

Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)



**For the proposed tourism development activities in Ondjou
Conservancy and Community Forest Core Wildlife Area**

Prepared for:



July 2025



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DOCUMENT INFORMATION		
Title	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for Tourism Development Activities in Ondjou Conservancy and Community Forest Core Wildlife Area	
Listed Activity	Activity 5: LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES d) Use for nature conservation or zoned open space to any other land use. Activity 6: Tourism Development 6. Construction of resorts, lodges, hotels or other tourism and hospitality facilities	
Location	Ondjou Conservancy, Otjozondjupa region	
Proponent	Ondjou Conservancy Private Bag 2008 Grootfontein	
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ACRONYMS

BID	Background Information Document
ECC	Environmental Clearance Certificate
CMC	Conservancy Management Committee
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMA	Environmental Management Act
KAZA TFCA	Kavango–Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
NDP	National Development Plan
NDT	Namibia Development Trust
PLUP	Participatory Land Use Planning
SESA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
TA	Traditional Authority
TEC	Tortoise Environmental Consultants



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)

1.1.1. What is SESA?

A Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) is a process and a tool for evaluating the effects of proposed policies, plans and programmes on the natural environment, social, cultural and economic conditions to guide decision-making (IAIA, 2022). SESAs effectively promote sustainable development by mainstreaming the natural environment into socio-economic development and integrating environmental targets into strategic and project-related decision-making (OECD, 2021).

A SESA has the capacity to support the development of policy and planning exercises with a stronger environmental component and plays a fundamental role in promoting the principles of sustainable development. It helps achieve environmental protection and sustainable development by:

- Taking into consideration the environmental impacts of proposed strategic actions
- Identify the most appropriate and practicable environmental option
- Providing early warning of possible cumulative impacts and large-scale changes
- Integrating the environment into sector-specific decision-making by promoting environmentally sound and sustainable proposals (Partidário, 2014).

1.1.2. SESA Framework

Namibia has explicitly incorporated the protection of the environment in its constitution. Article 95 of Namibia's constitution mandates ***“the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilisation of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of the Namibians, both present and future”***. The constitution, therefore, places a duty on the Namibian Government to develop appropriate laws to protect the environment and to ensure that they are enforced.

The fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) sets out a roadmap for achieving inclusive and sustainable growth of Namibia by adhering to the following pillars of sustainable development:

- Economic Progression
- Social Transformation
- Environmental Sustainability
- Good Governance

The national objective of the Environmental Sustainability Pillar is to ensure management and utilisation of natural resources on a sustainable basis.

Hence, coordinated land management and development strategies will, therefore, only achieve long-lasting results if they adequately reflect environmental concerns and the sustainable use of natural resources (Nghitila et al., 2011).

1.1.3. Principles

The preparation of this SESA was guided by:

- The 2006 Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)'s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Guidelines and Reference Series on Applying Strategic Environmental Assessments
- The SESA Performance Criteria developed by the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) and the procedures
- Guidelines for Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and Environmental Plan as provided by the Minister of Environment and Tourism in April 2008.

1.1.4. Assumptions and Limitations of the SESA

The SESA is primarily based on literature, stakeholder consultations and observations.

1.1.5. Purpose of the SESA

This SESA provides a high-level assessment of the potential impacts and opportunities of developing various tourism development activities within the Ondjou Conservancy. It also ensures that environmental considerations are integrated into the planning and decision-making processes.

1.1.6. Rationale

The rationale for undertaking a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for the Ondjou Conservancy and Community Forest Core Wildlife Area is to support sustainable, well-informed planning and development of the conservancy's 140 km² proposed core wildlife area.

The area is being considered for declaration under an occupational land rights system, which will enable the Ondjou Conservancy to pursue activities such as wildlife restocking, eco-tourism, and sustainable hunting. Given the potential land use changes and long-term environmental and socio-economic implications, the SESA offers a proactive, landscape-level tool to assess cumulative impacts and guide decision-making before any specific development takes place.

The SESA aligns with the broader objectives of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), particularly under the Khaudum–Ngamiland Wildlife Dispersal Area (WDA) project, by contributing to improved habitat connectivity, strengthened protected area management, and enhanced community livelihoods.

Furthermore, the SESA helps identify potential environmental risks, such as habitat degradation, human-wildlife conflict, and resource overuse, and recommends strategic interventions to mitigate them early in the planning process. It also ensures compliance with Namibia's Environmental Management Act (No. 7 of 2007), which promotes integrated environmental planning and

sustainable development. In doing so, the SESA supports not only ecological integrity and legal compliance but also the empowerment of local communities through inclusive planning and increased resilience to climate change and socio-economic vulnerabilities.

