



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

The State of **Community Conservation** in Namibia

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

Text and review: Danica Shaw, MEFT & NACSO

Design & layout: Turipamwe Design

Printed by: John Meinert Printing (Pty) Ltd, Windhoek, Namibia

Photography: NACSO/WWF Namibia, CreativeLAB/WWF-US, Marcus Westberg/WWF-US, Patrick Bentley/WWF-US

Cover photo: Marcus Westberg/WWF-US

Charts: Jaro Consultancy

First published: 2023

Suggested citation: MEFT/NACSO 2023. The state of community conservation in Namibia (Annual Report 2022). MEFT/NACSO, Windhoek.

Printing supported by: European Union.

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



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

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
FOREWORD	4
WHO WE ARE	6
A COMMON VISION	8
NAMIBIA COMMUNITY CONSERVATION	14
PROJECT FINANCE FOR PERMANENCE	18
TERMINOLOGY OF INCOME, BENEFITS AND RETURNS	19
FACTS AND FIGURES	20
CBNRM AND THE NATIONAL ECONOMY	22
CBNRM AND THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN	24
COMMUNITY CONSERVATION GOVERNANCE	26
GOVERNANCE INDICATORS AND GENDER BALANCE	28
BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION	29
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	34
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT	36
WILDLIFE MONITORING AND POPULATION TRENDS	40
HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT	43
COMBATTING WILDLIFE CRIME	47
NATIONAL WILDLIFE CRIME TRENDS	49
COMMUNITY FORESTS	50
FISHERIES RESERVES	51
IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS	56
JOINT VENTURE TOURISM RECOVERY	58
THE ECONOMICS OF CONSERVANCIES	58
WILDLIFE CREDITS	62
CONSERVATION AT SCALE	66
KAVANGO-ZAMBEZI TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA	68
TRANSBOUNDARY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	69
WHO'S WHO	70



FOREWORD

Namibia's Community Based Natural Resource Management Programme is one model that provides rural communities with incentives to manage their natural resources. The programme further unlocks enormous tourism development opportunities and benefits from the sustainable use of wildlife. It has grown remarkably since the gazetting of the first communal conservancy in 1998. There are now eighty-six (86) registered Communal Conservancies, forty-six (46) Community Forests and two (2) Community Associations in Namibia.

The tourism sector saw a good recovery in 2022 and although it hasn't reached pre-COVID-19 levels, it was promising. Namibia saw a 98.1% increase in international / inbound tourist arrivals from 232,756 in 2021 to 461,027 in 2022. This figure indicates a 28.9% recovery level towards the 2019 tourist arrival statistics. The United Nations World Trade Organization reports that the global international arrivals increased by 102% in 2022 over 2021 but remained 37% below 2019 figures.

In 2022, some conservancies earned income from tourism and conservation hunting, but most conservancies and community forests still received Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF) support to ensure management and operations could continue and that jobs were retained. While there is recovery, the pandemic has highlighted the need to further diversify income streams for conservancies. This challenge will inform how the CBNRM programme moves forward.

During the pandemic, the normal functioning of conservancies and community forests was impacted, however, important governance standards still had to be met. In 2022, with restrictions on meetings lifted, 94% of reporting conservancies were able to hold their annual general meetings (AGM) to conduct the critical business of managing their organisations

and their natural resources. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) requirements for conservancies, which include AGMs, elections, annual financial reports, benefit distribution reports and game management and utilisation reports, were fully met by 49 conservancies.

Although Namibia received better rainfall in some areas in 2022, the prolonged drought in the Kunene Region and drought in other areas, continues to impact the country and in particular, rural communities with limited options and resilience. The role of CBNRM is more important to rural adaptation strategies than ever, as the impacts of climate change require constant adaptation to increase resilience in communities.

Human wildlife conflict remains a challenge in a number of conservancies. It is crucial to have mechanisms in place to reduce the level of human wildlife conflict, to ensure that the benefits of conservation management far outweigh the costs, and to build on the significant successes we have had in managing human wildlife conflict. A total of just over N\$ 9.27 million was used to offset the costs for crop damage, livestock loss, human injuries and loss of life. These losses to human wildlife conflict highlight the importance of continuing to mitigate the impacts on communities and families.

“ A total of just over **N\$ 9.27 million** was used to offset the costs for crop damage, livestock loss, human injuries and loss of life.

In 2022, Namibia was once again able to share its progress in CBNRM with the global conservation community. The Namibian government and CBNRM support organisations participated in three important conservation events in 2022: the inaugural International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Africa Protected and Conserved Areas Congress (APAC) in Rwanda in July, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Conference of the Parties (COP) 19 in Panama in November and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP 15) in Canada in December. The outcomes of these events will help guide Namibia in strengthening its protected and conserved areas and meet international biodiversity conservation targets and goals.

Within Namibia, the Annual Conservancy and Community Forests's Chairpersons Forums took place. These are platforms for the chairpersons of communal conservancies and community forests to dialogue with the Minister of Environment Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), Regional Councils and Governors, leadership of support CSOs, various CBNRM technical staff and with each other. These forums provide an opportunity for chairpersons to reflect on activities during the year by highlighting key achievements, challenges, and lessons learned, and to allow the group to work together on common solutions. In the past, the Forum was a single event for all conservancies

and community forests throughout the country. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions and budgetary constraints, this larger forum has been sub-divided into regional clusters - North Central, South, Northeast, Northwest and Central regions. In 2022, these regional cluster forums were collectively well attended by 446 participants, 26% of whom were women. This new regional format allows conservancies and community forests the opportunity to focus on regional issues, to continue to build relationships with all stakeholders, reflect on progress and adapt to meet the needs of their members.

In conclusion, our objectives of empowering our communities, especially rural communities, cannot be achieved by Government alone, therefore, I would like to express my gratitude to our regional office staff members, field-based support organisations, development partners and the private sector for the support they continue to render to communal conservancies and community forests in throughout the country.


Pohamba Shifeta, MP
 Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

WHO WE ARE

COMMUNAL CONSERVANCIES, COMMUNITY FORESTS AND FISHERIES RESERVES

Namibia's communal conservancies and community forests are self-governing entities legally recognised by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT). Conservancies and community forests receive training and support from the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO). Fisheries reserves are similar entities, legally recognised by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) and supported by MFMR and NACSO partners.

Each conservancy, community forest and fisheries reserve has a constitution and elects a management committee. Conservancies, community forests and fisheries reserves work to conserve and protect the environment, and to earn revenue from the sustainable use of natural resources. There are also two community associations within national parks, which are managed like conservancies.

Eight regional conservancy associations in Erongo, Kavango, Kunene (two), the north-central areas, the south, Otjozondjupa and Zambezi act as representative umbrella organisations for conservancies in their areas.

MEFT

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

NACSO

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

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

WORKING GROUPS

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





A COMMON VISION

Ronny Dempers – NACSO Chairperson

2022 was a year of recovery from both the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and from drought in parts of Namibia. Unfortunately, the drought continues unabated in certain areas of the country, impacting livelihoods, wildlife and grazing. While recovery of the tourism industry is underway, it still has not returned to pre-COVID-19 levels. Conservancies, the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisation (NACSO) partner organisations and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) are also recovering, but within a new paradigm.

The initiative and innovation with which the entire CBNRM programme responded to the COVID-19 crisis was exemplary. Important conservancy operations, including anti-poaching efforts, and individual jobs and partnerships with the private sector were maintained with huge support from all levels within Namibia through national and international financial support. It is important to acknowledge the significant achievements made during the past couple of challenging years, to appreciate the progress made despite hardships and to capitalise on lessons learned. It is also clear from our experience that there is a need for the CBNRM programme to engage in deeper reflection.

Our focus now is to reconnect on the issues which need re-evaluation, at all levels, from community, to implementation to policy levels, and use the process to reposition the programme and leverage new opportunities. This will take a concerted effort from community-based organisations (CBO), non-governmental organisations (NGO) and government to diversify income streams, generate increased benefits to members, address governance challenges, and create more resilience in conservancies and communities, while also ensuring the sustainability of conservation efforts.

Some of the clear lessons are a need to strengthen service provision to CBOs by acknowledging the growth that has taken place and adjusting our support accordingly. We cannot continue with business as usual. There is a need to continue to work with both emerging and long-standing CBOs while applying the same compliance requirements. This will also enable us to address

long-term, high impact issues such as poverty, climate change and drought, while also focusing on the voices and participation of marginalised groups, including women and youth. The need to sustain critical support to conservancies, community forests and other community-based institutions remains critical. NACSO participated this year in actions aimed at strengthening its engagement with the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN) which will remain important as we consolidate efforts to ensure long-term endowment funds to secure critical support services.

We are all certainly up to the challenge, given what we have already achieved, but change can be difficult. Introspection, tenacity and transformation will be required for the process, but will also see us to a position of new strength and ability to contribute more effectively to the cause of CBNRM in Namibia and in Southern Africa.

As part of this reflective process, NACSO and some of its members embarked on developing and finalising new strategic plans over the course of 2022. These new strategies will provide the roadmaps for organisations to adapt to and meet the needs of post-COVID-19 communities and their conservation efforts.

NACSO, as the coordinating body for CBNRM support organisations, continues to build key partnerships with the aim of strengthening community voices. Towards this, NACSO became a member of the African Civil Society Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) and our participation within ACBA provides a

“NACSO, as the **coordinating body for CBNRM support organisations**, continues to build key partnerships with the aim of strengthening community voices.

platform to engage with other African civil society organisations to share and learn about CBNRM and its diversity on the African continent. ACBA also created opportunities for NACSO to participate at various levels in the Convention on Biological Diversity working groups. NACSO is now formally represented on two CITES membership working groups - the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) Working Group and the Livelihoods Working Group.

Another major achievement for NACSO was its election by the Community Leaders Network of Southern Africa (CLN) board to serve as the Secretariat for CLN. An agreement was signed with Resource Africa South Africa to support and capacitate

the CLN Secretariat. The CLN Secretariat and its members have been a strong voice for Southern Africa, especially on community rights and sustainable use issues.

Although we face challenges and need to engage in an honest and robust stock-taking as both individual organisations and as a collective, these are opportunities to build new foundations, to improve and to better meet the needs of communities. We adapt so that communities can benefit and build resilience, and so we can improve the lives of rural Namibians working hard to conserve their wildlife and other natural resources.

Big Issues Impacting Conservancies

- The encroachment of people into wildlife zones and wildlife corridors poses a significant threat to the conservation and development objectives of conservancies.
- Building capacity in newly elected, incoming management committees takes time and results in challenges to the ongoing and effective management of conservancy operations due to the steep learning curve and a loss of institutional knowledge with outgoing committees.
- Drought and other impacts of climate change have significant and far-reaching effects on rural communities that depend on subsistence farming for their livelihoods.
- The granting of mining rights within conservancies is jeopardising the development and sustainability of wildlife and tourism activities which are crucial for environmental conservation and the resilience of local communities' livelihoods.
- Tourism remains a primary income source for conservancies, and although its recovery is underway, it has not reached pre-COVID-19 levels, underscoring the heightened importance of diversifying income and livelihoods.

PARTNER PROFILE IRDNC

Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) exists to facilitate and empower rural communities in Namibia and neighbouring countries to manage and utilise wildlife and other natural resources sustainably, as the foundation of rural economies, biodiversity conservation and strong local governance institutions.

IRDNC's origins lie in the arid northwest where, in the politically unsupportive climate of the early 1980s, it pioneered community-based wildlife conservation in Namibia. With community leaders, IRDNC implemented joint actions to stop widespread commercial and subsistence poaching of wildlife, including black rhino and desert-adapted elephant. Within two years the massive decline of wildlife was halted.

When Namibia gained independence in 1990, IRDNC's community-based approach resonated with the early idealism of the new Namibian government and IRDNC was invited to play a role in changing national conservation legislation. By 1996 community-based conservation was integrated into government policy and in 1998 the first four communities took advantage of this new empowering legislation and formed communal conservancies.

The seed IRDNC planted 30 years ago has now grown into a vibrant national program led by government, involving 14 non-governmental organisations (NGO) and the University of Namibia under the banner of the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO) and working alongside tens of thousands of rural people across Namibia. The private sector and scores of donors also play an essential role.

Today, IRDNC's work covers 46 conservancies in the three most remote regions of Namibia (30 in Kunene and 16 in Zambezi and Kavango East), representing more than half of all the conservancies in the country. IRDNC also works on trans-boundary partnerships in Angola, Botswana and Zambia. IRDNC supports conservancies in the core thematic areas of 1) institutional development and governance, 2) natural resource management, and 3) business, enterprises, and livelihoods development. IRDNC is, however, increasingly focused on integrating community wildlife management with other key resources such as forests, fisheries, rangelands and water.

IRDNC AT A GLANCE



3

regions that we work in



30

conservancies in Kunene



16

conservancies in Zambezi and Kavango East



6

trans-boundary partnerships with communities in Zambia, Botswana and Angola



92,876

number of residents



53,885 km²



57

staff



466

community game guards



12

community forests



2,621

indigenous natural product harvesters



10

fisheries reserves



34

fish guards and 18 monitors

IRDNC's strategic objectives are:

- Revitalising community governance;
- Increasing benefits to members;
- Diversifying and integrating CBNRM;
- Transboundary natural resource management; and
- Strengthening the constituency for CBNRM.

Since the devastating impact of COVID-19 and the loss of at least 90% of conservancy income, IRDNC has worked with multiple partners to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic in conservancies. IRDNC worked in partnership with the MEFT, other CBNRM organisations and donors to establish the Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF). Through this facility conservancies were supported to continue with essential services. In addition, the tourism industry in conservancies was supported with relief and recovery financial packages to pay staff and retain their enterprises in order to contribute towards an early recovery once the effects of the pandemic had diminished.

Since its work began more than 30 years ago, IRDNC has always been close to the people, always there, through good and bad times. Their long-term commitment to the communities that they serve and their homegrown approach to finding local solutions through community consultations and participation in decision making, has led to immense trust, respect, and decades-long relationships with local people at all levels. The value of IRDNC's strong field presence and level of involvement with communities, and the relationships and collaborations that its dedicated team have nurtured over the years, has benefitted the entire National CBNRM Programme. IRDNC's diverse and multi-skilled team has been referred to as a human library of community conservation knowledge and experience.

Today, Namibia and its neighbours in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) where IRDNC works, face new challenges, such as climate change and resulting drought, increased pressures on land, governance capacities and accountability in conservancies, rapacious external markets for ivory, rhino horn, lion parts, pangolin skins and timber, and the devastating effect of COVID-19. IRDNC has never been more relevant. IRDNC is adapting its own approaches and priorities to respond to these new challenges.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ONLINE



This report, the State of Community Conservation Report, functions to raise awareness about CBNRM and to highlight the annual achievements and challenges experienced by rural communities in Namibia who are managing and benefiting from their natural resources. However, it is limited to a publication format.

The State of Community Conservation in Namibia website – communityconservationnamibia.com – serves to reach a much broader audience. The website provides more in-depth access to information on the programme, the issues facing conservancies

and updated data and statistics. It is an invaluable resource, delivering accessible information to conservancy members in rural areas of Namibia, national level partners, and donors and organisations interested in strengthening community conservation in other parts of the world.

The website, like this report, is jointly hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO). Their combined contributions have provided the most comprehensive source of information on community conservation in Namibia.



© NACSO / WWF Namibia

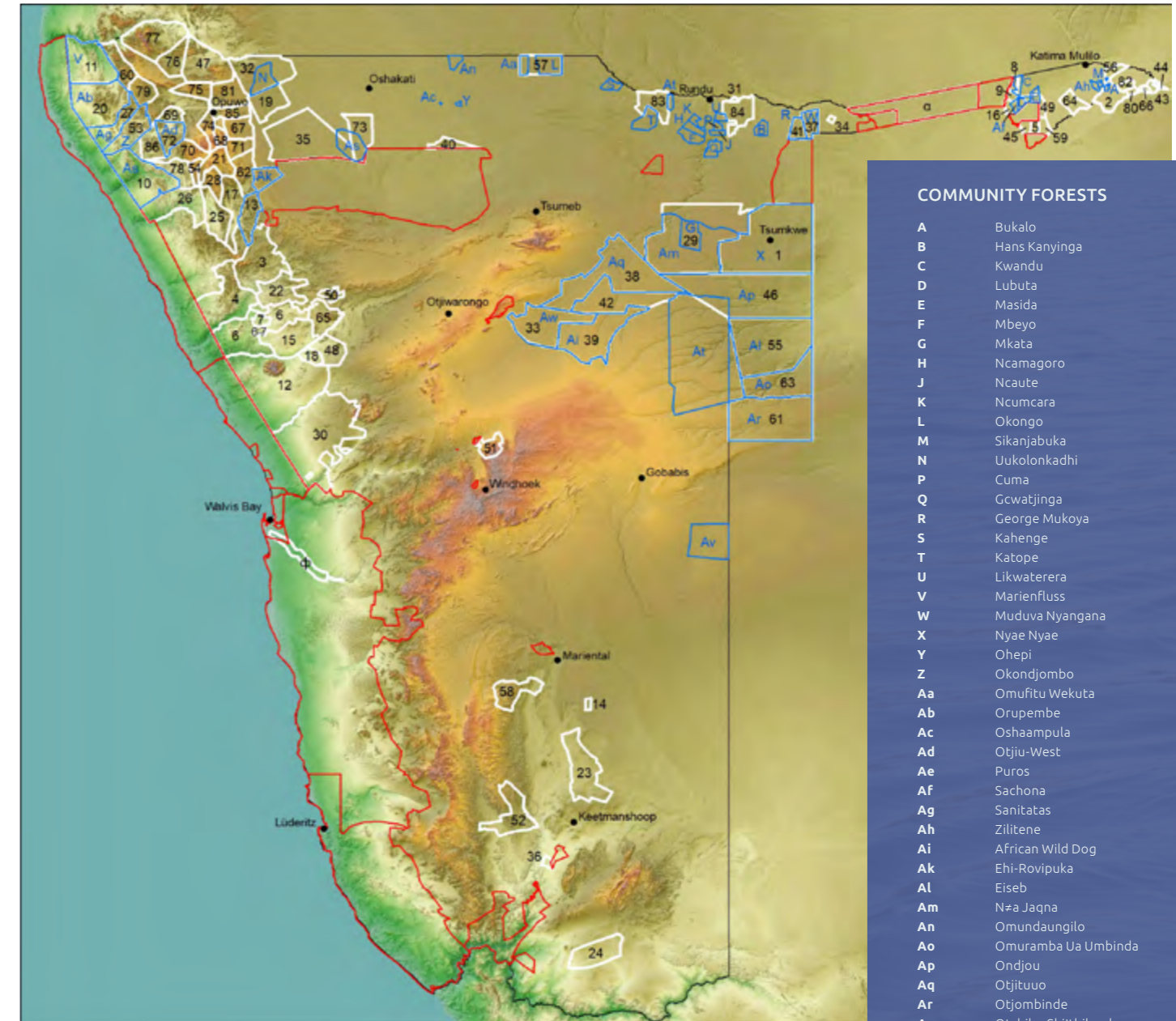


Figure 1. Namibian Conservancies and Community Forests

CONSERVANCIES

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

NAMIBIA COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

Review of 2022

For over 20 years, community conservation has been impacting the lives of rural Namibians, allowing them to engage in democratic processes, gain rights over and manage their natural resources, and to increase income and benefits to communities and individuals.

The National CBNRM Programme developed from the first four conservancies in 1998 into 86 conservancies and two resident associations in 2022. In addition, community forests (46) and fisheries reserves (20) are new governance and management structures which have been established to supplement community rights over natural resources and promote additional benefits. Community forests focus on timber, plant and grazing resources, while fisheries reserves focus on inland fish resources.

Community conservation has grown exponentially, with the key aim of meeting the needs of both the natural and social environment in Namibia. There have been both successes and challenges along the way and as the programme continues to evolve, a better understanding is gained of the complexity of community conservation, maintaining benefits and building resilience in communities living with wildlife, and managing all their natural resources.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on community conservation due to its dependence on global tourism and conservation hunting. During the pandemic, rural communities in Namibia lost 90% of their income due to the shutdown of tourism arrivals and the loss of funding for conservation. Thousands of jobs were under threat and rural communities faced increased economic hardships and food insecurity. Into this void stepped the Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF), launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) in May 2020, to mitigate the crisis. With the collaboration of a multitude of national, regional and international partners and donors, the CRRRF ensured that the essential work of conservancies could continue.

CRRRF partners include the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN), KfW Development Bank, Namibia Chamber of the Environment (NCE), Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Nedbank, Nyae Nyae Development Foundation of Namibia (NNDNF), Tourism Supporting Conservation Trust (TOSCO), Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Laurie Foundation.

Initial funding grants supported conservancy salaries, management committee stipends and operating costs, and guaranteed that critical anti-poaching and human wildlife conflict mitigation efforts could continue. 86 conservancies, one community association and 25 community forests outside of conservancies, were supported with N\$ 55.6 million from mid-2020 to the end of 2022.

The next step of the CRRRF was to provide funding to joint venture (JV) tourism and conservation hunting partners, as well as to small and medium enterprises, to secure the salaries and jobs of community members through a combination of conventional grants and partially (50%) repayable advances. The grants were available for up to 24 months with over N\$ 31 million disbursed to support 2,374 staff members. Facilitated and coordinated by the CCFN, this second support initiative was funded by KfW.

“The COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on **community conservation** due to its dependence on global tourism and conservation hunting.

Depending on the number of sites and size of their operations some JV partners employ only a handful of community members, while others employ as many as 270. Given that the number of dependents in households increased drastically during the pandemic due to job losses in other sectors, the retention of income supported thousands of other family members.

The CRRRF also extended additional repayable, non-interest advances to JV partners through business continuity grants to cover business expenses to prepare for the expected increase in tourism numbers, including the upgrading of infrastructure. At the end of 2022, 11 grants had been provided with a total of approximately N\$ 8.25 million. Grants to privately owned establishments are 100% repayable, while grants to community owned establishments are conventional non-repayable grants.

In 2022, despite lingering travel restrictions, the tourism and conservation hunting sectors experienced a recovery, with some operators experiencing a more substantial recovery than others. While the pre-COVID benchmarks were not reached, this sets the stage for an optimistic outlook in 2023, with the anticipation that it could become a financially prosperous year for tourism, potentially matching the pre-pandemic income figures for the conservancies.

Although the recovery of tourism is extremely positive for Namibia and community conservation, the pandemic has further highlighted an even greater need for the diversification of income sources and livelihoods in conservancies. This need presents new challenges to the CBNRM programme. Numerous opportunities are in the process of development and implementation including

payment for ecosystem services (PES) and indigenous natural products (INP). Via the KfW funded Poverty Oriented Support to Community Conservation in Namibia project as implemented by the CCFN, the CRRRF will also fund alternative income activities to build resilience in communities from 2023.

Added to the need for diversification are the environmental and social impacts of increasing effects of climate change. This has been poignantly evident in the northwest of Namibia, which has been impacted by drought for more than eight years, resulting in a huge loss of both livestock and wildlife. This has had a devastating impact on rural communities whose livelihoods are reliant on livestock. Shorter droughts occur in other areas of the country as well and food security remains a critical issue for rural communities.

