

NATIONAL POLICY ON FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY IN PROTECTED AREAS

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Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Directorate of Parks & Wildlife Management



Republic of Namibia





Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Environment and Tourism

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FOREWORD

Namibia has a proud conservation record, which is recognized internationally. National Parks cover about 17 percent of the country's land surface. They conserve biodiversity by protecting some of the country's most important habitats and species of national and global significance.


The protected areas of Namibia offer outstanding filming and photographic opportunities. The diversity of fauna and flora and variety of spectacular sceneries are hard to match anywhere else on the planet.

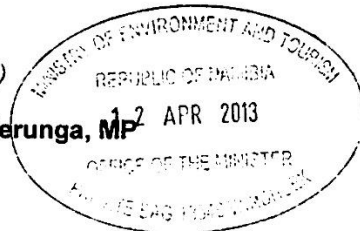
Tourism will continue to provide Namibia with a positive economic outlook provided conservation is further supported, quality of service and facilities are improved and an engaging and enriching visitor experience is provided. The total contribution of travel and tourism to Namibia's GDP is estimated by the World Travel and Tourism Council as 20% in 2011. This contribution generates tax incomes that in turn benefit every Namibian. Tourism is thus very important for the Namibian economy, it generates jobs, and overall some 27 % of all employment in Namibia is related to travel and tourism.

The demand for filming and photography in Namibia's protected areas is increasing, especially for the filming of commercial films and the making of television or nature documentaries.

Commercial filming or photography is seen as important economic activities in a sector where Namibia has strong comparative advantages due to its rich wildlife and scenic resources. Such filming creates employment and help to promote Namibia internationally, and is also a source of revenue to the State.

Filming companies have different needs depending on the nature of the filming and the scale of their operations, and therefore also different impacts on protected areas and landscapes. It is thus incumbent on the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to have clear procedures and guidelines on filming and photography in protected areas.


Uahekua Herunga, MP
MINISTER



PREFACE

Namibia's protected area network makes significant contribution to the conservation of biodiversity which is of national and international importance and contribute to the maintenance of ecosystem services as well as contributing to the economic development of the country. Filming and photography in National Parks is a major contributor to tourism development of the country, but must however be conducted in a systematic and coordinated manner, which is sustainable and environmental friendly.

The scale and urgency of the matter require government to develop an integrated, flexible and comprehensive policy towards dealing with filming and photography in protected areas that can provide a framework for all stakeholders and can meet the country's national and international commitments to biodiversity conservation while taking into account the rights and development needs of the people, as well as the economic development of the country.

This document sets out the government policy on filming and photography in protected areas. The strategies to implement the policy provides the content for this document and include application and approval procedures, fees, guides, exclusion and restriction of filming applications and indemnity.

The policy has been developed through consultations with a broad range of stakeholders, and is based on the ideas and experience of these stakeholders and of officials of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism over many years. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism would like to thank all its partners and stakeholders who participated in developing this policy.


Simeon N. Negumbo
Permanent Secretary



ABBREVIATIONS

MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
MICT	Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
MHAI	Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
NDP	National Development Plan
NFC	Namibia Filming Commission
NTB	Namibia Tourism Board

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1. Introduction

Protected areas are vital tools for conserving Namibia's essential biodiversity. By managing protected areas, we will leave the irreplaceable assets and the unlimited potential they possess to future generations. Protected areas also draw hundreds of thousands of tourists to Namibia. The international fascination with Namibia's protected areas is growing annually and, as more visitors arrive, they generate employment and stimulate development, not just in the protected areas, but nationwide. These protected areas also provide a unique opportunity to benefit local communities through rural development while providing research, education and recreation opportunities.

In terms of the Nature Conservation Ordinance (4 of 1975), as amended, Section 84 (1) (b) (iii), filming and photography in protected areas for private or personal use is permissible. However, if filming and photography are used for a commercial purpose, such filming and photography like all other commercial enterprises in protected areas require prior approval by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, as well as the payment of a fee. Such payment is justifiable since public resources represented in protected areas are used, and secondly, that commercial filming may have special requirements that oblige MET to provide additional services or support to filming companies.

The National Policy on Tourism for Namibia aims to provide a framework for the mobilization of tourism resources to realize long term national goals defined in Vision 2030 and the more specific targets of the National Development Plans, namely, sustained economic growth, employment creation, reduced inequalities in income, gender as well as between the various regions, reduced poverty and the promotion of economic empowerment.

Some activities of filming and photography may require to have an approved Environmental Management Plan, in accordance with the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (7 of 2007). This is to promote the sustainable management of the environment and the use of natural resources by establishing principles for decision making on matters affecting the environment.

2. Policy Framework

The Policy of the Government of the Republic of Namibia on filming in protected areas is to ensure that filming and photography in protected areas complies with the environmental and

economic regulatory framework and that filming and photography promotes the economy of the country due to the country's rich wildlife and scenic resources.

