



Ministry of Environment,
Forestry and Tourism



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2019/2020





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Forestry and Tourism

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Acronyms

AGM	Annual General Meeting
AU	African Union
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resources Management
CEPA	Communication, Education and Public Awareness
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
DAFHR	Directorate of Administration, Finance and Human Resources
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DPTS	Directorate of Planning and Technical Services
DSS	Directorate of Scientific Services
DTG	Directorate of Tourism and Gaming
DWNP	Directorate of Wildlife and National Parks
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
ECC	Environmental Clearance Certificate
EE/ESD	Environmental Education / Education for Sustainable Development
EEC	Environmental Education Center
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIF	Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit
KAZA	Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area
KfW	German Development Bank
IA	Internal Audit
ICTD	Inter-Ministerial Committee on Tourism Development
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
MAWLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NDP5	Fifth National Development Plan
NEEN	Namibia Environmental Education Network
NILALEG	Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to Eradicate Poverty Project
NPC	National Planning Commission
NSTGDS	National Sustainable Tourism Growth and Development Strategy
NTCAC	National Tourism Competitiveness Advisory Council
NTIPPS	National Tourism Investment Profile and Promotion Strategy
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCORE	Scaling Up Community Resilience to Climate Variability and Climate Change in Northern Namibia with special focus on women and children Project
SDAC	Sustainable Development Advisory Council
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
TFCAs	Transfrontier Conservation Areas
TICA	Thailand International Cooperation Agency
TTESDEA	Tourism Transformational Economics and Social Empowerment Agency
UNAM	University of Namibia
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Message from the Minister



As per Article 95L of the Constitution, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism is duty bound to ensure the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future.

This requires us to protect the health of our environment but also to ensure that our unique and rich endowment of natural resources contributes to economic growth, poverty reduction and employment creation.

The 2019/20 financial year presented us with a number of difficult challenges, which have undoubtedly had a fundamental impact on how successful we can be in executing our mandate. Given the difficult financial and economic environment the country is facing, resources are at a premium and this is forcing us to change our entire approach to how we do things so that we are able to do more with less and handle multiple pressing priorities as efficiently as possible.

The impact of five years of consecutive drought manifested in 2019 and placed a considerable burden on the Ministry – there was a marked increase in instances of human-wildlife conflict and the poor grazing conditions throughout the country required us to undertake major upgrades and renovation of water infrastructures in our protected areas as well as wildlife translocations. Based on the development and successful implementation of a drought response strategy, it is pleasing that we were able to avoid large scale wildlife mortalities while still managing to ensure that our local communities benefit from wildlife.

Over recent years, we have come to rely on tourism as a mainstay of our economy, particularly because of its resilience to the economic recession which has negatively affected other sectors such as mining and construction. We have been able to demonstrate continued growth in tourism arrivals and an increasing contribution of the tourism sector to employment and enterprise development. The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic towards the end of the 2019/20 financial year has brought the tourism sector to a virtual standstill and has also brought an unprecedented level of uncertainty with regard to the future prospects for the sector. The pandemic has further undermined income generation opportunities for communal conservancies as well as revenue for the state from park entrance fees and wildlife utilization related activities. The full recovery of the sector will therefore undoubtedly be one of our key priorities for the coming financial year.

In terms of environmental management, the degradation of our environment caused by activities such as illegal sand mining, timber harvesting and the improper disposal of waste remains a significant challenge. We remain steadfastly committed to addressing this challenge through the effective implementation and enforcement of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007).

In spite of these difficult challenges we have faced, I am pleased that we were able to record notable achievements during the period under review. Last year, I tabled our budget under the theme of increasing revenue and cutting costs. Looking

back, we have made good progress on both of these aspects. We have cut unnecessary expenditure and put in place measures to control expenditure on cost drivers such as transport and other utilities. We have been able to diversify our sources of funding by introducing new environmental levies in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and through mobilizing considerable support for our activities by cultivating partnerships and excellent relations with a variety of donor partners and the private sector.

I am especially thankful to these organizations for the role they have played in supporting, amongst others, the maintenance and upgrading of our infrastructure in protected area, anti-poaching measures, climate change resilience as well as activities such as the national clean up campaign.

I also thank all of the staff of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism for the dedication and commitment they have shown over the course of the year, especially those in the regions that put their lives on the line every day dealing with dangerous animals and situations.

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism will continue to do its utmost to ensure that our communities continue to benefit from the conservation and sustainable utilization of all of our natural resources. I hope and trust you will enjoy reading this annual report and learning more in detail of the operations and activities of this Ministry.



Pohamba Shifeta, MP

Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

Executive Summary



This report presents an overview of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and documents some of the main achievements of the Ministry during the 2019/20 financial year as well as our priorities going forward into 2020/21 and beyond.

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism is committed to demonstrating organization excellence, high levels of performance and improved service delivery. A budget execution rate of 96% was achieved for 2019/20 and the Ministry achieved an overall execution rate of 63% with regard to the implementation of the activities, strategies, projects and programmes outlined in its annual workplan for 2019/20. In line with improving service delivery, the online application system for environmental clearance certificates was launched in October 2019 and is fully functional.

This is one of the most important services provided to the public by the Ministry and has made the environmental clearance application process more rigorous, efficient, transparent and client-friendly.

Considerable efforts were made in 2019/20 to maintain and upgrade the standards of infrastructure in our national parks – particularly roads, fencing, water infrastructure as well as staff housing and park management stations. This is in spite of a severe shortfall in resources. The electrification of a 20km stretch of Waterberg Plateau Park was completed and this represents a significant measure for preventing the escape of buffaloes into the surrounding farmlands. Over 200kms of roads in our flagship Etosha National Park were graded and a 20km section of the road was re-gravelled.

A three year action plan to construct and upgrade the fence of the Etosha National Park was approved by Cabinet and will guide the upgrading and construction of the Etosha National Park boundary fence, mainly relying on our own staff members with the support of volunteers. This process commenced in February 2020. Park infrastructure involving staff houses, offices and tourism receptions were constructed in the Bwabwata National Park and Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park, with support from the German Development Bank.

The Wildlife Breeding Stock Scheme was re-activated in 2019/20. A total of 227 game species consisting of 104 zebra and 123 eland were captured and translocated from the national parks to eleven beneficiary farmers. The drought experienced in the country impacted negatively on the availability of other game species such as springbok and oryx, and as a result, these animals were not captured and translocated to the beneficiaries.. The management plan for the wild horses in the Namib Naukluft Park and the Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park was also developed.

This will ensure sustainability in the management of the horse population of the Namib for their survival and for improved tourism development and cultural heritage. The Ministry conducted its own population census of the wild horses and it is now estimated that there are seventy five (75) horses at Garub with a herd structure consisting of 37 stallions, 27 mares and 11 foals.

Tourism concessions were also awarded in the Namib Naukluft National Park and new concession opportunities were identified in the north eastern Parks and Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park for which Tourism Development Plans were finalized and approved.

Poaching and instances of human wildlife conflict continue to be major challenges facing the Ministry when it comes to wildlife conservation. However it is pleasing to report progress in addressing these twin challenges. Poaching instances of high value and iconic species such as rhino and elephant were reduced. For example, 46 rhinos were poached in 2019 compared to 78 in 2018 and 13 elephants were poached in 2019 compared to 27 in 2018. Increased successes in terms of arrests for wildlife species poaching and trafficking were also recorded with 363 individuals arrested and 174 wildlife crime cases registered in 2019.

Human wildlife conflict was undoubtedly exacerbated by the prevailing drought conditions for much of 2019 and the cumulative impact from previous consecutive droughts. Sadly seven people lost their lives to wildlife during 2019/20 while 37 people were reported injured. A total of 1,422 head of livestock were reported lost due to predators with the Kunene, Otozondjupa, Oshikoto and Zambezi Regions worst affected. It is estimated that over 1,600 hectares of crop fields were destroyed by various wildlife species, particularly in Kavango West, Kavango East and Zambezi. Several reports were also received of property damage, mainly by elephants.

By way of response, a total of almost N\$4.4 million was paid out to communal conservancies and farmers in communal areas during 2019 through the Human Wildlife Conflict Self Reliance Scheme for livestock losses, crop damages and loss of human life or injury to humans. The Ministry has also introduced a number of promising mitigation measures in hotspot areas such as predator proof kraals, protection walls around water infrastructure, alternative grain storage infrastructure, the installation of elephant drinking troughs as well as the mapping out of wildlife migration corridors in affected regions.

In spite of the recent downturn in the economy, the tourism sector had continued to grow its contribution to the economy. In the Tourism Statistical Report of 2018, which was published in the 2019/20 financial year, it was reported that the number of tourism arrivals increased by 3.9% in 2018 with a record number of over 1.5 million visitors. However the sector has been one of the hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic due to the closure of borders and the complete absence of visitors from abroad over the past months. Income to communal conservancies has also come to a standstill due to the absence of visitors, closure of national parks and accommodation facilities as well as the ceasing of income generating activities such as trophy hunting. The recovery of the tourism sector in the context of Covid-19 is therefore a critical challenge confronting this Ministry.

In terms of increasing revenue and mobilizing resources for critical interventions, the Ministry continued to step up efforts. With regard to the establishment of a national lottery, the consultative process for the Lotteries Act regulations was finalized and the regulations were submitted to the Ministry of Justice. New environmental levies were introduced in August 2019 and are being collected through the Ministry of Finance. A total of almost N\$24 million of the proceeds from these levies was transferred to the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia for re-investment in environmental protection-related initiatives. Three new projects were launched during the financial year with funding from the Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility worth US\$29.2 million (approximately N\$491 million). A further three projects were operationalized with support from the German Government to support community conservation, the development of a biodiversity-based economy and bio-innovation.

The well-being and satisfaction is critical to our ongoing success and operations as a Ministry. It is notable that this year we have managed to settle the outstanding overtime and subsistence and travel allowance claims of staff members, which had accumulated over previous years. I take this opportunity to thank all of the Ministry staff for their hard work and efforts during the financial year, particularly those in the field that put their lives on the line every day in the name of conservation. Your commitment and dedication is truly appreciated and key to the success of this Ministry going forward.

I further thank all partners organizations for their collaboration and support during the period under review. We look forward to strengthening this collaboration during the coming financial year and beyond.



Teofilus Nguhitila, Executive Director
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism



01.

About the Ministry

1.1 High Level Statements and Core Values

The mandate of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) is derived from the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, various pieces of legislation, and the Cabinet directive (May 1991) that established the Ministry. Article 95 (1) of the Namibian Constitution states that the State shall ensure "the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity and the utilisation of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future".

The Ministry vision is for Namibia to be a leading nation in biodiversity conservation, environmental management, climate resilience and sustainable tourism development.

The mission of the Ministry is to ensure environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation and tourism growth for equitable benefit of current and future generations.

The Ministry is currently guided by the following core values in all its operations:

Accountability:	We commit to take responsibility and account for our actions.
Innovation:	We always seek new and better ways to serve the Namibian public
Professionalism:	We conduct ourselves in a manner befitting of a public servant with due regard to all the Public Service standards and norms
Commitment:	We pledge to utilise our full capabilities in fulfilling our mandate
Excellence:	We perform our duties to the highest standard and always seek to do the best.

1.2 Strategic Themes of Operation and Objectives

The current Strategic Plan (2016/17-2021/2022) sets out six strategic themes and ten strategic objectives for the Ministry as highlighted in the table below:

STRATEGIC THEMES/PILLARS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
Biodiversity and Conservation Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote conservation and equitable distribution of natural resourcesEnsure reduction of human wildlife conflict.Ensure wildlife management and protection.Promote biodiversity economy of rural areas.
Tourism Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote tourism growth and investment.To increase revenue from the gaming sector.
Climate change and Environmental Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhance environmental governance.
Accelerate Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure improved Public Service Delivery.
Regulatory Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure effective regulatory frameworks & compliance.
Operational Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhance Organizational Performance.

This report profiles the main achievements of the Ministry during 2019/20 in pursuit of these strategic objectives.

1.3 Structure of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

The MEFT comprises of three (3) departments and seven directorates with a total staff compliment of 1,610 persons. The Directorate of Forestry was incorporated in the Ministry at the end of the 2019/20 financial year and its activities are therefore not reported in this annual report.

Structure of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism



1.4 Key Functions

The main key functions per Directorate are as follows:

Directorate of Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Provision of administrative support services, including budgeting, accounting, personnel affairs and organizational procedures and the provision of logistics, material and equipment, transport services, secretarial and other auxiliary services.

Directorate of Environmental Affairs

Responsible for sustainable management of natural resources and protection of the environment, implementation of multilateral environmental agreements relating to climate change, biodiversity, desertification, waste and chemicals management, environmental awareness and information.

Directorate of Forestry

Responsible for sustainable forest management and optimal utilization of forest resources.

Directorate of Planning and Technical Services

Planning, monitoring and evaluation of MEFT strategies, coordination of development cooperation programs, development and maintenance of MEFT infrastructure, information, communication and technology services.

Directorate of Scientific Services

Provision of specialized functions and research services for the sustainable management of wildlife species and indigenous plant products, issuance of permits relating to utilization of wildlife and indigenous plants, wildlife capture and translocation, facilitation of wildlife-related economic development through concessions and other means.

Directorate of Tourism and Gaming

Formulation of legislation, plans and policies for tourism and gaming, regulation of the tourism and gaming sectors, including national lottery, revenue collection from gaming, publication of tourism statistics

Directorate of Wildlife and National Parks

Management of protected areas, support to communal conservancies, prevention of wildlife crime and development and enforcement of wildlife protection legislation, human wildlife conflict management, management of environmental education centers.

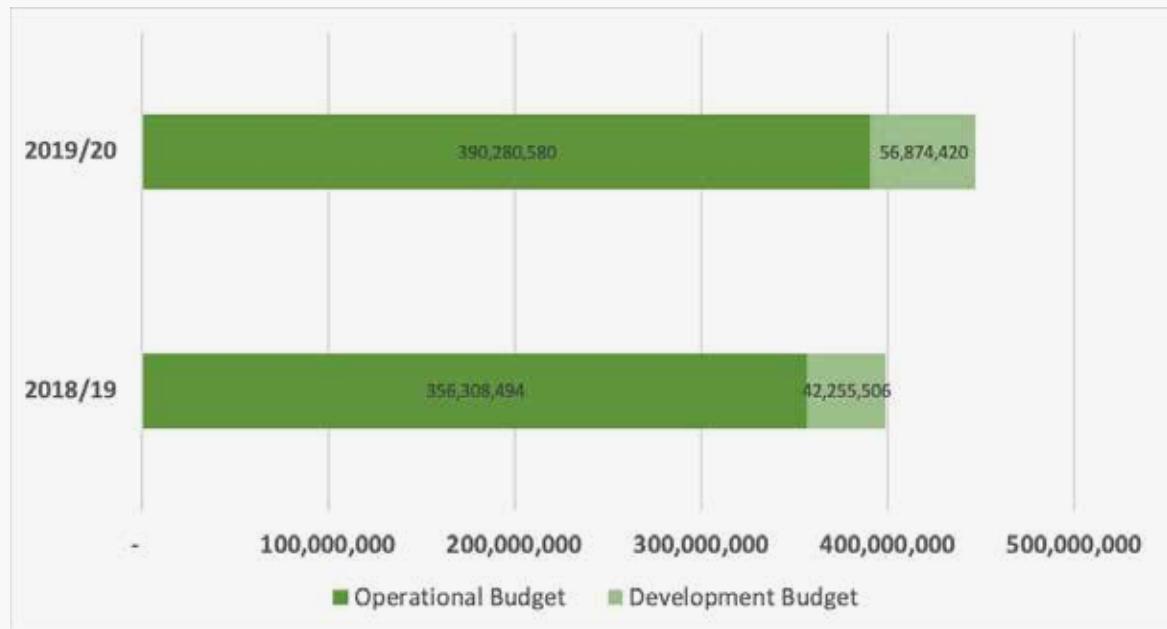
Office of the Internal Auditor

Responsible to examine, evaluate and report on systems of internal control, accounting records and quality of performance, risk management, asset verification and revenue management.

1.5 Budget for the 2019/20 Financial Year

The MEFT received a budgetary allocation of N\$447,155,000 for the 2019/20 financial year of which N\$390,290,000 was allocated to Operational Budget while N\$56,874,420 to Development Budget during the review period.

This represents an overall budget increase of 12% compared to 208/19.



Comparison of operational and development budget of the Ministry for 2019/20 and 2018/19.

1.6 Public Enterprises

The following public enterprises and statutory bodies are subsidized and or supported by the MEFT:

- Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia;
- Game Product Trust Fund;
- Namibia Tourism Board;
- Nature Conservation Board; and
- Sustainable Development Advisory Council.

The achievements of these public enterprises and statutory bodies are not covered in this annual report as they are reported separately by each organization.

1.7 Supporting Projects

A variety of short-term multilateral and bi-lateral projects provide cross cutting support to the MEFT. During the reporting period, the following main support projects and programmes were under implementation:

1. Scaling up community resilience to climate variability and climate change in Northern Namibia with a special focus on women and children (SCORE), under implementation (2015-2019) through the MEFT, MAWLR and UNDP with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
2. Biodiversity Management and Climate Change Project, under implementation from 2017-2020 through MEFT and GIZ with funding from the German Government.
3. Namibia National Parks Programme Phase IV, under implementation from 2016-2020 by MEFT and the German Development Bank (KfW) with funding from the German Government.
4. Namibia National Parks Programme Phase V, under implementation from 2018-2022 by MEFT and KfW with funding from the German Government.
5. Support to the Coherent Implementation of the CBNRM Policy, under implementation through MEFT and GIZ from 2017-2020 with funding from the German Government.

1.8 Key Stakeholders

The MEFT has a wide range of partners including:

- Line ministries, especially those engaged in the management of natural resources;
- Intergovernmental Agencies including the various mechanisms of the United Nations, African Union (AU) and Southern African Development Community (SADC);
- International donor agencies and funds, particularly the Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Bank, German Development Bank (KfW) and the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ);
- Private sector companies, particularly those operating in the tourism sector, gambling establishments, proponents applying for environmental clearance and various wildlife and biodiversity-related permits;
- Regional Councils, Local Authorities and Traditional Authorities;
- Academic institutions and researchers; and
- Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society Organisations including community-based organizations engaged in the management of natural resources.