1.1.7. SESA Process

The SESA process entails:

- i. Conducting the SESA in accordance with the Terms of Reference, SESA guidelines, and the applicable legal framework (e.g. the EMA, Act No. 7 of 2007 and the SESA Guidelines of 2008)
- ii. Identifying key environmental, social and economic aspects pertaining to the proposed development activities, with emphasis on sustainability.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Overview of SESA Process

The diagram below is a summary of the SESA process carried out during this consultancy.

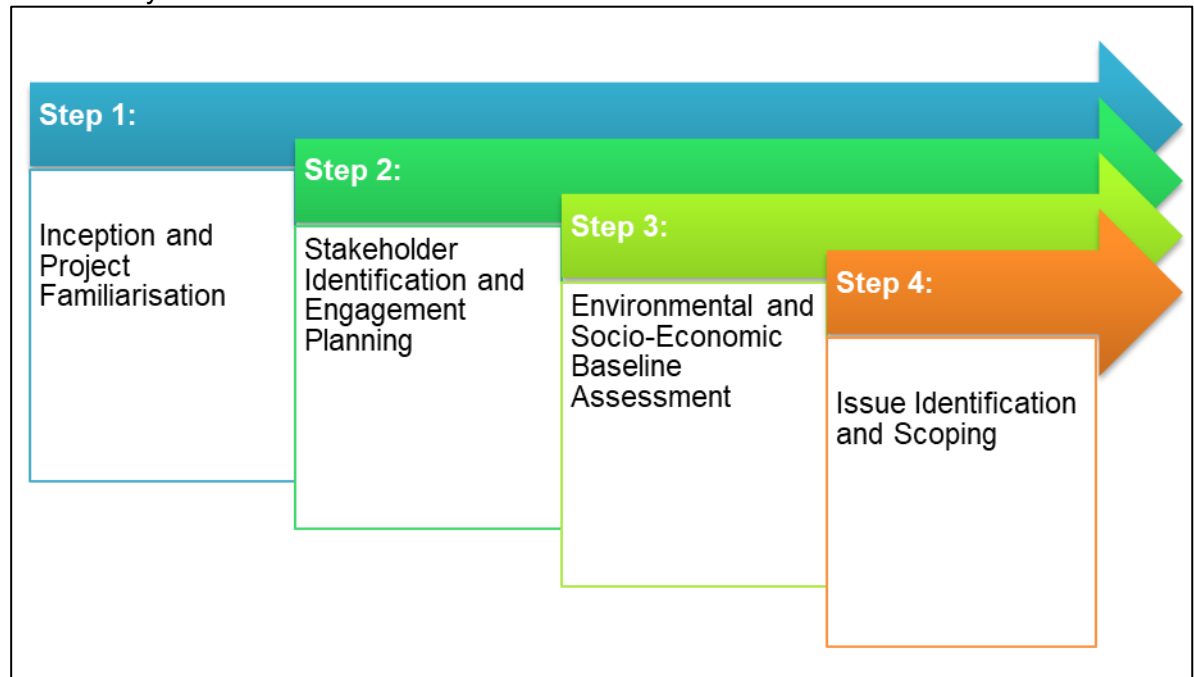


Figure 2-1: SESA process

2.1.1. Inception and Project Familiarisation

- Review of relevant documents, including the KAZA TFCA Conservation Priorities, Ondjou Conservancy management plans, previous technical reports, vegetation assessments, and legal instruments.
- Holding introductory meetings with the Namibia Development Trust (NDT).

2.1.2. Stakeholder Identification and Engagement Planning

- Identifying key stakeholders, including regulatory authorities, traditional authorities, community members, NGOs, and technical partners.
- Developing a Stakeholder Engagement Plan for inclusive consultation.

2.1.3. Environmental and Socio-Economic Baseline Assessment

Compiling and analysing existing data on:

- Ecological features
- Natural resources
- Socio-economic aspects
- Institutional and legal frameworks

2.1.4. Issue Identification and Scoping

- Conducting site visits to ground-truth available information.
- Identifying potential strategic issues such as land-use conflicts, human-wildlife conflict, and tourism potential.
- Developing a Scoping Report and Background Information Document (BID) for stakeholder circulation and public disclosure.

3. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Namibian government has the duty to protect the environment as provided for in Article 95 of the Constitution. The table below provides a summary of the laws that are applicable to the SESA process.

