



but is to start contributing a percentage of its income from early 2003 for the payment of management costs. The annual income for 2002 was N\$146,816.76. No game census has taken place in Mayuni since it is situated in a wildlife corridor<sup>3</sup>, but wildlife numbers appear to have increased. Mayuni has not yet developed a conservancy management plan, but aimed to do so in early 2003.

### Salambala Conservancy

#### Location

Salambala Conservancy is situated within the Katima Mulilo constituency in East Caprivi, north-east Namibia. It is positioned south-east of Katima Mulilo and stretches from Bukalo down to the Chobe River. The Lake Liambezi floodplains form the western boundary, and Masikili on the banks of Chobe River forms the eastern boundary. Bukalo is the conservancy administrative centre and Ngoma is also a major centre in the area.

#### Topographical and biophysical context

Salambala is currently the largest conservancy in the Caprivi, covering an area of 93,000 ha. The area is completely flat, consisting of woodlands (Kalahari and Mopane) and floodplains. Local residents obtain water directly from the Chobe River, as well as from pits, boreholes, dams and pans. The rainfall in the area is high – 675mm – but often variable.

#### Social context

The area is densely populated – 8,020 people and 1,597 households; eight people per km<sup>2</sup>. The Masubia is the only ethnic group residing in Salambala. Subsistence agriculture is the main livelihood activity in the area (mainly mahangu (pearl millet); sorghum; maize; pumpkins; beans; groundnuts and melons). Livestock consists of cattle and goats. Local residents depend on food aid when drought occurs, as in 2002. Reed and thatched grass sale is an important source of income to many residents and some members benefit from craft sale.

#### Conservancy history and current status

With the arrival of the South African Defence Force (SADF) in the 1960s, the area's wildlife – historically rich in rare species – was reduced to a very limited few. The area was registered as Namibia's second conservancy in 1998. In 1999, a core wildlife area of 14,000 ha was fenced off on three sides to prevent livestock and human movement (it remains open on the fourth side to allow wildlife migration into the Chobe floodplains). The conservancy has approximately 3,500 members. The conservancy received financial assistance from the WWF-LIFE programme for

eight years (receiving N\$220,000 in 2002). Since the grant ended in 2002 (August) the conservancy has been funding itself from income generated through trophy hunting and the income from the community campsite. The annual income for 2002 was N\$605,580. Since it is situated in a wildlife corridor, no game census has taken place in the area. Wildlife numbers appear to have improved in recent years. Salambala has developed and implemented a conservancy management plan with the help from WWF-LIFE and Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC).

### Research sites in the Kunene Region

In Kunene, core research was conducted with Torra and ≠Khoadi //Hôas Conservancies. Other less intensive research was conducted with Sorris Sorris and Ehirovipuka Conservancies. The locations of these conservancies is illustrated in Figure 5 (see page 18).

### Torra Conservancy

#### Location

Torra Conservancy is situated within the Khorixas constituency in the southern half of the Kunene Region, north-west Namibia. It borders with ≠Khoadi //Hôas and Doro !Nawas Conservancies to the east and south respectively; the Skeleton Coast Park to the west; and the Palmwag tourism concession area to the north. The veterinary cordon fence – a boundary to prevent the spread of livestock disease – forms its northern border. The administrative centre is the village of Bergsig.

#### Topographical and biophysical context

Torra Conservancy covers an area of 352,000 ha. The landscape is characterised by gravel plains and ancient fields of basalt, and rugged, rock-capped mountains. The area has excellent natural water supplies and fertile soils, despite the low rainfall (70-100mm in the wet season). The area's major river systems are the Huab, Koigab and Uniab, which all have major wetlands and springs. All major settlements have boreholes.

