

PARTNERSHIPS AGAINST WILDLIFE CRIME

The establishment of Operation Blue Rhino in 2018 was a major development in the fight against wildlife crime. This joint initiative between the MEFT Intelligence and Investigation Unit and the Protected Resources Division of NAMPOL has resulted in a sharp increase in the number of poaching arrests made in Namibia. In 2019, 127 arrests were made relating to elephant poaching, 175 relating to pangolin, and 112 related to rhino, all of these figures are higher than those for 2018. Notably, 69 of the rhino related arrests were pre-emptive – suspects were caught whilst planning to kill rhinos (25 pre-emptive arrests occurred in 2018).

Wildlife crime trends are complicated to interpret – an increase in arrests or seizures does not necessarily indicate an increase in wildlife crime. Improved law enforcement has played a significant role in the increases seen in Namibia over the past three years.

In conservancies, partnerships against wildlife crime include conservancy game guards and rhino rangers who are supported by several NACSO members. These efforts received a financial boost through USAID's Combatting Wildlife Crime Project that started in 2017 and will run until 2022. This project operates on several levels nationwide to deal with multiple different aspects of wildlife crime.

In conservancies, they have provided training for 312 community game guards (55 female, 257 male) and 62 specialised rhino rangers. The game guard training includes how to investigate and report illegal activities, and different ways to patrol aimed at detecting poaching activity. These efforts are coordinated with NACSO members Save the Rhino Trust, IRDNC and NNF who support the relevant conservancies.

Wildlife crime trends are complicated to interpret – an increase in arrests or seizures does not necessarily indicate an increase in wildlife crime.

COMMUNITY FORESTS

Community forests operate on similar principles to conservancies – people living within an area are empowered to harvest and manage their plant resources sustainably. There are currently 43 registered community forests in Namibia, covering around 85,192 km^2 within ten regions in the northern part of the country, 84% of which overlaps with communal conservancies.

As the Directorate of Forestry has recently been incorporated into MEFT at the government level, there is an opportunity for even greater synergy between these two aspects of community conservation in future. This Directorate works with community forests and their natural resource monitors to conduct inventories of their plant resources and set annual allowable off-takes, along similar lines to game counts and quota setting procedures in conservancies.

As conservancies only have jurisdiction over wildlife, establishing a community forest in the same area gives them more rights pertaining to plant resources. These include managing grazing resources and harvesting plants for sale or local use. Sales of valuable plant products such as the devil's claw tuber, resin obtained from Commiphora species, and wood from Namibian hardwood species (in the north-east) are the main sources of income for community forests.

This year, indigenous plant product sales generated less than half of the returns generated in 2018. The supply is linked to plant growth, which is affected by drought, particularly for devil's claw harvests. Meanwhile, demand fluctuates greatly from one year to the next as it relies on a few buyers that may put in large orders one year and no orders the next.

There is therefore scope for identifying other plant products that have international value, along with finding new markets and buyers for current plant products. Resource monitors and harvesters are often women; the income generated from plants is thus critical for gender empowerment and supporting female-headed households. In terms of conservation, woodlands in the north-east provide critical ecosystem services by acting as carbon sinks and preventing soil erosion.

> ***There are currently 43 registered and emerging community forests in Namibia, covering around 85,192 km^2 within ten regions in the northern part of the country, 84% of which overlaps with communal conservancies.***

CONSERVATION

AT SCALE

Namibia's approach to conservation ensures that wildlife occurs well beyond the boundaries of national parks and that everyone can contribute to conservation. This philosophy establishes strong relationships between parks and people nationally and extends to our international neighbours. By establishing a foundation of mutual understanding among diverse stakeholders, landscape-scale conservation allows a holistic approach to landscape management, aiming to reconcile the competing objectives of nature conservation and economic activities across the landscape.

This year the land under community conservation (including conservancies and community forests) remained at 166,197 km^2 with no new conservancies added. About 44% of Namibia is thus under some form of natural resource management (NRM), 21% of which is in communal lands and 16% is protected by the state (parks and reserves), the remainder is on freehold land. The expansion of land under NRM in Namibia from 1990 until 2019 (Figure 20) makes Namibia one of the forerunners in biodiversity conservation worldwide.