02. Organizational Performance and Service Delivery

The MEFT strives to ensure good governance and improved service delivery by applying the principles of accountability, transparency and efficiency to its everyday operations.

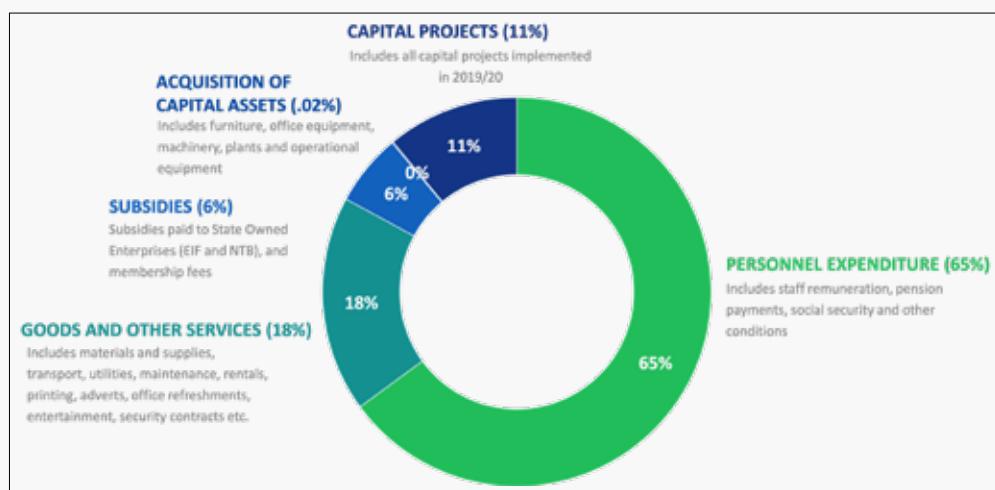
2.1 Financial Overview

The MEFT received a budgetary allocation of N\$447,155,000 for the 2019/20 financial year with N\$390,280,580 allocated to the Operational Budget and N\$56,874,420 allocated to the Development Budget. The overall execution rate for 2019/20 stood at 96% as of 31st March 2020 but is expected to increase to 100% before the permanent closure of 2019/2020 book year, as of 30th September 2020.



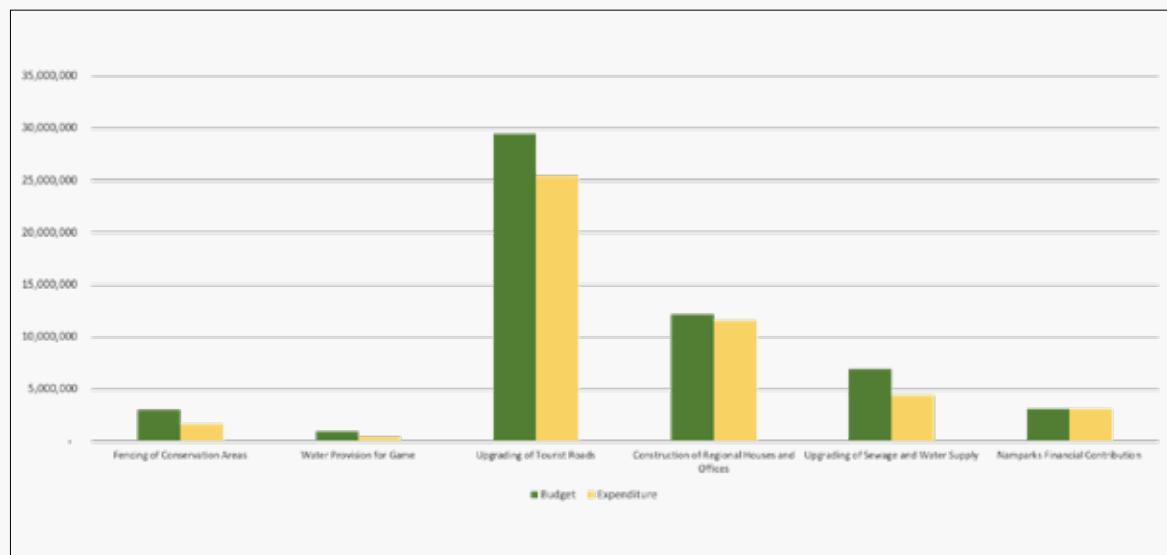
Summary of budget execution rate for the operational and development budgets during 2019/20.

The breakdown of expenditure according to the main budget categories is presented in the figure below and the detailed financial statement is presented as Appendix I to this report.



Breakdown of expenditure per category during 2019/20.

The execution rate for the development budget stood at 82% as of 31st March 2020. The breakdown of expenditure per capital project is presented in the graph below:



Breakdown of budget and expenditure per capital project during 2019/20 (note these amounts do not match the 73% expenditure rate nor total development budget above).

The MEFT collected revenue for the State Revenue Fund totaling N\$110,428,687 in 2019/20. Park entrance fees and the annual levy on gambling income accounted for 90% of this total with smaller contributions coming from gambling license fees, wildlife and hunting related permits and registration fees, and tourism concessions. Filming fees, sales of bidding documents, fines and miscellaneous are other categories of revenue not reflected in the graph below.



Main sources of revenue collected in 2019/20 (N\$ millions).

The MEFT received an unqualified audit opinion for 2018/2019 Annual Statements. Appropriation Account, Accountability and Annual Financial Reports were prepared and submitted to the Office of Auditor General and Treasury respectively. The Auditor General report reveals that the financial records and statements of 2018/2019 financial year are fairly and appropriately presented, and in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

In this challenging time, measures were put in place and available limited funds were reallocated according to urgent activities and fixed overheads to meet its obligations. Variable overheads were contained through

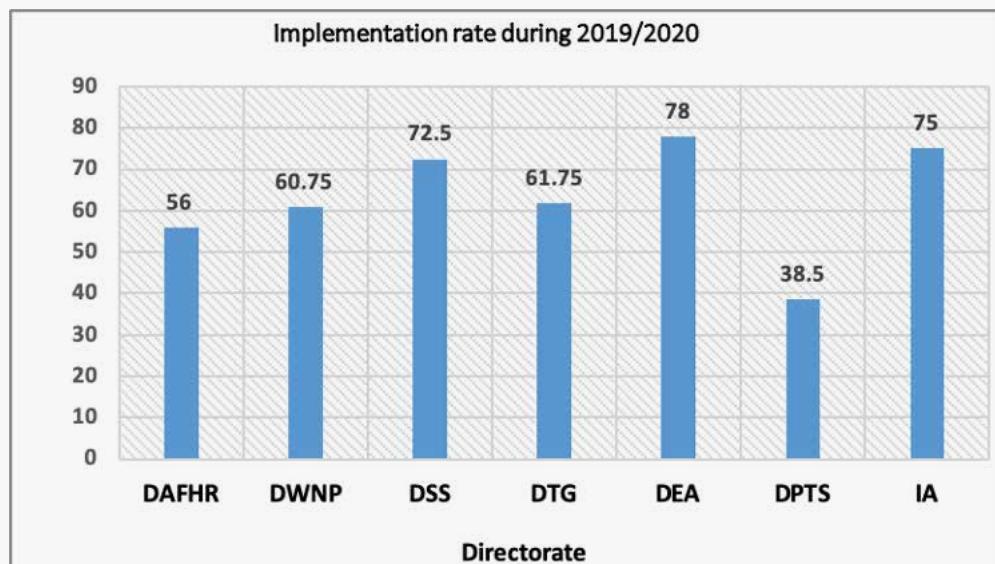
strict control measures. Furthermore, requests for external virements totaling N\$28,398,550 were approved and funds were reallocated from projects with anticipated savings to projects whose activities were anticipated to exceed their initial allocated budgets.

With regard to cost-cutting measures, the MEFT remains cognizant of its high wage bill and made concerted efforts to re-assign and re-allocate duties among existing staff members. Many vacancies were left un-filled and training programmes were suspended. Additional measures were put in place to reduce expenditure on cost drivers including utilities such as telephones and courier services as well as transport and fuel usage.

2.2 Operational Performance

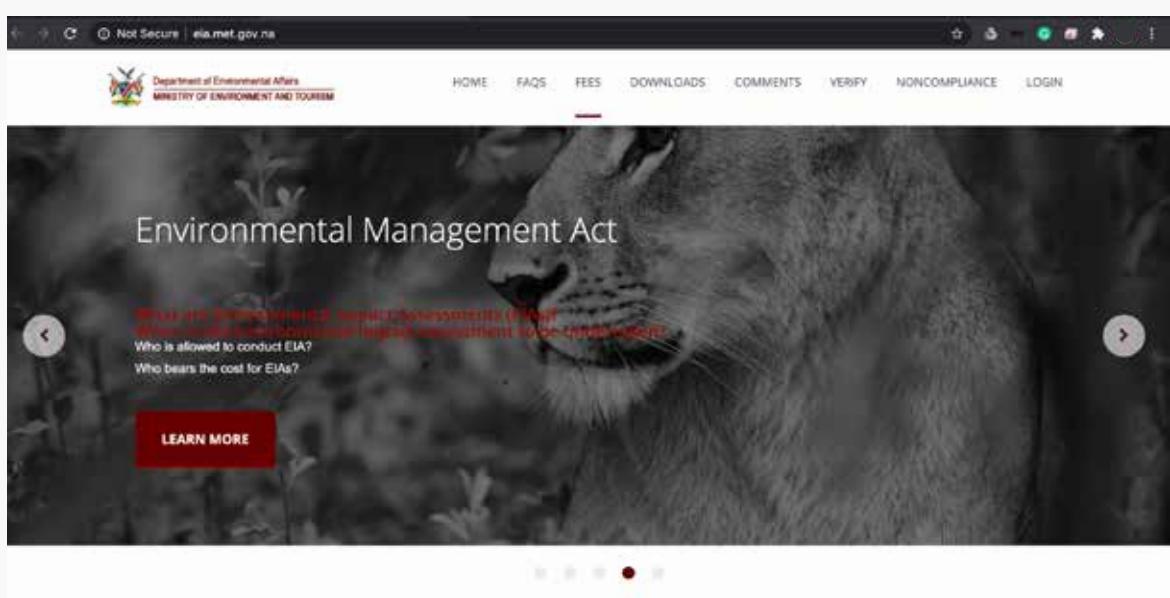
The MEFT continued to take measures to implement the Performance Management System and to improve overall performance. Out of a total staff compliment of 1,086 (before the incorporation of the Directorate of Forestry), 95% of staff members signed Performance Agreements for the 2019/20 financial year. 80% of staff members had their performance reviewed quarterly and the performance of 90% of staff members was appraised at the end of the 2019/20 financial year.

The MEFT continued with implementation of its 5-year Strategic Plan 2017/2018-2021/2022, through the development and execution of annual plans. The 2019/20 annual workplan comprised of ten (10) strategic objectives, eighty-nine (89) outputs, performance indicators and targets. As part of monitoring performance and tracking progress of each planned activity in the workplan, high level periodic review reports were developed and validated during quarterly and annual review workshops. The MEFT achieved an overall execution rate of 63% with regard to the implementation of its activities, strategies, projects and programmes.



2.3 Business Process Re-engineering

Environmental clearance certificates are one of the key services provided by the MEFT. The online application system for environmental clearance certificates was improved and made operational to clients on a trial basis at www.eia.met.gov.na before being fully launched on the 24th October 2019.



Important features of the online application system include that:

- Clients are able to submit their applications for and receive their Environmental Clearance Certificates (ECCs) online. There is provision for supporting clients experiencing problems or not fully familiar with the system.
- Clients can now download different forms in respect of what they are applying for (mining, infrastructure, transporting or using hazardous substances, agriculture etc.) and keep track and view the status of their applications online.
- Information of the Environmental Management Act, its regulations and other related legal and awareness information are accessible online.
- The system allocates application numbers upon every upload. Thus it is now easier to know the number of submissions within a certain period of time.
- The online system simplified the public consultation process as the public has access to the EIA applications for the specified consultation period and can upload their comments directly on the system. The same applies when the public wants to alert the Ministry of any non-compliance or environmental damage.

The German Government, through the MEFT-GIZ Biodiversity and Climate Change Management Project, supported the MEFT with critical hardware to implement the online application system, including touchscreen computers and scanners. Awareness materials were also developed and printed on how to register, apply and obtain environmental clearance certificates online. A separate brochure was designed and printed on the salient features of the online system. An online and manual customer satisfaction survey was also developed regarding the online application system. It is hosted on the website and circulated through relevant channels.

An online system for wildlife permits is under development in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister.

03. Maintenance and Development of Infrastructure in Protected Areas



MEFT staff members and volunteers repairing the Etosha National Park northern boundary fence.

The MEFT continues to face major challenges in terms of infrastructure development and maintenance in protected areas. Given the shortage of financial resources, the MEFT has shifted its focus to maximize the use of its own internal staff and resources to maintain and develop infrastructure. A new approach known as the "Friends of the Parks Programme" was also established in 2019/20 to mobilize support from donors, the private sector and other stakeholders so that our national parks are run and managed according to the highest possible standards. The Friends of the Parks Programme promotes the spirit of good will and seeks to ensure a coordinated and structured approach to all infrastructure maintenance and development in protected areas.

3.1 Park Management Stations and Staff Housing

With the support of the NAMPARKS IV project, major park management stations and staff housing developments were finalized and inaugurated in Bwabwata National Park and Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Parks. A new MEFT office was also constructed in Lüderitz and new signage was also developed in the Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park.



One of the eight signage walls erected at the entrance to the Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park.



Construction of new entrance gate to the Bwabwata National Park.



The former Luderitz Post Office which has been renovated and is now the headquarters of the Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park.

Through the development budget, a contractor was appointed to renovate fifteen (15) staff houses at Onyoka and Okatjikona in Waterberg Plateau Park, of which eight houses were finalised and renovations for the remaining 7 is scheduled for completion during 2020/2021 financial year.



A refurbished staff house at Onyoka in Waterberg Plateau Park.

The finalization of construction and remedial works of the Ministry's Sub-Divisional office, garage and staff houses at Impalila Island was undertaken. The completion of all project activities was achieved during August 2019 and facilities were handed over to the Ministry.

3.2 Fencing

A three year action plan for the construction and repair of the Etosha National Park was developed and approved by Cabinet.

Construction of a 26.9km elephant and predator proof fence for the K1 and K2 section of Etosha National Park was completed in November 2019.



Completed Kaross Section of Etosha National Park boundary fence.



Electrified 20km section of the Waterberg game proof fence.

The electrification of the 20km section of game proof fence for Waterberg Plateau Park fence was finalized. This is critical to prevent the escape of buffalo into the adjacent farmland.

Routine fencing work was conducted in all protected areas by MEFT staff, especially where damages were caused by elephants and warthogs. De-bushing of fences also took place routinely, and MEFT staff assisted with patrolling, repairing and clearing fences around Conservancy Core Areas.

3.3 Roads

In several protected areas, the roads are in very poor condition, especially in Etosha National Park and Namib Naukluft Park, which results in an increased occurrence of tourist accidents. Grading of tourist roads, fire breaks and cut lines took place as far as possible within the limited financial means available. A notable development was the regrading of over 200kms of the road network in Etosha National Park with the assistance of private companies.

The rehabilitation of the 18.1km Okaukuejo-Otjozovazandu road in Etosha National Park was successfully completed during June 2019. This was identified as one of the roads that was in the worst condition.



Rehabilitation work being undertaken on the Okaukuejo - Otjozovazandu road in Etosha National Park.

The MEFT also repaired 12 of its heavy machinery to boost its capacity to maintain the roads infrastructure in protected areas.

3.4 Water Infrastructure

Given the severe drought of 2019, there was significant focus on the maintenance and development of new water infrastructure in protected areas. Normal water installation, trough and reservoir maintenance, upgrading from windmill to solar installations, water point protection (e.g. ring trenches or protection walls etc.), repairs and cleaning continued as usual in all protected areas.

In Etosha National Park, Auib (Namutoni area) and Nou-Obes and Tsam (Halali area) boreholes were fitted with solar installations to create additional water sources for wildlife and to help take pressure off other areas, especially in light of the drought situation. In central Etosha, Elandtrek and Sonderkop South boreholes were commissioned.

In Khaudum National Park, a lot of pressure continues to be placed on waterholes due to high numbers of elephants in the area, especially during the dry season. In order to help relieve pressure on existing water points, back-up generators were procured to assist with the pumping of water at night, and a tender for the development of seven new boreholes and waterpoints in Khaudum National Park was awarded and development work is underway.

An emergency borehole for a group of approximately 68 hippopotami stranded in a drying pool at Rungara in the Salambala Conservancy in the Zambezi Region was supported through the NamParks IV Project.

3.5 Waste Management

The management of waste in protected areas continues to be a significant challenge facing the MEFT given the increasing numbers of visitors to protected areas and the outdated infrastructure.

The Etosha National Park solid waste management programme continued with recyclable waste collected at the resorts and staff quarters and transported out of the Park to Rent-a-drum in Windhoek. Unfortunately, the success of the project still depends on transport and personnel availability, which sometimes slows down progress. Some other Parks also recycle waste at a small-scale level. During the 2019 calendar year, Etosha National Park transported a total of 36.6 tons of recyclable material out of the Park to Rent-a-drum in Windhoek (31.9 tons of glass and 4.7 tons of mixed materials comprised of metal and plastic).

Waste from North Eastern Parks, coastal Parks, Namib Naukluft Park and Ai-Ais/Fish River Canyon is being collected and disposed of at designated municipal landfills. Littering in the coastal Parks is becoming an ever-increasing problem, especially during the festive season. Regular clean-up operations are arranged by MEFT for Parks, as well as public roads and towns near Parks.

Under the MEFT development budget, sewerage facilities and water supply systems were upgraded at Sesriem and in the Etosha National Park.



