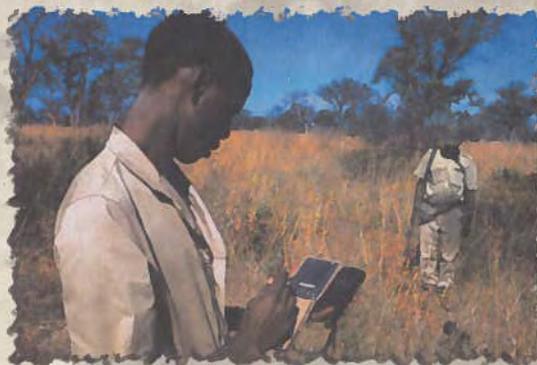


Namibia's Community-Based

Natural Resource Management Programme

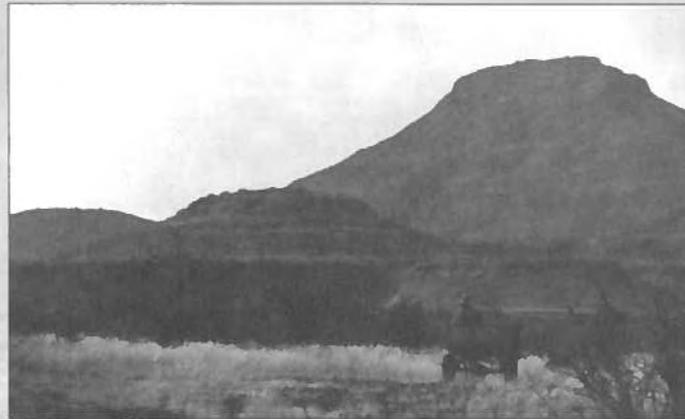
*Enhancing conservation, development and democracy
in Namibia's rural areas.*



INTRODUCTION

What is Namibia's Community-based Natural Resource Management Programme?

Namibia's National CBNRM Programme is a joint venture between Government and non-governmental institutions, communities, community-based organisations and development partners. The programme aims to provide incentives to communities to manage and use wildlife and other natural resources in sustainable and productive ways. It does this by promoting three closely related approaches.



Development in Namibia's rural areas requires wise use of natural resources and depends on human capacity and skills.

Namibia's CBNRM Programme is:

- a natural resource management and conservation programme - it promotes wise and sustainable management of natural resources, and encourages biodiversity conservation by creating the necessary incentives for sustainable use
- a rural development programme - it seeks to devolve rights over and responsibilities for wildlife and tourism to rural communities, thereby creating opportunities for enterprise development and income generation
- an empowerment and capacity-building programme - it encourages and assists communities and their local institutions to acquire the skills and experience to manage their area sustainably and proactively pilot their own future.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF CBNRM IN NAMIBIA

For hundreds of years, traditional authorities managed wildlife populations by declaring hunting seasons only under certain conditions. Most hunting was done on a subsistence level, while certain animals, such as elephant and hippopotamus, were classified as Royal Game.

The introduction of firearms, a succession of wars and the declaration of all game as 'state property' led to a disastrous decrease in wildlife throughout the country. People had little incentive to tolerate animals such as hippo, elephant, lion, hyena and crocodile.

It was inferred that the state valued wildlife above people. Residents were often arrested as poachers if they took action against animals that killed people and their livestock and destroyed valuable field crops and precious water installations.

Some conservationists and government departments sought to reverse the situation. In 1967, rights over some wildlife species were given to those commercial farmers who met certain criteria. This resulted in a steady increase of game on most freehold farms, as it gave farmers an incentive to conserve wildlife.

The same rights were not, however, extended to communal area farmers. People continued to suffer losses caused by problem animals. Wild animals were spoken of as 'the State's dogs', and the conflict continued.

In 1990, the newly independent Namibian Government sought to rectify the inequities and inconsistencies in their approaches to commercial and communal area residents. Drawing on some early initiatives, such as the establishment of a community game guard network in the north-west, the government worked with NGOs and traditional authorities to establish a new approach to the involvement of people and wildlife.

A series of socio-ecological surveys was conducted in several parts of the country. Conservationists also studied people-and-wildlife programmes in

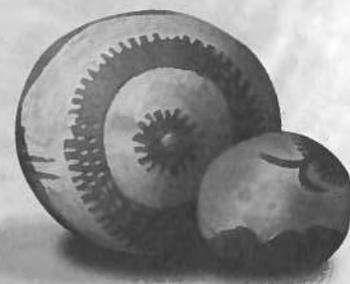
neighbouring countries. Namibia was looking for a model that would empower communal area residents to manage their own resources and to derive benefits from them. The policy that emerged from this process would later become known as one of the most innovative approaches to CBNRM in Africa.



A collection of elephant jawbones from the 1980s, when illegal hunting was rife in the Kunene Region. As rural Namibians had no legal rights over wildlife, poaching was one of the few ways in which they could benefit from game.

The major way in which rights could be delivered was through legislation tabled in 1996. This allowed for the formation of communal area conservancies and paved the way for a new era of conservation and natural resource management in Namibia.

