



Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Land Use and Environmental Sustainability in Namibia

Opportunities and challenges for scaling up natural resource based production in the
context of Namibia's land reform programme

October 2018

Key Environmental Constraints

- Namibia is the driest country in sub-Saharan Africa
- Inherently infertile soils
- Net water deficit caused by high temperatures, high evaporation and lack of perennial rivers
- Drought
- Land degradation
- Human wildlife conflict



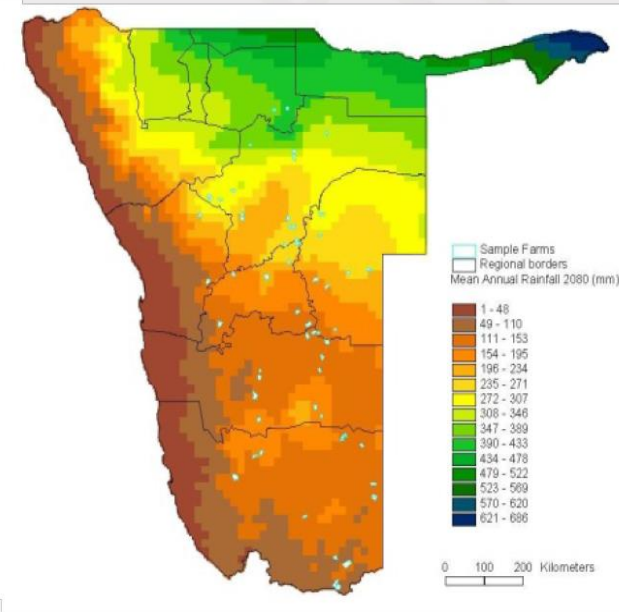
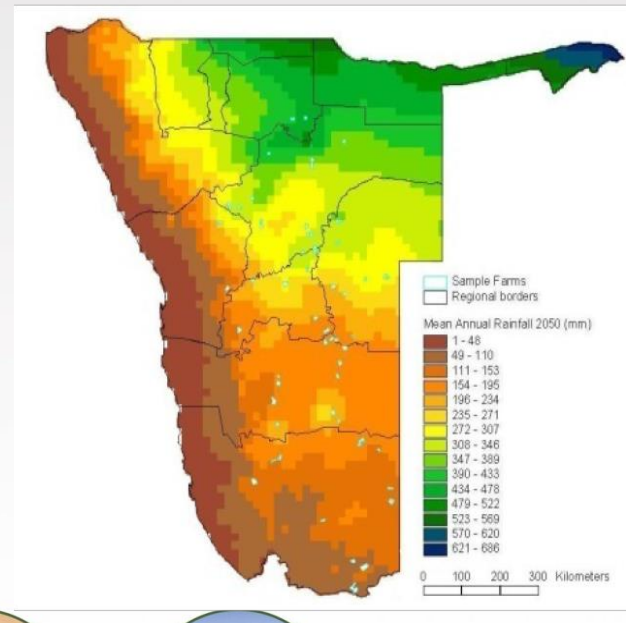
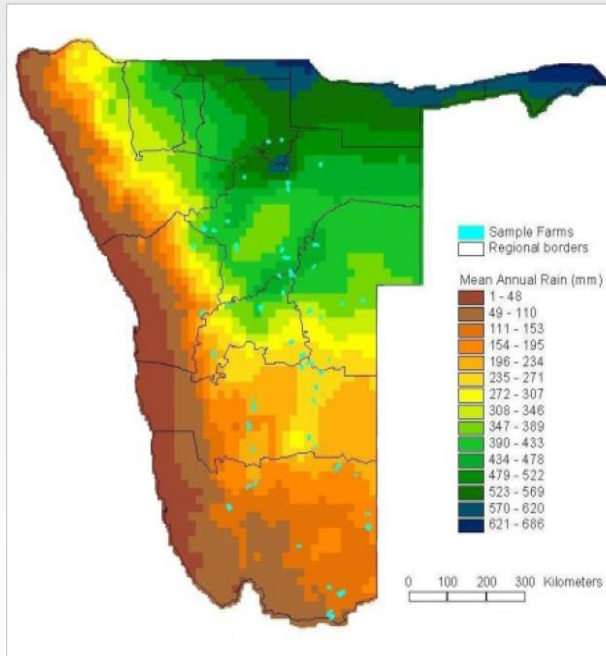
Need for Environmental Sustainability

