

Ensuring Benefits to Rural Communities From Wildlife and Forestry - A Dialogue Between Mozambique and Namibia

April 23 – 27, 2017

FIELD VISIT REPORT



CONVENED BY:

Mozambique’s Integrated Forest and Landscape Management Portfolio



Ministério da Terra, Ambiente e Desenvolvimento Rural



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OVERVIEW

Background Information

Namibia is a good example of how conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources can bring economic benefits to local communities. Twenty years ago, hostility towards wildlife was prevalent among communities, as this was a state-controlled asset from which local people received no benefits. Namibia is now a pioneer in the sustainable management of wildlife through community based natural resources Management (CBNRM). This positive shift has occurred through community empowerment on a large scale, supported legislation that links environmental management with economic opportunity.

For this reason, between, 23 and 27 April 2018, a team of 9 people from government (FNDS, PIUs, Rural Development, ANAC at national and local levels) and the WB all involved in the Bank Landscape portfolio travelled to Namibia to meet with key stakeholders engaged in the environmental governance and visit some conservancies in the Zambezi region.

Objectives

In the framework of the south-south knowledge exchange, a WB/GoM involve in the WB Landscape Portfolio visited to Namibia to learn about:

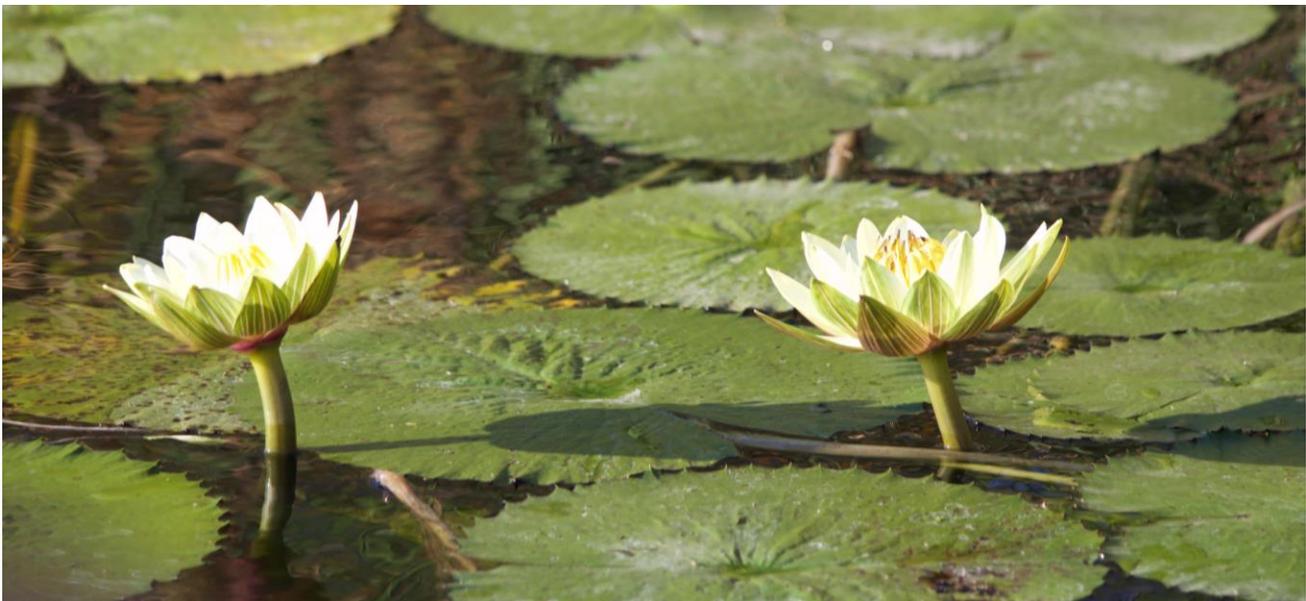
- Environmental governance and the legal framework that allows communities to access economic benefits directly from wildlife and natural resources
- Partnerships with private operators to create and manage community based tourism market
- Benefit sharing mechanisms and community base natural resources management

In order to apply the knowledge acquired in the preparation and implementation of the MozBio 2 project and the Benefit Sharing Mechanism of the Emission Reduction Programme in Zambezia. Both projects have a strong focus on improving the living standards of communities whose livelihoods depend on the adequate and sustainable management of natural resources.

