



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM**

**STATEMENT BY HON. POHAMBA SHIFETA, MP And MINISTER OF
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**HANDOVER GRANTS UNDER THE "POVERTY-ORIENTED
SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN NAMIBIA
PROJECT TO BENEFICIARIES IN THE KUNENE LANDSCAPE**

**HELD ON
18 OCTOBER 2024,
IN, OPUWO, NAMIBIA**

Director of Ceremonies,

Hon. Marius Sheya, Governor of the Kunene Region

Mr. Hendrik Gaobeb, Chief Regional Officer of Kunene Regional Council

Your Excellency, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in
Namibia Dr. Thorsten Hutter,

Hon. Regional Councilors and Town Councillor's present,

Officials and officers from Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies

Representatives of the Kunene Communal Land Board

Officials and officers from Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies

Mrs. Beatrice Lucke, Country Director of KfW Development Bank

Representatives of the Board of Directors of the Community Conservation
of Namibia

Mr. John Kasaona, Executive Director of IRDNC

Our NACSO Partners,

Representatives from Conservancies,

Representatives from the Joint Venture tourism partners,

Representatives of Government Projects and Programs,

Staff members of the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentleman,

I am always humbled and honoured when we gather like this in a region so vast, so rugged but so rich in wildlife and personality, where despite our the region's unique challenges, we do not shy away from our environmental responsibilities and have always retained the largest number of not only conservancies, but also conservation heroes in our country. I think we all agree that Kunene is a special place - The resilience, diversity, and uniqueness of nature can be evidenced by the thriving presence of desert-adapted elephants, lions, and rhinos in this region, another node to the Kunene community contributions to not only national but international bio-diversity goals.

It is almost one year on since we gathered in Kunene South to undertake similar exercise for beneficiaries in and around that area and our return today is a testament towards our commitment as MEFT together with our partners CCFN, KFW and others to ensure that solutions to the core issues of livelihoods and HWC that impact our much revered CBNRM programme are drafted and effectively implemented on an on-going basis.

Since our independence in 1990, the success of our national policies has seen an increase in the numbers of our wildlife, especially iconic species such as elephants, crocodiles, lions, hippo's and rhinos to mention but a few. With a simultaneous increase in human population and a change in climatic patterns this has contributed to increasing human wildlife conflict incidences.

As a balancing measure, our Ministry and its partners continue to implement initiatives not only to mitigate against these issues but initiatives also aimed at ensuring that communities increase to higher levels the benefits from their abundant natural resources in their area in a sustainable manner. Amongst others , the offset thresholds for HWC losses were revised upwards during the earlier part of 2024 as a direct outcome of the May 2023 National Conference on Human Wildlife Conflict. In addition, the government through MEFT have announced a controlled culling of certain species in response to the drought – Whilst this may have been received with negativity in certain corners of the world, we assure all stakeholders that these decisions have been made on great consideration, scientific merit and in a manner that promotes sustainability in consultation with our local communities, who for years have been the best stewards of the environment.

Director of Proceedings

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is important to consult the communities on what needs to be done to assist them in achieving their goals - Under the CCFN-implemented POSCCIN project, the measures financed were identified through a participatory manner as proposed by the communities themselves. Grants have been given to all the conservancies that have been experiencing high numbers of WC to implement key measures that will be handed over today

as follows;

- 55 Predator proof Kraals to selected vulnerable households, 34 Lion Collars, 11 Early warning towers, 100 trail cameras, 142 SMART ULE phones for use by community rangers, Equipment for 35 Specialised Elephant Rangers, Equipping of 135 Community Game Guards and the Rehabilitation and or upgrade of over 17 water points to reduce elephant and human conflict.

The measures financed by part of Grants worth over NAD 31 000 000. Are part of continued ongoing efforts in which a further 30+ boreholes in the region (which is part of over 100 boreholes in the country) will either be drilled, rehabilitated and or upgraded via this Project.

We shall also be honouring our strongest performing Game Guards in everyone's presence today a sign of our deepest appreciation for the tireless work they carry out in this programme. Additionally, with the MEFT's blessings, we shall be recognising with our partners the positive performance outcomes of certain conservancies via the Wildlife Credits Namibia Scheme

Director of Proceedings

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All this is made possible by joint funding from the Federal Republic of

Germany and implementation by CCFN.

