

# Torra Conservancy

named after the red 'torra' rocks predominant in the area



## resources

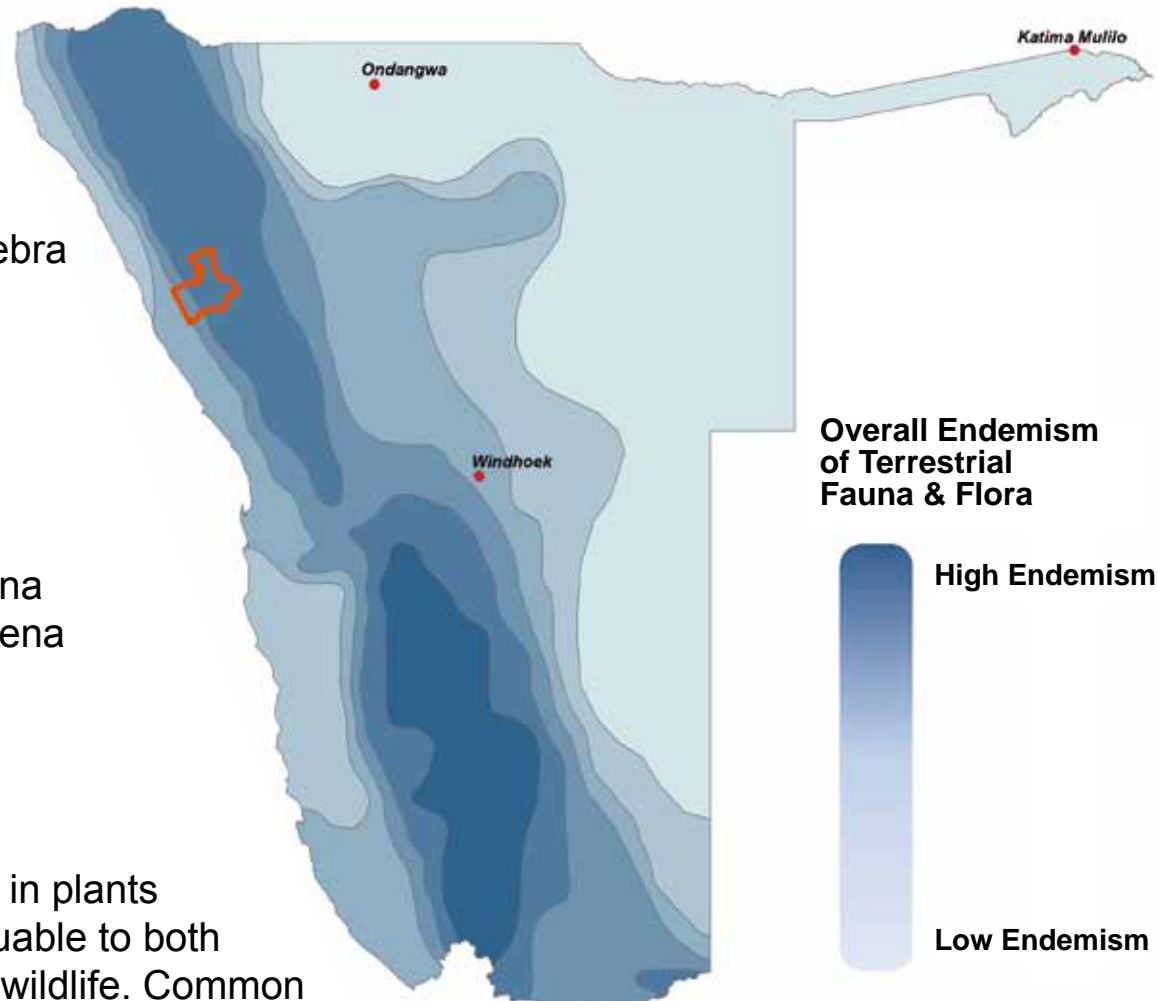
### birds

Over 170 species of birds occur in the conservancy, including species near-endemic to Namibia such as Benguela long-billed lark, Rüppell's parrot, rosyfaced lovebird, bare-cheeked babbler, Carp's tit, Damara hornbill, Monteiro's hornbill, white-tailed shrike, Rüppell's korhaan, violet woodhoopoe, rockrunner and Herero chat.

