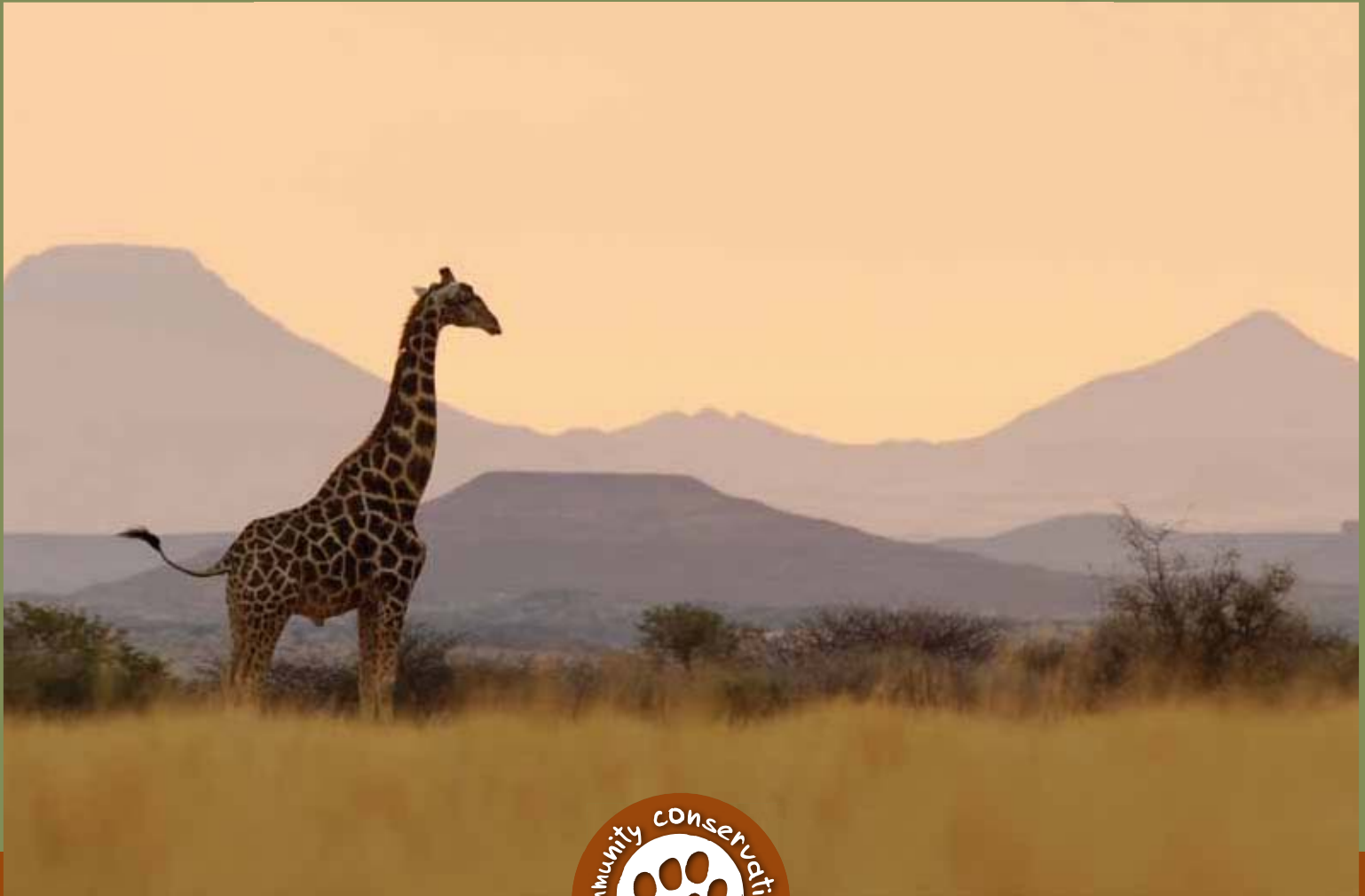


Living with wildlife –  
the story of **Doro !nawas Conservancy**



Doro !nawas – after the Doros Crater, Khoekhoegowab for ‘the place where rhinos roam’



