

the
state
of

community conservation in Namibia

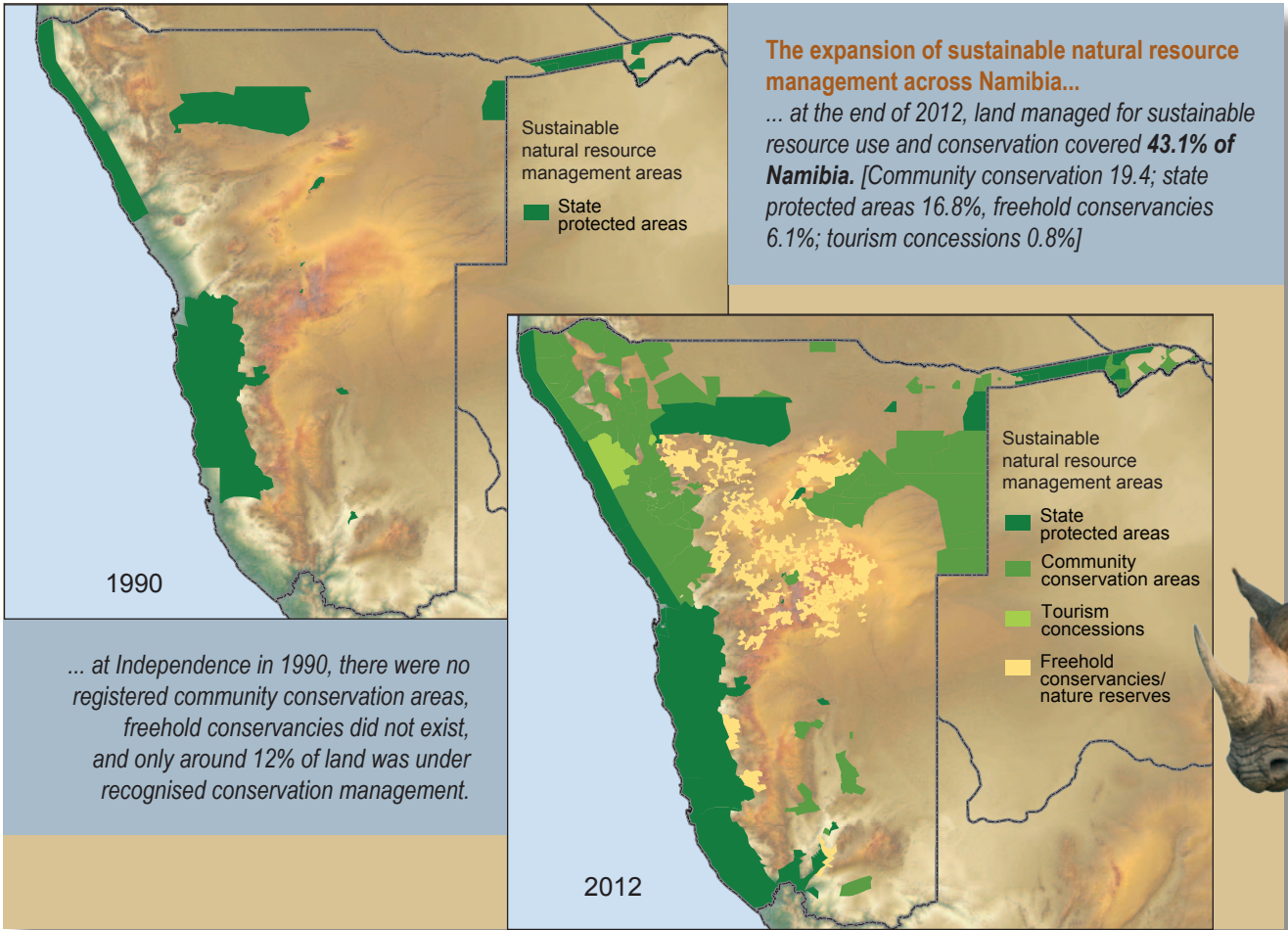
a status summary of communal conservancies
community forests and other CBNRM initiatives

2012
summary



This brochure summarises data from the annual Community Conservation Report; The full report is available as a PDF at www.nacso.org.na or as a printed report at the NACSO office in Windhoek.





