

Living with wildlife -
the story of **Mudumu North Complex**



A joint management area embracing state and community conservation initiatives, named after Mudumu National Park

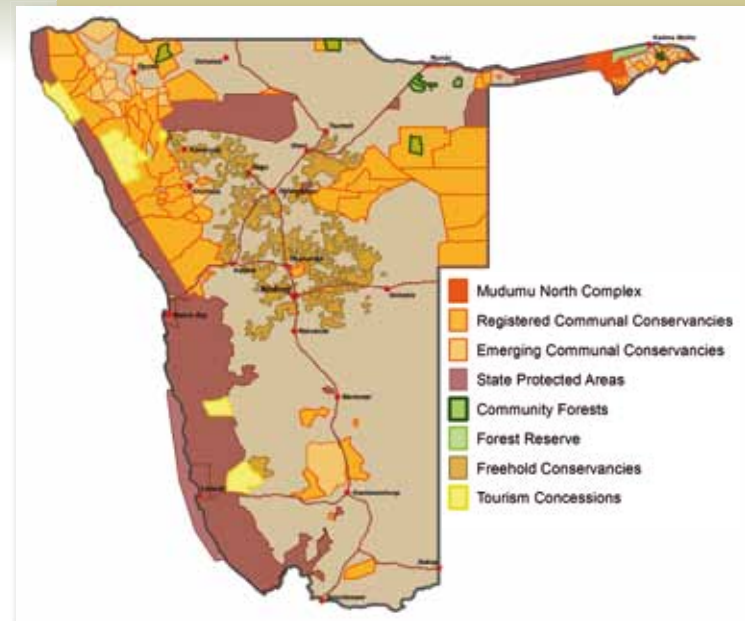


Living with wildlife – the story of MUDUMU NORTH COMPLEX (MNC)

Natural Resource Management Complexes enable conservation and development over large areas...

MILESTONES AND SUCCESSES

- 1990** – Mudumu National Park is proclaimed
- 1991** – the first community game guards are appointed in eastern Caprivi
- 1996** – policy changes allow communal area residents to benefit from wildlife and tourism by forming conservancies
- 1999** – Kwandu and Mayuni Conservancies are registered in December
- 2001** – implementation of the Event Book monitoring system in the Kwandu and Mayuni Conservancies and the Mashi community
- 2001** – Kwandu and Mayuni Conservancies pilot the Human Animal Conflict Conservancy Self Insurance Scheme (HACCSIS)
- 2001** – the Forest Act is passed by Parliament
- 2003** – Mashi Conservancy is registered in March
- 2005** – the Mudumu North Complex is formed
- 2005** – the Forest Amendment Act is passed, amending the 2001 Act
- 2006** – the Kwandu, Lubuta and Masida Community Forests are registered in February
- 2006** – the Kyaramacan Association is officially recognised by the Ministry of Environment & Tourism (MET) as the legal entity representing people living in Caprivi Game Park (now Bwabwata National Park)
- 2006** – Sobbe Conservancy is registered in October and becomes part of the MNC
- 2007** – Bwabwata National Park is proclaimed, incorporating the Caprivi Game Park and Kwando Triangle
- 2007** – Chief Joseph Mayuni resettles his people to free up a key floodplain area for tourism development; he also wins the Environmentalist of the Decade Award from the Namibia Nature Foundation
- 2009** – The devil's claw harvest of the Kyaramacan Association is certified organic, enabling higher prices
- 2005 to 2010** – wildlife translocations by the MET, including sable, giraffe, eland, blue wildebeest, kudu and common impala, re-establish locally extinct species and bolster the population numbers of others



THE MUDUMU NORTH COMPLEX

- is a cluster of resource management areas including Kwandu, Mashi, Mayuni and Sobbe Conservancies, the Kyaramacan Association, Kwandu, Lubuta, Masida and Sachona Community Forests, Mudumu National Park and the eastern section of Bwabwata National Park
- has the mission to work together to rehabilitate and manage the area's fauna and flora, and guide the development of tourism and resource use for social, cultural and economic benefits through collaborative management of conservancies, community forests and national parks
- aims to accomplish goals greater than any smaller unit could achieve
- embraces an area of particularly high biodiversity along both sides of the Kwando River, covers about 3,400 square kilometres and is home to around 20,000 people

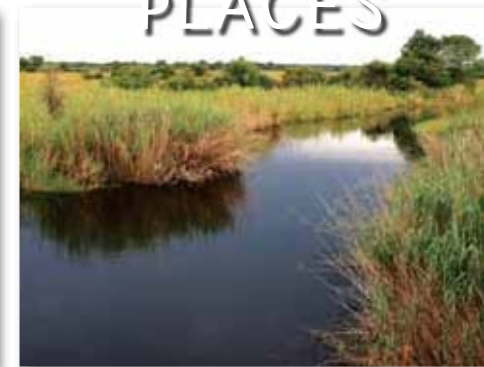
MUDUMU NORTH COMPLEX offers an enchanting mix of

PEOPLE



interesting cultures and dynamic communities committed to sustainability - people living in Mudumu North Complex share a common vision for managing their area and its resources

PLACES



vast, diverse and spectacular landscapes – the Kwando River, woodlands and wetlands... a healthy environment diversifies economic opportunities and drives economic growth

& WILDLIFE



charismatic, free-roaming wildlife – elephant, buffalo, crocodile, lion, wild dog, abundant birdlife... wildlife generates a variety of benefits for local people

people are living with wildlife, are managing natural resources wisely and are reaping the benefits...