Upgraded sewerage facility and water supply system at Sesriem in the Namib Naukluft Park.

Tourist ablution facilities in Etosha National Park (at Von Lidequist, Environmental Education Centre (EEC), and Namutoni watch tower) were renovated.

3.6 Park Management Plans and Tourism Development Plans

Park management plans sets out the objectives and guidelines for the management and development of each National Park. As such, they represent policies and intentions of the MEFT on how each park should be managed.

During the period under review, management plans were finalized and approved by the Minister for Bwabwata, Mudumu, Nkasa Rupara, Khaudum, Mangetti, Popa Falls and Tsau /Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Parks and are being implemented. A consultancy to develop management plans for Skeleton Coast, Dorob, Cape Cross and Namib Naukluft Park was also commissioned and these are being developed. Management plans for Waterberg, Daan Viljoen and Naute Game are being reviewed internally.

Tourism Development Plans for the North East Parks, Tsau /Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park were developed and approved. These Plans identified important new concession opportunities for commercial activities in these Parks.

Guidelines for zonation of National Parks were approved and are being implemented.

04. Wildlife Monitoring and Species Management

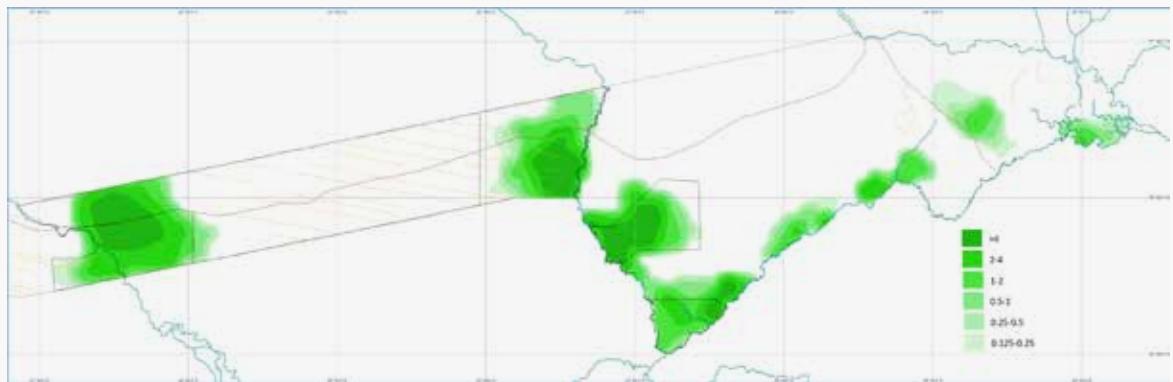


Wildlife counts were conducted in various areas including national parks, conservancies, and private land for monitoring and research as well as for guiding the MEFT on issues of game capture and translocation and sustainable utilization.

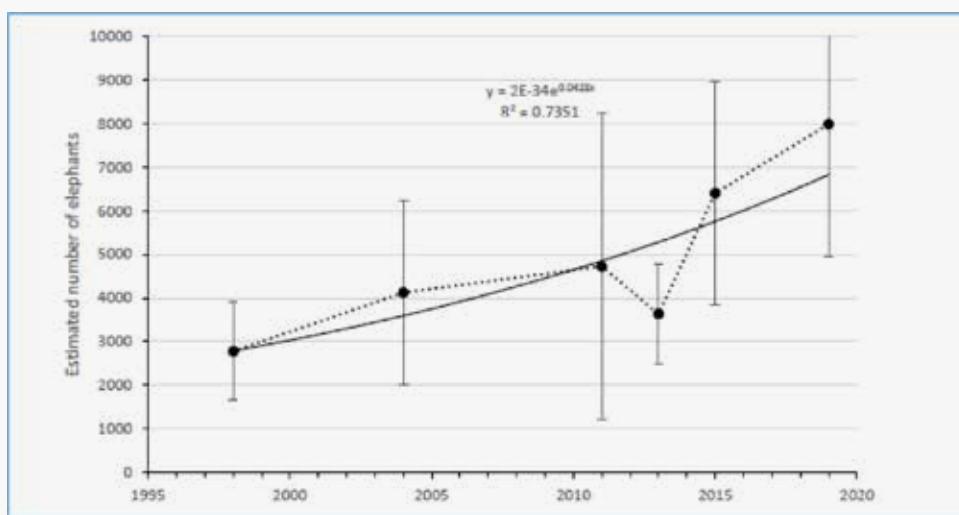
4.1 Wildlife surveys

An aerial survey of elephants and other wildlife in the Zambezi Region, and Khaudum National Park and surrounding areas was conducted in September and October 2019. A total of 12,008 elephants were estimated for Zambezi Region. Although not statistically significant, the number of elephants estimated in the 2019 survey is less than 2015 estimate. Considerably fewer elephant carcasses were observed in the 2019 survey indicating reduced mortality rates in the Zambezi elephant population. This could be as a result of increased anti-poaching and law-enforcements efforts being undertaken by the MEFT and its partner organisations.

More elephants were observed in the Khaudum National Park and the surrounding areas in 2019 compared to the survey conducted in 2013. This increase in number is greater than what is expected from the natural reproduction suggesting that elephants may have moved into the survey area from elsewhere. Elephant mortality rates in the Khaudum National Park and the surrounding areas were observed to be very low during the survey, and suggest the absence of illegal killing of elephants in the area.



Density distribution of elephants in Zambezi Region in 2019.



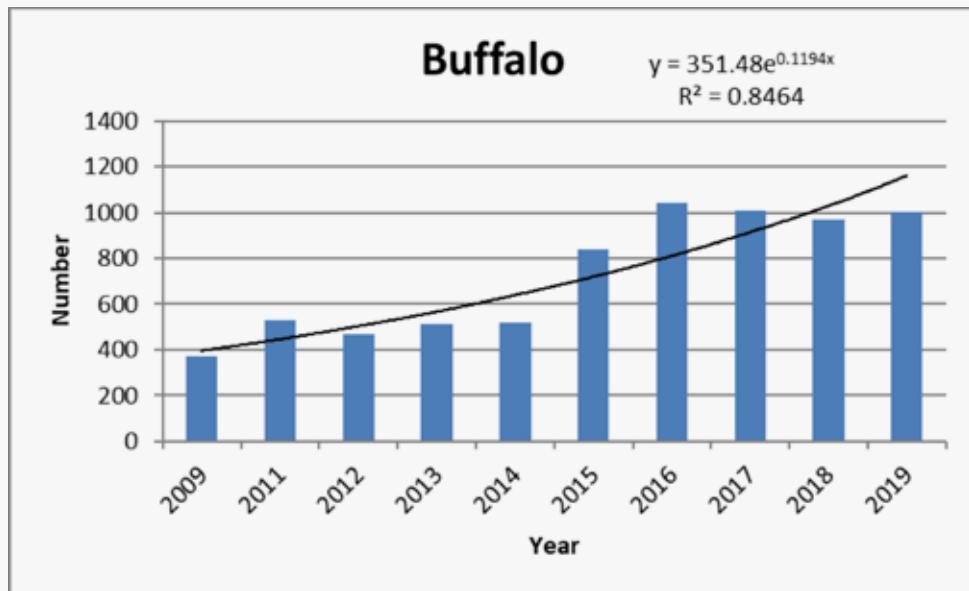
Trends in Elephant Numbers in Khaudum National Park and surrounding areas.

Aerial surveys were conducted in Waterberg Plateau Park and Mangetti National Park to assess the status of wildlife in these two important conservation areas. Waterberg Plateau Park is managed for the conservation of species of high conservation and economic value whereas Mangetti National Park also supports important wildlife species that occur in the woodland systems of the Kavango Region.



Herd of Eland observed during the aerial survey of Mangetti National Park.

An increase in the number of buffalo was observed during the survey in 2019 despite the prevailing drought conditions, and there was an off-take of more than 100 buffalo in 2018/2019. Recommendations were made to manage the buffalo numbers in the park at levels that are not detrimental to other wildlife species in the park as well as the neighbouring livestock producing farmers and communities. Increases in numbers of eland were observed in Waterberg Plateau Park and Mangetti National Park. Populations of plains zebra in Mangetti National Park were also observed to be higher than required by the park management and recommendations were made to relocate excess plains zebras to other localities to improve the conservation and socio-economic potential of these areas.



Trends in buffalo numbers over the ten year period in Waterberg Plateau Park.



Herd of buffalo seen from the air during the aerial survey in Waterberg Plateau Park.

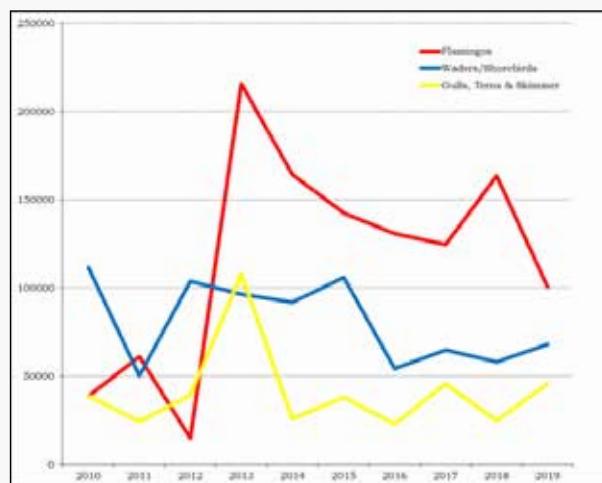
Annual conservancy game counts were conducted in conservancies in north-western Namibia (Erongo and Kunene Regions) in May 2019. A total area of 6.9 million hectares was covered during the game counts. The counts are designed for plains game species including gemsbok, kudu, springbok, steenbok, ostrich and zebra. Reduced population estimates were observed for mountain zebra and springbok whereas increasing trends were observed for kudu, ostrich and steenbok. No changes in trends were observed for the gemsbok compared to the 2018 counts. There appears to be a strong relationship between rainfall and wildlife numbers in the arid north-western Namibia. Below average rainfall was experienced in the region compared to 2018.

4.2 Bird Counts

During the winter of 2019, bird counts were conducted at 33 sites. A total of 114 bird species and 251,665 birds were counted, the majority of this number at Sandwich Harbour and Walvis Bay, probably due to inland birds moving to the coast because of the persistent drought. Twenty-two of Namibia's red data species were counted with the two flamingo species making up the bulk of the total. The MEFT thanks all of the volunteers that ensure that these counts are conducted on a regular basis.

Numbers of red data species counted and number of sites where they were seen.

Species	Total	Sites
Greater Flamingo	70,009	15
Lesser Flamingo	30,216	4
Cape Cormorant	23,923	8
Chestnut-banded Plover	2,435	4
Black-necked Grebe	2,366	6
Great White Pelican	1,695	5
Hartlaub's Gull	1,425	14
Damara Tern	222	4
African Black Oystercatcher	160	10
Maccoa Duck	155	2
Caspian Tern	94	4
African Skimmer	61	2
Marabou Stork	58	4
Eurasian Curlew	43	2
Crowned Cormorant	35	6
African Fish-Eagle	34	9
Rock Pratincole	30	3
Rufous-bellied Heron	12	2
African Marsh-Harrier	11	5
Cape Gannet	6	5
Bank Cormorant	5	4
Slaty Egret	1	1



Numbers of three main groups counted from 2010 to 2019.

The summer wetland bird counts were conducted at 38 sites in January and February 2020. The effect of the worst drought in recorded history is evident in the many zero counts as no significant rain had fallen by the time of the counts. Nonetheless, 264,387 birds and 98 bird species were counted. As usual, the two big coastal sites, Walvis Bay and Sandwich Harbour, dominated in terms of the numbers counted.

Nineteen (out of 33) red data species were recorded with the two flamingo species making up the bulk of the total. Very few Black-necked Grebes, Lesser Flamingos and Chestnut-banded Plovers were counted. This is probably due to some rain inland attracting the birds away from the coast. These counts will not be possible without the participation of many volunteers and the generous support (financial and in kind) of several sponsors for which the MEFT is sincerely grateful.

Numbers of red data species counted and number of sites where they were seen.

Species	Total	Sites
Greater Flamingo	85,306	12
Lesser Flamingo	14,114	6
Cape Cormorant	8,325	4
Great White Pelican	2,623	9
Black-necked Grebe	900	6
Hartlaub's Gull	861	12
Chestnut-banded Plover	388	3
Damara Tern	265	5
Caspian Tern	141	7
African Black Oystercatcher	108	9
Eurasian Curlew	73	2
Marabou Stork	41	1
African Skimmer	26	2
African Fish-Eagle	24	6
Crowned Cormorant	20	6
Maccoa Duck	8	1
Bank Cormorant	2	1
African Marsh-Harrier	2	1
Saddle-billed Stork	1	1



Numbers of three main groups counted from 2010 to 2020.

4.3 Management of Elephants

The KAZA elephant summit took place in May 2019 at which the four Heads of State from Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe adopted an important five point strategic framework for elephant conservation to guide all future planning, including the development of a new national elephant management plan for Namibia, namely:

- Facilitate the development of an integrated land use planning process to secure long-term ecosystem integrity and connectivity of KAZA's elephant population;
- Maintain and manage KAZA's elephants as one contiguous population;
- Promote and support co-existence of humans and elephants for ecological, social and economic benefits;
- Reduce the illegal killing and trade in elephants and elephant products; and
- Establish a high-level decision-making process on which to build the planning framework for conserving KAZA's elephants.

Consultations continued for the development of an elephant management plan in Namibia.

4.4 Management of the Wild Horses Population

The management plan for the wild horses in the Namib Naukluft Park and the Tsau //Khaeb (Spergebiet) National Park was finalized and approved after a number of consultative meetings and workshops held at Aus and Luderitz in the //Kharas region. A feedback sharing session with all stakeholders also took place in Lüderitz on 17th June 2019. The management plan is expected to ensure sustainability in the management of the horse population for their survival and for improved tourism development and cultural heritage.

The MEFT conducted a population count of the wild horses at Garub and it is estimated that there are seventy five (75) horses there with a herd structure consisting of 37 stallions, 27 mares and 11 foals. It is assumed that one foal was killed by spotted hyenas since it had not been seen for some time, and Spotted Hyena spoor were seen around Garub 1 waterhole. Two more foals sustained injuries from hyenas but survived and the possibility of recovering is high as the wounds are superficial. Through the Wild Horse Foundation, 850 bales of grass were sourced and MEFT, Wild Horse Foundation and Life Needs Water Foundation continue to feed the horses according to the agreed feeding program.

4.5 Game capture and translocations

Given the severe drought of 2019, game capture and the translocation of wildlife was particularly important during the period under review. The following was accomplished during the 2019/2020 financial year:

1. A total of 155 rhino dehorning, treatments, translocations and retrievals were conducted;
2. 143 buffalo were tested for foot and mouth diseases, 116 of these were also tested for bovine TB on Waterberg Plateau Park. This was in collaboration with UNAM (veterinary student training), Directorate of Veterinary Services, Central Veterinary Laboratorium, Meatboard and the Zambian authorities. Two hundred buffalo sold to the Peace Parks Foundation of which 116 were transported to Zambia.
3. Wildlife Breeding Stock Scheme - 107 Burchell's Zebra and 123 Eland delivered to twelve successful applicants;
4. Collaring and translocation of the so-called Swakopmund elephant;
5. Other Game Captures:
 - 4 Giraffes translocated to Okongo Conservancy;
 - 30 Impalas translocated from Rundu to Khaudum;
 - 21 Roans from Khaudum to Mangetti;
 - 30 Elands Mangetti to Mahango;
 - 96 Zebra from Mangetti to Khaudum.

05. Generating benefits for communities

The MEFT is committed to ensuring that local communities benefit from our unique and rich endowment of natural resources. This principle is at the heart of the CBNRM Programme and the MEFT continued to pursue the increased delivery of benefits to communities through the sustainable utilisation and value addition to biodiversity including wildlife, non-timber forest products, plants and other resources.

5.1 Support to communal conservancies to ensure good governance

A total of N\$ 54,075,330.89 was generated by Conservancies during the year, mainly through tourism joint ventures, conservation hunting and own use hunting. Twenty-three new jobs (permanent and temporary) were created within conservancies. Furthermore, a total of 14 new contracts with Conservancies were facilitated and negotiated and a total of 14 contracts that had come to an end were signed with new operators.

Forty-eight Conservancies are now considered to comply with all five key requirements for good governance - namely: Conservancy Committee elected, AGM held, Game Management Utilization Plan implemented, Benefit Distribution Plan implemented, financial statements submitted.

The Conservancy Chairperson Forum was successfully held on 17 and 18 July 2019 in Otjiwarongo. The Forum is an important platform to reflect and deliberate on issues relating to management of communal conservancies and the 2019 Forum focused on issues of good leadership, financial management and planning, benefits to communities and human-wildlife conflict. Templates for data collection were developed and introduced at the Forum for implementation. New financial management directives were also presented at the Forum and were subsequently finalized based on inputs received. Training of ministry's staff, conservancies and stakeholders on standard operating procedures and guidelines took place.

Furthermore, training on financial management took place in North East Regions, and planning for training of conservancies in Kunene, Erongo, Omaheke and parts of Otozondjupa commenced.

5.2 Conservation hunting and Wildlife Utilization Quotas

The MEFT assisted conservancies in various matters relating to hunting, including renewal of contracts, the acquisition of hunting rifles, ensuring financial compliance by operators, evaluation of conservation hunting bids, financial conflict resolutions, etc.

The table below projects the amount of meat generated in kilograms through various means, as well as the value of the meat.

	Kilogram	N\$
Conservation hunting	248,706	5,968,944
Own use hunting	175,130	4,203,120
Traditional Authority	39,513	948,312
Problem Animal Control	23,793	571,032
Drought Programme	5,788	138,912
Total	492,930	11,830,320

The table below shows a breakdown of revenue collected from permit fees and licenses issued in the past year for various wildlife utilisation activities and related registration requirements. Trophy hunting permits account for the largest contribution (nearly 30%), followed by game proof fence registrations (20%) and permits to hunt game for biltong production (15%).