### mammals

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

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



### plants

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

## benefits from natural resources

Benefits to the conservancy and its members are obtained from:

- Damaraland Camp (joint-venture agreement with Wilderness Safaris)
- Damaraland Adventure Camp (joint-venture with Wilderness Safaris)
- Palmwag Tourism Concession (agreement between Torra, Anabeb and Sesfontein Conservancies and Wilderness Safaris)
- Kuidas Camp (agreement with Skeleton Coast Safaris)
- live game sales
- trophy hunting concession agreement
- shoot-and-sell hunting
- own-use hunting
- premium hunting

The conservancy spends money and creates benefits in these sectors:



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
- mitigating human wildlife conflict
- supporting education, training and community celebrations
- development of a community hall and kindergarten
- supporting livestock farming through a breeding stock loan scheme
- conservancy members receive a variety of other benefits, including transport and funeral assistance, and an emergency fund to help members in time of drought or wildlife-related deaths

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For more information and updates:

**Torra Conservancy:**

**P. O. Box 462,**

**Khorixas**

**Tel: +264 (0)67 697063**



Tourism provides a variety of economic opportunities. Joint-venture enterprises, such as Damaraland Camp, generate significant income, employment, training and other benefits.



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

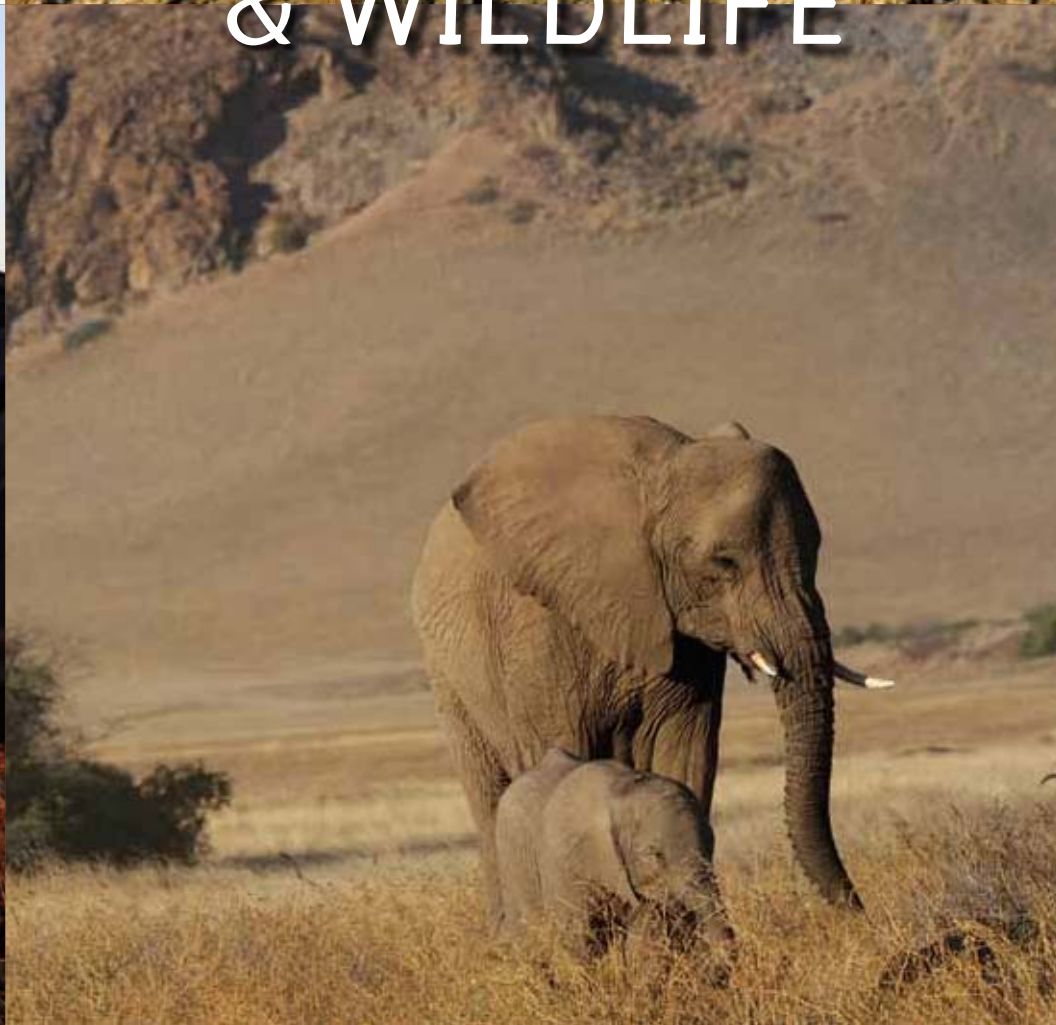


Sustainable use of wildlife through trophy hunting, shoot-and-sell and own-use hunting creates significant benefits. The kudu is an important species for hunting.

