



Case Study – Namibia's conservancy Model

SADC-TFCA Symposium, Gaborone

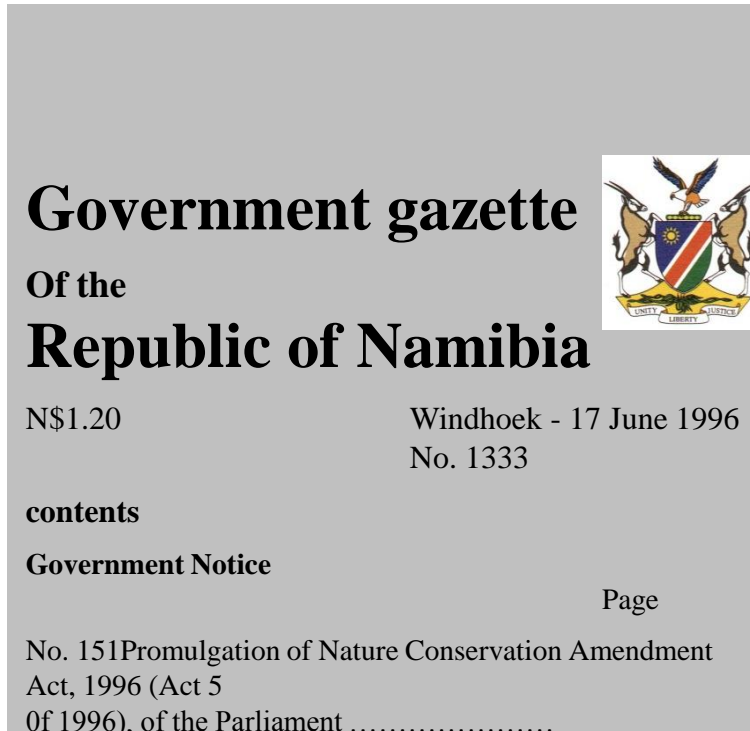
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How are conservancies established?



Rights granted:

- **Rights of ownership over wildlife and tourism**
- **Revenue from sustainable hunting and tourism goes 100% to communities**

Motivation of communities to engage?