Accordingly, help me confer our gratitude to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for its continuous development cooperation support we enjoy. Overall, the German Government through KfW Development Bank financial Contribution towards the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia is an amount of ten million euro (EUR 19 million) to address human wildlife conflict and for mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in Namibia's Communal Conservancies.

Allow me to also applaud the Board of Directors and staff of the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia and all the other stakeholders involved in the project activities and initiatives for a job well done. The Ministry will continue to work with partners and stakeholders in improving the livelihood of the communities through the sustainable use of natural resources.

With that, I once again want to appreciate the work that the staff members of the Ministry are doing in the engagement and collaboration with development partners, in guiding the implementation of projects and working with other stakeholders.

Lastly, I implore the beneficiaries of the grants to be presented today to make maximum and efficient use of the funds provided for the reasons they have been provided. Let us hold ourselves to the highest standards of accountability and responsibility so we also help ourselves. We look

forward to a day that we gather again for a positive review and feedback on the impacts of these Grants to their beneficiaries.

As a Ministry we will continue to monitor Conservancies for compliance and introduce regulations that enforce accountability. I remind you that Committees must not capture conservancies but rather serve the interests of the people – **CBNRM** stands for **Community-Based** and not **Committee-based**

I thank you all

Overview of projects, equipment, and to be handed over to implement the Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Action Plans (HWCMAPs) in Conservancies in the Kunene Landscape.

18 October 2024

Guide: Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation, Tourism Recovery and Wildlife Credit Grants

The Poverty Oriented Support to Community Conservation in Namibia (POSCCIN) **committed over N\$ 31 million** to implement HWC mitigation measures identified in respective landscapes HWCMAPs such as the erection of predator-proof kraals, providing alternative water points away from the rivers to mitigate conflict, Early warning systems (EWS), equipping of Community Guards, Species management training, First Aid, etc.

1. HWC Mitigation Grants Awarded to:

	Conservancy	Amount
1.	Puros Conservancy	1,700,000.00
2.	Epupa Conservancy	1,700,000.00
3.	Kunene Conservancy	1,700,000.00
4.	Marienfluss Conservancy	1,700,000.00
5.	Ombombo Masitu Conservancy	1,700,000.00
6.	Ongongo Conservancy	1,700,000.00
7.	Orupembe Conservancy	1,700,000.00
8.	Sanitatas Conservancy	1,700,000.00
9.	Sesfontein Conservancy	1,700,000.00
10.	Ehrovipuka Conservancy	1,014,814.00
11.	Anabeb Conservancy	1,700,000.00
12.	Omatendeka Conservancy	1,014,814.00
13.	Orupupa Conservancy	1,014,814.00
14.	Ombujokanguindi Conservancy	1,700,000.00
15.	Otjitanda Conservancy	1,700,000.00
16.	Elephant Ranger Programme	2,700,000.00
17.	Otjikondavirongo Conservancy	1,000,000.00

18.	Otjombande Conservancy	550,000.00
19.	Uibasen-Twyfelfontein Conservancy	1,000,000.00
20.	Otjambangu Conservancy	550,000.00
Total		28,244,442.00

2. HWC Mitigation Infrastructure, equipment, and uniforms handover.

A total of **55 predator-proof kraals** were built in **Anabeb (19), Doro Nawas (1)Ehrovipuka (8), Omatendeka(6), #Khoadi //Hoas(11), and Torra(5) Puros (1)Conservancy** in the Kunene region, Predator-proof kraals, also known as predator-resistant enclosures or livestock pens, offer several benefits for farmers and livestock owners. These kraals are designed to protect domesticated animals from attacks by predators, which can lead to significant financial losses and animal welfare concerns.

Thirty-eight (38) collars: The project procured collars to be fitted on lions in the Kunene North and South landscape. Lion collars provide valuable data for researchers and conservationists. They allow scientists to track the movements and behavior of individual lions or pride over time. This data is essential for understanding lion ecology, population dynamics, and habitat use.