CBNRM
 stands for
 community-based
 natural resource management
 and is used interchangeably
 with the term community
 conservation



a little history... The earliest community-based conservation initiatives in Namibia, which grew into what is today the national CBNRM programme, started before Independence, when the first community game guards were appointed by local headmen in an attempt to reverse wildlife declines. At the time, people living in communal areas had few rights to use wildlife. Wild animals were 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 natural resource use. By forming

legally recognised community conservation organisations such as conservancies and community forests, people in communal areas can now actively manage – and generate benefits from – natural resources in their area. This continues to encourage wildlife recoveries and environmental restoration. While community conservation organisations are resource management units, they are defined by social ties, uniting groups of people with the common goal of managing their resources. The first conservancies were registered in 1998, and the first community forests in 2006.

Community conservation in Namibia:

At the end of 2012 there were...

- 77 registered conservancies
- 1 community conservation association in a national park
- 13 registered community forests
- 66 community rangeland management areas
- and 3 community fish reserves

in the communal areas of Namibia

What's being achieved?

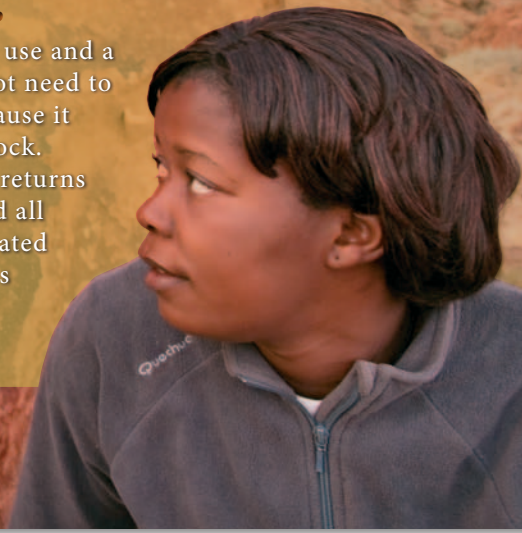
Community conservation...

- covers over 159,755 km², which is about 52.2% of all communal land with about 172,000 residents
- of this area, conservancies manage 158,247 km², which is about 19.2% of Namibia
- community forests cover 4,385 km², much of it overlapping with conservancies
- community rangeland management areas cover 4,004 km², much of it overlapping with conservancies
- from the beginning of 1991 to the end of 2012, community conservation contributed about N\$ 2.9 billion to Namibia's net national income
- during 2012, community conservation generated over N\$ 58.3 million for local communities
- community conservation facilitated 6,477 jobs in 2012
- 55 conservancies had a total of 99 enterprises based on natural resources in 2012
- community conservation supports significant wildlife recoveries and environmental restoration
- Namibia has the largest free-roaming black rhino population outside national parks in the world
- Namibia's elephant population grew from around 8,000 to over 16,000 between 1995 and 2005
- Namibia has an expanding free-roaming lion population outside national parks

living with wildlife

to live with wildlife...

... means striving for balanced land use and a healthy environment. Game does not need to be eradicated from a landscape because it may pose a threat to crops or livestock. Wildlife can create a great range of returns that far exceed its costs. Game - and all natural resource use - can be integrated with other rural livelihood activities for the benefit of the people and the land...



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Community conservation is about managing natural resources sustainably to generate returns for rural people. Conservancies, community forests and other community conservation initiatives create the needed legal framework for this. By choosing to live with wildlife, rural communities are broadening their livelihood options as well as enabling a healthier environment. Through wise and sustainable management and use, the resources are conserved for future generations while providing significant returns today.

Institutional development status category	Status in 2012
Registered conservancies (incl. Kyaramacan Ass.)	78
Conservancies generating returns	50
covering operational costs from own income	35
distributing cash or in-kind benefits to members, or investing in community projects	34
Conservancy management committee members	862
female management committee members	253
female chairpersons	6
female treasurers/financial managers	32
Conservancy staff members	573
female staff members	146
Conservancies with Management Plans	43
Sustainable Business and Financial Plans	25
Conservancy AGMs held	41
financial reports presented at AGM	39
financial reports approved at AGM	34
budgets approved at AGM	35
Conservancies that are members of a regional conservancy association	41

Institutional development in conservancies in 2012
The table shows that conservancy management is well established, with strong female participation. Financial management is sound in most conservancies, and a growing number of conservancies that used to be dependent to some degree on grant aid are now covering their operational costs from own income, with many distributing benefits to members or investing in community projects. The Kyaramacan Association is included as a registered ‘conservancy’.

the three pillars of community conservation

institutional development

- good governance creates the basis for resource management, benefit capture and distribution

natural resource management

- innovative resource management enables biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

business, enterprises and livelihoods

- market-based approaches enable a wide range of community returns

building foundations

to build foundations...