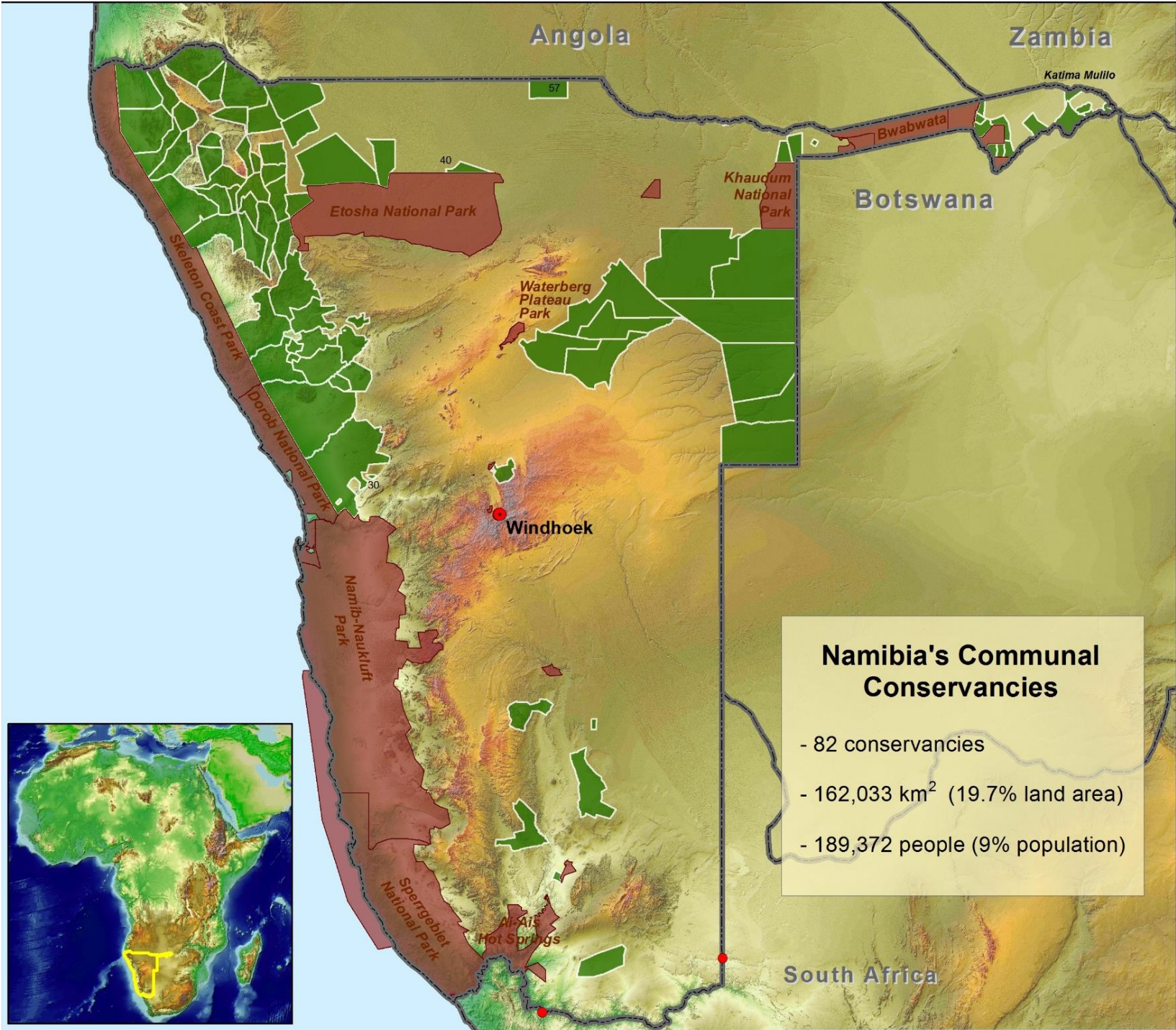
- **Gain same rights over game as commercial farmers**
- **Potential for income and livelihood improvements**
- **Pride and desire to take responsibility over their wildlife**

Governance documents for conservancies

- Constitution
- Benefit Distribution Plan
- Wildlife Management and Utilization Plan includes Zonation
- Tourism and hunting contracts with operators
- Financial policies
- Staff policies etc.