Eleven (11) Early warning Towers deployed in the Kunene North and South landscape: Four(4) in #Khoadi// Hoas Conservancy at Lantinepos Kamdesha and Hobatere Tree House, and one mobile. Ehi-rovipuka(4) at Ombonde camp , Okatupurao, Okombora, and Ossevlakte. Omatendeka Conservancy(2) Okondjou and Ovitotu. Torra Conservancy (1) Palmpos. Early warning towers are structures equipped with various communication and monitoring equipment designed to provide advance notice of potential threats or emergencies. These towers offer several benefits in various contexts, such as disaster management, security, and environmental monitoring.

Hundred(100) trail cameras deployed at Otjiyapa and Otjatjekupe, Trail cameras are widely used in wildlife research and conservation efforts. They can capture images and videos of animals in their natural habitat, providing valuable data on species presence, behavior, and population dynamics.

One Hundred and forty-two (142) SMART ULE phones were procured for Community Game Guards and Lion Rangers for use in wildlife monitoring, and patrols and to track CGGs and LR LOE to remunerate and pay bonuses based on performance. The phones are valued @ N\$ 781,000.

Sixteen(16) water points were upgraded to reduce Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) by providing alternative water points for humans and livestock. The water points will be fitted with solar pumps, stands, water tanks, stands, livestock drinking troughs, and elephant protection walls around the water infrastructure.

Thirty-five 35 Elephant Rangers to be fully equipped with uniforms, camping, and field equipment.

One hundred and thirty-five (135) Community Game Guards (CGGs) to be fully equipped with uniforms, camping, and field equipment.

3. CRRRF: Business Continuity (Renovations and Maintenance) grants For Tourism Recovery

These grants were awarded to conservancies with tourism-owned enterprises such as lodges or campsites, to support basic repairs, maintenance, and upgrades to these facilities, and aid tourism recovery beyond the pandemic.

Conservancy	Name of Establishment	Grant Value (NAD)
Marienfluss	Marienfluss Community Campsite	750,000.00
Orupembe	Marble Campsite	750,000.00
Doro !Nawas	Granietkop Campsite	826,000.00
Ohungu Conservancy	Ozohere Lodge and Campsite	750,000.00
Total		3,076,000.00

4. Wildlife Credit (Performance Payments) Cheques for Conservation of Lions (Kunene Lion Product)

As part of conservation efforts, conservancies and communities are tasked with maintaining healthy population of lions, and reducing HWC within the Kunene Landscape, and in return, get performance-based payments for these efforts. The total amounts are transferred directly to conservancy accounts, and is divided among three (3) agreed beneficiary groups as outlined by each conservancy’s contract. **These beneficiary groups include:**

- Conservancy Management Structure
- Conservancy Members/Community
- Conservancy Lion rangers

Any reports of illegal killing of lions reduces the performance amount paid to the conservancy, particularly to the lion rangers.

Performance payment for conservation of Lions in Kunene (Northwest) landscape

Conservancy	Amount (NAD)
Sesfontein	244,775.00
Ehrovipuka	209,492.00
Orupupa	218,313.00
Anabeb	227,133.00
Omatendeka	209,492.00
Torra	349,492.00
Total	1,458,697.00

5. Lion Ranger Awards (Handover of trophies and certificates)

To Celebrate the achievement of Community Lion Rangers, who have consistently committed to Human Lion Conflict Mitigation and community conservation in their respective conservancies during 2024, four Lion Rangers will be awarded with prizes as a token of their efforts.

- **First Place**

Rinoveni Tjauira
Top-performing Lion Ranger 2024
Namibian Lion Trust - Omatendeka Conservancy
1 ram + 10 goats + N\$ 2,000

- **Second Place**

Kaidue Uaroua
Ehi-Rovipuka Conservancy
1 ram + 8 goats + N\$ 2,000

- **3rd Place:**

Esau Matundu
Ehi-Rovipuka Conservancy
1 ram + 7 goats + N\$ 2,000

o **Top Performing Female Lion Ranger**

Ndjitjiuee Olga Karizemi
Orupupa Conservancy
1 ram + 5 goats + N\$ 2,000