

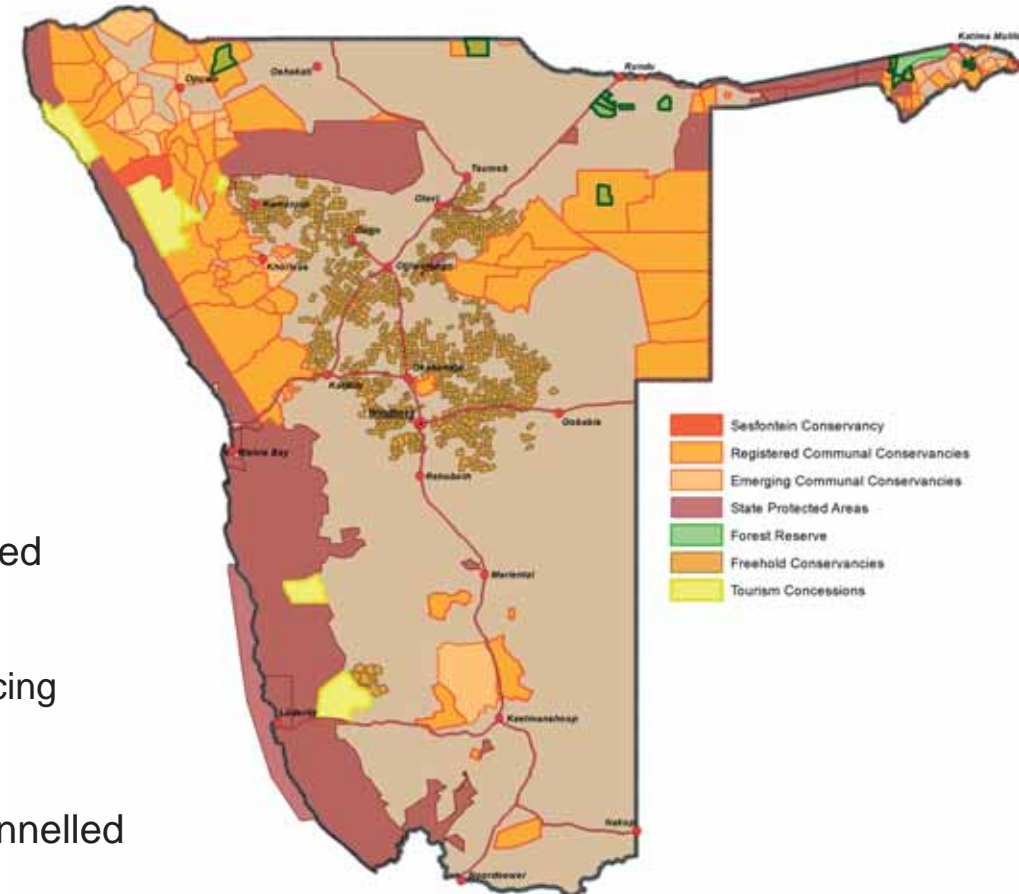
Sesfontein Conservancy

named after the Afrikaans word for 'six fountains'



a conservancy is:

- a legally constituted management body run by the community for the development of residents and the sustainable use of wildlife and tourism
- 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
- 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
- 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



