



the state of community conservation in Namibia 2018



Who we are



Communities

Namibia's communal conservancies and community forests are self-governing entities. Each conservancy and forest elects a management committee for a term of office stipulated in its constitution. Conservancies and forests work to conserve and protect the environment, and to earn revenue from the sustainable use of natural resources.

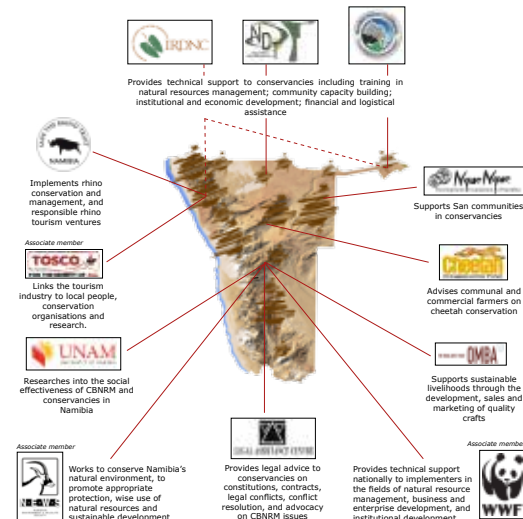
MET

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism promotes biodiversity conservation in Namibia through the sustainable utilisation of natural resources, and tourism development for the maximum social and economic benefit of its citizens.

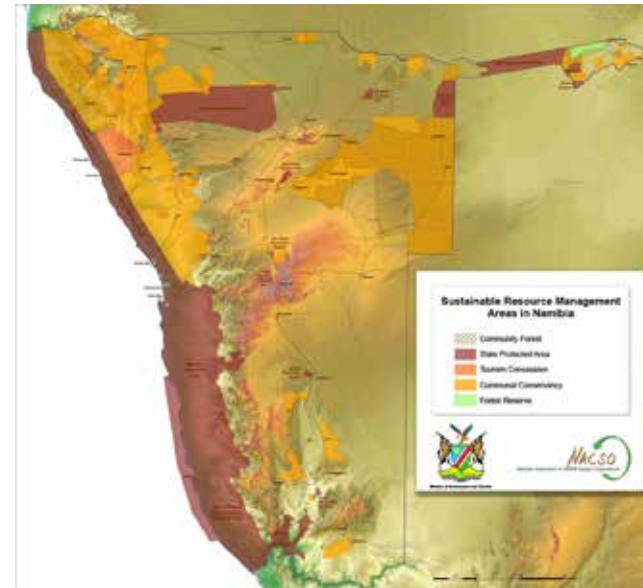
NACSO

NACSO is a network of NGOs that, in partnership with the MET, directly assist communal conservancies and community forests with advice, support and training through its three working groups:

- Natural Resources Management
- Institutional Development
- Business, Enterprises and Livelihoods



Conservation areas in Namibia



Our new web site



From 2019 the STATE OF COMMUNITY CONSERVATION REPORT will be available worldwide to researchers and conservationists on computers, tablets and telephones.

All our facts and figures, maps and more will be updated annually to provide the most comprehensive and authoritative archive of information about conservation areas, natural resource management, governance and livelihoods.

Rural development – benefiting people



Conserving wildlife and the environment



for more information visit:
communityconservationnamibia.com

Some achievements at a glance

- Namibia's elephant population grew from around 7,500 to around 22,800 between 1995 and 2016 according to census data
- Namibia has the largest free-roaming population of black rhinos in the world
- From the beginning of 1990 to the end of 2018, community conservation contributed an estimated N\$ 8.375 billion to Namibia's net national income
- During 2018, community conservation generated over N\$ 147 million in returns for local communities

At the end of 2018 there were...

- 86 conservancies using the Event Book monitoring tool
- 51 conservancies conducting an annual game counts
- 70 conservancies with a game utilisation management plan
- 616 game guards and resource monitors
- 55 management plans in place
- 23 sustainable business and financial plans in place
- 53 annual financial reports that had been presented
- 63 annual general meetings that had been held
- 17% female chairpersons
- 41% female treasurers/financial managers
- 33% female management committee members
- 25% female staff members
- 61 joint-venture tourism agreements with enterprises employing 1,175 full time and 50 part time staff
- 48 conservation hunting concessions with 159 full time and 119 part time staff
- 22 small/medium enterprises with 82 full time and 22 part time staff
- 943 conservancy employees
- 890 conservancy representatives receiving allowances
- 1,083 indigenous plant product harvesters
- 414 craft producers