A LITTLE HISTORY

Prior to Namibia's independence in 1990, communal area residents had few rights to use wildlife or other natural resources. Wild animals were often seen as a threat to crops, livestock and infrastructure, as well as community safety. The conservancy legislation passed in 1996 laid the foundation for a new approach to managing wildlife in communal areas, while the amendment of the Forest Act in 2005 paved the way for the sustainable use of communal forest resources. By forming conservancies and community forests, people in communal areas can now actively manage – and generate benefits from – wildlife, forest resources and related activities in their area, encouraging wildlife recoveries and environmental restoration. While conservancies and community forests are natural resource management structures, they are defined by social ties, as they unite groups of people with the common goal of managing their resources. Today, over 70 communal conservancies and 13 community forests embrace one in four rural Namibians, underlining a national commitment to both rural development and conservation.

In eastern Caprivi, wildlife populations declined considerably in the 1970s and 80s due to poaching by local people, the South African Defence Force and government officials. Species such as giraffe, black rhino, sable and eland became locally extinct. The utilisation of forest resources was not controlled, leading to degradation in many areas. In 1990, staff of the local NGO Integrated Rural Development & Nature Conservation (IRDNC) consulted traditional leaders to develop new approaches to conservation that would involve communities in decision making and provide them with benefits from wildlife and other natural resources. This was followed in 1992 by a socio-ecological survey by the MET and laid the foundations for the establishment of conservancies and community forests in the region. In 2005, recognizing that all the neighbouring conservation areas along the Kwando River had shared objectives and were inter-dependant, various stakeholders met to explore the possibility of some form of joint management. The result was the formation of the **Mudumu North Complex**.





RESOURCES AND ATTRACTIONS

The Mudumu North Complex is a living landscape...

The Mudumu North Complex embraces a diversity of cultures. Population movements and cultural dynamics in the area in recent centuries were heavily influenced by the Lozi and Kololo kingdoms, which dominated the region in successions of power from the 1600s to the late 1800s and affected the heritage of the Mbukushu, Sifwe, and Khwe language groups. The Khwe, a sub-group of the San, today make up the majority of residents in Bwabwata National Park, while a smaller Mbukushu community also resides in the park. Most people living along the eastern side of the Kwando River speak Sifwe or Mbukushu, as well as the regional lingua franca, Lozi — a remnant of the Lozi empire.

Elephants jostling for a place to drink; countless hooves of buffalos swirling up clouds of grey dust as they file down to the water... and everywhere more wildlife, and birds in great number and diversity — all attracted to the river... the Kwando is the heart of the Mudumu North Complex



The environment of the Mudumu North Complex is rich and diverse. The heart of the complex – from both a geographical and natural resource perspective – is the Kwando River. The river originates in Angola, winds its way across the Caprivi strip and delineates a part of Namibia's border with Botswana. The Bwabwata National Park stretches to the west from the Kwando to the Okavango River, while the conservancies, community forests and Mudumu National Park all lie to the east. Few rivers anywhere in the world function like the Kwando. From its flat and sandy catchment in Angola the river meanders slowly through broad marshlands, and its seasonal floodwaters only reach Namibia months after heavy summer rains have fallen upstream in Angola, thus inundating the floodplains in Caprivi throughout the winter. Blocked by the Linyanti Fault, the Kwando comes to an end in the Linyanti Swamps, which form much of Mamili National Park. The swamps are actually an inland delta, which is in many ways very similar to the nearby Okavango Delta. In Namibia, the Kwando meanders across a broad floodplain valley lying around 960 metres above sea level, with its western ridge rising to around 1,020 meters. Much of the

valley consists of marshlands, grasslands and riparian forests, creating a swathe of nutrient and water wealth to which livestock and wildlife are attracted. Importantly, the river is most productive during winter when the surrounding woodlands and grasslands are parched and without surface water. Most local rain falls from January to March, with an annual average of between 550 and 650 millimetres.

Since the establishment of conservancies, wildlife numbers in communal areas have rebounded from historic lows prior to independence. Large herds of elephant and buffalo are characteristic features of the complex, while roan, tsessebe, duiker, kudu bushbuck, steenbok, warthog, bushpig, sitatunga, reedbuck, red lechwe, vervet monkey and baboon can all be spotted in the area.



the wonderful landscapes of the Mudumu North Complex support some of the highest diversity of fauna and flora in all of Namibia

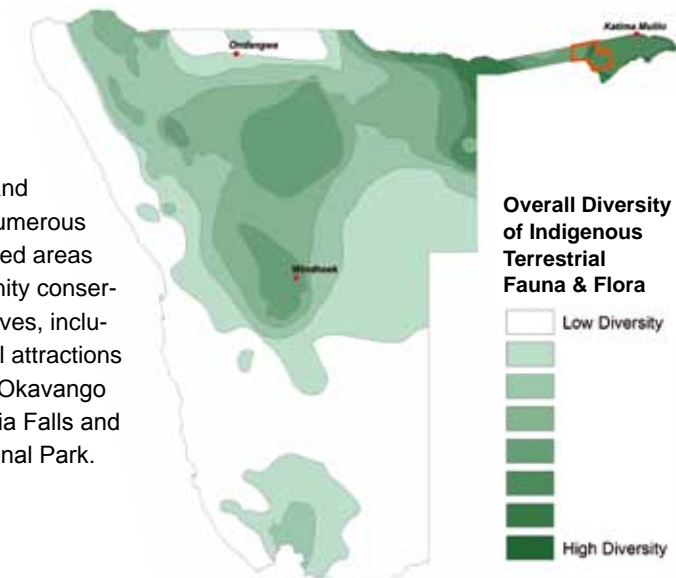
Giraffe, eland, sable, blue wildebeest and Burchell's zebra had become locally extinct prior to independence, but have been re-introduced and are now increasing in numbers. Lion, leopard, cheetah, caracal, serval, civet, spotted hyaena, brown hyaena, side-striped jackal, black-backed jackal and wild dog make up the diverse contingent of predators, while hippo and crocodile are common along the river, where Cape clawless otter and spotted-necked otter also occur. The MNC is a