#### Social context

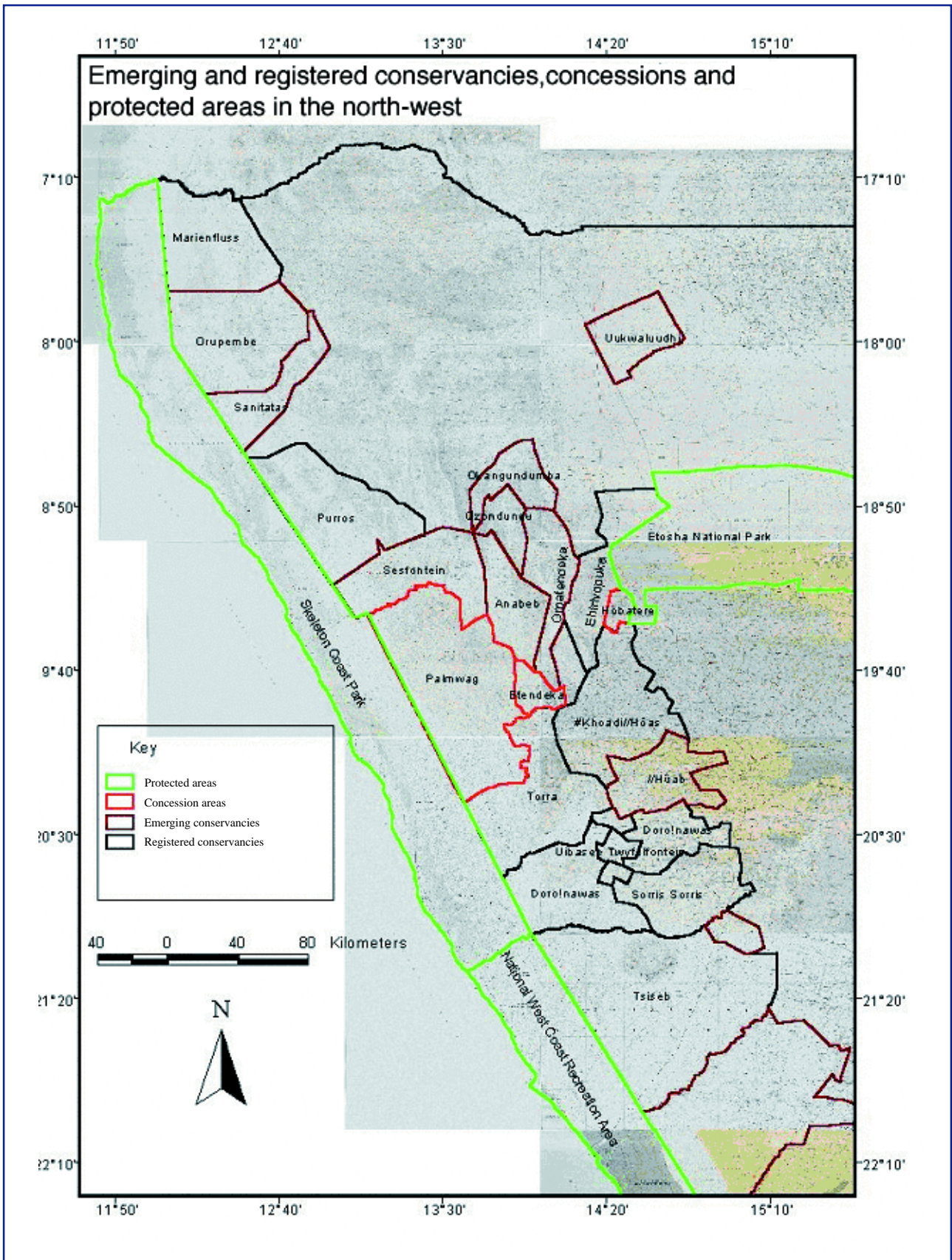
The area is sparsely populated – 884 people and 123 households; one person per 4 km<sup>2</sup> – with an ethnically-mixed population including Roman Catholic Riemvasmaakers<sup>4</sup>, Damaras and a few Herero and Owambo families. The main livelihood activities include small-stock farming (goats and sheep), limited large-stock farming (cattle, horses and donkeys), small-scale vegetable gardening and wage labour, plus contributions from absentee wage earners.

<sup>3</sup> Wildlife moves freely through the area on a seasonal basis and it is therefore difficult to provide reliable or accurate estimates of wildlife numbers.

<sup>4</sup> The Rievasmaak community settled in the 1970s from the Richtersveld area of north-west South Africa as part of the system of homelands relocations under the apartheid system.



Figure 5: Kunene conservancies and protected areas



Source: NNF



### **Conservancy history and current status**

Heavy poaching and drought wiped out most of the wildlife in the north-west of Namibia in the 1980s, but the situation is much improved since the introduction of Community Game Guards (CGGs) (1982) and the CBNRM programme. In 1998, Torra was among the first four conservancies to be registered in Namibia and has a strong membership base (450 members). In 2000, Torra became the first of Namibia's conservancies to be financially self-sufficient (except for one vehicle funded by IRDNC since 2002) – largely due to two lucrative tourism joint ventures. The annual income for 2002 was N\$750,000. The status of natural resources, especially wildlife, in Torra is secure and growing. The 2002 game census confirmed this with impressive wildlife population estimates for the area. Torra has five CGGs and has developed a conservancy management plan (with the help of IRDNC), but at the time of fieldwork this was on hold awaiting MET endorsement.