REGISTRATION PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS	Number of permits/registrations issued: April 2019 – March 2020	Revenue accrued (N\$)
Big Game	147	147,000
Small Game	157	78,500
REGISTRATION CULLING TEAM		
Night cropping team / Units	21	10,500
WILDLIFE REGISTRATION / LICENCES		
Hunting guide	110	11,000
Master hunting guide	252	75,600
Hunting farm	350	35,000
Game proof fence	231	462,000
Trophy dealer	38	19,000
Game dealer	26	2,600
Trophy manufacturer	16	800
Game dealer Birds	96	9,600
Skin dealer	8	400
Nursery	14	700
Butcheries	150	7,500
TOTAL REGISTRATIONS	1,616	
WILDLIFE UTILIZATION PERMITS		
Biltong hunt permit	3,313	331,300
Catch, keep and sell	208	10,400
Export live game	135	13,500
Export permit	2422	242,200
Import permit	43	4,300
Keep and sell permit	78	3,900
Keep permit	33	1,652
Shoot and sell	1335	66,750
Shoot for own use	341	17,050
Transport	14	700
Trophy hunting	6459	645,900
Trophy meat	101	5,050
Trophy Predator	691	69,100
Buy and sell game meat	63	3,150
Night culling permit	50	2,500
TOTAL PERMITS	15 286	
TOTAL REVENUE	2 277 650	

5.3 Concessions

Implementation of the Concessions Policy continued to benefit the local rural communities living adjacent or inside National Parks and State Land.

During the financial year under review, the Ministry (MEFT) identified three new tourism concessions for implementation:

1. Hot Air Balloon in the Namib Naukluft Park,
2. Tethered Balloon in the Namib Naukluft Park
3. Tethered Balloon in Dorob National Park.

The contract for the hot air balloon concession was signed and is valid for a period of 10 years. It is worth over N\$43.5 million and the Government is guaranteed revenue to an amount of over N\$21.7 million for the duration of the contract irrespective of the business performance. The remaining 50% of the total amount is due after the financial audit report of the company is finalized.

The other two tethered balloons contracts are due to be finalized pending the fulfilment of certain suspensive conditions.

With regard to already existing concessions, revenue of N\$ 3,748,772.91 was collected from concession related activities and lodge concessions. This total is 25% of the total amount paid to the communities, as communities receive the remaining 75%.

5.4 Wildlife Stock Breeding Scheme

The Wildlife Stock Breeding Scheme was successfully reactivated in 2019/20 with 107 Burchell's Zebra and 123 Eland delivered to twelve beneficiary farmers in the Otozondjupa, Omaheke and Hardap regions. The Zebra and Eland were sourced from Etosha National Park, Mangetti National Park and the Waterberg Plateau Park.

It had been planned to translocate 526 head of wildlife, including oryx and springbok, to 40 beneficiary farmers, however the impacts of the severe drought meant that an insufficient number of wildlife were available to supply the scheme. Alternative options will be pursued during the 2020/21 financial year.

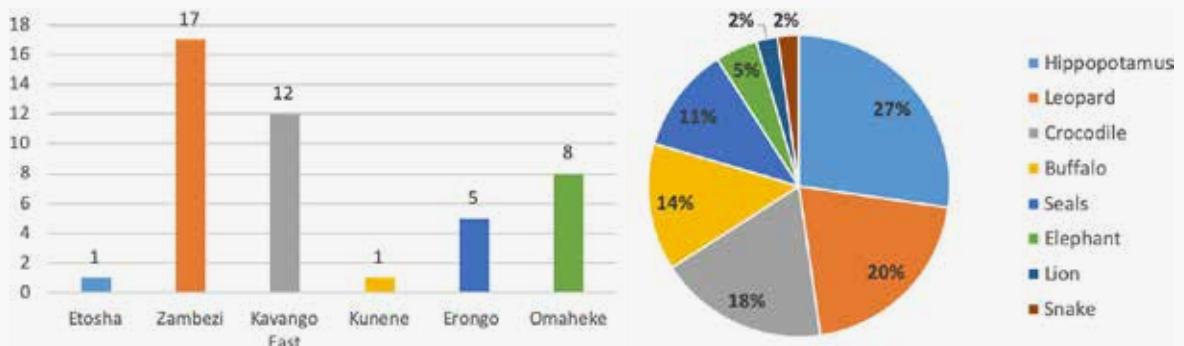


06. Human Wildlife Conflict Prevention and Mitigation

Human wildlife conflict continued to be one of the most pressing challenges facing the Ministry during 2019/20.

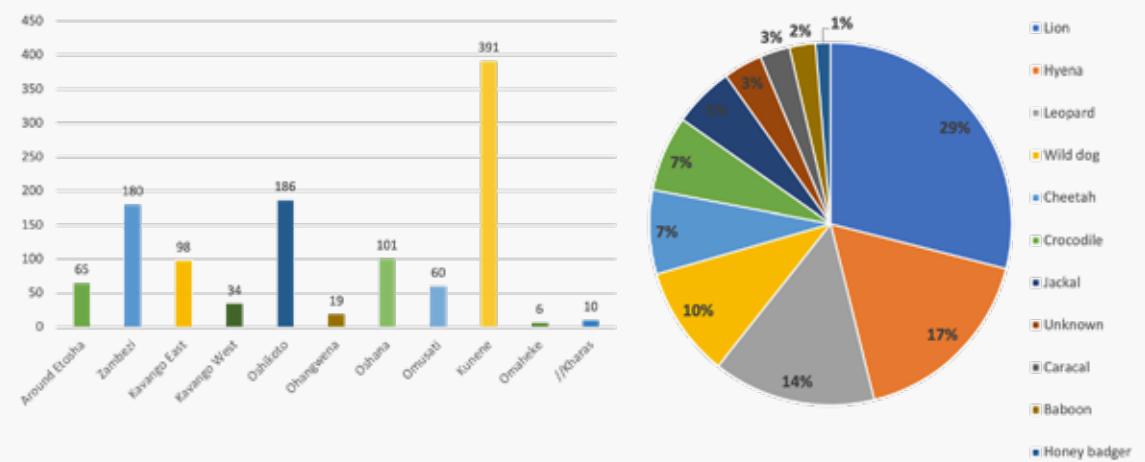
6.1 Human Wildlife Conflict Statistics

It is regrettable that 7 people were killed by wildlife and 37 were reported to have been injured. Almost 66% of injuries and loss of life due to wildlife occurred in Zambezi and the Kavango East Regions. Almost 80% of injuries and loss of life were caused by four species – hippopotamus, leopard, crocodile and buffalo.



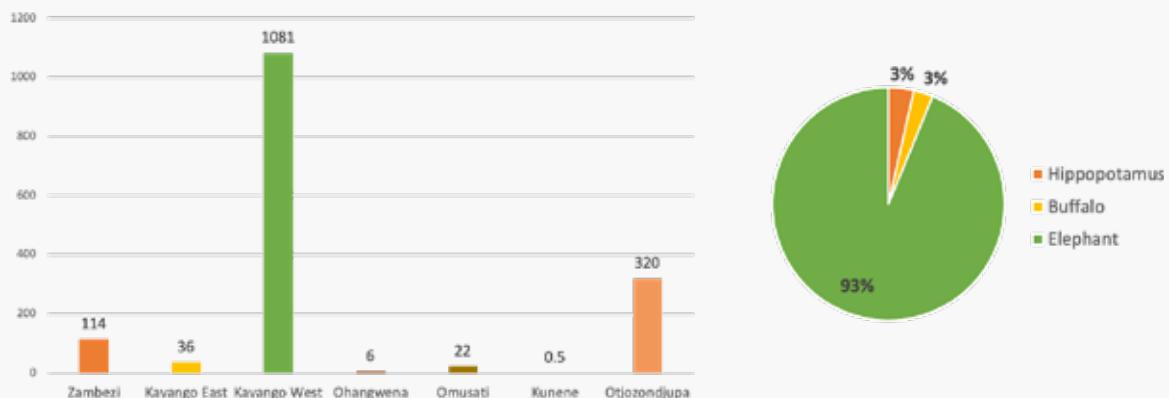
Breakdown of injuries and loss of life per region (l) and the animals responsible (r).

A total of 1,422 head of livestock were estimated to have been killed by wildlife. Five regions accounted for 60% of livestock losses recorded with the regions of Kunene, Oshikoto, Zambezi, Oshana and Kavango East being particularly affected. Lion, hyena, leopard and wild dog were responsible for the majority of livestock losses while cheetah, crocodile and jackals were also notable contributors.



Breakdown of livestock losses to wildlife recorded per region (l) and a breakdown of the animals responsible (r).

An estimated 1,600 hectares of crop fields were destroyed by four species of wildlife – elephant, hippopotamus, buffalo and zebra. Kavango West is the worst affected region in terms of crop losses to wildlife with 68% of all hectares lost there, followed by Otjozondjupa (20%) and Zambezi (7%). Elephants were responsible for 93% of the hectares of the crop fields lost to wildlife.

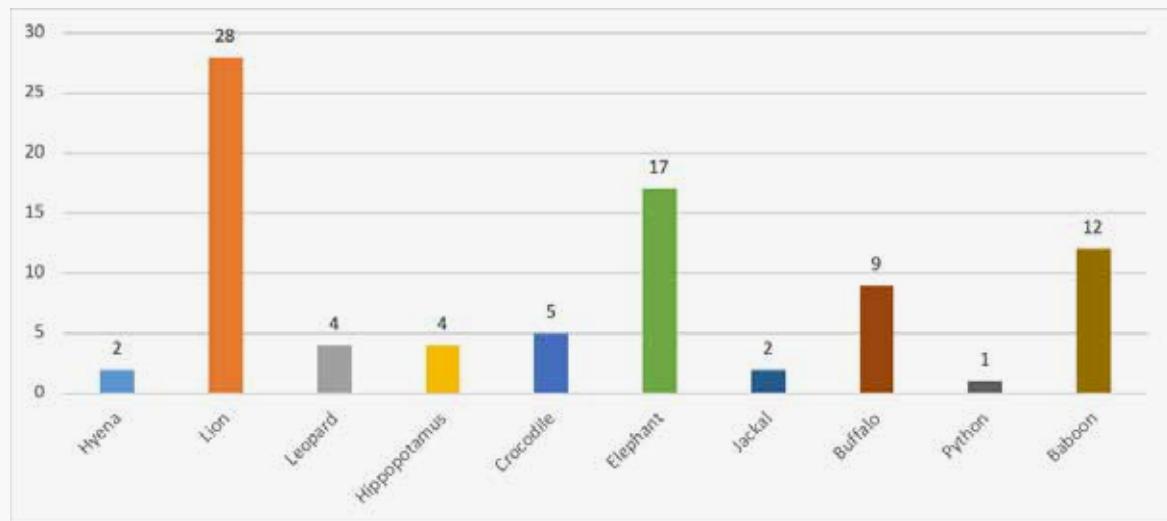


Hectares of cropland lost due to human-wildlife conflict in 2019/20 (l) and breakdown of the animals responsible (r).

Significant damages to infrastructure such as fences, buildings, water tanks and pipes and reservoirs were also reported during the period under review.

6.2 Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation and Prevention Measures

During the year, 89% of all human-wildlife conflict reports were investigated by Ministry officials. A total of 84 problem causing animals were successfully destroyed by the Ministry officials or the affected party in order to minimize human-wildlife conflict.



Breakdown of problem animals destroyed in 2019/20.

The Ministry continued implementation of the Human-Wildlife Conflict Self Reliance Scheme. A total of N\$ 4,357,800.00 was paid out to conservancies during 2019 for livestock losses, crop damages and loss of human life or injury to humans.

The ministry's staff routinely investigated Human Wildlife Conflict cases to verify information received, and took appropriate action, which includes verification for the HWC Self-reliance Scheme, the translocation or destruction of problem causing animals (including snakes), chasing back into Parks (elephants) the deterring of problem causing animals, closing of holes in Park fences, the construction of ring trenches and stone walls around reservoirs and water tanks, the recovery of human remains, awareness creation, information sharing and advice, etc.

Over the year, 13 preventative measures were put in place to help reduce human wildlife conflict:

- Twelve (12) elephant collars were deployed (new and refurbished);
- Three (3) protection walls around waters were developed (two new and one refurbished);
- Eleven (11) predator kraals were erected in Kunene; grain storage infrastructure was put in place at selected places (one multi-use storage and 10 grain silos);
- Eight (8) water tanks were erected;
- Fifteen (15) boreholes were rehabilitated and upgraded; one new borehole was drilled in Maurus Nekaro Conservancy;
- Five (5) elephant drinking troughs were erected; one fly camp for patrols was upgraded in Ohungu Conservancy;
- 25 lion collars were deployed (6 satellite and 19 early warning collars); five early warning system towers were erected;
- Three (3) data loggers were deployed in Kunene; and
- Training of Lion Rangers took place.



07.

Wildlife Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement Measures

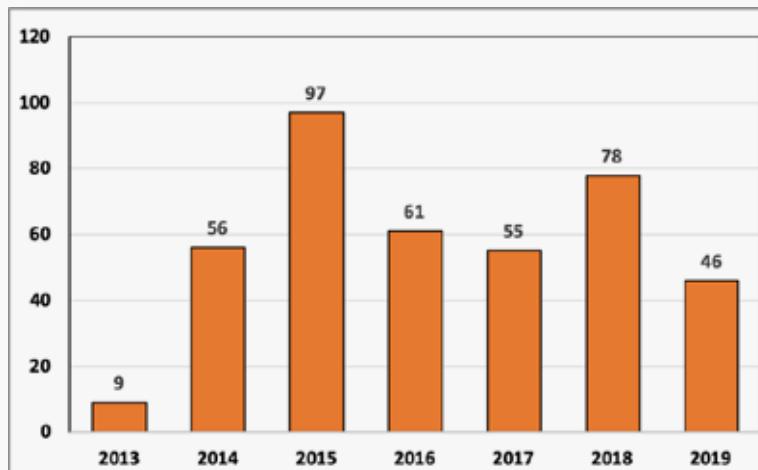


Rhino found poached in the Etosha National Park during 2019.

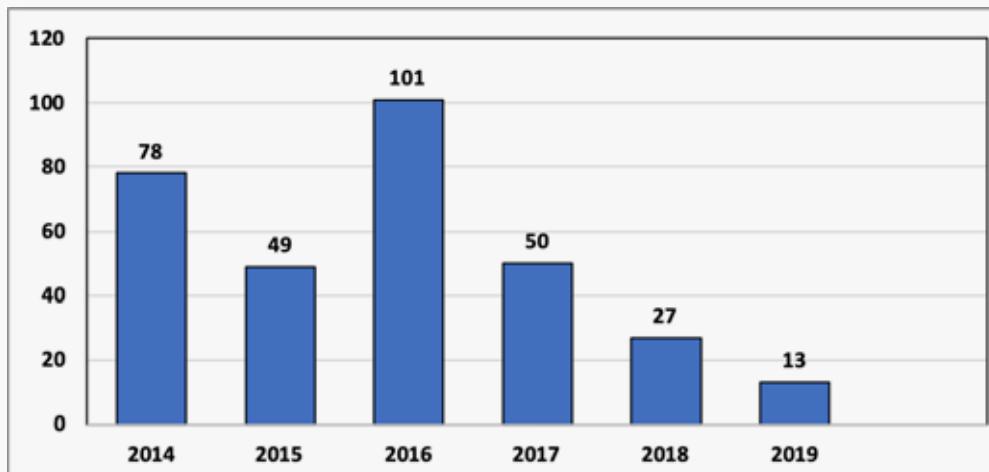
The Intelligence and Investigation Unit (IIU) of MEFT's Wildlife Protection Services Division, together with the Protected Resources Division of the Police produced an annual report for 2019 "Combatting Wildlife Crime in Namibia", which discusses (amongst others) the interpretation of wildlife crime data, wildlife crime statistics for the year, regional distribution of wildlife crime, a summary of note-worthy cases and events/activities for 2019, as well as challenges.

7.1 Poaching Statistics

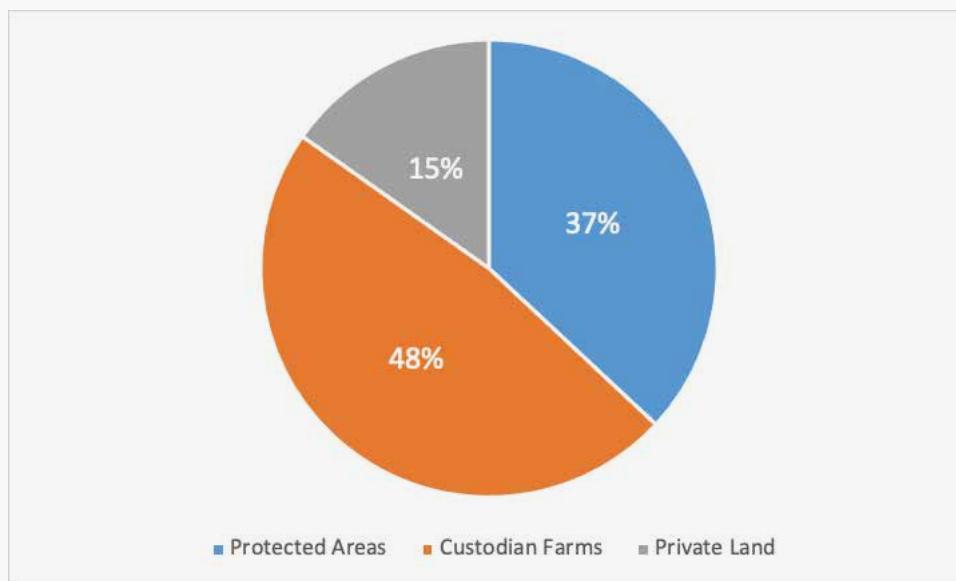
A total of 46 rhinos (37 black rhino and 9 white rhino) and 13 elephants were recorded as poached for the year 2019 as depicted by the tables below (this may change as some carcasses of 2019 may only be located during 2020). These figures depict an overall decline in poaching cases of both rhinos and elephants since a peak in 2015 (for rhino poaching) and 2016 (for elephant poaching).