While the people living in community conservation areas are empowered to make their own decisions, they do not do so in isolation. Effective CBNRM relies on multiple layers of institutional support. The MEFT sets the overall direction and maintains standards, NACSO members provide extensive technical and logistical assistance, and private sector conservancy partners create a critical link between international markets and local communities to generate income and create jobs.

The CBNRM programme must continuously evolve and adapt, while still entrenching the basic principles of good governance, sustainable natural resource management and equitable benefit distribution to support rural livelihoods. This report provides an update on the growth and progress of the CBNRM programme from its start until the end of 2022.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION

In 2022, with the re-opening of countries, international borders and travel, the Namibian government and CBNRM and conservation organisations were once again able to fully participate in international conservation efforts and share experiences globally.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC), took place from 18 to 23 July 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda. It was the first ever continent-wide gathering of African leaders, citizens, and interest groups to discuss the role of protected areas in conserving nature, safeguarding Africa's iconic wildlife, delivering vital life-supporting ecosystem services, and promoting sustainable development while conserving Africa's cultural heritage and traditions. More than 2400 participants from 53 African and 27 other countries participated in APAC. Representatives from five Namibian institutions attended APAC: Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO), Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), World Wildlife Fund Namibia (WWF), and Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC).

The main outcome of APAC was the Kigali Call to Action for People and Nature. The Congress identified priority actions to strengthen Africa's protected and conserved areas in a manner that is just, equitable and fair. These actions include a strengthening of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, greater public and private financial investment in nature conservation and protected and conserved areas, and enhanced Pan-African collaboration, cooperation and partnership for protected and conserved area systems throughout the continent.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that the international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. The CITES Conference of the Parties (COP) 19 was held in Panama City, Panama from 14 - 25 November 2022 to discuss the future of more than 500 species with representatives from more than 160 countries. The MEFT delegation and other Namibian delegates participated on multiple issues which have an impact on conservation in Namibia.

COP 19 saw lion, elephant, hippopotamus, and rhinoceros on the agenda. Namibia and its regional neighboring countries, which sustain recovered and increasing wildlife populations and support the sustainable use of wildlife, are often in opposition to other countries regarding the conservation and management of specific species. In addition to discussions on species conservation, two documents were submitted to CITES, with support from Namibia, to create a Rural Communities Sub-group and to re-establish an intersessional group to investigate mechanisms for CITES to engage with communities.

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP 15) took place in Montreal, Canada from 7-19 December 2022. Namibia was represented by 19 total participants from the MEFT, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), WWF Namibia, University of Namibia (UNAM), National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST), NNF, and Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC).

The overall objective of this conference was to discuss, negotiate and adopt a new set of goals for biodiversity. The magnitude of the challenge of biodiversity loss suggests that only transformational change can bend the curve. Transformative thinking is necessary at a whole-of-society level, with all economic activities in need of reassessment through a biodiversity lens.

By the end of COP 15, the CBD community adopted the hard-fought, well balanced Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) that will guide biodiversity policy in the years to come, through a set of 23 action-oriented global targets to be achieved by 2030. In addition, four overarching goals for 2050 focus on ecosystem and species health, including a halt to human-induced species extinction, the sustainable use of biodiversity, equitable sharing of benefits, and implementation and finance to include closing the biodiversity finance gap (\$700 billion per year).

Participation at these important international events allows Namibia and the CBNRM programme to share our lessons learned, build key relationships, and participate in creating the guiding frameworks for our own conservation work.



PROJECT FINANCE FOR PERMANENCE NAMIBIA FOR LIFE

Namibia for Life (N4L) is the first Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative for the developing world that is designed to secure long-term support to communal conservancies, focusing on ensuring sustainable social, economic and wildlife benefits of the conservancies for the health of the people and the planet.

Enduring Earth is a collaboration of partner organisations (The Nature Conservancy, The Pew Charitable Trusts, World Wildlife Fund, and ZOMALAB) which works alongside nations and communities to accelerate conservation worldwide, in order to help address the climate and biodiversity crises and support community economic development. Enduring Earth has already used the PFP approach to protect more than 120 million hectares in six different countries around the world. The aim of Enduring Earth is to establish 20 PFPs by 2030, and Namibia for Life is one of its prioritised PFP projects.

In Namibia's rural communities, communal conservancies are engines that drive conservation and sustainable development. 86 established conservancies, covering more than 20% of the country, are home to critically endangered black rhino, desert-dwelling lions, elephants, and a host of other rare and endangered species of plants and animals, as well as 9% of Namibia's human population. While the National CBNRM Programme has had great success, it is also a massive challenge to fund the continued protection and management of these areas.

PFP funding can help protect and conserve land under conservancy status by establishing exclusive wildlife zones, maintaining viable wildlife populations, expanding the value chain to spur economic growth in conservancies, improving general living conditions of conservancy members, managing human wildlife conflict, reducing poaching, and incorporating climate adaptation and resilience into plans and as a way of life. The intention of the PFPs is to secure funding for conservation in perpetuity in order to solve the challenges of accessing short-term donor funding.

The focus of N4L will be two-fold: to provide critical extension support services to communities and to secure funding to broaden nature-based socioeconomic development in conservancies.

In order to determine the needs in Namibia in the context of the prospective PFP and recommend the way forward, a feasibility study was conducted to guide the development process for N4L.



© CreativeLAB / WWF-US

N4L was approved in March of 2022, with an engagement and planning phase to be undertaken until the end of 2024. The envisaged date for the start of funding is the beginning of 2025. In September 2022, the Namibia for Life PFP Extension Services Plan Development Workshop took place in Windhoek. The goal of this workshop was to determine the list of extensions services which will be covered under N4L. This was a comprehensive process, linked to the compliance requirements of the MEFT and with specific input from stakeholders through the NACSO thematic working groups (Institutional Development, Natural Resource Management and Business, Enterprise and Livelihoods).

The estimated funding need for the two components of N4L is USD 70 million; however, the next steps in the process are: 1) to develop a more specific financial and cost model based on the required extension services; and 2) to determine the exact funding mechanisms to be employed during project implementation.

The establishment of N4L will significantly change the funding landscape for community conservation in Namibia, ensuring that conservancies can continue the critical work of conserving wildlife, sustainably using their natural resources and improving the lives of their communities.

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 which 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.; and
- 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 2022 there were:

86 registered communal conservancies and 2 community conservation associations

46 registered community forests

20 community fisheries reserves in 7 conservancies

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

82 registered conservancies, 4 emerging conservancies and 1 association using the Event Book monitoring tool

51 conservancies conducting annual game counts

74 conservancies with own use harvesting quotas

68 conservancies with a game management and utilisation plan

60 conservancies with a zonation plan

733 game guards working in conservancies

68 management plans in place

20 sustainable business and financial plans in place

69 annual financial reports presented

77 annual general meetings held

13% female chairpersons

49% female treasurers/financial managers

34% female management committee members

23% female staff members

38 conservancies directly involved with tourism activities

67 joint-venture tourism agreements with enterprises employing 866 full time and 22 part time/seasonal employees

44 conservation hunting concessions with 127 full time and 163 part time/seasonal employees

44 small/medium enterprises

989 conservancy representatives receiving allowances

1,056 conservancy employees

WHAT'S BEING ACHIEVED

Community conservation covers

182,384 km² which is about **59.6%** of all communal land with an estimated **244,587** residents (**7,384** residents supported by the Kyaramacan Association live in Bwabwata National Park and **468** residents supported by #Aonin Community Association live in the Dorob and Namib Naukluft National Parks)

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

46 registered community forests cover a total area of almost **90,000 km²**, with around **16,200 km²** outside of conservancy boundaries

Namibia's elephant population grew from around 7,600 to around 23,600 between 1995 and 2016 according to aerial survey data*

Namibia has the **largest free-roaming population of black rhinos** in the world

From the beginning of 1990 to the end of 2022, **community conservation contributed** an estimated **N\$ 13.466 billion** to Namibia's net national income

Community conservation **facilitated 3,223 jobs** in 2022**

54 conservancies hosted a total of **167** enterprises based on natural resources***

Conservancy **residents earned** a total cash income of **N\$ 75,301,432** from enterprise wages, of which:

- N\$ 47,945,942 was from joint-venture tourism
- N\$ 24,615,862 from conservancies
- N\$ 2,739,628 from conservation hunting

Conservancy residents received **317,898 kg of game meat from hunting**

Conservancies generated total cash income and in-kind benefits to rural communities of **N\$ 140,254,009** in 2022, of this

- Conservation hunting generated N\$ 34,828,377 with a meat value of N\$ 8,585,703
- Tourism generated N\$ 92,399,594
- Indigenous plant products generated N\$ 1,270,597
- Miscellaneous income (including interest) generated N\$ 3,169,738

Conservancies received **N\$ 19,881,791** in **COVID-19 emergency support** grants

N\$ 19,562,954 in cash benefits was distributed to conservancy residents and used to support community projects

* Craig, Gibson and Uiseb (2021) Namibia's elephants – population, distribution and trends. Pachyderm 62:35-5

** Does not include the number of crafts and harvesters

*** Many of these enterprises would have been inactive during some of 2022 due to COVID-19

CBNRM AND THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

Although the CBNRM programme focuses primarily on empowering rural communities, the overall economic impact of the programme on the Namibian economy is substantial, despite the impact of COVID-19. Community conservation has contributed to the national economy through tourism, conservation hunting, and other enterprises.

In 2022, the net national income (NNI) contribution made by CBNRM was about N\$ 913 million. The NNI contribution can be defined as the value of goods and services that community conservation activities make available each year to the nation. Between 1990 and 2022, the cumulative value of the NNI contribution amounts to an estimated N\$ 13.466 billion. This

contribution is 3.8 times greater than the cumulative investment into the programme through donors and support organisations, which is estimated at N\$ 3.468 billion. The NNI contribution is estimated by also considering the multiplier effects of international visitors (tourists and hunters) visiting Namibian communal conservancies.

Multiplier effects of industries related to CBNRM include:

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

Since 1990, the programme has had an economic internal rate of 18% and has earned an economic present value of some N\$ 2.027 billion, indicating a highly positive economic return for programme investment. Investment in the conservancy programme started before the first conservancies were officially

gazetted in 1996, as community game guards were being trained and the communities mobilised around the concept of CBNRM. Investment was higher than economic returns until 2002, when the programme broke even (Figure 2).

Table 1. The Economic Efficiency of CBNRM. Since 1990, the program has had an economic internal rate of return of 18% and has earned an economic net present value of N\$ 2.027 billion – a very positive economic return for programme investment.

Years of investment	Economic Rate of Return	Net Present Value N\$
18	9%	120,056,959
20	12%	309,593,780
22	14%	545,667,226
24	15%	810,273,612
26	17%	1,151,897,444
28	18%	1,506,582,455
30	18%	1,733,241,247
32	18%	2,027,271,009

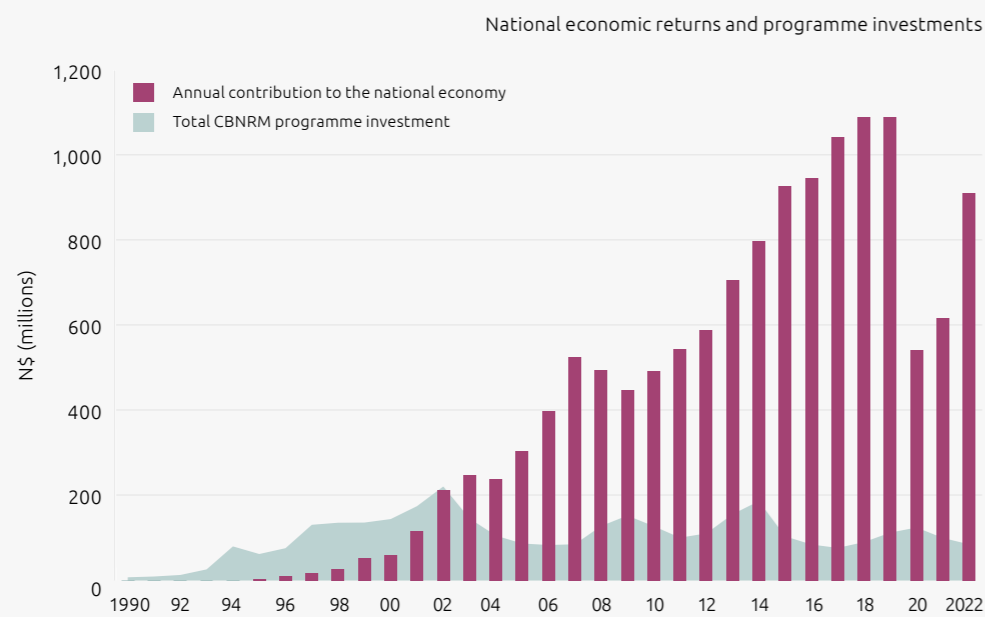


Figure 2. Estimates of the yearly national economic returns from the CBNRM programme. This cumulatively adds up to about N\$ 3.5 billion of investment between 1990 and 2022. The contributions are made up mainly from donors, MEFT and NGOs.

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 wildlife numbers have increased since 1990, although drought conditions in the northwest have led to recent wildlife declines. The ecosystem services provided by plants and animals that

are managed through CBNRM are also difficult to calculate in monetary terms, but these are nonetheless substantial contributions nationally and globally. The economic figures presented in Figure 2 and Table 1 indicate the more easily measurable impact of CBNRM only and therefore represent a partial estimate of its true positive impact.

CBNRM AND THE 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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



© CreativeLAB / WWF-US

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF 2022

As conservancies turned their focus to a post-COVID-19 world in 2022, governance activities remained at the forefront of operations, requiring the maintenance of communication between members, elected representatives and staff.

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism’s (MEFT) Guidelines for the Management of Conservancies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are in place to ensure that conservancies meet national governance standards. While the MEFT eased SOP compliance requirements in 2020, at the height of the pandemic, full requirements were in place for 2021 and 2022.

Compliance with SOPs is measured on five key requirements: holding an Annual General Meeting (AGM), distributing benefits according to a Benefit Distribution Plan (BDP), reporting on the management and use of wildlife as per a Game Management and Utilisation Plan (GMUP) and producing satisfactory annual financial reports. Conservancy Management Committees (CMCs) must also be elected according to each conservancy’s constitution terms of office and procedures.

The governance commitment and performance review are an assessment of conservancies by conservancies together with their field partners. Performance evaluations are based on questions specific to member engagement, benefit planning and distribution, accountability, stakeholder engagement and financial management.

Successful governance is also dependent not only at the conservancy level, but also on members within the conservancy and more broadly, across the national conservation landscape. The MEFT and the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO) Institutional Development Working Group (IDWG) works to develop and improve conservancies’ democratic governance, management, and financial operations through the collaboration of CBNRM support organisations and government technical staff. Governance support is provided to all conservancies to meet the SOPs and all that entails, including financial management, benefit distribution and support to management committees.

A number of governance activities were supported in 2022 including continuous support to ensure good financial governance, AGM support, induction training for new committees and review of constitutions. Additionally, the Namibia Rural Women’s Association and Women in Conservation organisations received support and training, as well as all regional conservancy and community forest associations, which provide regional and national level platforms for community-based organisations (CBO).

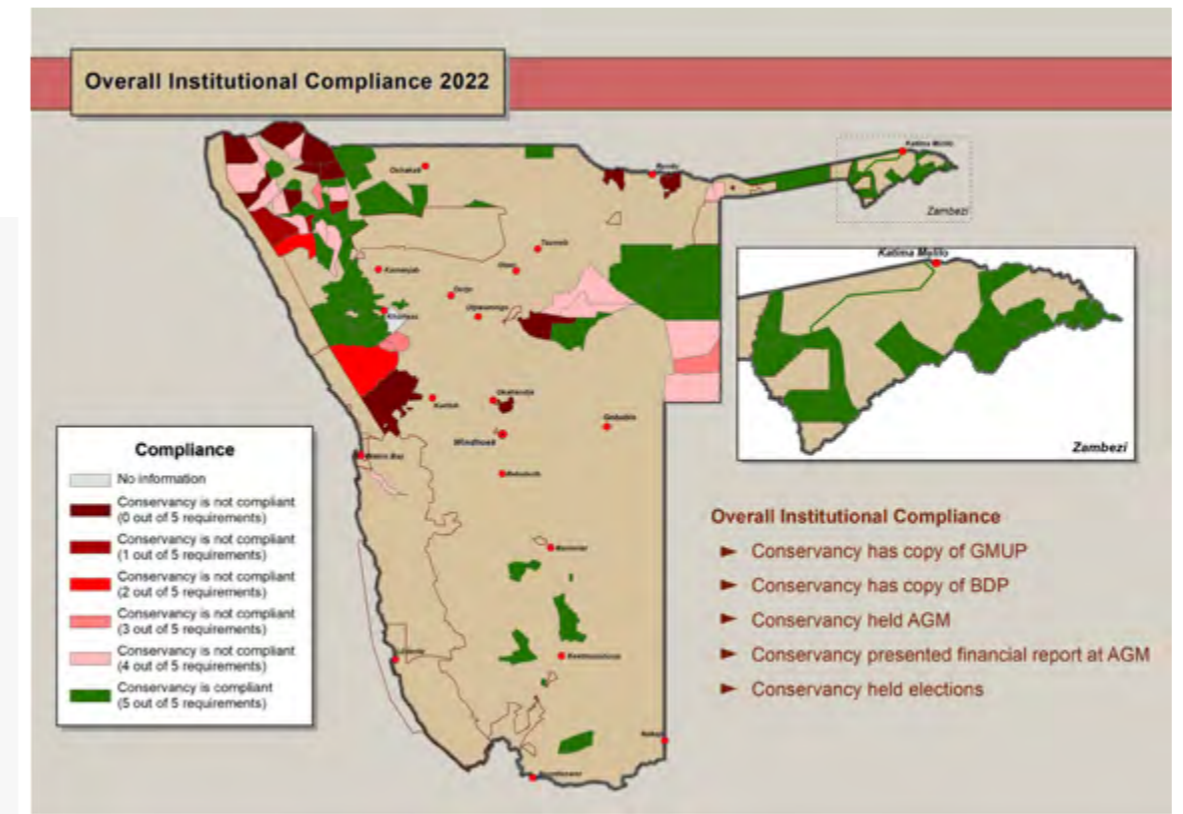


Figure 3. The institutional compliance of conservancies based on five governance requirements (financial reporting, game management and use reporting, holding AGMs, presenting benefit distribution plans, and holding elections).

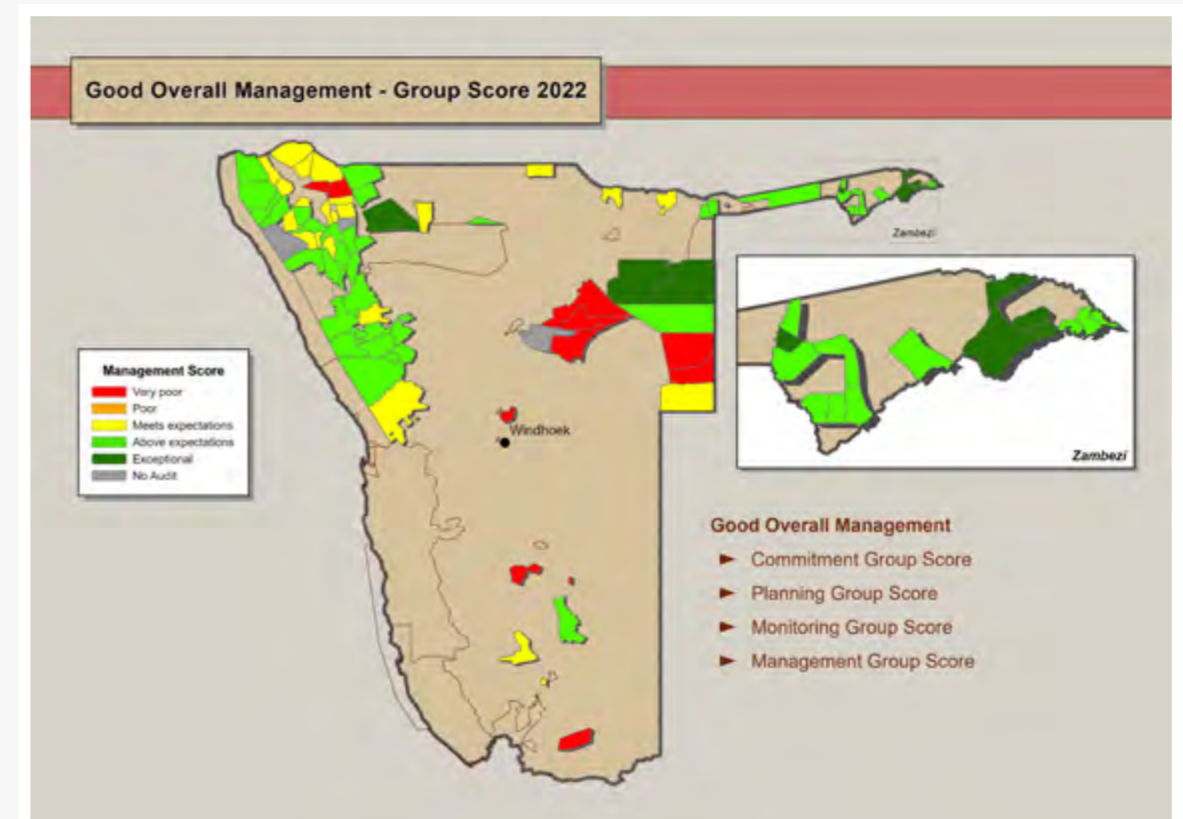


Figure 4. The aggregate results of the governance performance review which included specific questions on member engagement, benefit planning and distribution, accountability, engagement with other stakeholders (e.g. joint venture partners) and financial management.

WHAT'S NEW IN 2022

- **Young Professional Accountants** – A new pilot programme, funded by the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN), was launched that aims to assist conservancies to enhance financial governance and management by placing young professional accountants in the regions, working with clusters of conservancies to support financial management activities. Nine accountants were appointed as part of the programme and have started working in their respective areas.

GOVERNANCE INDICATORS AND GENDER BALANCE

In 2022, 77% of conservancies were able to cover their operational costs (Table 2), with 78% distributing some kind of benefits to their members, including meat from hunting. 94% of reporting conservancies were able to hold their annual

general meetings (AGM), supported by the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings. Financial reporting improved this year with more financial reports and budgets submitted and approved.

Table 2. Governance indicators for 86 Conservancies and the Kyaramacan Association (Aonin Association is not included). *The number of conservancies reporting are those that have been audited.

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF CONSERVANCIES	CONSERVANCIES REPORTING	PERCENTAGE OF CATEGORY
Registered conservancies (incl. Kyaramacan Association)	87	87	100
Conservancies generating returns	64	87	74
• covering operational costs from own income	49	64	77
• distributing cash or in-kind benefits to members, or investing in community projects	50	64	78
Conservancies with game management and utilisation plans	68	82	83
• sustainable business and financial plans	20	82	24
Conservancy AGMs held	77	82	94
• financial reports presented at AGM	69	82	84
• financial reports approved at AGM	65	82	79
• budgets approved at AGM	67	82	82

Women's leadership in conservancies has increased slightly from last year, with 13% of 82 reporting conservancies being led by female chairpersons. A third of committee members and 40% of the treasurers and financial managers are women,

highlighting that women are trusted with the important task of working with conservancy finances. Less than a quarter of conservancy staff members are female, however, which is likely due to a bias towards male game guards (Table 3).

