



1. Support for community-level **institutional** capacity building (developing functioning management committees).
2. Support for improved local-level **NRM** and planning.
3. Support for **enterprise development** and means to capture tourism revenues.

Today there are 31 registered communal area conservancies in Namibia, with 50 or more communal area groups that have expressed interest in forming conservancies (referred to as 'emerging conservancies'). Many in Namibia consider the registration of conservancies as simply the first step in a long and dynamic process, which ultimately aims to provide the foundation upon which communities can negotiate contracts with tour operators, lodge owners and safari

hunters; take an active role in land-use planning and NRM within their conservancies; and develop their own community or individually-run enterprises.

#### **Communal area conservancies: achievements and current status**

The following discussion provides an understanding of the development of conservancies and CBNRM from a macro perspective, focusing on information relating to the current status of conservancy registration, incomes earned, employment creation and the growth in wildlife numbers. Table 1 provides details of 29 of the 31 registered conservancies, and the map in Figure 1 identifies the location of the registered and emerging communal area conservancies.

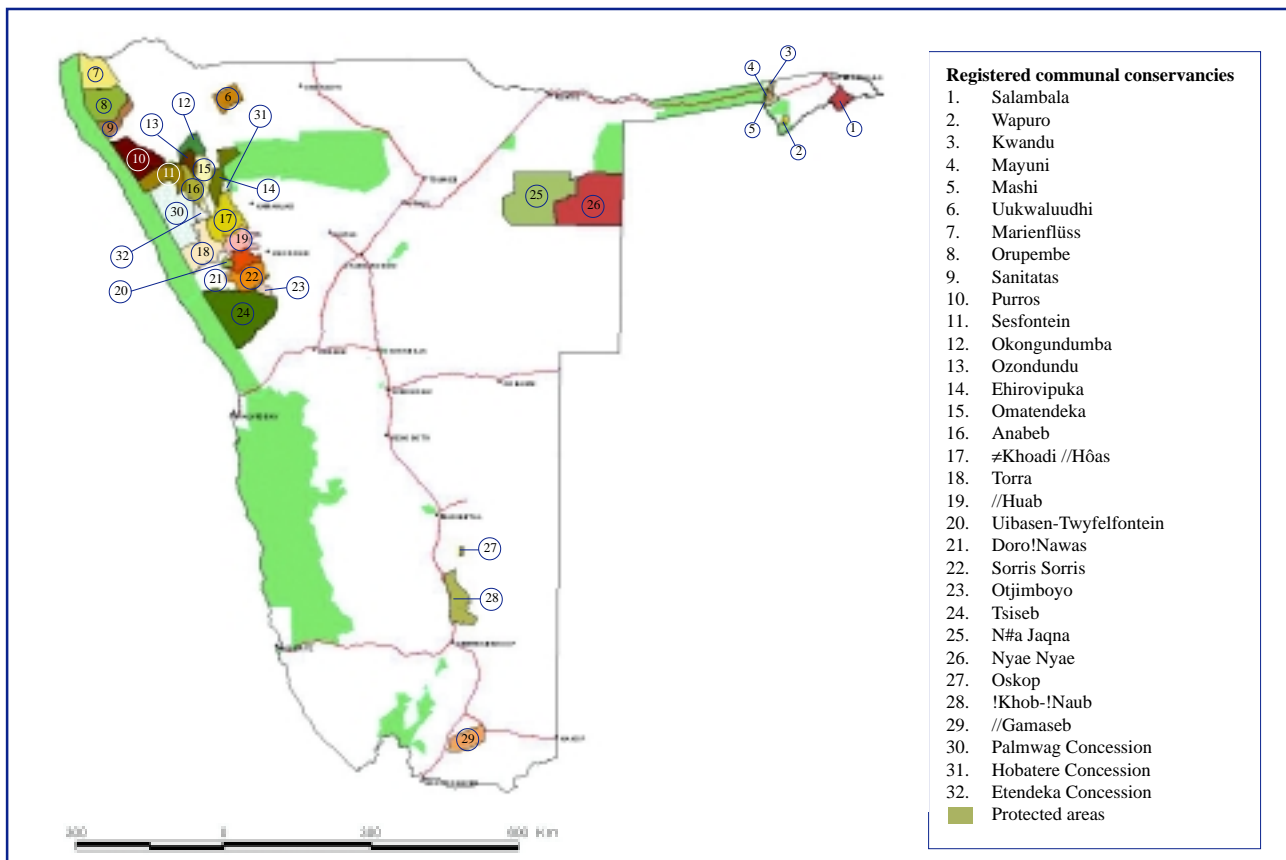
**Table 1: Registered communal area conservancies**

