

the
state
of



community conservation in Namibia

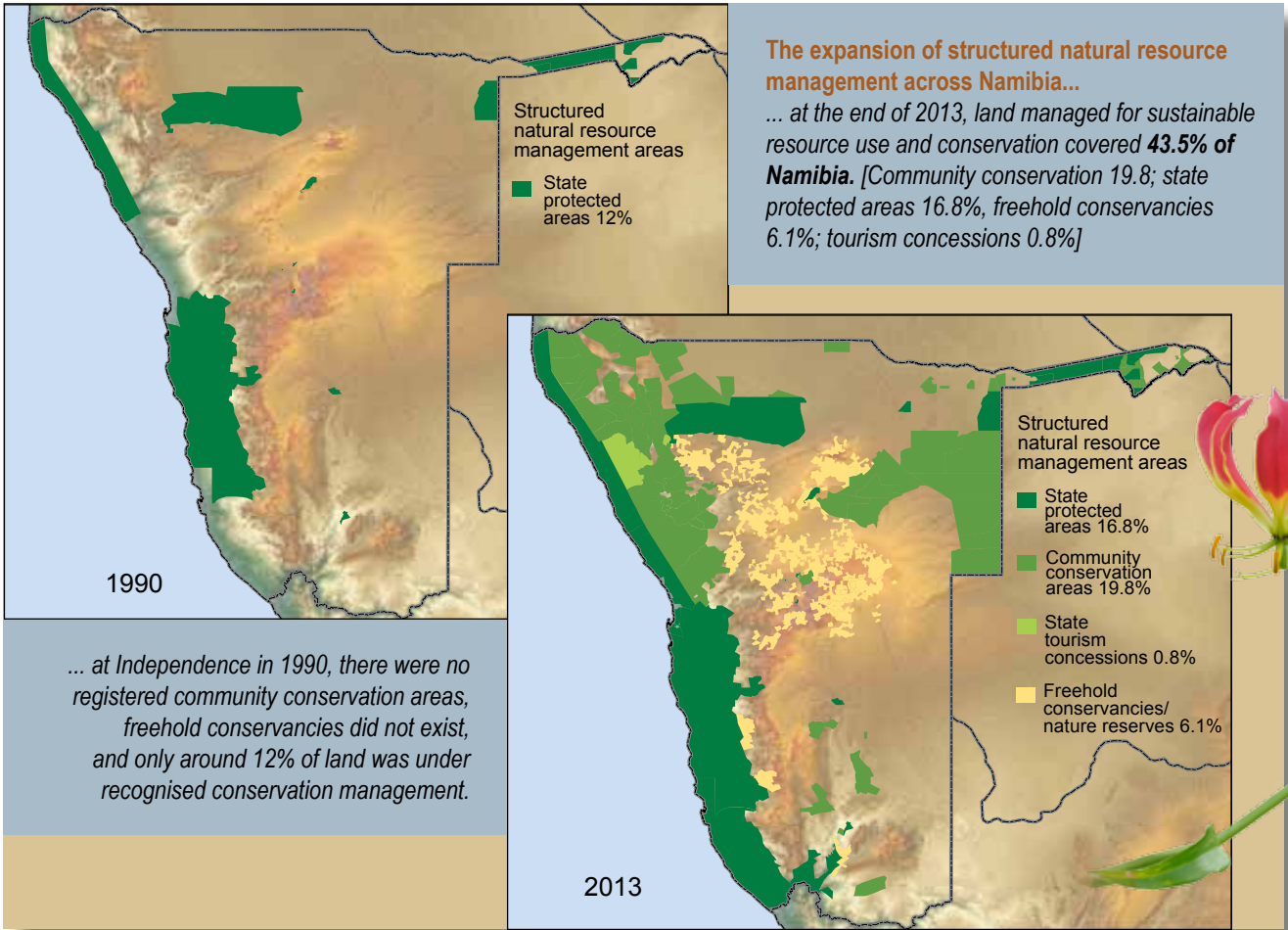
a status summary of communal conservancies
community forests and other CBNRM initiatives