2.1 Aim

The aim of the policy is to promote the sustainable development of Namibia by guiding filming and photography in protected areas.

2.2 Objectives

2.2.1 To guide staff of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism on the procedures to follow in receiving and processing of applications on filming and photography in protected areas, and approvals thereof.

2.2.2 To provide procedures and guidelines to interested companies on the applications for filming and photography in protected areas.

2.2.3 To determine the procedures for payments to be made for filming inside protected areas and the services that the Ministry can render.

2.2.4 To ensure that filming and photography activities do not cause any negative impacts to the biodiversity, ecology and tourism potential of protected areas.

2.2.5 To create an enabling environment for Namibian companies and local community participation and collaboration in filming and photography in protected areas.

3. Principles

The policy is based on the following fundamental principles:

3.1 Protected areas are the cornerstone of Namibia's conservation programme and will continue to play an important role in the conservation of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity and tourism development.

3.2 Protected areas also have the potential to provide important economic benefits, locally, regionally and nationally.

3.3 Applications for filming and photography in protected areas will be considered

provided that such applications are in the national interest and in accordance with the specific park management plan, appropriate legislations and that the environmental requirements are followed and cleared.

- 3.4 Filming and photography creates awareness for the tourism potential protected areas can offer.

4. Strategies

In order to implement the policy on filming and photography in protected areas, a number of linked and integrated strategies are required. The following are the strategies aimed at achieving the aim and objectives of the policy:

4.1 Applications and approvals

The specific objectives of this strategy are:

- To determine the application and approval procedures for filming and photographing in protected areas.
- To clarify other requirements and arrangements required for filming and photography in protected areas.

Strategic approach

Applications for commercial filming and photography in protected areas must be submitted to the Director responsible for park management in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, in writing, using the relevant application form (Annex 1). As a guideline, all applications should be submitted at least fourteen days in advance.

Companies or individuals must first apply to the Namibian Filming Commission to obtain approval for filming in Namibia. MET will only consider the application for filming and photography in protected areas upon receiving approval from the Namibian Filming Commission. Filming in protected areas is subject to approval by MET. Namibian companies do not require approval from the NFC for filming in protected areas, but must obtain permit from MET.

The Permanent Secretary shall approve applications for filming and photography in protected areas, on recommendation of the Director responsible for Park Management. A permit will be issued by the Director referred to above for all approved applications as per Annex 2.

Approval from MET does not exempt foreign applicants from the obligation to obtain the necessary visas and temporary work permits from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration.

Four complete copies of each individual recording must be provided without charge, one to the MET, one to the NFC, one to the National Archives and another one to the Namibia Tourism Board, to be used for local educational and information purposes, in DVD format unless otherwise stipulated. The copies will be used for non commercial purposes. The author will be acknowledged under all circumstances, but no remuneration may be claimed from the MET or NTB. No copyright can be claimed on a site in protected areas.

All applicants will be responsible for arranging their own accommodation, meals and transport in protected areas.

Aerial photography must be applied for separately to the Director responsible for Park Management. No lower than 1000 meters aerial photography in all protected areas will be allowed without approval from the MET.

For large commercial productions, an environmental management plan must be submitted for approval of the Environmental Commissioner before a permit for filming and photography can be issued.

All productions on rhinos must endorsed by the National Rhino Coordinator of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

Rehabilitation of sites must be inspected and approved by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

MET reserves the right to refuse any application deemed to be in conflict with the objectives of the park or posing a threat to the environmental integrity of the park or other economic activities such as tourism. MET may also prohibit certain filming that may not be appropriate due to ethical or safety reasons, or because of the ecological sensitivity of the area to be filmed.

Preference for filming and photography in protected areas will be given to Namibian companies or foreign companies with Namibian joint ventures or facilitators.

Strategic approach

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism accepts no liability for any loss, damage or injury suffered during any recordings in protected areas.

5. Institutional framework

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism is responsible for issuance of permits for filming and photography in protected areas and management of these protected areas.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration (MHAI) is responsible for the issuance of temporary work permits and visas.

Namibia Film Commission is responsible for the issuance of the first approval to film in Namibia, before a permit is considered for filming and photography in protected areas by MET.

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) and Namibia Film Commission is responsible for endorsement of any films involving the San and Himba community before approval from MET can be obtained if such filming or photography is in a protected area.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) is responsible for endorsement of any films in the diamond mining area before approval from MET can be obtained if such filming or photography is in a protected area.

The National Heritage Council is responsible for endorsement of any films in the national heritage site before approval from MET can be obtained if such filming or photography is in a protected area.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism will conduct inspections at any time to monitor compliance to permit conditions, park rules and regulations and environmental management plans.

Confirmation for payments will also be used to monitor adherence to the conditions.



Annexures