Table 3. Gender balance within conservancy structures for 82 reporting conservancies. The percentage of category is the proportion of females out of the total number of people in that category (e.g. 340 female committee members out of 989 total committee members).

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	CONSERVANCIES REPORTING	PERCENTAGE OF CATEGORY
Conservancy management committee members	989	82	100
• female management committee members	340	82	34
• female chairpersons	11	82	13
• female treasurers/financial managers	40	82	49
Conservancy staff members	1076	82	100
• female staff members	245	82	23

BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION

Delivering benefits to conservancy members and their families is at the core of CBNRM. Whether this be as employment opportunities, cash distributions, meat or community projects, these benefits are the tangible representation of conservation in action. Instead of only carrying the burden of coexisting with wildlife, benefits create both financial incentives and instill pride in communities towards their environment and natural resources.

The MEFT requires that at least a minimum target of 50% of the income generated in conservancies is allocated to benefit distribution, specifically to community development projects. These projects increase the positive impact of the CBNRM programme on the broader community by improving lives and creating opportunities for rural development.

One of the challenges that some conservancies face is the lack of sufficient income due to low wildlife numbers, no JV partnership investment or other factors. This remains an important focus for the programme, particularly as it expands its efforts to diversify income sources and livelihoods in all conservancies.

In 2022, based on the submission of financial reports by 64 conservancies, only seven managed to surpass the 50% minimum benefit requirement. This discrepancy can be attributed to factors such as escalating expenses post-COVID-19, limited emphasis on benefit distribution in conservancy budgeting, and a lack of member accountability in upholding approved budgets and ensuring the implementation of designated benefit-yielding activities.

There is a persistent concern surrounding benefit distribution levels as conservancy income increases to higher levels post-COVID-19. The prioritisation of benefit distribution is imperative for communities living with wildlife to ensure that they have a clear role and stake in management, and also have a strong incentive for conservation. Without adjusting the present course, the CBNRM sector risks falling short of its vision to sustain communal gains from wildlife, tourism, and other local resources.

Level of income and benefit distribution in 2022

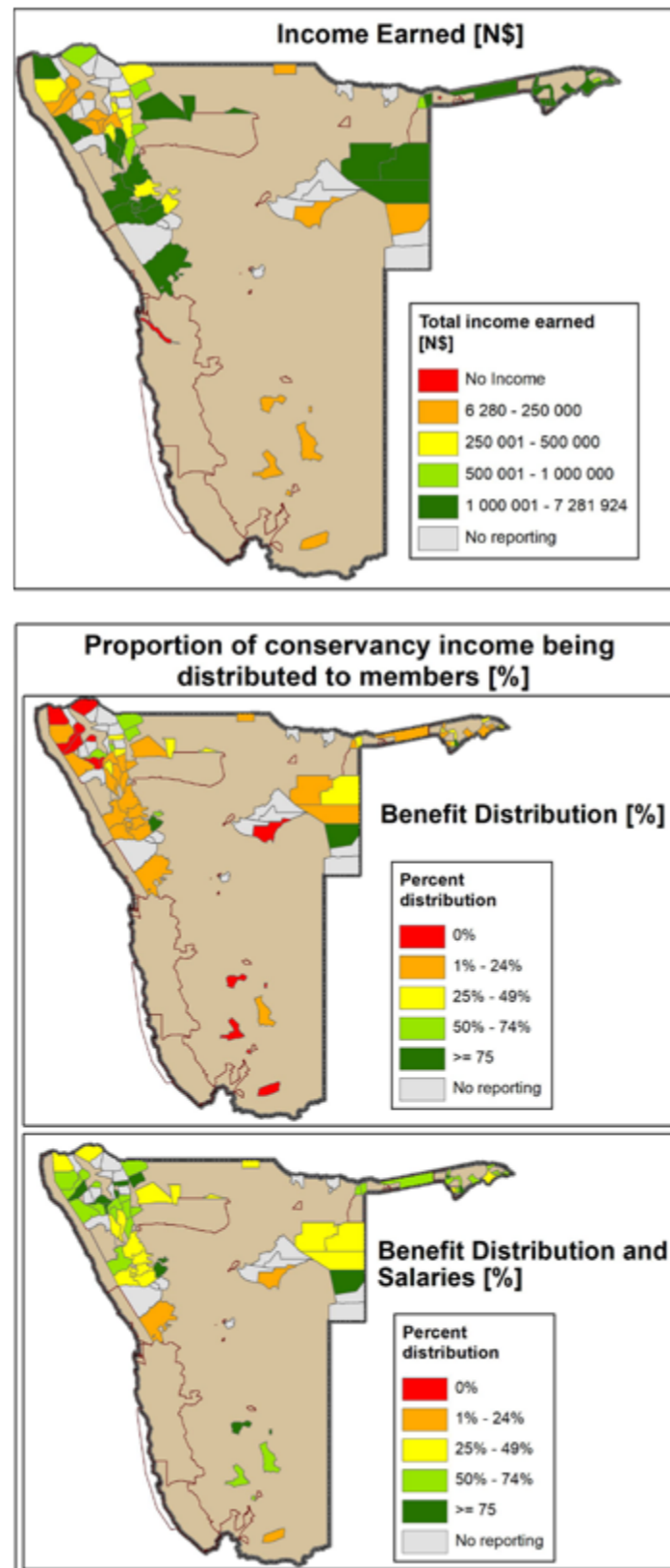


Figure 5. The current state of conservancy income generation (top map), the percentage of income that is spent on community benefits (middle map), and the percentage that is spent on benefits and salaries combined (bottom map). The MEFT directive is concerned with improving conservancy status in the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



ENHANCING FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

One of the continuing challenges which conservancies face is financial governance, accountability and management. These challenges are due to weak financial accounting systems, not using standardised financial management templates, once off or short-term support from external financial consultants and often-changing conservancy staff and committees. Moreover, institutionalising accountability takes time in community-based organisations, where elected management committees operate in challenging circumstances with limited resources and governance knowledge.

The MEFT and implementing partners have provided increased financial management support over the past several years as part of the standard operating procedures (SOP). This system has resulted in improved financial outcomes, but challenges remain.

As a part of this ongoing support, the MEFT in conjunction with the Institutional Development and the Business, Enterprise and Livelihoods Working Groups introduced the Young Professional Accountants (YPA) project in mid-2022 with funding from the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN) and other sources. The aim of the programme is to place young, qualified accountants in regional clusters to assist conservancies to develop a financial management system, including standardised financial management templates and policies, as well as budget trackers to track spending against work plans. Annual financial reports are also an important outcome of the support. The project will also help augment the capacity of conservancy bookkeepers and managers through long-term on the job training, while maintaining the sustainability of financial management in conservancies.

By the end of 2022, nine YPAs were appointed and trained to work in five regional clusters. A unified financial management system with reporting template and a financial management guide has been developed and will be used by the YPAs in their respective conservancies.



© NACSO/WWF Namibia

The YPAs are hosted by field-based partners who provide the necessary supervision and administrative support. During the first year, professional consultants work closely with the YPAs, including the provision of mentorship and coaching support. In the second and third years, consultancy services will be phased out, to allow the YPAs to spearhead the support to conservancies. The project is reviewed on a regular basis and the facilitation of national learning and reflection sessions are part of the process.

The project has been well received by MEFT and NACSO partners who are working with the individual YPAs. It is hoped that the momentum and enthusiasm of the YPAs will carry the project through multiple achievements to support communities in improving their financial governance and management capabilities and ultimately, increasing benefits.

CHANGE AGENTS FOR NATURE

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATIONISTS

An exciting movement is taking root within the community-based natural resource management sector, nurturing a generation of new conservation enthusiasts. The Youth in Conservation Network empowers youth to become champions of conservation, thereby inspiring change for a sustainable future for both people and nature.

What began as a small group of passionate young individuals with a shared love for nature during Earth Hour activities, has blossomed into a robust and dynamic network with over 30 unemployed youth from Kunene North and South, North Central, and Zambezi regions. The youth were selected by their conservancies to take part in these activities. These Youth in Conservation Ambassadors have a desire to safeguard Namibia's rich biodiversity, and to address environmental challenges in innovative ways. They have demonstrated this through proactiveness in their various stewardship roles over the past year, making important differences in their communities with limited resources.

The youth are engaged in collecting valuable biodiversity data within their conservancies that can be used for monitoring, management and awareness raising. This data is also uploaded onto the National Atlas in Namibia app, contributing to national biodiversity data. The focus is on photographing what

mammals, reptiles, amphibians and butterflies are sighted. The 27 youth selected to collect biodiversity data have captured over 4000 sightings within their respective conservancies.

The Youth in Conservation Network empowers young leaders to champion nature conservation. Anchored in values of impact, sustainability, innovation and accountability, they inspire peers to unite for a thriving conservation environment. This network prioritises rural youth empowerment, offering capacity-building and skills workshops to equip unemployed youth in conservancies for sustainable livelihoods and environmental conservation. By amplifying youth voices in conservation efforts, the network ensures their inclusion in shaping policies for a sustainable future. As Youth in Conservation Ambassadors sow change and inspire a new generation of environmental custodians, and collaborate with communities, organisations and government agencies, their actions fuel far-reaching impacts. The Youth in Conservation Network is supported by CBNRM organisations including NACSO, WWF Namibia, the Namibia Development Trust (NDT), the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) and the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN). Ongoing investment in these passionate youth promises to make a positive impact on both people and nature.



© NACSO/WWF Namibia

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF 2022

Rural communities in Namibia are reliant on their natural resources, both plant and animals, and on the ecosystem services they provide. Although there has been some economic recovery in tourism and other sectors after the pandemic, natural resources take longer to recover from shocks.

The prolonged drought in northwest Namibia continues unabated. It has resulted in massively reduced livestock and wildlife numbers, impoverished households and intensified human wildlife conflict. The harsh realities of the impacts of climate change, drought and food insecurity, are already being felt in many areas of the country. Sustaining natural resources and building resilience in the communities reliant on them remains the fundamental aim of CBNRM.

NACSO's Natural Resources Working Group (NRWG) is made up of natural resource specialists from CBNRM support organisations and government ministries, that work collectively to support conservancies and improve natural resource management in Namibia. The NRWG collects, analyses and publishes data relating to natural resources. This information is valuable for decision making at the conservancy, regional and national levels.

In 2022 the NRWG supported the monitoring of wildlife, plant and fish resources, while also managing human wildlife conflict and wildlife crime. The Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF) continued to support conservancies to conduct their natural resource management activities, undertaken on the ground by community game guards, resource monitors, fish monitors and fish guards, ensuring that resources and communities were protected.



© CreativeLAB / WWF-US

WHAT'S NEW IN 2022

- **Game Management and Utilisation Plans (GMUP)** – Reviews of GMUPs are fundamental to the operations of conservancies as they stipulate the conservancy's vision for the management and sustainable utilisation of natural resources in the area. It is important that each conservancy review their GMUPs and zonation plans periodically. A total of 14 GMUPs, including zonation plans, were reviewed and updated during 2022. During this process, regional staff were trained on how to undertake the reviews. This training will support the sustainability of the review process.
- **SMART** - The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) was piloted in three conservancies (Nyae Nyae, Mashi, and Salambala) for use by conservancy game guards. SMART is already in use by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) in state protected areas and by Rhino and Lion Rangers in northwest Namibia. The expansion of SMART to conservancies is the next step in improving adaptive management and monitoring.
- **Fisheries** – The new Standard Operating Procedures for Community Co-managed Fisheries Reserves in Namibia, together with the Tackle Box for Community Fisheries Reserves, a step-by-step approach for practitioners to establish community co-managed fisheries, were published by the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) and partners. These materials will support the expansion of community fisheries reserves within Namibia and more broadly in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TCFA).
- **Reading with Rhinos** – The Reading with Rhinos programme was launched in four conservancies by Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) and Mondessa Youth Opportunities (MYO). The programme strives to strengthen people's emotional connections to rhinos by demonstrating how rhinos can have a positive influence, especially on the lives of Namibian children, through the creation of new opportunities that help enhance skills in – and a love for – literacy. The focus of the programme is grades 1 – 3 in rhino range conservancies. Through the programme children have started to display reading skills that surpass some of the older students, highlighting the efficacy of the pilot project. By the end of 2022, the reading programme had been introduced in ten schools.
- **KAZA TFCA Elephant Survey** - The very first coordinated survey of the elephants in the KAZA TFCA was conducted between August and October 2022, with all known elephant range areas covered. The Namibian component of the KAZA TFCA which comprises of parts of Otjozondjupa and Kavango East, and Zambezi were covered during the survey. This area holds the majority of the elephants found in Namibia with areas south of Khaudum National Park in Nyae Nyae Conservancy now becoming an important area for elephant conservation due to low human and livestock activities.
- **Northwest Lion Survey** - A comprehensive survey of the lions ranging in the northwestern Namibia in the area between the Etosha National Park and the Skeleton Coast Park was undertaken by the MEFT and local NGOs operating in the area. Community Lion Rangers formed a critical component of the survey, walking on foot all the known lion areas and looking for signs of lion presence. By the end of 2022, the results of the lion survey were in the process of being finalised.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Community conservation and natural resource management is focused on wildlife, forestry and fish resources. Conservancies, community forests and fish reserves generate funding through the use of these resources, while their members are dependent on livestock and/or rain-fed crop production, all susceptible to

the impacts of drought and climate change. It is imperative in Namibia's semi-arid environment to closely monitor the use of natural resources. The data collected forms the basis for the CBNRM adaptive management system (Figure 6).

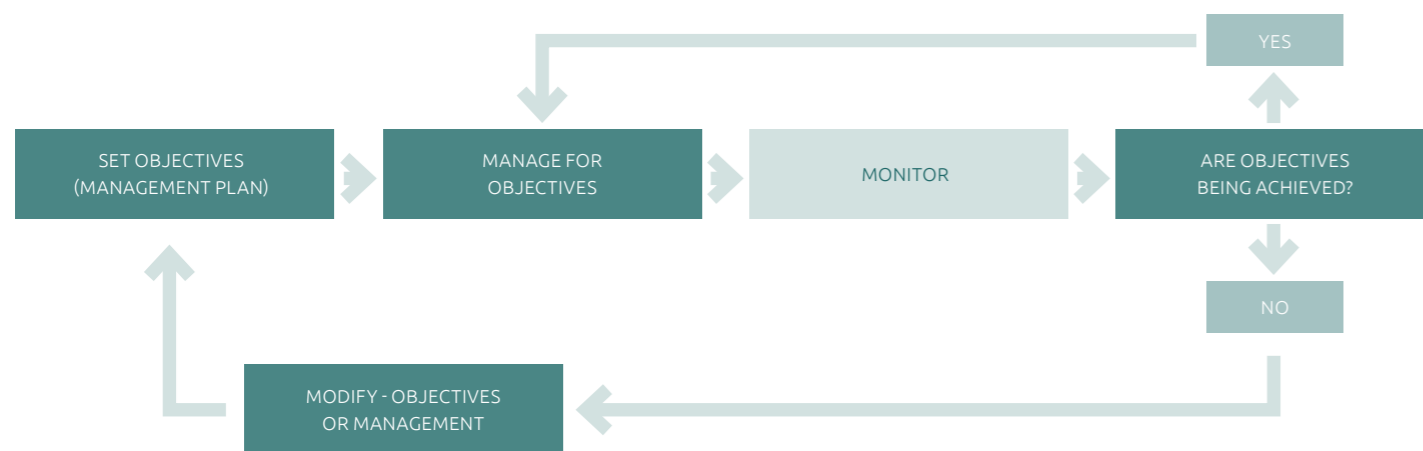


Figure 6. The adaptive management cycle.

Conservancies, community forests and fish reserves manage their specific natural resources to protect and increase the resource and allow for sustainable use. Management actions, stipulated in management plans, include the protection of key habitats, the setting of sustainable harvest quotas and the timing of and methods for harvesting. The collection of data through the Event Book, game counts, plant inventories and fishing records feed into the adaptive management system. If objectives are being met, then management actions continue. If objectives are not being met, management actions are modified to meet the objectives. This ongoing feedback loop supports informed decision making and management interventions.

In addition to the data obtained through monitoring, adaptive management is also influenced by climatic conditions. The Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) (Figure 7) is used as a tool to inform management decisions along with a local climate monitoring system (Figure 8). The overall objective of the local climate monitoring system, integrated with the Event Book, is to ensure that local communities have reduced vulnerability and increased resilience to the anticipated impacts of climate change by incorporating climate adaptation response strategies into local practices.

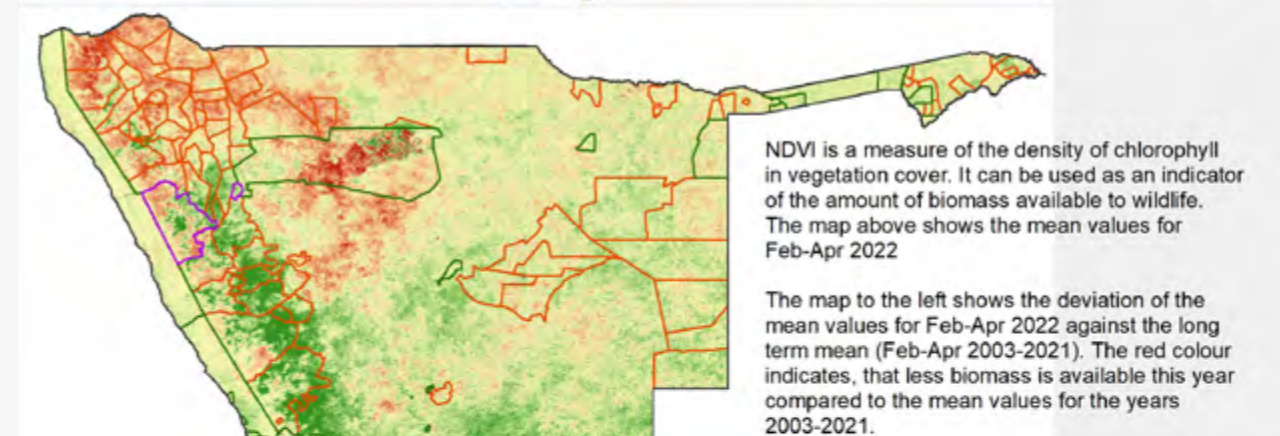
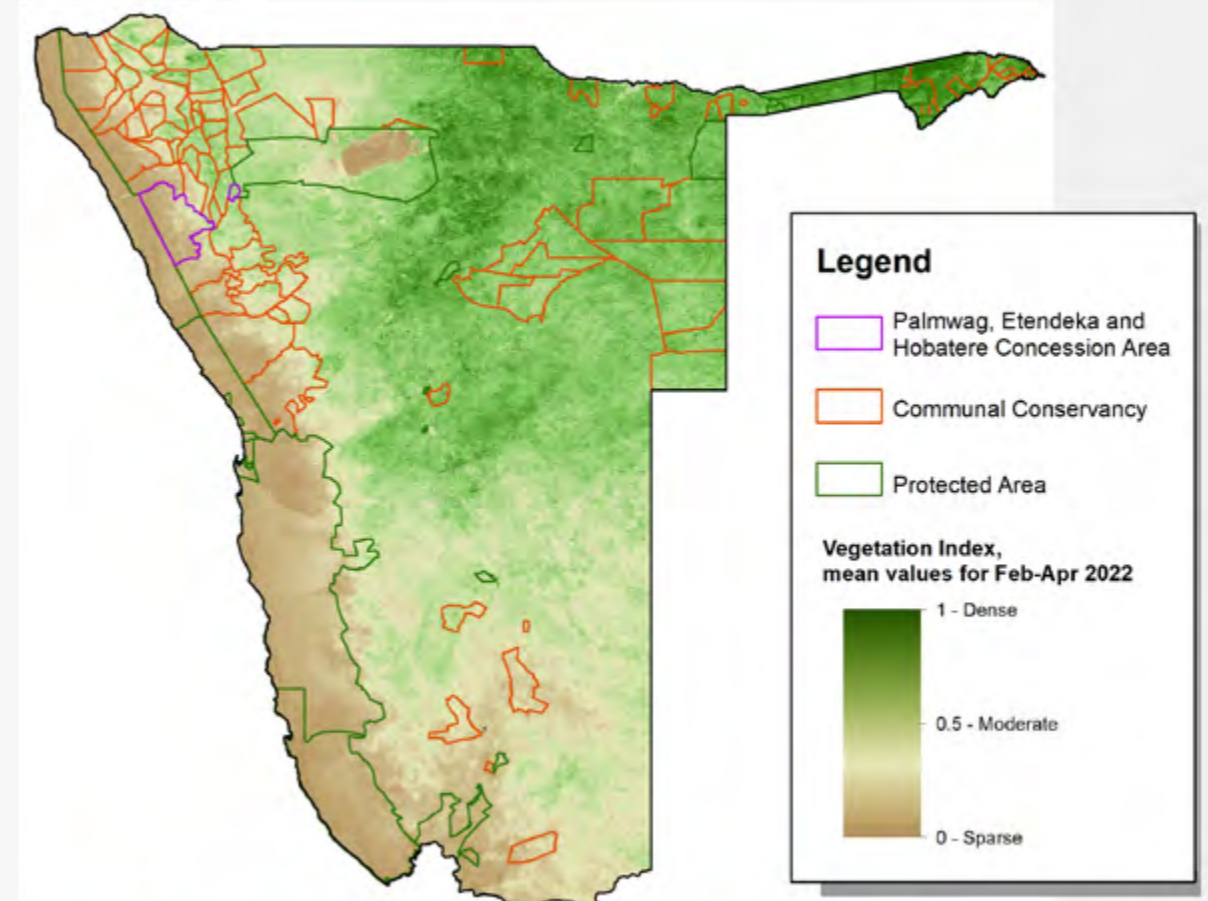


Figure 7. The Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI).