Condition of balance, resilience, and interconnectedness that allows human society to satisfy its needs while neither exceeding the capacity of its supporting ecosystems to continue to regenerate the services necessary to meet those needs nor by our actions diminishing biological diversity



Climate Change Threat

Impacts from climate change associated with increasing temperatures, increased number and severity of drought events, increased incidences of pests and diseases and reduced rainfall

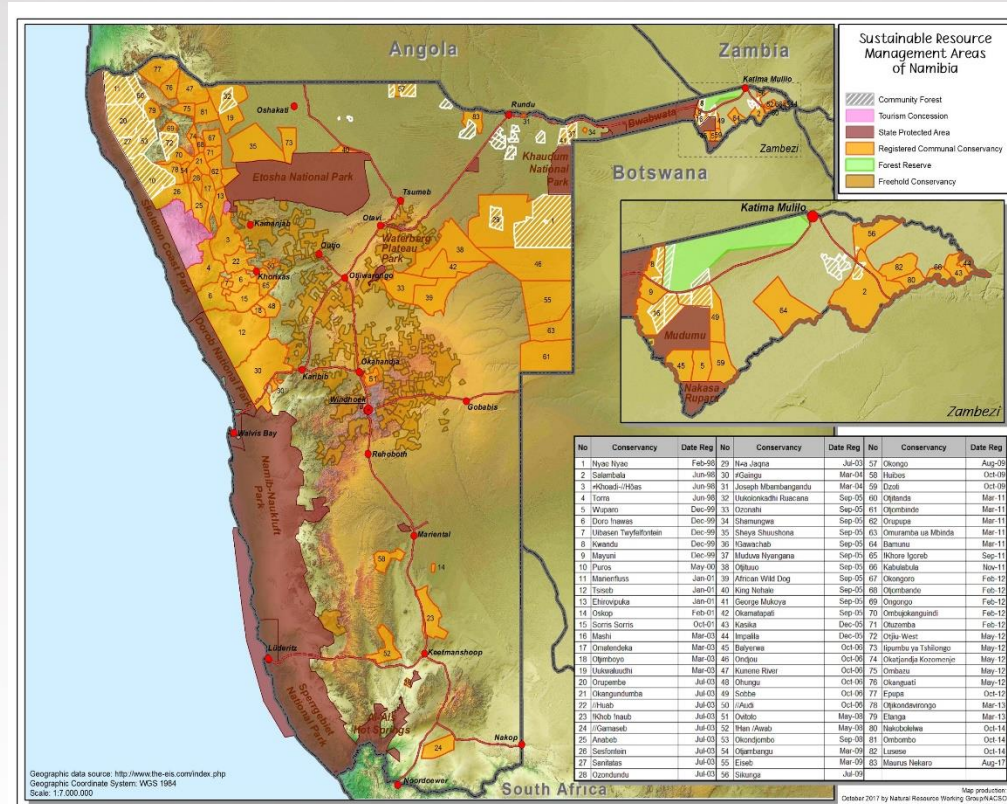


Current mean annual rainfall across Namibia

Mean annual rainfall across Namibia by 2050 and 2080, according to predictions generated by the HADCM3 general circulation model

Natural Resource Production

- State Land – mainly the management of protected areas and concessions
- Commercial land – mainly wildlife production through own-use hunting, conservation hunting, capture and selling of live game, slaughter products (venison, skins and horns) and tourism
- Communal land – mainly communal conservancies and community forests which derive income from own-use hunting, conservation hunting, tourism and live capture and selling of game, selling of indigenous natural plants etc.