birders' paradise, with more than 450 species occurring in the area. The interesting mix of woodland and wetland species includes Pel's fishing-owl, wattled crane, white-backed night-heron, western banded snake-eagle, African skimmer, Narina trogon, wood-owl, saddle-billed stork, yellow-billed stork and black-collared barbet.

The MNC is rich in forest resources that are valuable to both people and wildlife. The Kwando has created broad floodplains but also supports dense riverine vegetation. Away from the river, the broad-leaved woodland is composed of a diversity of valuable tree species, interlaced with areas of open grassland. Plants have provided people living in Caprivi with a wealth of resources for thousands of years. Some are used daily by most people, such as grazing and browse for livestock, and reeds, thatching grass and wood as building materials and a source of firewood. Other plants and resources such as honey are harvested less frequently, depending on when they are available or needed as a source of food or for medicinal purposes.

Around The Mudumu North Complex... The MNC lies at the very core of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KaZa), and forms a critical component in the success of the initiative. KaZa spans five countries — Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibia — and embraces numerous state protected areas and community conservation initiatives, including regional attractions such as the Okavango Delta, Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park.





LIVELIHOODS AND DEVELOPMENT

The Mudumu North Complex facilitates joint management and enhances development...

The Mudumu North Complex has an approximate population of 20,000 residents, who have a diverse cultural heritage and a complex history of settlement and traditional livelihood activities. The original inclusion of the finger-like Caprivi strip into Namibia was agreed in the late 19th century by European colonial powers at the 'Berlin Conference' to allow the then German colony access to the Zambezi River. The borders were drawn without following any cultural divisions and separated people with a common heritage into different nations. All the Caprivian language groups together today make up less than ten percent of the national population of Namibia.



little recognition of the rights of the people living there. Despite having to cope with the problems caused by the wildlife that tourists wanted to see, residents gained little from tourism. Conservancies now provide communities with rights over tourism development, which means that operators must negotiate an agreement with the conservancy to be able to utilise the area. Most establishments work well with the conservancies, and tourism now creates a variety of benefits, including conservancy and community income through joint-venture agreements, as well as income from community campsites, cultural tourism products and craft sales. Tourism also creates significant employment and training. A tourism hub has developed at Kongola and includes the Mashi Craft Market, a vibrant outlet for a great variety of goods and information. The market provides a sales outlet for producers living throughout the complex.

the Mudumu North Complex facilitates information sharing and capacity building, leading to more coordinated activities and improved land use, in line with an overall vision that can benefit all residents of the area

by enabling joint management and coordinated development, as well as effective marketing of the entire area and its resources, the Mudumu North Complex can maximise benefits from natural resources

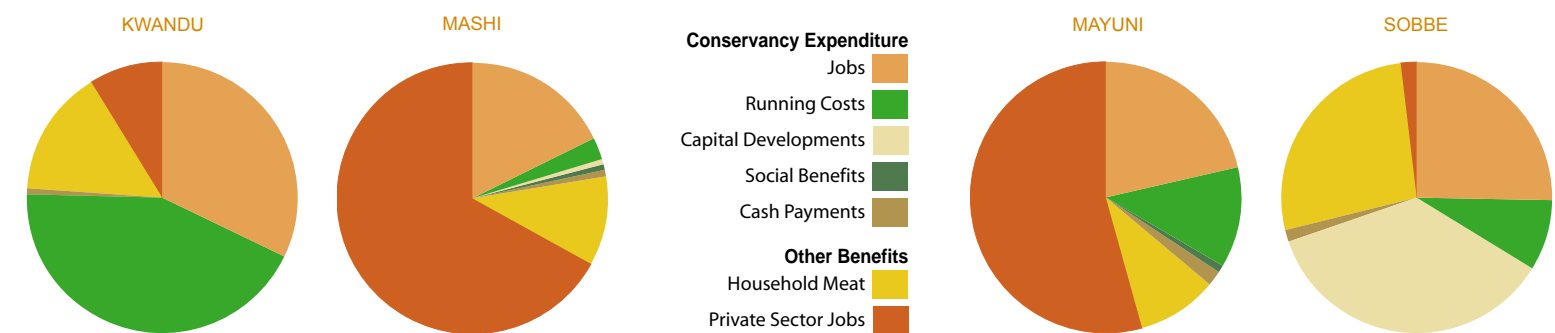
Development in communal areas was sorely neglected prior to independence, and infrastructure in the Mudumu North Complex remains limited. The Trans-Caprivi Highway (B8) bisects the region, and Kongola, situated along the road just east of the Kwando, provides the most facilities and services of any settlement in the complex, including the only fuel station, as well as basic shopping facilities. Most children in the complex have reasonable access to education, with 11 schools

dotted throughout the area. There are three clinics in the MNC providing basic health care. The regional capital, Katima Mulilo, lies around 100 kilometres to the east, and provides access to a state hospital, a number of schools and a variety of other facilities and services.