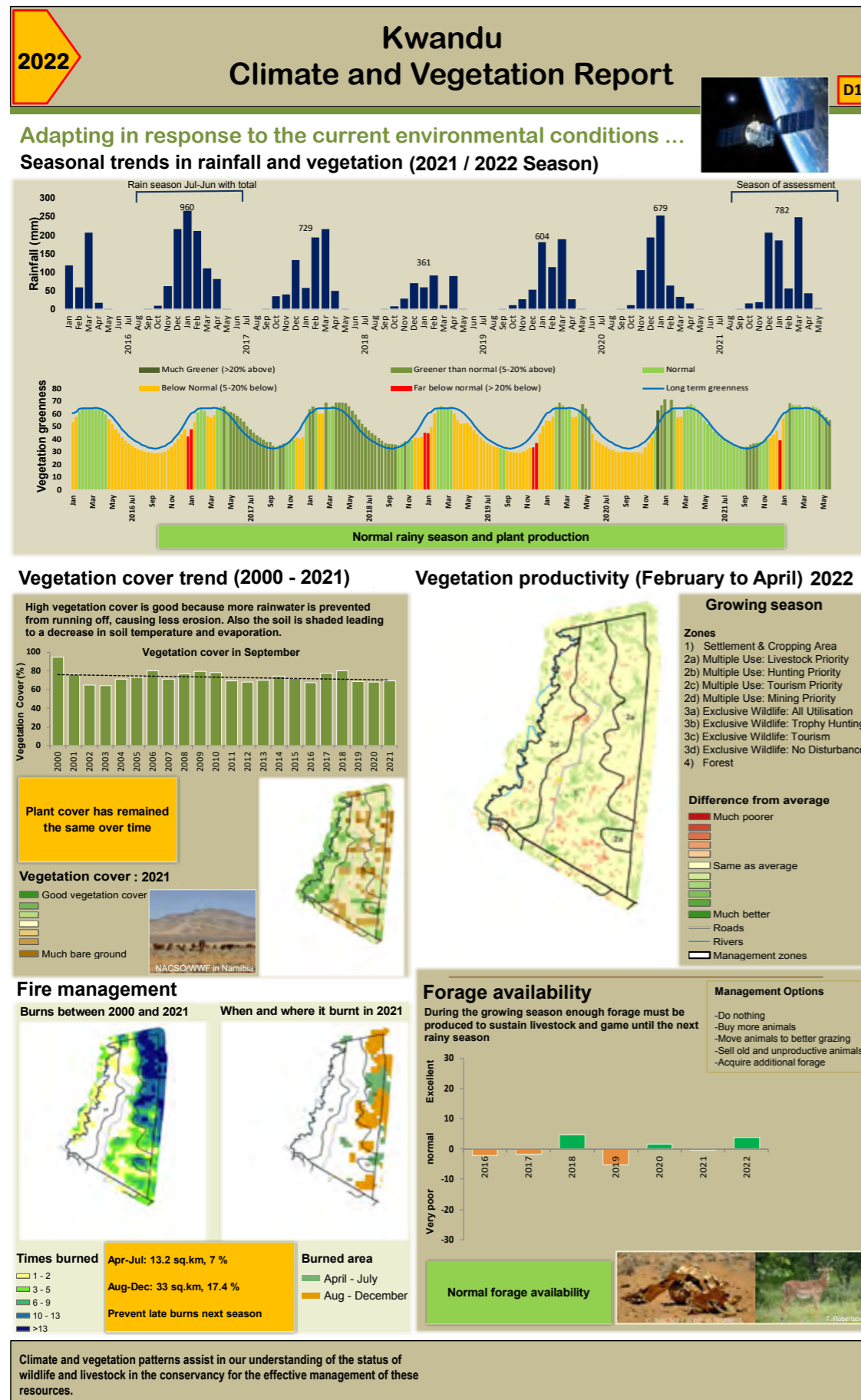


Figure 8. In order to support conservancies' understanding of how to adapt to fluctuating climatic conditions, Climate and Vegetation Reports are produced for each conservancy. These reports assist conservancies to effectively manage their resources, including wildlife and livestock.

One of the activities in the adaptive management system cycle is the setting of off-take quotas for wildlife. Off-take is used either as hunting for meat (for conservancies or Traditional Authorities) or conservation hunting. Ensuring sustainable use requires constant feedback and monitoring through the adaptive management system. Data on population estimates, structure and trends, and environmental conditions are used to determine sustainable off-take quotas granted to conservancies. Much of the data is directly collected by community game guards in the Event Book system as part of their regular responsibilities, but also includes annual game counts and specialist input.

Quotas are reviewed and awarded to conservancies on a three-year cycle. 2022 was a quota setting year and data-derived quotas were developed and recommended by the MEFT to

conservancies in a consultative process. Once all parties agree, quota management contracts are signed between conservancies and the MEFT. Conservancies can then appoint joint venture hunting partners to conduct conservation hunting activities. Any harvest of wildlife is closely managed by conservancies and monitoring and reporting undertaken as part of quota management. The regular monitoring of wildlife, including game counts and regular patrols continues. In the second and third years of the quota cycle, all new data is analysed and if there are any concerns, consultations are undertaken, and quotas are adjusted accordingly.

In 2022, 74 conservancies were granted own use hunting quotas and 44 conservancies had conservation hunting concessions.



© Marcus Westberg/WWF-US



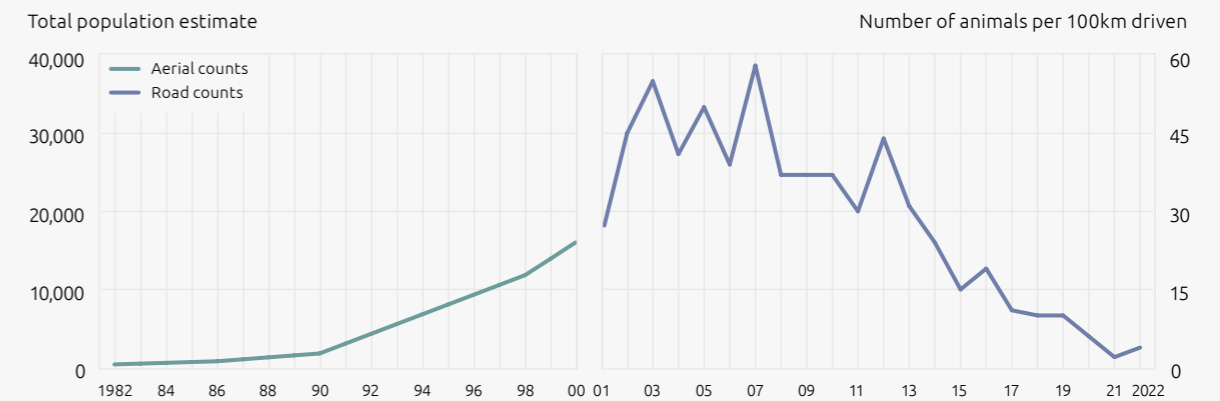
© Marcus Westberg/WWF-US

WILDLIFE MONITORING AND POPULATION TRENDS

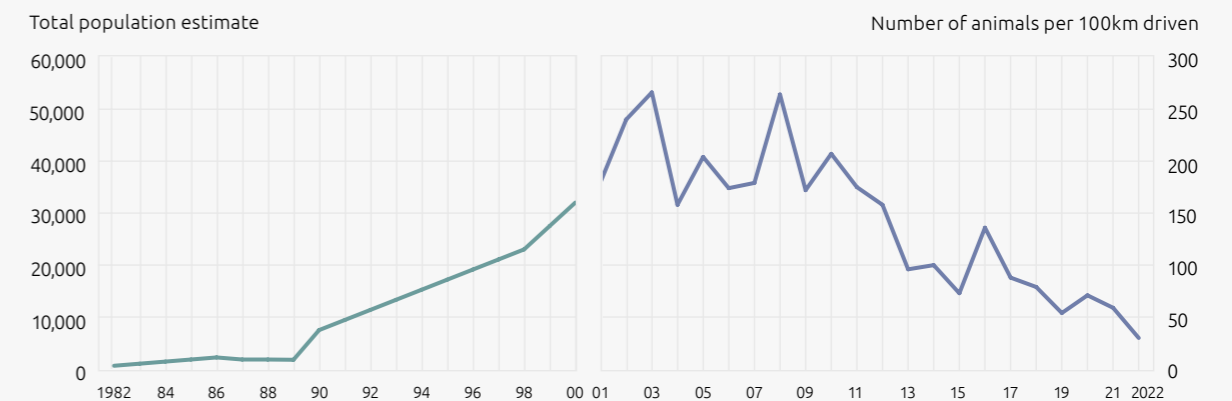
Wildlife populations in communal conservancies are monitored through annual game counts, waterhole counts and the Event Book monitoring system. Periodically aerial surveys are also conducted in some areas. These multiple methods are used to ensure that a variety of species can be monitored and the results compared. Wildlife populations vary from year to year in response to changes in the environment such as drought, rainfall, diseases, predation, utilisation and poaching.

Annual road-based game counts and line transect counts are undertaken in conservancies, along with regular fixed foot patrols, which are collected in the Event Book by the community game guards. In preparation for annual game counts, the NRWG and the MEFT train community game guards and staff on game count methodology. Game count training is used as an opportunity to review broader wildlife monitoring techniques such as fixed patrols and the Event Book monitoring system. The predator sightings index is produced by dividing the number of physical sightings recorded during the year by the number of event books (one book per game guard).

Gemsbok



Springbok



Zebra

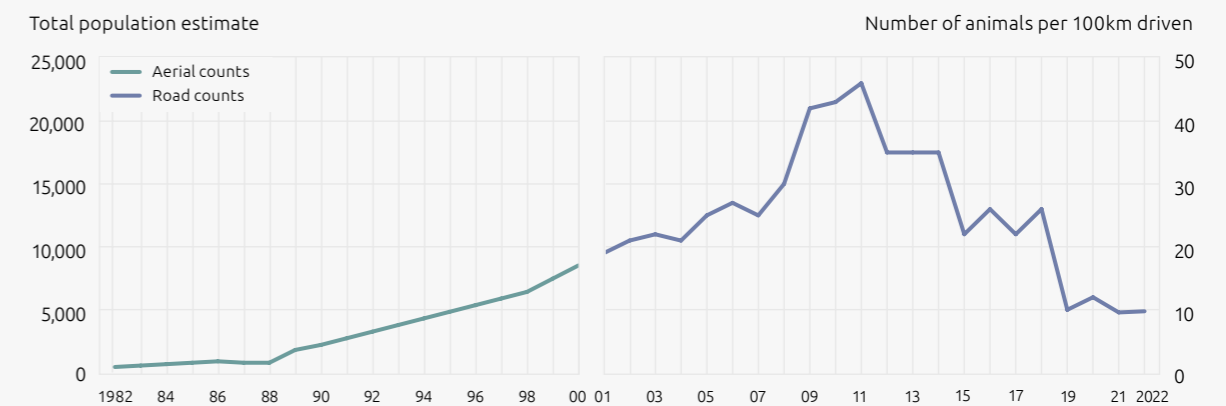


Figure 9. Wildlife population trends for three key herbivore species for the Erongo and Kunene Regions. Figures on the left were produced from aerial survey-based counts prior to 2000. Figures on the right are from road-based counts (animals seen per 100 km driven). The graphs highlight trends over time and not total population estimates.

The 2022 road counts show a slight increase in gemsbok, a decrease in springbok and approximately the same number of zebra as compared to 2021. The factors affecting the downward trend over the past several years in these populations are expected to be due primarily to the drought and competition with livestock for the decreasing biomass available as depicted in the NDVI map (Figure. 7). Funding is now being sought for a research study to better understand the main causes for continued wildlife declines in this area.

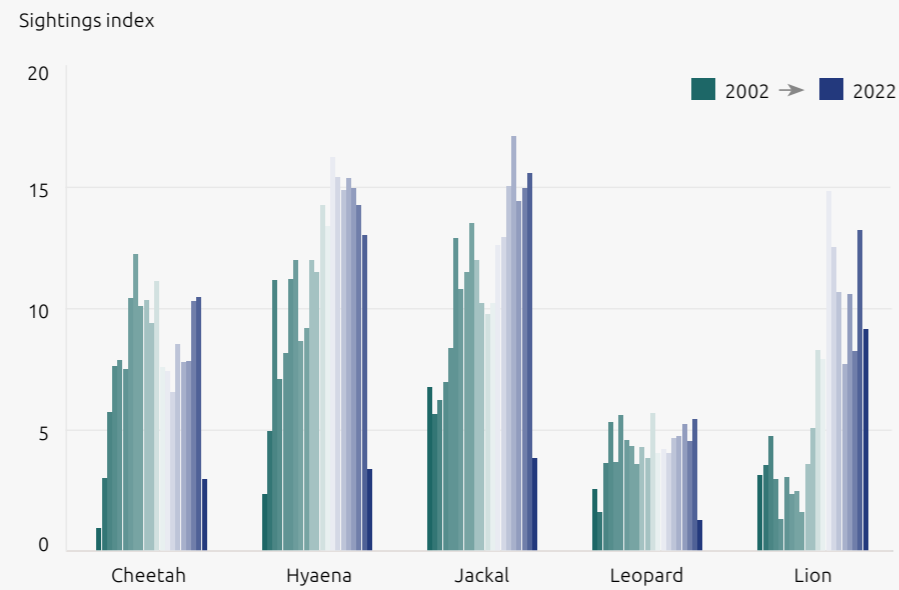


Figure 10. Predator sightings index for the Erongo and Kunene Regions.

Observations of predator sightings in the northwest suggest a decline in populations, likely due to declining prey populations and increased conflict with people due to livestock losses.

In the past year there have not been any significant changes in game count numbers in the Zambezi Region, any changes that did occur may be attributed to inconsistent rainfall and the movement of animals across borders.

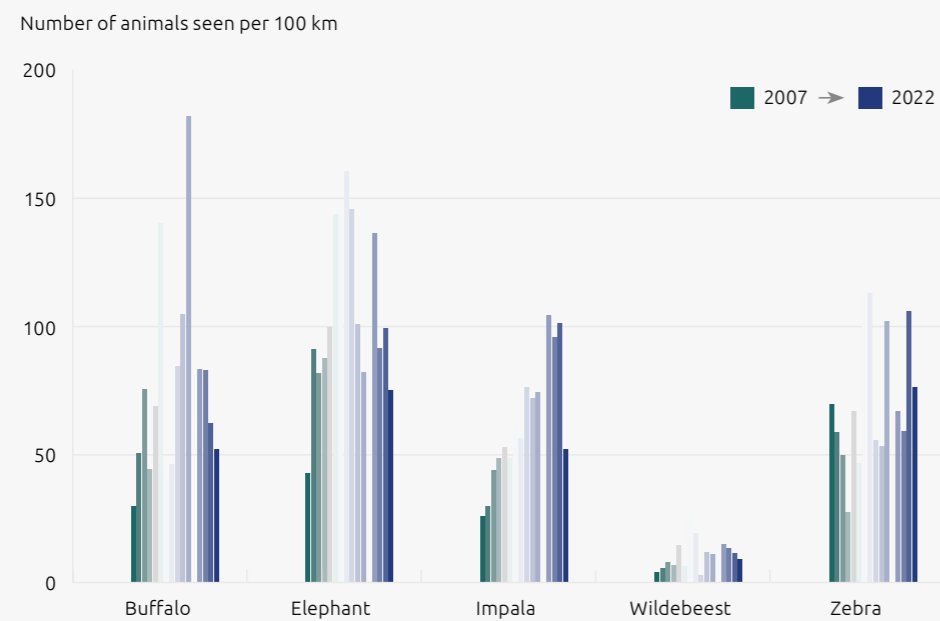


Figure 11. Northeast game count, including both the National Parks and conservancies. Game counts in the northeast are conducted using walking line transects.

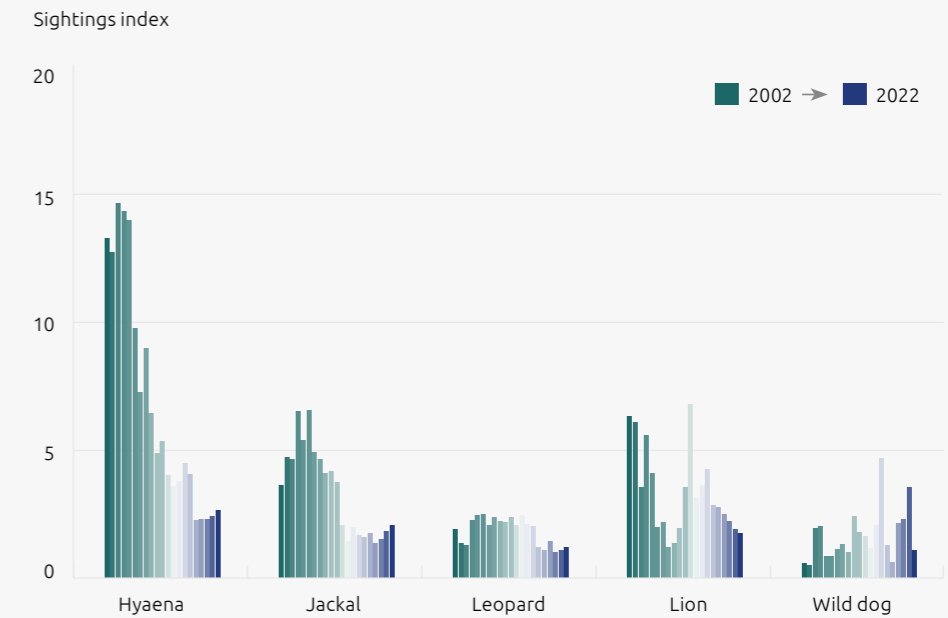


Figure 12. Predator sightings index for the northeast. Observations indicate that populations are stable or increasing, except for wild dog.

HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Communities throughout Namibia live with wildlife on a daily basis, while trying to raise livestock and crops. This interface of wildlife and humans results in human wildlife conflict (HWC). HWC is a pressing conservation issue in Namibia, and as the drought continues and climate change impacts increase over time, it is expected that HWC will also increase.

While conflict will always exist, the aim of HWC mitigation efforts is to reduce conflict and focus on building human wildlife coexistence through the most effective and efficient methods possible.

The people that live with wildlife bear increased costs of conservation through attacks on livestock, crop damage and loss, damage to infrastructure, human injury and loss of life. A

balance is needed between long-term conservation priorities and future generations, and the short-term needs of people living with large mammals and predators.

In 2022, a total of just over N\$ 9.27 million in HWC off-set payments were made. In the Erongo and Kunene Regions, the highest number of incidents were caused by cheetah, with the second and third highest also predators, jackal and leopard, respectively. The higher overall levels of conflict in Erongo and Kunene are indicative of long-term drought. In Zambezi, elephants caused the highest number of conflict incidents, mainly through crop damage and loss. In this area, increased human population leads to encroachment into wildlife areas and contributes to the increase in HWC incidents.

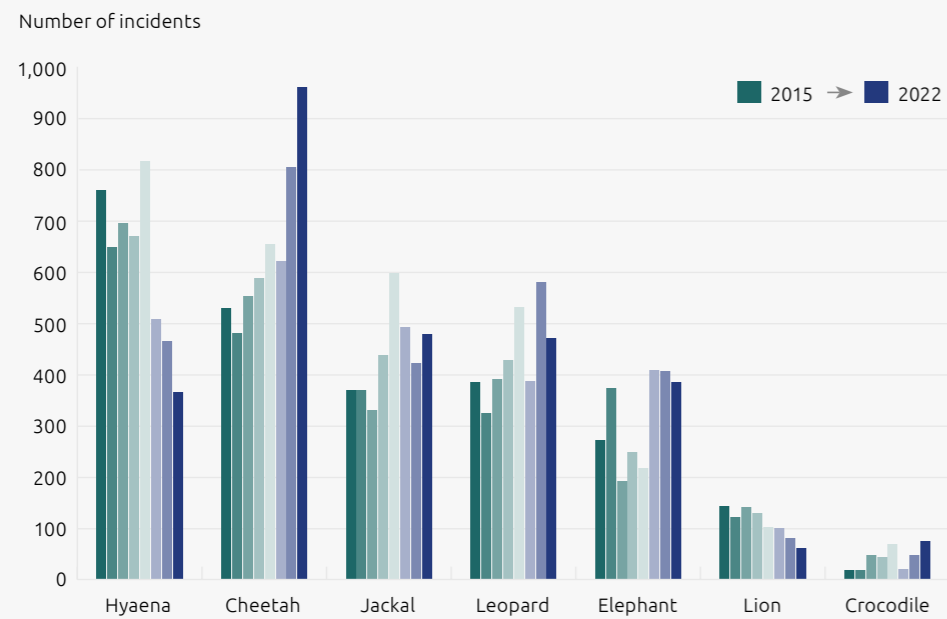


Figure 13. Human wildlife conflict species and trends in the Erongo and Kunene Regions from 2015 to 2022.

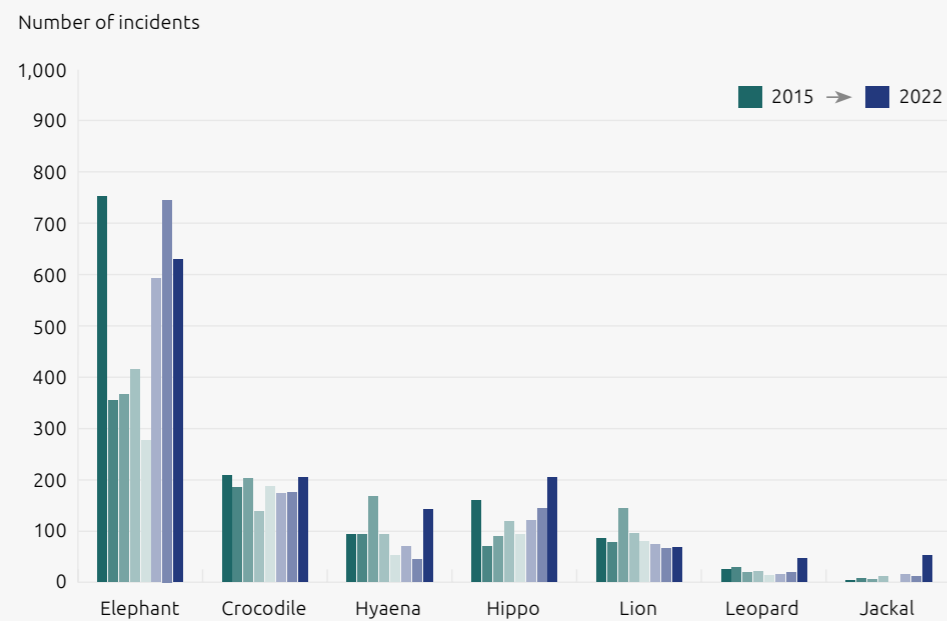


Figure 14. Human wildlife conflict species and trends in the Zambezi Region from 2015 to 2022.

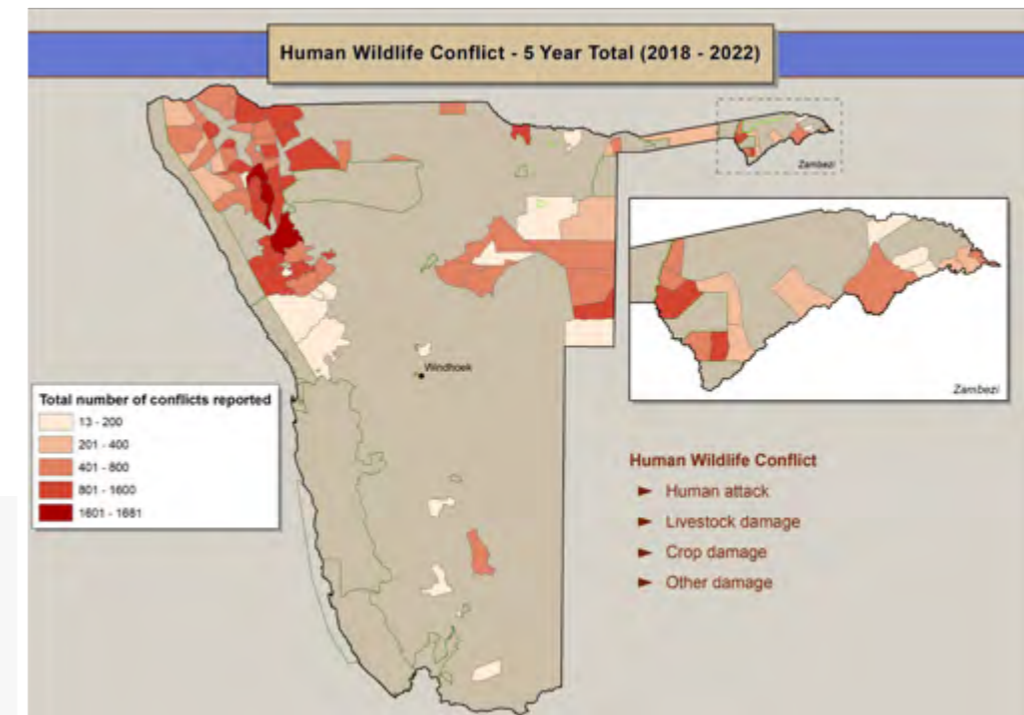


Figure 15. Number of conflict incidents reported in a five-year period by all conservancies. Darker red indicates higher reporting frequencies, not the amount of damage caused. Some species may cause high levels of damage in a few incidents (e.g. killing of livestock by lions and leopards).