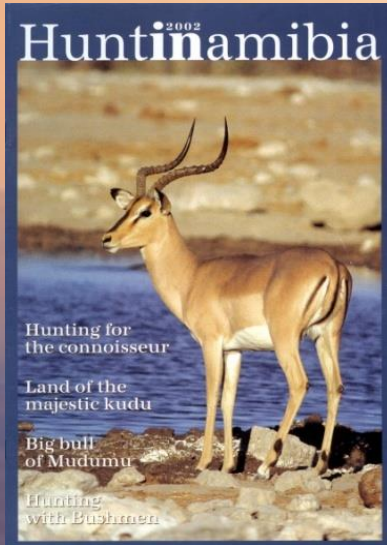


Strategic Value of NR Production

- Conservation
- Improved livelihoods
- Economic
- Food security
- Health rangelands and prevention of bush encroachment



Importance of Tourism to the Namibian Economy



Direct contribution to GDP – N\$3.77 billion or 3% in 2014



Tourism in Namibia has grown since 1980s with an average 9% increase in international tourist arrivals from 1995 - 2017



Indirect impacts are factored in – N\$18.4 billion or 14.9% of total GDP

Protected Areas as Bedrock of the Tourism Sector

- Significant economic asset
- Photographic tourism
- Conservation hunting
- Live sale and translocations
- Employment and financial benefits to the country

ECONOMIC VALUE OF NAMIBIA'S PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM

USE VALUE

NON-USE VALUE

DIRECT USE VALUE

Non-consumptive & consumptive use of park resources.

Photographic tourism, hunting tourism, game harvesting for live sales.

INDIRECT USE VALUE

Values derived from ecosystem services.

Carbon sequestration, refugia provision & cultural values.

OPTION VALUE

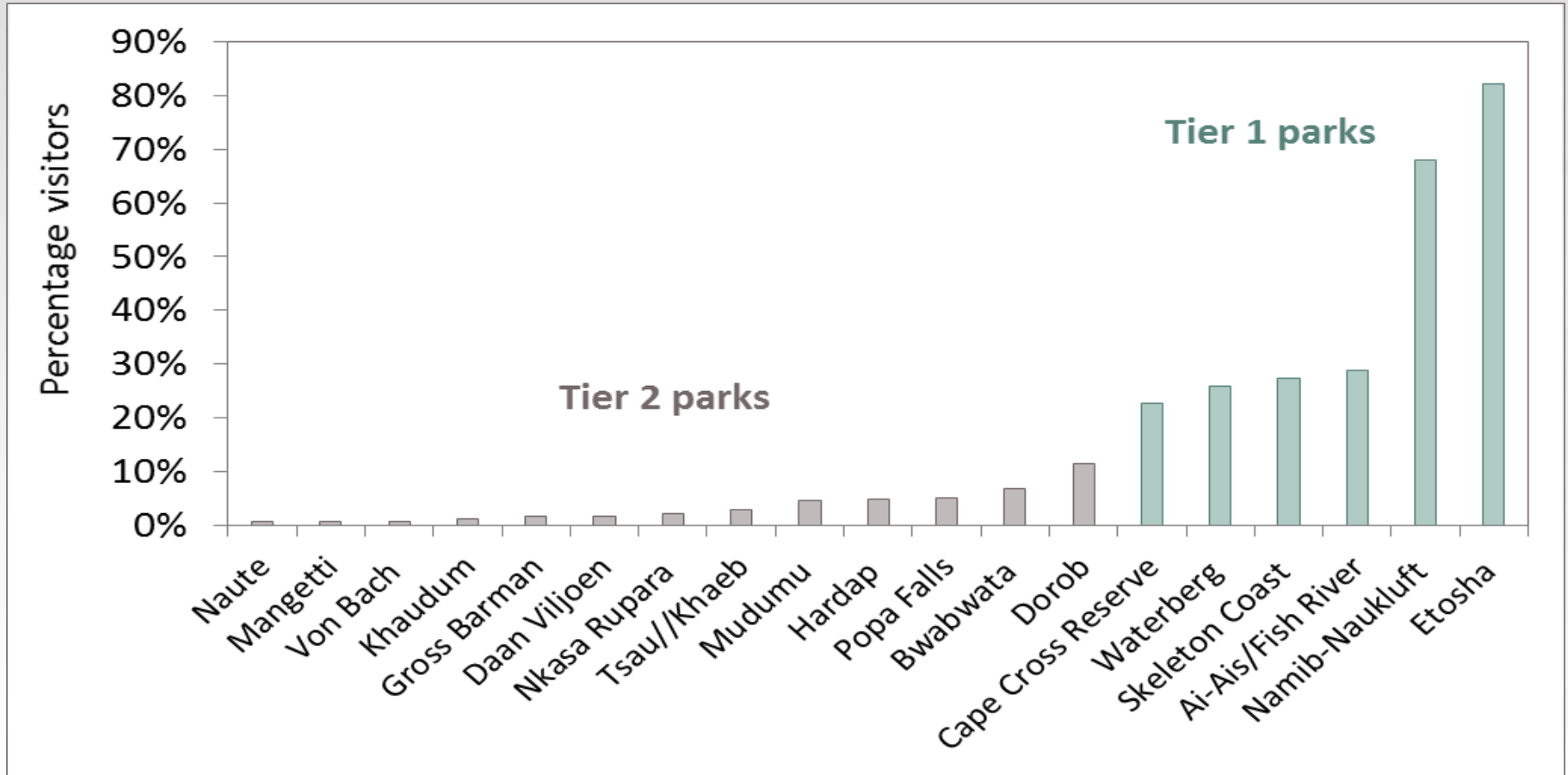
Values of retaining the option to use resources in the future.