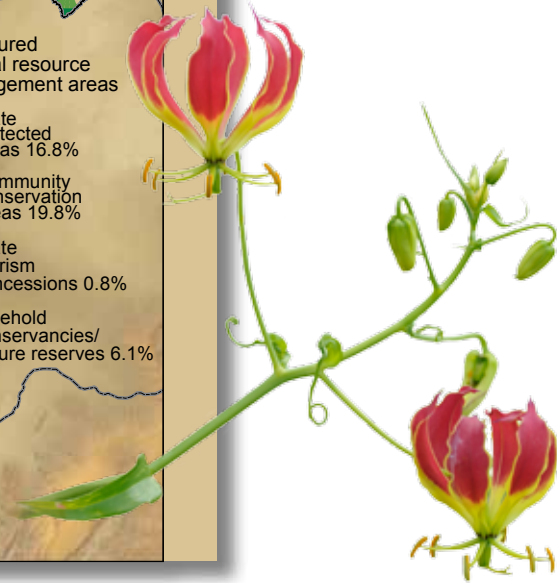
2013
summary

This brochure summarises data from the annual Community Conservation Report; The full report is available as a PDF at www.nacso.org.na or as a printed report at the NACSO office in Windhoek.





CBNRM
stands for
community-based
natural resource management
and is used interchangeably
with the term community
conservation



a little history... The earliest community-based conservation initiatives in Namibia, which grew into what is today the national CBNRM programme, started before Independence, when the first community game guards were appointed by local headmen in an attempt to reverse wildlife declines. At the time, people living in communal areas had few rights to use wildlife. Wild animals were seen as little more than a threat to crops, livestock and infrastructure, as well as community safety. Ground-breaking legislation passed in the mid-nineties laid the foundation for a new approach to natural resource use. By forming

legally recognised community conservation organisations such as conservancies and community forests, people in communal areas can now actively manage – and generate returns from – natural resources in their area. This continues to encourage wildlife recoveries and environmental restoration. While community conservation organisations are resource management units, they are defined by social ties, uniting groups of people with the common goal of managing their resources. The first conservancies were registered in 1998, and the first community forests in 2006.

Community conservation in Namibia:

At the end of 2013 there were...

- 79 registered communal conservancies
- 1 community conservation association in a national park (Karasma Asssocation, managed like a conservancy)
- 15 concessions in national parks or on other state land held by 20 conservancies (some shared concessions)
- 32 registered community forests
- 66 community rangeland management areas
- and 3 community fish reserves

in Namibia

What's being achieved?

Community conservation...

- covers over 163,396 km², which is about 53.4% of all communal land with about 175,000 residents
- of this area, conservancies manage 160,244 km², which is about 19.4% of Namibia
- community forests cover 30,827 km², 90% of it overlapping with conservancies
- community rangeland management areas cover 4,004 km², much of it overlapping with conservancies
- from the beginning of 1991 to the end of 2013, community conservation contributed about N\$ 3.92 billion to Namibia's net national income
- during 2013, community conservation generated about N\$ 72.2 million in returns for local communities
- community conservation facilitated 6,472 jobs in 2013
- 65 conservancies had a total of 167 enterprises based on natural resources in 2013
- community conservation supports wildlife recoveries and environmental restoration
- Namibia's elephant population grew from around 7,500 to around 20,000 between 1995 and 2013
- Namibia has an expanding free-roaming lion population outside national parks

living with wildlife

to live with wildlife...

... means striving for balanced land use and a healthy environment. Game does not need to be eradicated from a landscape because it may pose a threat to crops or livestock. Wildlife can create a great range of returns that far exceed its costs. Game - and all natural resource use - can be integrated with other rural livelihood activities for the benefit of the people and the land...



Community conservation is about managing natural resources sustainably to generate returns for rural people. Conservancies, community forests and other community conservation initiatives create the needed legal framework for this. By choosing to live with wildlife, rural communities are broadening their livelihood options as well as enabling a healthier environment. Through wise and sustainable management and use, the resources are conserved for future generations while providing significant returns today.

Institutional development status category	Status in 2013
Registered conservancies (incl. Kyaramacan Ass.)	80
Conservancies generating returns	65
covering operational costs from own income	36
distributing cash or in-kind benefits to members, or investing in community projects	38
Conservancy management committee members	914
female management committee members	270
female chairpersons	8
female treasurers/financial managers	33
Conservancy staff members	656
female staff members	172
Conservancies with Management Plans	47
Sustainable Business and Financial Plans	32
Conservancy AGMs held	51
financial reports presented at AGM	44
financial reports approved at AGM	42
budgets approved at AGM	33
Conservancies that are members of a regional conservancy association	50