## Living with wildlife – the story of DORO !NAWAS CONSERVANCY

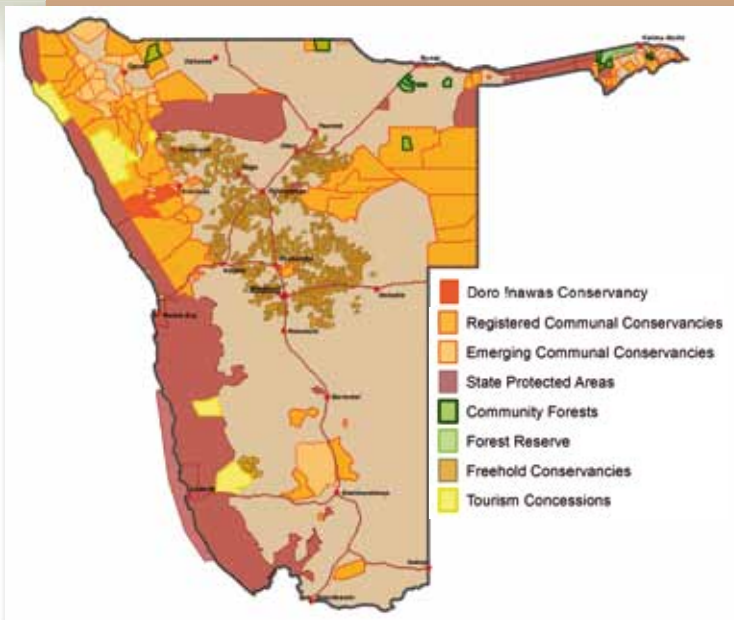
Conservancies  
enable development and conservation over large areas...

### MILESTONES AND SUCCESSES

- 1996** – policy changes allow communal area residents to benefit from wildlife and tourism by forming conservancies
- 1996** – the Doro !nawas community begins the process to register as a conservancy
- 1999** – Doro !nawas Conservancy is registered in December
- 2000** – Doro !nawas becomes part of the annual North-West Game Count
- 2001** – implementation of the Event Book monitoring system in Doro !nawas Conservancy
- 2005** – His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, officially opens Doro Nawas Camp, a joint-venture between the Doro !nawas Conservancy and Wilderness Safaris
- 2007** – Granietkop Community Campsite opens
- 2008** – hartebeest are re-introduced into the conservancy
- 2009** – black rhino, black-faced impala and additional hartebeest are translocated into the conservancy
- 2010** – more black-faced impala are translocated into the conservancy

### QUICK FACTS

**Region:** Kunene  
**Size:** 3,978 square kilometres  
**Approximate population:** 1,500  
**Main language:** Khoekhoegowab  
**Date of registration:** December 1999

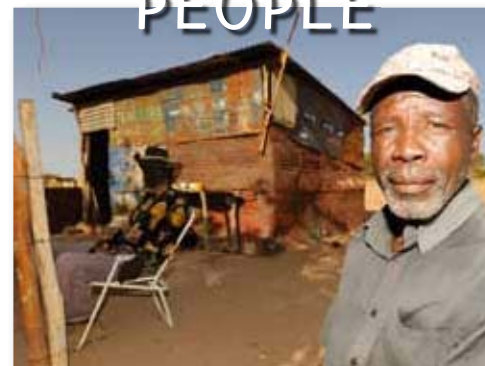


### A CONSERVANCY IS...

- a legally registered area with clearly defined borders and a constituted management body run by the community for the development of residents and the sustainable use of wildlife and tourism
- managed by a group elected to serve the interests of all its members
- a place where residents can add income from wildlife and tourism to traditional farming activities
- a place where wildlife populations increase as they are managed for productive gain
- a place where the value of the natural resources increases, enhancing the value of the land
- a forum through which services and developments can be channelled and integrated
- zoned for multiple uses to minimise conflict and maximise the interests of all stakeholders

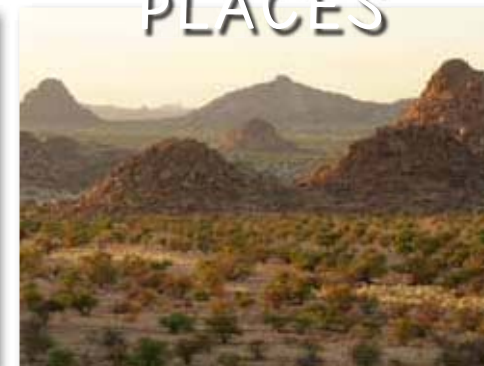
## DORO !NAWAS offers an enchanting mix of