... means creating structures that enable wise and effective governance, and that empower rural people to control their environmental policies, actions, affairs and resources for a common, sustainable good...



foundations for sustainable resource management

Prior to Independence, without the existence of formal management structures and lacking ownership over resources, people in communal areas undertook few coordinated natural resource management activities. This resulted in fragmentation, neglect and over-exploitation. Today, community conservation not only monitors and manages resource use, it also provides legitimate structures for the tourism and trophy hunting industries, as well as a suite of other private sector, government and donor stakeholders, to formally engage with communities in an equitable manner. Legally recognised entities such as conservancies and community forests have empowered communities to stand up for their rights.



Governance at a glance:

At the end of 2012 there were...

- 43 management plans in place
- 25 sustainable business and financial plans in place
- 44 annual financial reports completed
- 41 annual general meetings held
- 9% female chairpersons
- 49% female treasurers/financial managers
- 29% female committee members
- and 25% female employees

in communal conservancies in Namibia



What's being achieved?

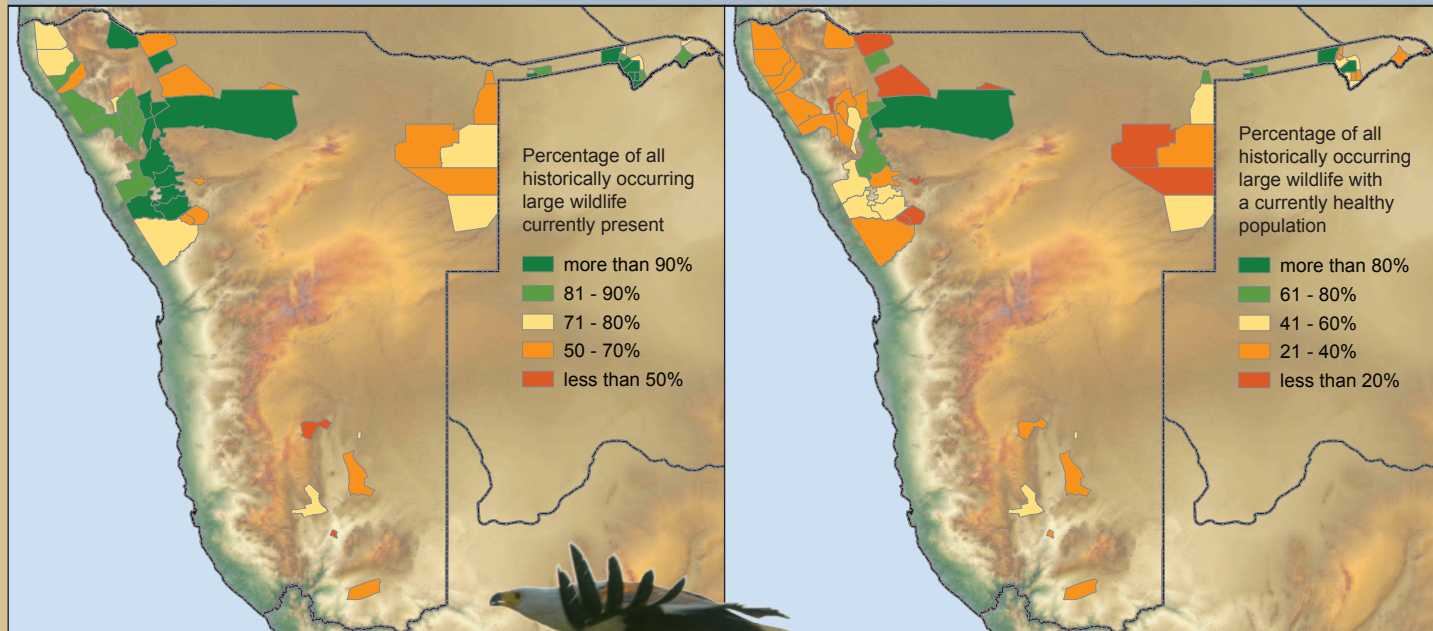
Community conservation is...