Overview of key activities

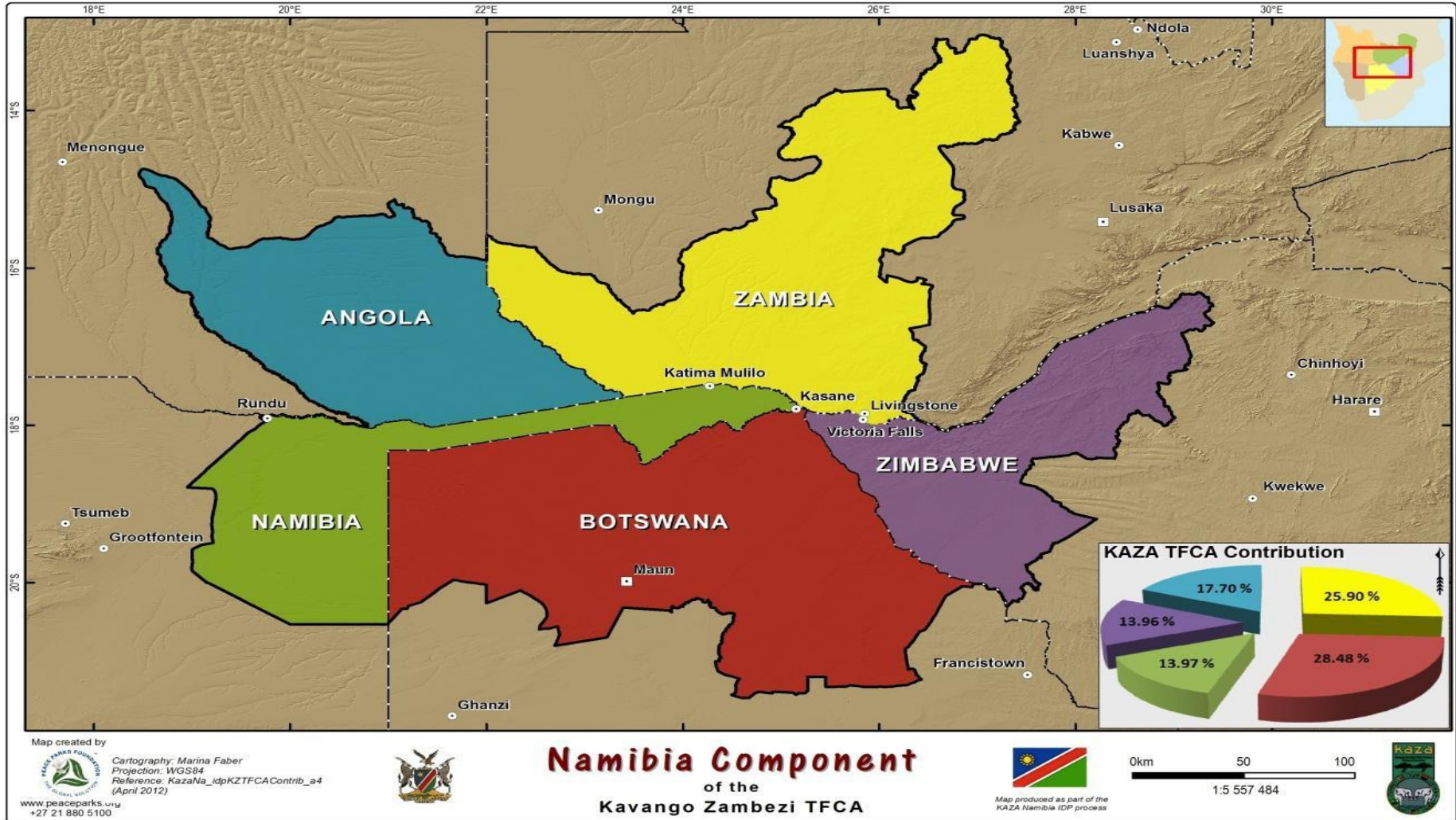
- **82 elected governance structures**
- **- Represents 1 of every 11 Namibian citizen**
- **- Three pillars of the Namibia CBNRM Programme:**
 - ✓ Natural Resources Management
 - ✓ Institutional Development & Governance
 - ✓ Business, Enterprises, & Livelihoods