Attendees

There were nine participants from government (FNDS, PIUs, Rural Development, ANAC at national and local levels) all involved in the Bank Landscape portfolio.

Tiago Luis – Rural Development National Directorate (DNDR)
Sonia Nordez – National Sustainable Development Fund (FNDS)
Catariana Chidiassamba - FNDS/MOZBIO project
Mario Candeia – FNDS/ PIU Cabo Delgado
Tomas Bastique – FNDS/ PIU Zambezia
Joaquim Langa- ITC
Binit Varajidas - ITC
Andre Aquino – World Bank
Carmen Lahoz – World Bank



Agenda

Date	Activity
23 April 2018	Arrival at the Hosea Kutako International Airport, at 13:25 Check in at Hillside Meeting with Head of Wildlife and Parks (Ministry of Environment and Tourism) Dinner at Pepata (Traditional Cuisines) with the NACSO team
24 April 2018	CBNRM Workshop with NACSO Members and Partners including: Overview of CBNRM activities within Ministry of Environment and Tourism NACSO Working Groups: “Natural Resources”, “Institutional Development” and “Business, Enterprise and Livelihoods” KAZA TFCA Joint Venture Presentation Community Forest by Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry Dinner meeting with CBNRM partners at Joe’s Beer House
25 April 2018	Fly to Katima, arrival 12:00 Lunch meeting with IRDNC Zambezi office Drive to Namushasha Arrival 15:40 at Namushasha Boat Drive at 16:00 Dinner and overnight at Namushaha
26 April 2018	Breakfast at Namushasha Mashi Traditional Village at 08:30 Meeting with Wuparo Conservancy and the Lodge Operator (09:00 – 10:15) Drive to Salambala Conservancy Arrive at Mubala Camp at 14:00 Dinner at Mubala Camp and over night
27 April 2018	Breakfast at Chobe River with the Salamabala Conservancy Chairperson and one Committee member Meeting with Salambala Conservancy 08:30-09:30) at the conservancy office, Drive to Katima Fly back to Windhoek
28 April 2018	Fly back to Maputo

Photos



Mozambique Team



Workshop with NACSOC and Partners



Visit to Conservancy Kwandu



Together with management team de Kwandu

BACKGROUND

“Unless local communities and rural households have benefits from wildlife, they will not be stewards of these resources. National Parks’ and overall biodiversity’s future hinge on effective engagement with local communities”.

- Colgar Sikopo

(The head of Wildlife and Parks in Namibia)

Communal Conservancies in Namibia

Communal conservancies are self-governing, democratic entities, run by their members, with fixed boundaries that are agreed with adjacent conservancies, communities or land owners. Conservancies are recognized by the MET, but not governed by the Ministry, which does, however, have powers to de-register a conservancy if it fails to comply with conservation regulation. Communal conservancies are obliged to have game management plans, to conduct annual general meetings, and to prepare financial reports. They are managed under committees elected by their members.