As the movement grew, more and more communities took advantage of the increased opportunities for natural resource management. Several new organisations, together with those that had previously worked towards rural empowerment in sectors other than wildlife, joined forces to assist communities to organise themselves into conservancies.



SUPPORTING CBNRM IN NAMIBIA

The idea of a national CBNRM support structure emerged in the early 1990s, through the efforts of the Living in a Finite Environment (LIFE) Programme. Several partners, including the Ministry of Environment and Tourism as lead agent, NGOs, donors, local and traditional authorities and communities, agreed to initiate a national CBNRM Programme:

"to promote pilot activities demonstrating that sustainably managed natural resources can result in social development and economic growth, and in suitable partnership between local communities and government".

Organisations providing financial support for CBNRM in Namibia have included:

- USAID
- WWF (WWF - International and various country offices including WWF-UK and WWF-US)
- DfID
- Sida
- NNF
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Canadian Ambassador's Fund
- Hivos
- Ford Foundation

International support and funding was sourced from many organisations, with WWF, USAID and DfID playing an active role in supporting pilot programmes in specific geographical areas. Many of the activities were successful, and growing interest from people nationwide impelled organisations to provide institutional support to initiatives throughout Namibia.

The CBNRM Programme that grew from these roots now aims to develop its own identity, while ensuring long-term sustainability.

After several years of wide consultation, the process has culminated in the formation of an umbrella organisation - the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations, or NACSO. It functions to provide a common platform for advocacy and coordination, and to promote partnerships.

NACSO partners provide assistance to communities engaged in CBNRM through:

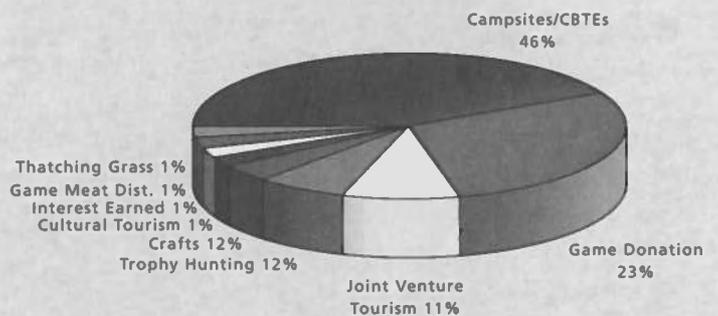
- technical assistance
- capacity building
- training, including exchange visits and study tours
- grant management
- regional co-ordination
- institutional strengthening
- monitoring and evaluation, and
- advising on and encouraging links between CBNRM and Governance

The recently established NACSO secretariat provides secretarial, networking, advocacy, information and publicity services to the programme, while NNF provides for CBNRM fund-raising, and grant management.

The association currently has four major objectives:

- to ensure CBOs have the capacity to manage
- to promote sustainable integrated resource use and management
- to ensure that CBO and community income and benefits are increased
- to ensure that the capacity of CBNRM support organisations is increased

Namibian National CBNRM Programme
2000 Financial Benefits - \$3,411,260



Total Value of Income Generated = \$2,580,060
Total Value of Non-Financial Benefits = \$831,200
(the majority of non-financial benefits are from game donations)

See the last page of this brochure for contact details of NACSO partners.



IRDNC: Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation is a field-based organisation working to support conservancy development in Kunene and Caprivi regions

LAC: the Legal Assistance Centre supplies legal advice and advocacy on CBNRM-related issues

MET: the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, through its Directorates, provides a broad spectrum of support in terms of policy, wildlife resource monitoring and management, and publicity

MRCC-UNAM: the Multidisciplinary Research Centre and Consultancy of the University of Namibia provides research-related support

NACOBTA: the Namibia Community-Based Tourism Association serves as an umbrella organisation and support provider for community-based tourism initiatives

NANGOF: the Namibia NGO Forum represents a broad range of NGOs and CBOs

NDT: the Namibia Development Trust provides assistance to established and emerging conservancies in southern Namibia

NNDFN: the Nyae Nyae Development Foundation of Namibia supports San communities in Otjozondjupa Region in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy

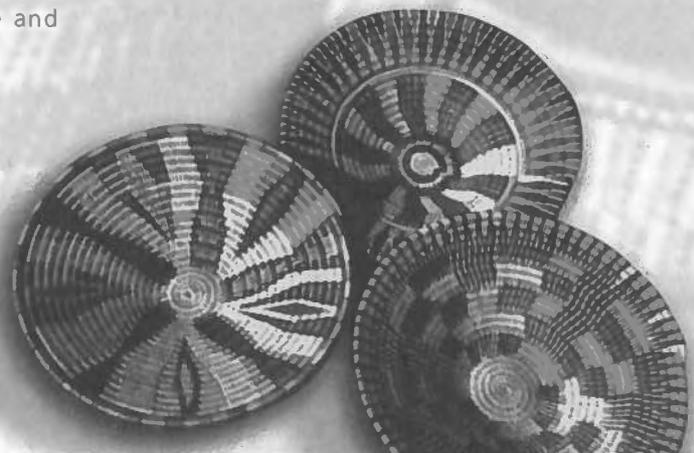
NNF: Namibia Nature Foundation provides assistance through grant making, financial administration, fund-raising, monitoring and evaluation