Table 3-1: Namibian legislations applicable to the SESA of the Core Area

Legislation	Brief description	Applicability to Ondjou SESA
The Namibian constitution (Article 95)	Article 95 states: "The State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting, inter alia, policies aimed at the <i>maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilisation of natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians both present and future</i>" Article 101 further states that, "the principles embodied within the constitution "shall not of and by themselves be legally enforceable by any court but shall nevertheless guide the Government in making and applying laws." The courts are entitled to have regard to the said principles in interpreting any laws based on them."	Supports sustainable development and the conservation of ecological processes within Ondjou Conservancy, ensuring that natural resources are protected for current and future generations.
Development Framework (Vision 2030 and National Development Plans)	Namibia's Vision 2030 was launched in 2004 with the rationale to provide long-term policy scenarios on the future course of development in the country until the target year of 2030. The objective of Vision 2030 is to ensure that the <i>integrity of vital ecological processes, natural habitats and wild species throughout Namibia is maintained whilst significantly supporting national socio-economic development through sustainable low-impact, consumptive and non-consumptive uses, as well as providing diversity for rural and urban livelihoods.</i> Five Year National Development Plans (NDPs) are the main vehicle for achieving this long-term objective. NDP5 is the latest development plan for period 2017/18 to 2021/22	Ondjou Conservancy development plans strive to align with the development vision of the country.



The Environmental Management Act – EMA (Act No. 7 of 2007)	The Environmental Management Act No 7 of 2007 aims to promote the sustainable management of the environment and the use of natural resources and to provide for a process of assessment and control of activities that may have significant effects on the environment and to provide for incidental matters. The acts provide a list of activities that may not be undertaken without an Environmental Clearance Certificate.	Section 23 and 24 of the EMA describe the requirement to prepare an Environmental Plan (EP). The Draft Regulations for SESAs and EIAs define an Environmental Plan to mean an SESA. The Procedures and Guidelines for a SESA and EP were gazetted in 2008 and have been used as a guide during this SESA process
Regional Councils Act 22 of 1992	This Act makes provision the establishment and functioning of regional councils. In addition to the powers conferred upon a regional council by Article 108 of the Namibian Constitution it shall, among other things, undertake planning functions and establish, manage and control settlement areas. Communal assets of a settlement area shall vest in the regional council who declared the area.	The mandate of Otjozondjupa Regional Council is to plan, administer and manage the socio-economic development of the region. The regional council is therefore instrumental in the process of land use planning



The Communal Land Reform Act No. 5 of 2002	The Communal Land Reform Act provides for the allocation and administration of all communal land in the areas described in the first schedule to this Act or in any area declared to be communal land under Section 16(1)(a). The Act makes provision for the prevention of land degradation and for mitigating the impacts of mining, prospecting, road works and water provision. It provides for certain rights to communal farmers and traditional authorities and representatives on Communal Land Boards.	To guide sustainable land use practices by traditional authority in the allocation and administration of communal land in the region.
The Traditional Authorities Act 25 of 2000	Provides for the establishment of traditional authorities and the designation, election, appointment and recognition of traditional leaders. Defines powers, duties and functions of traditional authorities and traditional leaders	The Core Wildlife Area falls under the jurisdiction of Kambazembi Royal House Traditional Authority, which is administered from Epukiro, the traditional SESat of the Herero traditional authorities.
Water Resource s Management Act 11 of 2013	Provides for management, protection, development, use and conservation of water resources; for the regulation and monitoring of water services and for incidental matters.	Water management activities and development in the region should comply with the Water Act.
Nature Conservation Ordinance No 4 of 1975	An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the conservation of nature; the establishment of game parks and nature reserves; the control of problem animals and to provide for matters incidental thereto. The Act makes provision for the conservation and management of wildlife and regulates fishing in inland waters.	This act will apply to wildlife management in the Ondjou Conservancy



Nature Conservation Amendment Act, 1996 (Act No.5 of 1996)	Amended the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1975 as to provide for an economically based system of sustainable management and utilisation of game in communal areas; to delete references to representative authorities; and to provide matter incidental thereto.	This act will apply to wildlife management in the Ondjou Conservancy.
Forest Act 12 of 2001	Consolidates the laws relating to the use and management of forests and forest produce; it provides for the control of forest fires. The Act enables the registration of classified forests, namely state forest reserves, regional forest reserves, community forests and forest management areas.	Community forest activities in the Ondjou community forest are governed by this act.
Soil Conservation Act 6 of 1969	This Act covers the prevention and combating of soil erosion; the conservation, improvement and manner of use of the soil and vegetation; and the protection of water sources.	There is a need to address land use activities that contribute to soil erosion.
National Heritage Act No. 27 of 2004	The Act makes provision for the protection and conservation of places and objects of heritage significance and the registration of such places and objects. Part V Section 46 of the Act prohibits removal, damage, alteration or excavation of heritage sites or remains, while Section 48 sets out the procedure for application and granting of permits.	Heritage is one of the key components for the assessment of the SESA process.