Institutional development in conservancies in 2013

The information shows that more and more conservancies are becoming well-established, and many have strong female participation. A substantial number of conservancies that used to be dependent to some degree on grant aid are now covering their operational costs from own income, with many also distributing benefits to members or investing in community projects. The Kyaramacan Association is included as a registered 'conservancy'.

the three pillars of community conservation

institutional development

- good governance creates the basis for resource management and the capture and distribution of returns

natural resource management

- innovative resource management enables biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

business, enterprises and livelihoods

- market-based approaches enable a wide range of community returns

building foundations
for sustainable resource management

Prior to Independence, without the existence of formal management structures and lacking ownership over resources, people in communal areas undertook few coordinated natural resource management activities. This resulted in fragmentation, neglect and over-exploitation. Today, community conservation not only monitors and manages resource use, it also provides legitimate structures for the tourism and trophy hunting industries, as well as a suite of other private sector, government and donor stakeholders, to formally engage with communities in an equitable manner. Legally recognised entities such as conservancies and community forests have empowered communities to stand up for their rights.



Book keeper Landine Guim,
#Khoadi-/Hôas Conservancy

building foundations

to build foundations...

... means creating structures that enable wise and effective governance, and that empower rural people to control their environmental policies, actions, affairs and resources for a common, sustainable good...



Governance at a glance:

At the end of 2013 there were...

- 47 management plans in place
- 32 sustainable business and financial plans in place
- 44 annual financial reports presented
- 51 annual general meetings held
- 12% female chairpersons
- 49% female treasurers/financial managers
- 30% female management committee members
- and 26% female staff members

in communal conservancies in Namibia



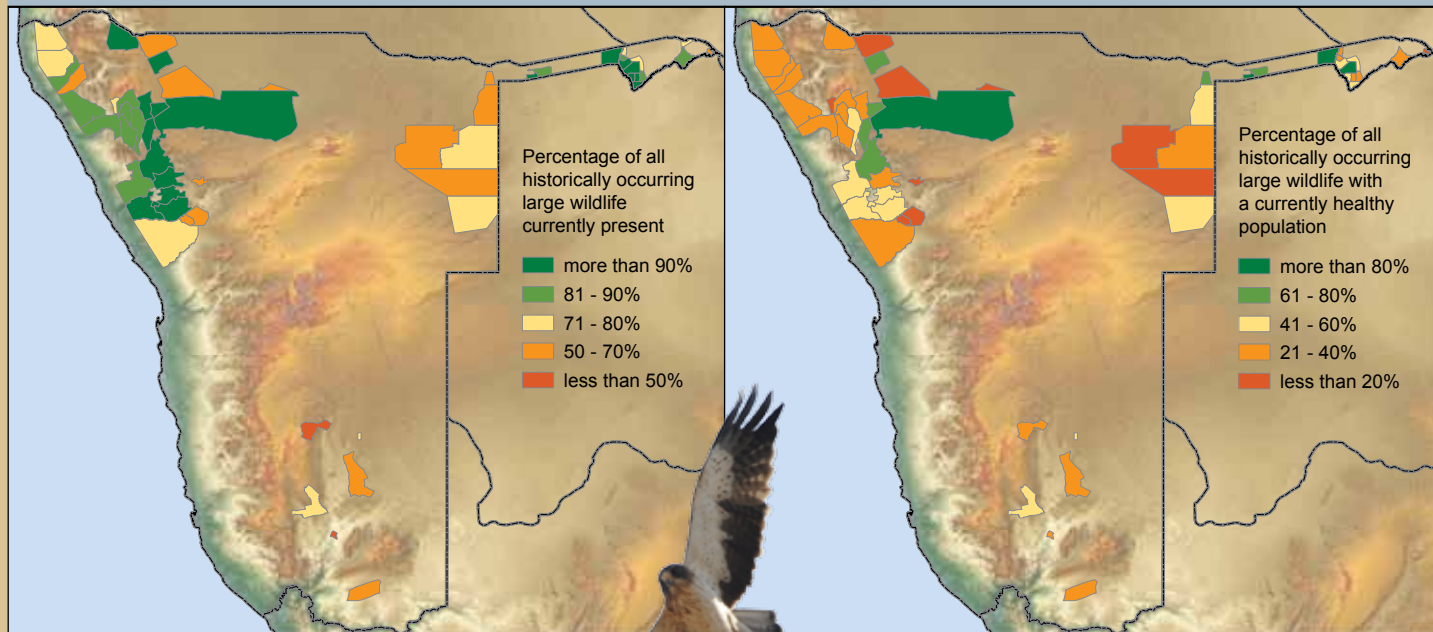
What's being achieved?