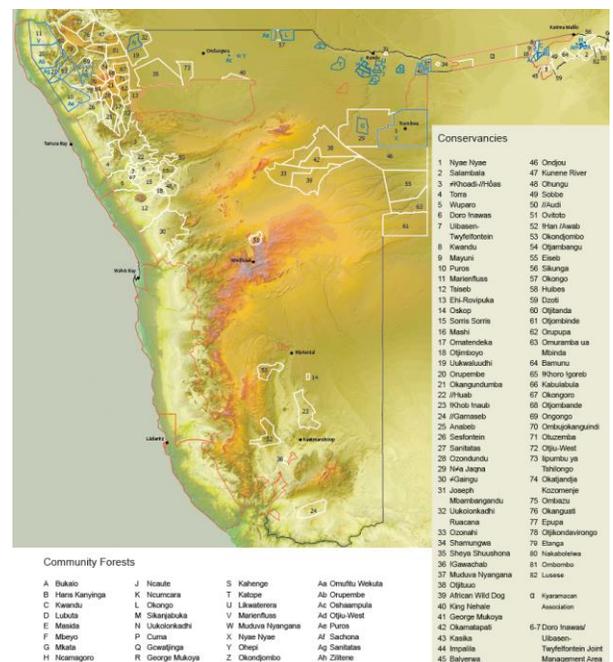
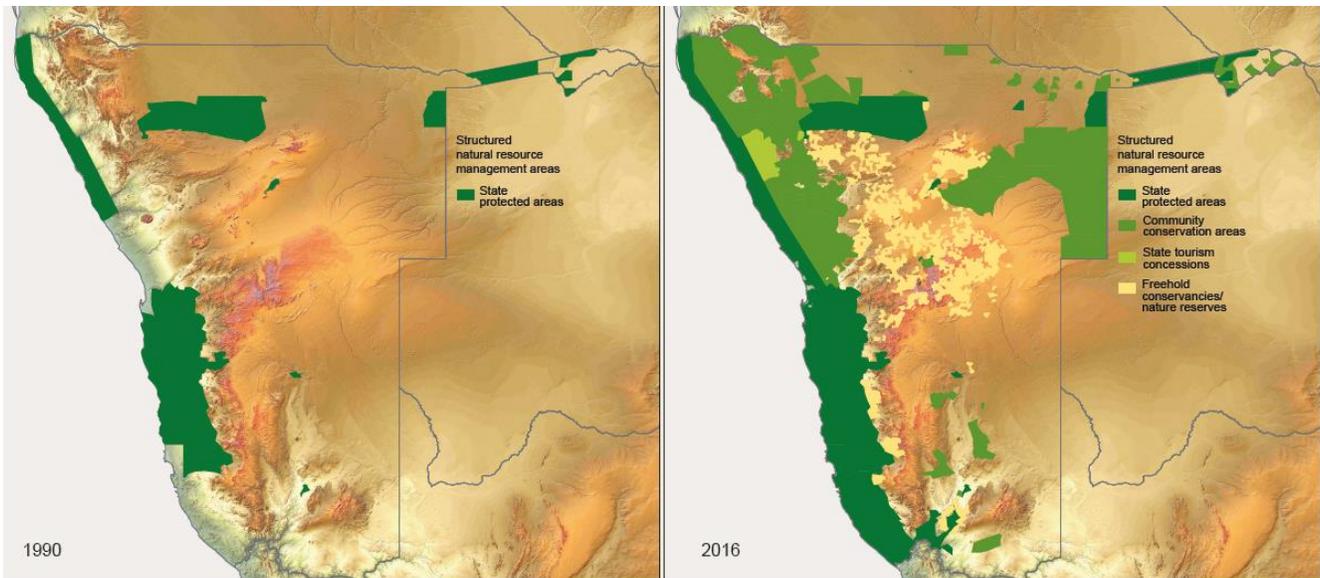


Figure 1. The distribution of conservancies and community forest across Namibia

Long-term Rights

Following Namibia’s independence in 1990, the then Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism found that many communities on communal land wanted the same rights over natural resources enjoyed by freehold farmers, who could hunt game and establish tourism enterprises on their land. In 1996 an amendment was made to the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1975, which devolved rights to communities over natural resources, which includes wildlife, and established rights for communities to set up tourism enterprises.

These rights were to be exercised through communal conservancies. The first four communal conservancies were formed in 1998.