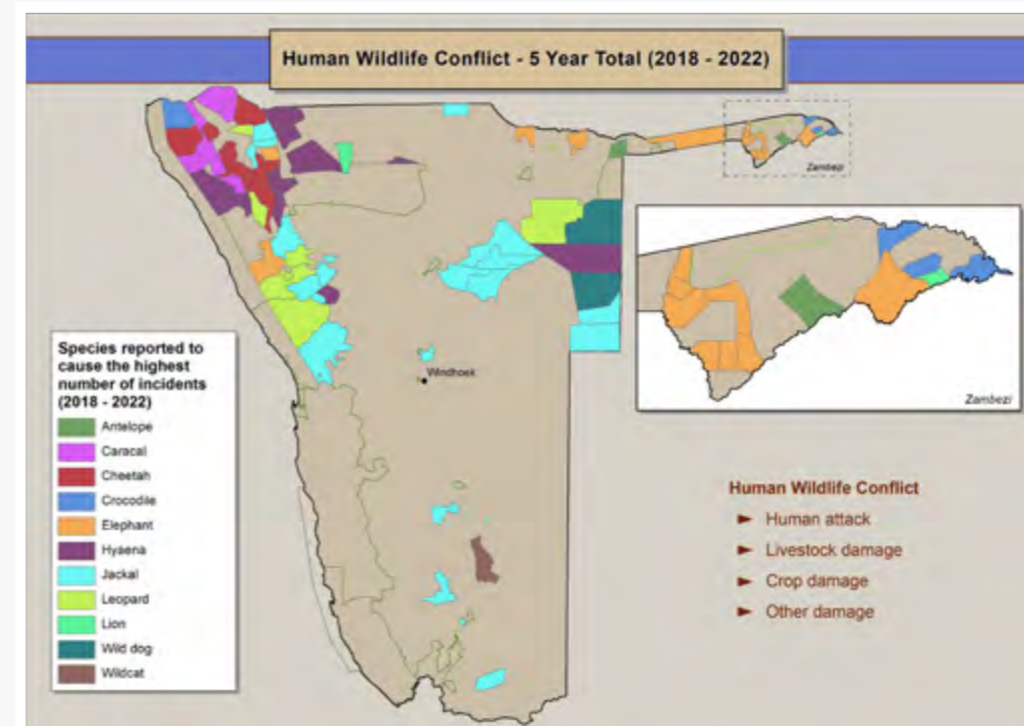


Figure 16. Species that were the most frequently reported to cause human wildlife conflict in all conservancies in 2022. In a few cases two or three species have a similar number of incidents. Most conservancies report conflict with several different species each year, so this is not a representation of all conflict experienced.

The Human Wildlife Conflict Self Reliance Scheme (HWCSRS) is funded by the Game Products Trust Fund (GPTF) and provides funding to off-set the costs of human wildlife conflict. Conservancies receive N\$60,000 in funding to off-set losses and damage costs as per a set payment schedule. Off-set payments

for livestock depend upon the species, crops on the size of the area damaged and injury on the type and severity of injury or death. All claims are processed by a review panel. Some conservancies add to the amount available for claims as part of their benefit distribution plans.

LION RANGERS

There are multiple mitigation methods employed to mitigate HWC. One of these mitigation methods for HWC is close monitoring of lion by Lion Rangers in Erongo and Kunene Regions. The Lion Ranger programme, established in 2018 with four rangers, has expanded to include 49 rangers covering an area of around 28,000 km² across 11 conservancies. In 2022, the programme initiated a pilot expansion of four Lion Rangers into the Nyae Nyae Conservancy in eastern Namibia. The Lion Ranger programme brings community, government and non-governmental stakeholders together, combining the efforts of the MEFT, Tourism Supporting Conservation (TOSCO), the Namibian Lion Trust, Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC), Desert Lion Conservation Trust, and the University of Minnesota Lion Center.

Lion Rangers are conservancy-employed game guards with specialized training in lion behavior, ecology, and the management of HWC. Lion Rangers contribute to the mitigation of HWC and provide crucial monitoring of lion and data collection through foot patrols and the use of SMART. In 2022, lion rangers covered an impressive 16,661 kms on patrols. Although rangers earn a salary, they also receive incentive payments based on the number of kilometers patrolled and sightings.

The latest innovation to the Lion Ranger programme is the Early-Warning system. This system tracks satellite collared lions in human-lion conflict areas through Early-Warning Towers. The towers constantly search for signals from lion collars. When a collared lion moves within proximity of a tower, both local farmers and Lion Rangers receive a text alert with information on the lion and a series of alarms and lights alerts farmers to the presence and direction of the lion. Locally based Lion Rangers then respond and/or call on support from the vehicle-based rapid response teams in the area.



© CreativeLAB / WWF-US

COMBATTING WILDLIFE CRIME

Wildlife crime is a serious threat to conservation efforts throughout Africa. Wildlife crime is the illegal harvesting and trading of animals and plants and occurs on multiple levels, creating the need for a complex and multi-agency approach. Wildlife crime robs communities of high value resources and impacts the benefits which communities receive from their conservation efforts.

Some wildlife crime takes place at a subsistence level for food, or at a commercial level which then involves crime syndicates and illegal international trade, increasing the stakes. In these wide criminal networks, local individuals who take the biggest risk in poaching activities earn only a small portion of what is earned by others in the chain of illegal trade.

In Namibia, rhino horn, elephant ivory, pangolin scales and meat, and rosewood timber products are the main products commercially poached for a global market, while illegal fishing is typically for the African market. The trafficking of rare and endemic species of plants is increasing rapidly and exponentially. To counteract wildlife crime at a national level, the MEFT, the Namibian Police Force and the Office of the Prosecutor General work closely together with other government agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGO). In conservancies, several major projects are being implemented by the MEFT and NGOs in partnership with communities. Conservancy staff including game guards, fish guards and specialized rangers are not law enforcement representatives, but rather play an important role in providing on the ground presence to deter, inhibit or stop illegal activities and alert law enforcement authorities to suspicious activities or wildlife crime incidents in their areas.

RHINO AND PANGOLIN RANGERS

Specialist ranger programmes have been introduced and are making an impact in community conservation areas. The first of these is the Rhino Rangers. Initiated in 2012, there are now 60 Rhino Rangers working in 13 Erongo and Kunene conservancies. The Rhino Ranger programme is now expanding into the Nyae Nyae Conservancy, which at the end of 2022 supported five full-time rhino rangers. The programme is supported by Save the Rhino Trust (SRT), Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) and the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF), in partnership with the rhino-range conservancies. The rangers are employed by conservancies and receive specialist training in rhino monitoring and crime scene investigation, in addition to game guard training. More recently, rangers are making use of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to collect monitoring and critical research data. Although rangers earn a salary, they also receive incentive payments based on the number of kilometres patrolled and rhino sightings. In 2022, Rhino Rangers teams logged a staggering 56,260 kms of foot patrols, the first year the foot patrols have exceeded 50,000 kms. Patrols also resulted in 11,644 ranger field days.

The Rhino Pride Campaign, first launched in 2017 to raise awareness and engagement within local communities regarding the critical rhino conservation crisis contributes to the work of the Rhino Rangers. It aims to highlight the severity and urgency of poaching while emphasising the potential devastating loss if rhinos were to become extinct. As part of the campaign, 14 Rhino Friend Youth Clubs have been established across nine conservancies, actively engaging around 200 unemployed youth. Additionally, a series of awareness events, including

In 2022, Rhino Rangers teams logged a staggering **56,260 kilometres of foot patrols**, the first year the foot patrols have exceeded 50,000 kms.

World Rhino Day, Let's Drive Poaching Away, and Clean Up Campaign, have been organized. The campaign has also made significant strides in environmental education by establishing environmental clubs in schools.

As a result of collective efforts, northwest Namibia has witnessed remarkable achievements in combatting rhino poaching over the past five years. Notably, there has been an impressive 80% reduction in rhino poaching compared to the preceding five-year period. Since 2020, there have been no rhinos poached in communal areas, and the two rhinos poached in 2020 did not involve any local support. This can be directly attributable to the work of the Rhino Rangers and support organisations for raising awareness in communities to build understanding, responsibility, and pride in rhino conservation.

A new ranger programme, similar to the Rhino Rangers has been initiated in Nyae Nyae to monitor and protect pangolins. Pangolin Rangers have been working with the Pangolin Conservation and Research Foundation (PCRF) in Nyae Nyae Conservancy since 2021 to protect pangolins from poaching and raise awareness within communities. There is not a comprehensive understanding of the Namibian pangolin population and rangers provide vital monitoring and research data as well as deter wildlife crime. Three full-time and 20 part-time Pangolin Rangers, employed by the conservancy, make use of SMART, camera traps, and community engagement and outreach to gather information. Rangers receive incentive payments for sightings, tagging, sample collection and the identification of burrows. The main challenge currently facing the Pangolin Ranger programme is funding, but the PCRF is working hard to access additional funding for this important work.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE CRIME TRENDS

2022 saw a decrease in most categories of registered wildlife crime cases and arrests across Namibia. However, the number of rhinos poached almost doubled from 47 in 2021 to 93 in 2022, the highest losses since 2015. No rhinos were poached in conservancy areas and another positive outcome was that 47 pre-emptive arrests were made before rhinos were poached, saving valuable populations. Elephant poaching halved from eight animals in 2021 to four in 2022. Pangolin seizures decreased 54 percent since 2021 with only 40 animals seized, the lowest total since 2016 when pangolin trafficking started

to increase in Namibia. Meat poaching remains a constant challenge throughout the country, representing 46 per cent of all registered cases.

The first cases of trafficking of live plants were registered in 2022 with high volumes of rare and endemic succulents seized and extensive trafficking efforts uncovered. The impact on plant species is still not understood but could be severe on rare species with very limited ranges. The illegal harvesting of timber and some non-timber resources such as devil's claw continues, despite the 2018 moratorium on timber harvesting.



© Marcus Westberg/WWF-US

COMMUNITY FORESTS

Although Namibia's forest resources are not dense forests, but rather aggregations of woodlands and bush, they play an important role both ecologically and economically in the northern areas of the country. The ecosystem services provided by forests include carbon storage, air filtration, soil stabilisation and retention, conservation of biodiversity and preservation of water sources. Forests also provide shelter, fuel, food security and nutrition, and economic opportunities through income generation and employment.

While conservancies are focused on the sustainable use of wildlife, community forests provide communities with rights over their plant resources. Community forests are similar governance structures to conservancies and in many cases, for the ease of management, their boundaries overlap. Like conservancies, community forests build skills and capacity in communities, promoting advocacy for rural people and empowering women to participate and take up leadership positions. Community forests contribute to rural development and poverty reduction by providing communities with income for social welfare projects or infrastructure development.

In 2022, three additional community forests were gazetted, bringing the total to 46. These community forests cover a total area of almost 90,000 km², with around 16,200 km² outside of conservancy boundaries. In most instances, community forests are integrated with conservancies.

To meet the requirements for the establishment of a community forest, forest inventories must be undertaken to determine the amount and sustainable harvesting limits for all plant resources within the forest. The Integrated Forest Management Plan then sets forth the management actions to be undertaken. Resource monitors issue permits and oversee all forest activities to ensure that people using the forest resources are doing so in accordance with the management plan. This includes grazing within the forest area, which is a valuable resource, particularly in time of drought.

The timber industry, focused on the extraction of hardwoods, is the principal source of income to community forests. Since 2018, to counter the commercial poaching by foreigners of significant levels of timber, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) has imposed restrictions on timber harvesting, decreasing income to community forests. It is important to protect forest resources and to also support communities to diversify livelihoods. The MEFT and supporting partners are working to develop additional non-timber forestry products focused on species such as marula, ximenia, mopane, mangetti and commiphora. Accessing international markets for the oils and other products obtained through these species is challenging, but additional support is focusing on how to bring more local agricultural value to the products. The other important indigenous natural product, exported in large quantities, is devil's claw which provides significant income to community forests annually.

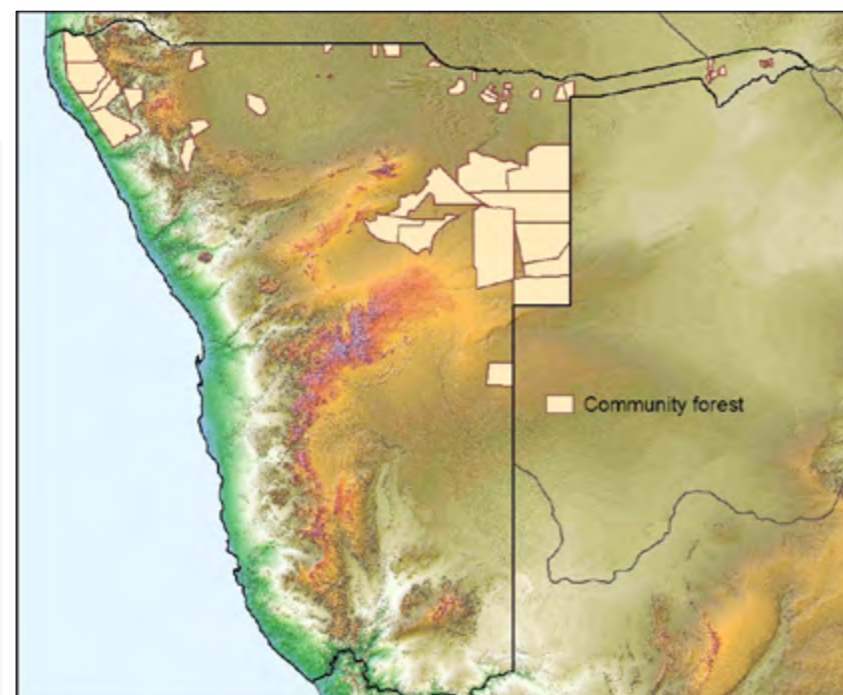


Figure 17. The 46 community forests gazetted in Namibia.

FISHERIES RESERVES

Freshwater fisheries are an important natural resource for rural communities residing along the country's northern perennial rivers, the Okavango, Kwando, Zambezi and Chobe. Fishing provides a crucial source of protein for many communities. However, fisheries have experienced declines due to the use of illegal fishing methods, commercialised fishing by non-Namibian companies, the increase in population in riverine areas and the impacts of climate change.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) provides for the establishment of fisheries reserves (FR), which allow local communities to protect and manage their fisheries resources. In 2022, with the gazetting of ten new FRs, the total number of FRs rose to 20, across seven conservancies in the Zambezi and Kavango East and West Regions. Fisheries reserves are integrated into conservancies in order to manage them more efficiently.

FRs provide protected areas for fish populations to increase in number, size and diversity. The recovering stocks then spill over into the wider river system, helping improve fish populations overall. In some areas, fish stocks have increased up to five times within the reserve and doubled in fishing areas adjacent to the reserve. Improved fish stocks benefit communities who rely on the fish for the provision of food, the availability of fish for sport fishing and for the increased value of intact ecosystems to tourism.

Fish guards and monitors work together to reduce illegal fishing and assess the status of fish stocks in the fisheries reserves. 70 fish guards are tasked with regularly patrolling the reserves to detect illegal fishing activities and remove illegal nets from the river. They are also trained as fish inspectors and thus greatly increase the capacity of MFMR to control illegal fishing. If arrests are required, the fish guards work together with MFMR inspectors and the police.

40 fish monitors collect data on legal fish catches on a regular basis by visiting boat landing sites in their area to find out how much fish was caught and what methods were used. They are trained by fisheries scientists to accurately identify fish species and fill out data collection sheets. Adaptive management principles can then be applied based on the information collected over time.

The FR model has been so successful in providing a framework for communities to protect and manage their fisheries, that it has been shared and taken up throughout the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TCFA). In 2022, steps were taken towards the establishment of two new transboundary natural resource management forums between Namibian and Angolan cross-river communities along the Okavango River, in order to better manage overlapping fisheries. Another achievement in 2022 was the publication of the Guidelines to Establish Fisheries Reserves and the Tackle Box for Community Fisheries. These documents will be used more broadly in Namibia and KAZA to promote community fisheries reserves.

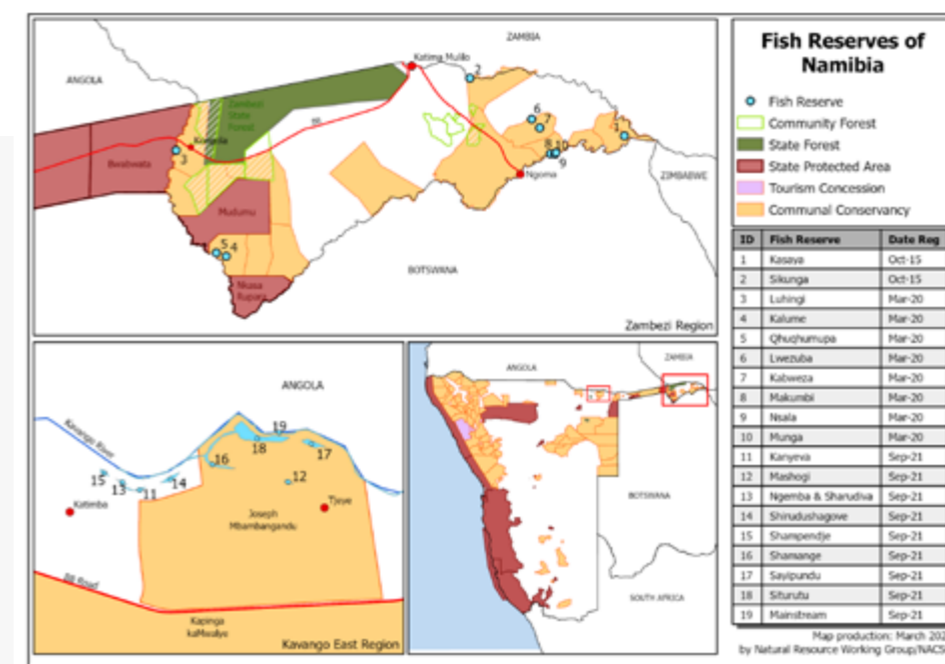


Figure 18. The 20 fisheries reserves in Namibia. Two reserves (Ngemba and Sharudiva) are listed together as they merge if water levels are sufficiently high.

FEMALE RANGERS PROTECTING NAMIBIA'S WILDLIFE

World Female Ranger Day was celebrated in 2022 in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy, in a special gathering organized jointly by Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) and Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF). Female rangers and game guards from different conservancies in northwest Namibia met with community game guards from the Nyae Nyae Conservancy.

The occasion served as a tribute to the extraordinary female rangers and game guards in Namibia, who display unwavering dedication and bravery in safeguarding the country's precious wildlife. Beyond being a celebration, the event provided an opportunity for knowledge sharing, emphasising the indispensable role played by female rangers in conservation. These women serve as beacons of hope, inspiring future generations and exemplifying that courage knows no gender.

An important focus of the commemoration was recognising the challenges faced by female rangers at work. Discussions centred on the critical issue of access to sanitary products, shedding light on the necessity for safer private spaces to ensure their well-being during patrols. Additionally, the concern for the environmental impact of disposable products highlighted the deep-rooted commitment of these rangers to conservation principles. Amidst the challenges, one remarkable aspect emerged – the absence of mentions of discrimination, harassment or mistreatment from their male counterparts in the Rhino Ranger units. This speaks volumes about the professionalism and camaraderie among the rangers, reinforcing the potential for an inclusive and respectful work environment. As a gesture of appreciation and support, each female ranger was presented with a dignity tent, a cast iron cooking pot and a camping chair. These gifts not only symbolise gratitude but also serve as practical tools to enhance their comfort during patrols.

The World Female Ranger Day commemoration emphasised the importance of recognising and empowering female rangers in their crucial roles within wildlife conservation. Natasha /Gomes, a true trailblazer, took the spotlight at the event, as she was introduced as Namibia's first-ever female community Rhino Ranger. Alongside the eight other dedicated women who attended the event, Natasha embodies resilience and determination, making strides in a traditionally male-dominated field. Natasha /Gomes' journey is only the beginning, and with



© CreativeLAB / WWF-US

the backing of organisations like SRT, NNF and Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC), she and her fellow female rangers will continue to inspire change, promote unity, and drive positive transformation in Namibia's conservation landscape.

Rangers are at the forefront of combatting wildlife crime in their communities. Ranger responsibilities are multi-faceted and include monitoring and tracking wildlife, conducting routine patrols in wildlife habitats to identify and report any indications of unlawful activities, forging relationships with communities and liaising closely with them on conservation initiatives, and running awareness campaigns to educate the public about the value of wildlife. They also work closely with law enforcement authorities to prevent illegal wildlife tracking and offer support.

Organisations such as the SRT, NNF and IRDNC, as well as the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and law enforcement are dedicated to providing ongoing support, ensuring that these brave women receive the necessary resources to continue their invaluable work. Gone are the days when women's roles were only positioned within a household. Women's empowerment within communities has allowed women to extend their role from nurturing caregivers to the frontline of defense in maintaining the health of their environments. Their unwavering dedication will pave the way for a brighter future, where gender plays no role in protecting and preserving the nation's precious wildlife.

PILOTING OF SMART IN CONSERVANCIES

The Event Book has been the foundation of CBNRM in Namibia for natural resource management. It is the tool which provides a system to record and monitor multiple activities within conservancies, collect data, support the sustainable use of natural resources and feedback into adaptive management processes. The Event Book is a hard-copy, handwritten method, undertaken by conservancy staff and management which gathers data from and for each conservancy, which is then consolidated into a programme-wide database.

To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of community monitoring, the introduction of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) is being piloted in three conservancies for patrolling and conservation hunting activities.

The SMART mobile application, installed on Android smartphones, is specifically designed to help conservationists manage and protect wildlife. SMART offers the most cost-effective, systematic reporting tool that collects, stores, communicates and evaluates range-based data for conservation management. SMART can record information such as wildlife observations, human activities (both legal and illegal), the condition of natural features, and the movements and activities of patrol teams. One of the most useful aspects of SMART is that it is geo-referenced and can provide information such as the spatial distribution of species and distances walked on patrols.

SMART provides real-time data on species distribution which can be accessed and processed quickly to produce reports and maps. The ability to take pictures of observations is another benefit of SMART and can support the verification of data, particularly in anti-poaching efforts.