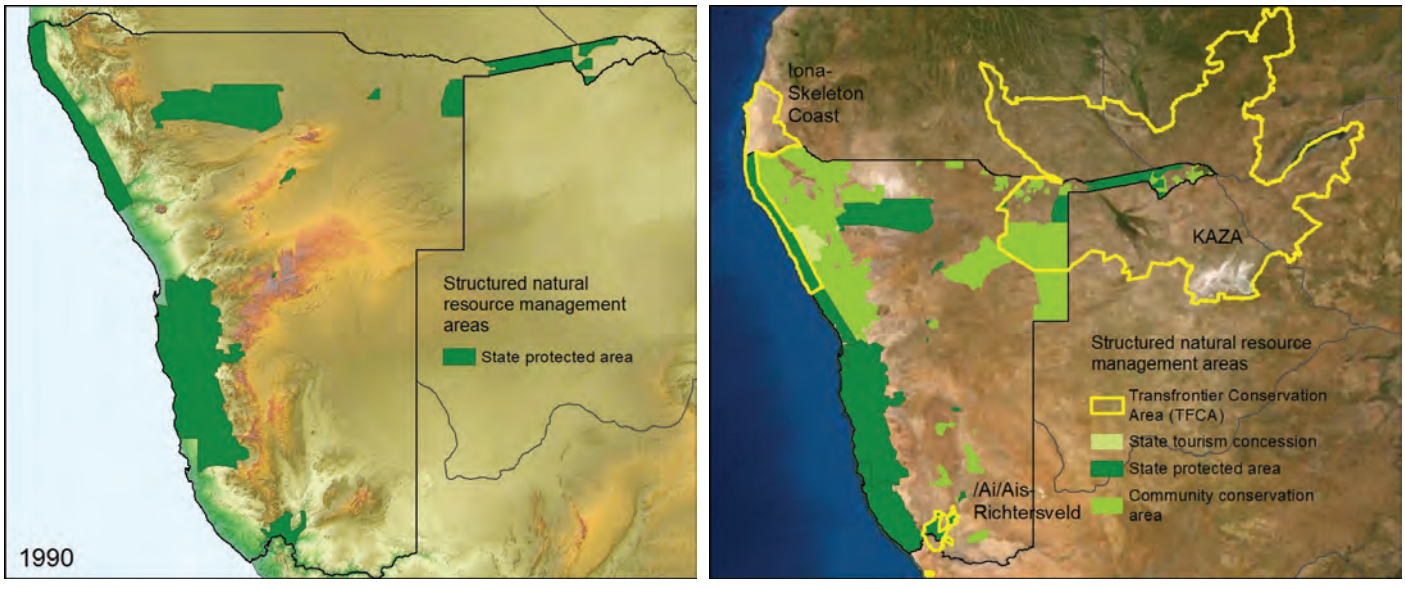


Figure 20. In 1990, the only areas under conservation management in Namibia were state-protected national parks. By 2019, this area had expanded significantly, especially through the addition of communal conservancies. Namibia is also party to three Transfrontier Conservation Areas with neighbouring countries.