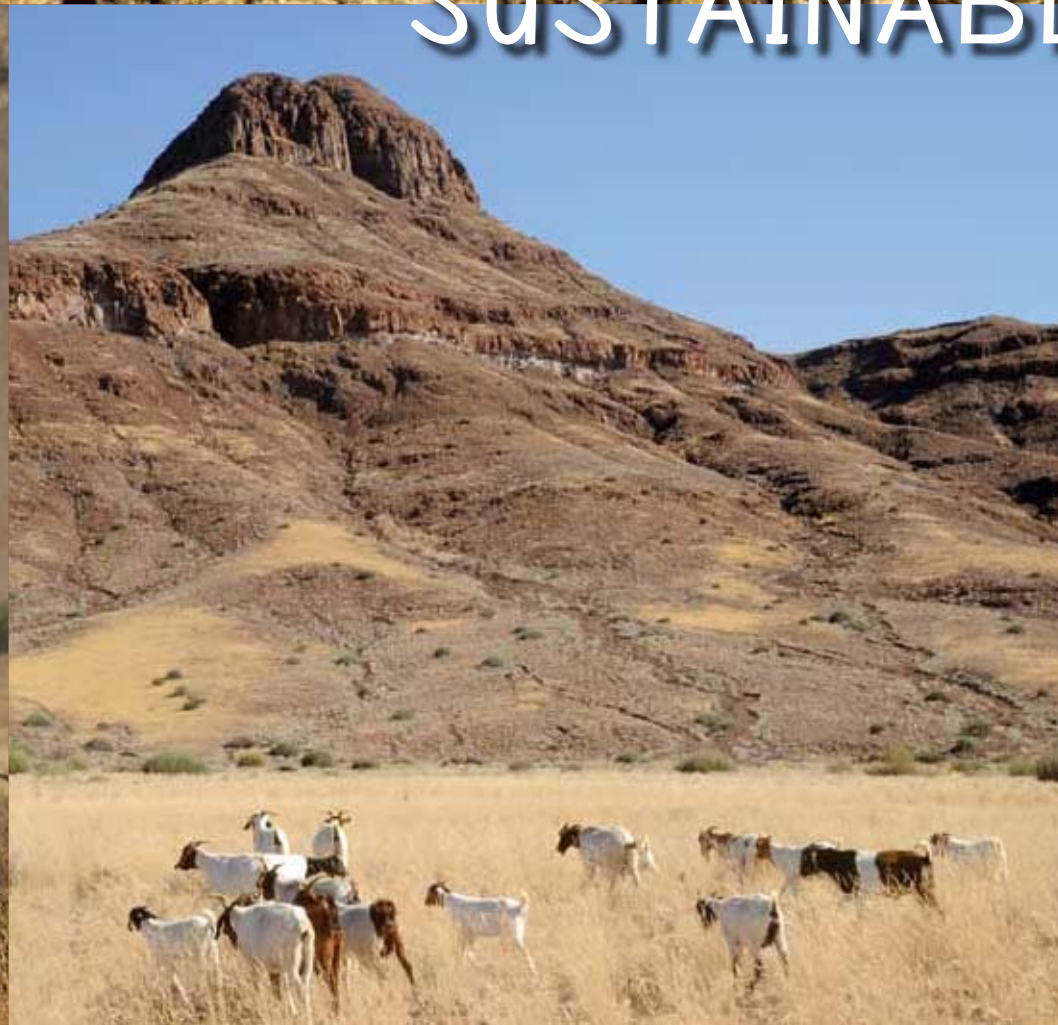


BENEFITS FROM NATURAL RESOURCES

## & WILDLIFE SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



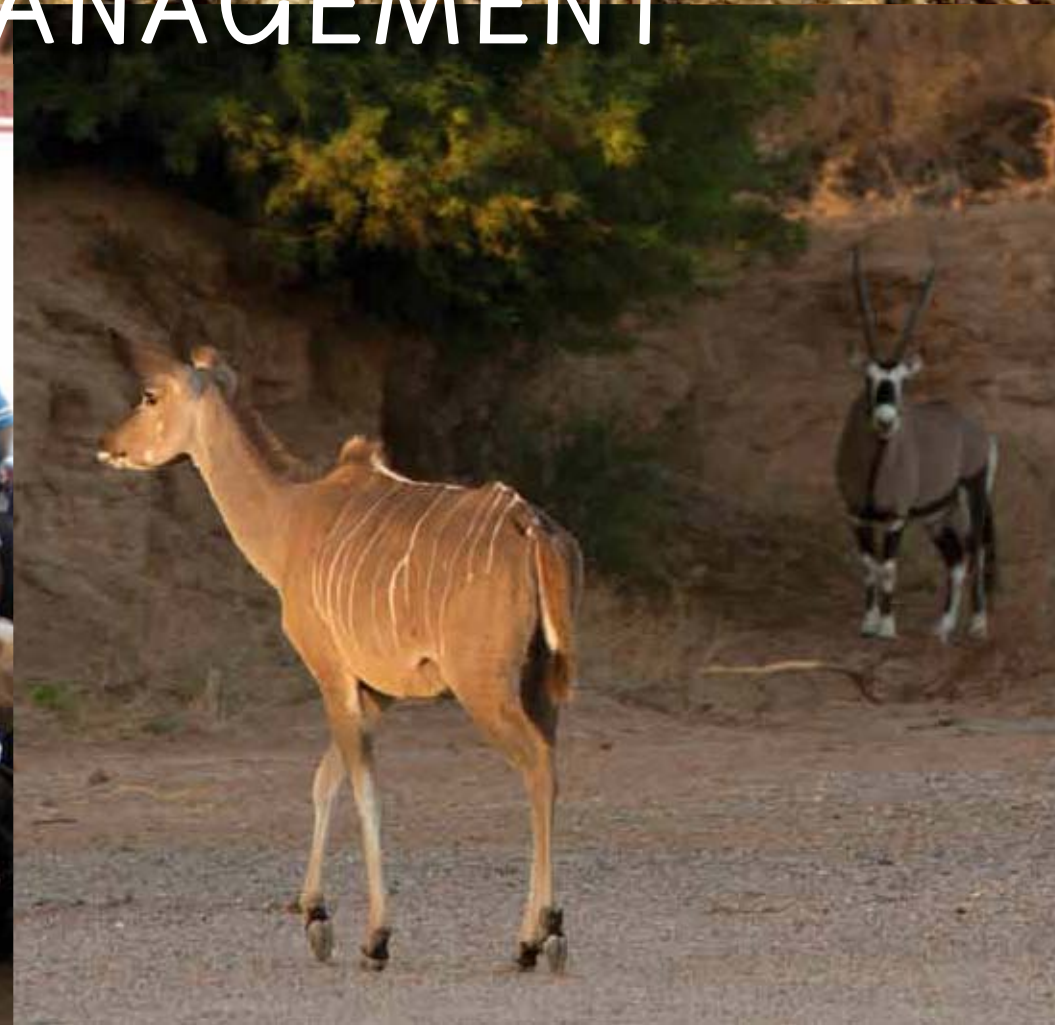
Free-roaming wildlife, such as these elephants, can generate a variety of benefits and create an important tourism attraction.



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.