Genetic diversity.

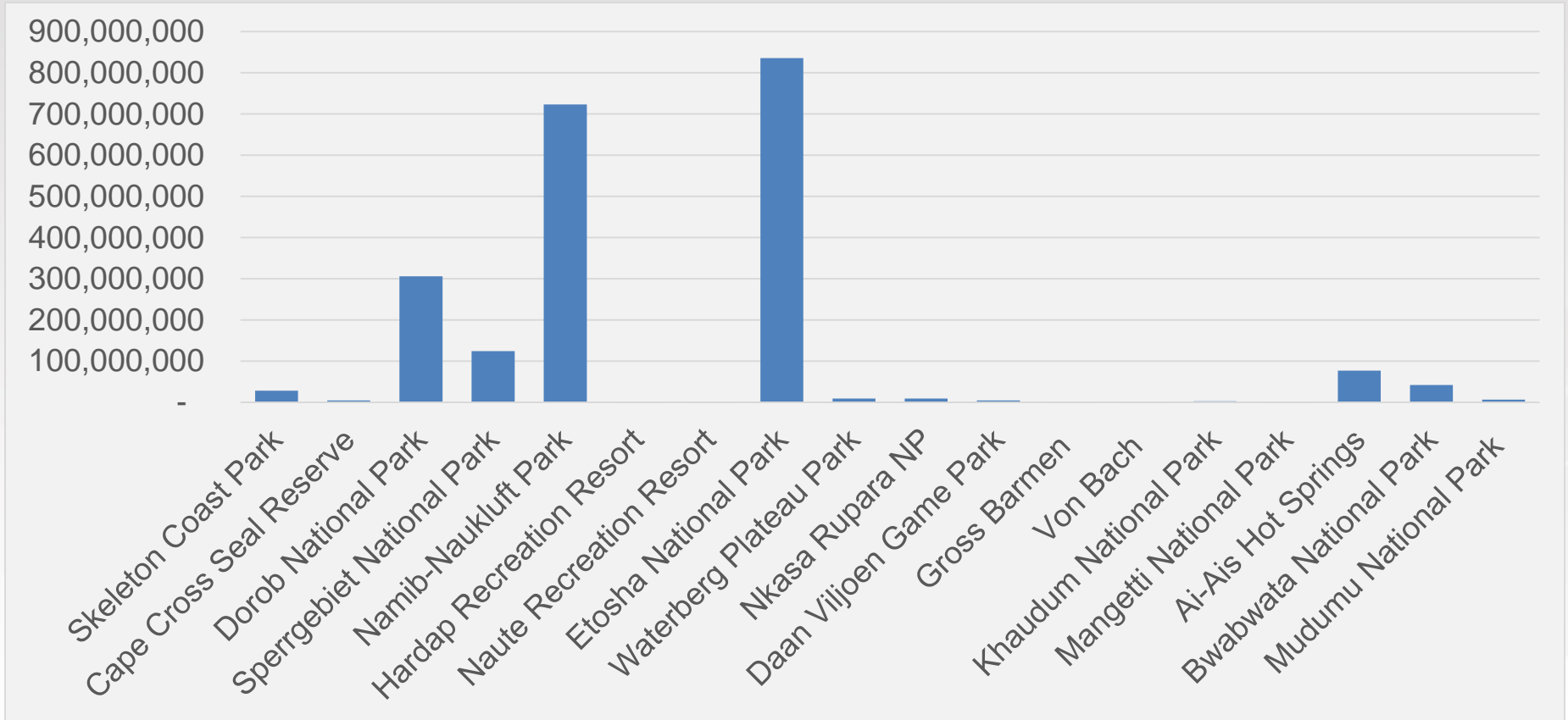
EXISTENCE VALUE

Value society derives from knowing biodiversity in