Table 3-2: Namibian Policies and plans relevant to the development of the Core Area and SESA

Policy/Plan	Description	Relevance to Ondjou SESA
National Land Policy	The policy calls for the establishment and proclamation of urban areas and strives to promote decentralisation and community involvement.	Policy guides the development of urban areas in the region
National Land Tenure Policy	Covers all land tenure systems in urban, communal, commercial (freehold) and resettlement areas, and is intended to guide all land tenure rights in Namibia. The policy promotes the sustainable utilisation of land and other resources	The development of the Core Area and SESA process is guided by the principles of sustainable use of natural resources in the region
National Agricultural Policy	The policy's objective is to promote national and household food security, while recognising the limitations imposed by the country's climate and soils. The policy seeks to promote sustainable utilisation of the land and other natural resources within the context of a vulnerable ecosystem	The development of the Core Area and SESA process is guided by the principles of sustainable use of natural resources in the region
Regional Planning and Development Policy	The policy acknowledges the trend of the increasing degradation of pastures, rangelands and woodland, with special attention to soil, water and forest management as development tools.	Framework under which the IRLUP is being developed and hence take the objectives of this policy into consideration
Namibia's Drought Policy and Strategy	The policy is concerned with developing an efficient, even-handed and sustainable approach to drought management.	With drought being a common occurrence in Namibia, the SESA considers the impacts of climate change on the region and possible ways to reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts such as drought
Water and Sanitation Policy	It aims to improve sustainable food self-sufficiency and security and provides a foundation for the equitable and efficient development of water supply in Namibia. The policy promotes the supply of water, and improved sanitation at an affordable cost to all Namibians.	The SESA considers the availability of water and issues of public health in Otjozondjupa.
Forestry Policy	Aims to reconcile rural development with biodiversity conservation by empowering farmers and local communities to manage forest resources on a sustainable basis. The policy identifies effective property rights; a supportive regulatory framework; good extension services; community forestry; and forest reSESArch, education and	The framework that guides the establishment and management of community forests such as the Ondjou Conservancy and Community Forest



	training as instruments essential to the successful implementation of sustainable forestry management in Namibia. The policy also paves the way for the establishment of community forests and their custodianship by the people most dependent on such resources	
National Tourism Policy	Aims to secure and develop important tourism areas so that their value is not undermined by other, unsustainable land use options.	Promotes development of tourism and maximising benefits of tourism to the people and natural resources of the region
Community-based Tourism Policy	Under the terms of the policy, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism is obliged to ensure that development of the community-based tourism sector is environmentally sustainable, and that no development takes place without the participation of the people affected. This objective is geared to emphasise environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation and community participation in tourism.	Promotes the involvement of local people in tourism. The Ondjov Conservancy has a high tourism potential to ensure that conservancy members benefit from tourism while conserving the environment.
Revised Draft Tourism Policy	This policy stresses that no tourist development should be at the cost of biodiversity and requires that some of the income derived has to be reinvested into natural resource conservation.	Promotes development of tourism and maximising benefits of tourism to the people and natural resources of the region
National Policy on Climate Change	The policy seeks to outline a coherent, transparent and inclusive framework on climate risk management in accordance with Namibia's national development agenda, and the relevant legal framework. The general aim of the Policy is to contribute to the attainment of sustainable development in line with Namibia's Vision 2030 through strengthening of national capacities to reduce climate change risk and build resilience for any climate change shocks	The SESA incorporates issues of climate change and how the region can build resilience against climate change impacts.
Revised Policy of Human Wildlife Conflict Management	To provide measures and approaches to management of human wildlife conflict in a way that recognizes the rights and development needs of local communities, recognizes the need to promote biodiversity conservation, promotes self-reliance and ensures that decision-making is quick, efficient and based on the best available information.	Issues of HWC associated with wildlife are guided by this policy