### **≠Khoadi //Hôas Conservancy**

#### **Location**

≠Khoadi //Hôas Conservancy is situated within the Sesfontein constituency in the southern half of the Kunene Region, north-west Namibia. It borders with Torra and Ehirovipuka Conservancies to the west and north respectively. To the north-west is the Etendeka tourism concession area and to the north-east the Hobatere tourism concession. Privately-owned commercial farm land forms the eastern boundary. The veterinary fence makes up most of its northern boundary. The conservancy administration centre is the Grootberg Breeding Station. Anker and Erwee are the area's two main population centres.

#### **Topographical and biophysical context**

The conservancy covers an area of 336,600 ha. The landscape on the eastern side is characterised by ancient fields of basalt and rugged, rock-capped mountains, including the well-known Grootberg Mountain range. The remainder of the area is characterised by dolomite bolder hills ('koppies') and flat Mopane woodland. Water availability varies significantly in the area: the eastern areas have many natural springs, but the rest of the area depends on unreliable boreholes. Rainfall averages 100-200mm a year. The Klip River Valley in the Grootberg Mountain range has been declared a conservation and tourism area.

### **Social context**

The area is densely populated – 3,463 people and 641 households; one person per km<sup>2</sup>. Damara is the dominant ethnic group in the area, although there are also a large number of Herero and several Owambo families. The main livelihood activity is small-stock farming (goats and sheep). A number of households also tender small gardens. The aridity of the area means large-stock farming (cattle, horses, and donkeys) is limited. Absentee wage earners and pensioners also contribute to livelihoods and a number of residents are in formal employment in the public service or retail trade.

### **Conservancy history and current status**

≠Khoadi //Hôas was one of the first four conservancies to be registered in Namibia, in 1998, with the main purpose of improving and integrating NRM. Membership consists of approximately half the adult local population – 1,600 members. The conservancy is managed by a unique partnership between the conservancy committee and the Grootberg Farmers' Union (GFU). Although still financially reliant on donor funding (N\$123,986 from NACSO and the Namibian Programme to Combat Desertification (NAPCOD)), the conservancy has contributed 33% of income towards running costs since 2002. The annual income for 2002 was N\$252,714. The status of natural resources, especially wildlife, in ≠Khoadi //Hôas is secure and growing. The 2002 game census confirmed this with impressive wildlife population estimates for the area. With the IRDNC's help a conservancy management plan has been developed, but this is still on hold awaiting MET endorsement.