Rhino poaching figures from 2013-2019.



Elephant poaching figures from 2013-2019.



Summary of Rhino Poaching Incidences per location during 2019.

7.2 Law Enforcement Measures

During 2019, a total of 174 wildlife crime cases were registered for high value wildlife species (92 related to pangolin, 54 related to elephant, 32 related to rhino and 17 for conspiracy to poach rhino). Several high value wildlife species products were seized as well: 49 live pangolins and 74 dead pangolins or skins, 116 complete elephant tusks and 8 complete rhino horns. Twenty-nine firearms were seized and 25 vehicles impounded in cases related to high value wildlife species.

Suspects arrested for high value wildlife species poaching or trafficking totaled 363 for the year (160 related to pangolin, 100 related to elephant, 112 related to rhino and 69 pre-emptive arrests related to rhino poaching). Of these suspects arrested, the majority are Namibian (89%), and the remainder is made up of Angolans (5%), Zambians (3%), Zimbabweans (0.6%) and Botswana (0.3%) nationals. Two percent are of undetermined nationality.

Twenty-one perpetrators were convicted for pangolin poaching/trafficking and seven for elephant poaching/trafficking (11% of all cases). Seventy-seven percent of cases are still ongoing, four percent of cases were withdrawn, and for eight percent of cases the status still has to be determined. For rhino cases, 77% of suspects remain in custody, while 21% were released on bail, and 2% absconded. Similarly, for elephants 76% remain in custody, while 13% were released on bail, 2% were acquitted, 7% convicted, and for 2% of

cases the status still needs to be determined. For pangolins, 66% of suspects remain in custody, 12% were released on bail, 13% were convicted, 1% of cases were withdrawn and for 8% of cases the status still needs to be determined.

The highest incidence of wildlife crimes is in the central, eastern and northeastern parts of Namibia, with the highest number of incidents recorded in the Otjozondjupa Region.

During August, twenty-seven (27) staff members received training on wildlife protection and law enforcement (Nature Conservation Ordinance 4 of 1975, as well as the Criminal Procedure Act of 2004). During November, ten (10) MEFT and Nampol Scene of Crime officers received training on footwear impression and fingerprint lifting to be able to investigate wildlife crime scenes more efficiently.

Enforcement of rules and regulations continues in all Protected Areas and Regions as standard procedure. This includes inspections at butcheries to ensure that they are in possession of valid permits to trade in game meat.

The table below summarizes the number of fines issued for the contravention of rules and regulations, as well as the amounts fined:

Area	Number of fines	Amount
Etosha N.P.	197	N\$ 237,090.00
North-east Regions	31	N\$ 83,560.00
North-central Regions	19	N\$ 52,470.00
Central Parks & Regions	189	N\$ 382,420.00
Erongo	22	N\$ 53,550.00
Kunene	77	N\$ 108,170.00
//Kharas	48	N\$ 94,240.00
Hardap	6	N\$ 18,720.00
Total	564	N\$ 1,030,220.00



08. Sustaining Growth in the Tourism and Gaming Sectors



Officials from DTG at Epupa Falls during the gambling inspections programme.

Tourism is identified as one of the priority sectors for economic development in Namibia's fifth National Development Plan (NDP5). The development of the sector is guided mainly by the National Sustainable Tourism Growth and Development Strategy (NSTGDS) and National Tourism Investment Profile and Promotion Strategy (NTIPPS). Tourism has been one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy over recent years but has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic which started to impact upon the sector in the last quarter of the 2019/20 financial year.

The gaming sector is also a considerable contributor to the revenue of the MEFT and initiatives continued to strengthen the regulation of the sector during the period under review.

8.1 Tourism Sector Stakeholder Coordination

Tourism is cross-sectoral in nature and the National Tourism Competitiveness Advisory Council (NTCAC) and Inter-Ministerial Committee on Tourism Development (ICTD) have been established in order to improve coordination in the sector and to tackle bottlenecks facing the sector in a coherent manner. Several meetings of the committees took place and they are considered a good platform, particularly for the private sector and the MEFT to come together to discuss issues facing the tourism sector jointly.

The ICTD discussed challenges as identified by the NTCAC, but due to low turn out it was agreed to subdivide the committee into clusters based on industry issues. The MEFT continues to prioritise the safety of tourist visiting Namibia by continuously engaging with the City of Windhoek and Nampol in order to address the

security of tourists, which is one of the concerns of the sector.

At the regional level, the MEFT is advocating for the establishment of regional tourism forums. A number of meetings were held in the Erongo region, including:

- An inception meeting for the formulation of the Walvis Bay Tourism Forum which was organized and hosted by the Municipality of Walvis Bay,
- Consultative meetings with Swakopmund Municipality and the Erongo Regional Council for the establishment for the Erongo regional tourism forum,

Outcomes from all these meetings were very positive as all the stakeholders reiterated the need for collaborative development in the coastal towns as well as the region at large.

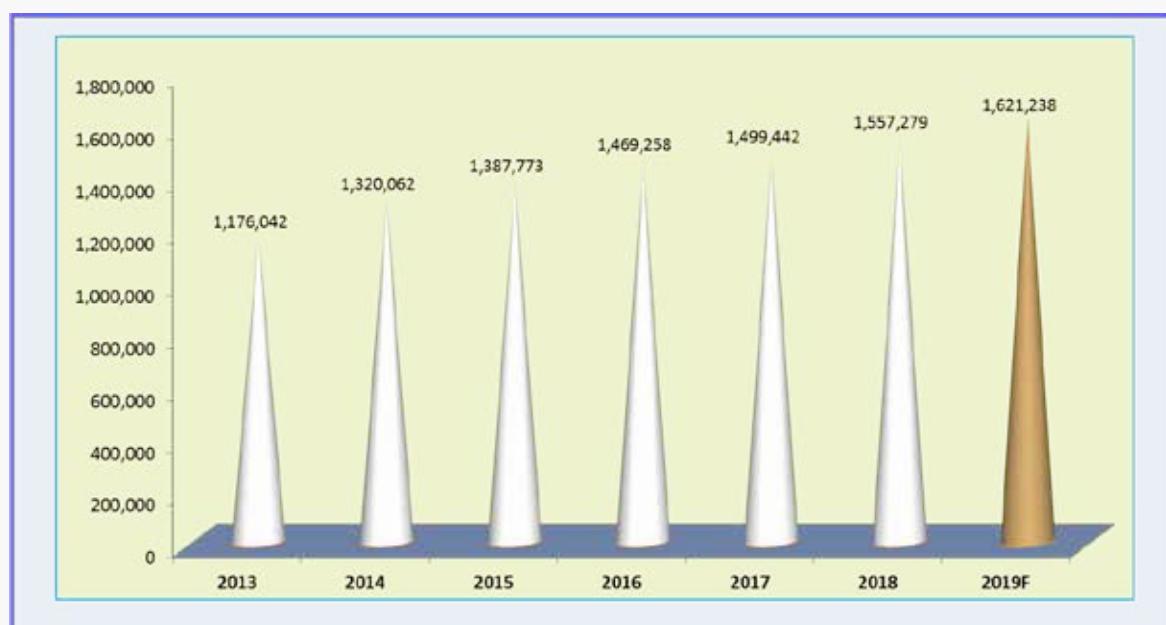
8.2 Tourism awareness, promotion and marketing

As part of awareness and promotion efforts for the sector, MEFT officials took part in the following events:

- Windhoek Tourism Expo
- Windhoek Agricultural Show Festival
- Tourism stakeholders workshop for //Kharas Region,
- Presentation of Investment opportunities in tourism to Namibia's economic attachés
- Meeting with Ambassador from United Arab Emirates on investment opportunities in the sector
- Discussions on Chobe Trans-Boundary Tourism Code of Conduct with Botswana counterparts
- Olufuko festival and Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair to create awareness on the importance of tourism and Culture
- Partnership with Namibia Tourism Board to facilitate the Maiden Voyage of Prominent Black Americans from the entertainment industry to visit Namibia.

8.3 Tourist arrivals

The Annual Tourist Statistical Report for 2018 was finalized, launched and disseminated for tourism planning purposes. The report indicated that Namibia recorded 1,557,279 tourist arrivals, representing a 3.9% increase from 2017. The trend remains constant as the European markets continue to dominate the tourist arrival numbers. The number of tourist arrivals as per the report was expected to grow to 1,621,238 in 2019.



Tourist arrivals by year, 2013-2018 (source: Tourist Statistical Report 2018).

8.4 Promotion of Tourism Investment

The MEFT continued efforts to strengthen the organisational framework for support to emerging tourism entrepreneurs. Thailand was identified as a strategic partner to provide technical assistance to Namibia with the establishment of the Tourism Transformational Economics and Social Empowerment Agency (TTESDEA). A training organized by the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) was held and the two countries are cooperating in the establishment of the TTESDEA.

With regard to the establishment of a tourism development fund, a desk study was conducted on Tanzania's Tourism Fund which may serve as a potential benchmark. While drafting a Concept Note for the Tourism Development Fund further discussions were held with the Development Bank of Namibia to look into areas of tourism funding, especially for the Small and Medium Enterprises.

The MEFT continued to engage various stakeholders to further develop tourism in the Southern Regions. The !Knob Naub conservancy was engaged to revive its campsite and discussions were facilitated with the potential investor to start with the construction of a swimming pool, braai facilities and with the actual operations of the business since there is already a nondisclosure agreement signed with the community. The MEFT was involved in various stakeholder engagements on the International Convention Centre with institutions such as Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development, National Planning Commission and City of Windhoek. A number of issues emanated from these meetings that included mismatch of the land allocated to the architectural drawings, costs of the project due to delay in the implementation of the project, and roles of leading agencies. It was thus agreed that the project will be relooked into and re-advertised with revised costings to ensure smooth implementation.

Consultative meetings were held with the Ondangwa Town Council and the Oshana Regional Council to discuss the availability of land for the construction of the Northern Regional Convention Centres. A site visit was carried out to inspect the envisaged piece of land that is situated adjacent to the Andimba Toivo ya Toivo Airport formerly known as Ondangwa Airport. Ondangwa Town Council further informed the meeting that they have all the capacity in the Council that will facilitate the implementation of the project given that approval is granted by the top leadership.

8.5 Promotion of Responsible Tourism

The MEFT continued to participate in regular Eco-Awards meetings and AGM of Eco-Awards to promote sustainable tourism. The MEFT also participates in the review process to assess the sustainability of various hospitality establishments. In consultation with UNESCO and Ministry of Education, the MEFT facilitated the development of a Strategy for Sustainable Heritage Tourism Development and Employment Creation at Community Level. The Strategy is aimed at further overcoming the barriers that inhibit successful participation of rural communities in the mainstream tourism industry through the recognition of cultural and heritage possessions which can be product offerings for local communities.

8.6 Bilateral Agreements on Tourism

The following progress was made with regard to bilateral agreements on tourism:

- South Africa: The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the South Africa was finalized and is ready for signature.
- Tanzania: A Joint Commission meeting was held between Tanzania and Namibia.
- Zimbabwe: A 5 year implementation framework for the MoU with Zimbabwe was drafted.
- Angola: A 5 year implementation framework for the MoU with Angola was drafted.

8.7 Regulation of the Gaming Sector

The Gaming and Entertainment Control Act, 2018 (Act 13 of 2018) was gazetted in December 2018 and amendments to the Act were tabled in Parliament in March 2020. The proposed amendments were subsequently forwarded to the National Council. The Lotteries Act regulations were also developed and submitted to the Ministry of Justice during the period under review. It is envisaged that two public enterprises will be established through these processes – with one responsible to regulate the gaming sector and the other responsible to oversee the implementation of the national lottery.

A nationwide exercise was undertaken from February – March 2020 to register all gambling machines in the country. The main aim of the exercise was to register all gambling machines and their owners so that they obtain gambling licences once the new Gaming and Entertainment Act comes into operation.

This involved the appointment of a team of over 40 gambling inspectors, mainly from MEFT and the Ministry of Finance, who worked together with the Local Authorities, Nampol, Regional Councillors and Governors to undertake the registration exercise. The exercises targeted all locations where gambling machines are found including casinos, gambling houses, bars, shebeens and cuca shops.

The registration was not finalised due mainly to the Covid-19 lockdown. It is planned to finalize the registration process after lockdown.

The Lotteries Act regulations were also developed and submitted to the Ministry of Justice during the period under review.

09. Implementation of the Environmental Management Act

The Environmental Management Act of 2007 (Act 7 of 2007) is a landmark piece of legislation, which provides the legal basis for the assessment and management of activities (through Environmental Impact Assessments) for activities which may have negative impacts on the environment. It also sets out principles for decision-making on matters affecting the environment to be adhered to by government institutions and the private sector.

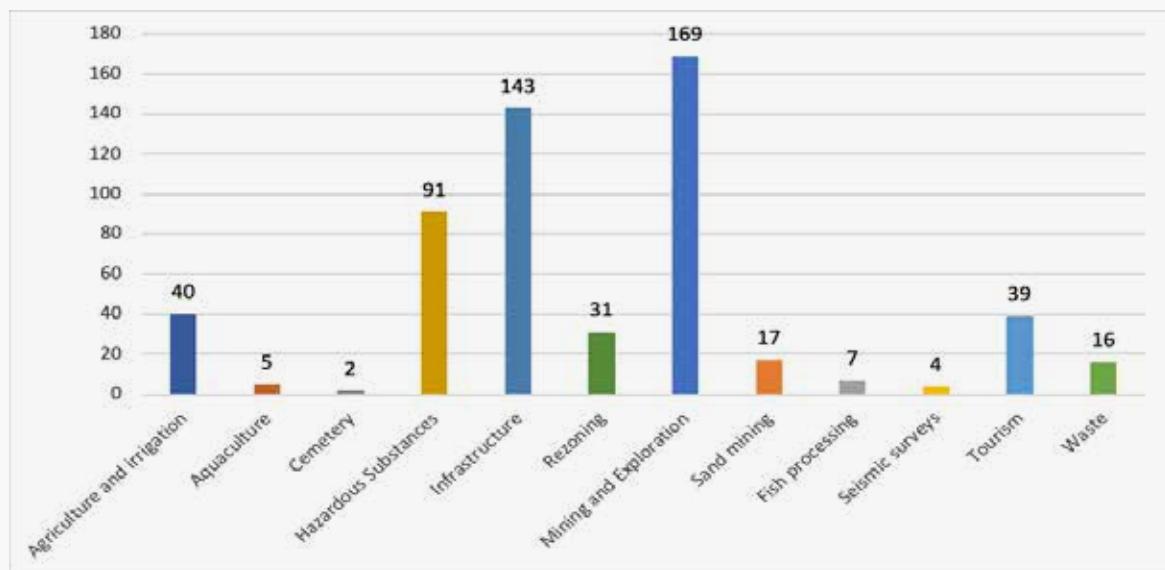
The Act identifies listed activities that may not be undertaken without an environmental clearance certificate is published in the Government Gazette No. 4878, dated 6th February 2012. These activities include:

- Energy Generation, Transmission and Storage Activities
- Waste Management, Treatment, Handling and Storage Activities
- Mining and Quarrying Activities
- Forestry Activities
- Land Use and Development Activities
- Tourism Development Activities
- Agriculture and Aquaculture Activities
- Water Resource Developments
- Hazardous Substance Treatment, Handling and Storage
- Infrastructure.

A major function of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism is ensuring that these listed activities are undertaken in a manner that minimizes risk to the health of the environment.

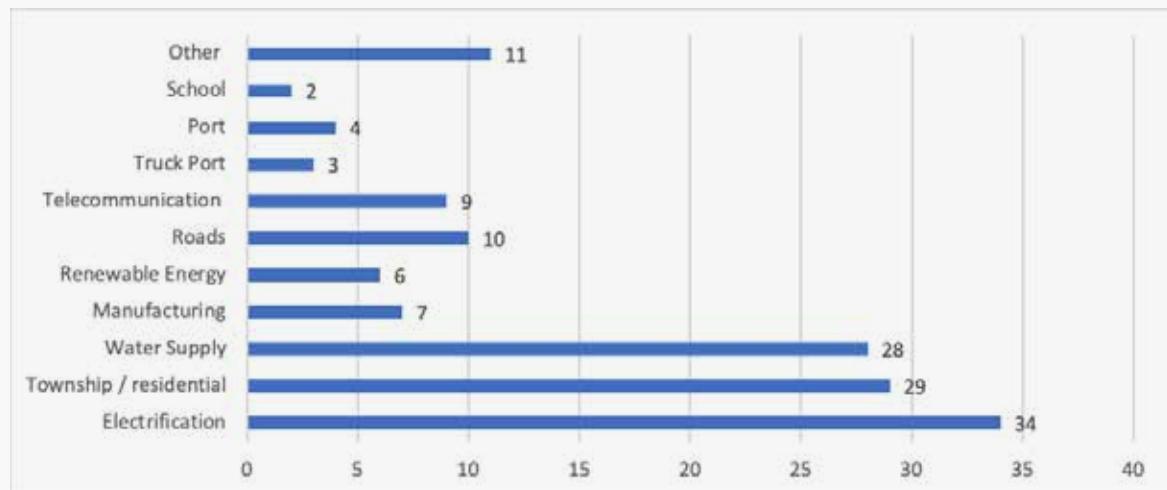
9.1 Applications for environmental clearance

A total of 564 environmental clearance certificates were issued in 2019/20. The majority of certificates were issued for developments relating to mining and exploration, infrastructure, management of hazardous substances as well as tourism and the rezoning of land.