	In order to achieve this, the Government will devolve decision-making to the lowest appropriate institutional levels, develop appropriate mitigation and monitoring methods and develop the capacity of all stakeholders to manage human wildlife conflict.	
National Policy on Protected Areas neighbours and Resident communities, 2013	The aim of the Policy is to contribute to the improvement of conservation efforts of Namibia's protected areas, provide greater social equity in accessing benefits from protected areas and stimulate local economic development through creating business opportunities linked to protected areas. Appropriate economic opportunities and benefits will be provided to protected area residents and neighbours in accordance with the Government's Policy on Tourism and Wildlife Concessions on State Land	A framework under which conservancies operate to ensure communities neighbouring conservancies receive social and economic benefits from parks
National Policy on Community Based Natural Resource Management, 2013	To provide a framework that promotes the wise and sustainable use of natural resources on State Land outside Protected Areas, as well as the promotion of integrated land and natural resources planning and decision making that considers the most appropriate land uses based on land capability, optimum economic return, environmental and human needs.	A framework under which conservancies and community forests operate to ensure communities receive social and economic benefits from managing natural resources

4. BASELINE INFORMATION

4.1. Socio-economic Aspects

Overall, Otjozondjupa Region is one of the largest regions in Namibia with a land surface area of 105,185 km², which represents 12.8% of the total land surface area of the country (Excel Dynamics, 2024).

The region consists of seven constituencies, namely Tsumkwe, Grootfontein, Otjiwarongo, Otavi, Okakarara, Omatako and Okahandja. According to the Namibia Statistics Agency 2023 Population & Housing Census Preliminary Report, the population of the region was estimated to be 220,811, compared to 143,903 in 2011, whereby 107,531 were female, compared to 70,001 in 2011 and 113,280 males, compared to 73,902 in 2011.

In 2023, a total of 10,798 households in the Otjozondjupa region engaged in crop/or livestock farming. In 2011, close to 17.6% of the population aged 6 years and above in rural areas had never been to school. It was also highlighted that 63.2 % of the economically active population aged 15 years and above was employed (Excel Dynamics, 2024).

Although Otjozondjupa region is known for its potential for large scale commercial farms, the main source of income is salary and wages (60%), with agriculture, business and pensions jointly constituting the main source of income for 10% of the population. 70% of the population is economically active, and of these, 37% are unemployed. At 27.5%, the poverty headcount rate is slightly above the national average, while the rate of severe poverty is estimated at 14.9%.

4.1.1. Value addition to Non-timber Forest products

The use of natural products, particularly non-timber forest products, is a source of livelihoods for individuals in the nearby settlements.

4.1.1.1. Devil's claw harvesting

The devil's Claw (*harpagophytum sp*) is a protected plant species in Namibia, and permits are required to harvest and sell it. Extracts from the roots of the plant act as an anti-inflammatory and are widely used in Europe and elsewhere in the treatment of rheumatism and arthritis, with Namibia being the largest supplier of devil's claw in the world.

Similarly, the Neighbouring conservancies such as the Nyae Nyae & Nꞁa Jaqna are also known for the sustainable harvesting and selling of Devil's Claw. In this areas, the devil's claw makes a vital contribution to income generation for its members and conservancy management.



Figure 4-1: Devil's claw harvest

4.1.1.2. Tourism and Wildlife

The Ondjou Conservancy was officially gazetted in October 2006 following amendments to the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1975, which granted conditional rights over wildlife to communities in communal areas. The conservancy's establishment enables its members to benefit from the sustainable management and utilisation of wildlife resources while protecting habitats for wildlife management and promoting tourism.

The Ondjou Conservancy is also integrated with the community forest, enhancing livelihood opportunities for residents through the sustainable use of wildlife and forestry resources.

As eco-tourism development, currently, trophy hunting is the main source of income in the conservancy area.

4.2. Biophysical Aspects

4.2.1. Climate

Tsumkwe constituency in Namibia is classified under the Köppen climate classification as a BSh climate or subtropical steppe, characterised by hot summers and mild winters. Located in the plains, the annual weather patterns of Tsumkwe demonstrate significant variations across the various meteorological parameters.

Throughout the year, temperatures fluctuate between highs of 34°C (93.2°F) and lows of 5°C (41°F). The heat reaches its peak in October and November with a high of 34°C (93.2°F) and 33°C (91.4°F), respectively. On the other hand, the coldest months are June and July, with the mercury dipping to a low of 5°C (41°F) and 6°C (42.8°F) respectively.