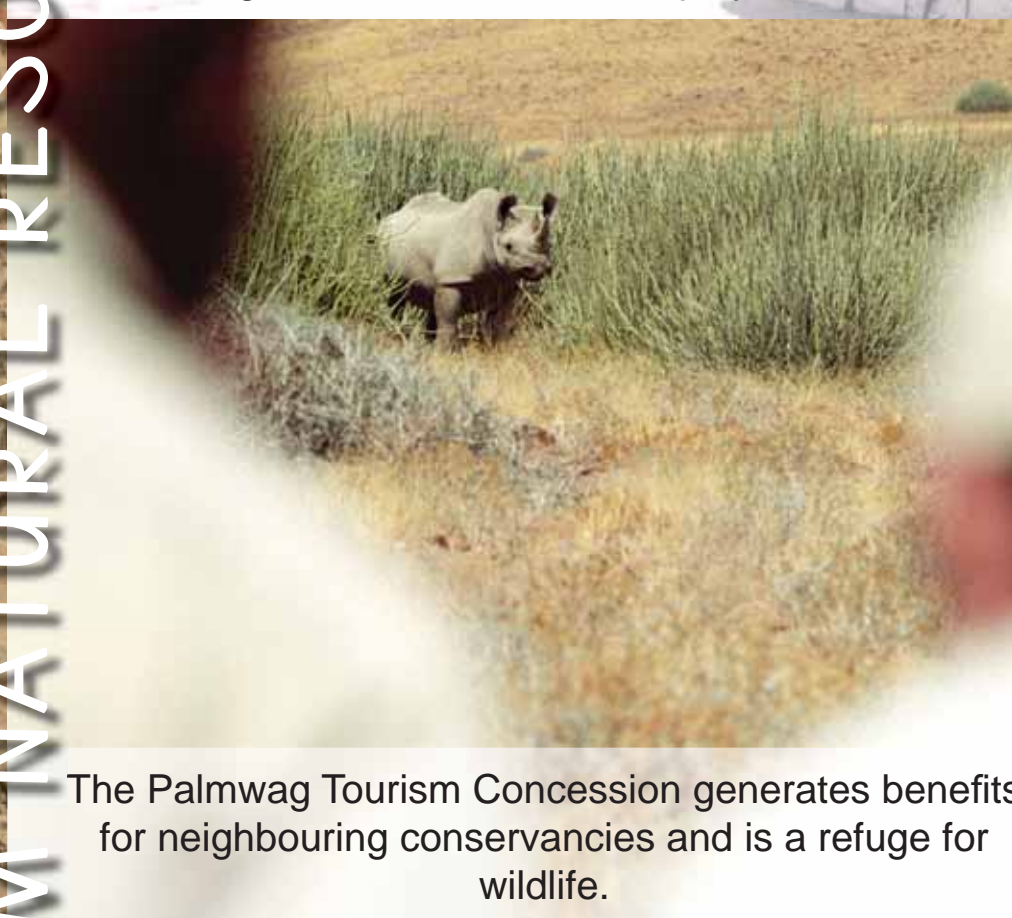
milestones and successes

- 1996** – policy changes allow communal area residents to benefit from wildlife and tourism by forming conservancies
- 1998** – Sesfontein and Puros communities begin the process to register as one conservancy
- 2001** – Sesfontein Conservancy becomes part of the annual North-West Game Count
- 2003** – Sesfontein Conservancy is registered in July, three years after the establishment of the Puros Conservancy
- 2003** – implementation of the Event Book monitoring system in Sesfontein Conservancy
- 2006/7** – implementation of the Human Animal Conflict Conservancy Self Insurance Scheme (HACCSIS)
- 2007/8** – development of the Sesfontein Fig Tree and Sesfontein Kanamub Mountain Campsites (community campsites)
- 2009** – Sesfontein Conservancy becomes financially independent and is able to cover own operating expenses



BENEFITS FROM NATURAL RESOURCES

Tourism provides a variety of economic opportunities. Conservancy enterprises such as the Sesfontein Fig Tree and Sesfontein Kanamub Mountain Campsites generate income and employment.



The Palmwag Tourism Concession generates benefits for neighbouring conservancies and is a refuge for wildlife.



Sustainable use of wildlife through trophy hunting, shoot-and-sell and own-use hunting creates significant benefits. The gemsbok is an important species for hunting.