	Name	Region	Biome	Date registered	Size (km <sup>2</sup> )	Total registered members	Average population
1	Nyae Nyae	Otjozondjupa	Woodland	Feb-98	8,992	752	1,500
2	Salambala	Caprivi	Woodland	Jun-98	930	3,500	7,000
3	Torra	Kunene	Desert	Jun-98	3,493	450	1,200
4	≠Khoadi //Hôas	Kunene	Desert/Savanna	Jun-98	3,364	1,600	3,500
5	Uibasen-Twyfelfontein	Kunene	Desert/Savanna	Dec-99	286	61	200
6	Doro!Nawas	Kunene	Desert/Savanna		3,979	430	6,000
7	Kwandu	Caprivi	Woodland	Dec-99	190	1,800	6,000
8	Mayuni	Caprivi	Woodland	Dec-99	151		
9	Wapuro	Caprivi	Woodland	Dec-99	148	1,700	4,300
10	Purros	Kunene	Desert	May-00	3,568	85	260
11	Tsiseb	Erongo	Desert	Jan-01	7,912	950	2,500
12	Ehrovipuka	Kunene	Savanna	Jan-01	1,980	500	
13	Marienflüss	Kunene	Desert	Jan-01	3,034	121	300
14	Oskop	Hardap	Shrub/Savanna	Feb-01	96	20	120
15	Sorris Sorris	Erongo	Desert/Savanna	Oct-01	2,990	380	800
16	Mashi	Caprivi	Woodland	Mar-03	297	718	3,900
17	Omatendeka	Kunene	Savanna	Mar-03	1,619	374	7,000
18	Otjimboyo	Erongo	Desert/Savanna	Mar-03	448	148	3,000
19	Uukwaluudhi	Omushati	Savanna	Mar-03	1,437	25,000	30,000
20	!Khob-!Naub (Kalk Plateau)	Hardap	Shrub/Savanna	Jul-03	2,747	429	13,000
21	//Gamaseb	Karas	Shrub/Savanna	Jul-03	1,748	495	14,000
22	//Huab	Kunene	Desert/Savanna	Jul-03	1,817	364	10,000
23	Orupembe	Kunene	Desert	Jul-03	3,565	132	20,000
24	Sanitatas	Kunene	Desert	Jul-03	1,446	76	20,000
25	Anabeb	Kunene	Savanna	Jul-03	1,570	337	7,000
26	Sesfontein	Kunene	Savanna	Jul-03	2,591	438	7,000
27	Okongundumba	Kunene	Savanna	Jul-03	1,131	448	20,000
28	N#a Jaqna	Otjozondjupa	Woodland	Jul-03	9,120	782	8,000
29	Ozondundu	Kunene	Savanna	Jul-03	745	173	20,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>71,394</b>	<b>37,163</b>	<b>226,080</b>