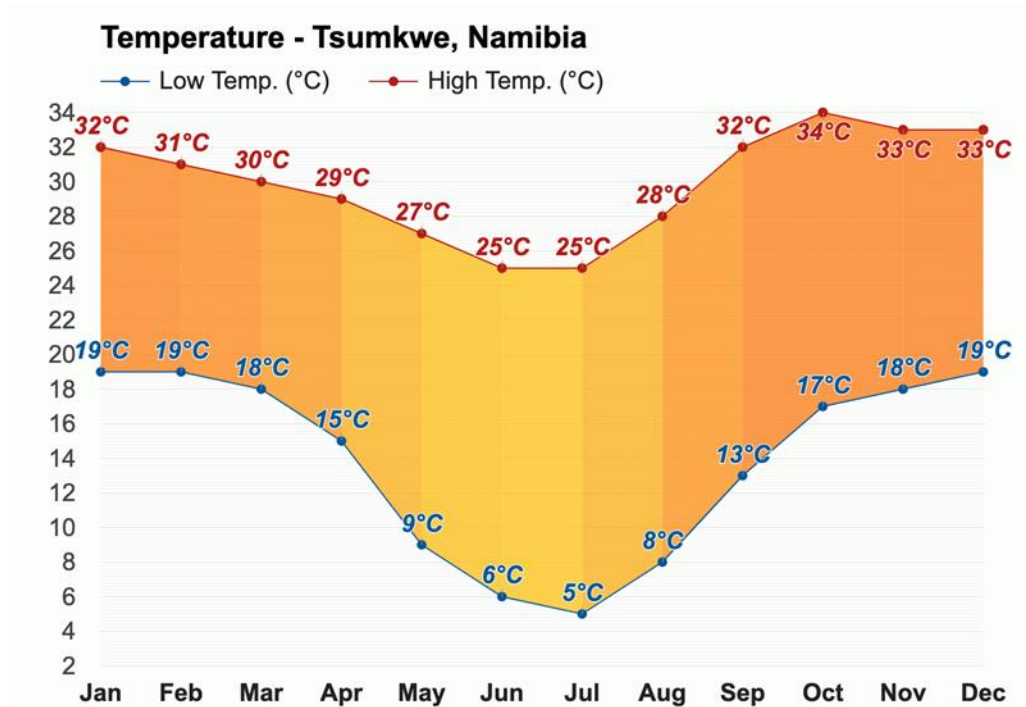


Figure 4-2: Temperature in Tsumkwe constituency (Source: www.weather-atlas.com)

Rainfall in Tsumkwe varies prominently from month to month, with the maximum rainfall recorded in January and February, with 118mm (4.65") and 114mm (4.49") respectively. In contrast, a complete absence of rainfall is observed from June to September. The number of sunshine hours remains relatively stable, with about 10 hours of sunshine per day from May to September.

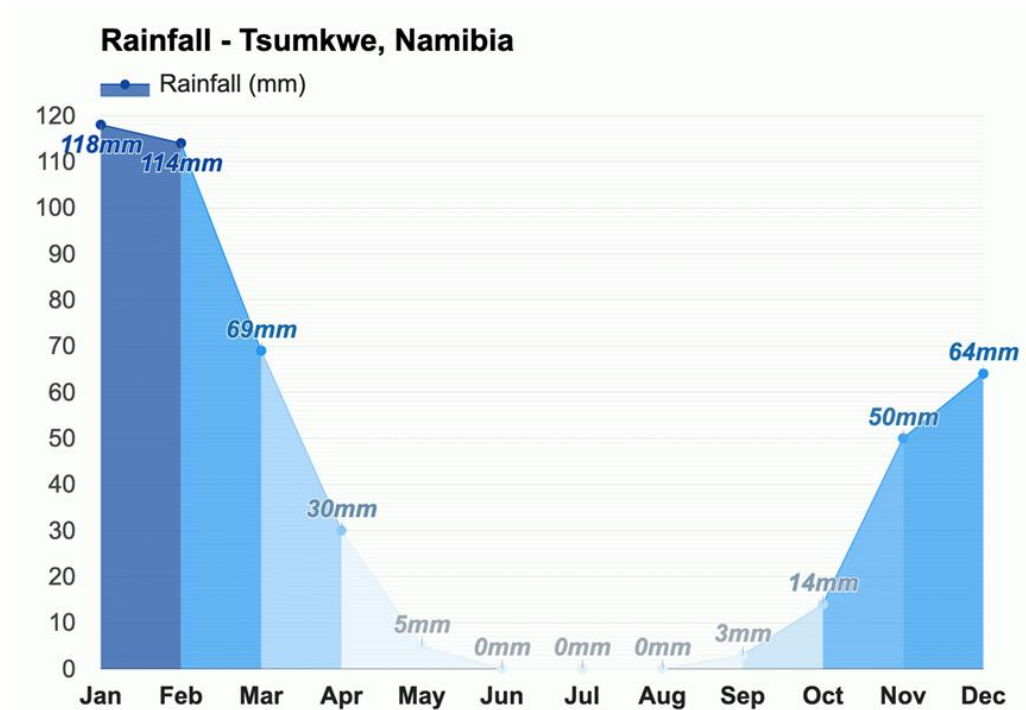


Figure 4-3: Rainfall constituency (Source: www.weather-atlas.com)