resources

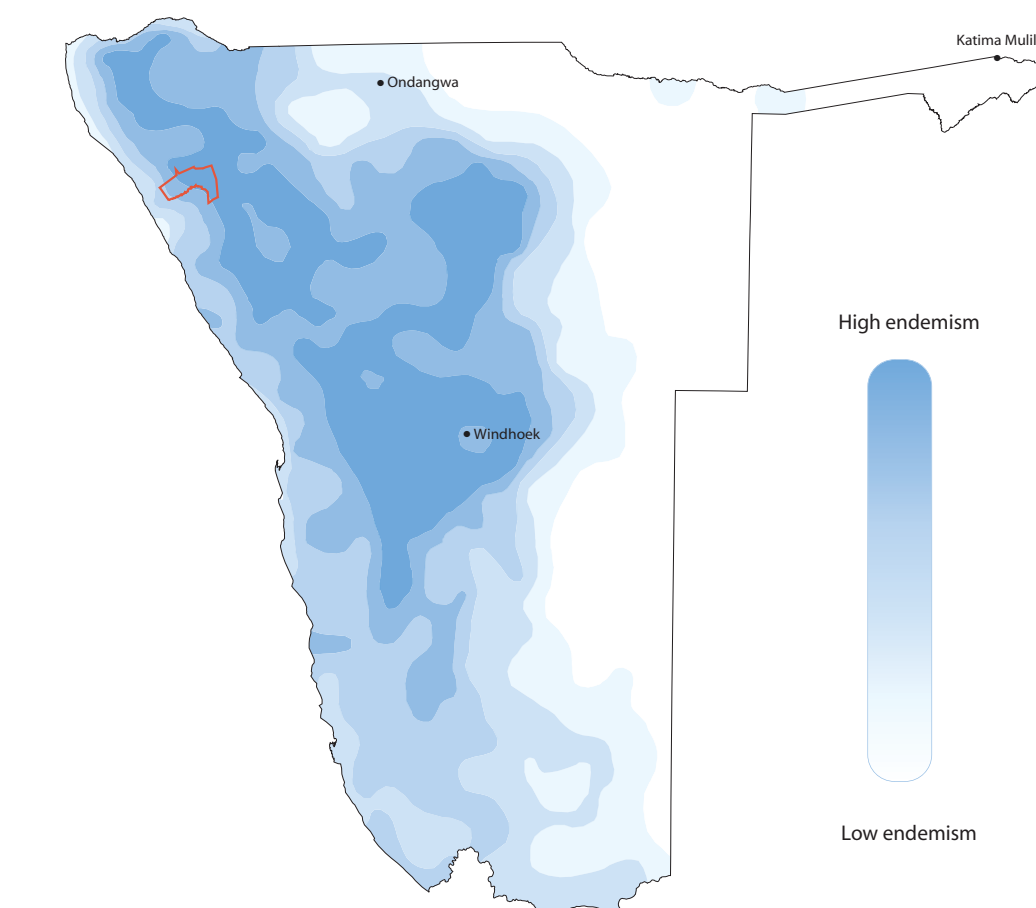
birds

Many interesting birds occur in the conservancy, including most species endemic or near-endemic to Namibia such as Hartlaub's francolin, Carp's black tit, bare-cheeked babbler, Rüppell's korhaan, Monteiro's hornbill, Rüppell's parrot, white-tailed shrike, rockrunner and Herero chat.

mammals

Since the establishment of conservancies, wildlife numbers have steadily increased in communal areas. In Sesfontein, the wildlife population includes:

elephant
black rhino
giraffe
kudu
mountain zebra
gemsbok
springbok
duiker
steenbok
klipspringer
lion
leopard
cheetah
caracal
spotted hyaena
jackal
baboon



plants

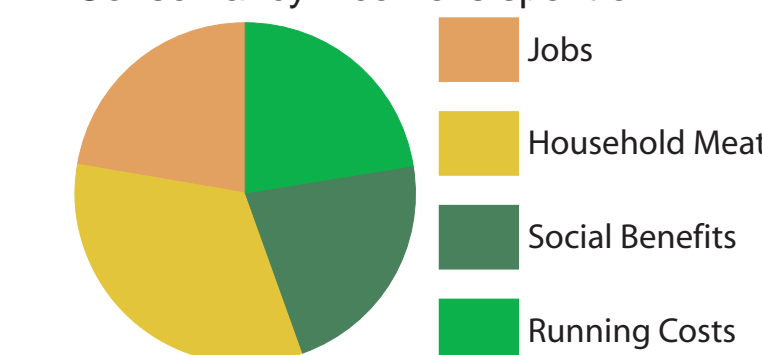
Sesfontein is rich in plants that are valuable to both people and wildlife. Common tree species include umbrella thorn, camel thorn, Ana tree, mopane tree, makalani palm, shepherd's tree and *Commiphora* species.

