

The State of Community Conservation



2015

PEOPLE PLACES WILDLIFE

Successes...

At the end of 2015 there were...

- 82 registered communal conservancies
- 1 community conservation association in a national park (Kyaramacan Association)
- 32 registered community forests
- 19 concessions in national parks or on other state land held by conservancies
- 2 community fish reserves
- 83 conservancies using the Event Book monitoring tool (including emerging conservancies & the Kyaramacan Association)
- 51 conservancies conducting an annual game count
- 52 conservancies with conservation hunting concessions
- 52 conservancies with a wildlife management plan
- 46 conservancies with a zonation plan
- 70 conservancies had a total of 184 enterprises based on natural resources
- 532 game guards working in conservancies
- 33% female management committee members

Community conservation...

- covers 165,182 km², which is about 52.9% of all communal land with an estimated 189,230 residents (another 5,620 members of the Kyaramacan Association live in Bwabwata National Park)
- through conservancies manages 162,030 km², which is 19.66% of Namibia
- through community forests covers 30,828 km², 89.9% of which overlap with conservancies
- during 2015, generated more than N\$ 102 million in returns for local communities
- facilitated 5,116 jobs in 2015
- from the beginning of 1990 to the end of 2015, contributed approximately N\$ 5.02 billion to Namibia's net national income
- supports wildlife recoveries and environmental restoration
- assisted Namibia's elephant population to grow from around 7,500 to more than 22,000 between 1995 and 2015
- has facilitated an expanding free-roaming lion population outside national parks

...and Challenges

Fourth successive year of drought
Improved conservancy management
Countering wildlife crime
Mitigating human wildlife conflict
Threats to conservation hunting

FOCUS ON CONSERVATION HUNTING

To ensure a sound understanding of conservation issues and threats, clear distinctions are needed between legal hunting that is well-controlled and makes a positive contribution to communities and the environment; illegal hunting, which is local poaching, and international wildlife crime.

Legal trophy hunting carried out in communal conservancies under the control of professional hunters is defined as conservation hunting in Namibia, as it has clear, measurable conservation and human development outcomes (see details on right). The label conservation hunting is used in the State of Community Conservation Report to describe trophy hunting in communal conservancies.

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 offtakes are adapted as needed to ensure the population health of all targeted species.
- Hunting offtakes are sustainable, based upon 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.