The livelihood activities of most residents of the area are still based on livestock herding and crop cultivation, as well as the use of natural vegetation for food, fuel and building materials. This is supplemented by

cash income from employment and trade, as well as by pensions and remittances. Community-based natural resource management through the conservancies, community forests and the Kyaramacan Association has significantly diversified livelihood options for people living in the complex. Joint-venture tourism and trophy hunting have made the largest contributions. Tourism in the area is largely based on wildlife. Before the conservancies were established, lodges were developed with

Trophy hunting generates important cash income for conservancies, while the meat from both trophy and own-use hunting is used at festivals and distributed to residents. A range of valuable timber resources such as Zambezi teak, and various non-timber forest resources including thatching grass, devil's claw and honey, generate important income. The conservancies, the community forests and the Kyaramacan Association also create direct employment, and provide diverse social benefits.



Benefits to conservancies and their members come from a variety of sources. Sources and amounts vary from year to year, depending on factors such as agreements with private sector partners, and market fluctuations. The pie charts show the main benefit sources in 2010.

Conservancies spend money and provide community and individual benefits in various areas. Areas and amounts vary from year to year, depending on factors such as conservancy income and priorities. Private sector jobs are created through agreements with private sector partners. The pie charts show the main expenditure and benefit areas in 2010.



KWANDU CONSERVANCY

Conservancies

empower rural people...

Kwandu Conservancy and Kwandu Community Forest have slightly different boundaries, yet have integrated the management of wildlife and forestry resources. The Kwando River, after which both are named, delineates the border with Bwabwata National Park in the west, while the Caprivi State Forest lies to the east. In the south, the Trans-Caprivi Highway (B8) between Rundu and Katima Mulilo separates Kwandu from Mayuni Conservancy while Zambia lies to the north.

The residents of the area began discussing issues of human wildlife conflict in 1996 and decided that forming a conservancy could bring benefits from wildlife rather than only losses. The conservancy was registered in 1999, and a trophy hunting concession currently provides the largest portion of income. The Mafwe Living Museum, located around 20 kilometres north of Kongola, provides genuine insights into Mafwe culture and generates important income, while craft sales create a valuable source of income for individuals. The Bumhill community campsite, which Kwandu was operating in Bwabwata, was unfortunately destroyed by fire, but camping is now possible at the Baobab Campsite close to the living museum. The conservancy plans to develop a lodge to diversify its tourism income, and is exploring new options for benefiting from Bwabwata. Kwandu creates a variety of community benefits, including meat distribution and cash payments, divided amongst the six village areas. Chilli-growing demonstration plots show farmers how to grow chillies and use them to deter elephants. Kwandu is run by a management committee of nine members, a four member executive committee, and a number of field and office staff, and has its office along the D3502 road, a few kilometres north of Kongola.

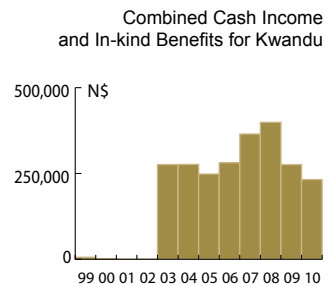
A CONSERVANCY IS...

- a legally registered area with clearly defined borders and a constituted management body run by the community for the development of residents and the sustainable use of wildlife and tourism



QUICK FACTS

Size: 190 square kilometres
 Approximate population: 4,300
 Main languages: Sifwe and Mbukushu
 Date of registration: December 1999



community conservation facilitates access to diverse training and capacity building, empowers individuals, especially women, to actively take part in decision-making, as well as instilling a renewed sense of pride in cultural heritage

MASHI CONSERVANCY

Conservancies

... facilitate sustainability

The conservancy is named after the local name for the ushivi tree, which is also an alternative name for the Kwando River that delineates the conservancy's border with Bwabwata National Park in the west. In the south-west, Mashi borders onto a wildlife and hunting area situated across the Kwando in Botswana. The Mudumu National Park lies to the south of Mashi, which also borders Sobbe Conservancy in the east, while the Lubuta Community Forest straddles both conservancies and the Sachona Community Forest falls entirely within Mashi.

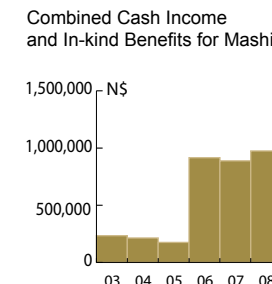
The traditional leadership and some local residents started to cultivate an interest in forming a conservancy in 1998, leading to the registration of Mashi in 2003. Most conservancy income is generated through joint venture agreements with Namushasha Country Lodge and Camp Kwando, both offering accommodation facilities along the river. The lodges also create significant employment and training opportunities. A trophy hunting concession provides important additional income. Mashi distributes meat and cash benefits to each of the four village areas, and other income has been used for road maintenance and support for the local schools. Crafts provide important income to individuals, while the Lizauli Traditional Village, located along the C49 road close to the Mudumu border, provides wonderful cultural insights and important community income. In order to further diversify income, Mashi has plans to operate its own campsite, and has applied for a tourism concession in Mudumu National Park. Mashi has its office close to the Mudumu border along the C49, which leads south from Kongola through Mudumu and east to Katima Mulilo. The conservancy is run by a management committee of 12 members, and a number of field and office staff.