4.2.2. Fauna and Flora

Table 4-1: Species Presence (Ondjou Core Draft Wildlife Area Assessment, 2024)

Animal Species	Type of Observation	Number of Observations	Plant Species	Vegetation Type	Increaser/Decreaser Status (Grass)
Mammals			<i>Philenoptera nelsii</i>	Grassland	
Aardvark	Spoor	1	<i>Bauhinia petersiana</i>	Omuramba	
Baboon	Spoor	1	<i>Diospyros chamaethamnus</i>		
Duiker	Spoor	2	<i>Ochna pulchra</i>		
Eland	Spoor	2	<i>Panicum maximum</i>		Decreaser
Elephant	Spoor	2	<i>Terminalia sericea</i>		
Hyaena, Spotted	Spoor	1	<i>Acacia ffeckii</i>	Woodland	
Jackal, Black-backed	Spoor	1	<i>Aristida congesta</i>		Increaser II
Leopard	Spoor	1	<i>Aristida meridionalis</i>		Increaser III
Porcupine	Spoor	1	<i>Aristida stipitata subs. stipitata</i>		Increaser II
Steenbok	Spoor	2	<i>Bauhinia petersiana</i>		
			<i>Boscia albitrunca</i>		
			<i>Burkea africana</i>		
Birds			<i>Combretum collinum</i>		
Cape Turtle Dove	Seen	N/A	<i>Combretum engleri</i>		
Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler	Seen	N/A	<i>Croton gratissimus</i>		
Gabar Goshawk	Seen	N/A	<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>		
Laughing Dove	Seen	N/A	<i>Diospyros chamaethamnus</i>		
Lilac-breasted Roller	Seen	N/A	<i>Eragrostis rigidior</i>		Increaser II

Southern Pied Babbler	Seen	N/A	<i>Eragrostis rotifer</i>		Undetermined
Red-crested Korhaan	Seen	N/A	<i>Urochloa nigropedata</i>		Decrease
Scops Owl	Heard	N/A	<i>Grewia ffava</i>		
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	Seen	N/A	<i>Grewia ffavescens</i>		
White-browed Shrub Robin	Seen	N/A	<i>Ochna pulchra</i>		
Yellow-billed Hornbill	Seen	N/A	Omuryambahe (Eaten by Giraffe)		
Butterflies/Arachnids of Interest			<i>Orbea lutea</i> subsp. vaga		
Wondering Donkey Acraea	Seen	N/A	<i>Panicum maximum</i>		Decreaser
Solifuge	Seen	N/A	<i>Philenoptera nelsii</i>		
Reptiles			<i>Pterocarpus angolensis</i>		
Common Barking Gecko	Heard	1	Purple dark upper leaf. Light yellow green underleaf		
			<i>Sporobolus fimbriatus</i>		Decreaser
			<i>Stipagrostis uniplumis</i>		Increaser II
			<i>Strychnos cocculoides</i>		
			<i>Strychnos pungens</i>		
			<i>Terminalia sericea</i>		
			<i>Drimia sanguinea</i>		

5. SESA ASSESSED ACTIVITIES

5.1. Identified tourism activities

The following figure presents the key environmental and socio-economic components identified for assessment.