Community conservation means...

- contributing to improved democracy in rural areas
- empowering individuals, including women, to actively participate in decision-making
- employing staff to manage a broad range of resources
- working according to management and benefit distribution plans
- unlocking human potential by providing new access to diverse training and capacity building
- enabling controlled tourism development and trophy hunting activities
- covering an increasing portion of operational costs through own income
- linking into regional conservation structures

Species richness and population health of wildlife in conservancies

The **wildlife species richness** map (left) indicates the percentage of all large wildlife species that historically occurred, which are currently present in a particular conservancy. The **wildlife population health** (right) indicates the percentage of all large wildlife species that historically occurred, which currently have a healthy population in a particular conservancy. Etosha, Mamili, Mudumu and the core areas of Bwabwata National Park are included on the maps for comparison.



a broad spectrum of communal resources

Modern approaches have not only returned the rights to the people and the wildlife to the land, but are enabling an increasing range of returns from natural resources, which were unheard of only a few decades ago. This success is based on community empowerment, as well as innovative systems and tools that enable effective management and sustainable use of natural resources. These include the Event Book monitoring tool, annual game counts and quota setting, as well as wildlife management and zonation plans.



managing resources

to manage resources...

... means ensuring that they are used wisely so that the resource base (the natural environment) stays healthy and maximum returns are generated without negative impact...

Game guards Philip Ndozi, Stanley Malimba and Justance Mabbi, Balyerwa Conservancy



Natural resources at a glance:

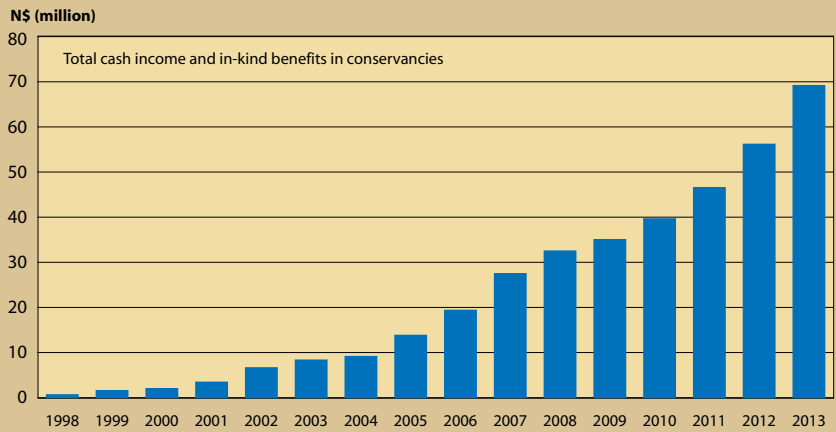
At the end of 2013 there were...

- 78 conservancies using the Event Book monitoring tool (incl. unregistered conservancies & Kyaramacan Ass.)
- 52 conservancies conducting an annual game count
- 4 national parks undertaking collaborative monitoring with conservancies
- 38 conservancies directly involved in tourism activities
- 66 conservancies holding quota setting meetings
- 58 conservancies doing own-use harvesting
- 44 conservancies with trophy hunting concessions
- 18 conservancies with shoot & sell harvesting contracts
- 56 conservancies with a wildlife management plan
- 54 conservancies with a zonation plan
- 531 game guards working in conservancies (incl. unregistered conservancies & Kyaramacan Ass.)

What's being achieved?

Community conservation means...

- combatting poaching and other illegal activities
- mitigating human wildlife conflict and limiting losses incurred through living with wildlife
- zoning areas for different land uses to reduce conflicts
- enabling wildlife recoveries, effective natural resource management and environmental restoration
- working with neighbours to promote a large landscape approach to natural resource management
- black rhinos occur in 15 conservancies
- elephants occur in 46 conservancies
- lions occur in 24 conservancies
- species that had become locally extinct in the Zambezi Region, such as eland, giraffe and blue wildebeest, are thriving after re-introductions
- the North West Game Count is the largest annual, road-based game count in the world



Total returns to conservancies and members

The total cash income and in-kind benefits generated in conservancies grew from less than N\$ 1 million in 1998 to more than N\$ 68 million in 2013. This includes all directly measurable income and in-kind benefits being generated, and can be divided into cash income to conservancies (mostly through partnerships with private sector operators), cash income to residents (mostly through employment and the sale of products), as well as in-kind benefits to residents (mostly the distribution of harvested game meat).

improving rural lives

Conservancies are showing that community conservation can generate a broad range of community and individual returns while covering its operational costs from own income. Community conservation is funding rural development projects and empowering communities, while individual households are benefiting through job creation and new income opportunities, as well as in-kind benefits and improved access to a range of services. Community conservation is diversifying options and increasing opportunities for rural people.