benefits from natural resources

Conservancy income is obtained from:

- Palmwag Tourism Concession benefit sharing agreement with Wilderness Safaris (joint agreement with Anabeb and Torra Conservancies)
- Fort Sesfontein Lodge agreement
- Sesfontein Fig Tree and Sesfontein Kanamub Mountain Campsites (community campsites)
- trophy hunting concession agreement (joint concession with Anabeb Conservancy)
- shoot-and-sell hunting
- own-use hunting
- indigenous plant products

Conservancy income is spent on:



The Conservancy creates a variety of community and individual benefits, including:

- creating employment and paying staff salaries
- distributing game meat to households
- covering conservancy running costs
- giving significant cash awards to the top three Grade 10 performers from schools in the conservancy each academic year
- supporting sports development through a quarterly conservancy tournament with significant prize money
- supporting pre-primary school teachers with a monthly cash allowance
- making an annual cash contribution to traditional authorities
- conservancy members receive a variety of other benefits, including funeral assistance, support for gardening projects and cultural festivals, as well as HIV/AIDS awareness

Text compiled by Helge Denker and Ginger Mauney; Layout by Gavin Damon
All photos were taken in the Sesfontein Conservancy by Helge Denker, Aaron Price © 2010 WWF In Namibia and Sonja Poller.