CONSERVATION LANDSCAPES IN NAMIBIA

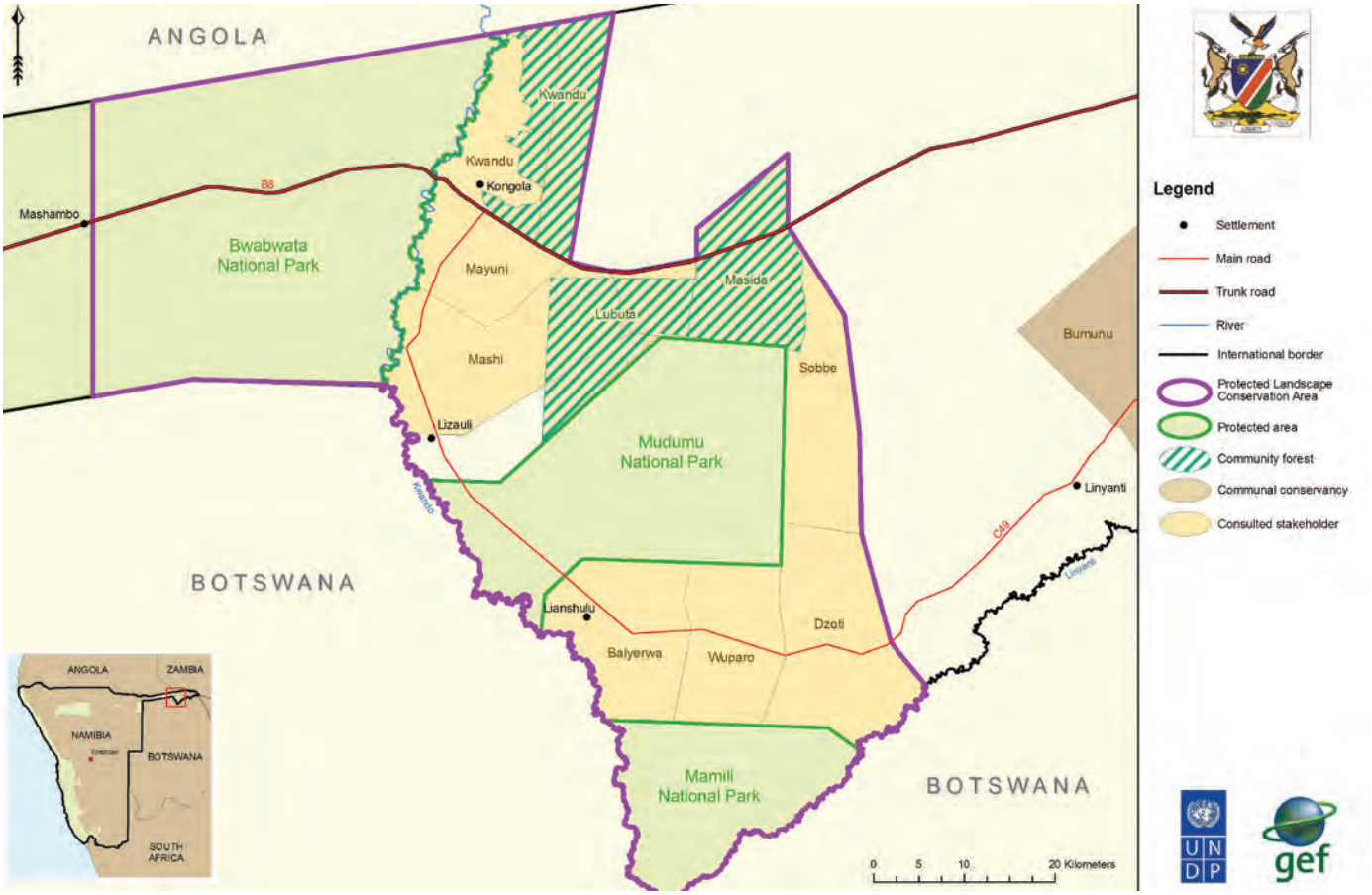
While communal conservancies have different mandates to state protected areas, the two types of land use can be managed synergistically between the elected committees and the park management teams. Managing wildlife on a landscape scale makes ecological and economic sense – migratory species can use the landscape optimally based on their seasonal needs, while tourism development can include local communities.

Knowing where wild animals like elephants prefer to move through conservation complexes can assist conservancies and state entities with land use management plans that reduce human-wildlife conflict in the long-term. Crop fields planted in an area used frequently by elephants, for example, are likely to be a continual source of conflict between the farmers and conservation officials. Based on extensive consultations with people on the ground, key wildlife corridors in the Zambezi Region have now been mapped and a strategy drafted to secure and maintain these corridors in future. Identifying suitable corridors for wide-ranging species like elephants can only be done at the landscape level, rather than within each conservancy or state protected area. This strategy includes developing sustainable financing mechanisms to assist conservancies with keeping these corridors open for wildlife.

The Mudumu Landscape (including the Mudumu North and South Complexes, Figure 21), which includes three national parks, seven conservancies and three community forests, received a financial boost this year following the revision of a strategic plan for the complex. €800,000 have been secured to support the implementation of this plan during the coming years.

Mudumu is just one example of the conservation landscapes in Namibia that include conservancies and state protected areas. Others include the Khaudum conservation landscape in the Kavango Region and the Ombonde People's Park in the Kunene Region.