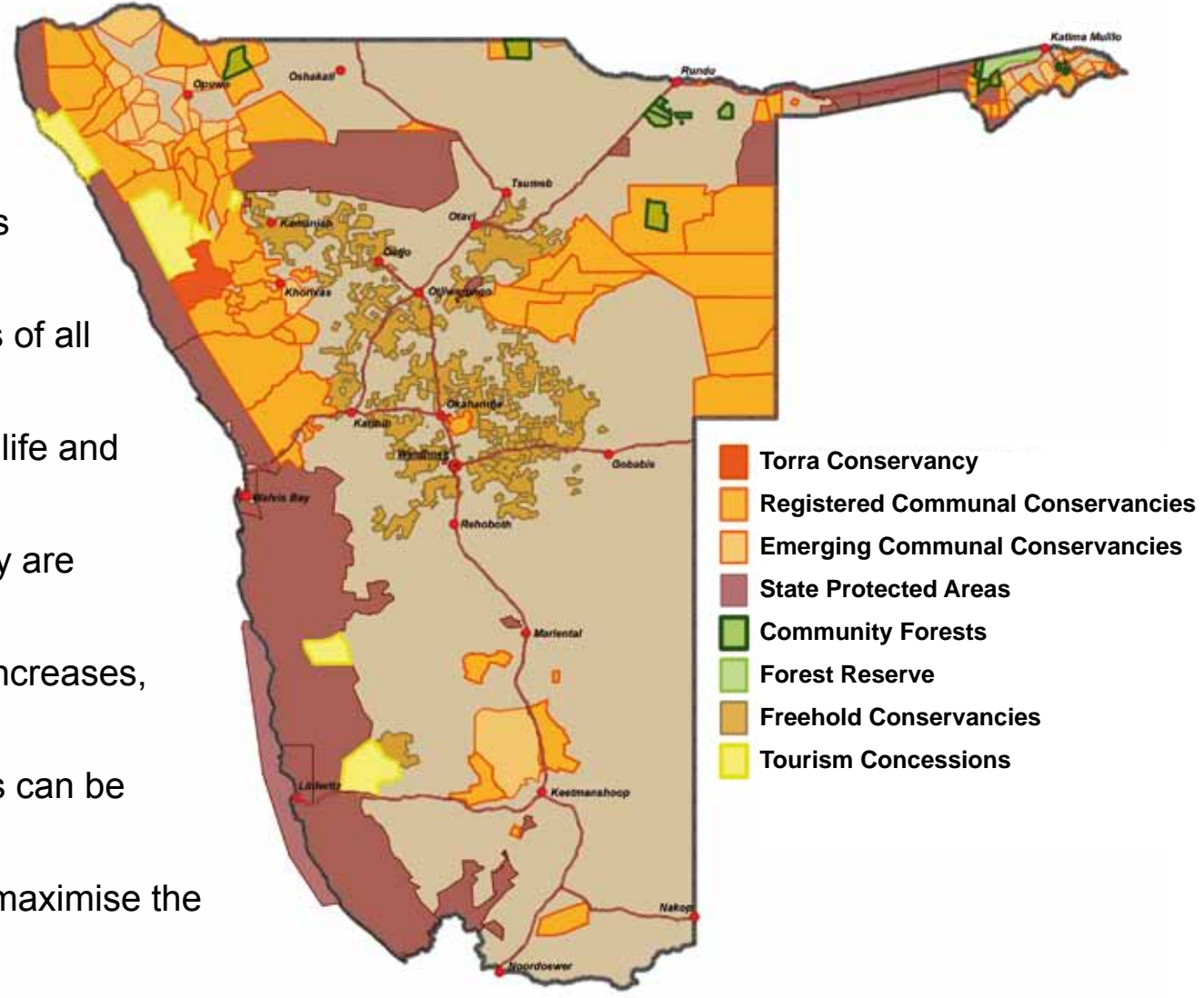
Conservancy activities include game counts and patrols, monitoring using the Event Book, mitigating human wildlife conflict and facilitating development.