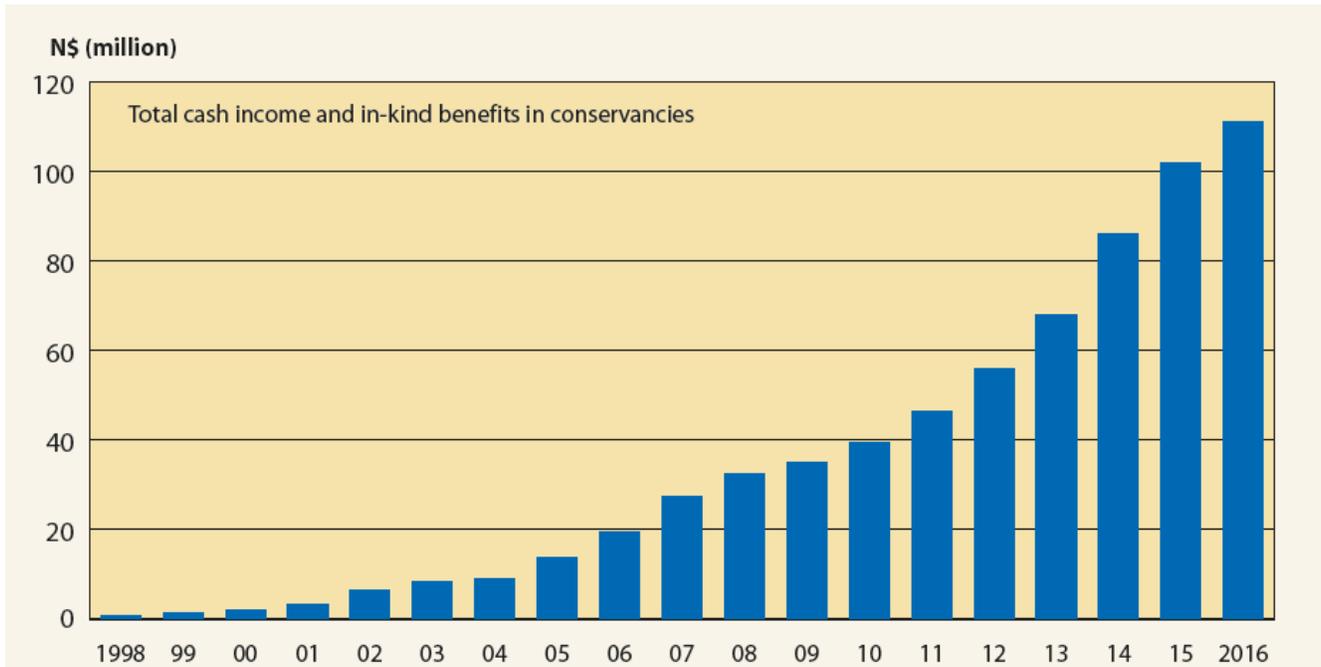


Impressive Development of Conservancies

To date, there are 82 registered communal conservancies and 1 community conservation association in a national park of which 23 conservancies hold 19 concessions in national parks and other state land. There are also 32 registered community forests and 2 community fish reserves. There are an estimated 200,000 people living in conservancies

Community conservation covers 1.6 million hectares, which is about 53% of all communal lands and over 20% of Namibia. The total cash income and in-kind benefits generated in conservancies grew rapidly from less than N\$1 million (USD 90 thousand) in 1998 to N\$ 111 (USD 10 million) in 2016. In this period, community conservation contributed about N\$ 6 billion (USD 500 million) to Namibia's net national income

Return from wildlife and other natural resources generated through community conservation have proven to be substantial, including direct income to conservancies from tourism and conservation hunting, jobs created and benefits including distribution of game meat. Joint venture tourism and conservation hunting make the greatest financial contribution to communal conservancies.



SOURCE OF INCOME	VALUE IN N\$	PERCENT OF BENEFITS
Conservancy Income & Benefits		
Joint Venture Tourism	49 858 093	48.8
Sustainable Wildlife Use	45 065 570	44.1
Tourism/Craft Enterprises	3 817 323	3.7
Natural Plant Products	1 820 020	1.8
Miscellaneous	1 622 039	1.6
Total Conservancy Benefits	102 183 045	100.0