RF: the Rössing Foundation provides training and materials for CBNRM partners

RISE: The Rural Institute for Social Empowerment provides assistance to established and emerging conservancies in southern Kunene and Erongo regions



A staff member of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism receives training at a workshop organised by the Rössing Foundation



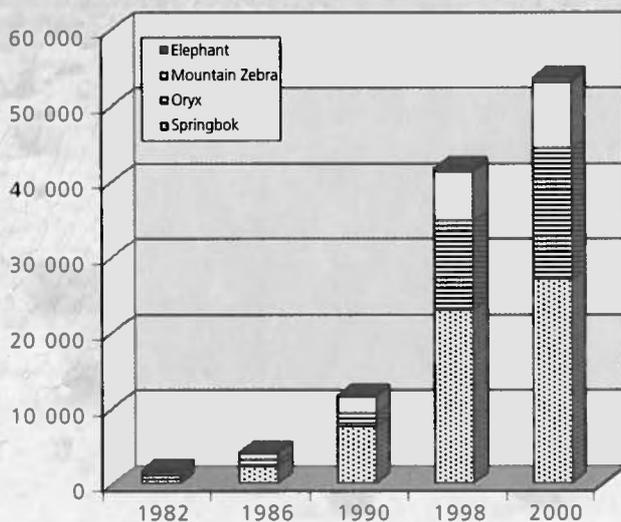
A NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMME...

CBNRM, Conservation and Natural Resource Management

Although Namibia has an impressively high percentage of land under state conservation protection (13.8%), these protected areas are almost exclusively in Namibia's desert areas. This means that Namibia's other biomes are seriously under-represented. CBNRM offers the potential for extending wildlife management beyond Namibia's Protected Areas Network.

other spin-off activities have created employment, while in some areas households have received direct financial benefits. This has enhanced levels of awareness and positive attitudes towards

Numbers of wildlife in north-western Namibia



Namibia's CBNRM Programme has contributed to a remarkable increase in wildlife populations in many of Namibia's rural areas.

Conservancies - both communal and commercial - are an example of how this can operate. Many of the gazetted and emerging conservancies are situated in biomes that are either under-represented or not represented in parks, and act as corridors through which wildlife can safely move from one protected area to another. Not only does wildlife benefit from this, but also integrated natural resource management programmes have positive implications for biodiversity.

Conservancies offer people an opportunity to make decisions about the management of natural resources in their area. Tourism enterprises and

conservation. In many rural areas, poaching incidences have declined and wildlife populations are increasing.

Through policy and legislative change, the government has provided a framework in which an integrated approach to natural resource management can be built.



A woman and her children pick berries in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy. Many Namibians are dependent on veld foods as a source of nutrition.



The black rhinoceros is one of Africa's most endangered species. Due to an intensive conservation programme involving rural people, black rhino populations in Kunene Region have more than doubled in the past 20 years.

Establishing communal area conservancies

Legislation devolving rights over wildlife to communal area residents was approved by the Namibian Parliament in 1996. This enables people living on state land to establish legally gazetted



Representative of Nyae Nyae, Salambala, ≠ Khoadi //Hôas and Torra conservancies display their registration certificates presented at the Gift to the Earth Ceremony in September 1998.

conservancies, giving them some rights over natural resources, wildlife in particular. However, communities are not automatically awarded the right to register as a conservancy. They have to fulfil a number of preconditions beforehand.

According to the legislation, conservancies require:

- defined membership
- a representative management committee
- a legally recognised constitution that makes provision for the development of a wildlife management strategy and an equitable benefits distribution plan
- defined boundaries

Initially, it is important to establish whether a conservancy in a specific area will be ecologically, socially and economically viable. If it is, then communities work towards legal requirements (see box). Communities that meet the conditions for registration receive limited rights of ownership over certain animal species and use rights over others. Legally formed conservancies can also apply for hunting and tourism rights within the conservancy.

Many NACSO partners work directly with communities to support conservancy development and management. For example, IRDNC, a field-based agency, has provided local communities with ongoing support and on-the-job capacity building over the past 17 years. The Nyae Nyae Development Foundation of Namibia, Rössing Foundation, RISE and NDT also provide field-based support and training.

"Conservancies empower local people to make their own decisions about their own resources, while enabling them to benefit from these resources. Conservancies should be seen as creating an institutional infrastructure in helping to diversify rural economies. Through the conservancy system, my Government has created an environment and an opportunity for natural-resource-based industries to develop."

HE President Dr Sam Nujoma, Launch of Communal Area Conservancies and Gift of the Earth Award Ceremony. 1998.

In February 1998, Nyae Nyae Conservancy became the first Communal Area Conservancy to be gazetted. By May 2001, 14 communal area conservancies were legally recognised, while more than 30 were at various stages of establishment. These 14 conservancies cover over 38 500 km² of communal land (about 5% of Namibia's landmass).