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

## a conservancy is:

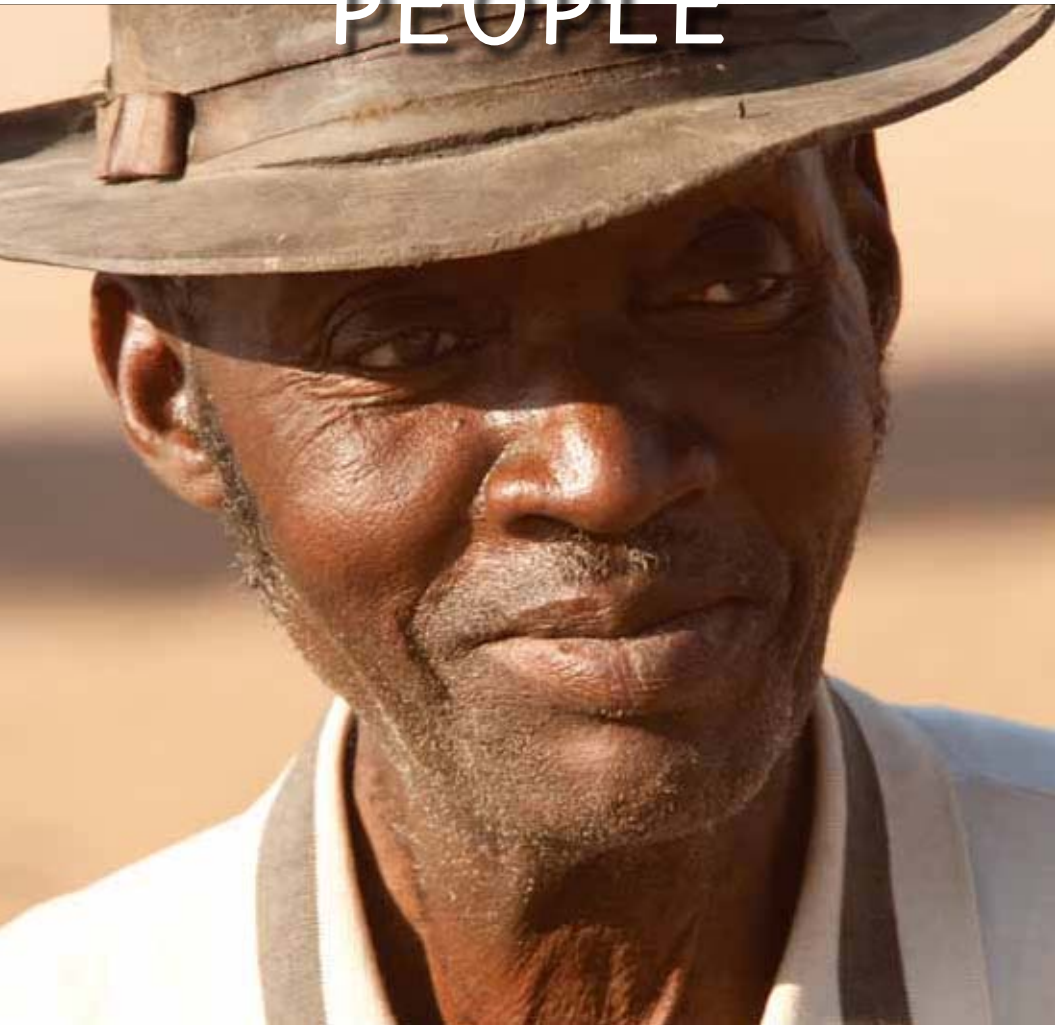
- a legally registered area with clearly defined borders and a constituted management body run by the community for the development of residents and the sustainable use of wildlife and tourism
- managed by a group elected to serve the interests of all its members
- a place where residents can add income 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 too minimise conflict and maximise the interests of all stakeholders