- contributing to improved democracy in rural areas
- empowering individuals, including women, to actively participate in decision-making
- employing staff to manage a broad range of resources
- working according to management and benefit distribution plans
- unlocking human potential by providing new access to diverse training and capacity building
- enabling controlled tourism development and trophy hunting activities
- covering an increasing portion of operational costs through own income
- linking into regional conservation structures

Species richness and population health of wildlife in conservancies

The **wildlife species richness** map (left) indicates the percentage of all large wildlife species that historically occurred, which are currently present in a particular conservancy. The **wildlife population health** (right) indicates the percentage of all large wildlife species that historically occurred, which currently have a healthy population in a particular conservancy.

Etosha, Mamili, Mudumu and the core areas of Bwabwata National Park are included on the maps for reference.



a broad spectrum of communal resources

Modern approaches have not only returned the rights to the people and the wildlife to the land, but are enabling an increasing range of benefits from natural resources, which were unheard of only a few decades ago. This success is based on community empowerment, as well as innovative systems and tools that enable effective management and sustainable use of natural resources. These include the Event Book monitoring tool, annual game counts and quota setting, as well as wildlife management and zonation plans.



managing resources

to manage resources...

... means ensuring that they are used wisely so that the resource base (the natural environment) stays healthy and maximum benefits are generated without negative impact...



Natural resources at a glance:

At the end of 2012 there were...

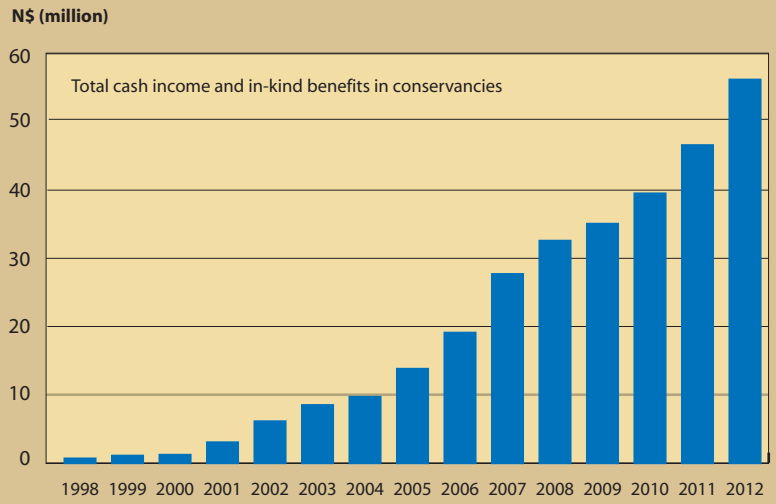
- 79 conservancies using the Event Book monitoring tool (including unregistered conservancies & Kyaramacan Association)
- 50 conservancies conducting an annual game count
- 4 national parks undertaking collaborative monitoring with conservancies
- 29 conservancies directly involved in tourism activities
- 45 conservancies with trophy hunting concessions
- 54 conservancies holding quota setting meetings
- 26 conservancies with a wildlife management plan
- 23 conservancies with a zonation plan
- 429 game guards and 30 resource monitors

working in conservancies

What's being achieved?

Community conservation is...