Communal-area conservancies at a glance (May 2001)	
Number of conservancies	14
Number of individuals in conservancies	26 912
Area under rural conservancies	38 500 km ²
Income and benefits earned (1995-2000)	N\$ 8 591 819



During 1999, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism captured springbok in Etosha National Park and donated the animals to Nyae Nyae Conservancy. A series of game translocations to conservancies have helped to restock wildlife populations in communal area conservancies.

SOME IMPORTANT ASPECTS AND ACTIVITIES OF CONSERVANCIES

Conservancy committees

Conservancies are managed by conservancy committees. These bodies are composed of democratically elected members and are responsible for institutional management: planning, overseeing implementation of plans, personnel management, financial management, reporting, networking and communication. Conservancy committees are also engaged in the development of land, natural resource and tourism management plans, to provide for better management and community-guided implementation in their areas.

Conservancy game guards and resource monitors

Conservancy game guards, also referred to as community game guards, community rangers or environmental shepherds, are responsible for day-to-day wildlife monitoring. In addition, they serve as effective communications links between the conservancy committee and the broader membership of the conservancy. Conservancy game guards monitor and deter illegal hunting, and collect and report information on the status of wildlife populations. They also support a range of natural resource management activities. Conservancy resource monitors, all of whom are women, monitor the use of resources whose primary users are women (basketry materials and veld foods, for example).

Mapping

One of the prerequisites for the establishment of a conservancy is a clearly defined boundary. Mapping this often requires months or even years of negotiations with neighbouring communities. Baseline maps are also needed for land-use planning and monitoring natural resources, and maps are a useful tool for capturing conservancy land-use planning (zonation maps, for example). Participatory mapping leads to stronger ownership of conservancies, and builds bridges between communities, support organisations and technical advisors.

Inventories and monitoring

Land-use planning and natural resource management

rely on information about an area's natural resources. Inventories and monitoring exercises are therefore essential tools for conservancies. While inventories to date have been compiled mainly from existing information, monitoring in conservancies is providing new and useful data. Some of the wildlife monitoring systems that have been established in selected conservancies include the event book system in Caprivi, foot transect counts in West Caprivi, vehicle counts in Kunene, cybertracker foot counts in East Caprivi and fixed-route foot patrols in Nyae Nyae and Caprivi. Monitoring is a key activity conducted by community game guards. A wildlife-monitoring database that captures all data and serves all communities has been developed.

Natural resource management activities

Conservancies are committed to the active and wise management of resources on their land, and in particular (according to legislation), wildlife. Different strategies are being explored and many have been employed. In some areas, game cropping has taken place, providing benefits for communities in the form of meat and income from sale of skins, and providing an incentive for and example of sustainable use of wildlife. An important non-cash benefit received by several communal area conservancies is that game has been reintroduced into their area to restock populations depleted by years of hunting and changing land-use practices. Game has been donated by the MET, WWF, the New Zealand High Commission and commercial farmers. Game translocations allow wildlife populations to become re-established and may, in some areas, allow for sustainable use through commercial hunting or game cropping.

Quarterly planning and evaluation

Four times a year, conservancies and support organisations engage in an evaluation and planning exercise. This offers an essential opportunity to reflect on processes and progress and to plan for or adjust natural resource management strategies. It also provides a valuable means of collecting and sharing information and lessons learned from different areas, and encourages conservancies to learn from each other.

Dealing with problem animals

While tourists travel from afar to view animals, especially elephant and lion, rural residents and farmers often bear the costs of destruction of their livestock and property by these and other animals. In some cases, people are killed by animals such as



While a sight like this may be what many tourists dream of, elephants often cause serious damage to water installations in Namibia's arid north west.

The Game Products Trust Fund receives revenue from the sale of animal products (such as skins and ivory), the sale of trophy hunting concessions, head levies from the export of live game, and donations from other sources. It uses this money to fund projects that reduce conflict between people and wildlife, return funds to where game products have come from, and balance wildlife conservation and rural development.

The Environmental Investment Fund is run along similar lines, but has a broader environmental focus, rather than dealing specifically with wildlife.

elephants, hippopotamuses, lions and crocodiles - all of which are protected under conservation laws.

In most southern African countries, including Namibia, people have asked their government to compensate them for their losses. Few countries have managed to address this problem, because of difficulties in determining exact costs and because there are insufficient funds.

People and wildlife continue to compete for resources. Ironically, as game populations recover and animals such as elephants reclaim their old distribution areas, conflict increases. While the newly established Game Products Trust Fund (see box) offers a partial solution to this problem, it is imperative to continue to find new ways of dealing with old problems.

Now more than ever, it is vital to seek effective and innovative approaches to dealing with 'problem animals'. Research into animal movements, habitat preferences, water needs and grazing is required for better understanding of animal behaviour, to make it easier to minimise conflict through, for example, the establishment of separate waterholes for wildlife and livestock.



Working with natural resources - capacity building, extension and education

Managing natural resources in rural areas demands considerable skills and effort. Capacity building, extension work, environmental awareness and education are all important components of the conservation and natural resource management aspects of the programme. A broad spectrum of capacity development is needed if CBNRM and conservancies are to function effectively.