SMART has been in use since 2016 in Namibia's National Parks, mainly for anti-poaching efforts and park management. SMART is also currently in use by Rhino and Lion Rangers in conservancy areas and is being applied in MEFT Regional Offices to support the management and mitigation of human wildlife conflict.

With locally developed modules, specifically tailored for conservancy use and needs, the Nyae Nyae, Mashi and Salambala conservancies piloted this new technology for the first time for their fixed foot patrols and conservation hunting activities. SMART was introduced in Nyae Nyae Conservancy in the Otjozondjupa Region in late 2021, with some training and testing of the conservancy-specific modules. In early 2022, the two conservancies in the Zambezi Region, Mashi and Salambala, were then trained and started applying SMART in the field.

The aim of SMART in conservancies is to help improve their adaptive management strategies and the MEFT's monitoring and evaluation procedures. The data gathered from conservation hunting activities will help conservancies manage hunting contracts and inform decisions on hunting quota settings.

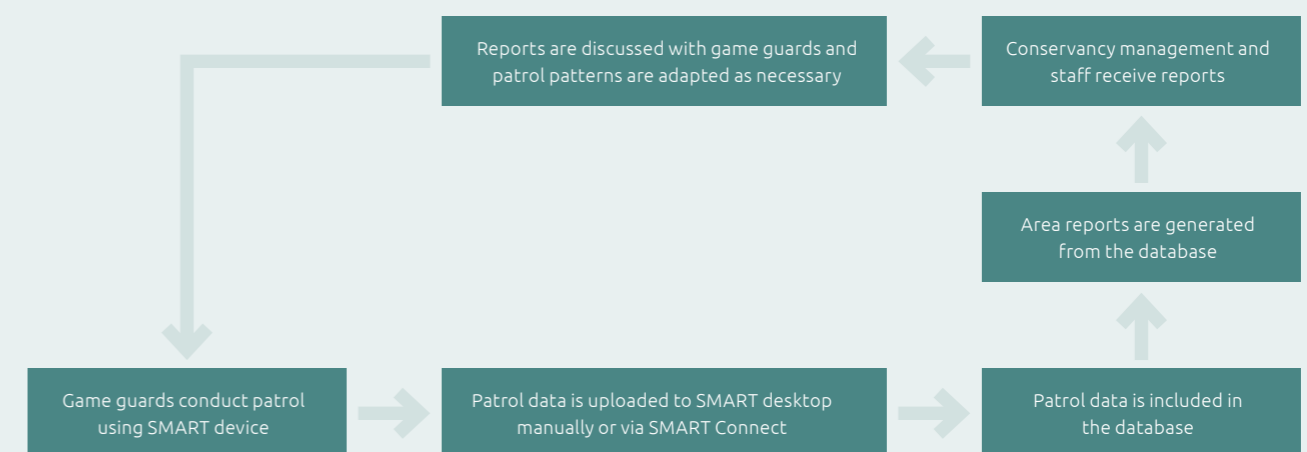


Figure 19. How SMART information is captured and used in adaptive management.

As with the application of any new method, there have been successes and challenges throughout the pilot phase. The biggest success is the spatial data which SMART collects. It essentially maps each fixed foot patrol undertaken, providing specific data on the route walked, wildlife sightings or other observations, and distances covered. It has allowed a better understanding of the coverage and frequency of fixed foot patrols and effort, which enables better data analysis. The conservation hunting module works in a similar way, collecting spatial, biological and ecological data during hunting activities in the conservancy.

Another success is that, while SMART is designed to support conservation efforts, it can also provide insight into performance for staff management purposes.

The challenges experienced during the pilot phase are varied. Although SMART is being piloted, the Event Book remains the main monitoring system. In Zambezi, during flooding, monitoring of wildlife is difficult and game guards are not able to conduct their foot patrols. The interest in and uptake of SMART depends on each individual game guard and sometimes devices are forgotten on patrols, with a result of no data being collected. Initially, SMART in the pilot conservancies was supported by staff in Windhoek, which limits the amount of technical engagement available to a quarterly or bi-annual basis. This will change as the Natural Resources Working Group trains implementing partner staff to be able to support SMART in the field.

Ideally, SMART could overtake the Event Book as the main data collection tool, however, given the constraints of internet access in remote areas and funding for devices, that is still far in the future for the CBNRM programme. In the meantime, SMART is slowly being rolled-out to other conservancies, and in the process, will continue to be adapted for conservancy specific needs and other components of natural resource monitoring.



IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

REVIEW OF 2022

The generation of income for conservancies and individual members through the conservation of natural resources is a key aim of CBNRM and the success of conservation efforts by communities. Given Namibia's attraction as a wildlife and landscape destination on the global tourism market, and its sustainable use policies supporting conservation hunting, the CBNRM programme has successfully facilitated income generation from wildlife-based activities for a multitude of conservancies through partnerships.

This is achieved through strategic joint venture (JV) collaborations with the private sector, leveraging their expertise, resources and market access to optimize wildlife-based enterprises for the improvement of local communities and conservation.

Efforts to unlock income and livelihoods opportunities for conservancies and their members have always been vital to sustaining the wildlife economy model in rural communities. This has become even more critical since the COVID-19 pandemic impacted global tourism, resulting in significant income and funding losses for conservancies and the communities they support, placing already vulnerable communities at greater risk. Namibia saw a 98.1% increase in international / inbound tourist arrivals from 232,756 in 2021 to 461,027 in 2022, indicating a 28.9% recovery level towards the 2019 tourist arrival statistics. However, while several JV partners have reported a significant recovery in 2022, and tourism in Namibia is on a positive trajectory, the previous reliance solely on tourism and conservation hunting in conservancies is no longer guaranteed.

The Business, Enterprise, and Livelihoods Working Group (BEL WG) is a voluntary working group of business and enterprise development specialists from non-governmental organisations (NGO) and government ministries that work collectively to support conservancies and communities in Namibia to develop and improve business enterprises. The BEL WG comprises a loose alliance of smaller sub-groups which each focus on different enterprise sectors or opportunities (tourism, joint ventures, small and medium enterprises, hunting and natural products).



© NACSO / WWF Namibia

WHAT'S NEW IN 2022

- CRRRF** – The Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF) extended business continuity grants to cover business expenses to prepare for the expected increase in tourism numbers, including the upgrading of infrastructure. These grants, given to 11 JV partners, are repayable, non-interest loans totaling N\$ 8.25 million.
- JOINT MANAGEMENT AREA (JMA)** – The JMA between the Uibasen Twyfelfonetein, Doro!Nawas, and Sorris Sorris conservancies, the first of its kind in the region, aims to control access to the area of almost 279 km² and establish it as an exclusive wildlife habitat, dedicated solely to non-consumptive wildlife utilisation. The partnership agreement was signed in 2018 and has been supported by the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) and the Save the Rhino Trust (SRT). In 2022, the NNF continued to assist the three conservancies to achieve milestones to generate greater economic gains for the JMA through the development of sustainable wildlife-based tourism. After an exclusive tourism leasehold application was submitted, the JMA entered into a short-term tourism contract to establish a temporary rhino tracking camp. The JMA committee was also established with three representatives from each conservancy.
- ALTERNATIVE INCOME OPPORTUNITIES SUPPORT** – The Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN) introduced a new objective to its Poverty Oriented Support to Community Conservation in Namibia project in 2022. Funding provided by the KfW Development Bank will provide grants for investment in alternative income-generating activities in conservancies and community forests. The purpose of these grants is to build resilience against external shocks that have a direct impact on tourism-related income streams. By the end of 2022, applications were evaluated, site visits conducted, and ten projects received provisional approval.
- ZAMBEZI TOURISM WORKSHOP** – The Zambezi Joint Venture Tourism Meeting was held in September 2022 and attended by MEFT, conservancies, Traditional Authorities, joint venture (JV) operators and NACSO partner organisations. The main aim of the meetings was to provide a platform where stakeholders could reflect and deliberate on issues pertaining to the management and operations of tourism in the Zambezi Region pre- and post- the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting provided the opportunity for all partners to work together, discuss recovery from the pandemic and make recommendations.
- WILDLIFE CREDITS** - In recent years, the CBNRM programme has been piloting the Wildlife Credits initiative, designed to pay conservancies for verified conservation achievements. One of the major challenges was the streamlining of data processing from diverse sources, requiring scalability and automation for maximal efficiency. In collaboration with Deloitte Germany, who generously provided pro-bono support, an efficient data processing system was developed. Deloitte also integrated artificial intelligence-powered capabilities to analyse camera trap images for wildlife sightings and satellite images to detect human settlement, and cropping in wildlife zones and corridors. This data helps to calculate conservation performance payments. The result is a dynamic dashboard that provides conservation metrics and values, facilitating informed decision-making when making performance payments to the conservancies.

JOINT VENTURE TOURISM RECOVERY

Joint venture (JV) partners faced huge impacts during the pandemic, some having to completely close down operations, and many had to consider the retrenchment of staff, including those hired from conservancies. The immediate concern with retrenchment was the socioeconomic impact on individuals and households dependent on their salaries. One JV partner undertook an in-house poll and determined that the average number of dependants per staff member salary increased from three or four to ten during the pandemic. The secondary concern was the loss of skills and experience, which would have an impact when the pandemic ended, and the staff was needed again. Without the continued and expanded support of the Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF), JV partners and their staff from conservancies would have experienced much more intense social and economic impacts.

In 2022, a significant number of conservancies were still not able to generate substantial income from JV operations to

cover their conservation management costs, which necessitated continued grant assistance from the CRRRF. The CRRRF, led by the MEFT with its collaborating partners and donors, was established to provide financial relief and recovery backing to conservancies and their members in dealing with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This support included operational support to conservancies, as well as local wage relief and business continuity grants to JV partners.

While joint venture tourism and hunting partnerships will always remain vital for the sustainability of conservancies, the need to diversify livelihoods and income sources within conservancies has never been greater. Business models are being re-examined and there is a strong push to create additional opportunities beyond the current JV tourism and hunting options. This re-examination aims to create opportunities for local entrepreneurs to derive benefits from pro-conservation enterprises that extend beyond traditional JV partnerships.

THE ECONOMICS OF CONSERVANCIES

The main sources of economic returns for communal conservancies relate to international tourist arrivals, either directly or indirectly. Photographic tourism, conservation hunting and craft industries are all largely reliant on international customers. As the global tourism industry continued to recover in 2022, Namibia saw increased returns for conservancies. This year, the total returns (income and benefits) from conservancies came to just over N\$ 140 million (Figure 20). This is the highest level since 2019.

Conservancies' collaboration with JV tourism and conservation hunting partners plays a crucial role in generating local economic returns, including conservancy fees that are used to cover conservation management costs and development projects. These partnerships create essential job opportunities for

local community members and non-monetary benefits like meat from hunting which is highly valued. JV partnerships also contribute directly to social and developmental projects within the conservancies, through both cash and in-kind contributions.

Conservancies utilise cash income from diverse sources to fund various operational expenses, including the salaries of conservancy office and field staff responsible for natural resource monitoring, human wildlife conflict mitigation and wildlife crime prevention. Within conservancies, benefit distribution plans allocate a portion of their budgets for social initiatives, cash disbursements to members and additional social support needs such as scholarships. Some of the conservancies also allocate funds to address human wildlife conflict incidents through the Human Wildlife Conflict Self-Reliance Scheme.

There is an understandable emphasis on the tangible economic advantages that conservancies bring their members, yet equally noteworthy are the intangible benefits that the conservancy movement can offer. These include safeguarding of the environment, strategies for climate change resilience, cultural pride intertwined with conservation, the emergence of civil society structures in areas lacking them, and a sense of empowerment in assuming responsibility for natural

resources. The rights granted to local communities over their natural resources can also create opportunities for capacity-building, skills enhancement and local leadership capacity. The CBNRM programme therefore, not only supports rural economic progression, but also catalyses social transformation, bolsters environmental sustainability, including climate change adaptation, and champions good governance, all pillars of the National Development Plan (pg. 24).

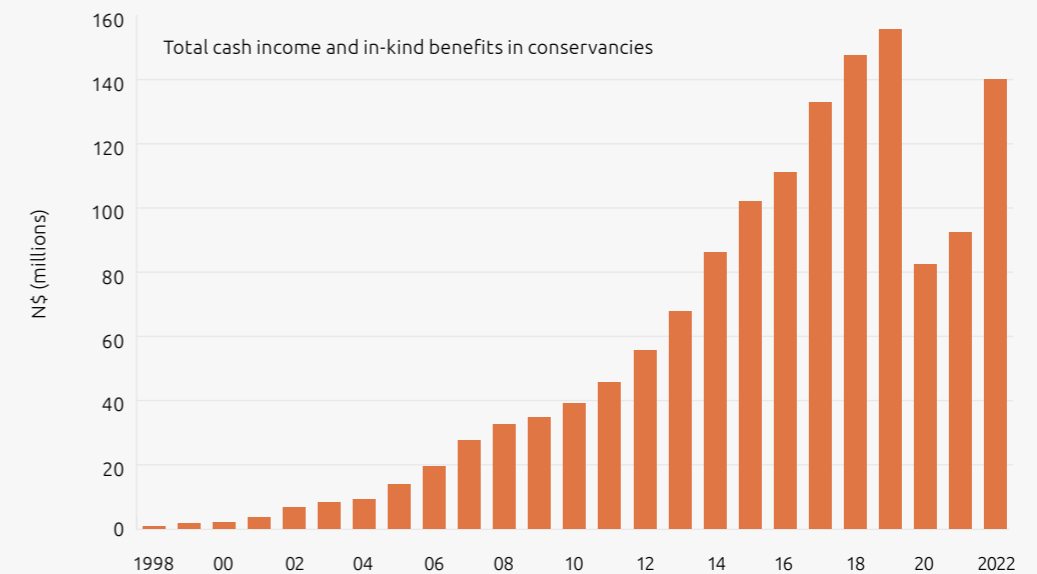


Figure 20. Total returns to conservancies and members excluding relief grants. This includes all directly measurable income and in-kind benefits being generated, and can be divided into cash income to conservancies including the Kyaramacan Association (mostly through partnerships with private sector operators), cash income to residents from enterprises (mostly through employment and the sale of products), and as in-kind benefits to residents (mostly the distribution of harvested game meat).

Table 4. Summary of conservancy income earning power 2018 - 2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of total conservancies (including 2 Associations)	87	87	87	87	88
Number of reporting conservancies	66	65	62	69	64
% of reporting conservancies in 1st category (earning less than N\$ 100,000)	32%	31%	32%	35%	34%
% of reporting conservancies in 2nd category (earning between N\$ 100,000 - N\$ 999,999)	33%	28%	42%	39%	25%
% of reporting conservancies in 3rd category (earning N\$ 1,000,000 or more)	35%	42%	26%	26%	41%

Despite the decrease in the number of conservancies that reported this year, there is a significant increase in the number of conservancies earning N\$ 1,000,000 or more – looking only at the number of conservancies that reported, the number of conservancies earning more than N\$ 1,000,000 increased by 15% from 2021-2022.

The middle categories of conservancies earning N\$100,000 – N\$999,999 shrank significantly recording only 16 (25%) conservancies out of 64 that reported in that category. This is significant because over the past ten years there has been

fair (close to equal) distribution of conservancies in the three categories (earning less than N\$100,000, earning N\$100,000 – N\$999,999 and earning N\$1,000,000 and over), while this year the scale tilted more towards the last category of conservancies earning N\$ 1,000,000 recorded as 26 (41%) of reporting conservancies. The first category of conservancies earning less than N\$ 100,000 was recorded as 22 (34%) of reporting conservancies. The continued support of the CRRRF plus the recovery of tourism in 2022 has likely pushed some conservancies from the middle to the last category.

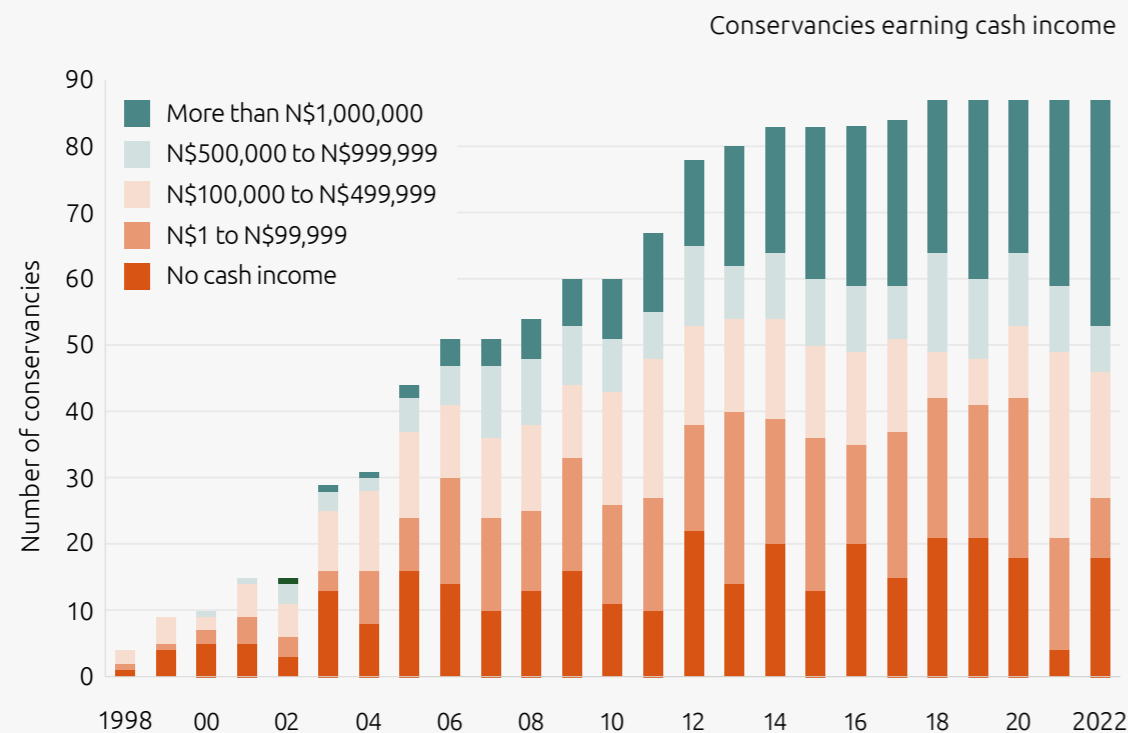


Figure 21. Earning power of conservancies (Including the Kyaramacan Association). The number of conservancies earning cash, divided into incremental categories. The earning potential varies greatly due to factors like size of conservancy, wildlife populations and location relative to tourist routes. The “no cash income” category includes conservancies for which no financial data has been received for 2022.

Table 5. Sources of returns to conservancies and their members from 2019 to 2022. The total amount of returns in 2022 is higher than that in 2019 but includes almost three times as much funding in grants.

Category	Amount (N\$) 2022	%	Amount (N\$) 2021	%	Amount (N\$) 2020	%	Amount (N\$) 2019	%
JV Tourism (includes all cash income to conservancies and members)	90,898,390	53.7	52,871,581	46	46,453,579	48.2	96,895,376	61.8
Conservation Hunting (includes all cash income and meat to conservancies and members)	36,603,243	21.6	28,407,565	24.7	26,988,405	28	39,598,195	25.2
Grants	28,964,100	17.1	23,199,858	20.2	13,838,384	14.4	7,249,949	4.6
Game Harvesting, PAC, Live Sales	6,810,837	4.0	6,812,134	5.9	4,646,025	4.8	6,363,201	4.1
Miscellaneous	3,169,738	1.9	1,658,805	1.4	1,944,569	2	2,155,377	1.4
Indigenous Plant Products	1,270,597	0.8	1,029,191	0.9	1,482,160	1.5	1,974,239	1.3
Crafts			708,900	0.6	917,806	1	1,420,496	0.9
Community-Based Tourism (local / conservancy run enterprises, such as campsites, traditional villages, etc.)	1,501,204	0.9	257,602	0.2	29,250	0	1,195,660	0.8
Total	169,218,109	100	114,945,636	100	96,300,178	100	156,852,493	100

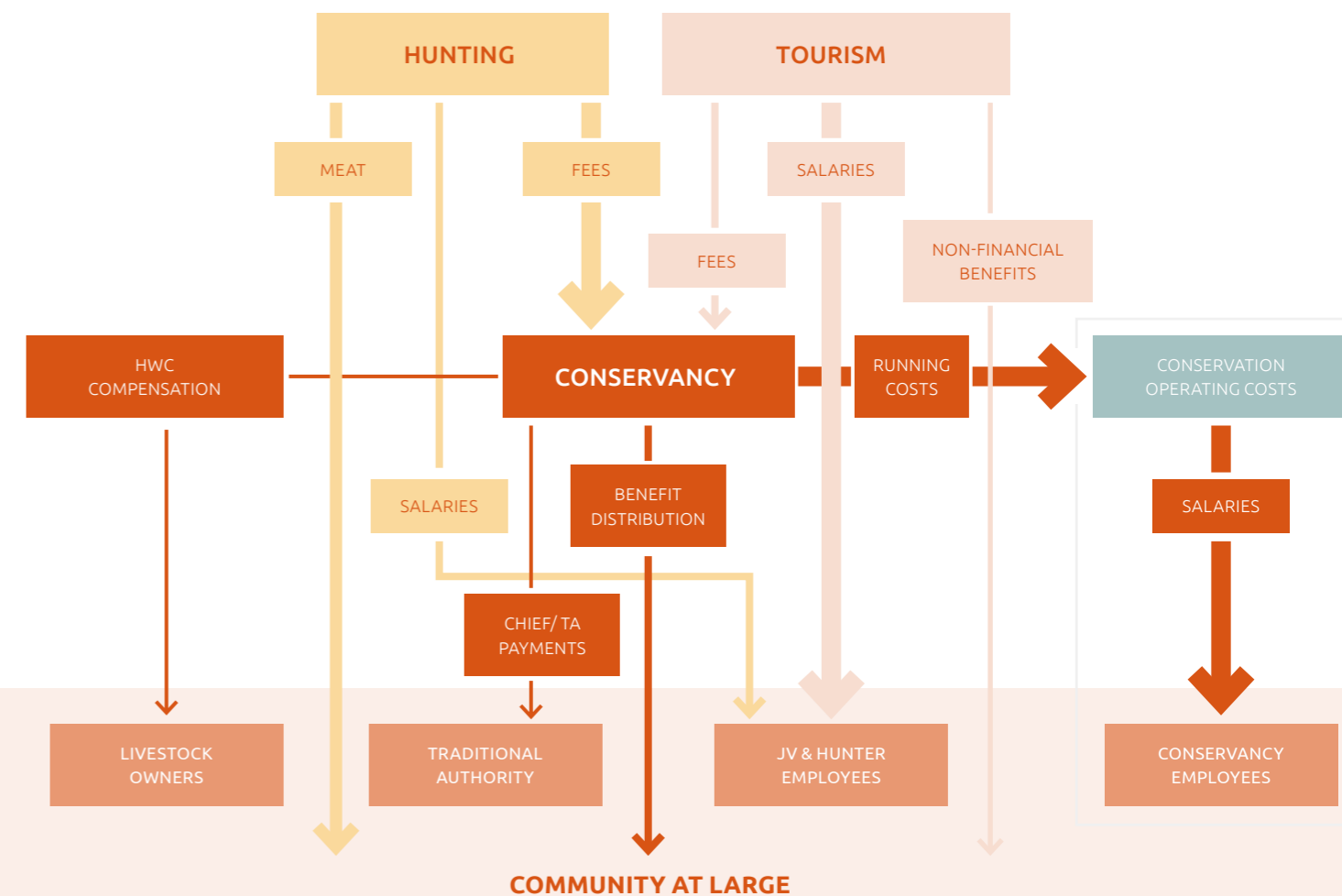


Figure 22. Benefit flows in conservancies. A schematic diagram showing income flows from tourism and conservation hunting to communities. The size of the arrows is in proportion to the size of income flows, based on average figures for conservancies in 2011-2013. Figure adapted from Naidoo et al. (2016). Complementary benefits of tourism and hunting to communal conservancies in Namibia. Conservation Biology. 30:628-638.