protected areas is preserved.

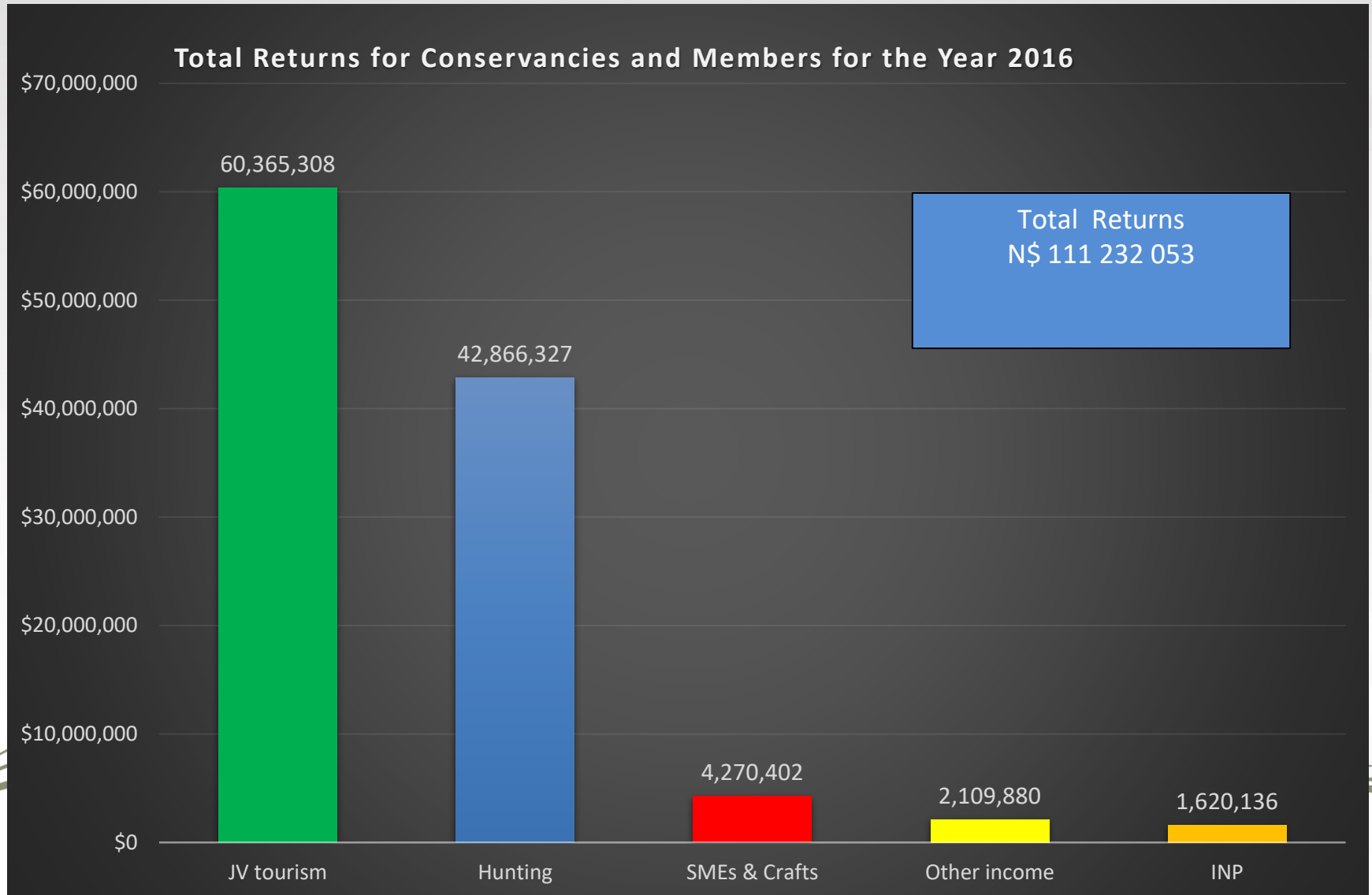
Protected Areas – the reason why most tourists visit Namibia