... A CONSERVANCY IS

- managed by a group elected to serve the interests of all its members
- a place where residents can add income from wildlife and tourism to traditional farming activities

QUICK FACTS

Size: 297 square kilometres
 Approximate population: 3,900
 Main languages: Sifwe and Mbukushu
 Date of registration: March 2003





MAYUNI CONSERVANCY

Conservancies

maximise benefits from wildlife...

Mayuni Conservancy lies south of the Trans-Capriivi Highway (B8), which separates it from Kwandu Conservancy in the north. Mayuni borders the Bwabwata National Park, lying across the Kwando River to the west, and Mashi Conservancy to the south.

Mayuni Conservancy was established with very strong support from Chief Joseph Mayuni, who has been a driving force for conservation in the area, and has encouraged people to resettle to free up high-value floodplain areas for tourism development. The conservancy was registered in 1999, by which time it had negotiated a joint venture agreement with the already established Susuwe Island Lodge. The agreement now includes the management of Kubunyana on the eastern bank of the Kwando, which may be developed as a lodge in the future. Mayuni has also entered a joint venture agreement with Mazambala Island Lodge, and the conservancy runs its own Nambwa Campsite on the western side of the Kwando, within Bwabwata. Mayuni generates some income from a trophy hunting concession, and meat from trophy hunting and own-use hunting is distributed to residents. Crafts provide an important source of income for individuals, while cash benefits are distributed to each of three village areas, and financial support is provided to schools, as well as cultural and social activities. There are plans to provide vulnerable children with targeted support, to develop another primary school and to explore more income-generating activities that will continue to benefit conservancy residents. The conservancy office is located at Kongola, and Mayuni is run by a management committee of nine members, and a number of office and field staff.

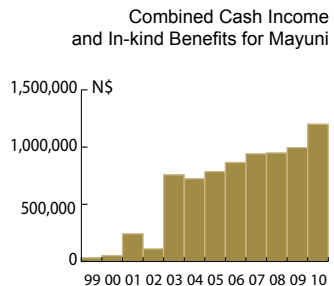
A CONSERVANCY IS...

- a place where wildlife populations increase as they are managed for productive gain
- a place where the value of the natural resources increases, enhancing the value of the land



QUICK FACTS

Size: 151 square kilometres
 Approximate population: 2,400
 Main language: Sifwe
 Date of registration: December 1999



SOBBE CONSERVANCY

Conservancies

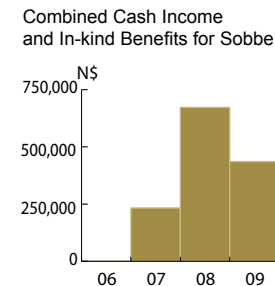
... facilitate tourism development

Sobbe Conservancy falls within a large area of mopane woodland to the east of the Kwando River. It borders the Mashi Conservancy in the west and wraps around the north-eastern corner of Mudumu National Park to reach Dzoti Conservancy on the south-eastern border of the park. The Trans-Capriivi Highway (B8) delineates the northern border of the conservancy, while emerging conservancies lie to the east. Both the Lubuta and Masida Community Forests partially overlap Sobbe. The conservancy was registered in October 2006.

Due to its distance from the Kwando, the Sobbe area has less tourism potential than the conservancies along the river, and the largest portion of conservancy income is obtained from trophy hunting. Meat from both trophy and own-use hunting is distributed to conservancy residents, who also receive cash benefits from the conservancy. Occasional sales of live game, which is captured and translocated to other areas to boost game numbers there, provide further income. Craft production creates an important source of income for individuals. Sobbe is practicing conservation agriculture, a farming method designed to optimise crop yields in areas of low or erratic rainfall and poor soils. The conservancy has created water points for wildlife to improve game management and is working on improving rangeland management in the conservancy. Sobbe Conservancy is managed by a nine member management committee and a number of office and field staff. The conservancy office is located along the Trans-Capriivi Highway, around 40 kilometres east of Kongola.

QUICK FACTS

Size: 404 square kilometres
 Approximate population: 2,000
 Main language: Sifwe
 Date of registration: October 2006



community conservation enables a range of new livelihood options, including employment and income from tourism, craft production, the utilisation of forest resources, and other sales and services based on the sustainable use of natural resources



... A CONSERVANCY IS

- a forum through which services and developments can be channelled and integrated
- zoned for multiple uses to minimise conflict and maximise the interests of all stakeholders



COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Community forests

maximise benefits from indigenous plants...

