

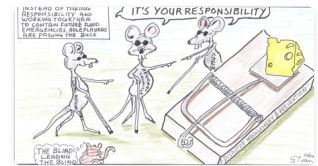
TROUBLED TIMES FOR NAMIBIAN WILDLIFE – CONSERVANCY STOCK DWINDLING

Posted by Guest Contributor | Mar 25, 2019 | Speak your mind



By John Grobler, a veteran investigative environmental journalist based in Windhoek and two-times CNN MultiChoice Africa award winner for his work on organised and environmental crime.

There are worrying signs that Namibia's legendary wild game numbers may be plummeting. Four years ago the Namibian Professional Hunters Association raised an alarm about the lack of huntable elephant bulls in the Caprivi region, where the number of communal conservancies had grown from one in 1997 to 15 today.



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A professional hunter named Stephan Jacobs described a 2015 hunting trip to a conservancy in the eastern Caprivi as “the worst experience in my life” because there was so little game left. He said it was a crime to shoot anything.

“How could the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) issue a quota for four hippos when there were only two small cows left in that entire stretch of the river?” he asked. “It’s absolute insanity what is going on there.”

According to MET, however, things are fine. In a letter to a local NGO, acting Executive Director and current Environmental Commissioner Teofilus Nghitila said communal game herds had tripled as a result of the Community-Based Natural Resource Management approach.

Namibia, he said, is an African conservation success story and any suggestion to the contrary is evidence of a racist attitude that put wildlife ahead of Africans who share their living space with dangerous animals such as lions, elephants and crocodiles.

Game sightings appear to contradict this. According to informal reports from several conservationists, hunting and tour guides, lodge owners and former MET employees, wildlife in large numbers is scarcely seen anymore in Namibia.

It is no secret why the game has disappeared, they say. [The worst drought in 30 years](#) between 2013 and 2016 caused major die-offs. The hardier plains game initially survived. But the drought collided with the MET’s shoot-and-sell policy which allowed cash-strapped conservancies to [harvest their animals](#), especially plains game, to sell into the bushmeat trade.

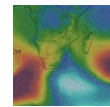
Poor controls resulted in the permit system being widely abused and a major public outcry on social media and in the local press ensued. As a result, according to the Director of Parks and Wildlife Management, Colgar Sikopo, the MET suspended quotas of plains game for shoot-and-sell and own use in the conservancies in 2018.

But, according to Izak Smit, a businessman who makes monthly [field trips](#) with his photographer wife to keep close track of the last desert lions in northwest Namibia’s Kunene region, it was too late.



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He said the loss of game has caused the lions to increasingly attack local farmers' cattle and donkeys, which has led to widespread lion poisoning, including the five males made famous by the 2015 documentary 'Vanishing Kings: Lions of the Namib.' On all their most recent field trips, he said, the only game to be seen were small, isolated herds of zebra and springbok and the occasional pair of oryx.

"When we asked an official of the NGO Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation about the sharp decrease in numbers since 2011/12, we were told that they 'got the 2013/14 game counting formula wrong' which overstated game numbers and resulted in over-utilisation. The drought, of course, then followed and did the rest."

He said urgent moratoriums on shoot-and-sell permits and own utilisation "were self-imposed by conservancies ever since, but we have yet to see any change or improvement in the status quo."

In a written response to questions, the Sikopo acknowledged the reduction in plains game in Kunene, which he attributed mainly to the drought.

He also outlined challenges in Namibia's Community-Based Natural Resource Management model, including human-wildlife conflict arising from the conservancies' "good conservation practices" and mismanagement of funds by conservancy managers. But he defended the conservancy model, writing that it "is no doubt a conservation and rural development success story which we are proud of".

His responses come as no surprise. The ministry's international reputation and the careers of its top officials were built implementing Community-Based Natural Resource Management. Members of the MET's new Nature Conservation Board are mainly like-minded champions of hunting.

Neither the Environmental Commissioner Teofilus Nghitila nor the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Pohamba Shifeta, could comment as they were in Texas attending the Dallas Safari Club Show 2019, where the current Namibian Professional Hunters Association president, Danene van der Westhuyzen **was elected** to the club's new Conservation Advisory Board.