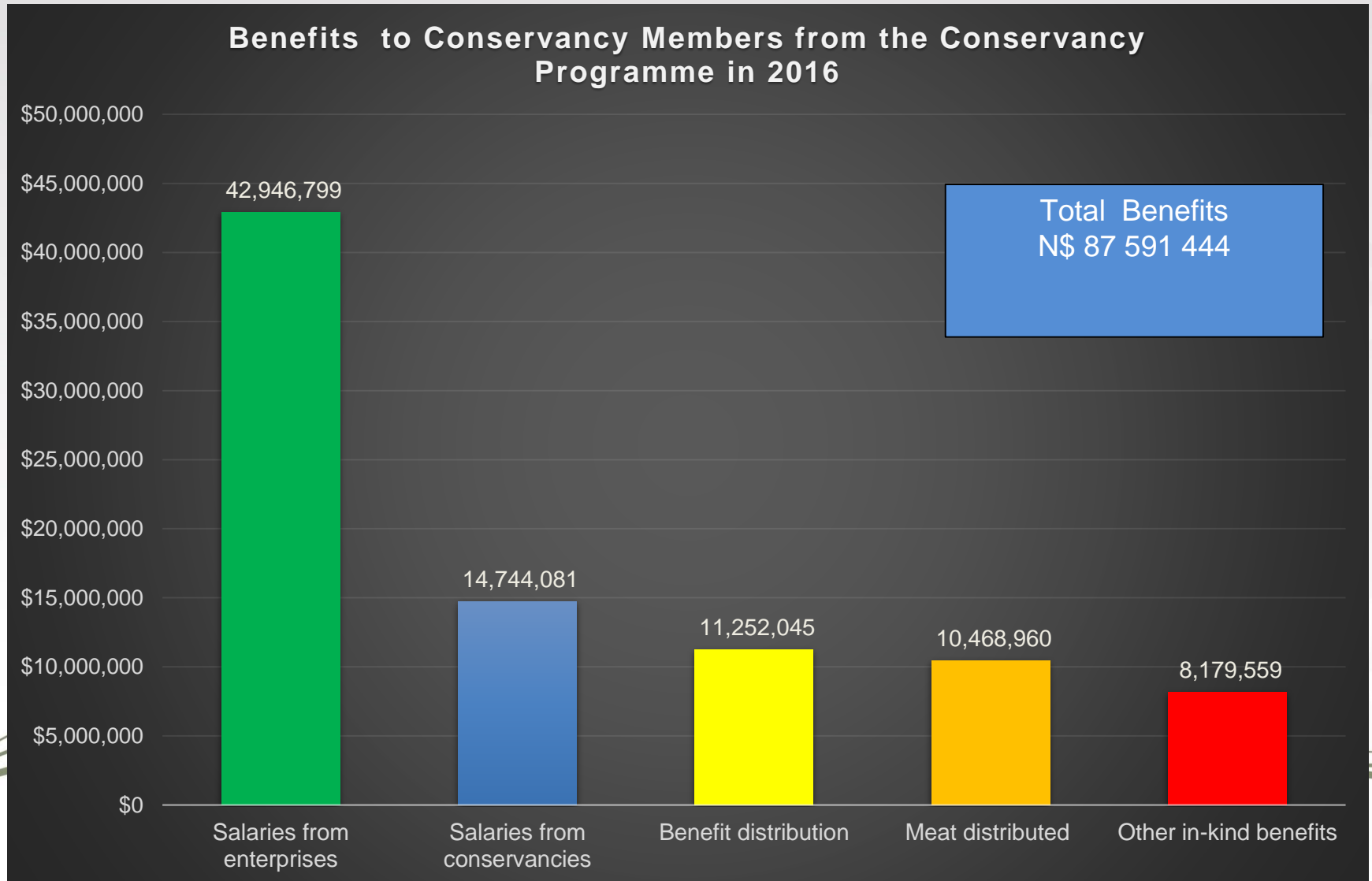
Estimated Leisure Value for Protected Areas (N\$2.1 billion)