- combatting poaching and other illegal activities
- mitigating human wildlife conflict and limiting losses incurred through living with wildlife
- zoning areas for different land uses to reduce conflicts
- enabling wildlife recoveries, effective natural resource management and environmental restoration
- working with neighbours to promote a large landscape approach to natural resource management
- black rhinos occur in 15 conservancies, elephants in 46 conservancies and lions in 24 conservancies
- species that had become locally extinct in the Zambezi Region, such as eland and giraffe, are thriving after re-introductions
- the North West Game Count is the largest annual, road-based game count in the world



Total cash income and in-kind benefits in conservancies
The total cash income and in-kind benefits generated in conservancies grew from N\$ 592,467 in 1998 to over N\$ 56 million in 2012. This includes all directly measurable income and in-kind benefits being generated, and can be divided into cash income to conservancies (mostly through partnerships with private sector operators), cash income to residents (mostly through employment and the sale of products), as well as in-kind benefits to residents (such as the distribution of harvested game meat).

improving rural lives

Conservancies are showing that community conservation can generate a broad range of community and individual returns while covering its operational costs from own income. Community conservation is funding rural development projects and empowering communities, while individual households are benefiting through job creation and new income opportunities, as well as in-kind benefits and improved access to a range of services. Community conservation is diversifying options and increasing opportunities for rural people.

Sources of returns to conservancies and their members in 2012
The spectrum of natural resource sectors that generate returns for communities continues to widen. Joint-venture tourism and trophy hunting are making the greatest contributions.

Source of cash income or in-kind benefits	Value in N\$	Percentage of total cash income and in-kind benefits
Joint-venture tourism (includes all cash income and in-kind benefits to conservancies and members)	21,259,077	38%
Trophy hunting (includes all cash income to conservancies and members)	16,244,399	29%
Trophy hunting meat	4,757,246	8%
Indigenous plant products	4,258,382	8%
Own-use game harvesting meat	3,718,104	7%
Community-based tourism and other small to medium enterprises	1,967,435	4%
Shoot-and-sell game harvesting	1,393,746	2%
Miscellaneous (e.g. interest)	1,157,551	2%
Crafts	967,620	2%
Other hunting or game harvesting (e.g. problem animal control)	246,938	< 1%
Live game sales	192,200	< 1%
Premium hunting	-	0%
Total	56,162,698	100%



improving lives

to improve lives...
... means facilitating economic opportunities and empowering people to make their own choices from amongst a range of livelihood options that enable a healthy and dignified existence...



Benefits at a glance:
At the end of 2012 there were...

- 33 joint-venture tourism enterprises with 612 full time and 16 part time employees (including seasonal labour)
- 45 trophy hunting concessions with 118 full time and 84 part time employees (including seasonal labour)
- 28 community tourism initiatives with 90 full time and 123 part time employees (including seasonal labour)
- 573 full time and 96 part time conservancy employees
- 862 conservancy representatives receiving allowances
- 2,338 indigenous plant product harvesters
- and 1,360 craft producers

in communal conservancies in Namibia

What's being achieved?
Community conservation...

- generated total cash income and in-kind benefits to rural communities of over N\$ 58,364,273 in 2012
- trophy hunting generated N\$ 17,238,895 in fees for conservancies
- tourism generated N\$ 6,541,204 in fees for conservancies
- indigenous plants generated N\$ 464,310 in fees for conservancies
- conservancy residents earned a total cash income of N\$ 19,620,354 from enterprise wages and N\$ 9,285,334 from conservancy wages
- of the total income to conservancy residents, N\$ 3,794,072 was from indigenous plants and N\$ 967,620 was from crafts
- 498,523 kg of game meat worth N\$ 8,475,350 was distributed to conservancy residents
- N\$ 5,269,723 in cash benefits was distributed to conservancy residents
- thatching grass generated N\$ 2,201,575 for communities