FIGURE 21. MUDUMU COMPLEX PROTECTED LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION AREA (MC-PLCA)



TRANSBOUNDARY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN KAZA

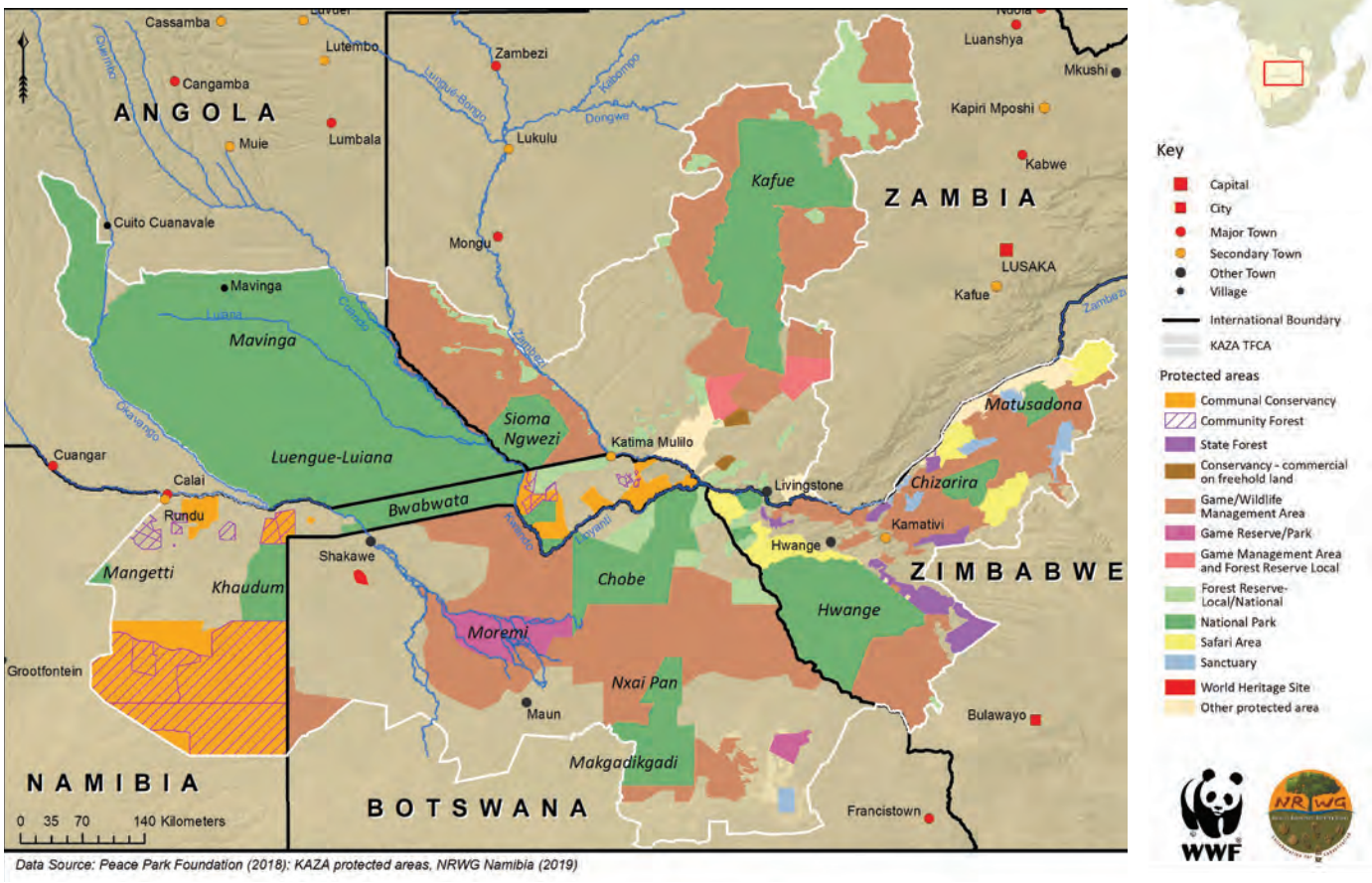
The Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) is a complex landscape that includes multiple different stakeholders in five different countries – Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Conserving wildlife in this region requires extensive communication, consultation and collaboration at the local, national and international levels. The Kyaramacan Association, 22 communal conservancies (with two fish reserves) and 22 community forests in north-east Namibia fall within the Namibian component of KAZA TFCA (Figure 22). These entities contribute to Transboundary Natural Resource Management (TBNRM) fora with community representatives from other KAZA countries whereby they share their experiences and address cross-border issues such as wildlife crime, fisheries, forests and fire management.