Capacity development and training programmes cover topics as diverse as conservancy formation, wildlife monitoring, institutional and financial management, benefits sharing, management and leadership, report writing, strategic planning and evaluation, and the roles and responsibilities of conservancy committees. Much of the work of NACSO partners concentrates on capacity building and training. The Rössing Foundation has established a CBNRM Training Unit, to focus specifically on developing, presenting and sharing training workshops supporting the CBNRM Programme. Training in wildlife management is provided by a partnership consisting of the MET, WWF and the NNF.



Literacy levels are low in many of Namibia's rural areas, and written support materials are not always appropriate. A card game spreads awareness of the requirements for the gazetting of a conservancy, and a board game, based on Monopoly, teaches financial management skills.



People in the Caprivi Region depend on fish for their livelihoods.

Innovative methods and materials are developed and tested through pilot work before broader application, while valuable exchanges of information, resource materials and ideas have been effected by CBNRM Programmes run by Namibia's SADC neighbours.

A RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME...

Namibia's CBNRM Programme is increasingly regarded as a major rural development strategy that helps to nurture an alternative development vision.

Conservancies serve as units for natural resource management and land-use schemes that supplement traditional farming. This helps to diversify livelihoods, and broaden resources to cope with drought (a common and natural occurrence in Namibia). The importance and potential of CBNRM as a rural development strategy has been widely recognised, and it has been woven into the second Namibian National Development Plan.

Natural resources can offer alternative sources of income to rural people. However, if their use is unmanaged, such options will be severely reduced in future years. Thatching grass already provides communities in Kavango and Caprivi regions with supplementary income. While there are ready markets for products such as marula oil and Devil's Claw or harpargo tea, the challenge is to find sustainable ways in which to harvest these indigenous products.



Sale of thatching grass supplements many household incomes in the Kavango and Caprivi regions of Namibia

Several communities have received non-cash contributions in the form of game translocated to their areas from commercial game farms and national parks. If these animals are carefully managed, there is the potential for sale of live game to contribute to rural residents' incomes. However, the greatest potential for resource-based income generation in rural areas lies in the realm of tourism.

Benefiting from tourism

Tourism is the fastest growing industry in Namibia, and is predicted to become one of the highest contributors to Namibia's GDP within a few years. Namibia's unique scenery, people and wild animals are important tourist attractions. Traditionally, Etosha National Park and the dunes at Sossusvlei have served to attract international tourists. Communal areas such as the Kunene Region are fast becoming another attraction.

Often, the inhabitants of areas where tourism is taking place do not benefit from it and, in some instances, are exploited. They are not always aware of the value of their crafts and cultural artefacts, or of the natural resources in their areas. Community-based tourism initiatives and enterprises have become a key element of CBNRM.

Tourism can:

- provide opportunities for income generation - either through employment or through sale of goods or services to tourists.
- offer investment opportunities for Namibians to participate in the tourism industry and create jobs for local residents, such as lodge managers, tour guides, camp attendants and lodge workers
- improve standards of living through stimulating the local economy and developing infrastructure for tourism which may also be of benefit to residents (for example, improved roads)
- help to develop the capacity of rural residents as they engage in tourism related activities
- promote entrepreneurship
- provide an incentive for conservation.



In 2000, N\$1.5 million (out of total of N\$3.5m generated through CBNRM activities) was derived from community-based tourism. This does not include an additional N\$ 375 000 of revenue from joint-venture lodges.

Tourism is the largest income generator for communal area conservancies. Community-based tourism products include campsites, rest camps, traditional villages, tour guide associations and craft outlets. The value of added activities and services, such as jobs for lodge staff, managers, guides, waiters, cooks, washing, etc., should not be underestimated, for these can make important contributions to rural household economies. The Namibia Community-Based Tourism Association, NACOBTA, supports 45 members, of which 26 are currently operational. A vital part of their work consists of helping communities to establish whether tourism in their area is a viable income-generating option, and assisting in surveys, planning and market development.

Building rural entrepreneurship

Many different tourism spin-off businesses have been established and there is scope for more. Local residents produce vegetables for lodges and rest camps, provide firewood to campers, and offer guided walks, mokoro rides and donkey-cart rides. In Kunene Region, a resident created a tyre repair centre and refreshment kiosk as a result of witnessing weary tourists struggling to repair tyres. Community-based tourism offers and promotes opportunities for rural entrepreneurship.

Joint ventures

Joint ventures with private sector partners can provide a regular source of income for communities. They allow for the development of tourism infrastructure that some communities would sometimes find difficult to finance, and bring tourism skills, information and marketing into communities. There are various ways in which these joint ventures can be structured and provide

benefits, all of which need to be carefully and clearly negotiated before joint ventures can be formally embarked upon. Some of the options include:

- direct revenue sharing (by percentage of turnover, usually combined with a flat fee per year)
- the payment of bed-night levies
- payment for game for hunting
- site (PTO) rental fees
- the provision of training and employment for local inhabitants
- secondary business opportunities

It is expected that joint-venture tourism income will increase dramatically in future years, and by 2005 it is likely to become the single largest source of CBNRM-related income in Namibia.