### PEOPLE



*interesting cultures and dynamic communities  
 committed to sustainability - people living in  
 Doro !nawas share a common vision for  
 managing their area and its resources*

### PLACES



*vast, diverse and spectacular landscapes –  
 desert plains, mopane woodland, granite outcrops  
 ... a healthy environment diversifies economic  
 opportunities and drives economic growth*

### & WILDLIFE



*charismatic, free-roaming wildlife –  
 elephant, black rhino, leopard, diverse plains  
 game, endemic birdlife... wildlife generates a  
 variety of benefits for local people*

*people are living with wildlife, are managing natural resources wisely and are reaping the benefits...*

### A LITTLE HISTORY

Prior to Namibia's independence in 1990, communal area residents had few rights to use wildlife. Wild animals were often seen as little more than a threat to crops, livestock and infrastructure, as well as community safety. Ground-breaking legislation passed in the mid-nineties laid the foundation for a new approach to the sustainable use of natural resources. By forming a conservancy, people in communal areas can now actively manage – and generate benefits from – wildlife and other resources in their area, encouraging wildlife recoveries and environmental restoration. While a conservancy is a natural resource management structure, it is defined by social ties. Conservancies unite groups of people with the common goal of managing their resources. Today, over 60 communal conservancies embrace one in four rural Namibians, underlining a national commitment to both rural development and conservation.

**Doro !nawas** was amongst the first conservancies formed in the late nineties. Most of the approximately 1,500 residents speak Khoekhoegowab.

Settlement in this area has always been limited by the arid environment on the eastern fringes of the Namib Desert. Yet the Damara have occupied this region for a very long time, with a historical centre at Okombahe south of the Ugab River. Damara origin prior to settling in Namibia centuries ago is uncertain. Settlement in the last century was heavily influenced by the German colonisation and later South African administration of Namibia, when much land was divided up as private farmland, with some farms subsequently being reincorporated into the reshaped homelands created by the Odendaal Commission's proposals of 1964.

The people living in the Doro !nawas area began the process of conservancy formation in the year the conservancy legislation was passed. Defining borders was a long undertaking and the shape of Doro !nawas is testimony to the difficulties of agreeing on boundaries with neighbouring communities. Doro !nawas nearly encloses Uibasen Twyfelfontein Conservancy and borders onto other conservancies on three sides.



## RESOURCES AND ATTRACTIONS

Conservancies  
are living landscapes...

The Damara were amongst the earliest residents of what is today Namibia. Their **culture** has undergone many changes and was traditionally divided into a number of groups that included the Dāorén, or Brandberg Damara. The Damara have a shared language with the Nama, but the linguistic origin of Khoekhoegowab is uncertain. Historically, the Damara were a hunter-gatherer society, but stock farming started becoming a central livelihood activity at least a century ago.

The Doro !nawas **environment** is a geological wonderland lying between the Huab and Ugab Rivers, two of Namibia's largest ephemeral river systems. Prior to the start of the break up of the supercontinent of



*driving through magical terrain, inspired by the knowledge that somewhere out there, the elusive black rhino roams... instilled with a sense of harmony that embraces the wildlife of ancient rock art, the antelope and stately giraffe here on the plains, as well as the contemporary presence of Damara stock farmers within these timeless landscapes*

Gondwanaland some 120 million years ago, Lake Gai-As, an immense inland water body, covered portions of what are now Southern Africa and South America. 250 million year old fossils from the sediment deposits found in the Doro !nawas area include ancient invertebrates and fish, some of which have also been found in Brazil. Today, the small spring named Gai-As, little more than a trickle on endless desert plains once submerged beneath an enormous lake, represents a bizarre contrast in the endless shaping of the Earth. In the east of the conservancy, the Petrified Forest, a proclaimed national monument, is the largest accumulation of petrified logs known in southern Africa. Many other sites in the vicinity offer further collections of petrified wood. The wood is believed to have been swept into the area as driftwood from far to the east, creating a series of log-jams at the present sites. The convoluted landscapes of the Ugab in the south of the conservancy are a geological picture book. Seeing the 'Ugab folds' from the air is breathtaking. To the north, the landscapes of the Huab valley are similarly spectacular, but geologically quite different, being dominated by flat-topped mountains on the southern fringes of the Etendeka Plateau, a massive volcanic deposit related to the forces that

separated Gondwana. Between the two rivers, the Doros Crater, which inspired the name of the conservancy, is another geological highlight.