The Chobe River that forms the border between Namibia and Botswana is an example of a shared resource that can benefit from a TBNRM approach to its management. There are a number of different stakeholders that use the river and its associated floodplains to support commercial wildlife-based operations and basic livelihoods in both countries. The different uses of the river have been the source of misunderstandings and conflict in the past.

To address this issue, a Chobe River Code of Conduct has been drafted after a period of extensive consultation in both countries that outlines how fisheries, hunting, tourism, and waste are to be managed within the landscape. The overall aim of this code of conduct is to provide a harmonised and standard set of procedures and guidelines for the use of the Chobe River shared water course so that tourism activities meet the highest aesthetic, ethical and environmental standards, without compromising the biodiversity of the river and surrounding area, the tourism experience, or the rights and livelihoods of local communities. Once signed at the Ministerial level in both countries, all stakeholders must abide by these guidelines.

Namibia and its neighbours are determined to make KAZA a world-class destination for international tourism. To this end, His Excellency President Dr. Hage Geingob announced on the 7th May 2019 during his speech at the Kasane Elephant Summit the decision for Namibia to join the KAZA UNIVISA. MEFT has since introduced the concept of the UNIVISA to other stakeholders and will establish a technical committee to drive this process forwards. The UNIVISA will promote tourism in KAZA and therefore increase revenue-generating opportunities for conservancies.

FIGURE 22. THE KAVANGO-ZAMBEZI TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA (KAZA TFCA) PROTECTED AREAS IN 2019



Data Source: Peace Park Foundation (2018): KAZA protected areas, NRWG Namibia (2019)

Namibia and its neighbours are determined to make KAZA a world-class destination for international tourism.

As the newest TFCA involving Namibia, much work is still required to conserve and sustainably develop this landscape.

ASSESSING THE SKELETON COAST/IONA TFCA

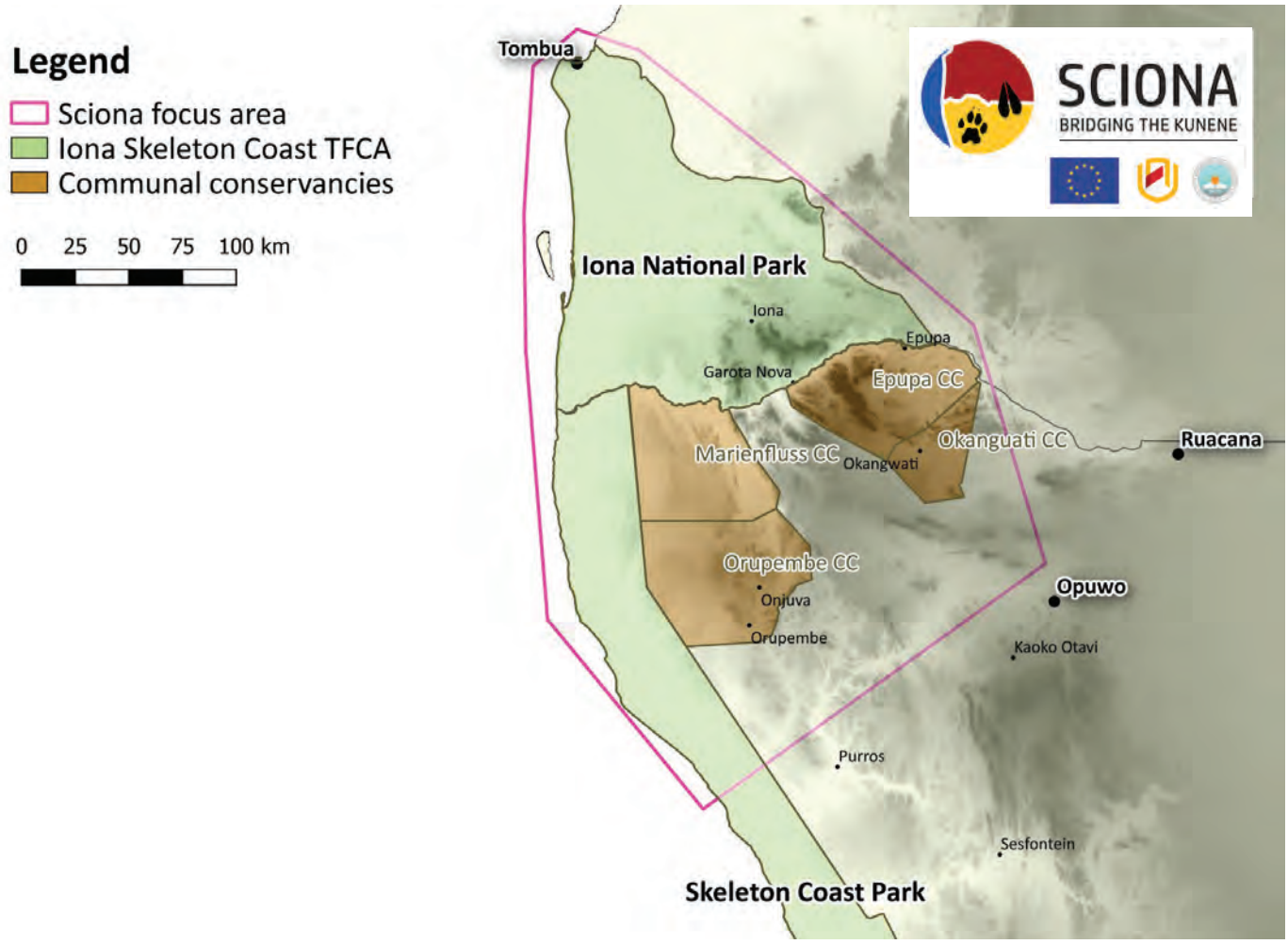
The Skeleton Coast/Iona TFCA was signed into being in 2018 by the governments of Namibia and Angola (Figure 23). As the newest TFCA involving Namibia, much work is still required to conserve and sustainably develop this landscape. A team from MEFT and the Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST) made an exploratory visit to Iona National Park, during which time they met their counterparts in Angola to discuss the way forward. NUST students are providing information on a range of topics related to NRM that can inform the integrated development Plan for this TFCA.