The Damaraland Camp - a private sector-conservancy partnership:

The Torra Conservancy has become Namibia's first financially self-sustaining conservancy - it now covers 100% of its management expenses from self-generated funds and still makes a profit for its 450 members. Torra Conservancy has entered into a joint venture with a Namibian private company to run the upmarket Damaraland Camp. Tourists come here to enjoy the spectacular desert landscape and the rich wildlife. Ten percent of the camp's income goes to the Torra Conservancy.



Traditional villages

'Traditional villages' owned and operated by communities or conservancies attract tourists and add cultural tourism to the eco-tourism already on offer. Apart from providing employment and revenue, they are conserving parts of Namibia's cultural heritage and ensure that cultural practices are passed on to future generations.



Anmire Traditional Village in Kunene Region affords tourists an opportunity to learn about Damara and Herero culture.

Community campsites

There are a number of community-owned and -operated campsites that generate income and provide part-time employment for the communities that operate them.



While tourism creates income for rural area residents, it also leads to environmental and cultural problems. In Marienfluss, Kunene Region, signposts have been erected alongside main tracks to encourage responsible tourism.

Safari and trophy hunting



The road to a trophy-hunting camp in Nyae Nyae Conservancy, Otjozondjupa Region. Trophy-hunting generates much-needed revenue for conservancies

Conservancies' user rights over wildlife mean that they are able to benefit from safari and trophy-hunting operations. Conservancies with an abundance of wildlife can usually begin to earn income from trophy hunting shortly after registration.

Sale of crafts



A variety of crafts are created using natural resources, while some entrepreneurs have opened unusual roadside craft stalls from which they sell items to passing tourists.

Production and sale of crafts supplements income for many rural area residents, particularly women. Crafts are manufactured mainly from natural resources, and these need to be used sustainably if the industry is to continue to grow. NACSO partners provide support in terms of craft development, quality improvement and marketing. Alternative materials for craft making are also explored.

Supporting Community-Based Tourism

Successful community-based tourism depends on awareness raising and capacitybuilding. Many new skills are needed if a community is to establish, run and manage tourism enterprises. Joint-venture negotiations often require specialised legal and financial expertise. NACSO partners are striving to increase their capacity to provide necessary support. Almost all partners provide support for community-based tourism initiatives in the areas where they work, with NACOBTA serving as the lead agency. Its key functions include business and enterprise support and advice; small grants and product development; tourism planning; training in tourism and business skills; marketing and promotion of community-based tourism, including a booking and information system; and advocacy and lobbying of government and the private sector.



Financial benefits to date

Since the start of Namibia's CBNRM Programme, income and benefits earned by communities (mainly through joint ventures and trophy hunting) have increased steadily.

In 2000, N\$ 3 411 260 was earned in total. Of this total:

- 46% came from community-owned tourism enterprises
- 23% came from game donations to conservancies (non-cash benefit)
- 12% came from trophy hunting
- 11% came from joint-venture tourism (Damaraland Camp)
- 3% came from sale of crafts
- 1% each (approximately) came from cultural tourism, game meat distribution, sales of thatching grass, and interest earned from conservancy funds in commercial banks.

It is estimated that by 2005 total annual CBNRM related income in Namibia will reach N\$ 10 million.



Conservancy resource monitors in eastern Caprivi have raised awareness among local people about the sustainable use of natural resources.

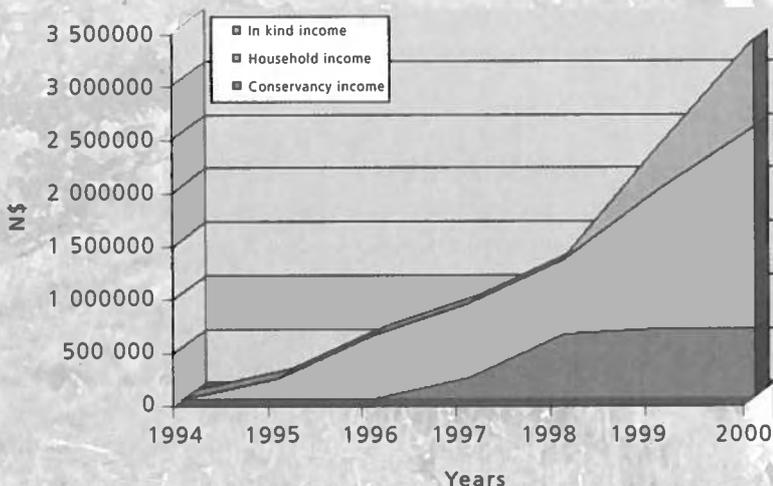


A Himba woman sells local crafts.



Lizauli Traditional Village in eastern Caprivi provides visitors with an insight into day-to-day village life.