Today, the area's environment continues to be heavily influenced by the Namib, which is said to be the oldest desert in the world. The cold Benguela Current flowing along the Namibian coast inhibits cloud formation and influences the climate of a large part of the country. Rainfall in Doro !nawas is very low and unpredictable, with an annual average ranging between 50 and 150 millimetres.

Doro !nawas also has great topographical variation, undulating between less than 400 metres above sea level in the west to mountain peaks of over 1,300 metres along the Huab River.



*desert landscapes that unfold like a geological picture book – a story spanning millions of years of change and upheaval, about immense lakes and unimaginable volcanic eruptions, told by fossils and the remainders of vast lava fields... a great contrast to the arid heat, the stillness and the brooding silences of the Namib today*

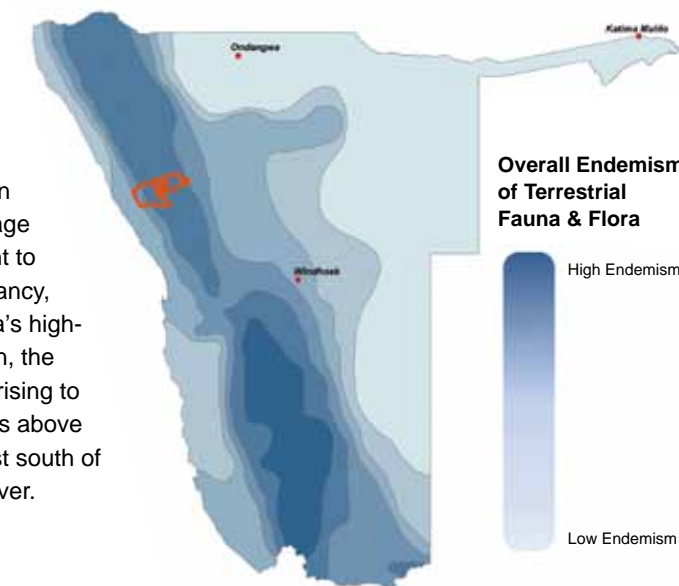
Since the establishment of conservancies, **wildlife** numbers in communal areas have rebounded from historic lows prior to independence. Doro !nawas is home to a great variety of game. The area is an important refuge for black rhino and is home to desert-adapted elephant, giraffe, leopard and cheetah. Other mammals include kudu, mountain zebra, gemsbok, hartebeest, springbok, duiker, klipspringer, steenbok, spotted and brown hyaena, caracal, jackal and baboon. Many of Namibia's near



endemic bird species occur in the conservancy, including bare-cheeked babbler, Carp's tit, rosy-faced lovebird, Rüppell's parrot, Hartlaub's francolin, violet wood-hoopoe, Rüppell's korhaan, Damara hornbill, Monteiro's hornbill, white-tailed shrike, Herero chat and rockrunner.

The Huab and Ugab ephemeral rivers are linear oases that create an important refuge for wildlife, providing water and supporting a variety of flora, including large camel thorn and ana trees, and salvadora thickets. Ringwood trees are a distinctive feature in the conservancy, and welwitschias grow in drainage lines, while white-trunked sterculias stand out on rock outcrops, where various *Commiphora* species also grow. Mopane savannah is dominant in the east, while much of the west consists of desert plains with very few trees and only a sparse seasonal grass cover.

**Around Doro !nawas...** The conservancy is surrounded by other communal conservancies and borders the Skeleton Coast Park in the west. Together, these create a vast contiguous conservation landscape across much of the north-west. Other regional attractions include the Twyfelfontein World Heritage Site adjacent to the conservancy, and Namibia's highest mountain, the Brandberg, rising to 2,573 meters above sea level just south of the Ugab River.





# LIVELIHOODS AND DEVELOPMENT

Conservancies empower rural people...

The Damara make up less than ten percent of Namibia's national population and today live in many parts of Namibia. At the turn of the 19th century, the Damara were largely marginalised and often impoverished by other language groups. The implementation of the South African administration's Odendaal Commission of 1964 created what was then known as Damaraland, and incorporated a number of formerly private farms into the 'homeland'. While some infrastructure from these farms still exists today, the homelands caused considerable cultural and social upheaval and often had only very limited correlation to settlement patterns prior to the arrival of Europeans.