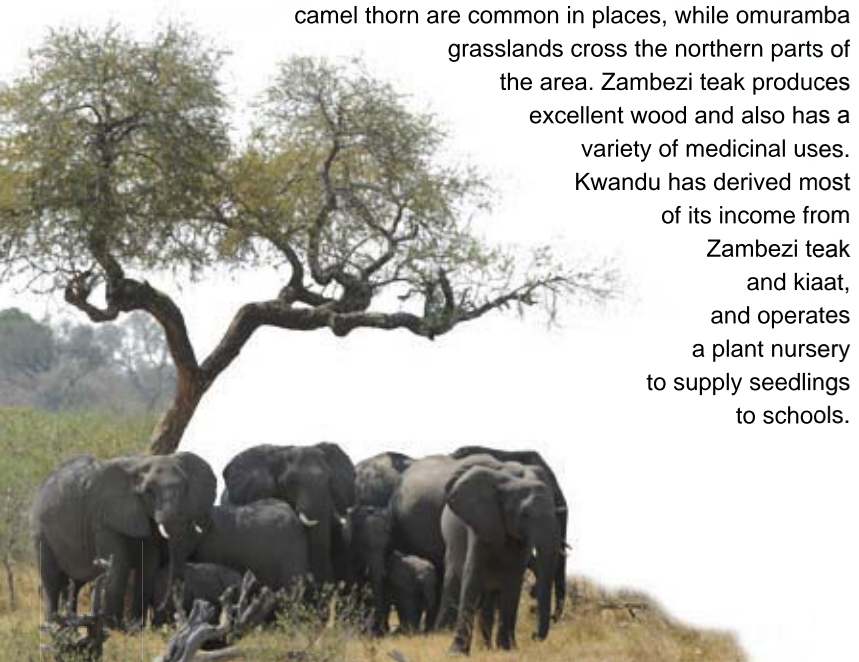
KWANDU COMMUNITY FOREST

QUICK FACTS

Size: 212 square kilometres

Date of registration: 2006

The overlapping Kwandu Community Forest and Kwandu Conservancy are successfully piloting the integration of both community conservation structures in the area. The landscapes of Kwandu are made up of a mixture of vegetation units, dominated by Zambezi teak. Sadly, most of Mudumu North Complex's valuable Zambezi teak timber resources have been lost to extensive logging (particularly during the 1960s and 1970s) and to the intense fires that rage so frequently in north-eastern Namibia. Shrublands dominate many places that have been degraded by logging and fire. Open teak savannah occurs in landscapes of gently rolling sandy plains, where tall teak trees dot perennial grasslands. Burkea and camel thorn are common in places, while omuramba grasslands cross the northern parts of the area. Zambezi teak produces excellent wood and also has a variety of medicinal uses. Kwandu has derived most of its income from Zambezi teak and kiaat, and operates a plant nursery to supply seedlings to schools.



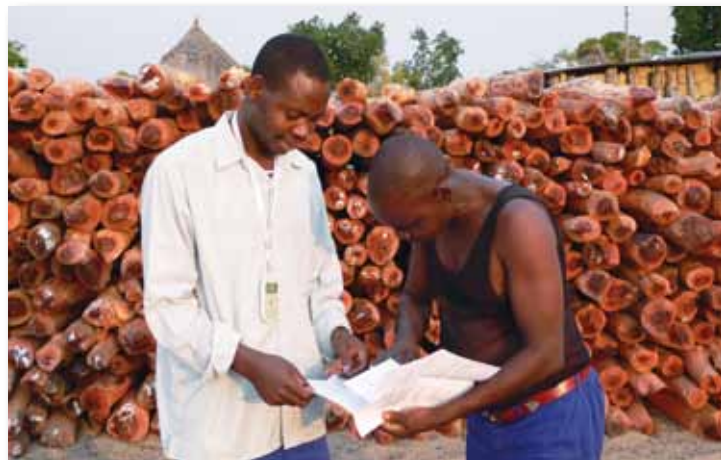
LUBUTA COMMUNITY FOREST

QUICK FACTS

Size: 190 square kilometres

Date of registration: 2006

The Lubuta Community Forest overlaps with the eastern part of Mashi and the western corner of Sobbe Conservancy, and borders Mudumu National Park in the south, as well as the Masida Community Forest in the east. The area is generally dominated by mopane woodland on heavy clay loam soils, dotted with camel thorn, knob thorn and sickle-leaved albizia trees, and interspersed with pockets of sandy soils where stands of burkea, ordeal tree and variable combretum occur. Dense mopane shrublands cover parts of the landscape. The heavy clay loams are often unsuitable for cultivation, as they have a high accumulation of salts, and the quality of the grazing tends to be poor, as grasses are dominated by unpalatable annuals. Mopane is widely used as a building material and for firewood, while the ordeal tree has a hard and durable heartwood, suitable for construction. Lubuta Community Forest generates benefits from these and a variety of other plants. The community forest is managed by a committee of eight and is planning to build a basic office structure at Lubuta settlement.



MASIDA COMMUNITY FOREST

QUICK FACTS

Size: 195 square kilometres

Date of registration: 2006

The southern two-thirds of Masida Community Forest overlap with Sobbe Conservancy, and Masida also borders onto Mudumu National Park in the south. The Trans-Caprivi Highway crosses through the northern parts of the community forest. The forest resources of Masida are mostly dominated by mopane woodland on heavy clay loam soil, interspersed with pockets of burkea, ordeal tree and variable combretum on more sandy soil. Some areas of highly leached sands are dominated by silver cluster-leaf. Grazing across most of the area is relatively poor, with grasses dominated by unpalatable annuals. Cultivation potential is limited by the poor soils. Silver cluster-leaf has a great variety of medicinal, food and construction uses. Burkea wood is also used widely as a construction material. Masida still holds significant high-value timber such as Zambezi teak and kiaat, which accounts for a big part of the annual income. Other sources of income include firewood, devil's claw and honey. Masida works closely with Sobbe Conservancy, and has its office opposite that of Sobbe along the B8 highway.