Conservancies – Benefits to Rural Communities



Conservancies – Benefits to Rural Communities



Importance of Concessions

- Important means of involving previously disadvantaged Namibians in high value/low impact nature based tourism.
- Allows a community, conservancy or privately owned tourism business to operate on state land, usually for the purpose of tourism services such as lodges, camps, guided tours or for conservation hunting.
- Total employment created through concessions in 2016 was estimated at 918 permanent jobs 918 permanent jobs and 110 temporary jobs.
- Concessions have been undertaken in a variety of National Parks such as Etosha, Bwabwata, Namib Naukluft, Dorob, Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet), Khaudum, Nkasa Rupara, Skeleton Coast and Mudumu.



Indigenous Natural Plans – Untapped Potential

- Namibia is home to around 4,350 plant species of which 687 or 17% are endemic.
- Considerable traditional knowledge exists of many species which also have commercial applications in areas such as cosmetics, food and beverages and pharmaceuticals.
- Particular important species include Devil's Claw, Hoodia, Marula, Ximenia, !Nara, Kalahari Melons, Hibiscus, Commiphora and Mangetti.



Wildlife as a land use on Freehold Farms

- Wildlife production takes place in addition to livestock and crop farming.
- Through conservation hunting, capture and selling of live game and tourism.
- Wildlife economy holds considerable potential to contribute to land reform and empowerment.
- Wildlife breeding stock loan scheme introduced by MET.
- Important for larger landscape conservation.



Threats and Challenges

- Human wildlife conflict
- Poaching
- Barriers to investment in communal areas
- Poor governance in some conservancies
- Fencing in conservancies
- Drought
- Need to scale up wildlife stock breeding loan scheme
- Sanctions by foreign Governments on trophy imports and international tourism



Key Message / Recommendations

- Land reform and resettlement programmes should be based on carefully considered land use plans, which determine the best land uses for environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change predictions.
- Alternative land use option such as wildlife and tourism offer considerable strategic advantages over more traditional land uses such as livestock farming and crop cultivation.
- Protected Areas are important engines for economic growth in rural areas and are the cornerstone of the tourism industry. There should be no measures to reduce the area of Protected Areas.



Key Message / Recommendations

- Existing Protected Areas should be further strengthened and developed in terms of infrastructure and marketed to attract increasing visitor numbers. The revenue generated by Protected Areas should be re-invested in their management and to prevent poaching and manage human wildlife conflict.
- More concessions and support to community based tourism ventures are required to ensure that benefits from Protected Areas effectively contribute to the upliftment of communities living adjacent to Protected Areas.
- There is a need to facilitate the involvement of formerly disadvantaged Namibian land owners in the wildlife production and trophy hunting sectors.



Key Message / Recommendations

- The commercialization of indigenous natural plants must be scaled up and accelerated for the benefit of producers and rural communities.
- Traditional and commercial agriculture and livestock production should be made more climate resilient (more water efficient, innovations and development of hybrid seeds and breeds for example).
- Governance in conservancies should be improved with revised regulations, with the repeal of the Nature Conservation Ordinance, 1975 (Ord. 4 of 1975).



Conclusion:

**Progress has been good to date -
But we still have a way to go!**



Thank you!