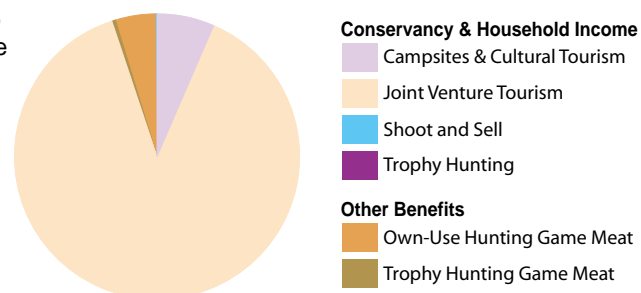
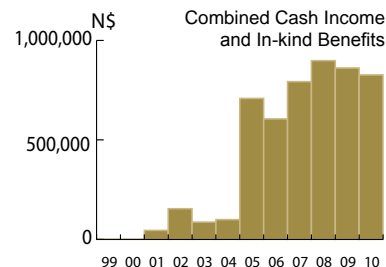


*Doro !nawas facilitates access to diverse training and capacity building, empowers individuals, especially women, to actively take part in decision-making, as well as instilling a renewed sense of pride in cultural heritage*

Development was sorely neglected in communal areas during German colonial rule and the South African administration of Namibia prior to independence. Even today, the arid zone on the fringes of the Namib has received less development attention than other areas. The residents of Doro !nawas are sprinkled throughout the conservancy in small settlements, mostly concentrating on goat, sheep and cattle farming. Income is generally low and the median annual expenditure per person is mostly below N\$ 3,000. There are only a few very small shops in Doro !nawas, but the regional centre of Khorixas lies just east of the conservancy, providing access to a range of facilities and services. There are no schools within the conservancy, and children need to board in town to access the four primary and two secondary schools located there. A public hospital in Khorixas provides the nearest health services. Access to water is an inhibiting factor in the conservancy. Boreholes supply groundwater to most residents, but are expensive to drill and maintain, and often yield only limited supplies. Natural springs provide localised water points for game in the Ugab and Huab Rivers, as well as in other parts of the conservancy. The

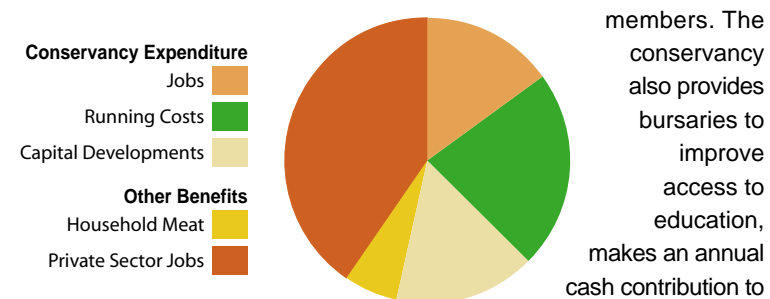
watering holes are often shared with livestock. Settlement and farming activities are highest near Khorixas in the east, as much of the western half of the conservancy is basically uninhabited due to its aridity and has been zoned for wildlife and tourism.

Today, the people lining in Doro !nawas survive on a mix of diverse



*the conservancy is enabling a range of new livelihood options for its residents, including employment and income from tourism, guiding, craft production and other sales and services based on the sustainable use of natural resources*

livelihood activities. Livestock herding is very important, but is inhibited by the low rainfall, sparse grazing and limited water supplies. Small-scale subsistence gardening is practiced widely and farming activities are supplemented by income from employment, business activities, pensions and remittances. The conservancy itself, as well as related natural resource use activities, have created new employment options and other benefits. The conservancy distributes game meat from trophy and own-use hunting to needy households, and has provided



traditional authorities, and has assisted residents with an indigenous plant nursery project. A range of plant species from the area are cultivated, which have great appeal in ornamental gardens. While the initiative is still in its infancy, there is an increasing demand from urban centres as well as lodges wishing to cultivate indigenous gardens. The project was implemented with assistance from the Integrated Community-Based Ecosystem Management (ICEMA) project of the Ministry of Environment & Tourism (MET).