Benefits earned by communities and households as a result of the national CBNRM Programme



Conservancy, household and in-kind benefits to communities and conservancies have increased steadily since the inception of Namibia's CBNRM Programme

AN EMPOWERMENT AND CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME...

Effective natural resource management cannot occur in a social vacuum. Because of this, Namibia's CBNRM Programme works towards rural empowerment through:

- increasing capacity in decision making, problem solving, and conflict resolution
- strengthening links between communities, traditional authorities, local and national government
- providing information and skills that can create income and develop local infrastructure

Democracy, governance and rural empowerment

Rural conservancies are governed by a representative and elected management committee, according to a member-generated constitution. About one in every four committee members is a woman, and traditional authorities are usually represented on committees. Some major ways in which conservancies have contributed to rural empowerment are:

- community decision-making processes have been strengthened
- community leaders are held accountable for their actions, and transparent leadership is encouraged
- there is increased participation by women in decision-making processes
- conservancies provide communities with increased ability to control land-use within their areas, which helps to prevent economic exploitation
- conservancies provide poor and marginalised communities with an empowerment mechanism that enables them to begin to take control of their own lives.
- people have developed improved self-confidence and the sophistication to manage and benefit from their own natural resources and plan their own livelihoods.



CBNRM and gender

NACSO partners have placed special emphasis on building gender equity into CBNRM Programmes. This includes ensuring that women have a voice in any decision-making processes, stand for election to committees and benefit from capacity development and training.

The number of women in conservancy committees has grown steadily since the beginning of the CBNRM Programme. Although both Salambala and Nyae Nyae conservancies began with all male conservancy committees, they have both amended these committees to include women. In Torra Conservancy, women make up one third of the committee, while in the emerging Uukwaluudhi Conservancy, half of the committee consists of female members and it is led by a female chair.

Recognising that conservancy game guards did not represent women, many conservancies have employed female Conservancy Resource Monitors. They monitor the use of non-wildlife resources (such as palm for basketry, thatching grass and veld foods), disseminate information to women, and channel women's views to decision-makers through their report-backs. Communities have generally been supportive of this process, and over time have come to value the diversity of perspectives in decision-making processes.



Training workshops actively encourage the involvement of women.



BUILDING ON ACHIEVEMENTS TOWARDS OUR VISION OF THE FUTURE

The CBNRM Programme is still in its early stages. Much focused work remains to be done in areas that include:

- policies and legislation (enabling CBNRM)
- integrated natural resource management
- capacity and skills development
- institutional development - for both CBNRM implementers and support organisations
- the development of a conservation ethic
- 'problem animal' control
- participatory monitoring and evaluation
- research
- documenting lessons learned
- joint ventures and links with the private sector
- distribution and use of benefits earned by communities engaged in CBNRM processes
- business management skills

CBNRM needs to be integrated into all levels of local, regional and national planning. Namibia's experiences have contributed, as they will continue to do, to similar programmes within the SADC region.



Game counts are an essential activity in conservancies. Knowledge about game in an area assists people to develop management plans and activities for the future.

Beyond conservancies

Communal area conservancies have served as a flagship for CBNRM in Namibia, but are only one example of how rural development based upon sustainable natural resource management can take

place. In the future, increased emphasis will be given to exploring and implementing other models. New approaches are needed towards parks and their neighbours (for example, work is currently under way in and around Bwabwata National Park), while the Northern Namibian Environmental Programme has already facilitated the development of a possible alternative model for rural resource use and management. Such explorations are in addition to, not in place of ongoing support for conservancies. The National CBNRM Programme aims to collaborate with other natural resource management sectors, such as forestry, fisheries, water and land.

Institutional development: building greater support for CBNRM

As NACSO's membership and capacity grows, it aims to provide increased support for all aspects of CBNRM. The government's decentralisation policy aims at devolving rights and responsibilities to regional and local level government, and CBNRM will need a strong voice to ensure an enabling institutional setting. Currently under discussion is the establishment of an umbrella organisation for communal area conservancies, which should provide NACSO with a strong grass-roots partner with a broad rural constituency.

Contributing to regional conservation

Conservancies and Namibia's CBNRM Programme contribute to national, regional and international conservation efforts. Several Trans-Border Natural Resource Management (TBNRM) programmes rely on contributions from Namibia and its rural communities. Amongst these are the Every Rivers Project (Kavango River and neighbouring countries), and the Four Corners Project (involving Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia).

REGISTERED COMMUNAL CONSERVANCIES

Name	Region	Biomes	Date registered	Size (km2)	Total registered members
1 Nyae Nyae	Otjozondjupa	Woodland	Feb 1998	9 003	7 52
2 Salambala	Caprivi	Woodland	June 1998	930	3 - 4 000
3 Torra	Kunene	Desert	June 1998	3 522	4 50
4 #Khoadi//Hôas	Kunene	Desert/Savanna	June 1998	3 366	1 600
5 Twyfelfontein-Uibasen	Kunene	Desert/Savanna	Dec 1999	400	61
6 Doro !Nawas	Kunene	Desert/Savanna	Dec 1999	4073	4 30
7 Kwandu	Caprivi	Woodland	Dec 1999	190	1 800
8 Mayuni	Caprivi	Woodland	Dec 1999	151	1 500
9 Wuparo	Caprivi	Woodland	Dec 1999	148	1 700
10 Puros	Kunene	Desert	May 2000	3 568	85
11 Tsiseb	Erongo	Desert	Jan 2001	8 083	9 50
12 Ehi-Rovipuka	Kunene	Savanna	Jan 2001	1 975	5 00
13 Marienfluss	Kunene	Desert	Jan 2001	3 034	121
14 Oskop	Hardap	Shrub Savanna	Feb 2001	95	20