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PEOPLE

PLACES

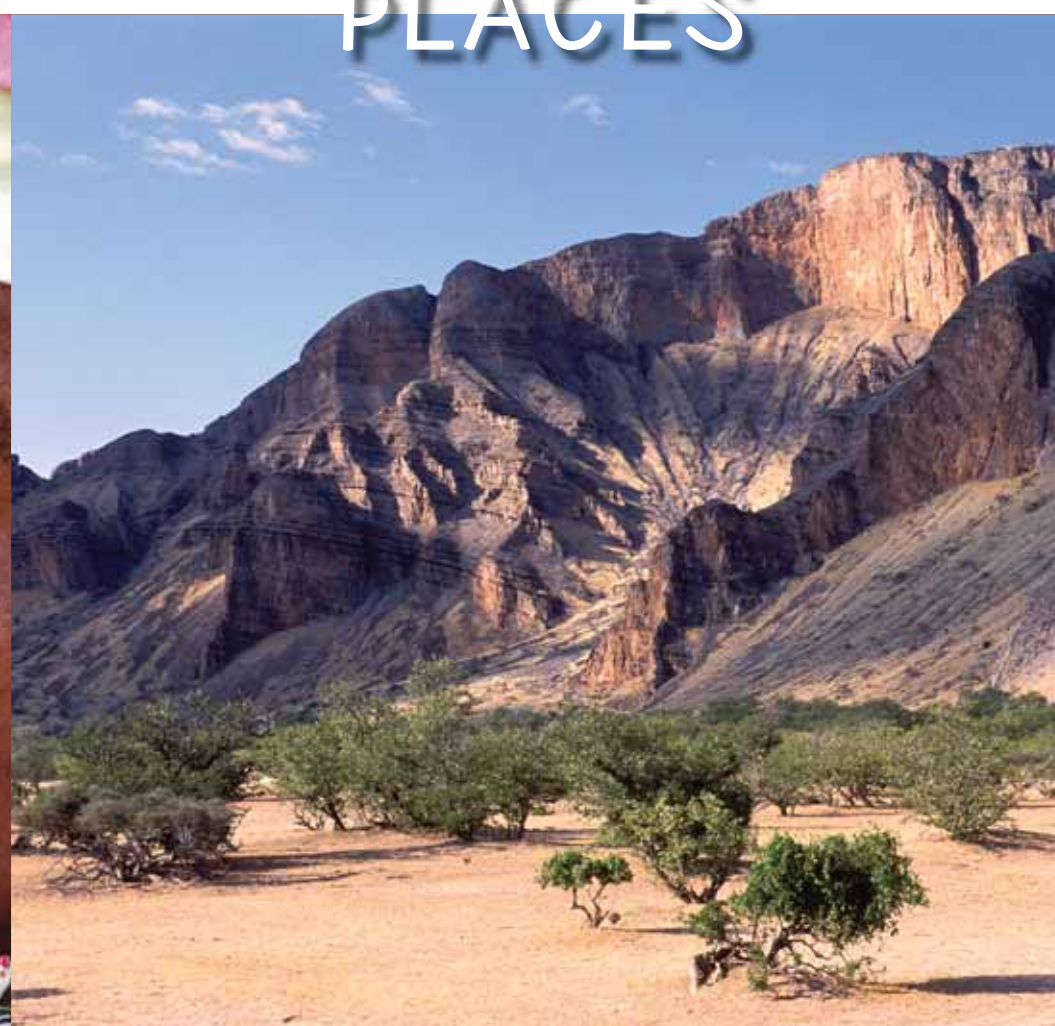
& WILDLIFE

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

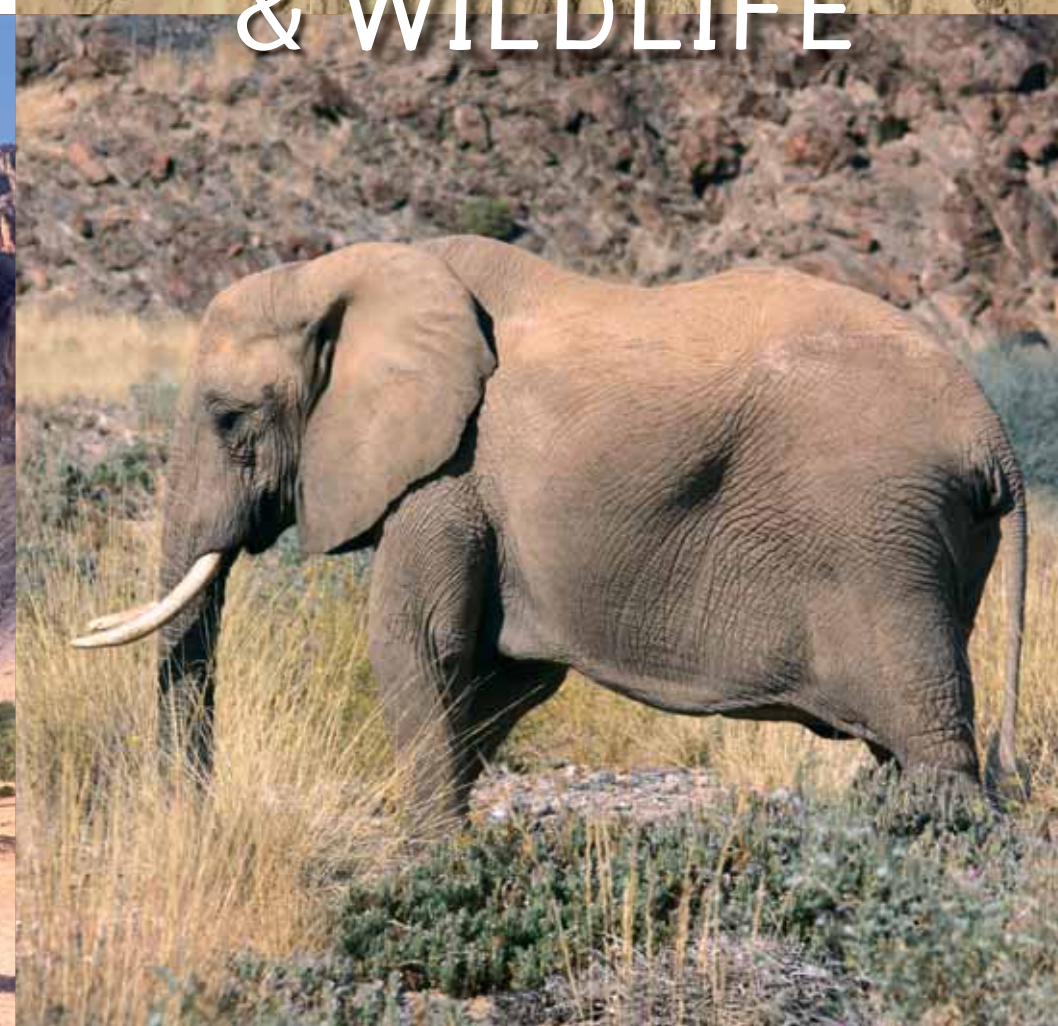
Ojijherero and Khoekhoegowab are the main languages spoken in the conservancy