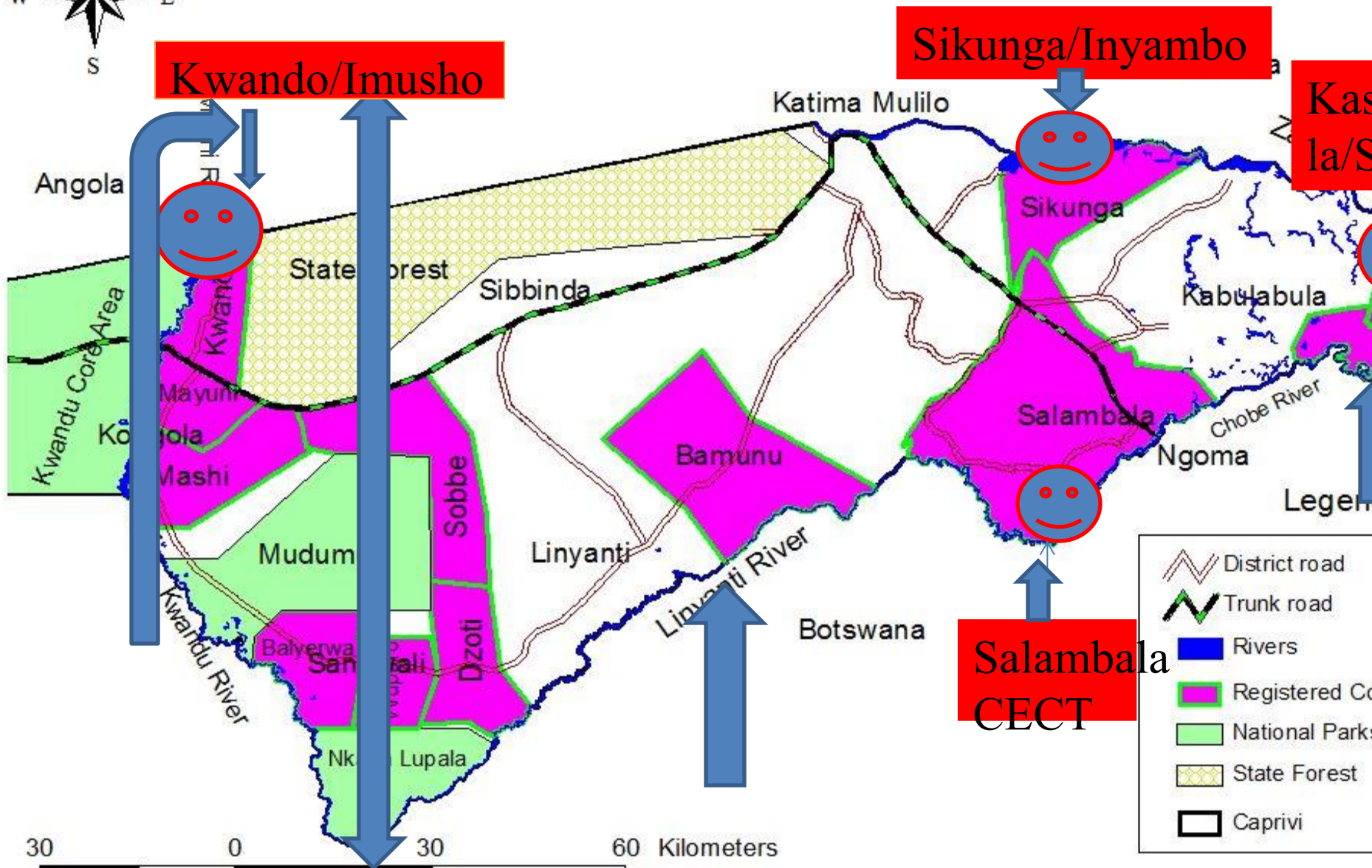
Namibia's Communal Conservancies

- 82 conservancies
- 162,033 km² (19.7% land area)
- 189,372 people (9% population)

Scaling up; conservancies/CF to, TBNRM forums, complexes to landscape units to KAZA



Caprivi Registered Conservancies



Practical TBNRM activities



Kwando/Imusho Forum members, Dept.of National Parks and Wildlife and community participating in erecting an experimental crocodile fence at Imusho in Sioma Ngweze N.P Zambia.

Joint TBNRM Forum meetings



ISSUES DISCUSSED

- Community participation and Benefits in Wildlife Management
- Poaching
- Fish Management and utilization
- Conflicting policies in Neighbor countries
- Unsustainable methods of NRM and Forestry harvesting.
- Wildlife corridors
- Fire Management.
- Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigations etc.

Governance in conservancies is about....



- **How** communities manage Wildlife and Other Natural Resources and the benefits derived from these resources?
- **What** decisions are taken by communities?
- **How** are decisions taken?
- **Who** is involved in decision making processes?

Governance structures underpinning conservancies

- **Elected committees** governed by **constitutions** – Committee terms of office and responsibilities determined locally by each constitution.
- **Flexible locally-determined internal governance arrangements** – varying from centralised committee to decentralised ward/sub-committees.
- **AGM annually and GMs** as required by the constitution
- Financial governance improved through constitutional changes that require **increased proportion of revenue to members.**
- **Conservancies requires to continuously be complying** – MET reserves right to de-gazette conservancies that do not comply with SOPs and compliance requirement.
- **JV contracts are time-bound**, and dependent upon each conservancy's agreement with its private sector partner – MET does not dictate terms of engagement with private sector but requires good governance principles to be applied.
- **Conservancies hire staff** – managers, bookkeepers, community game guards + resource monitors etc.
- MET has expanded rights of certain conservancies through provision of **tourism concessions inside protected areas and on state concessions**
- **Disputes/disagreements** resolved either at level of committee/ through GM/involvement of traditional authorities or MET and support NGOs.



What have been some of the success indicators?