Four Namibian conservancies are located near this TFCA and will therefore play an important role in terms of natural resource management and tourism development on the Namibian side. Community-based ecological monitoring will establish what resources are currently available and how these can be further developed. NUST has therefore trained 20 para-ecologists from communities in both countries to provide support for ecological monitoring and research where they live. In the near future, a community monitoring hub will be established and this information will be integrated into other streams of data using an online portal.

One particular challenge that must be addressed between the Namibian and Angolan communities is crocodile killing in the Kunene River. Establishing a TBNRM forum between Namibian and Angolan community representatives could address this and other pressing local challenges. Other ideas and lessons learned in the KAZA TFCA can thus be adapted and applied in this new conservation landscape.

In terms of biodiversity, recent research results are encouraging - two new plant species have been discovered on the Namibian side, while brown hyaena and cheetah have been recorded in Iona National Park on camera trap images. The Giraffe Conservation Foundation assisted by attaching tracking devices to four giraffe in the Marienfluss Conservancy, which will inform future plans to re-establish a giraffe population on the Angolan side of the TFCA.

FIGURE 23. THE SKELETON COAST/IONA TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA, AND FOUR NEIGHBOURING NAMIBIAN CONSERVANCIES.



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

NACSO

NACSO MEMBERS

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www.cheetah.org

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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

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PO Box 294, Opuwo

Erongo Regional Conservancy Association
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Kunene South Conservancy Association
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Email: chairperson.skca@gmail.com

North Central Conservancies & Community Forests Regional Association
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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
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NACSO WORKING GROUPS

NACSO Business, Enterprises and Livelihoods Working Group
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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 !nawas Lodge	Kunene South	Doro !nawas	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	Ehirovipuka	Oasis Adventure Travel & Lodging	Tel: +264081033701856; Gawie@wildveld.com
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

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Kunene River Camp	Kunene South	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
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 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	White Sands Resort	Tel: +264 81 338 3224; www.whitesands.com.na