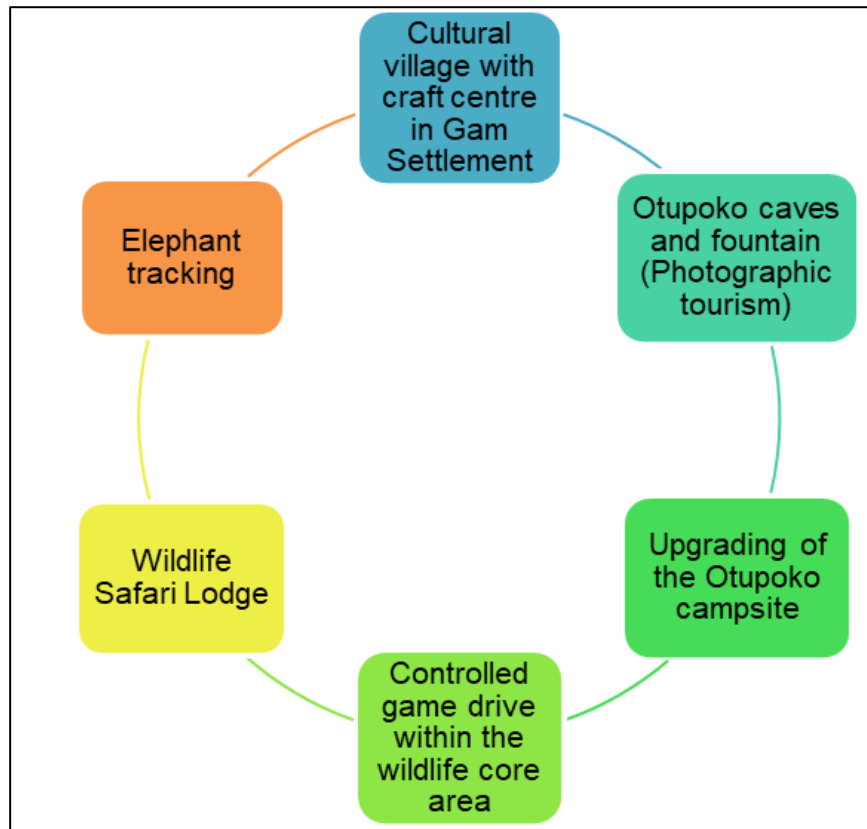


Figure 5-1: environmental and socio-economic components identified

The above tourism development activities proposed within Ondjou Conservancy are expected to have both environmental and social impacts. According to Namibia's Environmental Management Act (EMA) No. 7 of 2007 and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2012, some of these activities will require an EIA.

As a result, requirement depends on the scale, location, and potential impacts of each activity.

5.1.1. Cultural Village with Craft Centre in Gam Settlement

Recommendation	It may only require an EMP, unless it includes accommodation infrastructure or is in a sensitive area.	
Potential Impact(s)	Environmental impacts	Social impacts
	- Land clearance may lead to loss of vegetation and minor habitat disturbance. - Waste generation (e.g. solid). - Water usage may stress local water sources.	Positive: Promotes cultural preservation, skills development, and income generation. Negative: Potential cultural commodification or misrepresentation/displacement.

5.1.2. Otupoko Caves and Fountain (Photographic Tourism)

Recommendation	It will need an EIA due to its proximity to natural/cultural heritage sites and potential impact on sensitive ecological and archaeological features.	
Potential Impact(s)	Environmental impacts	Social impacts
	- Disturbance to natural features and habitats. - Soil erosion or damage to sensitive cave systems. - Waste and litter from tourists.	Positive: Income and job creation for local guides. Negative: Potential disturbances to sacred sites or community conflict may arise if local input is not considered in management.

5.1.3. Upgrading of the Otupoko Campsite

Recommendation	May require a Basic Assessment if expansion includes accommodation or ablution blocks. Otherwise, a site-specific EMP may suffice.	
Potential Impact(s)	Environmental impacts	Social impacts
	- Dust, noise, and waste during construction. - Pressure on water and energy resources.	Positive: Improved facilities for tourists; job creation. Negative: Risk of increased traffic and noise.

5.1.4. Controlled Game Drive within the Wildlife Core Area

Recommendation	Likely only requires an EMP, especially if routes already exist. However, new road construction would trigger an EIA.	
Potential Impact(s)	Environmental impacts	Social impacts
	- Wildlife disturbance. - Soil compaction and erosion from vehicle use. - Pollution from vehicles (fuel and emissions).	Positive: Tourism revenue and employment for local guides. Negative: There is a risk of conflict with traditional land uses if regulations are poorly managed.

5.1.5. Wildlife Safari Lodge

Recommendation	An EIA is required under Namibia's EMA, as lodges are listed under tourism infrastructure developments	
Potential Impact(s)	Environmental impacts	Social impacts
	- Habitat destruction due to construction. - Water abstraction and waste disposal issues. - Increased human-wildlife interaction risks.	Positive: Employment, skill development, and community revenue. Negative: There is a risk of land-use conflict and cultural dilution if the project is not led by the community.

5.1.6. Elephant tracking

Recommendation	Likely to require an EMP, provided it does not involve invasive methods (e.g., collaring or darting) and is limited in scope.	
Potential Impact(s)	Environmental impacts	Social impacts
	- Disturbance to elephants if poorly managed.	Positive: Promotes conservation awareness and can generate funding for elephant protection and HWC mitigation. Negative: Elephants are known to cause conflicts with humans, so they need to be managed carefully to prevent increasing fears or tensions among local communities.

6. REFERENCES

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