Sources of returns to conservancies and their members in 2013

The spectrum of natural resource sectors that generate returns for communities continues to widen. Joint-venture tourism and trophy hunting are making the greatest contributions.

Source of cash income or in-kind benefits	Value in N\$	Percentage of total cash income and in-kind benefits
Joint-venture tourism (includes all cash income and in-kind benefits to conservancies and members)	29,272,088	43%
Trophy hunting (includes all cash income to conservancies and members)	20,968,823	31%
Trophy hunting meat	6,260,112	9%
Own-use game harvesting meat	3,500,928	5%
Indigenous plant products	2,655,874	4%
Community-based tourism and other small to medium enterprises	1,974,079	3%
Crafts	1,162,764	2%
Shoot-and-sell game harvesting	990,744	1%
Miscellaneous (e.g. interest)	938,993	1%
Other hunting or game harvesting (e.g. problem animal control)	459,810	< 1%
Live game sales	17,200	< 1%
Premium hunting	-	0%
Total	68,201,415	100%



Manager and guide Kapoi Kasaona, Palmwag Lodge

improving lives

to improve lives...

... means facilitating economic opportunities and empowering people to make their own choices from amongst a range of livelihood options that enable a healthy and dignified existence...



Waitress Beauty Mbala, Camp Chobe Salambala Conservancy

CBNRM returns at a glance:

At the end of 2013 there were...

- 39 joint-venture tourism enterprises with 640 full time and 46 part time employees
- 44 trophy hunting concessions with 134 full time and 129 part time employees
- 29 small/medium enterprises (mostly tourism/crafts) with 142 full time and 40 part time employees
- 647 full time and 88 part time conservancy employees
- 914 conservancy representatives receiving allowances
- 2,762 indigenous plant product harvesters
- and 930 craft producers

in communal conservancies in Namibia (part time employment includes seasonal labour)

What's being achieved?

Community conservation...

- generated total returns to rural communities of over N\$ 72,158,768
- of this, trophy hunting generated N\$ 20,882,315, tourism generated N\$ 9,568,742 and indigenous plants generated N\$ 215,556 in fees for conservancies
- conservancy residents earned a total cash income of N\$ 23,982,130 from enterprise wages (mostly tourism) and N\$ 11,031,642 from conservancy wages
- conservancy residents earned a total cash income of N\$ 2,440,318 from indigenous plants and N\$ 1,162,764 from crafts
- 542,280 kg of game meat worth N\$ 9,761,040 was distributed to conservancy residents
- N\$ 5,648,705 in cash benefits was distributed to conservancy residents
- thatching grass generated N\$ 2,745,947 for communities
- craft sales outside conservancies generated N\$ 1,211,406

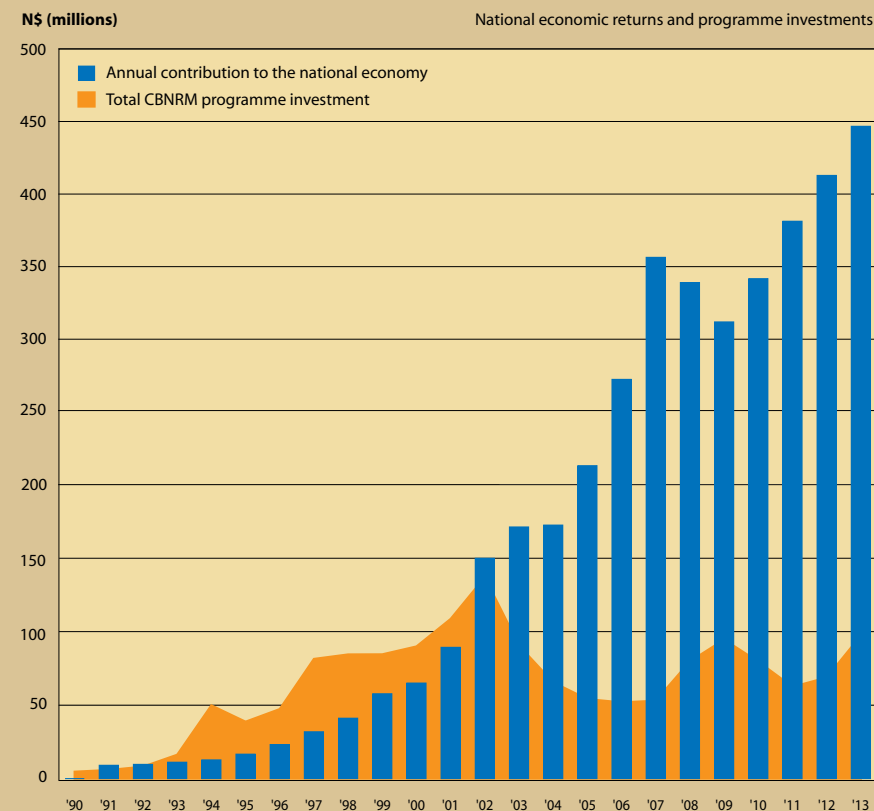
Estimates of the national economic returns from CBNRM compared to economic investment costs