At micro-level:

In 2015 financial year:

- 60 held AGMs
- 50 annual financial reports presented
- 15% female chairpersons
- 39% female treasurers
- 35% female committee members
- 43 conservancy budgets approved at AGMs

Macro-level contributions of the conservancy governance approach:

- Contributes towards democratization in rural areas
- Empowering individuals including women to actively participate
- Unlocking human potential
- Creates platforms for demanding leadership accountability
- Sense of ownership on NRM

Some governance challenges...

- Meeting the growing governance training needs of conservancies and community forests
- Allowing democracy vs managing institutional memory loss during unexpected leadership changes
- The lack of business management capacity
- Managing roles between conservancy committees and staff/managers
- Lack of accountability within some conservancies
- Educational/literacy levels
- Benefits sharing and increasing proportion of revenue to household level



Roles and responsibilities CBNRM Stakeholders

Conservancies are responsible for:

- general management within the guiding framework of the legislation, their constitution and management plans
- Employing/hiring or firing staff
- Ecological management

MET is responsible for:

- Compliance monitoring
- Law enforcement, but conservancy game guards conduct monitoring patrols and awareness raising with community to complement MET's efforts

NGOs

jointly conduct community outreach with MET,

Facilitate tourism joint venture negotiations and provide training and technical support



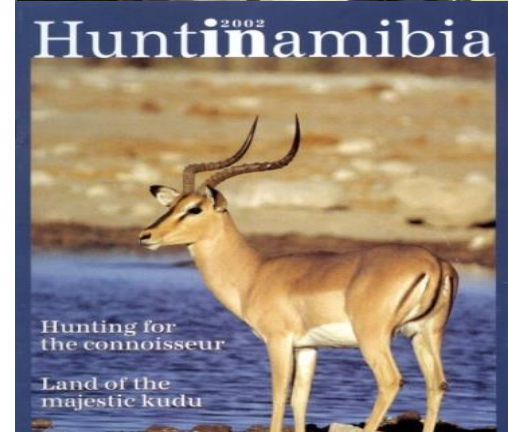
Funding, Benefits and expectations

How are conservancies funded? First phase of conservancy programme was highly subsidized by NGOs through Donors funding but now most conservancies are financially independent through own income through hunting, tourism, sale of indigenous plant products, crafts.

How are finances managed? By committees and staff guided by constitution, financial policies and with technical support from NGOs and MET

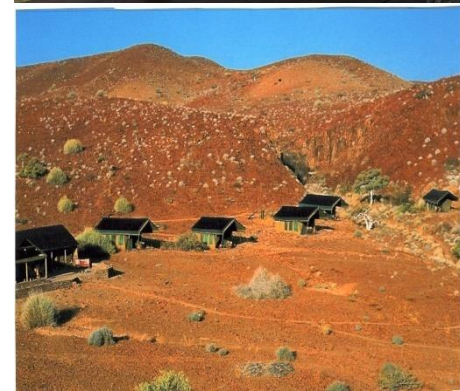
How do the community benefit? Through earning cash dividends, Meat, Employment or community projects (e.g. rural electrification) and training

What mechanisms are employed to manage expectations of both parties? Intensive engagement at community level, general meetings, AGMs