Source: MET/CSD 2003



Figure 1: Communal area conservancies in Namibia



The total area of communal land that currently falls under community-based management amounts to 28% of all communal land in Namibia, totalling 71,394 km<sup>2</sup>. This amounts to just under 9% of all the land in Namibia. The number of registered members of conservancies is approximately 37,000 individuals, with a total population in these areas of close to a quarter of a million people. During the time frame of the WILD Project 16 conservancies were registered. This rapid and exponential growth suggests that there is both a lot of interest among communal area residents in forming conservancies and genuine support from Government. There are a variety of reasons for such interest. Among them is the potential to generate income through the capture of tourism revenues, the establishment of tourism ventures of various kinds (both consumptive and non-consumptive) and opportunities that this may bring in terms of associated employment. The current level of donor support to CBNRM also provides some opportunities for conservancies to access development grants and there is interest by people in being better able to address improved resource management.

There is a good deal of variation between the registered conservancies. They represent a variety of different biomes within Namibia, and there are differences in terms of the

status of wildlife and the topographical character of areas. There are also differences in terms of existing land uses within conservancies: some are more livestock based, while others involve mixes of cropping, livestock and, in Caprivi and Kavango, fishing combinations. Other areas have historically involved reliance on the subsistence use of wildlife (for example Nyae Nyae). There are important differences in terms of the human population densities of the conservancies. In some areas there are as many as 30,000 people resident within the conservancy boundaries (Uukwaluudhi, for example), although of course not all of these will be registered as members. The geographical size of conservancies also varies considerably. Oskop, in Hardap Region, amounts to only 96 km<sup>2</sup>. In other areas the territories that the conservancies occupy is vast. In contrast to Oskop, for example, Tsiseb and N#a Jaqna occupy 7,912 and 9,120 km<sup>2</sup> respectively. The population densities and the size of conservancies results in differences in the people-to-land ratios. Rainfall patterns also vary considerably, as does the agro ecology of the conservancy biomes. The two regions where fieldwork was conducted under WILD (Kunene and Caprivi) and the conservancies that were the focus of the study vary considerably in regard to the above factors (a detailed description of the study sites is provided in Chapter 2).



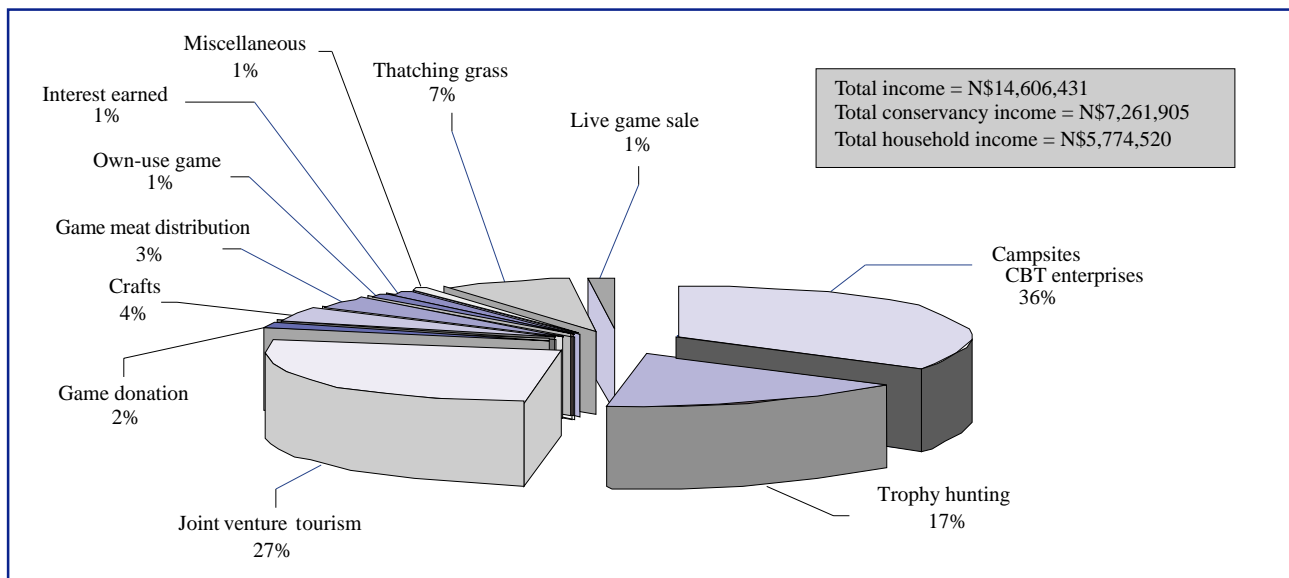
In terms of the geographic location of the conservancies there are also important differences. Access to markets, the location of the veterinary cordon fence, and other infrastructure have a variety of effects on people’s living conditions and livelihoods. In some cases the conservancies are extremely isolated (for example, the Marienfluss Conservancy in the far north-west of Namibia), in other cases they are relatively close to urban centres (as is the case in Caprivi and the north-central region). There are also important historical differences in the socio-political and cultural make up of communal area conservancies. In parts of southern Kunene and Erongo the communal lands were established through the implementation of the recommendations of the Odendaal Commission (1960s) and the subsequent development of ethnic homelands (1970s). People were forcibly resettled in these areas on former freehold commercial farms. This pattern of settlement means that people resident in these areas are not always historically and culturally connected to their land and resources. Such connections have developed over the last 30 or more years. In some cases these resettlements have also led to shifts in the status and role of traditional authorities and the mingling of different ethnic groups. Two of the research sites where fieldwork was conducted are in the area of former homeland settlement, south of the veterinary cordon fence (Torra and ≠Khoadi //Hôas respectively).