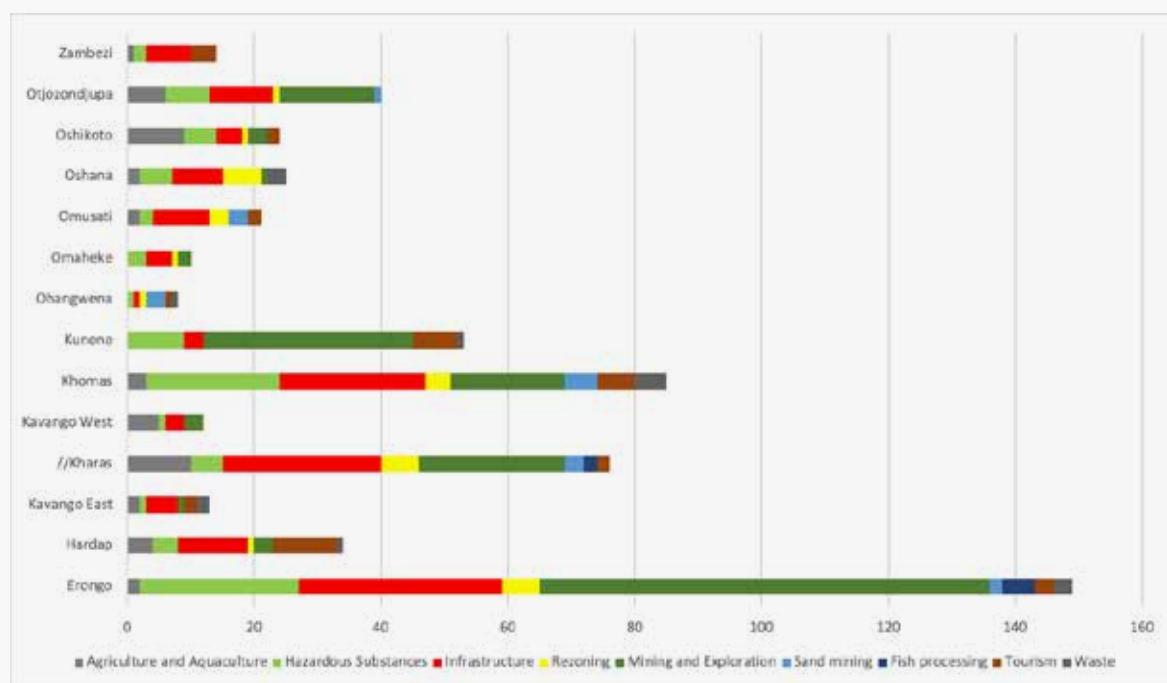
Breakdown of environmental clearance certificates issued in 2019/20.

A full breakdown of the infrastructure projects issued with ECC during 2019/20 is presented in the figure below:



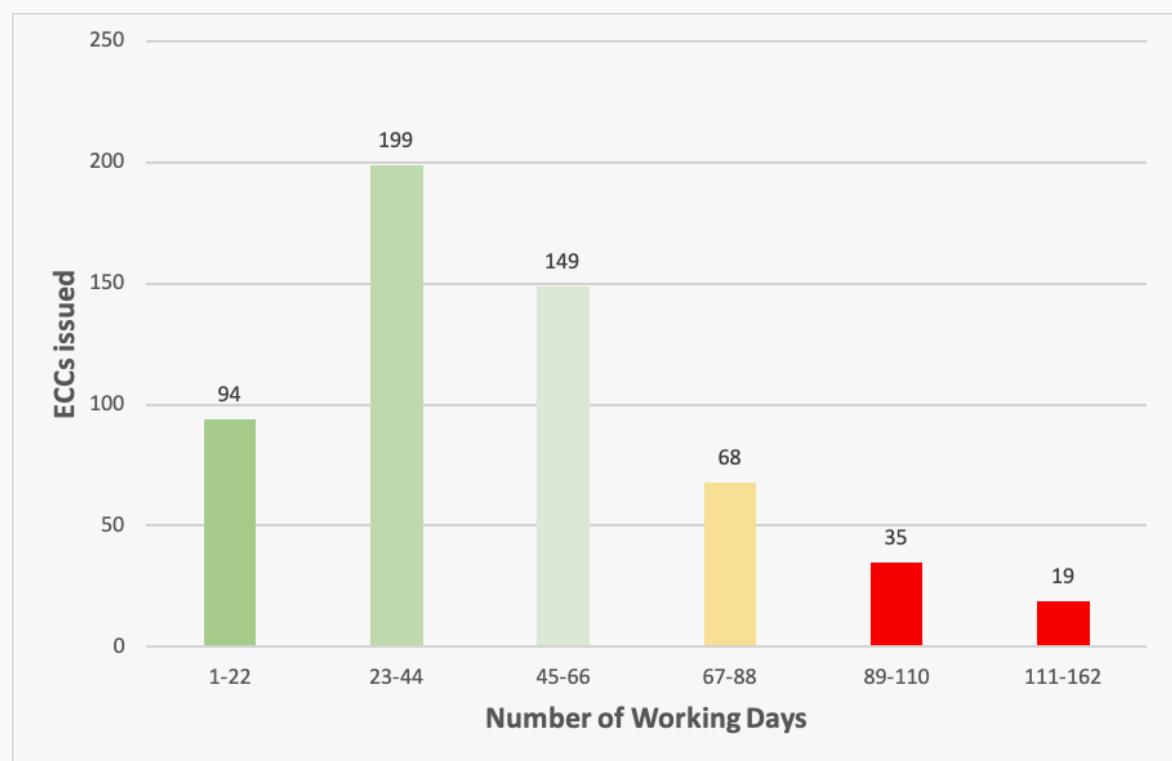
Breakdown of infrastructural projects issued with ECC during 2019/20.

The breakdown of clearance certificates per region is presented in the graph below. The most environmental clearance certificates were issued for developments in the Erongo Region (149), followed by Khomas (85), //Kharas (76), Kunene (53), Otojondjupa (40) and Hardap (34).



Breakdown of ECCs issued per region in 2019/20.

The MEFT commits in its customer service charter to processing applications for environmental clearance within three months (approximately 66 working days). As part of monitoring implementation of the charter, an analysis was conducted on the efficiency of the MEFT in issuing environmental clearance certificates. The average turnaround time in processing environmental clearance certificates issued during 2019/20 was 48 working days while just over 78% of environmental clearance certificates were processed within 3 months of receipt of application.



Histogram showing the timeframe in working days required to process environmental clearance certificates in 2019/20.

9.2 Compliance with the Environmental Management Act

A total of 113 sites were inspected for environmental compliance and monitoring. These covered a wide range of sites including waste disposal sites, mines, sand-mining operations, clinics and hospitals, timber harvesting operations, lodges, and schools and hostels. The MEFT continued to accompany these inspections with widespread sensitization of the Environmental Management Act among stakeholders such as Local Authorities, Traditional Authorities, Regional Councils and private sector. A total of 15 notifications and compliance orders were issued and the majority of these were for sand mining operations.

It is notable that a major new project was launched to rehabilitate 119 sites degraded by sand mining in Ohangwena region. This is being undertaken by Roads Authority and marks an important commitment to tackling the hazard caused by deep burrow pits for sand and gravel for road construction. Further consultations were held on timber harvesting and authorization was given for timber already harvested to be transported to any wood factory in the country, subject to strict conditions. Measures to improve compliance with the Environmental Management Act were built in to the online application system for environmental clearance, including the option for the public to report cases of suspected non-compliance to the Ministry.

9.3 Improving the Management of Waste and Hazardous substances

The National Solid Waste Management Strategy (2018-2028) is the main instrument to improve the management of waste and hazardous substances in Namibia. Among the key activities implemented during the 2019/20 were the coordination of the Solid Waste Management Advisory Panel, inspections and engagements with Local Authorities as well as the gazetting of waste disposal sites considered to be compliant in terms of the Environmental Management Act of 2007. Environmental levies, including a plastic bag levy, were also introduced in August 2019.

Quarterly meetings of the Solid Waste Management Advisory Panel were held to guide the implementation of the Strategy and the Advisory Panel submitted a list of recommendations on measures needed to improve waste management in the country. The recommendations are summarized as follows.

- The Advisory Panel views waste management facilities and their improvement as central to the successful implementation of the Strategy. It considers the finalization of the National Waste Management Regulations under the Environmental Management Act particularly urgent so that there are standards and guidelines in place for waste disposal, hazardous waste management regulations and guidelines for solid waste management planning.
- The Advisory Panel recommended for the MEFT to engage the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development at the highest level so that a directive is issued to all Local Authorities to ensure the effective implementation of the National Solid Waste Management Strategy.
- The Advisory Panel endorsed a number of measures to reduce the prevalence of plastic in the environment, including the introduction of a levy on single-use plastic carrier bags and a ban on bags containing CaCO₃. There are divergent views among the Advisory Panel in terms of whether all single use plastic carrier bags should be banned. The Advisory Panel supports a ban on single use carrier bags but is of the view that plastic bags with a thickness greater than 27 microns should not be covered by the ban as they are robust enough for multiple use.
- The Advisory Panel invited the MEFT to consider additional measures to reduce usage of other single use plastic items including plastic straws, earbuds, single use plastic water bottles, fast food plastic cutlery and fast food plastic polystyrene packaging.
- The Advisory Panel endorsed the establishment of an international class hazardous waste disposal facility in Namibia through the company Namwaste.

Officials from MEFT continued to engage with Local Authorities and other stakeholders engaged in the management of waste. An inspection programme was undertaken in August 2019 to collect data and information on solid waste management and medical waste incineration in the major Local Authorities of the north east (Kavango West, Kavango East, and Zambezi Regions) and North central Namibia (Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshikoto).

This fieldwork identified a number of concerns including:

- Lack of waste quantification taking place at most of the Local Authorities
- Staffing structures in Local Authorities for waste management – there is no dedicated staff or waste management sections.
- Lack of MEFT regional inspectors to monitor and enforce waste disposal practices at Local Authorities and resulting lack of compliance with the provisions of the Environmental Management Act.
- No environmental management plans are in place for the incineration of medical waste.
- Digging, burying and burning of medical waste was found to be a common practice.
- Majority of incinerators use outdated technologies.
- Compliance orders had been issued to the Ministry of Health and Social Services regarding the incineration of waste but there had been no response or no action to make improvements.

Hon. Shifeta formally announced the gazetting of the first 11 waste disposal sites in terms of the Environmental Management Act of 2007. These are Kupferberg, Windhoek; Walvis Bay; Epukiro; Oshakati; Rundu; Oranjemund; Ruacana; Tsandi; Eheke Settlement; Okahao; and Ondangwa.



Hon. Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment and Tourism, formally announcing the gazetting of the first 11 waste disposal sites in terms of the Environmental Management Act at Walvis Bay Waste Disposal Site with the Mayor of Walvis Bay and the Solid Waste Manager.

A further seven Waste Disposal Sites were considered by the MEFT to also be eligible to be gazetted in terms of the Environmental Management Act of 2007. These were submitted to the Ministry of Justice for gazetting and include Keetmanshoop Landfill, Okombabe Dumpsite, Otjimbingwe Dumpsite, Swakopmund Landfill, Uis Dumpsite, Ongwediva Dumpsite and Oshakati Dumpsite.

A mobile recycling facility was formally donated to the MEFT for use in Etosha National Park although the installation has been delayed due to the need to upgrade the power supply to the site. Further mobile recycling stations are under development through Rent-A-Drum.

9.4 Sustainable Development Advisory Council

The annual report of the Sustainable Development Advisory Council (SDAC) for the 2018/19 financial year was designed and printed and submitted to Cabinet and Parliament. The process to establish a new board of members was also undertaken and concluded. New members were appointed on 12th December 2019 and a handover report was prepared for the new members. The main function of the SDAC is to advise the Minister of Environment and Tourism on a number of sustainable development-related issues such as policies, enforcing compliance with the environmental principles set out in the EMA and promoting coordination and cooperation between all institutions concerned with environmental matters.

The new members of the SDAC are:

1. Ms. Gloria Simubali - Deputy Executive Director of the Geological Survey, Ministry of Mines and Energy
2. Mr. Sylvester Mbangu - Chief National Development Advice: Department of Macroeconomic Planning and Priority Setting, National Planning Commission
3. Mr. Joseph Hailwa - Director of Forestry, MEFT
4. Mr. Petrus Nangolo - Director of Land Reform, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
5. Ms. Aina Maria Iteta - Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia
6. Mr. Jonas Nghishidi - Project Manager NILALEG (representing the Environmental Economics Network)
7. Dr. Peter Tarr - Executive Director Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment (representing the Namibia Chamber of Environment)
8. Ms. Hallo Angala - representing the National Young Women Association of Namibia



10.

Mobilization of resources for environmental sustainability



Hon. Shifeta and Mr. Javier Manzanares, Deputy Executive Director for the Green Climate Fund at UNFCCC COP25.

As the National Designated Authority and focal Ministry to the majority of multilateral environment-related financing windows, the MEFT has a significant role to play in coordinating the development and submission of project proposals to access funding from sources such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund and others. The MEFT also collaborates on a bilateral basis on issues relating to environmental management and conservation with partner countries particularly the Federal Republic of Germany and significant support projects are under implementation and development through the German Development Bank (KfW) and GIZ.

10.1 Facilitation of Investment in Renewable Energy

With Namibia having been singled out as one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change due to its dry environment, recurrent drought and desertification, various interventions to tackle these issues are essential. In response to this, the MEFT continued to pursue external funding and investment to finance the achievements of the climate change and renewable energy targets as set out in a number of policy documents such as the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) of 2015.

The Ministry is facilitating the development of large scale wind energy projects in the Tsau //Khaeb Protected Area, which is considered to have one of the best wind energy regimes in the world. Land lease agreements were developed for the establishment of four large scale wind farms in the area through NamPower (2), Diaz Wind Power and the French company Innosun. These wind farms are expected to contribute 180MW to the national grid once they are constructed and operational.

10.2 Existing Support Projects to the MEFT

The main projects supporting the MEFT during the 2019/20 financial year are summarized in the table following:

Project Name	Objective	Implementation Status	Impacts	Funding (US\$ / Euro)	Funding (N\$) (at December 2019 exchange rate)	Source
Scaling up community resilience to climate variability and climate change in Northern Namibia with a special focus on women and children (SCORE)	Strengthen smallholder adaptive capacity for climate resilient agricultural production practices; implement flood and drought management at community level; mainstream climate change into policies and budgets.	Under implementation (2015-2019) through MEFT, MAWLR and UNDP	Installation of micro drip irrigation systems in community gardens and at 54 schools to benefit 10,000 people. 80 lead farmers trained in conservation agriculture practices and 2,000 farmers supported with access to drought resistant seeds and ripper services. Four earth dams used by 40 villages were restored as well as 6 hand dug wells.	US\$3.05 million	44.9 million	Global Environment Facility
Biodiversity Management and Climate Change Project	Coherent implementation of biodiversity and climate change related policies, strategies and practises by the MEFT in cooperation with other Ministries and non-governmental actors increasingly contributes to diversifying and securing the livelihoods of local users of the natural resources.	Under implementation from 2017-2020 through MEFT and GIZ	This project supports mainly legal and policy frameworks linked to environmental management, biodiversity conservation and climate change.	EUR 5 million	81.6 million	German Government
Namibia National Parks Programme Phase IV	The North Eastern Parks are effectively protected against pressures on resources, fulfil their corridor function for animal migration and represent a competitive destination for tourists. The residents and neighbours of the parks profit economically from the parks.	Under implementation from 2016-2020 by MEFT and KfW	Provided considerable infrastructural support to Namibia's north-eastern parks including vehicles, boats, construction of park stations, staff houses, rehabilitation of waterholes and signage.	EUR14.499 million	236.5 million	German Government
Namibia National Parks Programme Phase V	Coastal Parks and their support zones are sustainably managed and fair access to their natural resources is ensured thus contributing to biodiversity conservation and improved living conditions of the neighboring communities.	Under implementation from 2018-2022 by MEFT and KfW	Phase V is focused on Skeleton Coast Park (SCP), the Dorob National Park (DNP) with Cape Cross Seal Reserve (CCSR), the Namib Naukluft Park (NNP) as well as the Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park (TKNP). The project is improving infrastructure in these parks; supporting the implementation of the park's management plans; supporting community benefits from wildlife and conservation and the award and management of concessions; developing the tourism potential of these parks while protecting the very delicate flora and fauna.	EUR12 million	195.8 million	German Government
Support to the Coherent Implementation of the CBNRM Policy	Aims to create synergies and harmonization for CBNRM implementation.	Under implementation through MEFT and GIZ from 2017-2020	Providing support to human wildlife mitigation measures, mainly in Kunene Region. Supporting financial management and good governance practices in communal conservancies.	EUR 6.8 million	110.9 million	German Government

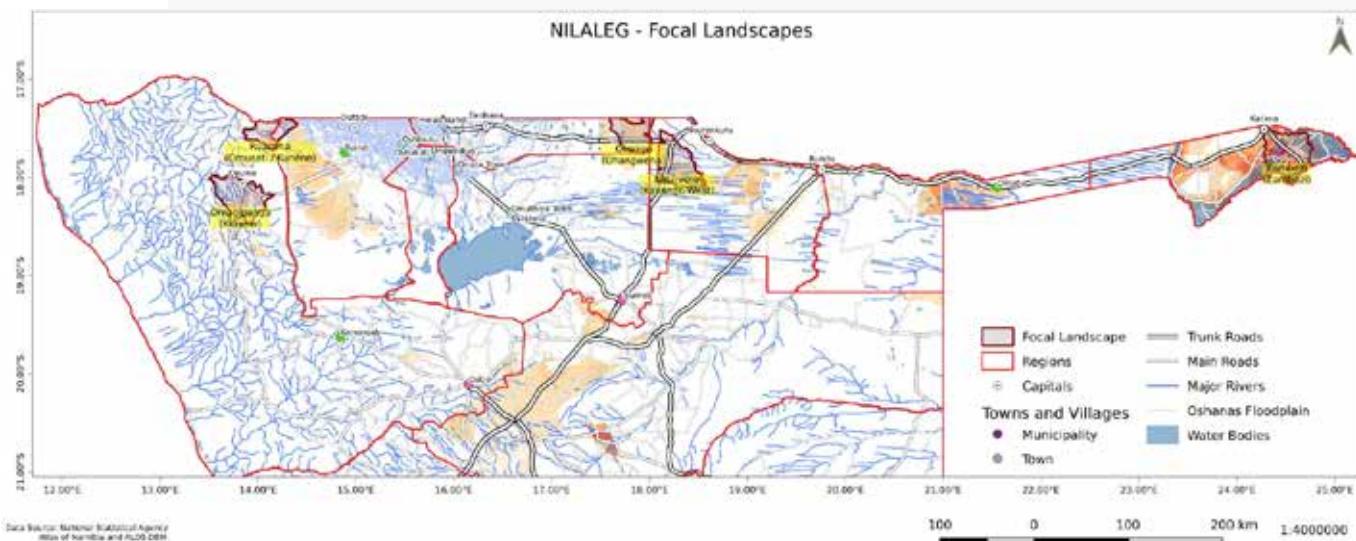
As National Designated Authority to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund, the MEFT is also closely involved in projects implemented through other entities, including:

- Empower to Adapt: Creating Climate-Change Resilient Livelihoods through Community-Based Natural Resource Management in Namibia (2017-2022) (US\$10 million (approx. N\$147 million)), being implemented through the EIF with funding from the GCF.
- Climate Resilient Agriculture in three of the Vulnerable Extreme northern crop-growing regions (CRAVE) (2017-2022) (US\$9.5 million (approx. N\$140 million)) being implemented through the EIF with funding from the GCF.
- Pilot rural desalination plants in Grunau and Bethanie using renewable power and membrane technology (2018-2022) (approx. N\$60.3 million), being implemented through the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia and the Namibia Water Corporation.

