

THE STATE OF COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN NAMIBIA 2020



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FACTS AND FIGURES

WHAT'S BEING ACHIEVED

Community conservation

Covers **180,083 km²** which is about **58.7%** of all communal land, with an estimated **233,100** residents (6,800 residents supported by the Kyaramacan Association live in Bwabwata National Park)

Of this area, conservancies manage **166,179 km²** which comprises **20.2%** of Namibia registered community forests cover, **85,192 km²** 84% of which overlaps with conservancies

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 **1990 to 2020**, community conservation contributed an estimated **N\$ 10.753 billion** to Namibia's net national income

Community conservation facilitated **3870** jobs in 2020

N\$ 11,889,143 in cash benefits was distributed to conservancy residents and used to support community projects

Conservancies generated total cash income and in-kind benefits to rural communities of **N\$ 96,300,178** in 2020 of this

Conservation hunting generated **N\$ 31,634,430** with a meat value of **N\$ 7,829,865** that equals **272 219 kg** of game meat

Tourism generated **N\$ 47,400,635**

Indigenous plant products generated **N\$ 1,482,160** and miscellaneous income (including interest) generated **N\$ 1,944,569**

Due to COVID-19, conservancies received **N\$ 13,838,384** in emergency support grants

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AT A GLANCE

At the end of 2020 there were...

86 registered conservancies and one community association

43 registered community forests

10 community fish reserves in 6 conservancies

19 tourism concessions in national parks and other state land

83 conservancies and one association using the Event Book monitoring tool

54 conservancies conducting annual game counts

50 conservancies with a game management and utilisation plan

45 conservancies with a zonation plan

50 conservancy management plans in place

26 sustainable business and financial plans in place

30 annual financial reports presented at AGMs

32 annual general meetings held

16% female chairpersons

45% female treasurers/financial managers

34% female management committee members

23% female staff members

64 joint-venture tourism enterprises with

902 full time and **62** part time employees

45 conservation hunting concessions with

109 full time and **25** part time employees

14 small/medium enterprises with

16 full time and part time employees

1057 conservancy employees of which

763 are game guards

954 conservancy representatives receiving allowances

745 indigenous plant product harvesters and craft producers

... in communal conservancies in Namibia

The tourism and hunting operators are those that have signed agreements with conservancies, due to COVID, not all of these would have been able to pay according to their contracts. Many of the employees and plant harvesters were paid through COVID relief grants from the CRRRF

*Craig, Gibson and Useb (2021) Namibia's elephants - population, distribution and trends. Pachyderm 62:35-52.

VOICES IN CONSERVATION 2020

Honourable Pohamba Shifeta Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

"The year 2020 tested Namibian resilience in every sector, as the COVID-19 pandemic threatened our health, economy and social structures in various ways. Despite the pandemic, we are pleased to note that game counts, foot patrols, reporting of human-wildlife conflict and combatting wildlife crime all continued this year. Our wildlife crime statistics for 2020 showed reduced poaching which reveals that our joint commitment to wildlife conservation has not diminished. We commend the steps taken by the MEFT, NACSO, our partners, and the community, to minimise the negative consequences of this global crisis for our people and wildlife."

Ronny Dempers (NACSO, Chairperson):

"The Namibian CBNRM programme has withstood the challenges posed by COVID-19 because of the strong partnerships that have been built to support it. Together we have ensured the survival of CBNRM and have learned valuable lessons in the process."

Tania Fisch (Khob !Naub, Vice Treasurer):

"We are part of nature, it is important to us because it gives us the resources that take care of us, and that is why we should also take good care of it. I love being in nature because it allows me to connect with my inner self."

Zita Mwanabwe, (Balyerwa, Manager):

"Nature is very important to us because we directly and indirectly depend on it for a living. We get meat from wildlife and some income through tourism and employment."

Martha Lambert (//Audi, Volunteer Game Guard):

"Walking around in the field, seeing wildlife and the beautiful landscapes makes my day."

Festus Tjimbi (Otjimboyo, Volunteer Game Guard):

"I am appealing to our potential tourists to visit Namibia as usual once the pandemic subsides. We as community game guards will make sure that you will enjoy the same scenery with wildlife when you visit after the coronavirus. I thank you."

Johannes Schmidt (Huibes, Secretary):

"Namibia is a tourist friendly country. Please visit our conservancy and experience our beautiful landscape, special track routes, wildlife, and unique plants such as the Hoodia. From the Huibes conservancy, we are ready to welcome you back."

Smith Shikoto (Dzoti, Manager):

"I learn a lot by working with people from different backgrounds and different levels of expertise. I like managing conflict, this is not an easy task but it's good when the job gets done."

Marius Vainen Kock (Oskop, Game Guard):

"My job also gives me the opportunity to get in touch with nature. Exploring the landscapes, seeing wildlife and the combination is fascinating and relaxing. I am proud to be a game guard and would like to become an expert in the field of conservation."

Herman Kasaona (Otjimboyo, Elephant Ranger):

"I have skills to identify elephant behaviours and educate my fellow community members."

Vanjanda Ngarukue (Orupupa, Game Guard):

"In this difficult time, I would like to encourage everyone, including the community members to step in however they can and look out for their natural resources."

Katupose Ellis Inaani (African Wild dog, Game Guard):

"I am passionate about wildlife because I am contributing to conservation in my country and for future generations"

Immaculatha Hameva (Ozonahi, Vice Secretary):

"In these difficult times I would like to encourage everyone not to give up on the work that we are doing, it may be difficult but there is success ahead of us"

Isaac Nashimba (Iipumbu Ya Shilongo Conservancy, Management Committee):

"I enjoy interacting with management committees from other conservancies as it allows our conservancy to learn from their experiences and for us to improve."

Frans Frans (King Nehale):

"Over the years we have seen people more aware of the importance of conserving our natural resources through the conservancy program."

Maleska Harases (≡Khoadi-//Hôas, Environmental Shepherd):

"It is so important to continue the work we do and to educate our children so that they will still be able to see wildlife in our area in the future."

Kabelo Mautu (Bamunu, Junior Ranger):

"Having a conservancy is very beneficial as it provides job opportunities for the youth."

Hofney Hoeb (Torra, Rhino Ranger):

"These animals are our future. Since I was young, I travelled around with my father, Sebulon Hoeb who worked for Save the Rhino Trust since 1990, so in many ways, this is my family inheritance. I love my job and this connection to my father."

To hear more voices in conservation visit: www.conservationtourism.com.na