Community forests

... facilitate the sustainable use of resources

SACHONA COMMUNITY FOREST

QUICK FACTS

Size: 123 square kilometres

Date of registration: pending; application submitted in 2011

The emerging Sachona Community Forest lies entirely within Mashi Conservancy and embraces the conservancy's core area. It borders Mudumu in the south and Lubuta Community Forest in the east. In 2005 the traditional authority of the area initiated the process of registering as a community forest. While the registration is still pending, a management committee is in place and Sachona takes an active part in activities within the MNC. The landscape of Sachona is dominated by mopane woodland, mixed with camel thorn, silver cluster-leaf and variable combretum. Timber trees are rare in the area, but mopane provides great firewood and construction poles, and will be an important source of income once the community forest is registered. Sachona is known for its high density of devil's claw and is cooperating with Mashi and Lubuta in sustainable harvesting and marketing of the high-value indigenous plant. Bee-keeping has become an important forestry activity, as honey from Caprivi is in demand throughout Namibia. Although Sachona does not have an office yet, the seven committee members meet regularly to organise activities.

A COMMUNITY FOREST IS...

- a legally registered area with clearly defined borders run by the community according to a forest management plan that ensures the sustainable use of plant resources
- a place where forest resources are healthy and well managed, enabling a healthy overall environment
- a place where people can generate additional income from plant resources, enhancing livelihoods and supporting development
- a forum which can coordinate activities and developments, build capacities and enable integrated land use



THE KYARAMACAN ASSOCIATION

The Kyaramacan Association

facilitates natural resource benefits for park residents...

The Khwe have been utilising what is today the Bwabwata National Park for countless generations. The area was proclaimed as a Nature Park in 1963, which was elevated to Game Park status in 1968. The park was however declared a military zone in the same year and received no conservation attention until independence, but the resident Khwe were allowed to continue living there. The park residents started taking an active role in natural resource management in the 1990s and this led to the establishment of the Kyaramacan Association to represent the approximately 5,500 people living in the park. The association is managed by a board of ten members, as well as numerous field staff.

The Kyaramacan Association was awarded the rights to the trophy hunting concessions in Bwabwata in 2006 and this is generating significant income for the association and its residents. While there were contractual challenges with the concessions, resulting in a loss of income in some years, these have been resolved and the use of wildlife through trophy hunting in an area of limited tourism potential highlights the importance of diversifying natural resource use options. Residents also generate important income through the harvesting of plant products such as devil's claw and Kalahari melon seed, as well as other forest resources such as honey. A variety of forest resources are also used as building materials and for food and medicinal purposes.



QUICK FACTS

Kyaramacan Association

Approximate population: 5,500

Main language: Khwe

Date of registration: 2006

Legislation only allows for the formation of conservancies on communal land and not in state protected areas, requiring a unique approach in the Bwabwata National Park — the Kyaramacan Association.



QUICK FACTS

Bwabwata National Park

Size: 6,274 square kilometres

Date of proclamation: 2007

Mudumu National Park

Size: 737 square kilometres

Date of proclamation: 1990

The national parks, with their wildlife, wetland and wilderness appeal, create the most important tourism attractions in Caprivi and add a unique experience to Namibia's tourism product. By drawing visitors to the area, they also create direct benefits for surrounding community conservation initiatives.



THE NATIONAL PARKS

National parks

... conserve biodiversity and act as tourism draw cards

The **Mudumu National Park** was proclaimed just prior to independence, long after people living there had moved away following a severe outbreak of tsetse flies in 1945. The park embraces large areas of well preserved mopane woodland and a beautiful section of Kwando River front, as well as the Mudumu Mulapo, a seasonal marshland extending to the east of the river. Healthy populations of rare sable and roan antelope, and a diversity of other game including large herds elephant, as well as small numbers of lion, provide great wildlife viewing. Three campsites in the park offer adventurous camping without any facilities. Lianshulu Lodge and Lianshulu Bush Lodge offer beautiful accommodation within the park and are run by the private sector, while sharing benefits with neighbouring Mashi Conservancy through joint venture agreements. The C49 road provides a transit route through Mudumu, while permits to explore the four-wheel drive game viewing tracks throughout the park are obtainable at Ngenda Station, just west of the C49 along the park border.

Bwabwata National Park was proclaimed in 2007 to incorporate the former Caprivi Game Park, Mahango Game Park and the so-called Kwando Triangle (which had no prior conservation status) into one protected area. The park embraces high value core wildlife areas along the Kwando and Okavango Rivers, as well as a large section of Kalahari woodland within its long and narrow strip. Large herds of elephant and buffalo, as well as a great variety of other game occur in park, which is also an important refuge for African wild dogs. The Nambwa community campsite provides excellent camping facilities in the Kwando Core Area and is operated by the neighbouring Mayuni Conservancy. The Trans-Kalahari Highway creates a transit route between Divundu and Kongola, while a small network of sandy tracks allows wonderful game viewing in the Kwando Core Area, but requires four-wheel drive. No permit is required to travel along the highway, while permits to visit the Kwando Core Area are obtainable at the Susuwe Station, a few kilometres north of the tar road.



CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES...

Natural resource management complexes enable diverse opportunities...

The Mudumu North Complex is developing into a successful example of collaborative management of resources by local communities and the public service, with support from NGOs. A major strength of the complex is that joint management is driven by demand, as its member units share common issues and realised that addressing them requires cooperation amongst neighbours. Collaboration is facilitated by the conservancies and community forest, since they share some of the conservation objectives of the national parks and have the legal mandate to manage natural resources in their area on behalf of the local communities.