in communal conservancies in Namibia

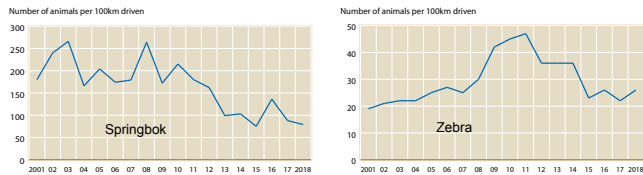
Managing our environment



CBNRM: the right balance

Climate change and increased agriculture will place pressure on the environment. Through Community Based Natural Resource Management, natural resources are conserved for future generations while providing significant returns through sustainable utilisation today.

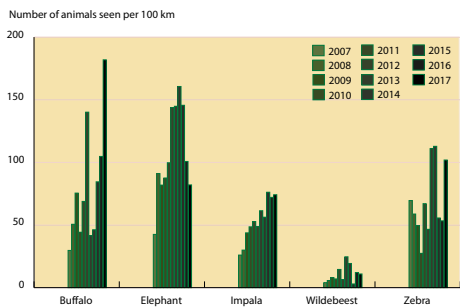
Wildlife populations



From the game counts

In the north-west, numbers of plains game have declined significantly in recent years as a result of the extended drought cycle, leading to increased mortalities and heavily reduced breeding rates.

Significant wildlife recoveries have occurred in the north-east over the past decade. These have been due largely to successful breeding, reduced poaching and wildlife introductions. Although poaching of plains game has significantly declined, elephant poaching driven by criminal syndicates has become a great concern.



Conservation at scale

A landscape approach to conservation

Increased landscape connectivity between national parks and conservancies across is vital to ensuring environmental resilience and countering the impacts of climate change, not only in Namibia, but also across national borders. The creation of contiguous conservation areas and transboundary conservation areas such as KAZA provide for conservation at scale.



The big issues

Governance



In line with the MET's Standard Operating Procedures for Conservancies, all conservancies must hold an AGM, report on its benefit distribution plan, produce annual financial statements that are transparent and have a game management and utilisation plan.

Benefit distribution



The MET has set a target for each conservancy that is generating income from hunting and concessions in parks to provide benefits to residents of at least 50% of its income, and to prioritise social benefits to the community over cash benefits.

Combatting wildlife crime



Community participation in combatting wildlife crime is vital. Game guards and conservancy representatives should report any suspicious activity to the MET or NAMPOL. Wildlife crime is theft from the community.

Human-wildlife conflict



Prevention is better than cure. Adequate precautions should be taken to reduce the likelihood of damage to crops and infrastructure, or livestock losses. For offset payments from the MET, losses must be reported within 24 hours and verified by the MET or by a conservancy game guard.

Contribution to National Development

NDP 5. Namibia's fifth National Development Plan consists of four pillars. Community conservation makes a significant contribution:



- generates returns to conservancies and members
- promotes economic development and poverty reduction through livelihood diversification and emphasises good governance with accountability and transparency
- facilitates jobs and income opportunities in rural areas

- promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women
- increases household food security through livelihood diversification and the provision of game meat
- promotes cultural pride and the conservation of cultural heritage through responsible tourism

- contributes to environmental conservation, funded through tourism and conservation hunting income
- promotes equitable access to natural resources through management structures and participatory processes
- encourages a sense of ownership over natural resources and responsibility for development

- promotes democracy in rural areas through community participation
- emphasises accountability, transparency and good governance
- enables capacity enhancement through training in governance, natural resource management and business

Benefit distribution

Income to conservancy members comes from a wide variety of sources. Conservation enterprises, in addition to existing livelihood options, such as farming, have provided new income sources.



Employment in conservancies: game guards help to counter poaching – and they earn salaries, putting food on the tables of rural homes.



Conservancy joint ventures with lodges create jobs in the tourism sector that provide income, dignity, and often a career path.



Conservation enterprises promote self-employment, enabling rural people to diversify their incomes through crafts and the harvesting of indigenous plants.



As self-governing entities conservancies decide how to use their income. Through payments for social benefits conservancies are actively contributing to rural development. In Zambezi Region several conservancies have invested in electricity transformers, which assist small businesses to develop including shops with refrigeration.



Meat from conservation hunting is a major benefit to conservancy members in rural areas where there are few shops and little cash income.