



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION 2022

1. Overcoming Challenges:

The CBNRM sector was significantly impacted by COVID-19 and drought, but with vital funding support, conservation efforts continued and important jobs in our communities were maintained.

2. Tourism Bouncing Back:

The tourism sector is showing signs of recovery which is not only economically vital, but also plays a significant role in conservation efforts, emphasizing sustainable practices and the protection of wildlife habitats.

3. Ensuring Sustainability Through Innovative Programmes:

Various efforts are being implemented to ensure the sustainability of conservation programs such as Namibia for Life Project Finance for Permanence, Community Conservation Fund Namibia programs and Wildlife Credits.

4. Focus on Livelihood Diversification:

Recognizing the critical importance of diversifying livelihoods, there has been a shift in focus towards exploring alternative and sustainable income sources for communities involved in conservation efforts. This diversification not only supports local economies, but also reduces dependency on tourism while promoting long-term sustainability.

5. Young People Leading the Way:

Programs such as the Young Professional Accountants and the Youth in Conservation Network are actively engaging and empowering Namibia's youth, encouraging their participation, innovation and dedication to environmental stewardship.

FACTS AND FIGURES

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AT A GLANCE

At the end of 2022 there were:

86	registered communal conservancies and 2 community conservation associations	69	annual financial reports presented
46	registered community forests	77	annual general meetings held
20	community fisheries reserves in 7 conservancies	13%	female chairpersons
19	concessions in national parks or on other state land held by 23 conservancies (some conservancies share concessions)	49%	female treasurers/financial managers
82	registered conservancies, 4 emerging conservancies and 1 association using the Event Book monitoring tool	34%	female management committee members
51	conservancies conducting annual game counts	23%	female staff members
74	conservancies with own use harvesting quotas	38	conservancies directly involved with tourism activities
68	conservancies with a game management and utilisation plan	67	joint-venture tourism agreements with enterprises employing 866 full time and 22 part time/seasonal employees
60	conservancies with a zonation plan	44	conservation hunting concessions with 127 full time and 163 part time/seasonal employees
733	game guards working in conservancies	44	small/medium enterprises
68	management plans in place	989	conservancy representatives receiving allowances
20	sustainable business and financial plans in place	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