All the above factors of difference have a number of implications. They include the potential of conservancies to earn incomes from their resources base in terms of wildlife and landscape values and the potential for tourism development. Where there have been incomes earned by conservancies, the human population densities shape the way in which decisions concerning funds are used or distributed.

The institutional arrangements and the blending of old and new institutions have also had implications for the development of conservancies and their links to wider political and institutional arenas. The sheer size of some conservancies also presents logistical challenges for both the conservancies and service providers (Government and NGOs) in terms of communications and interactions with membership and the broader community. The geographical position of conservancies (in terms of access to markets and urban centres) affects the range of development and livelihood opportunities available to people.

Despite all the differences and complexities outlined above, at a macro level, in the last 10 years the number of tourism enterprises – both community-based, and privately owned – in communal areas has increased dramatically. The incomes generated by conservancies have also steadily grown, and there have been very positive changes in the numbers and distribution of wildlife in these areas. A variety of support organisations have taken an increasingly important role in the development of local capacity to manage tourism and wildlife, and to identify further opportunities for growth. These include government programmes within the MET a national CBNRM programme and an EU-funded tourism development programme and various NGOs – under the umbrella of the National Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO). The growth in the opportunities that the conservancies and CBNRM have been able to capture is illustrated by the following materials. These provide an important context with in which to further explore the implications of CBNRM for individual and household livelihoods.