WILDLIFE CREDITS

The income generated by tourism and conservation hunting provides support to many Namibian conservancies, but even with high tourism numbers, is not sufficient to fully meet the needs of conservancies. In addition, tourism and conservation hunting do not necessarily connect conservation action directly with community benefits. One model which seeks to achieve this goal is Wildlife Credits.

Wildlife Credits is a payment for ecosystem services where conservation performance payments are made to wildlife stewards based on verified conservation results. These results are tangible targets such as increasing sightings of important species (rhino, elephant, lion) and the maintenance of elephant corridors. The aim is to develop at least six Wildlife Credit products and eventually exceed the target of US\$ 2 million per annum, an amount similar to the income generated through tourism and conservation hunting. In addition to donor and grant funding, Wildlife Credits is also seeking payments sourced from private funders who are interested parties willing to pay for conservation performance that goes directly to the wildlife and conservation stewards. The funding for Wildlife Credits is managed through the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN).

The concept of Wildlife Credits has gained widespread recognition and acceptance, both nationally and internationally, as an effective mechanism for providing conservation performance payments to environmental stewards, particularly conservancies. This approach ensures that those who safeguard ecosystems and manage wildlife, which are considered global assets, receive direct benefits. The increasing interest in Wildlife Credits is evident by its inclusion in national processes such as Corridor Strategies, Elephant Management Plans, and the National Conference on Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC), in international initiatives such as the WWF Network on Wildlife

and Biodiversity Credits Working Groups, and in various webinars and stakeholder presentations. At the conservancy level, especially given the impact of COVID-19, Wildlife Credits is being highly recognised as an alternative income opportunity to cover the costs of conservation. Over 15 conservancies have already signed contracts or are in the process of doing so with the CCFN. Currently, three products are available to conservancies – Wildlife Corridors, Wildlife Zones, and the Kunene Lions – with four additional products in development. Some of these new products will be based on the performance of specific species, considering factors such as densities, presence and breeding numbers.

The Wildlife Zones product will facilitate payments for land reserved for conservation purposes. This has far-reaching implications across the conservancies where this concept is currently being introduced, offering support to those with limited wildlife numbers and no joint venture (JV) tourism, that can still offer a conservation value. The Wildlife Zones product aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, specifically the 30x30 target.

Innovative technology such as camera traps, satellite data and SMART are used to monitor performance and other methods such as an artificial intelligence performance dashboard are currently under development. Monitoring data on wildlife and habitats are captured and uploaded onto a system which analyses and then outputs results as bankable products (performance certificates) through global markets and partnerships. Wildlife Credits has the potential to match income generated through tourism and conservation hunting and provide a more sustainable and reliable income source secure from the risks of global health and economic crises. The Wildlife Credits website is <https://wildlifecredits.com/>.



THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF #KHOADI-//HÔAS

An inspiring story of triumph and hope is being told in the #Khoadi-//Hôas Conservancy, also known as “Elephant’s Corner,” which is in the desert northwest of Namibia. This remarkable story describes the transformation of a once-difficult area into a flourishing sanctuary for various wildlife, a feat made possible by conservationists’ unwavering dedication, support from the government, partnerships with NGOs and the tenacity of a previously underprivileged community.

A few decades ago, the region’s wildlife was on the verge of extinction due to constant human-animal confrontations. Communal farmers considered wild animals to be a nuisance, while elephants and other predators presented major risks to the local population’s way of life. Tragically, the worth of animals was judged more by their demise than by their existence. There was a critical need for reform as the early 1990s represented a troubling period in game numbers.

In 1998, the far-sighted #Khoadi-//Hôas Conservancy took a monumental step as one of the first pioneering community-based conservancies to be officially registered. This crucial move fostered cooperation and understanding among all stakeholders involved. Championed by forward-thinking conservationists, government agencies, NGOs and the resilient local community, the conservancy embarked on a transformative path.

A major turning point was reached when the community conservancy acquired full ownership of the middle-market tourist destinations of Grootberg Lodge and Hobatere Lodge. The lodges improved the conservancy’s financial prospects while also turning into a significant source of income for its members.

The years that followed witnessed a breath-taking resurgence of wildlife within the conservancy’s boundaries. Meticulous planning and collaborative efforts led to a rebound in game numbers. Today, the conservancy proudly takes on the role of a custodian in the esteemed Black Rhino Custodian Programme, spearheaded by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), thereby playing a pivotal role in preserving endangered species like black rhinos and black-faced impalas.



© Marcus Westberg/WWF-US

The conservancy successfully handled numerous issues, particularly human wildlife conflict (HWC), with persistent commitment. What was once a turbulent relationship between humans and wildlife has been changed into one of coexistence through community participation initiatives, educational programs and creative conflict prevention methods.

Water scarcity posed yet another challenge, but the conservancy met it head-on with innovative water management practices. Collaborating with experts and employing solar powered infrastructure, the conservancy is ensuring a steady water supply for wildlife while safeguarding the well-being of local communities.

Not without hurdles, the conservancy managed to take full control of its management, showcasing its ability to govern and protect the region’s invaluable natural resources. This success story has become a source of inspiration for community-based conservation initiatives on a global scale.

Beyond wildlife preservation, the conservancy embraced a broader commitment to community welfare. Profits from Grootberg Lodge, Hobatere Lodge and Hoada Campsite were reinvested to support various community projects, including the establishment of clinics, schools, water points and a community kitchen catering to the needs of the elderly and vulnerable.

An exceptional highlight of #Khoadi-//Hôas Conservancy’s journey is the appointment of a young and passionate female conservancy manager, Marcheline Podewiltz, who symbolises the community’s dedication to empowering its youth and promoting gender equality within the conservation sector.

#Khoadi-//Hôas Conservancy is a monument to conservation effort. It serves as an example of how success can be sustained over the long term. Visitors play a crucial role in the region’s sustainability and the welfare of its wonderful species through their appreciation of this extraordinary sanctuary and its natural beauty. #Khoadi-//Hôas’ amazing metamorphosis serves as a symbol of hope, demonstrating the strength of group efforts and the significant benefits of community-based conservation for both wildlife and people.

CONSERVATION AT SCALE

While conservation efforts at local level are important for livelihoods and wildlife, landscape level conservation approaches increase impacts across much larger areas by helping to secure wildlife movements, implement conservation measures, encourage socioeconomic development and manage human wildlife conflict.

Landscape level conservation is particularly important in Namibia. With the country mainly arid to semi-arid, wildlife requires a much larger area in which to migrate in response to rainfall patterns and to access grazing.

Namibia's national protected area network covers 16.9% of the country with communal conservancies and community forests jointly covering an additional 22.2%. Together parks and community conservation areas greatly expand the area under sustainable land management, with a total of 40% of Namibia under some form of natural resource management. These two systems of land management can operate side-by-side and be mutually beneficial. Community lands can secure wildlife corridors, linking national parks, while neighbouring communities can benefit from their association with parks through benefits like tourism concessions and better managed wildlife populations.

Both parks and conservancies were established with human goals (i.e. to conserve nature and/or generate income) and constraints in mind, which means that their boundaries frequently cut across natural ecosystems and animal migration routes. Ecosystem management therefore requires a larger landscape-scale approach that goes beyond park and conservancy boundaries. This includes fostering better working relationships among conservancies at regional and sub-regional levels and between conservancies and neighbouring national parks. Aligning conservancy land use zones with each other and using data on animal movements to identify wildlife corridors between parks are therefore priorities for landscape conservation in Namibia.

Coordinating conservation efforts is important at a national level, but also at an international level. Managing ecosystems across international boundaries is even more complex than within a particular country, as different governments need to cooperate and agree on certain key issues.

Namibia is engaged in landscape conservation at multiple levels – between individual conservancies, conservancies and parks, and conservancies, parks and neighbouring countries.



© NACSO/WWF Namibia

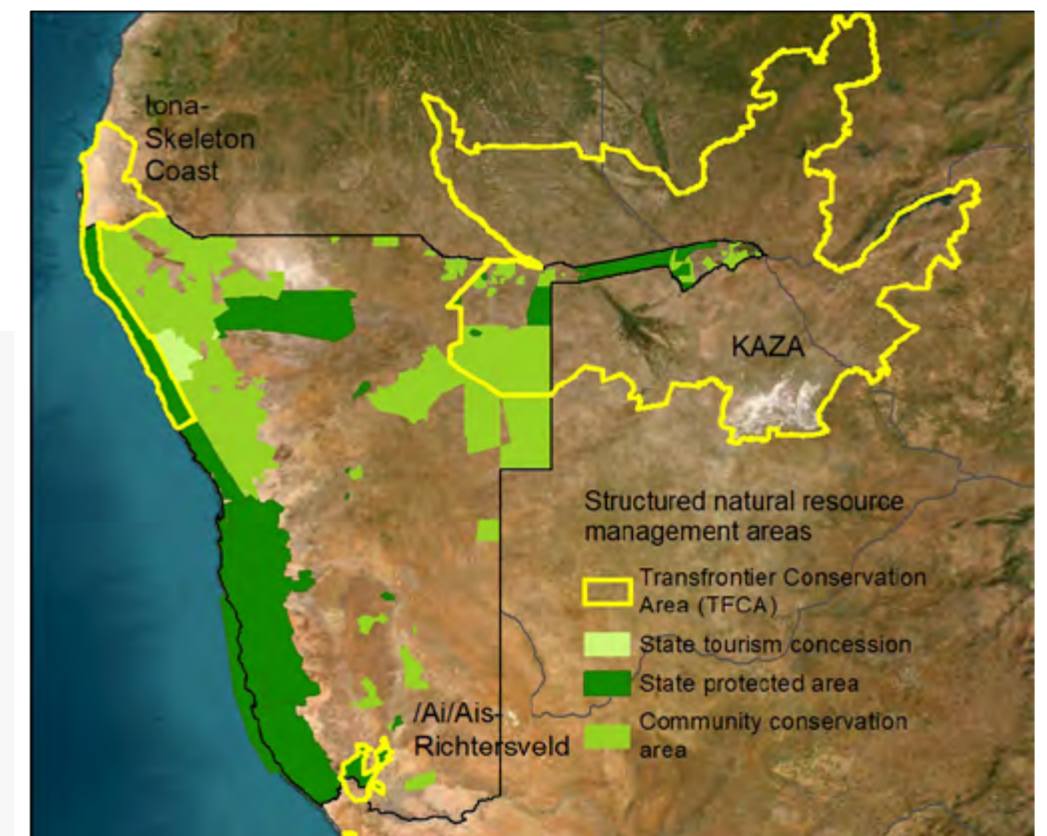
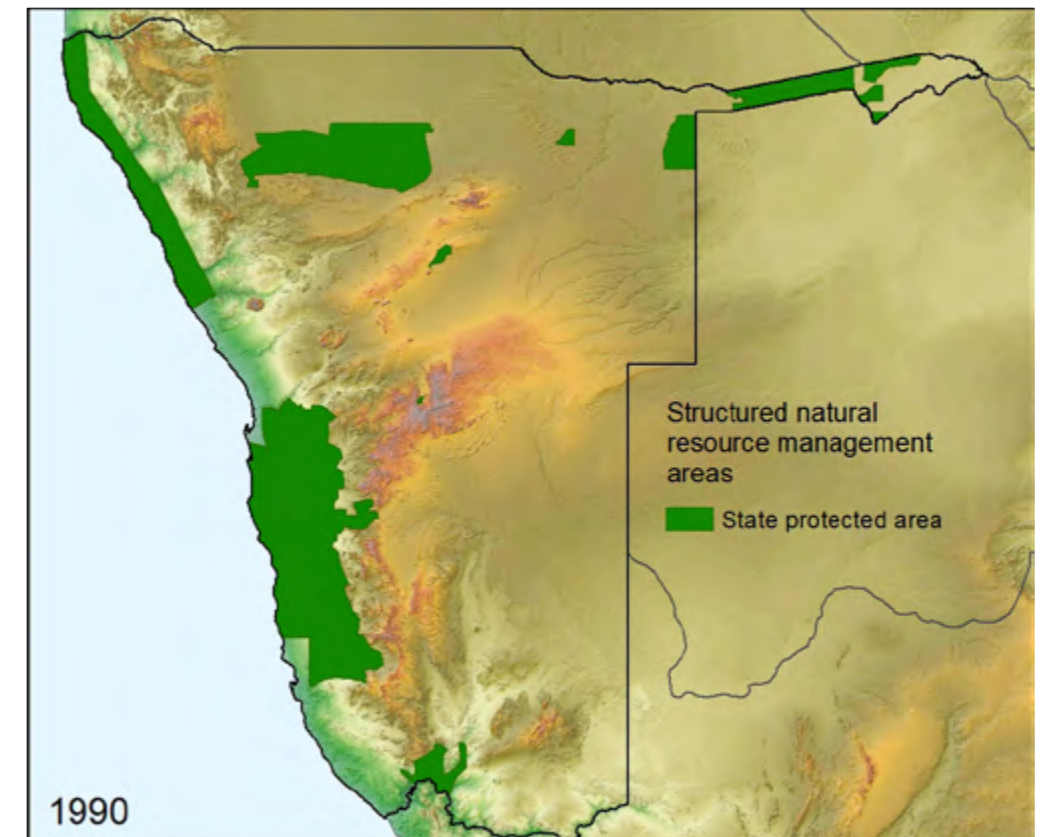


Figure 23. In 1990, the only areas under conservation management in Namibia were state-protected national parks. By 2022, this area had expanded significantly, especially through the addition of communal conservancies and community forests. Namibia is also party to three transfrontier conservation areas with neighbouring countries.

KAVANGO-ZAMBEZI TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AREA

Maintaining ecological connectivity to secure wildlife for people's benefit is central to the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area's (KAZA TCFA) goal of 'a connected, climate resilient, economically viable conservation landscape for people and nature.' Ecological connectivity comes in many forms whether it is understanding wildlife movements, identifying priority conservation areas, securing wildlife corridors, reducing human wildlife conflict, increasing the value of wildlife to people or maintaining free-flowing rivers.

The KAZA partners states (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) have identified six wildlife dispersal areas (WDA) important for wildlife and ecological connectivity. These WDAs cut across international borders, providing a dynamic mix of protected areas glued together by communal lands with different variations of CBNRM and collectively supporting one of Africa's most vibrant concentrations of wildlife.

The synchronised transboundary aerial survey of Africa's largest elephant population – the first of its kind – was completed in the late dry season of 2022. It involved several aircraft simultaneously surveying a huge area of approximately 520,000 km².

The three free-flowing rivers in KAZA – the Zambezi, Okavango, and Kwando – are the life blood of the area, providing the essential water and key stepping stone habitats for people and wildlife. This often leads to human wildlife conflict over this essential resource, especially in the dry season when the ephemeral water in the regions' many scattered pans dries up. To reduce this conflict WWF, IRDNC, NNF and numerous partners are securing wildlife corridors to allow wildlife free access to water and key habitats through the identification of corridors, protecting community livestock from predators in carnivore-proof bomas, supporting carnivore alert systems, collaring wildlife, clustering farmers into herbivore-secure plots and actively herding livestock, along with other interventions.

Central to KAZA's wildlife corridors is the Kwando (Cuando) River, the smallest of the three rivers. The recently published Cuando River Basin 2021 Report Card¹ concluded the river was of moderate health, not because it is polluted or disturbed, but only because we do not know enough about one of Africa's least transformed rivers.

TRANSBOUNDARY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The KAZA TFCA is a complex landscape made up of various ecosystems and stakeholders in five different countries – Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Conserving wildlife across this region requires extensive communication, consultation and collaboration at local, national and international levels. At the local level collaboration is achieved through transboundary natural resource management (TBNRM) forums which bring together representatives from bordering communities. TBNRM forums allow communities to share their experiences and address cross-border issues such as wildlife crime, wildlife corridors, fisheries, forests and fire management.

In 2022, six TBNRM forums were fully operational and conducting activities within KAZA. Communities from Angola, Botswana, Namibia and Zambia participate in these forums. Four forums operate along the Kwando River while the other two operate in the Zambezi-Chobe floodplain area. The TBNRM forums are supported by non-governmental organisations (NGO) in each country, with coordination by Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC). Of Namibia's 21 communal conservancies and community forests, one resident's association and two fish reserves within KAZA, nine participate across all six TBNRM forums.

The main activities undertaken by the forums include two meetings per year to discuss workplans and operations in each of the participating communities, to raise awareness in villages around fisheries, poaching, human wildlife conflict, to plan and conduct game counts, and to share lessons learned and best practices. Exchange visits are conducted around specific topics such as patrols, human wildlife conflict, conservation agriculture, crafts or rangeland and livestock management. The TBNRM forums also participate in the bi-annual planning processes conducted in the Zambezi Region with IRDNC supported conservancies. Another important function of the forums is to provide a voice for communities within KAZA. The establishment of a TBNRM working group within KAZA structures is currently under development. An annual TBNRM meeting takes place each year to bring all six forums together to share progress, achievements and challenges.

Successes in 2022 include the resumption of regular TBNRM activities, which were severely impacted by the COVID-19 international travel restrictions, new communities joining the forums, the annual TBNRM meeting, game counts, updated MOUs between communities, and a series of awareness meetings, including the participation of multiple line ministries from partner countries.

The main challenges, aside from the repercussions of COVID-19, remain communications, support and coordination with communities in very remote areas, and secure funding. In 2022, the TBNRM forums were supported through the KAZA Secretariat and WWF Namibia.

Four communities along the Okavango River engaged in discussions in 2022 around the possible establishment of two TBNRM forums based on fisheries with support from the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF). Two conservancies in Namibia (Maurus Nekaro and Kapinga KaMwalye) and two communities in Angola (Kadedere and Usivi Wakashekele) participated in a workshop in November 2022 to share information about their areas and the challenges they face. The most common issues raised were illegal fishing and the unsustainable harvesting of reeds, thatch grass and trees along the river. The outcome of the meeting was a willingness by the communities to work together and to take the next steps towards establishing two TBNRM forum based on fisheries in 2023.

KAZA is the world's largest TCFA with rich biological and ecosystem diversity which seeks to support the involvement of local communities and improve their socioeconomic wellbeing. This is fully supported by governments and government policies in the partner countries which recognise the importance of communities deriving benefits from conservation and natural resources in this unique area.

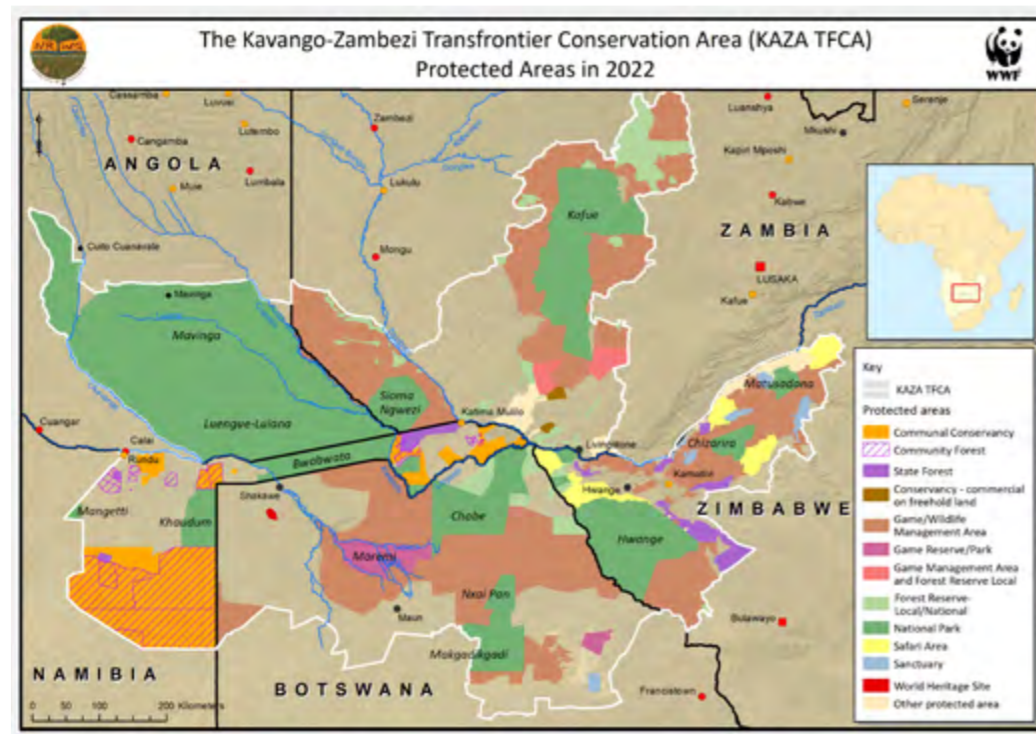


Figure 24. The Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TCFA) protected areas in 2022.