In 2013, the net national income (NNI) contribution made by CBNRM was about N\$ 444 million. Due to the effects of drought, wildlife stock values in the north-west declined during 2013, which is reflected in the graph. Between 1990 and 2013, the cumulative value of the NNI contributions amounts to an estimated N\$ 3.42 billion*. The increased capital value of wildlife in north-western Namibia between 1990 and 2013 is estimated at N\$ 497 million. Together, the NNI contributions and increased capital value of wildlife over this period add up to about N\$ 3.92 billion. This is an impressive figure, which has been increasing rapidly. The graph also shows the value of spending on the CBNRM programme each year, which cumulatively adds up to about N\$ 1.6 billion of investment between 1990 and 2013. Donors supplied most of the funds, while the MET and NGOs also provided inputs, mainly as 'in-kind' contributions such as staff, vehicles and other kinds of support.

Year	Economic rate of return	Net present value at 6%
15	5%	- N\$ 9.3 million
17	16%	N\$ 178.1 million
19	19%	N\$ 330.7 million
21	21%	N\$ 495.3 million
23	23%	N\$ 668.9 million

The economic efficiency of CBNRM

Since 1990, the programme has had an economic internal rate of return of 23% and has earned an economic net present value of some N\$ 669 million. This is a highly positive economic return for a programme investment.



* Figures have been adjusted for inflation to be equivalent to the value of Namibia dollars in 2013. This means they are not directly comparable with those used in the 2012 Community Conservation Report, which used figures equivalent to the value of Namibian dollars in 2012.

The future at a glance:

Community conservation may grow to...

- 90-100 conservancies and 40-50 community forests
- cover over 21% of Namibia and well over 50% of all communal land
- embrace up to 15% of all communal area residents and well over 50% of rural communal areas residents in suitable areas

What might be achieved?

Community conservation can...

- facilitate significant further growth of tourism in communal areas and increase local involvement
- enhance the reputation of communal areas as offering some of the country's most spectacular destinations
- entrench Namibia's position as offering some of the best trophy hunting on unfenced land in Africa
- mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing dependence on subsistence agriculture
- maximise the potential of indigenous plants through further strategic international partnerships
- strengthen incentives for people to live with and manage wildlife so our children's children can continue to share in this important African heritage

New for 2014:

- introduction of mandatory conservancy compliance requirements by the MET
- introduction and roll-out of a game guard certification system

working for a common vision

Erongo-Kunene Community Conservation Area

to work for a common vision...

... means focussing on what can be achieved, rather than yielding to difficulties; looking beyond individual activities and local impacts to bigger regional, national and trans-boundary connections, influences and achievements, while facing challenges, anticipating change and striving for sustainability...

The biggest challenges?

- enabling optimum conservancy governance capacities, effective decision-making and wise leadership, as well as pro-active members
- optimising land allocation and administration in communal areas
- further promoting policy integration amongst government ministries
- ensuring long-term technical support to community conservation structures
- achieving self-sufficiency and programmatic sustainability

EMPOWERMENT BENEFITS SUSTAINABILITY

Community conservation

grew out of the recognition that wildlife and other natural resources were disappearing in many communal areas, and that these losses could be reversed, and both rural livelihoods and the environment could be improved, if local communities were empowered to manage and use the resources themselves



more information at www.nacso.org.na