JOINT VENTURE	AREA	CONSERVANCIES	PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER	CONTACT
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
Nyae Nyae	Otjozondjupa	SMJ Safaris	info@smj-safaris.com
Salambala	Zambezi	Nature Hunting Safaris	naturesolutions@iway.na
#Khoadi-//Hôas	Kunene	African Safari Trails	african-safari-trails@mweb.com.na
Torra	Kunene	Savannah Safaris (Pty) Ltd	savannahnamibia@mweb.com.na
Wuparo	Zambezi	Caprivi Hunting Safari cc	caprivihuntingsafaris@iway.na
Doro !Nawas	Kunene	Namib Game Genetics	auasnoord@gmail.com
Kwandu	Zambezi	Jamy Traut Hunting Safaris cc	jamytraut@gmail.com
Mayuni	Zambezi	Jamy Traut Hunting Safaris cc	jamytraut@gmail.com
Tsiseb	Erongo	African Hunting Safaris	hagen@erongosafaris.com
Ehirovipuka	Kunene	WildVeld Safaris	mark@wildveld.com
Sorris Sorris	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	gvdsafaris@iway.na
Mashi	Zambezi	Omujeve Safari (Pty) Ltd	corne@omujevesafaris.com
Omatendeka	Kunene	WildVeld Safaris	mark@wildveld.com
Uukwaludhi	Omusati	Uukwaluudhi Safari Lodge PTY (Ltd)	johan@satib.com
Orupembe	Kunene	Estreux Safaris	info@estreuxsafaris.com
Okangundumba	Kunene	Nitro Safaris (Pty) Ltd	peter@africatrophyhunting.com
//Huab	Kunene	Omuwiwe Hunting Lodge	pieter@omuwiwe.co.za
Anabeb	Kunene	Thormahlen & Cochran Safari (Pty) Ltd	peter@africatrophyhunting.com
Sesfontein	Kunene	Leopard Legend Hunting Safaris	info@leopardlegend.com
Ozondundu	Kunene	Nitro Safaris (Pty) Ltd	peter@africatrophyhunting.com
N#a Jaqna	Otjozondjupa	Thormahlen & Cochran Safari (Pty) Ltd	peter@africatrophyhunting.com
Uukolondkadhi-Ruacana	Omusati	Track a Trail Safaris	trackatrailsafaris@hotmail.com
Sheya Shuushona Muduva Nyanga King Nehale	Omusati Kavango East Oshikoto	Ruark Game Safaris (Pty) Ltd Ekuja Hunting Safaris Van Heerden Safaris cc	admin@huntingnamibiaruark.com vhsaf@mweb.com.na
George Mukoya	Kavango East	Ekuja Hunting Safaris	
Kasika	Zambezi	Sable Hills Safari Namibia cc	sablehillssafarinamibia@gmail.com
Impalila	Zambezi	Thormahlen & Cochran Safari (Pty) Ltd	peter@africatrophyhunting.com
Balyerwa	Zambezi	Eluwa Safaris	
Ondjou	Otjozondjupa	Thormahlen & Cochran Safari (Pty) Ltd	peter@africatrophyhunting.com
Kunene River	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	gvdsafaris@iway.na
Sobbe	Zambezi	Ndumo Hunting Safari cc	karl@huntingsafari.net
Otjambangu	Kunene	Nitro Safaris (Pty) Ltd	peter@africatrophyhunting.com
Eiseb	Omaheke	Dzombo Hunting Safaris	www.dzombo.com
Sikunga	Zambezi	Game Trackers Africa	jaco@gametrackersafrica.com
Dzoti	Zambezi	Ondjou Safaris cc	halseton@iway.na
Orupupa	Kunene	WildVeld Safaris	mark@wildveld.com
Bamunu	Zambezi	A.S.S Hunting Safaris in Partnership with Chapungu-Kambako Hunting Safaris (Pty) Ltd	hafeni2@gmail.com
!Khoro !Goreb	Kunene	Game Trackers Africa	jaco@gametrackersafrica.com
Kabulabula	Zambezi	Thormahlen & Cochran Safaris Namibia Pty Ltd	peter@africatrophyhunting.com
Otjombande	Kunene	Wild Namibia Hunting Safaris	groblerbrink@gmail.com
Ombuijokanguidi	Kunene	Rigby Safaris Namibia	
Otuzemba	Kunene	Rigby Safaris Namibia	
Epupa	Kunene	Cornie Coetzee Hunting Safaris	corniecoetzeesafaris@iway.na
Nakablolelwa	Zambezi	Game Trackers Africa	jaco@gametrackersafrica.com
Lusese	Zambezi	Game Trackers Africa	jaco@gametrackersafrica.com
Maurus Nekaro	Kavango East	Mudumu Hunting Safaris	bufelo@yahoo.com
Kyramacan Association	Zambezi	Ndumo Hunting Safari cc	karl@huntingsafari.net
Kyramacan Association	Kavango East	Hunt Africa Safaris	info@huntafrica.com.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

NACSO
Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations