

Namibia at CITES 2016



Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations

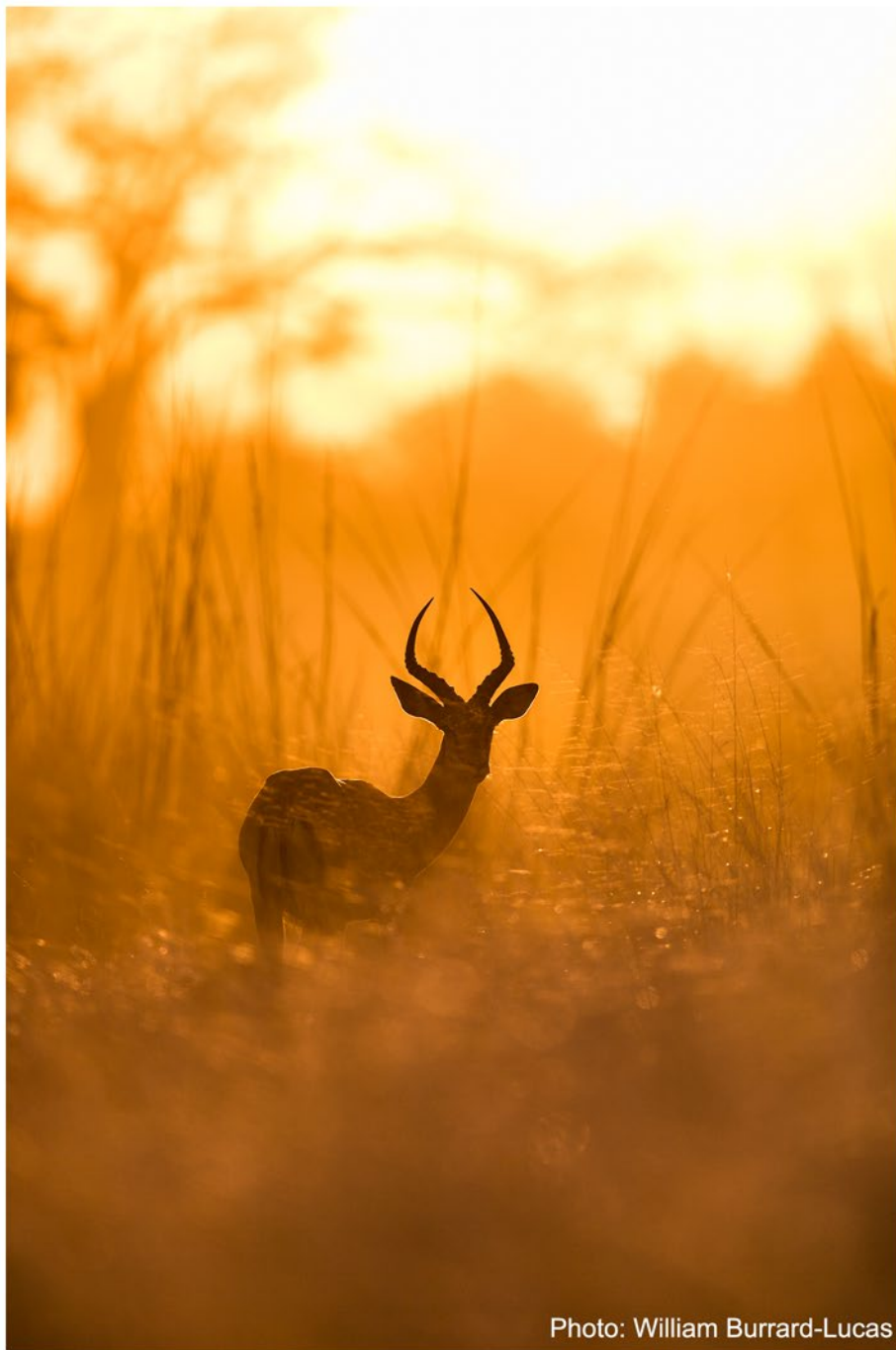


Photo: William Burrard-Lucas

The Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO) is a consortium of nine Namibian civil society organisations that work together to support, promote and strengthen community-based natural resource management (CBNRM). NACSO was formed in the late 1990s, and since that time we have built strong and enduring partnerships between Namibian NGOs, government, and international organizations such as WWF.

One achievement we take pride in is high-quality data collection and dissemination, which plays a key role in monitoring conservation progress by government, NGOs, and communities. Our State of Community Conservation Report sets the standard worldwide for conservation data. The 2014/15 report can be accessed on our web site at www.nacso.org.na or, like other articles films and reports in this brochure, via a QR code (right).



This report is a key tool for scientists and conservationists. It also serves to show the world what we understand by conservation in Namibia, and how we are adapting to change.

A fourth year of drought and international calls to ban hunting have brought pressure to bear on Namibian conservation. In the face of these challenges, our systems are good. Namibia has the largest road-based game count in the world. Wildlife is monitored by game guards using an internationally acclaimed event book system. Wildlife harvesting and hunting is practiced in strict compliance with government regulations and with quotas based upon accurate data.

We come to the CITES meeting to talk clearly about conservation priorities in Namibia and the rest of Africa, because we live and work together. We represent 82 communal conservancies covering 20% of Namibia, and we care passionately about conservation.

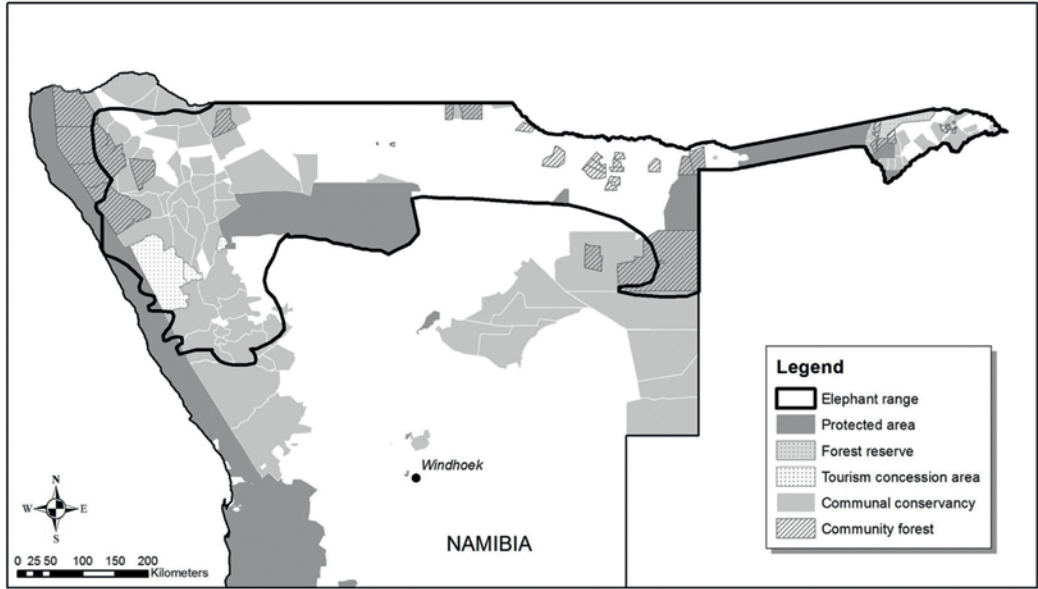


Maxi Louis, Director: NACSO

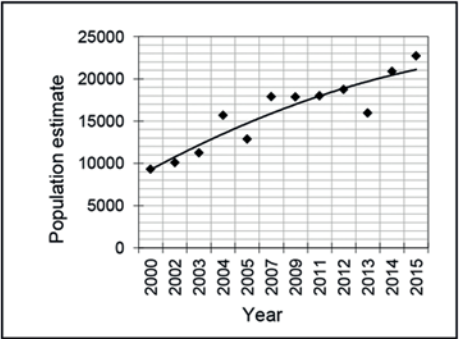
Elephant numbers in Namibia



Elephant range, protected areas and concessions in northern Namibia



Area	Year of latest estimate	Estimated elephant population
North-East Parks and surrounding areas	2015	13 136
Khaudom National Park	2015	4 150
Nyae-Nyae Conservancy	2015	2 263
Kunene Region	2009	352
Etosha National Park	2015	2 810
Total		22 711



Figures from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism



Complementary benefits of tourism and hunting to communal conservancies in Namibia

Article in *Conservation Biology* by Robin Naidoo, L. Chris Weaver, Richard W. Diggle, Greenwell Matongo, Greg Stuart-Hill and Chris Thouless, first published in January 2016,

Edited abstract

Tourism and hunting both generate substantial revenues for communities and private operators in Africa. Few studies have quantitatively examined the trade-offs and synergies that may result from these two activities. Naidoo and others evaluated financial and in-kind benefit streams from tourism and hunting on 77 communal conservancies in Namibia from 1998 to 2013, where community-based wildlife conservation has been promoted as a land-use complementing traditional subsistence agriculture.

Data collected from communal conservancies characterized whether benefits were derived from hunting or tourism. These benefits were divided into 3 broad classes to examine how benefits flowed to people under the status quo and under a simulated ban on hunting.

Across all conservancies, total benefits from hunting and tourism increased at roughly the same rate, although conservancies typically started generating benefits from hunting within 3 years of formation as opposed to after 6 years for tourism. Data revealed that the main benefits from hunting were income for conservancy management and food in the form of meat for the community at large. The majority of tourism benefits were salaried jobs at lodges.

A simulated ban on trophy hunting significantly reduced the number of conservancies that could cover their operating costs, whereas eliminating income from tourism did not have as severe an effect. Given that the benefits generated from tourism typically begin later than benefits from hunting, these 2 activities together may provide the greatest incentives for conservation on communal lands in Namibia.

A singular focus on either hunting or tourism would reduce the value of wildlife as a competitive land-use option and have grave repercussions for the viability of community-based conservation efforts in Namibia, and possibly other parts of Africa.

The full article is available at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cobi.12643/abstract>



In Namibia we distinguish between:

Legal trophy hunting carried out in communal conservancies by professional hunters and regulated by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. This is defined as **conservation hunting**, which has clear, measurable conservation and human development outcomes.

Poaching by local people, which is considered as stealing from the community. No returns are generated and indiscriminate, uncontrolled killings have severe impacts.

Wildlife crime is commercial poaching, which indiscriminately and ruthlessly targets animals for their valuable parts, to be smuggled to markets in Asia or elsewhere.

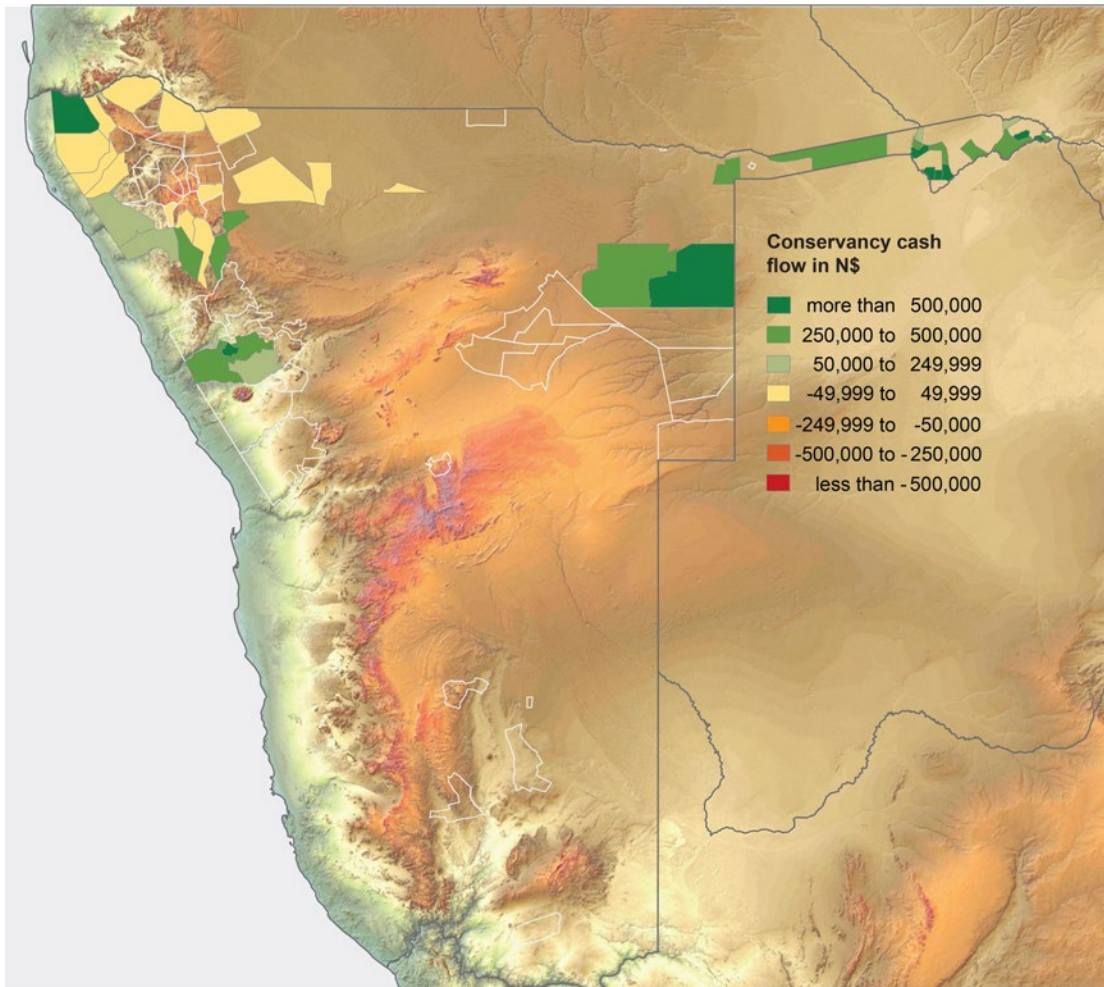
Conservation hunting has the following verifiable prerequisites and outcomes:

- It is governed by a national legal framework with clear systems of controls and reporting requirements.
- It meets all CITES and IUCN species conservation criteria.
- It targets only free-roaming, indigenous species in natural habitats large enough to ensure healthy population dynamics.
- Wildlife population trends in the greater landscape are closely monitored and off-takes are adapted as needed to ensure the population health of all targeted species.
- Hunting off-takes are sustainable, based on species-specific, scientifically accepted annual quotas for the hunted population.
- It promotes the natural diversity of all indigenous fauna and flora in the hunting area.
- It safeguards wildlife habitat (the hunting area) against destructive land uses.
- A major portion of generated income goes back to the land-holders and is spent on the conservation and human development needs of the hunting area.
- It employs local people to carry out conservation activities in the hunting area, including wildlife monitoring and anti-poaching activities.
- It mitigates human-wildlife conflict amongst local communities if these occur in, or adjacent to, the hunting area.

Through these criteria, conservation hunting creates clear incentives to adopt wildlife management as a land use.

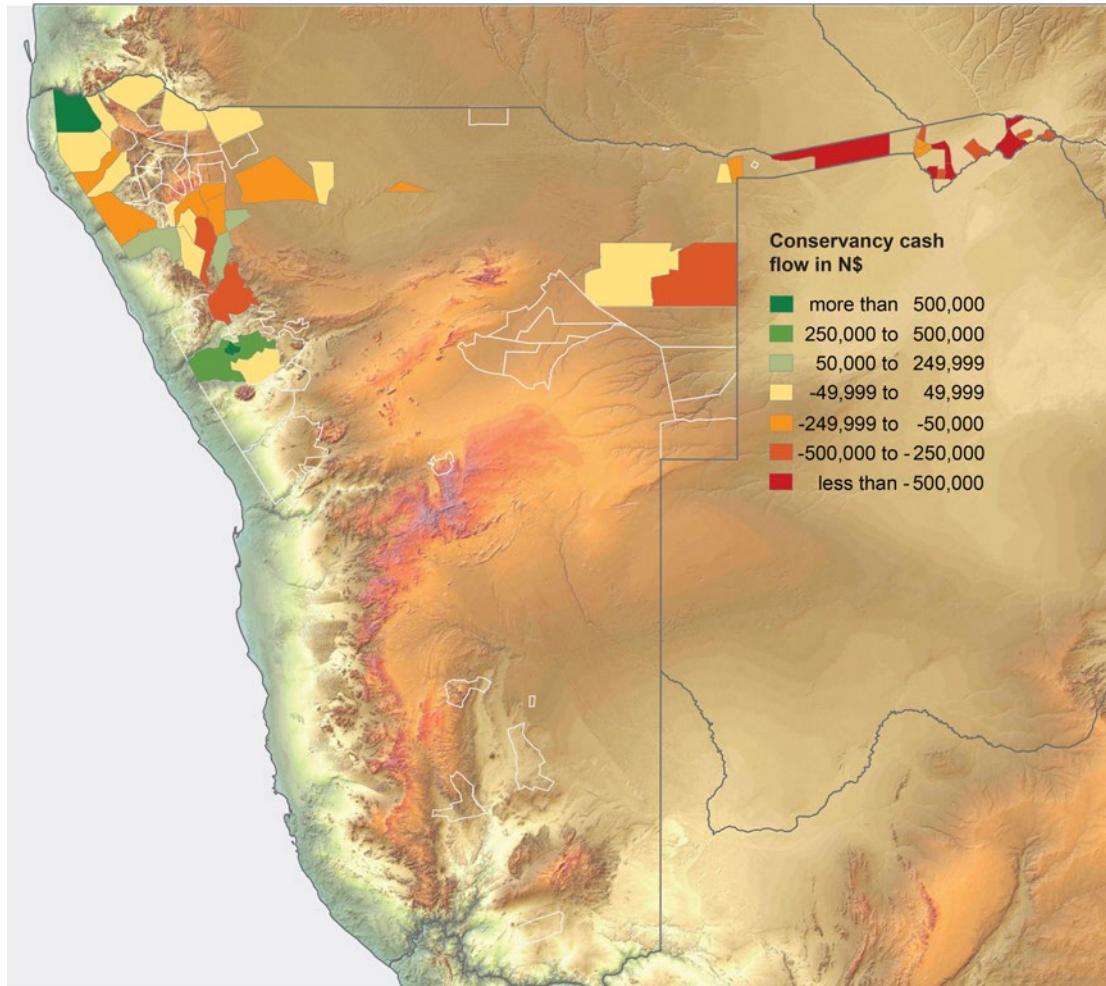
The effect of ending conservation hunting in Namibia

With hunting, conservation is sustainable



The maps illustrate the importance of income generated through sustainable consumptive wildlife use for Namibian communal conservancies including a community association in Bwabwata National Park. The loss of this income would result in a negative cash flow for most of these conservancies, which would no longer be able to cover their running costs.

Without hunting, conservation would not be sustainable



Those conservancies relying mostly on tourism would be able to adjust their activities to fit a reduced income, but would become less effective in managing their resources. Those conservancies relying mostly on hunting would become unsustainable and, unless other income could be secured, conservation activities in those areas could come to an end.

The voice of the people



“When hunting stops here we will die of hunger”

Thikundja Ndando is an old man, blind in one eye. His language is Khwedam, one of the Bushman languages spoken in Namibia. The Khwe people are proud of their bush skills: tracking wild animals, hunting, and gathering wild fruits, or ‘veldkos’. But outside values are threatening Ndando with the destruction of his way of life, and with hunger.

Many people in Europe and the USA want to see an end to trophy hunting, and are lobbying for a ban on the import of trophies from Africa and elsewhere. There are strong arguments on both sides. Wild animals are beautiful and many are endangered. Surely killing them is wrong, some argue, especially animal rights groups. On the other hand, influential conservationists in southern Africa often disagree. Trophy hunting causes few animal mortalities, but earns significant income for conservation. Paradoxically, wildlife populations are less threatened in countries where legal hunting takes place.

Ndando lights his pipe and thinks about this. “In the past we hunted with a bow,” he says. “Then we followed. When the animal fell we called our people to come and get meat. When conservation began, we agreed, and decided to select game guards to protect wildlife. We thought this would help us to get income and meat”.