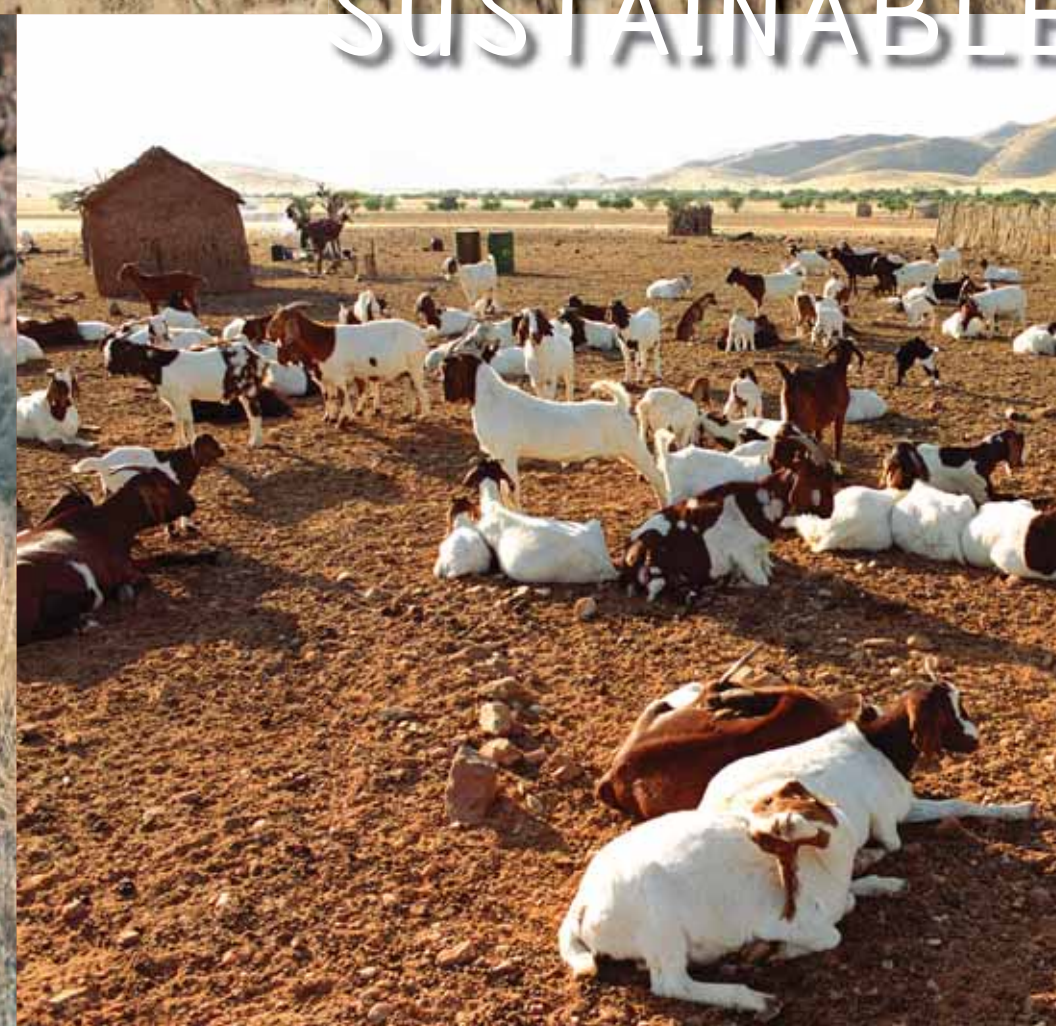
People living in a conservancy share a common vision for managing their area. Local cultures and social dynamics are of great interest to tourists.



Natural resources diversify economic opportunities and are a driver of economic growth. Spectacular landscapes are a key tourism attraction.