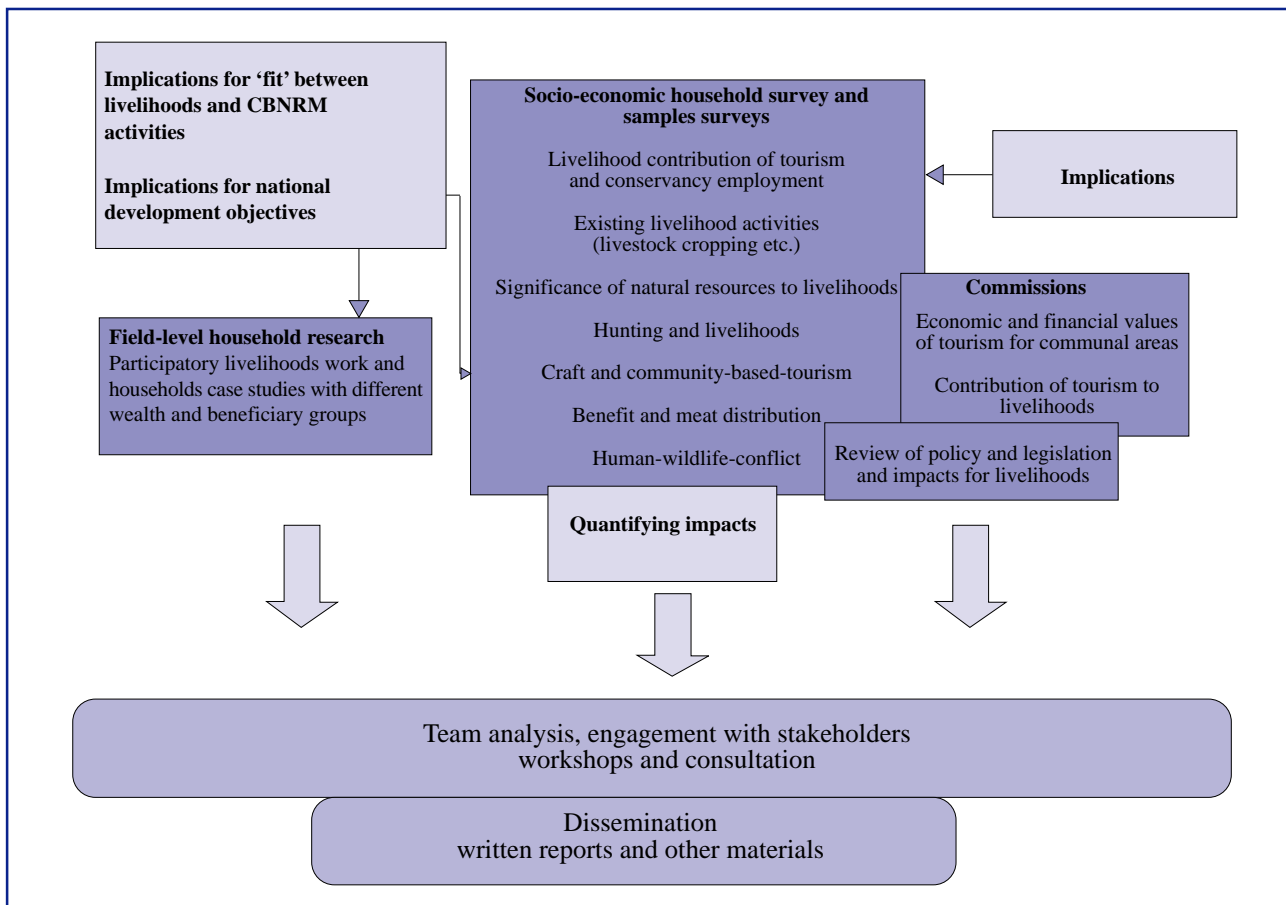
Further details on the social, historical, topographical and ecological contexts of these two regions and the conservancies that were the focus of this study can be found in the background reports commissioned by WILD (Humphrey and Humphrey 2003).

### **Methods**

WILD combined commissioned research, secondary data collection and consultation with primary data collection involving participatory, qualitative and quantitative research methods. The various components of the research are represented in Figure 6.



Figure 6: WILD research components



### Inception activities

The primary activities of field teams during the inception phase involved conducting participatory research with groups of conservancy members and other community residents. This work involved focus group discussions, and participatory research workshops. In addition, WILD established a research working group in one community to test a research approach. This was modelled on the farmer participatory extension groups that are common place in the contexts of farming systems research and extension (see for example, Scoones and Thompson 1994). Participatory work covered a wide range of issues from broad-based livelihoods analysis to specifically targeted workshop sessions to address key research questions. Box 1 provides a summary of some of the participatory methods employed (other details of the methodologies used by WILD can be found in Annex 3).

### Participatory research

A total of 15 different participatory workshops were held in Caprivi involving over a 165 people. In Kunene, 13 different workshops were held involving over 200 people (see Annex 3, Table 1, and Section A3.2 for further details). In addition, participatory feedback workshops were held at Ombinda

#### Box 1: Sample of participatory methods used

- **Time-lines** – historical profiles of changing natural resources use and management.
- **Seasonal calendars** – graphical depiction of seasonal livelihood strategies and resource access – important for understanding the dynamics of NRM (for example).
- **Resource maps** – land-use maps identifying the spatial and temporal dynamics of natural resources management and use.
- **Social maps and Venn diagrams** – maps locating key social features, and diagrammatic representation of key institutional interactions identifying and mapping access to social networks, services and infrastructure, and to relations between different social groups, institutional and policy arenas.
- **Matrix/pair-wise ranking of assets** – inventory of asset or resource holding and resource endowment at community and household-levels. Used to identify and prioritise livelihood assets.
- **Wealth ranking** – ranking based on pair wise and other comparisons to stratify the community into groups, for example, on the basis of locally defined indices of difference (wealth or status), asset holdings, vulnerability profiles, resource use and practices.