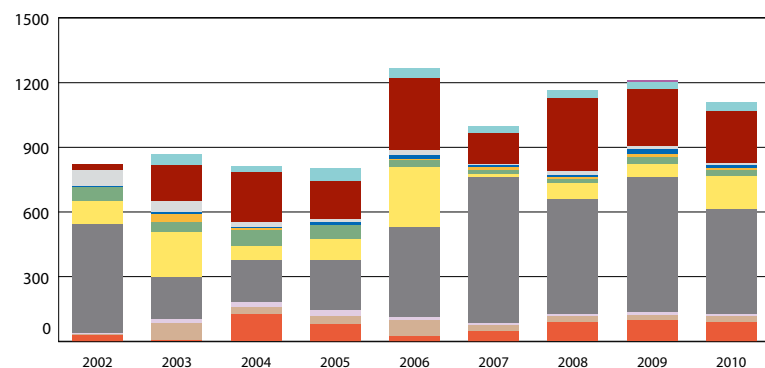
coordinated initiatives that maximise the area's natural resource benefits, while mitigating the costs of living with wildlife for local people, and managing overarching issues such as fire and poaching, can facilitate a bright future for the Mudumu North Complex

Challenges... The complex faces the challenge of maintaining sound technical ability, management and infrastructure in each of the MNC's components. While collaborative management developed because it was needed, its maintenance requires ongoing communication and cooperation amongst all stakeholders. The regional council, as well as all line ministries active in the area, also need to be aware of plans and initiatives within the complex, so that these are not undermined by uncoordinated planning and actions.

The increasing game populations in the area demonstrate that wildlife is valuable to and accepted by local residents. However, growing human wildlife conflicts create one of the main challenges of the complex, and further innovative measures need to be developed to counter losses caused by wildlife. In addition, there is a need to reduce elephant pressure on the local environment. Valuable riparian woodlands are being degraded by the concentrations of elephants attracted to water and food along the

Kwando River during the dry winter months. The loss of browse in the dry woodlands as a result of rampant burning causes the elephants to focus their feeding on the riparian vegetation to an even greater extent. By facilitating improved wildlife movement throughout the greater region through the creation of effective wildlife corridors, the KaZa Transfrontier Conservation Area can begin to reduce some of this pressure.

- Antelope
- Baboon
- Cheetah
- Crocodile
- Elephant
- Hippo
- Hyaena
- Jackal
- Leopard
- Lion
- Pigs
- Porcupine
- Wild dog



Human wildlife conflicts are monitored in conservancies using the Event Book and clearly indicate the main conflict species. The chart shows the combined conflict incidents from all four conservancies.

... AND THE FUTURE

wildlife and tourism, as well as longer management experience. Although the Caprivi State Forest has been signposted for many years, it has yet to be declared a legally protected area. By becoming a part of the Mudumu North Complex, the state forest can further strengthen joint management of issues.

Plans... The Tourism Development Plan for the Bwabwata, Mudumu and Mamilili National Parks proposes a variety of possible developments that can improve the tourism products within the complex and create local and regional linkages. The individual conservancies also have plans to develop tourism in their areas. The Mudumu North Complex can play an important role in ensuring that the various plans are compatible, and that the complex fulfils its role within KaZa.



the Kwando River with its wealth of natural resources is one of Namibia's greatest environmental assets, and the Mudumu North Complex is the ideal structure to enable its coordinated, sustainable development

Community forests and conservancies already cooperate in many areas, and further integration creates opportunities to unlock the full potential of natural resources. Each structure has strengths to offer which can be combined for the benefit of all. Community forests have legal control and ownership over a broader range of natural resources than conservancies, while conservancies can contribute high value

The Mudumu North Complex is demonstrating the benefits of joint management at a large landscape level. Continued collaboration and further integration of activities amongst all stakeholders can ensure that both the benefits to residents and the conservation goals of the area are maximised, creating a bright future for the complex and all its components.



Come to the Mudumu North Complex — be part of the future...



ZAMBIA

The production of this brochure was jointly funded by MCA-Namibia, Norad and WWF

ANGOLA



BWABWATA NATIONAL PARK
(Kwando Core Area)

KYARAMACAN ASSOCIATION

KWANDU CONSERVANCY

MAYUNI CONSERVANCY

MASHI CONSERVANCY

SOBBE CONSERVANCY

MUDUMU NATIONAL PARK

MAMILI NATIONAL PARK

CAPRIVI STATE FOREST

KWANDU COMMUNITY FOREST

LUBUTA COMMUNITY FOREST

SACHONA COMMUNITY FOREST

MASIDA COMMUNITY FOREST

Kwando River

Kwando River

Linyanti River



www.namibiawildlifesafaris.com
www.nacso.org.na

For more information and updates:

MET, Directorate of Parks & Wildlife
Private Bag 13306
Windhoek
Tel: +264 (0)61 284 2520

MAWF, Directorate of Forestry
Private Bag 13184
Windhoek
Tel: +264 (0)61 208 7663

NACSO Secretariat
P.O. Box 98353
Windhoek
Tel: +264 (0)61 230 888

IRDNC Katima Mulilo
Private Bag 1050
Ngweze, Katima Mulilo
Tel: +264 (0)66 252 108

Contact individual conservancies through NACSO or IRDNC

Copyright © NACSO 2012
All photos taken in MNC by Helge Denker, except cover by Pompe Burger; pg. 3 top left & pg. 14 right by DED-CFN; pg. 3 top centre, pg. 6 & pg. 10 by Lucy Kemp; pg. 3 top right & pg. 7 by Simon Mayes; Information compiled by Lucy Kemp, John Mendelsohn & Brian Jones, revised by Helge Denker & Franziska Woellert; Layout: Helge Denker; Maps: Sylvia Thompson; Back cover map: RAISON; Charts: Alice Jarvis; Printing: John Meinert Printing

BOTSWANA

BOTSWANA