Implementation of the two GCF Projects being implemented through the EIF, that were launched in 2017, also continued. One key achievement was the handover of nineteen (19) grants to the value of N\$ 85 million to conservancies and community forests for climate change projects under the CBNRM Empower to Adapt Project.

10.3 Approval of new Projects

The Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to eradicate poverty (NILALEG) Project was approved and operationalized with funding of US\$10.8 million (approximately N\$158.9 million) from the GEF. This project is based at MEFT and is being implemented in collaboration with MAWLR, EIF and UNDP. It seeks to pilot an integrated landscape management approach, reducing poverty through sustainable nature-based livelihoods, protecting and restoring forests as carbon sinks, and promoting Land Degradation Neutrality. It is expected that there will be 20,818 beneficiaries at the community level in 5 pilot sites that will be supported to combat land degradation and to develop nature-based enterprises.



Two new US\$10 million (approximately: N\$ 169.3 million) climate change adaptation projects were also launched through the EIF. These are the:

1. Improving rangeland and eco-system management practices of smallholder farmers under conditions of climate change in Sesfontein, Transfontein, and Warmquelle (2019-2024) (147 million) being implemented through the EIF with funding from the GCF.
2. Building resilience of communities living in landscape threatened under climate change through an Ecosystems-based Adaptation approach in Namibia (EBA Project) (US\$9.1 million (approx. N\$134 million)) being implemented through the EIF with funding from the GCF.

The MEFT secured an amount of 280,000 Euros (approximately: N\$ 5.3 million) from the German Federal Ministry of Environment through its Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) and US\$ 200,000 (approximately: N\$ 3.4 million) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to revise the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) as per the requirements of the Paris Agreement.

A project titled "The National Framework for Leapfrogging to Energy Efficient Appliance and Equipment in Namibia (Refrigerators and Distribution Transformers), which will result in Namibia having an improved regulatory framework and agreed Minimum Energy Performance Standard (MEPS), was approved by the GCF with an estimated funding amount of US\$ 328,755 (approximately: N\$ 5.6 million).

10.4 Coordinating the Development of new Project Proposals

During the reporting period, consultations were held to develop a project proposal to Upscale the Solar Revolving Fund (SRF) of the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME). The project concept was drafted and it is expected to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) through the United Nations Development Programme. The scaling-up of the existing SRF is expected to be instrumental in accelerating Namibia's goal of providing more access to secure, low-emission, renewable energy sources to households. The draft concept note is seeking about US\$ 40 million (approximately N\$ 677.2 million) to finance 7,000 solar thermal systems across 14 regions in Namibia.

Consultations were held and a draft project concept note on Food Security Programme in Namibia: Climate Proofing and Upscaling Agricultural Food Value Chains in Communal Subsistence Areas was developed. The project aims to address the issue of subsistence agriculture practices and limited livelihood alternatives exacerbated by droughts, floods, risk of crop failure, reduced livestock production, decline in biodiversity, reduced water availability and water quality, declining soil fertility and increased soil erosion. The draft concept note is being compiled and will be submitted to the GCF through United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

With regard to accessing the seventh replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), three draft project proposals were developed for the consideration of the GEF Council. These are the:

- i. Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL) with FAO (US\$ 6.9 million (approximately: N\$ 116.8 million));
- ii. Global Wildlife Programme (focusing on poaching and human wildlife conflict) with UNDP (US\$ 7 million (approximately: N\$ 118.5 million)); and the
- iii. Project on Improving the regulation of Genetically Modified Organisms Project with the United Nations Environment Programme (US\$1.2 million (approximately: N\$ 20.3 million)).

11.

Reforming and realigning Namibia's enabling framework for environmental protection and tourism development

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism continued to reform and realign the legislative and policy framework towards a more progressive and people-centred approach to ensuring environmental sustainability and tourism development.

11.1 Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks

Wildlife Management and Protected Areas Bill

The consultative processes and legal drafting of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Management Bill were finalized during early 2019. The Bill was subsequently submitted to the Attorney General and Cabinet and was referred to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation. This will be a key piece of legislation to strengthen all aspects of wildlife management including the:

- Declaration and management of protected areas;
- Granting of concessions in protected areas and state land;
- Establishment and operations of communal conservancies;
- Registration and regulation of the conservation hunting profession;
- Trade in wildlife and its parts, derivatives and products;
- Breeding and rehabilitation of wildlife;
- Management of human-wildlife conflict; and
- Wildlife management planning, monitoring and research.

The first draft of the Wildlife and Protected Areas Management Bill regulations were produced and reviewed and these will be finalized once the Bill is promulgated.

Gaming and Entertainment Control Bill

Amendments were made to the draft Gaming and Entertainment Control Bill that was tabled to Parliament in 2018 based on the inputs received from the Members of Parliament. The revised Bill was submitted to Parliament during the period under review. It seeks to ensure the strict regulation of gambling activities and to protect gamblers and to ensure that more revenue accrues to the state from the sector.

Amendment to the Environmental Management Act

The consultative process for amending the Environmental Management Act of 2007 (Act 7 of 2007) was finalized. The new amendments, together with revised regulations, aims to tackle the main shortcomings experienced in the implementation of the Act:

- Lack of reference to Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) in the Act. SEAs are normally taken on the levels of policies, plans and programmes and there is currently no provision in the Act for SEAs.
- Limited guidance on procedures and processes for the issuing of fines and prosecution of companies and institutions that are not in compliance with the provisions of the Act.
- Need to expand and categorize the listed activities under the Act: the expansion and reclassification of the activities into Activities A (requiring full EIA) and Activities B (smaller scale activities for which Scoping Report and Environmental Management Plan may be sufficient), is considered necessary to improve the efficiency of implementation.
- Regulation of Environmental Assessment Practitioners: concerns have been raised that Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) are currently not regulated and that there is a lack of quality control in the sector. There is no current mention of EAPs in the Act.
- Roles and responsibilities of the Competent Authority: Section 32 (1) of the Act requires proponents to submit applications for environmental clearance through the Competent Authority. This provision has caused delays in the process and have lead to the need for closer collaboration between DEA and these Authorities.

- Insufficient focus on compliance with Environmental Management Plans and monitoring and enforcement.
- Insufficient provisions to ensure the rehabilitation and restoration of sites.

The amended Environmental Management Act still requires the approval of the Ministry management before submission to Ministry of Justice and tabling in Parliament.

Waste Management Regulations

The consultative process for the development of the waste management regulations, in terms of Section 5 of the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) was finalized. The regulations focus mainly on driving priority improvements in solid waste management, in particular the standards of waste disposal sites under Regional Councils and Local Authorities.

Regulations of the Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act, 2017 (Act No. 2 of 2017)

Work on the Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act regulations continued during 2019 leading to the submission of the regulations to the Legal Drafters in the Ministry of Justice for review and harmonization with the Constitution, existing laws and processes in the country. The process of developing the regulations was underpinned by effective consultations, engaging all stakeholders that will be affected and impacted by these regulations from all perspectives, including livelihood, trade, administration and law enforcement. The consultation platforms were also used to raise awareness and to make sure that stakeholders know and understand the Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act.

Regulations of the Lotteries Act, 2017 (Act No. 13 of 2017)

With a view to establishing a State Lottery, the Lotteries Act regulations were submitted to the Ministry of Justice for gazetting.

11.2 Policies and Strategies

Communication, Education and Public Awareness Strategy (2019-2030)

The Ministry completed the Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Strategy during the period under review. The strategy is an internal Ministry document to guide the Ministry's environmental education and awareness activities. The CEPA Strategy was launched at the commemoration of International Biodiversity Day in May 2019 and the Implementation Committee, consisting of 22 staff members, was established.

Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development Policy

The EE/ESD policy was endorsed by Cabinet in December 2019 and will be printed and launched when the funds are made available, and will be distributed to the public in the 2020/21 financial year. The EE/ESD policy was developed jointly with the Namibia Environmental Education Network stakeholders and with financial assistance from the Hans Seidel Foundation.

National Strategy on Wildlife Protection and Law Enforcement

A National Strategy on Wildlife Protection and Law Enforcement was drafted and the stakeholder consultations were concluded. The strategy awaits endorsement of the Ministerial Committee of Wildlife Protection and Law Enforcement and final approval by Cabinet.

Revised National Policy on Tourism and Wildlife Concessions on State Land

The National Policy on Tourism and Wildlife Concessions on State Land of 2007 was reviewed and revised to tackle a number of challenges being experienced in the implementation of the Policy, including the:

- Lack of clear and measurable outcomes in the assigned concessions;
- Need for improved regulations on the utilization of income from concessions;
- Absence of guidelines on the work assigned to the different committees responsible for implementing the concession process; and
- Weak monitoring and evaluation framework in awarded Concessions.

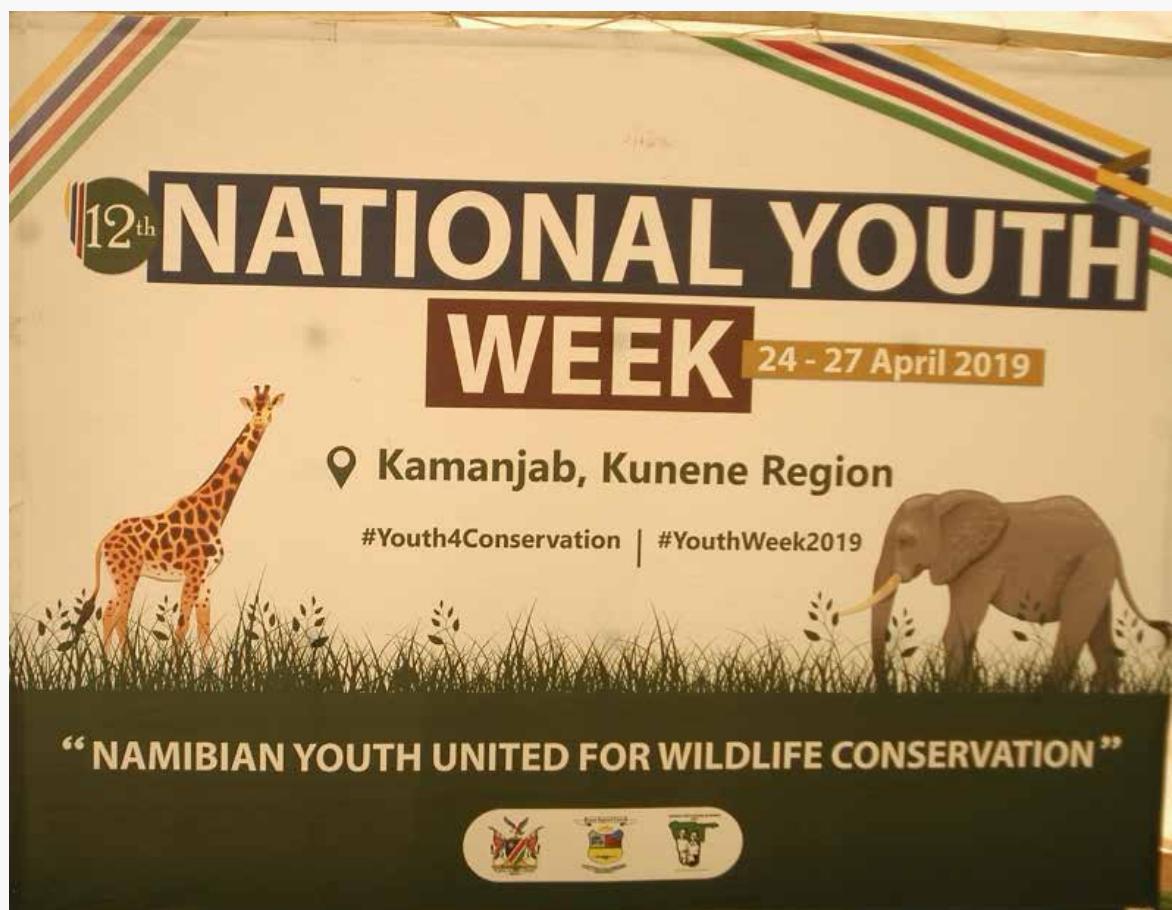
The revised Policy was approved.

12.

Research, Communication, Education and Public Awareness Activities

Low levels of environmental awareness has been identified as a fundamental challenge to environmental protection and sustainable development in Namibia. Strategies to improve levels of awareness and to stimulate behavioural change on a range of environmental issues, particularly among the youth, are included in Namibia's 5th National Development Plan (2017-2022). Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) activities are a key vehicle of the MEFT to raise awareness of environmental issues and to stimulate behavioural change among different target groups to ensure a healthy environment for the current and future generations. The period under review saw the adoption of the MEFT's CEPA Strategy and the establishment of a CEPA Strategy Oversight Committee which was also broadened to coordinate the research activities of the Ministry.

12.1 12th National Youth Week on Wildlife Conservation



The Ministry, together with the National Youth Council, organized the 12th National Youth Week, which took place in Kamanjab, Kunene Region from 24-27th April 2019 under the theme of "Namibian Youth United for Wildlife Conservation". Over 400 young people from across the country participated in the event, whose main aims were to:

- Encourage stakeholder engagement in wildlife conservation, anti-poaching and trafficking of protected species;
- Sensitize young people about the importance of and their role in wildlife conservation, combating wildlife crime, illegal wildlife trading and human-wildlife conflict; and
- Promote conservancies as one of the viable economic opportunities that offer sustainable livelihoods to young people living in rural areas.

The 12th National Youth Week successfully exposed Namibia's youth to both theoretical and practical challenges confronting the conservation sector. The participants were engaged in the construction of elephant protection walls in communal conservancies and repairing parts of Etosha National Park fence, while also being educated through a seminar on engaging and empowering the youth for wildlife conservation. The seminar resulted in a declaration calling for the greater involvement of the youth in conservation-related programmes and projects.



Youth volunteers constructing sections of the Etosha National Park Fence during the 12th National Youth Week.



Youth volunteers constructing elephant protection walls for local conservancies during the 12th National Youth Week.



Repair work on the Etosha National Park fence during the 12th National Youth Week.



Seminar on engaging and empowering the youth for wildlife conservation that was held as part of the 12th National Youth Week in Kamanjab



National Youth Week participants contributing to the declaration that was adopted.

12.2 Commemoration of Environmental Days

The MEFT continued to commemorate international environmental days with a focus on involving and engaging with the youth in different regions of the country. The World Environment Day was commemorated on 5th June at Karasburg in //Kharas region. Stakeholders that took part in the commemoration include the Indian High Commission, UNDP, Karasburg Regional Council, and Directorate of Education in //Kharas Region. The Indian High Commissioner procured seedlings for planting, that were planted at the hosting school and some were donated to the Roman Catholic Church and to other schools in the town.



Hon. Deputy Minister, Bernadette Maria Jagger, cutting the ribbon to officially open the 2020 World Environment Day Commemoration in Karasburg on 5th June 2020.



Learners from Karasburg conducting a role play during the World Environment Day Commemoration.



Hon. Deputy Minister, Bernadette Maria Jagger, delivering the keynote address at World Environment Day.



Hon. Deputy Minister, Bernadette Maria Jagger, planting trees with learners at Karasburg during World Environment Day.

The International Biological Diversity day was commemorated on the 24th May in Rundu, Kavango East Region. The learners from Secondary Schools in Kavango East and West Region, who participated in the Youth Environmental Summit at Gobabeb Training and Research Centre, presented their research findings at the commemoration. Stakeholders that took part in the commemoration of the day included schools, management of the Rundu Town Council, Governor of Kavango East Region and representatives of the business community, Gobabeb Training and Research Centre, Traditional Authority Leaders as well as the local community. The Honourable Deputy Minister delivered the key note address.



Learners present their research findings during the commemoration of International Biodiversity Day in Rundu.

12.3 National Clean Up Campaign

A national preparatory committee was established to plan and host the national clean-up day on 21st September 2019. The official commemoration of the national clean-up day was held in Rundu in Kavango East Region on 21st September 2019. The Kavango East Governor and Hon. Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism provided remarks at the main event, which was held at the Rundu Sports Stadium and was covered live on National Radio.

A total of 34 litter hotspot areas in Rundu Town were cleaned and the turn out of the general public and other stakeholders such as the Namibia Defence Force and the Namibian Police was very commendable. Around 15,000 bags of recyclable rubbish were collected and sent to Rent-A-Drum Rundu for recycling. In spite of the excellent efforts made in the lead up to and during the National Clean-Up Day, the high levels of litter in the town of Rundu remain a concern and requires long term efforts to address.