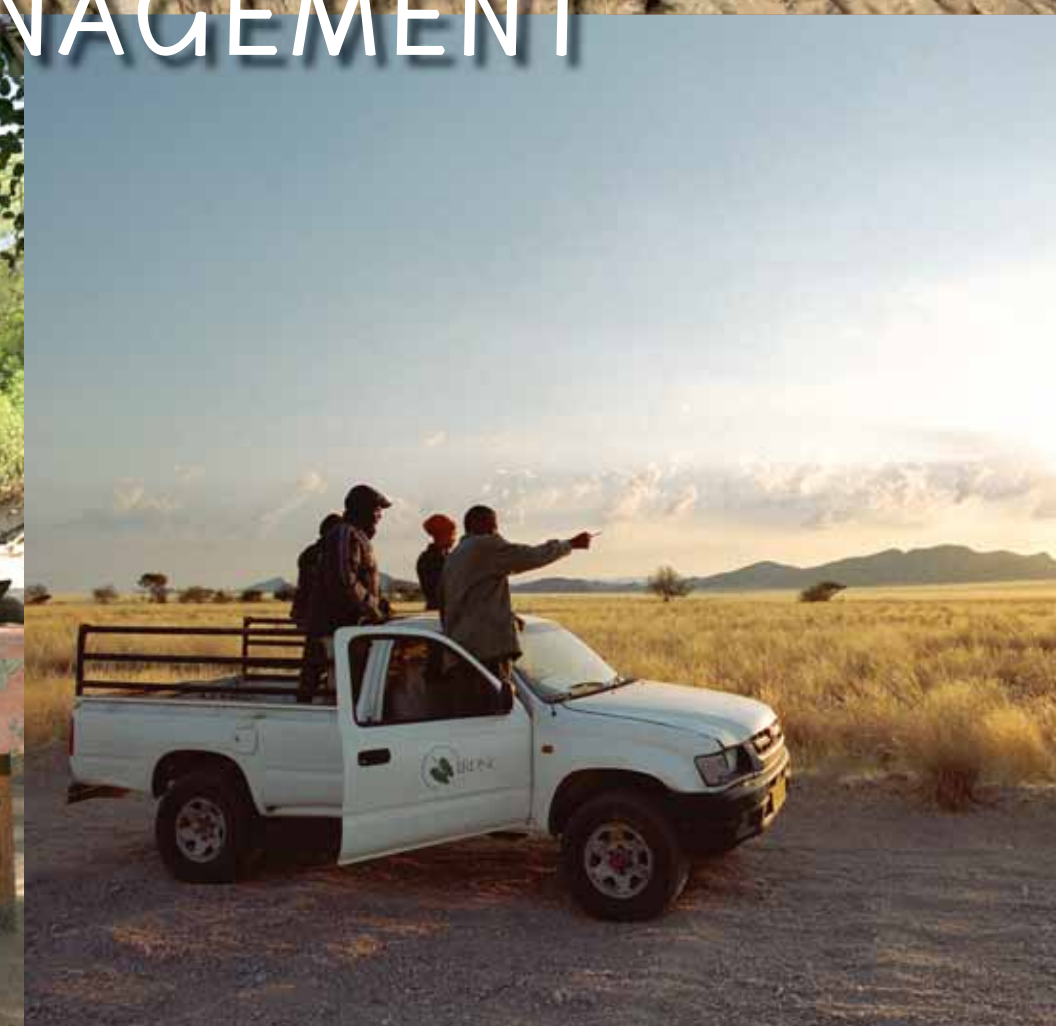
Free-roaming wildlife, such as this elephant in the Hoanib River, can generate a variety of benefits and create an essential tourism attraction.



Conservancy residents engage in a variety of livelihood activities including livestock herding, crop production and natural resource use.



The conservancy has a committee and employs staff and is managed using a mixture of modern methods & technologies and traditional knowledge & skills.



Conservancy activities include game counts and patrols, monitoring using the Event Book, mitigating human wildlife conflict and facilitating development.



Community Game Guards employed by the conservancy monitor wildlife and other resources and create the foundations for adaptive management.