Conservancy benefit sources in 2015

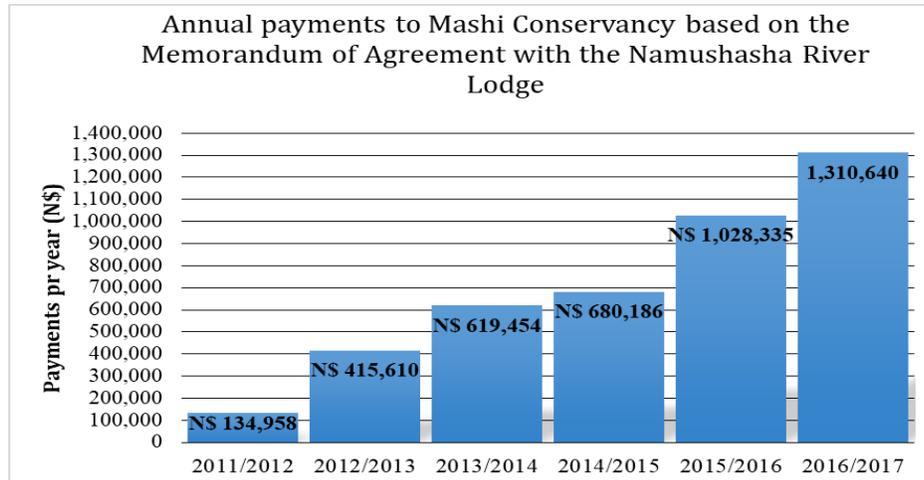
The Growth of Joint Ventures Tourism

The growth in the number of joint venture lodges has been enhanced by the awarding of tourism concessions to conservancies by MET. A good example are the joint ventures between several conservancies and Gondwana Collection, a private company engaged in karakul skins production until

the 90s when it started being involved into the tourism business. Currently, Gondwana Collection runs more than 14 lodges and hotels in Namibia.

The Mozambican delegation visited the Namushasha lodge in the Mashi Conservancy. This joint venture in the Zambezi region was created in 2012. The lodge is located in a dense forest on the banks of the Zambezi River and offers a good choice of activities: river cruises, trip to the Bwabwata National Park and visits to the traditional heritage centre.

The lodge employs 53 staff, the majority from the Mashi Conservancy – many of them moving now into management positions. Annual payments to Mashi Conservancy are derived from occupancy, which increased dramatically in the past year (over USD 100K in 2016/2017). There has also been a significant and increasing capital investment in the lodge. Gondwana Collection has the trust that the tourism sector will do fine in the country, highlighting the importance of a conducive enabling environment for the country.



Value Chains

Another valuable source of income – although to a much lesser extent - for the conservancies is adding value to different products (wildlife, forests) and crafts. The Mashi Conservancy is involved in two income-generating activities: harvesting of Devil’s Claw and the Mashi Craft centre (US\$50,000 in revenues every year). Devils Claw products are used throughout the world as herbal products with anti - inflammatory and digestive properties. The Mashi community harvests the tubers and processes them (slicing and drying) before selling the final product.

The Mashi Craft Centre is supplied by 11 community groups who were trained by IRDNC who provided them with training in the use of natural resources for making various crafts and also quality control to ensure that their products were up to standard. The crafters make a range of products including using grasses to make reed mats and baskets, beaded necklaces made from natural seeds, woodcarvings and drums, and fish traps.



Long-term Capacity Building

The Namibian Association of Community Based Natural Resource Management Support Organisations (NACSO) is an association comprising 8 NGOs and the University of Namibia. The NACSO concept was developed in 1998 with the aim of providing quality services to rural communities seeking to manage and utilise their natural resources in a sustainable manner. Many of the activities of NACSO are carried out through focussed working groups.

There are three active working groups: (i) Institutional Development Working Group that works to develop and improve conservancies' democratic governance, management and financial operations, (ii) Natural Resources Working Group that works with conservancies and government to gather,

analyse and publish data on wildlife and other natural resources, and (iii) Business, Enterprise and Livelihoods Working Group that assists conservancies to develop businesses and to manage joint venture tourism operations.

NACSO working groups are comprised of specialists from NGOs, government and consultancies, whose role is to support and develop CBNRM through the three pillars of business, governance and natural resource management.



Lessons for Mozambique

The main lesson learned from the exchange visit to Namibia is that an enabling legal framework and substantial economic benefits to local communities can significantly revert environmental degradation. For instance, the black rhino population has dramatically increased (from 100 in 1965 to 2,000 in 2016) and the elephant population has more than doubled (from 7,500 in 1995 to 22,500 in 2016) in Namibia since the CBNRM program started.