¹ <https://www.worldwildlife.org/publications/cuando-river-basin-2021-report-card>

REGISTERED CONSERVANCIES

MAP NO.	NAME	APPROX. PEOPLE	REG. DATE	CONTACT
36	!Gawachab	200	Jun-05	081 5526657
52	!Han /Awab	614	May-08	081 6217056
23	!Khob !Naub	2137	Jul-03	081 2838565
65	!Khore !Goreb	1811	Sep-11	081 6926373
30	≠Gaingu	2911	Mar-04	081 2057909
3	≠Khoadi-//Hoas	5079	Jun-98	081 2715058
50	//Audi	853	Oct-06	081 3789129
24	//Gamaseb	1647	Jul-03	081 3954440 081 3596999
22	//Huab	1381	Jul-03	081 3965040
39	African Wild Dog	4617	Sep-05	081 2615539
25	Anabeb	1495	Jul-03	081 4684699
45	Balyerwa	1307	Oct-06	081 2789888
64	Bamunu	2304	Mar-11	081 2784586
6	Doro !nawas	1472	Dec-99	081 2437502
59	Dzoti	2023	Oct-09	081 7927968
13	Ehi-Rovipuka	1432	Jan-01	081 2970311
55	Eiseb	1567	Mar-09	081 2595375
77	Epupa	4871	Oct-12	081 6736862
79	Etanga	1780	Mar-13	081 3111584
41	George Mukoya	1109	Sep-05	081 8457715
58	Huibes	750	Oct-09	081 5629123
73	lipumbu ya Tshilongo	2460	May-12	081 3097890
44	Impalila	966	Dec-05	081 2675805
31	Joseph Mbambangandu	1801	Mar-04	081 2657237
66	Kabulabula	457	Nov-11	081 8001391
84	Kapinga kaMwalye	3746	Aug-18	081 6384064

MAP NO.	NAME	APPROX. PEOPLE	REG. DATE	CONTACT
43	Kasika	1097	Dec-05	081 2847326
40	King Nehale	5089	Sep-05	081 3662919
47	Kunene River	6901	Oct-06	081 3471624
8	Kwandu	3866	Dec-99	081 6456933
82	Lusese	1195	Oct-14	081 6824826
11	Marienfluss	340	Jan-01	081 6613337
16	Mashi	2433	Mar-03	081 2216778
83	Maurus Nekaro	12787	Aug-17	081 4039165
9	Mayuni	2594	Dec-99	081 8611404
37	Muduva Nyangana	1737	Sep-05	081 3539749
29	N#a Jaqna	3891	Jul-03	081 8569593
80	Nakabolelwa	802	Oct-14	081 6567378 081 4454441
1	Nyae Nyae	3143	Feb-98	081 3117621
48	Ohungu	1315	Oct-06	081 3430733
42	Okamatapati	1996	Sep-05	081 2784371
76	Okanguati	2338	May-12	081 2308007
21	Okangundumba	2129	Jul-03	081 2393447
74	Okatjandja Kozomenje	1898	May-12	081 8934251
53	Okondjombo	100	Aug-08	081 3363985
57	Okongo	2918	Aug-09	081 4377541
67	Okongoro	1870	Feb-12	081 2326133
17	Omatendeka	2539	Mar-03	081 2992614
75	Ombazu	3207	May-12	081 4316825
81	Ombombo-Masitu	2962	Oct-14	081 3353308
70	Ombujokanguindi	701	Feb-12	081 3495376
63	Omuramba ua Mbinda	513	Mar-11	081 2987150
46	Ondjou	2969	Oct-06	081 6414521
69	Ongongo	881	Feb-12	081 5838862
20	Orupembe	187	Jul-03	081 6875256

MAP NO.	NAME	APPROX. PEOPLE	REG. DATE	CONTACT
62	Orupupa	1494	Mar-11	081 2353361
14	Oskop	75	Feb-01	081 3283097
54	Otjambangu	1872	Mar-09	081 3205005
78	Otjikondavirongo	3669	Mar-13	081 7113949
86	Otjikongo	210	Aug-18	081 6991488
18	Otjimboyo	323	Mar-03	081 4009118
85	Otjindjerese	2062	Aug-18	081 3511097
60	Otjitanda	575	Mar-11	081 4717732
38	Otjituuo	5921	Sep-05	081 2292587
72	Otjiu-West	831	May-12	065 685160
68	Otjombande	1633	Feb-12	081 2619044
61	Otjombinde	4782	Mar-11	081 3224923
71	Otuzemba	457	Feb-12	081 7057273
51	Ovitoto	4495	May-08	081 6401530
33	Ozonahi	11381	Sep-05	081 7491466
28	Ozondundu	395	Jul-03	081 4156550
10	Puros	1163	May-00	081 2950106
2	Salambala	8923	Jun-98	081 8447262
27	Sanitatas	148	Jul-03	081 6698709
26	Sesfontein	1839	Jul-03	081 2200968
34	Shamungwa	140	Sep-05	
35	Sheya Shuushona	3542	Sep-05	081 1225507 081 2994698
56	Sikunga	2476	Jul-09	081 2520968
49	Sobbe	1085	Oct-06	081 6063093
15	Sorris Sorris	950	Oct-01	081 2479327
4	Torra	1330	Jun-98	081 7579847
12	Tsiseb	2645	Jan-01	081 3548186
7	Uibasen Twyfelfontein	230	Dec-99	081 2857933
32	Uukolonkadhi Ruacana	35958	Sep-05	081 3476455 081 4964643
19	Uukwaluudhi	983	Mar-03	081 2807623
5	Wuparo	1027	Dec-99	081 6051577

REGISTERED COMMUNITY FORESTS

CF ID	YEAR	NAME	AREA KM ²	CF ID	YEAR	NAME	AREA KM ²
1	Feb-2006	Masida	197	24	Mar-2013	Cuma	116
2	Feb-2006	Lubuta	171	25	Mar-2013	Otjiu-West	1100
3	Feb-2006	Kwandu	212	26	Mar-2013	Gcwatjinga	341
4	Feb-2006	Bukalo	9	27	Mar-2013	George Mukoya	486
5	Feb-2006	Ncumcara	152	28	Mar-2013	Kahenge	267
6	Feb-2006	Ncaute	3	29	Mar-2013	Muduva Nyangana	615
7	Feb-2006	Ncamagoro	263	30	Mar-2013	Ohepi	30
8	Feb-2006	Mbeyo	410	31	Mar-2013	Omufitu Wekuta	270
9	Feb-2006	Hans Kanyinga	277	32	Mar-2013	Oshaampula	7
10	Feb-2006	Mkata	865	33	Oct-2018	Omuramba Ua Umbinda	3217
11	Feb-2006	Okongo	765	34	Oct-2018	Ondjou	8729
12	Feb-2006	Uukolonkadhi	848	35	Oct-2018	Otjituuo	6132
13	Feb-2006	Sikanjabuka	42	36	Oct-2018	Otjombinde	5891
14	Mar-2013	Orupembe	3565	37	Oct-2018	Otshiku-Shilthilonde	1088
15	Mar-2013	Nyae Nyae	8992	38	Oct-2018	African Wild Dog	3824
16	Mar-2013	Sanitatas	1446	39	Oct-2018	Ehi-Rovipuka	1980
17	Mar-2013	Marienfluss	3034	40	Oct-2018	Eiseb	6625
18	Mar-2013	Puros	3562	41	Oct-2018	N#a Jaqna	6303
19	Mar-2013	Okondjombo	1644	42	Oct-2018	Omundaungilo	237
20	Mar-2013	Zilitene	81	43	Feb-2019	Epukiro	10923
21	Mar-2013	Sachona	122	44	Jun-2022	Ozonahi	3232
22	Mar-2013	Likwaterera	138	45	Jun-2022	Ambrosius Haingura	131
23	Mar-2013	Katope	638	46	Sep-2022	Aminuis	2131

NACSO MEMBERS

Cheetah Conservation Fund
067 306225
www.cheetah.org

Elephant Human Relations Aid (EHRA)
www.ehranamibia.org

Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC)
061 228506
www.irdnc.org.na

Legal Assistance Centre (LAC)
061 233356
www.lac.org.na

Multi-disciplinary Research Centre and Consultancy (MRCC-UNAM)
061 2063051
www.unam.edu.na/mrc

Namibia Development Trust (NDT)
061 238003
www.ndt.org.na

Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF)
061 248345
www.nnf.org.na

Nyae Nyae Development Foundation of Namibia (NNDFN)
061 236327
www.nndfn.org

Omba Arts Trust (OAT)
061 242799
www.omba.org.na

Save the Rhino Trust (SRT)
064 403829
www.savetherhinotrust.org

Rössing Foundation
061 211721
www.rossingfoundation.com

NACSO ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Kavango East and West Regional Conservancy & Community Forest Association (KERCCFA)
Cell: 081 3539749
PO Box 344, Rundu

Kunene Regional Communal Conservancy Association (KRCCA)
Cell: 081 3978066
PO Box 294, Opuwo

Erongo Community Conservancy Association (ECCA)
Tel: 081 2139137
PO Box 40, Uis

Southern Kunene Conservancy Association (SKCA)
Cell: 081 3400196
Email: chairperson.skca@gmail.com

North Central Conservancy and Community Forest Regional Association (NCCCFRA)
Cell: 081 2994698
PO Box 8489, Ondangwa

Southern United Conservancy Association (SUCA)

Otjozondjupa Western Communal Conservancy Association (OWCCA)

Zambezi Conservancy Chairperson's Forum (ZCCF)

Namibian Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS)
Tel: 061 306450
www.NEWS-namibia.org

Tourism Supporting Conservation (TOSCO)
Tel: 081 4535855
www.tosco.org

WWF Namibia
Tel: 061 239945
PO Box 9681, Windhoek

NACSO WORKING GROUPS

NACSO Business, Enterprises and Livelihoods Working Group
Tel: 061 239945
www.nacso.org.na

NACSO Institutional Development Working Group
Tel: 061 238002
www.nacso.org.na

NACSO Natural Resources Working Group
Tel: 061 239945
www.nacso.org.na

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
Tel: 061 284 2520
www.meft.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



© Patrick Bentley / WWF - US

TOURISM PARTNERS

Joint Venture	Area	Conservancy	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 Chobe	Zambezi	Salambala	Gondwana Collections	Tel: +264 61 230 066 www.gondwana-collection.com
Camp Cornie Camping	Kunene North	Epupa	Phillip W. Oosthuisen	Tel:+264 81 1292357 pierrrevk11@gmail.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 Oduli	Kunene North	Doro !Nawas	Ultimate Safaris	Tel:+264 61 248137 www.ultimatesafaris.na
Camp Synchro	Kunene North	Marienfluss	Ryan Felix Christinger	Tel: +264 65 685 993 www.campsyncro.com
Chobe Savanna Lodge	Zambezi	Kasika	Delta Safaris	Tel: +27 83 960 3391 www.desertdelta.com
Chobe Villas (Kings Den) and Resturant Boat	Zambezi	Kasika and Impalila	Zambezi Queen (O&L / Flame Lilly)	Tel: +264 61 431 8111 www.chobewatervillas.com
Damaraland Camp	Kunene North	Torra	Wilderness Safaris	Tel:+264 61 274500 www.wilderness-safaris.com
Desert Rhino Camp/ Hoanib	Kunene North	Marienfluss	Wilderness Safaris	Tel:+264 61 274500 www.wilderness-safaris.com
Doro !nawas Lodge	Kunene South	Doro !Nawas	Wilderness Safaris	Tel:+264 61 274500 www.wilderness-safaris.com
Epupa Falls Campsite	Kunene North	Epupa	Kaokohimba Safaris	Tel: +264 65 685 021 www.kaoko-namibia.com

Joint Venture	Area	Conservancy	Private Sector Partner	Contact
Etaambura	Kunene North	Orupembe	Namibia Conservancies Safaris	Tel: +264 64 406 136 www.kcs-namibia.com.na
Etendeka Lodge	Kunene North	Anabeb and Omatendeka	Big Sky Cities Lodges Dennis Lieberman	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 Elephant Camp (Obias Giraffe Camp)	Kunene North	Sesfontein	Natural Selections Safaris	Tel:+264 61 2256616 www.naturalselection.travel
Hobatere Lodge	Kunene South	#Khoadi-//Hôas	Journeys Namibia	Tel:+264 61 228104 www.journeysnamibia.com
House on the Hill	Kunene North	Orupembe	House on the Hill - Trevor Nott	Tel: +264 81 124 6826 knott@iafrica.com.na
Jackalberry Tented Camp	Zambezi	Wuparo	Ruggero Micheletti	Tel:+264 66 686101 ruggero.micheletti@gmail.com
Kapika Waterfall Lodge (Chief Kapika Tented Lodge)	Kunene North	Epupa	Kapika Waterfall Lodge CC	Tel: +264 65 685 111 www.kapikafalls.com
Kavango Retreat	Kavango	George Mukoya and Muduva Nyangana	Namibia Exclusive Safaris. Vitor Azevedo	Tel:+264 81 1287787 www.nes.com.na
KAZA Safari Lodge (Impalila) and Cascade Island Lodge (Ntwala)	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 and Muduva Nyangana	Namibia Exclusive Safaris. Vitor Azevedo	Tel:+264 81 1287787 www.nes.com.na
Khwarib Community Campsite	Kunene South	Anabeb	African Eagle (PTY) Ltd.	Tel:+264 61259681 www.africaneaglenamibia.com

Joint Venture	Area	Conservancy	Private Sector Partner	Contact
Kuidas Camp	Kunene North	Torra	Skeleton Coast Fly-in Safaris	Tel:+264 61 224248 www.skeletoncoastsafaris.com
Kunene Camp	Kunene North	Marienfluss	Skeleton Coast Fly-in Safaris	Tel:+264 61 224248 www.skeletoncoastsafaris.com
Kunene River Lodge	Kunene North	Kunene River	Kunene River Lodge	Tel:+264 65 274300 www.kuneneriverlodge.com
Leylandsdrift	Kunene North	Puros	Skeleton Coast Fly-in Safaris	Tel:+264 61 224248 www.skeletoncoastsafaris.com
Madisa Camp	Kunene South	Sorri Sorris	Whipp's Wilderness Safaris	Tel: +264 81 698 2908 www.madisacamp.com
Mashi River Safaris Camp	Zambezi	Mashi	Mashi River Safaris	Tel: +264 81 461 9608 mashiriversafaris@gmail.com
Nambwa Tented Lodge	Zambezi	Mayuni	African Monarch Lodges	Tel: +264 81 124 4249 www.africanmonarchlodges.com
Namushasha Lodge	Zambezi	Mashi	Gondwana Collections	Tel: +264 61 230 066 www.gondwana-collection.com
Nkasa Lupala Tented Lodge	Zambezi	Wuparo	Gafil CC. Simone Michelletti	Tel: +264 81 147 7798 www.nkasalupalalodge.com
Nkasa West Lodge Concession	Zambezi	Wuparo, Balyerwa and Dzoti	Natural Selections	Tel:+264 61 2256616 www.naturalselection.travel
Okahirongo Elephant Lodge	Kunene North	Puros	Lions in the Son	Tel: +264 65 685 018 www.okahirongolodge.com
Okahirongo River Lodge	Kunene North	Marienfluss	Lions in the Son	Tel: +264 65 685 018 www.okahirongolodge.com
Omarunga Camp	Kunene North	Epupa	Camelthorn Safaris - Fritz Schenk	Tel: +264 64 403 096 www.omarungalodge.com
Omatendeka Lodge	Kunene North	Omatendeka	Namibia Exclusive Safaris. Vitor Azevedo	Tel:+264 81 1287787 www.nes.com.na
Ongongo Camp	Kunene North	Anabeb	Ongongo Hospitality Training Centre CC	Tel:+264 61 239643 www.ongongo.com
Palmwag Lodge	Kunene North	Torra, Anabeb and Sesfontein	Gondwana Collections	Tel: +264 61 230 066 www.gondwana-collection.com

Joint Venture	Area	Conservancy	Private Sector Partner	Contact
Rupara Campsite	Zambezi	Wuparo	Simone Micheletti	Tel: +264 81 147 7798 www.nkasalupalalodge.com
Serondela Lodge	Zambezi	Kabulabula	Simone Micheletti	Tel: +264 81 147 7798 www.nkasalupalalodge.com
Serra Cafema	Kunene North	Marienfluss	Wilderness Safaris	Tel:+264 61 274500 www.wilderness-safaris.com
Sheya Shuushona Lodge	North Central	Sheya Shuushona	Namibia Exclusive Safaris. Vitor Azevedo	Tel:+264 81 1287787 www.nes.com.na
Skeleton Coast Central - Shipwreck Lodge	Kunene North	Puros and Sesfontein	Trip Travel	Tel:+264 61 228104 www.journeysnamibia.com
Skeleton Coast North	Kunene North	Big 5(Puros, Orupembe, Sanitatas, Etanga and Okondjombo)	Skeleton Coast Fly-in Safaris	Tel:+264 61 224248 www.skeletoncoastsafaris.com
Sorris Sorris Lodge	Kunene South	Sorris Sorris	Namibia Exclusive Safaris. Vitor Azevedo	Tel:+264 81 1287787 www.nes.com.na
Spitzkoppe Lodge CC	Erongo	#Gaingu	Spitzkoppe Lodge CC: Melt Hugo	Tel:+264 811287751 www.spitzkoppelodge.com
Twyfelfontein Country Lodge	Kunene South	Uibasen Twyfelfontein	Namibia Country Lodges	Tel: +264 61 374 750 www.twyfelfonteinlodge.com
Uukwaludhi Safari Lodge	North Central	Uukwaluudhi	Uukwaluudhi Safari Lodge - Johann Liebenberg	Tel:+264 81 1245177 www.uukwaluudhi-safarilodge.com
Zambezi Mubala Lodge	Zambezi	Sikunga	Gondwana Collections	Tel: +264 61 230 066 www.gondwana-collection.com
Zambezi Queen	Zambezi	Kasika	Mantis Collection	Tel: +27 21 715 2412 www.zambeziqueen.com

CONSERVATION HUNTING PARTNERS

Conservancy	Region	Hunting Operator	Contact Person	Operator Email
/Audi	Kunene	Game Trackers Africa	Jaco Oosthuizen	jaco@gametrackersafrica.com
#Gaingu	Erongo	Nick Nolte Hunting Safaris cc	Nicolaas Nolte	isabelnolte@icloud.com
//Huab	Kunene	Omuwiwe Hunting Lodge	P. Scott	pieter@omuwiwe.co.za
≠Khoadi-//Hôas	Kunene	Estreux Safaris	Anton Esterheizen	info@estreuxsafaris.com
!Khore !Goreb	Kunene	Game Trackers Africa	Jaco Oosthuizen	jaco@gametrackersafrica.com
Anabeb	Kunene	WildVeld Safaris	M.Misner	markmisner@comcast.net
Balyerwa	Zambezi	Divan Labuschgne Safaris CC	Divan Labuschgne	huntingdivan@gmail.com
Bamunu	Zambezi	A.S.S Hunting Safaris in Partnership with Chapungu-Kambako Hunting Safaris (Pty) Ltd	J.A. Ipinge	hafeni2@gmail.com
Dzoti	Zambezi	Ondjou Safaris cc	H. van Heerden	vhsaf@africaonline.com
Ehrovipuka	Kunene	WildVeld Safaris	M.Misner	markmisner@comcast.net
Eiseb	Omaheke	Dzombo Hunting Safaris	Jacobus Wasserfall	wasserfallj42@gmail.com
Epupa	Kunene	Cornie Coetzee Hunting Safaris	C. Coetzee	corniecoetzeesafaris@iway.na
George Mukoya	Kavango East	Ekuja Hunting Safaris	D. Swanepoel	ekuja.hunting@gmail.com
Iipumbu ya Tshilongo	Oshana	Uukwaluudhi Safari Lodge PTY (Ltd)	J. Liebenberg	johan@uukwa.com
Impalila	Zambezi	Sable Hills Safari Namibia cc	Lloyd Underhill	sablehillssafarinamibia@gmail.com
Kabulabula	Zambezi	Thormahlen & Cochran Safaris Namibia Pty Ltd	P. Thormahlen	peter@africatrophyhunting.com
Kasika	Zambezi	Sable Hills Safari Namibia cc	Lloyd Underhill	sablehillssafarinamibia@gmail.com
King Nehale	Oshikoto	Van Heerden Safaris cc	H. van Heerden	vhsaf@africaonline.com
Kunene River	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	G.van der Walt	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na

Conservancy	Region	Hunting Operator	Contact Person	Operator Email
Kwandu	Zambezi	Jamy Traut Hunting Safaris cc	J. Traut	jamytraut@gmail.com
Kyarmacan Association	Zambezi	Ndumo Hunting Safari cc	K. Stumpfe	karl@huntingssafari.net
Kyarmacan Association	Kavango East	Hunt Africa Safaris	J. Chapman	info@huntafrica.com.na
Lusese	Zambezi	Game Trackers Africa	Jaco Oosthuizen	jaco@gametrackersafrica.com
Mashi	Zambezi	Omujeve Safari (Pty) Ltd	C. Kruger	corne@omujevesafaris.com / cornek79@gmail.com
Maurus Nekaro	Kavango West	JJ Hunting Safaris	Karel Jaco Van Heerden	jaco.vanheerden@ymail.com
Mayuni	Zambezi	Jamy Traut Hunting Safaris cc	J. Traut	jamytraut@gmail.com
Muduva Nyanga	Kavango East	Ekuja Hunting Safaris	D. Swanepoel	ekuja.hunting@gmail.com
N#a Jaqna	Otjozondjupa	Thormahlen & Cochran Safari (Pty) Ltd	P. Thormahlen	peter@africatrophyhunting.com
Nakablololwa	Zambezi	Game Trackers Africa	Jaco Oosthuizen	jaco@gametrackersafrica.com
Nyae Nyae	Otjozondjupa	SMJ Safaris	S. Jacobs	smj@iway.na
Ohungu	Erongo	Nick Nolte Hunting Safaris cc	Nicolaas Nolte	isabelnolte@icloud.com
Okangundumba	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	G.van der Walt	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na
Okongoro	Kunene	Wild Namibia Hunting Safaris cc	Brink Grobler	groblerbrink@gmail.com
Omatendeka	Kunene	WildVeld Safaris	M.Misner	markmisner@comcast.net
Ombujokanguindi	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	G.van der Walt	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na
Omuramba Ua Mbinda	Omaheke	Dzombo Hunting Safaris	Jacobus Wasserfall	wasserfallj42@gmail.com
Ondjou	Otjozondjupa	Thormahlen & Cochran Safari (Pty) Ltd	P. Thormahlen	peter@africatrophyhunting.com
Orupembe	Kunene	Estreux Safaris	Anton Esterheizen	info@estreuxsafaris.com
Orupupa	Kunene	WildVeld Safaris	M.Misner	markmisner@comcast.net

Conservancy	Region	Hunting Operator	Contact Person	Operator email
Otjambangu	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	G.van der Walt	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na
Otjikondavirongo	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	G.van der Walt	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na
Otjimboyo	Erongo	Nick Nolte Hunting Safaris cc	Nicolaas Nolte	isabelnolte@icloud.com
Otjombinde	Omaheke	Dzombo Hunting Safaris	Jacobus Wasserfall	wasserfallj42@gmail.com
Otuzemba	Kunene	Wild Namibia Hunting Safaris cc	Brink Grobler	groblerbrink@gmail.com
Ozondundu	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	G.van der Walt	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na
Salambala	Zambezi	Nature Hunting Safaris	M. Sibatani	naturesolutions@iway.na
Sanitatas	Kunene	Estreux Safaris	Anton Esterheizen	info@estreuxsafaris.com
Sesfontein	Kunene	Leopard Legend Hunting Safaris	L. J. van Vuuren	info@leopardlegend.com
Sheya Shuushona	Omusati	Gert van der Walt HS	G.van der Walt	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na
Sikunga	Zambezi	Ndumo Hunting Safari cc	K. Stumpfe	karl@huntingsafari.net
Sobbe	Zambezi	Ndumo Hunting Safari cc	K. Stumpfe	karl@huntingsafari.net
Sorris Sorris	Kunene	Sumsare Safaris	Gerard Erasmus	infor@sumsare.net
Torra	Kunene	Gert van der Walt HS	G.van der Walt	gvdwhuntingsafaris@iway.na
Tsiseb	Erongo	African Hunting Safaris	Kai-Uwe and Hagen Denker	denkerk@erongosafaris.com
Uukolondkadhi-Ruacana	Omusati	Track a Trail Safaris	L. van Zyl	trackatrailsafaris@hotmail.com
Uukwaludhi	Omusati	Uukwaludhi Safari Lodge PTY (Ltd)	J. Liebenberg	johan@satib.com
Wuparo	Zambezi	Caprivi Hunting Safari cc	D. Muller	caprivihuntingsafaris@iway.na

NOTES



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