

# Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation

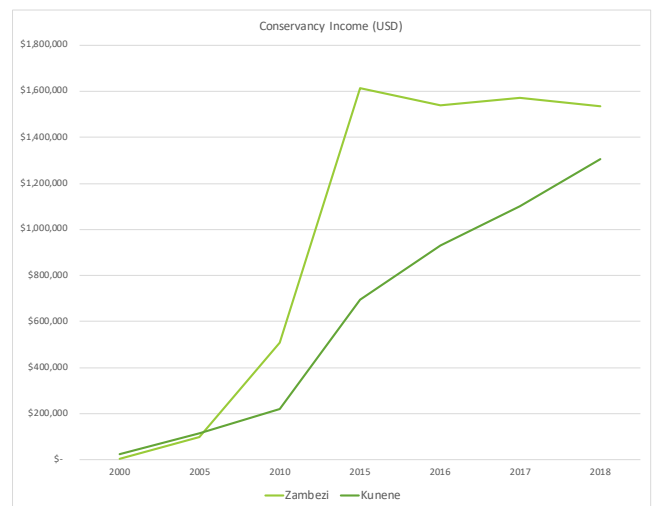
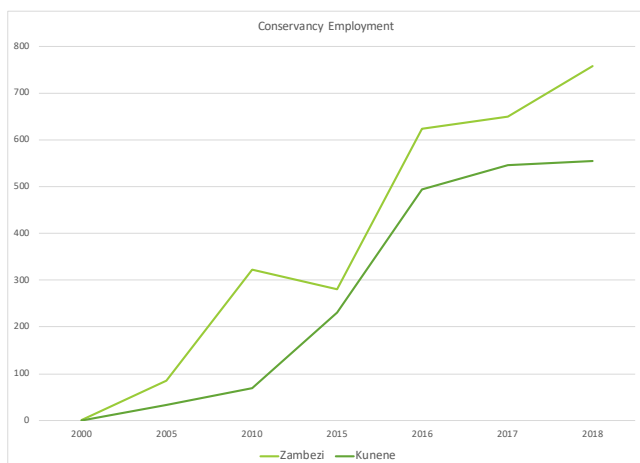
IRDNC exists to facilitate and empower rural communities in Namibia and adjacent countries to manage and utilize wildlife and other natural resources sustainably, as the foundation of rural economies, biodiversity conservation and strong local governance institutions. This has been done primarily through community conservancies, a unique Namibian system that grants communities legal rights over wildlife, including all revenues generated by tourism and sustainable utilisation.

Today IRDNC is increasingly focused on integrating community wildlife management with other key resources such as forests, fisheries, rangelands and water. Since our earliest days, IRDNC's purpose has been to link conservation to the social and economic development of the people who live with wildlife and other valuable resources. Over time, we realized that building the capacity of people and growing a strong civil society would also advance conservation outcomes.

Our work covers  
46 conservancies,  
with 93,846 residents,  
across 43,309 km<sup>2</sup>



Throughout Africa rhinos, elephants and lions are disappearing. In Namibia they're thriving - and so are the communities working to protect them. These charts show both conservancy-earned income and employment from IRDNC-supported conservancies.



IRDNC's work rests on 3 fundamental pillars:

- Natural resource conservation
- Livelihood and enterprise development
- Strong local governance

## 2015-2025 Priority Areas:

1. Diversifying and integrating Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) - enabling communities to integrate the management of wildlife, forests, rangelands, fisheries and other natural resource management and resource-based economic activities.
2. Revitalizing community governance - with a particular focus of strengthening and mobilising the membership of conservancies to play a greater role in the oversight and leadership of their areas.
3. Increasing benefits to households and individuals - working to ensure that the growing revenue and natural resource-based opportunities in conservancies and the wider rural landscape benefit conservancy members and other individuals directly.
4. Supporting transboundary natural resource management - with a focus on Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, achieve tangible progress in community-based natural resource management in communal lands in neighboring countries, particularly Zambia and Angola, and strengthening ties between communities in those countries and those in Zambezi Region.
5. Strengthening the constituency for CBNRM - revitalising the narrative around CBNRM both inside and outside of Namibia, including key actors in Namibia such as traditional authorities, politicians, and government agencies, as well as global audiences and decision-makers that influence the ability of Namibian communities to generate benefits from wildlife and other resources through trade and enterprise.