Under conservation legislation enacted in 1998, rural Namibians living in conservancies have rights over wildlife in their areas. They can hunt for meat and sell animals for trophy hunting – but only according to strict quotas set by the environment ministry, following an annual game count. Income from trophy hunting pays game guard salaries, and the meat is distributed to villagers.

“It is little, but it helps us to survive,” says Ndando.



The full article can be found on the NACSO site at: <http://www.nacso.org.na/news/2016/03/%E2%80%9Cwhen-hunting-stops-here-we-will-die-of-hunger%E2%80%9D>

A short video interview with Ndando is also on the site at:
<http://www.nacso.org.na/films/talking-about-hunting-01>



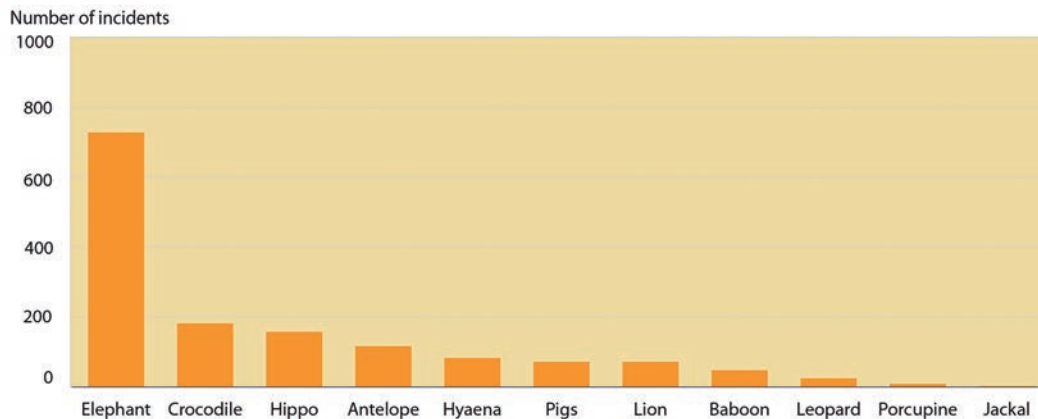


Photo: Patrick Bentley

Human-Wildlife Conflict

The table below shows the number of incidents in 2014/15 in Zambezi Region between Botswana and Zambia.

Conflicts between humans and elephants grew from 610 to 714 in one year.





Competing land uses

Christopher Muswalali has a bible handy. He's a lay preacher and induna (headman) in Sikweke, one of the many small villages you pass by on the way to Zambezi's top tourist lodges. He also has a shotgun near to hand in case the elephants come raiding again. Ask him if he loves God's creatures and he says yes, but not near his crops.

Here's the conundrum: wildlife brings tourists to Zambezi, where you can see elephants, hippos and even lions. Impalas are in abundance among the kudu and zebra. It's a piece of paradise. Tourism brings jobs; some of Muswalali's neighbours work at Namushasha Lodge and Camp Kwando, and income from the lodges goes to conservancies, which spend the money on community projects.

All well and good, says Muswalali, but he doesn't work for a lodge and the elephants eat his crops. He is a serious farmer with five hectares of millet and maize under cultivation. He sleeps by the crop and is quite prepared to fire a warning shot if the elephants come again. Last year he lost half a hectare. He says you know when the grey giants are coming. "You hear the rumbling in their bellies."

Game guard Martin Nandu assists a Namibian farmer to erect a fence to deter elephants. Tin cans, chilli fences and smoke bombs all play a role. For a selection of articles about human wildlife conflict go to www.nacso.org.na – News.





Videos about conservation in Namibia

www.nacso.org.na



Talking about hunting 01



Talking about hunting 02



Talking about hunting 03



Talking about hunting 04

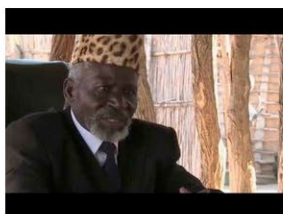


Talking about hunting 05



Young voices at Vic Falls

2015



Chief Mayuni Interview



ebike to work



For the love of Elephants





Photo: William Burrard-Lucas

NACSO is the voice of community conservation in Namibia.

Let's talk!

www.nacso.org.na