A good network of gravel roads covers the eastern parts of the conservancy and provides access for visitors. The C39 gravel road connects Khorixas with Torra Bay, from which the C43 leads north to Palmwag and other parts of the Kunene Region. The D2612 branching off the C35 between Uis and Khorixas is a very scenic route

to Twyfelfontein, much used by visitors. Four-wheel drive is needed to explore the western parts of the conservancy along small tracks, and guiding services are advisable on these routes.

Doro Nawas Lodge, a joint venture with Wilderness Safaris located close to the Huab River, provides excellent tourism accommodation. The lodge is also the largest source of income to the conservancy and creates important employment. Lodge activities include nature drives in the area and visits to the rock art at Twyfelfontein. The Granietkop Campsite, a community campsite operated by the conservancy, offers a wonderful stopover along the road to Twyfelfontein. African Eagle operates an exclusive site at Granietkop, generating income to the conservancy. An agreement with the National Monuments Council of Namibia seeks to ensure that some of the tourism income generated by the Petrified Forest will stay in the conservancy.

Trophy hunting and shoot-and-sell hunting have provided important income for Doro !nawas. The conservancy is very aware of the difficulties of combining hunting with tourism, and is exploring ways to optimise the benefits generated from the sustainable utilisation of its wildlife resources.

*Benefits to the conservancy and its members come from a variety of sources. Sources and amounts vary from year to year, depending on factors such as agreements with private sector partners, and market fluctuations. The pie chart shows the main benefit sources in 2010.*

*The conservancy spends money and provides community and individual benefits in various areas. Areas and amounts vary from year to year, depending on factors such as conservancy income and priorities. Private sector jobs are created through agreements with private sector partners. The pie chart shows the main expenditure and benefit areas in 2010.*





# MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCES

Conservancies facilitate sustainability...

The Doro !nawas Conservancy is divided into a number of areas for management purposes, and farms are grouped for joint representation. The management structure includes the conservancy committee, made up of six area representatives, four institutional representatives (from the Monuments Council, farmers' union, traditional authority and water point committee) and the seven members of the executive committee. The constitution prescribes clear policies and a five member disciplinary committee ensures issues are handled in a judicious manner. The disciplinary committee is chaired by a traditional authority representative, who is delegated by the Chief. Through the



*the Doro !nawas Conservancy provides vital structures for managing the communal natural resources of the area in a way that enhances development and ensures sustainability*

active involvement of traditional authority representatives at various levels, an excellent relationship with traditional leadership structures is ensured. Conservancy employees include five game guards, a coordinator, a bookkeeper, a natural resource manager and a cleaner. The conservancy office is located at the junction of the C39 and D2628 gravel roads. Staff housing at the office was constructed with support from ICEMA to improve staff availability and reduce transport costs. The conservancy owns a two-wheel drive vehicle but needs a four-wheel drive to effectively monitor the more inaccessible parts of the huge area. A meat handling facility at the office allows the conservancy to effectively process game meat prior to distribution to conservancy members. Conservancy funds are generally spent on running costs, staff salaries and capital developments.

**Activities...** The conservancy has been zoned for a variety of land uses, including a rhino sanctuary that covers a big area north of the Ugab, which adjoins the rhino sanctuary of neighbouring Sorris Sorris Conservancy, securing a large refuge for the pachyderms. Two different multiple use zones focus on wildlife use in the west and