**Figure 2: Summary of CBNRM programme benefits for 2003**



Source: WWF-LIFE 2003



### Income and employment

Figure 2 provides a summary of the benefits derived by conservancies for 2003. The total estimated income earned is reported to be over N\$14.5 million<sup>6</sup>. Conservancy income has increased steadily, but has risen dramatically in recent years. In 2000 the estimated total income for conservancies was just under N\$3.5 million. Recent income estimates represent a four-fold increase in the incomes generated over the last three years. The current estimates actually exceed the predictions for 2005 made by some and demonstrates that the income potential of the conservancies is significant. Approximately 50% of conservancies are currently earning an income. In 2003 incomes ranged from just over N\$65,000 (Sorris Sorris) to over N\$1.8 million (Uibasen). The bulk of incomes earned come from community-based tourism enterprises (for example campsites), and during 2003 these accounted for 36% of all conservancy income. This is followed by joint venture tourism and trophy hunting. The incomes accruing to the conservancy committees during 2003 amounted to over N\$7 million. The remainder is accounted for as income to individuals through wages and other sources. Other data supports the growth in the income earning of conservancies. For the Caprivi, Erongo and Kunene Regions a study commissioned by WILD<sup>7</sup> identified that during 2001 the majority of 100 Namibian tour operators spent some time in communal areas. The same study stated that tourism in communal areas generated a total income of over N\$110 million in 2001. Of this 9% was captured directly by people in the communal areas in the form of wages, levies and other forms of income to the conservancies. The study also showed that communal area enterprises generated a total of 830 local jobs in 2001 – a nearly three-fold increase since 1999. Hunting provided only a limited number of temporary jobs, community campsites provide some full-time jobs but in small numbers – reflecting the size of the enterprise; privately-owned lodges and camps provided the bulk of opportunities. Table 2 below illustrates the growth in the number of jobs generated in communal areas by region.

**Table 2: Local jobs from communal area tourism, by region<sup>8</sup>**

	1999	2000	2001
Caprivi	38	36	105
Erongo	24	43	50
Kunene	54	146	219

Source: Roe *et al.* 2003

This illustrates the current context of growth in the number of conservancies, the incomes they have been able to generate and the jobs that have been created. In the case of the latter, the employment opportunities may be relatively few in number, but these have been generated in areas with little in the way of other opportunities for livelihood diversification.<sup>9</sup>

### Wildlife numbers in the north-west

Not only has there been demonstrable growth in the establishment of conservancies, there has also been considerable success in contributing to the recovery of wildlife species. Data from the north-west of Namibia illustrates this. Table 3 shows the estimates of wildlife numbers by species for the last three years in Kunene. The upward trend in wildlife numbers illustrated below, however, pre-dates the formation of conservancies. Jones (2001) suggests that in north-west Namibia intrinsic values and the return of limited authority over wildlife to traditional authorities played a role in motivating people to conserve wildlife. Other factors such as better rainfall and increased protection by NGOs and government conservation personnel also contributed to the increase in wildlife (Durbin *et al.* 1997). Table 3 provides details of wildlife estimates based on the last three annual game counts conducted in the north-west.<sup>10</sup>

**Table 3: Wildlife sightings recorded for Kunene 2001-2003**

Species	2001	2002	2003
Baboon	144	116	203
Duiker	13	6	3
Elephant	38	24	44
Gemsbok	1,589	2,616	3,484
Giraffe	216	212	189
Hyaena	1		
Jackal	45	79	60
Klipspringer	4	14	20
Kudu	261	297	241
Ostrich	570	659	815
Rhino	1	1	6
Springbok	11,662	14,470	16,733
Steenbok	54	85	114
Zebra	1,200	1,274	1,416

Source: Annual game count data from the NACSO NRM working group

<sup>6</sup> The data presented in Figure 2 gives an estimate of the total incomes earned, but must be treated with some caution since giving financial values to own-use game, and to meat that is distributed, tends to over-inflate the income by 4% or N\$584,257. At the time of publication, US\$1 equalled N\$8.

<sup>7</sup> International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) conducted a commissioned study on behalf of WILD that focused on the financial value of tourism to communal areas. For further details see Roe *et al.* 2003.

<sup>8</sup> Based on 45% sample of all enterprises. The total number of jobs is therefore likely to be in the region of 830 individuals.

<sup>9</sup> It is interesting to compare a similar pattern of growth among the freehold farms, which provided a model for the development of conservancy policy in the 1990s. Recent data published from the Institute for Public Policy Research, for example, shows that trophy hunting generated N\$80 million in 2000. There has also been a decline in livestock production as the income from wildlife and tourism in the freehold agricultural sector has grown by 17.7% (Sherbourne 2003).

<sup>10</sup> The annual changes must be treated with some caution since changes in breeding rates and the movement of animals will affect the sightings count figures.