## milestones and successes

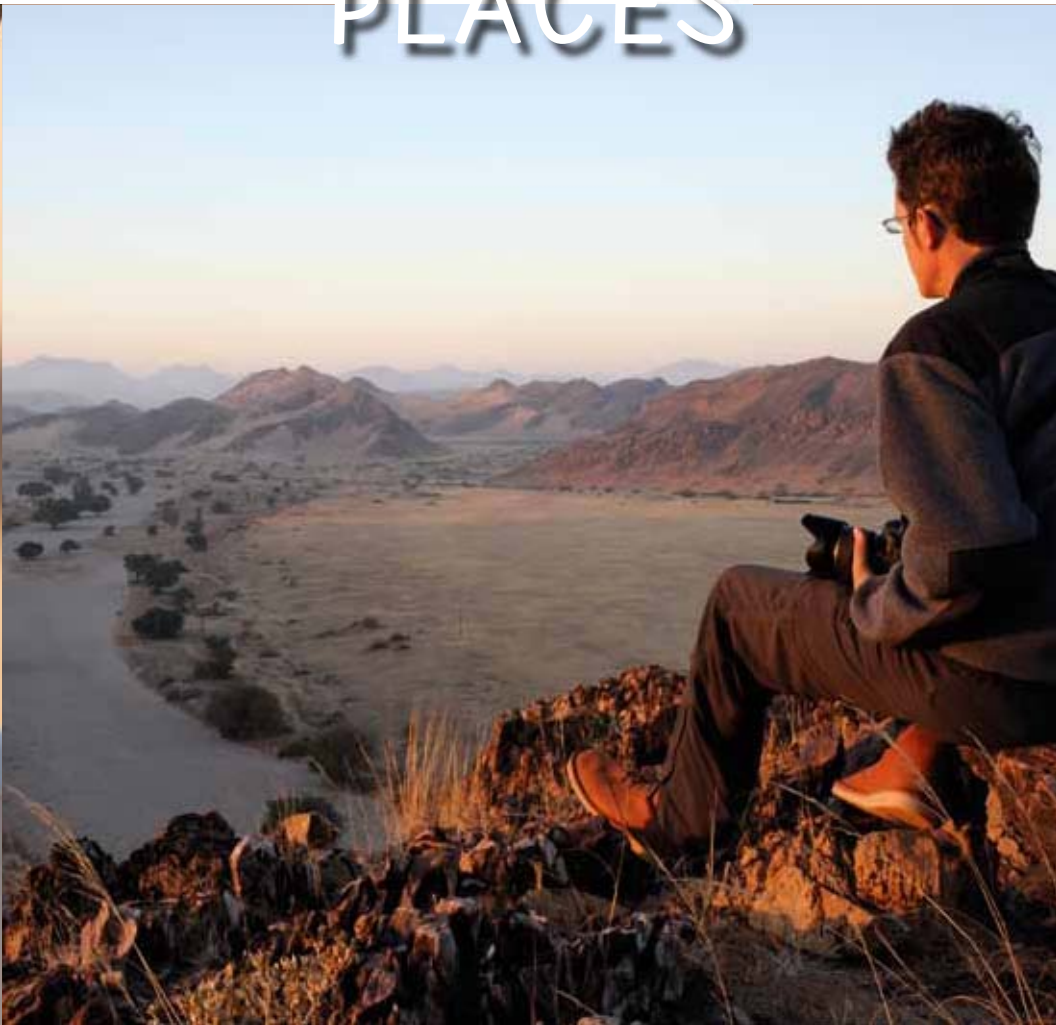
- 1995** – Damaraland Camp opens and becomes the first joint-venture tourism partnership between a community and the private sector (Wilderness Safaris) in Namibia
- 1996** – policy changes allow communal area residents to benefit from wildlife and tourism by forming conservancies
- 1998** – Torra Conservancy is registered in June
- 1998** – Damaraland Camp wins an international tourism award, the Silver Otter
- 2000** – Torra becomes part of the annual North-West Game Count
- 2001** – Torra Conservancy becomes financially independent and is able to cover own operating expenses
- 2001** – Benny Roman, Chairman of Torra Conservancy, wins the Namibian Professional Hunting Association 'Conservationist of the Year' Award
- 2001** – implementation of the Event Book monitoring system in Torra Conservancy
- 2002** – Torra becomes the first communal area conservancy to sell live game
- 2004** – Torra wins the UNDP Equator Prize at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2005** – Damaraland Camp receives the World Travel & Tourism Council 'Tourism for Tomorrow' Conservation Award

## PEOPLE



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

## PLACES



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

Khoekhoegowab, Ojijherero and Afrikaans are the main languages spoken in the conservancy