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See more at Conservation Action Trust.
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Rössing Pension Fund

July 2019 Rössing Pension Fund former member surplus payment update

Total claims expected		Claims paid		Outstanding claims	
Expected claims	Value of Claims	Claims	Value of Claims	Claim	Value of Claims
9869	123 083 226,92	-2252	(41 125 968,82)	7617	81 957 258,10

Total Surplus for distribution 2018 (includes investment returns earned since March 2012)	NS 123,083,226.92
Total claimants logged based on available Rössing Uranium & Rössing Foundation data.	9 869
Total estimated former members / would be claimants.	10 000
Pending claims - former members that have not applied.	6944
Claims received from former members not on RUL data - needs further verification.	503
Approx number of claims not qualifying - not former members, already paid or are pensioners.	307
Total number of claims verified and approved for payment.	2 852
Total value of the approved 2852 claims for payment thus far.	55 007 540,02
Pending claims due to outstanding banking details.	291
Value of claims not paid due to outstanding banking details.	13 881 571,20
Actual claims paid as at 09 July 2019.	2252
Actual surplus value of paid 2252 claims.	41 125 968,82
Total eligible claims of deceased former members, approved for payment.	309
Total remaining surplus for distribution.	81 957 258,10

In excess of 90% of the submitted claims that could be verified from the validation list have been screened for payment; with 80% of these submitted eligible claims already paid.

FORMER MEMBER REGISTRATION DEADLINE FINAL NOTICE - Former member registration deadline has been lastly extended to **01 December 2019**.

- This **THIRD** extension is the **FINAL** extension in an attempt to accommodate all **non-registered** former members.
- This is only applicable to the former members who have not register as yet.
- Former members who have been paid their surplus apportionment should NOT re-register again as this just delays the process.
- Descendants/spouses of deceased former members who have already registered should NOT register again as this just delays the process and means payments will take longer due to screening.

Screening process of 503 former members' claims not on the validation list for cross referencing has commenced, 01 July 2019 (parking list).

- The verification process has officially commenced split into two phases.
 - Phase 1 - will consist of screening the submitted claims that contain any documentary evidence to prove the relationship that existed between the parties (RUL or RPF).
 - Phase 2 - will consist of screening the submitted claims that contain NO documentary evidence to prove the employment relationship that existed.
- Once phase 1 screening has been completed all those claims will be submitted to the principal employer to confirm the authenticity of the claims.
- Phase 2 will commence after submission of phase 1 forms to the principal employer, thereafter Phase 1 payments will commence after vetting by the principal employer.

6. Deceased member payment procedure pending - The Fund has proposed an expedient and cost effective payment procedure to the Master of High Court for consideration with a response awaited.

7. The Fund will be holding Regional Road Shows to sensitise non-registered former members to register before or on the final date for registration - **01 December 2019**. The detailed road show itinerary will be shared in due course.

8. List of names of former members yet to claim will be available in an attempt to sensitise the tracing process by friends and family members on the Fund letterhead with applicable T&Cs.

Payment progress update shall be published in the printed media at identified intervals by the Trustees.

Please note that due to the very high number of email and telephone enquiries there will be limited responses to individual email & telephonic enquiries on payment progress. If you have registered your claim will be considered so there is no need to repeatedly contact us. Repeated contacts just delay the process further.

The respective claimant/s shall be contacted by the Fund Administrator should they need additional information. Any further Fund related enquiries should be addressed or obtained from the Principal Officer at:
 The Principal Officer
 Rössing Pension Fund
 C: +264 811 45 6004
 E: rpf@riotinto.com

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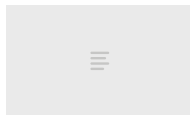
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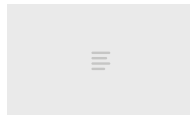
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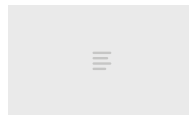
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July 2019 Raising Pensions Fund former member surplus payment update

Field Name	Updated	Client Ref	Outstanding
Expense Name	Date of Update	Client	Value of Update
	17/07/2019		Value of Update

Total Surplus for distribution 2019
Available for distribution 2019
Total of amounts issued based on available Raising Pensions & Raising Foundation data.