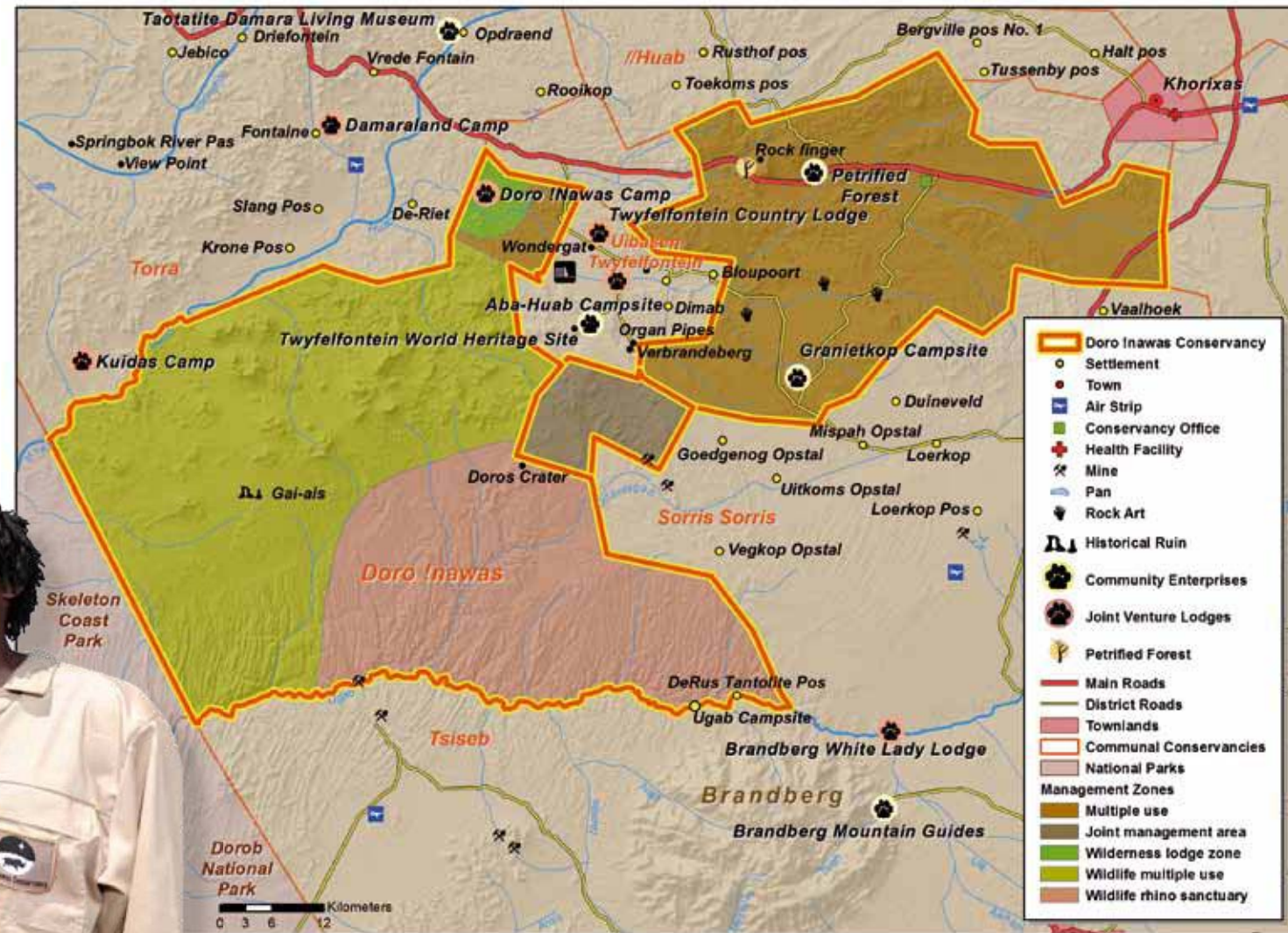
farming activities in the east, respectively. A joint management area shared with Uibasen Twyfelfontein and Sorris Sorris Conservancies links the eastern and western sections of Doro !nawas.

Translocations of black rhino, red hartebeest and black-faced impala have boosted game numbers and have increased the value of the area. Game guards use the Event Book monitoring system to record a variety of data such as game sightings, human wildlife conflict, poaching incidents, game utilisation and any other data deemed important by the conservancy. The data is aggregated into monthly and annual reporting charts that facilitate adaptive management. The conservancy is part of the North-West Game Count, carried out by the MET in collaboration with the conservancies and with the support of NGOs. The census is the largest annual road-based game count in the world. Based on the game count and Event Book information, the MET sets annual quotas for using wildlife. This allows the conservancy to carry out own-use hunting to supply residents with meat, as well as entering into trophy hunting concession agreements with hunting operators.

*the conservancy uses a mix of modern technologies and traditional knowledge and skills to enable healthy wildlife populations, a productive environment, and the effective management of natural resources*

The conservancy is active in mitigating human wildlife conflicts, mainly caused by a variety of predators, as well as elephants. Through the National Policy on Human Wildlife Conflict Management, a system of providing financial offsets for losses is being implemented. The conservancy receives a fixed lump sum from the MET and is responsible

for paying out offsets to residents upon receipt of a claim. This must be accompanied by a report completed by game guards investigating the incident, and all claims are reviewed by a panel before payments can be made.







## CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES...

Conservancies  
are full of opportunities...