Photographs used in this publication provided by:

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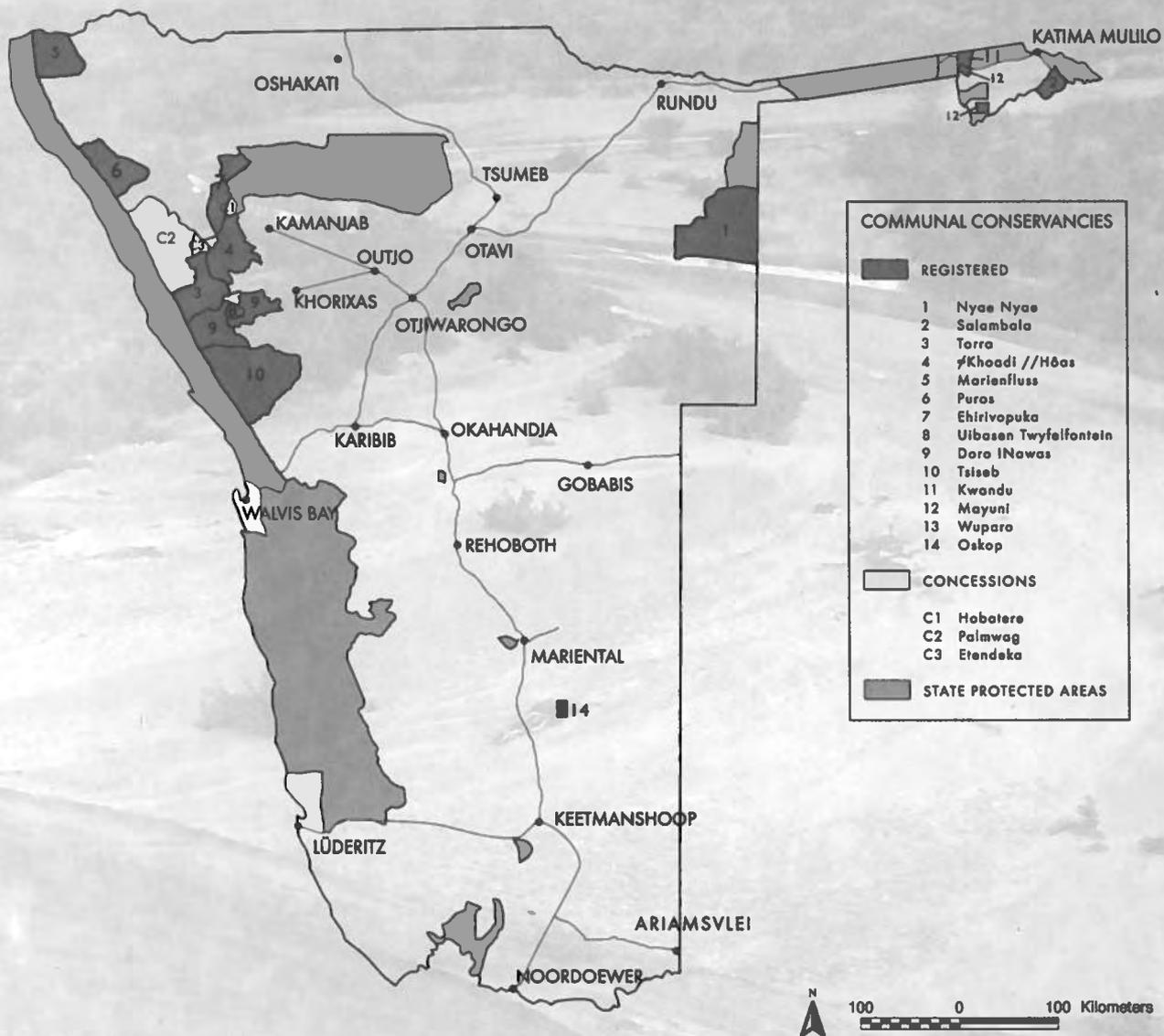
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Namibia's CBNRM Programme and NACSO partners have received international and national recognition and awards from several organisations. In 1998 President Sam Nujoma, received a Gift to the Earth Award on behalf of the programme. Other notable awards garnered by CBNRM projects and project partners include the Goldman Award, the NNF Environmental Award and the NAPHA (Namibia Professional Hunting Association) Conservationist of the Year Award.

REGISTERED AND EMERGING COMMUNAL CONSERVANCIES





DY8 SAATCHI & SAATCHI



Namibian Association of CBNRM
Support Organisations

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