Awareness raising was undertaken among schools, the youth and the general public to encourage behavioural change. A competition and awards event to reward the best performing regions will again be held and schools competition has also been introduced known as the Trash Tag Challenge. A total of 40 schools and over 4,000 learners participated in this competition



Campaigns were held at various road blocks to request motorists to keep the environment clean and a total of 60,400 smaller refuse bags for use in motor vehicles were handed out to motorists at roadblocks and at all Shell service stations across the country to discourage them from throwing rubbish out of their vehicle windows.



A total of 30 video clips were produced through the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology to raise awareness of the clean-up campaign and to motivate citizens to become involved. Some of the video clips were aired on NBC and all were shared widely through various social media platforms such as whatsapp, instagram, facebook and twitter and over 50,000 views were recorded. Regional reports of activities undertaken in each region were received and will be assessed and analyzed to produce a national report of activities. The 2020 National Clean-Up Day is planned for 19th September with a venue yet to be determined in the future.

2019 National Clean-Up Campaign in Pictures



12.4 Activities at MEFT's Environmental Education Centers

MET's Environmental Education Centres are in high demand for school groups, and are a great platform at which awareness of wildlife and conservation matters can be imparted to the youth. Free entry permits are arranged for school groups for game drives, even at Parks where there are no Environmental Education Centres. The Okatjikona Environmental Education Centre hosted its second Teacher Training Workshop on Community-based Natural Resource Management on 3 -7 February 2020.

The group from Otjozondjupa Region was comprised of 18 agriculture teachers, one conservancy member and one Senior Education officer. EduVentures and Cheetah Conservation Fund facilitated the workshop.

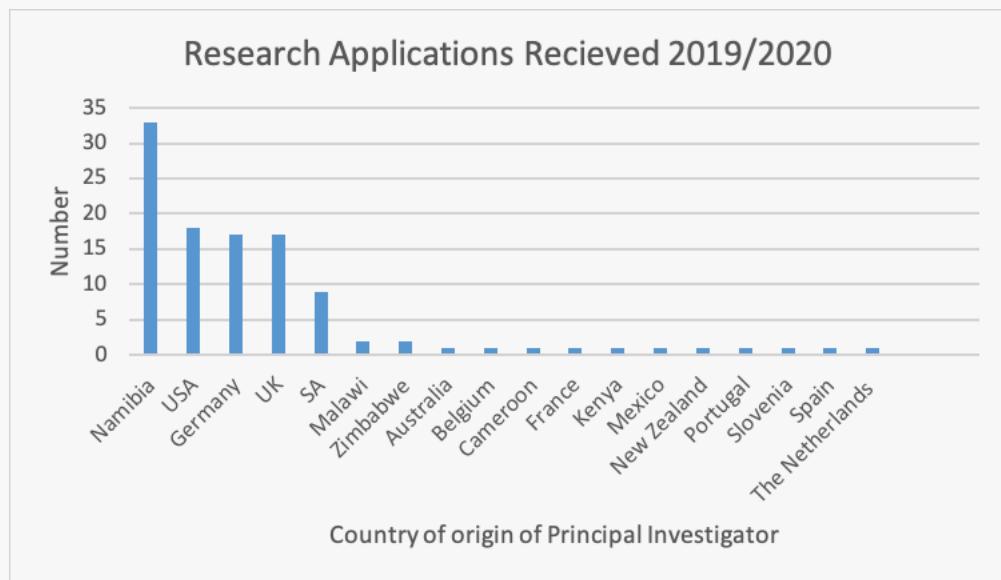
During June, the Namibia Environmental Education Network (NEEN) national event took place in Rundu where issues of environmental education were discussed and excursions taken to green schemes, community forests, horticulture projects and other community initiatives to improve livelihoods using local resources and materials. Outside the EEC's, regional MEFT staff hold regular awareness sessions for communities and Conservancies on a wide variety of conservation topics, including Human Wildlife Conflict, Park rules and regulations, Policy documents, wildlife utilization, CBNRM matters, wildlife security matters, etc. In Etosha National Park, all tourist resorts have an information centre at which tourists can obtain information regarding wildlife, conservation, ENP history, as well as research findings.

12.5 Research Permits

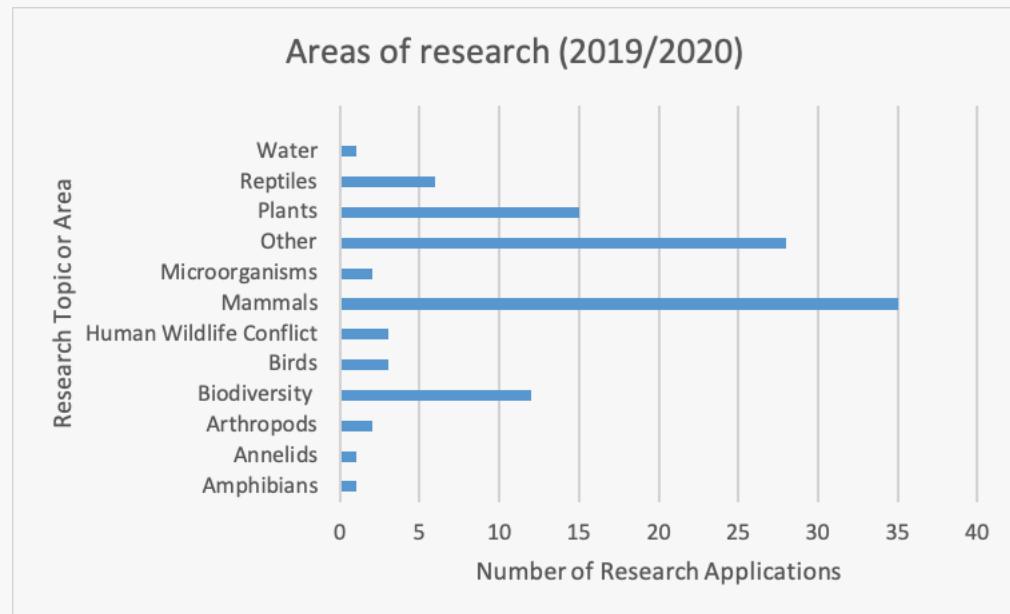
A total of 109 external research applications were received and reviewed during the period under review as per the tables below.

Trends in the number of Research Applications received by MEFT.

	2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/2018	2016/2017
Renewal	62	44	31	139
New	47	56	38	72
Total	109	100	71	211



Countries of origin of principal investigators and number of applications received in 2019-2020.



Subject areas of research applications received in 2019/20.

12.6 Development of Environmental Statistics and Information

The following information materials were produced during the period under review:

- National Environmental Education-Education for Sustainable Development Policy;
- Communication, Education and Public Awareness Strategy (2019-2030);
- Environmental Statistics Compendium (through Namibia Statistics Agency);
- Environmental Awareness Poster - Snake Game;
- MET Green Jobs Booklets;
- Information leaflets for anti-littering;
- Namibia Environmental Education Network Website (NEEN Website);
- Banners for the World Environment Day, International Biodiversity Day and National Clean-up Day;
- Covid-19 information leaflets;
- Draft Fishery Resources Research Discussion Paper;
- Forestry Accounts;
- Park entrance information posters;
- Report on implementation of the Environmental Management Act during 2018/19;
- Publication on the impacts of projects mobilized through the Ministry of Environment and Tourism



13. Priorities Going Forward



The challenges faced by the MEFT during the 2019/20 financial year have been elucidated throughout this report and are wide-ranging (maybe summarise them here).

With regard to wildlife and protected area management, the following priority activities will be undertaken:

- i. Wildlife crime prevention and law enforcement: the MEFT will work with stakeholders to ensure that there is appropriate human capacity and manpower to fight wildlife crime; provide suitable and sufficient equipment, techniques and supplies; strengthen surveillance, patrolling and detection; and conduct proper investigations and intelligence.
- ii. Support to communal conservancies and community forests: the main targets and outputs will be to grow income generated for communities from wildlife and forest products, strengthen governance at the conservancy and community forest level, create more jobs for rural communities, and provide game meat for household consumption to rural communities.
- iii. Prevention and mitigation of human wildlife conflict: in line with the Revised National Policy on Human Wildlife Conflict Management, the MEFT will continue to tackle loss of life and damage to infrastructure, crops and livestock caused by wildlife. Priority interventions will include, amongst others, destroying problem animals, assisting communities financially through the Human Wildlife Conflict Self Reliance Scheme and supporting communities with promising mitigation measures in hotspot areas such

- as predator proof kraals, protection walls around water infrastructure, alternative grain storage infrastructure, and the installation of elephant drinking troughs.
- iv. Protection and management of key species based on research and monitoring, which guides strategies and plans to protect and manage key species and natural resources. The internal capacity for game capture and translocation will also be strengthened and the Wildlife Stock Breeding Scheme will be continued.
- v. Maintenance, upgrade and development of new protected area infrastructure, including fencing, roads, waste management facilities and water points. This is a major challenge but the MEFT is committed to ensuring that good quality services are enjoyed by visitors to protected areas and that adjacent communities are protected from human-wildlife conflict.
- vi. Identification and execution of new wildlife and tourism concessions for the benefit of our local communities so that conservation and tourism drives economic development in rural areas.

With regard to tourism growth development and regulation of gaming, the MEFT will continue to work with all stakeholders to remove bottlenecks and barriers facing the industry and to ensure a favourable enabling and regulatory environment so that these sectors make an optimal contribution to the socio-economic development of the country. Although the tourism industry has been one of the most successful and fast-growing sectors over recent years, it has been one of the hardest hit by the current Covid-19 pandemic and its contribution to the economy has come to almost a complete standstill. The recovery of the tourism sector in the context of Covid-19 is therefore a critical challenge confronting the MEFT and the broader industry. During 2020/21 considerable efforts will be made to develop and implement a tourism recovery plan in the context of Covid-19.

The establishment of a national lottery and improved regulation of the gaming sector are further priorities. In terms of overall management of the environment and natural resources, a key priority is the strengthened implementation of the Environmental Management Act of 2007 to tackle activities leading to the degradation of the environment such as sand mining, timber harvesting and waste disposal practices. There is still a need to improve the capacity of the Ministry's regional staff so that they are empowered to enforce the Environmental Management Act and provide guidance and advise clients that are enquiring about environmental clearance related issues. There is also a need to roll out awareness of the online application system for environmental clearance, particularly among the general public.

The MEFT will further continue to mobilize investment and new project proposals in the areas of climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and combating land degradation. It is further planned to execute a 2030 New Green Economy Programme with focus on attracting private sector investment to drive the transition towards a zero emission and resource efficient economy. With the forestry portfolio now residing under the Ministry, the MEFT has already started to and will continue interventions to ensure the conservation and sustainable utilization of forest resources and the prevention of forest fires, which is likely to be a major threat in 2020 due to the good rains that were received.

With regard to improved organizational performance, governance and service delivery, priority activities will be to implement efficiency and cost cutting measures, particularly with regard to transport and fuel usage and utilities such as telephone and postal services. The online application system for environmental clearance has been fully operationalized and it is planned to introduce similar systems for the MEFT's wildlife and forestry related permit functions. It is envisaged that this will make the application processes more rigorous, efficient, transparent and client-friendly. Lastly the programme will focus on recruiting and filling priority positions, succession planning as well as employee wellness in the context of Covid-19, in particular the provision and improvement of health and safety measures and materials at our workplaces.

Appendix I: Financial Statement

(as of 31st March 2020)

2019 - 2020 EXPENDITURE REPORT: MARCH 2020

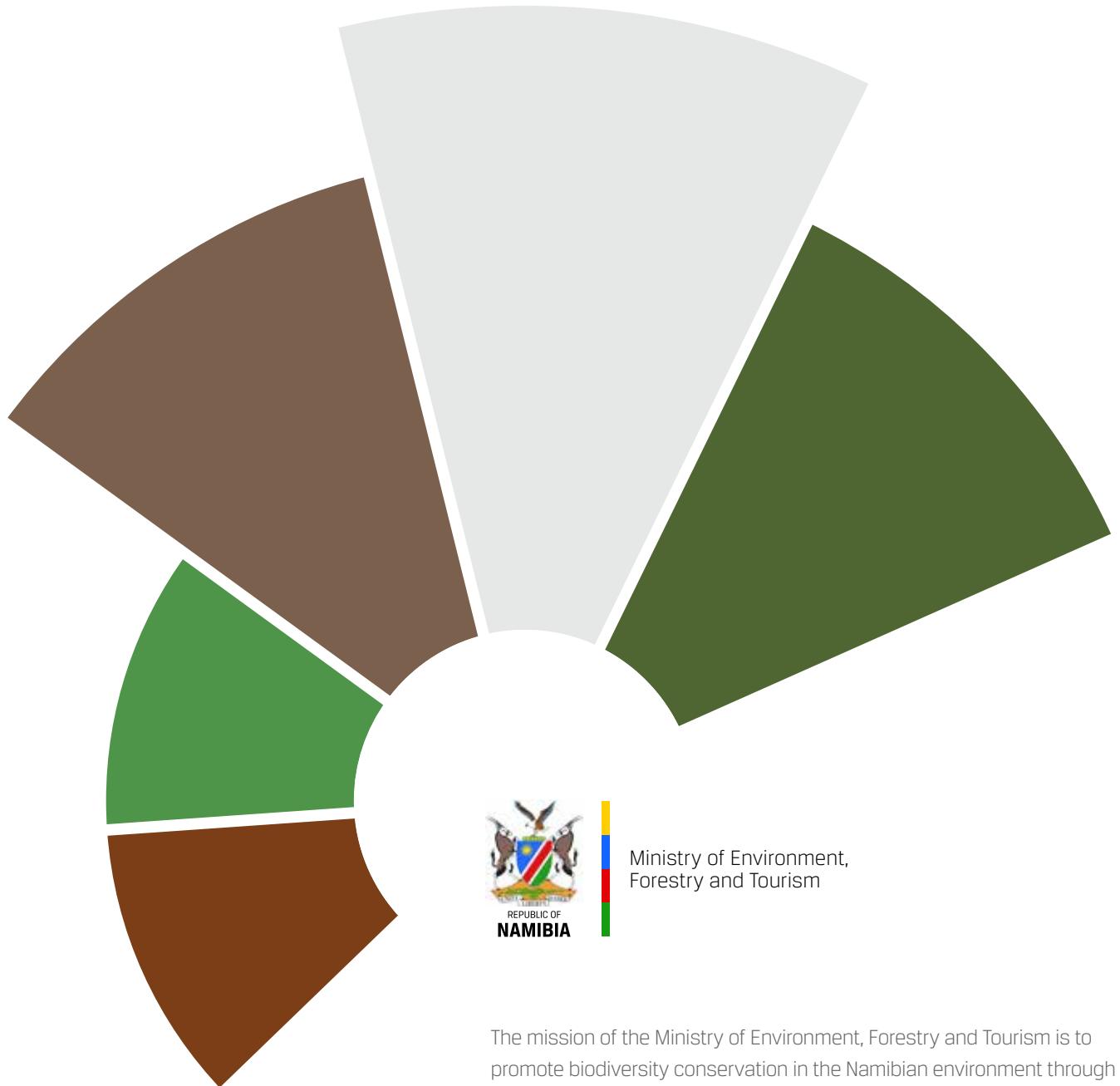
Subdivision	Budget	Expenditure	Variance	% Spent
Remuneration	245,537,080	242,951,994	2,494,715	99%
GIPF	28,929,740	28,897,332	32,408	100%
Other Conditions	7,132,890	7,011,815	121,075	98%
Social Security	906,760	899,649	7,111	99%
PERSONNEL EXP.	282,506,470	279,851,162	2,655,308	99%
DSA	14,320,200	13,572,199	748,001	95%
Material and Supplies	2,255,913	1,878,571	377,342	83%
Transport	33,670,285	32,977,614	692,671	98%
Utilities	27,062,472	25,776,012	1,286,460	95%
Maintenance	1,615,185	1,454,292	160,893	90%
Rentals	256,802	236,174	20,628	92%
Other services	888,109	876,014	12,095	99%
Training Course, Symposiums and Workshops (028)	12,400	12,400	-	0%
Printing And Advertisements (029)	471,382	422,557	48,825	90%
Entertainment Politicians (031)	30,000	28,921	1,079	96%
Office Refreshment (033)	27,770	17,434	10,336	63%
Official Entertainment / Corporate Gifts(034)	6,000	-	6,000	0%
Security Contracts (040)	941,000	574,049	366,951	61%
GOODS AND OTHER SERVICES	81,557,518	77,826,237	3,731,281	95%
Membership Fees: International	2,461,014	2,460,547	467	100%
Membership Fees: Domestic	510,000	510,000	-	100%
SME (052) - EIF	14,000,000	14,000,000	-	100%
SOE	9,000,000	9,000,000	-	100%
SUBSIDIES AND OTHER TRANSFERS	25,971,014	25,970,547	467	100%
Furniture and Office Equipments	110,000	-	110,000	0%
Operational Equipment, Machinery And Plants	135,578	69,903	65,675	52%
ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSETS	245,578	69,903	175,675	28%
OPERATIONAL BUDGET	390,280,580	383,717,848	6,562,732	98%
Fencing of Conservation Areas	3,072,168	1,717,831	1,354,337	56%
Water Provision for Game	1,014,552	453,602	560,950	45%
Upgrading of Tourists Roads	29,476,450	25,487,821	3,988,629	86%
Construction of Regional Houses and Offices	12,201,250	11,599,666	601,584	95%
Upgrading of Sewage and Water Supply	6,960,000	4,425,162	2,534,838	64%
Human Wildlife Conflict	-	-	-	0%
Namibian Parks (Namparks) Financial Contributions	3,150,000	3,150,000	3,150,000	0%
Wildlife Loan Scheme- Reintroduction of Game to Communal Conservancies	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	0%
DEVELOPMENT BUDGET	56,874,420	46,834,082	10,040,338	82%
GRAND TOTAL	447,155,000	430,551,931	16,603,069	96%

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The mission of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism is to promote biodiversity conservation in the Namibian environment through the sustainable utilization of natural resources and tourism development for the maximum social and economic benefit of its citizens.

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