A diversity of environmental resources and attractions, enhanced by the cultural heritage of the area, provides untapped potential in Doro Inawas Conservancy.

**Challenges...** Conservancy formation can raise high expectations for change in an area with limited livelihood options. It is not always easy to meet the expectations of conservancy members, who hope for great benefits from the conservancy on the one hand, and reduced conflicts with wildlife on the other. Human wildlife conflict is a challenge where ever people coexist with wild animals, especially if these include

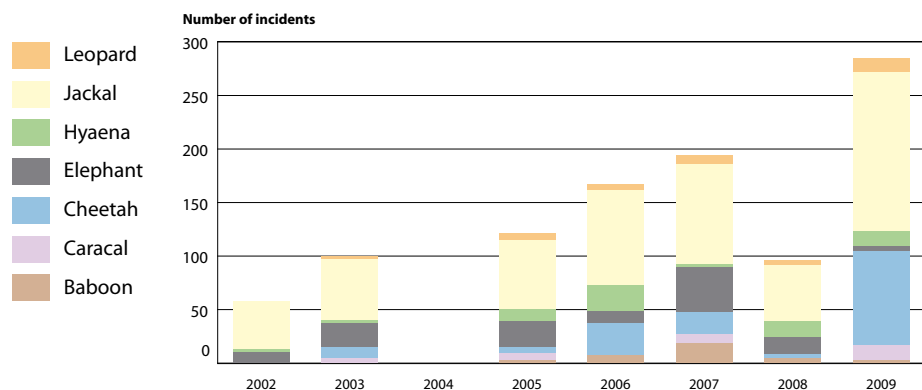


*Doro Inawas Conservancy can facilitate new growth and development in an area with limited agricultural potential – and the conservancy is the ideal structure to coordinate many of the developments*

elephants and predators. The main conflicts with elephants tend to be over water, with considerable damage to water infrastructure taking place. Predators always present a challenge to stock farmers and in Doro Inawas jackal and cheetah cause most losses, while spotted hyaena, leopard and caracal present occasional problems. Elephant conflicts can be mitigated by protecting the water infrastructure against damage and providing dedicated water points for wildlife, and progress is being made in this regard. Predator problems can be reduced through zoning and keeping livestock in enclosures at night. Importantly, elephants and predators are of great value, both to the ecosystem and tourism, and in the long run benefits gained from them should outweigh the costs of living with them.

Poaching of wildlife and the illegal exploitation of resources such as wood is another issue in the large, sparsely populated area, and patrolling is difficult with only a single two-wheel drive vehicle.

Doro Inawas has a variety of **opportunities** to further develop its great tourism potential. Most tourism traffic currently focuses on Twyfelfontein, as well as wildlife in the Huab River, while the resources within Doro Inawas are largely overlooked. The stunning landscapes, wildlife and geological points of interest of Doro Inawas, especially within the western half of the conservancy, have significant potential.



*Human wildlife conflicts are monitored using the Event Book and clearly indicate the main conflict species.*

## ... AND THE FUTURE

By enhancing the heritage resources of the area through the strategic input of experts, the tourism potential of Doro Inawas can be unlocked. Cultural tourism has not received attention within the conservancy and presents opportunities for development. Excellent interpretation through qualified guiding and information materials can make both the cultural and geological resources of the area come alive for visitors.

The conservancy has a variety of **plans** to expand tourism facilities in the area. There is space to develop at least one more joint-venture lodge in Doro Inawas, and the conservancy has identified possible sites for such developments. The conservancy would also like to upgrade the Granietkop site to have more space available for campers,



*strategic development that maximises tourism benefits, while being sensitive to cultural dynamics and environmental concerns, can enable a bright future for the residents of Doro Inawas Conservancy*



to include a shop and possibly a swimming pool. Craft development can generate income for conservancy residents, and a craft centre is planned in the vicinity of the conservancy office. These and other tourism facilities and services can be added to traditional farming activities and can diversify livelihoods to enable a bright future for the conservancy and its residents.

**Come to Doro Inawas –**  
be part of the future...







The production of this brochure was jointly funded by MCA-Namibia, Norad and WWF



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For more information and updates:

Doro Inawas Conservancy

P.O. Box 66

Khorixas

Telephone: +264 (0)60 8036196

[www.namibiawildlifesafaris.com](http://www.namibiawildlifesafaris.com) | [www.nacso.org.na](http://www.nacso.org.na)