Other lessons learned are the following:

- Wildlife is a key aspect of an integrated rural development strategy to achieve the dual goals of improving the livelihoods of rural communities and ensuring sustainable management of natural resources
- Tourism can generate significant income to local communities. Joint venture is a tool but tourism in general is highly volatile. There is a need of an enabling environment to attract tourists on which the revenues rely.
- Other sources of financing, such as conservation hunting, non-timber forest products and art crafts need to be promoted to complement the income generated by the tourism business.
- Partnerships can play a key role. The benefit sharing arrangements vary widely, and have to evolve over time, as communities learn more. Better to have it based on variables readily understood by communities (such as # bed night) than on turn-over.
- Continued capacity building, awareness raising and empowerment of rural communities are key elements to achieve sustainable community-based conservation. To this end, there is a need of developing a well-structured and comprehensive programme and creating a network of experienced civil society organizations to provide support to community based natural resources organizations.

A comparison between Mozambique and Namibia is shown in the table below:

Issues	Mozambique	Namibia
Legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land Law and Policy - Forest Law and Policy - Conservation Law and Regulations Conducive to CBNRM, with some gaps about implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nature Conservation Amendment – 1996 - National Policy on Tourism and Concessions on State Land – 2007 (allow for joint ventures) - National Policy of CBNRM – 2013 (rules of benefit sharing) - National Policy on HWC – 2018
Capacity building support to communities (business, governance and natural resources)	ITC and other NGOs Provincial Forest Department Non coordinated, non systematic, very little funds available. Landscape platforms to be consolidated	Systematic, well structured support (NACSO & partners) through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural resources– conservation and hunting (patrolling, monitoring, counting, quota setting) - Business development, negotiation, contracts - Governance – committees, transparency, benefit sharing Tools and instruments developed over years
Access to finance for sustainable business	Very limited, not commercial. Access to finance to assets from donors (case of Zenguelemo, Covane and Chemucane)	NACSO Business WG provides TA on business models, contracts, negotiations. Access to financing from commercial banks to acquire asset still limited
Community governance	Existing confusion (CGRN x CLs). Most CGRNs non functional	Conservancies Committees, elected members. NACSO / MET monitors and reports on performance.
Benefits to local communities	20% from forests, hunting concessions and CA – very limited	Significant, and increasing. Around US\$10 million in 2016
Source of revenues	Limited (hunting and forestry).	Tourism and hunting, SMES on natural products (less important).
Number of CBNRM organizations	CGRNs - ? No community protected area, a few dysfunctional community forests	83 conservancies, 32 communal forests
Monitoring	Limited and non-systematized data collection. No joint system in place	Annual audits of conservancies' performance Annual systematized data collection by government and partners

Next Steps:

National level	Responsibility
Finalization of a ppt with high level recommendations to be presented to decision makers	RD and CM Integrated group
Preparation of a budget to implement a systematic capacity building programme for rural communities	RD and CM Integrated group
Fund raising for the capacity building programme	MITADER
Strengthening the relationship between community land delimitation and identification of potential income sources at community level, and search for partners	MoU between ITC e FNDS
Elaboration of a proposal of a CBOs assessment system	ITC and DNDR
Launching the first CBOs systematic assessment in 2019	ITC and DNDR
Elaboration of a National Programme to Support Communities in Natural Resources Management	RD and CM Integrated group
Put forward the idea of a national fund to finance National Programme to Support Communities in Natural Resources Management	FNDS and ITC
Fund raising to capitalize the fund	MITADER
At landscape level	
Share the ppt with the Zambezia and Cabo Delgado platforms and discuss the implementation of the pilot initiatives	PIUs
Meeting with NGOs to define their potential involvement in the pilot experiences	ITC/PIUs
Identification of Conservation community areas in the 3 target conservation areas of MozBio2	MOZBIO/FNDS
Monitoring and systematization of the landscape pilot experiences	FNDS/ITC

Annex

[PPT Presentation Workshop Namibia](#)



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