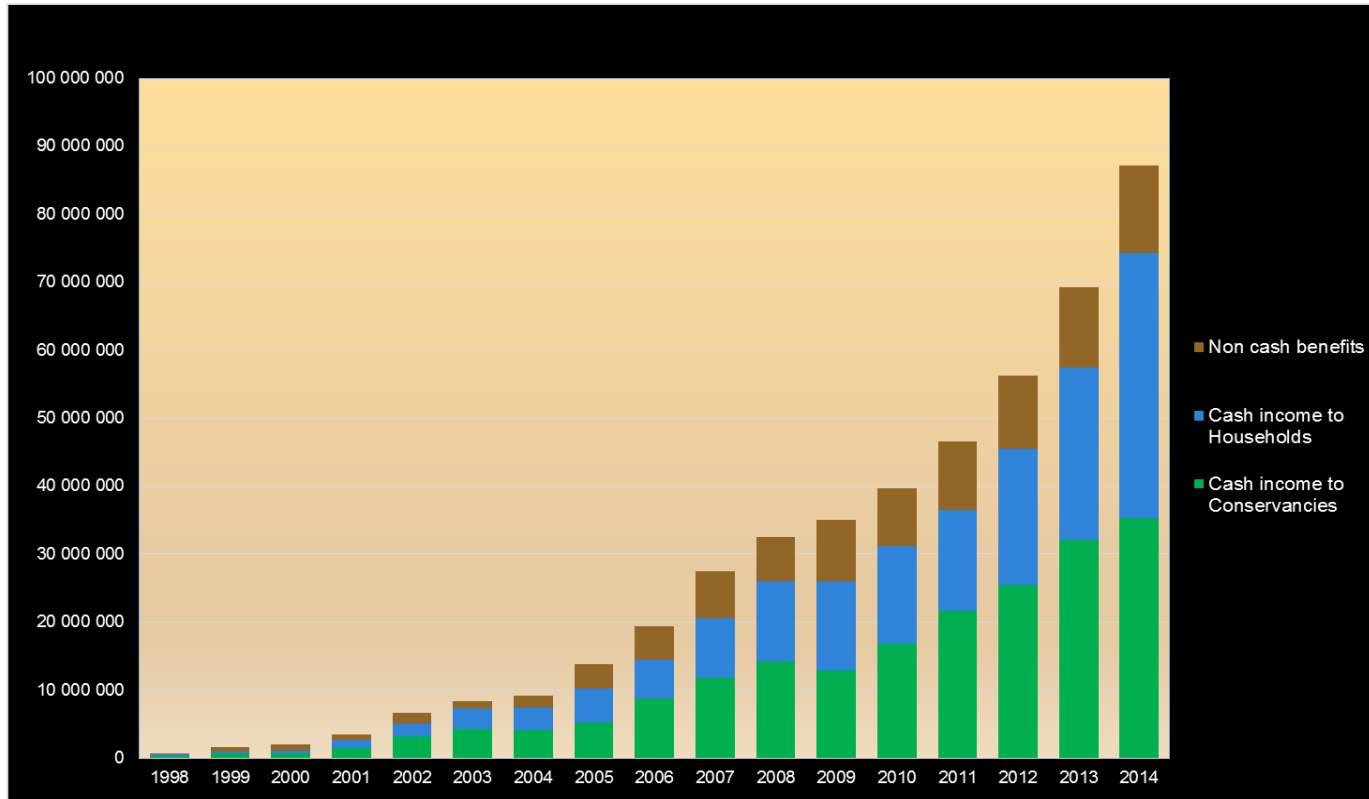


How effective is the model?

- Increased wildlife populations
- Large landscape connectivity
- MET Game Translocations: 10,023 head of game moved to conservancies including rare and valuable species as sable, giraffe, and black rhino
- Joint venture lodges, campsites, crafts, guiding, information centres, traditional homesteads, sustainable wildlife use has led to creation of employment (1,715 f-t and 4,000 p-t)
- Improvements to local schools, clinics and rural water supplies, rural electrification
- Improved nutrition
- Human/wildlife conflict mitigation measures
- Improved natural resource management
- Creation of a voice for rural people



Conservancy and CBNRM Benefits (Namibian Dollars): 1994-2014



Economic Contributions of Namibia CBNRM Programme: 1990-2014:
Based upon a cumulative investment of N\$1.7 billion from 1990-2014, the Namibia CBNRM Programme has generated a cumulative Net National Income contribution of N\$4.15 billion

Namibia's CBNRM lessons learned and advice to other countries considering developing conservation outreach approaches:

- 1) Enabling legislative framework should confer rights to rural people and avoid cumbersome regulations that reduce the powers of rural people
- 2) Rights should be tied to responsibilities for managing wildlife
- 3) Strengthen community governance to ensure that community members play significant role in oversight and leadership of their areas
- 4) Work to ensure that revenue benefits members directly
- 5) CBNRM initiatives should as far as possible integrate full suite of natural resources right from the beginning (i.e. wildlife, forestry, inland fisheries, grazing etc.) to ensure integration and avoid proliferation of parallel management institutions or policy frameworks that create additional costs or conflicts





Thank you!