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

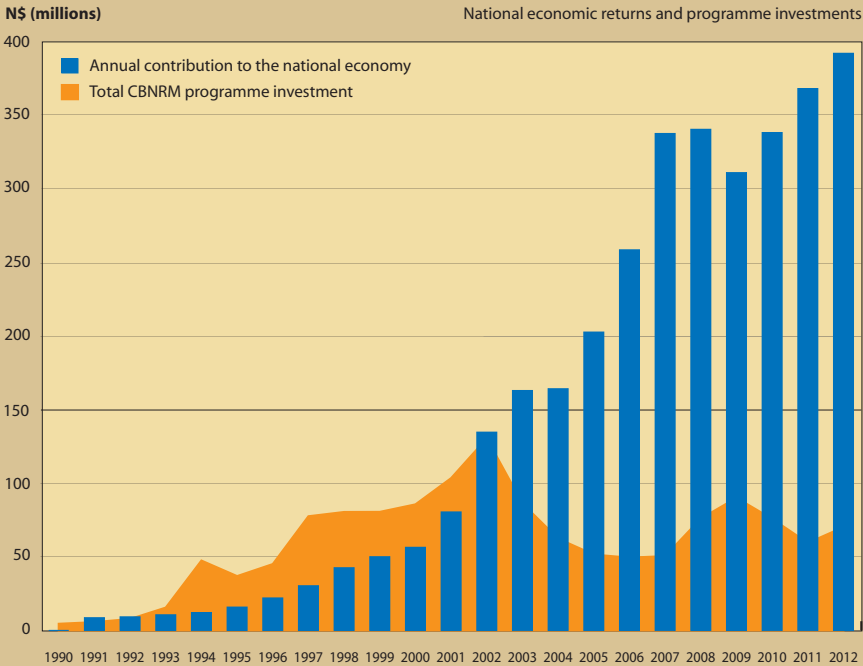
In 2012, the net national income (NNI) contribution made by CBNRM was about N\$ 360 million. When the stock value of wildlife is added to this, the total contribution becomes N\$ 393 million. The cumulative value of the NNI contribution between 1990 and 2012 amounts to N\$ 2.9 billion*. The increased capital value of wildlife in north-western Namibia between 1990 and 2012 is estimated at N\$ 473 million. Together, the NNI contributions and increased capital value of wildlife over this period add up to about N\$ 3.4 billion. This is an impressive figure, which has been increasing rapidly. The graph also shows the value of spending on the CBNRM programme each year, which cumulatively adds up to about N\$ 1.4 billion of investment between 1990 and 2012. Donors supplied most of the funds, while the MET and NGOs also provided inputs, mainly as 'in-kind' contributions, such as staff, vehicles and other kinds of support.

* Figures have been adjusted for inflation to be equivalent to the value of Namibia dollars in 2012. This means they are not directly comparable with those used in the 2011 State of Conservancies report, which used figures equivalent to the value Namibian dollars in 2011.

Year	Economic rate of return	Net present value at 6%
15	4%	- N\$ 18.3 million
17	15%	N\$ 160.2 million
19	19%	N\$ 316.8 million
21	21%	N\$ 480.0 million
22	22%	N\$ 564.4 million

The economic efficiency of CBNRM

Since 1990, the programme has had an economic internal rate of return of 22% and has earned an economic net present value of some N\$ 564 million. This is a very acceptable economic return for a programme investment.



The future at a glance:

Community conservation may grow to...

- 90-100 conservancies and 40-50 community forests
- cover over 21% of Namibia and well over 50% of all communal land
- embrace up to 15% of all communal area residents and well over 50% of rural communal areas residents in suitable areas

What might be achieved?

Community conservation can...

- facilitate significant further growth of tourism in communal areas and increase local involvement
- enhance the reputation of communal areas as offering some of the country's most spectacular destinations
- entrench Namibia's position in offering some of the best trophy hunting on unfenced land in Africa
- mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing dependence on subsistence agriculture
- maximise the potential of indigenous plants through further strategic international partnerships
- strengthen incentives for people to live with and manage wildlife so our children's children can continue to share in this important African heritage

New for 2013:

- launch of the National Policy on Community-Based Natural Resource Management
- introduction of a joint venture compliance framework for both conservancies and tourism operators as an important management tool
- introduction of sustainable business and financial plans as an important financial management tool

working for a common vision

**to work for
a common vision...**

... means seeing what can be achieved, rather than yielding to challenges; looking beyond individual activities and local impacts to bigger regional, national and trans-boundary connections, influences and achievements, while facing challenges, anticipating change and striving for sustainability...

The biggest challenges?

- enabling optimum governance capacities, effective decision-making and wise leadership
- removing barriers to private sector investment in communal areas
- further promoting policy integration amongst government ministries
- ensuring ongoing technical support to community conservation structures
- achieving self-sufficiency and programmatic sustainability

EMPOWERMENT BENEFITS SUSTAINABILITY

Community conservation

grew out of the recognition that wildlife and other natural resources were disappearing in many communal areas, and that these losses could be reversed, and both rural livelihoods and the environment could be improved, if local communities were empowered to manage and use the resources themselves



more information at www.nacso.org.na