Total number of former members - valid by definition	11 981
Former claims - former members that have not registered	496
Former members who have not registered	307
Approximate number of former members who have not registered	307
Total number of former members who have registered	11 674
Total value of the claims of former members who have registered	11 887 563
Number of former members who have registered	11 674
Total value of claims of former members who have registered	11 887 563
Number of former members who have not registered	496
Total value of claims of former members who have not registered	11 887 563
Number of former members who have not registered	496
Total value of claims of former members who have not registered	11 887 563
Number of former members who have not registered	496
Total value of claims of former members who have not registered	11 887 563

In excess of 90% of the submitted claims that could be verified from the validation list have been accepted for payment, with 90% of those submitted eligible claims already paid.

FORMER MEMBER REGISTRATION DEADLINE FINAL NOTICE - Former member registration deadline has been finally extended to **31 December 2019**.

- This 90% extension is the FINAL extension in an attempt to accommodate all former members.
- This is only applicable to the former members who have not registered yet.
- Former members who have not paid their various appointments should NOT re-register again as this just delays the process.
- Documentation copies of the assets former members who have already registered should NOT register again as this just delays the process and former members will take longer to be paid.
- Submission period for former members who have not registered yet is **31 December 2019** for those referring has commenced, **31 May 2019** for those who have not yet referred.
- The validation process has officially commenced with the following phases:
 - Phase 1: will consist of screening the submitted claims that contain any documentary evidence to prove the veracity of the claims.
 - Phase 2: will consist of screening the submitted claims that contain NO documentary evidence to prove the veracity of the claims.
 - Phase 3: will consist of screening the submitted claims that contain NO documentary evidence to prove the veracity of the claims.
 - Phase 4: will consist of screening the submitted claims that contain NO documentary evidence to prove the veracity of the claims.
 - Phase 5: will consist of screening the submitted claims that contain NO documentary evidence to prove the veracity of the claims.
- Once phase 1 is completed, the list of former members who have not registered yet will be published on the principal website to confirm the veracity of the claims.
- Phase 2 and 3 will consist of screening of Phase 1 forms by the principal employee. Phase 4 and 5 payments will commence after voting by the principal employee. The Fund has proposed an expedited and cost effective payment procedure to the Master of High Court for consideration with a response awaited.
- The Fund will be holding Regular Board Meetings to consider non-registered former members to register before or on the first date for registration. By December 2019, the administrative claims process will be closed in full.
- List of names of former members who have not registered yet will be available on platform to monitor the funding process by former members who have not registered yet with the Fund.
- Payment progress update shall be published in the printed media at identified intervals by the Trustees.

Please note that due to the very high number of asset and mortgage enquiries there will be limited response to individual enquiries. Enquiries on payment progress, if you have registered your claim will be considered as there is no need to repeatedly contact us. Repeat contacts just delay the process further.

The registration deadline is 31 December 2019. The deadline for the submission of claims will be 31 December 2019. Any further Fund related enquiries should be addressed or obtained from the Principal Officer at: info@rflaun.com

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Family 300	300 GB (6000 MB)	2,100 (per month)

Step 2: Select your Connection Type (Monthly Subscriber)

Connection Type	Speed (Gbps)	Price
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WMAX	4 Mbps	185 (per month)
Rite-UP	8 Mbps	185 (per month)
Mobile-UP	50 Mbps	50 (per month)

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Commission will conduct public hearings in all the regions of Namibia from 1 July 2019 to 7 August 2019. Due to the vastness of the country and the limited number of the Commission's members, the Commission will conduct public hearings in a staggered manner. The first public hearing will be conducted between 22nd July to 30th August 2019 in (Herero and Oshana, Ovambo and Karas Regions) (Herero).

Region	Public Hearing Dates	Public Hearing Venue	Public Hearing Chairperson	Public Hearing Members
Herero	22 July to 30 August 2019	Windhoek	Dr. Gertie Schmitz	Dr. Gertie Schmitz, Dr. Gertie Schmitz, Dr. Gertie Schmitz
Oshana	22 July to 30 August 2019	Windhoek	Dr. Gertie Schmitz	Dr. Gertie Schmitz, Dr. Gertie Schmitz, Dr. Gertie Schmitz
Ovambo	22 July to 30 August 2019	Windhoek	Dr. Gertie Schmitz	Dr. Gertie Schmitz, Dr. Gertie Schmitz, Dr. Gertie Schmitz
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