



# Developing a Monitoring System for Mobile Camping to Promote Conservation and Community Development in Namibia

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Sponsored by: Worcester Polytechnic Institute & Namibia Tourism Board



# WPI



*Namibia Tourism Board*

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

# Developing a Monitoring System for Mobile Camping to Promote Conservation and Community Development

AN INTERACTIVE QUALIFYING PROJECT REPORT  
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF  
WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Sponsoring Agency: Namibia Tourism Board

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May 7, 2014

## Abstract

The Namibia Tourism Board is a government body that markets and regulates tourism; however it does not currently regulate mobile camping. The goal of this project was to develop recommendations for regulating mobile camping that increases rural community involvement and mitigates stakeholders' concerns associated with mobile camping. Through the input gathered from interviews and discussions with various industry stakeholders, such as tour operators and conservancy communities, we recommended a list of mobile camping regulations and awareness initiatives be implemented.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations that made this project successful:

- Mr. Eroid Podewiltz for facilitating the meetings with the communities, his endless driving, translating, and continued humor throughout the project.
- Mrs. Celeste Kock for her helping us get settled at Namibia Tourism Board, and for her continual support and dedication to our project and offering comic relief.
- Professor Robert Hersh and Professor Melissa Belz for their support to help our team improve our project by providing new insights and perspectives.
- Mr. Bornventure 'Bonnie' Mbidzo and Uncle Ben !Gaoseb for their insight and continued enthusiasm.
- The Namibia Tourism Board for sponsoring our project and making it possible for us to travel to different regions of Namibia.
- Conservancy officials and other members for providing us with valuable information and sharing their opinions and concerns with us.
- Laura Hanlan for teaching us proper research techniques.
- WPI and IGSD for giving us the opportunity to travel to Namibia and work with the Namibia Tourism Board.

## Executive Summary

Namibia's diverse landscapes, wildlife, and cultures provide the country with incredible opportunities for tourism, but these features must be conserved to ensure the continued influx of tourists into the country. Currently, tourism is Namibia's third highest foreign currency earner, and to ensure the sustainability of their tourism industry, the Namibian government has gone to extensive lengths to promote conservation. To aid in the conservation of rural Namibia, the government has promoted the creation of conservancies, which are self-defined organizations made up of rural conservancy members who choose to work together to protect the wildlife and environment. Conservancies and other protected areas currently constitute over 50% of Namibia's landmass. Additionally, the Namibia Tourism Board (NTB) was established in 2001 as a regulatory body for the tourism industry, in part to ensure the sustainability of the industry. Although the NTB has regulations for many sectors of tourism including hotels, guesthouses, and campsites, the NTB does not currently regulate mobile camping. Mobile camping refers to temporarily camping on land that is not designated as a campsite. Mobile camping can have a variety of negative impacts on the ecosystem including pollution, disruption of wildlife and destruction of flora. Additionally, there are various social implications associated with mobile camping including cultural insensitivity and tourists' contribution to communities. The NTB would like to regulate this sector to mitigate the negative impacts mobile camping can have. They would also like to develop methods by which rural communities and Namibia as a whole can benefit from mobile camping that would allow for both rural and national development.

## Methodology

The goal of the project is to develop recommendations for regulating mobile camping for the Namibia Tourism Board that increase the involvement of rural communities and mitigate stakeholders' concerns. To accomplish this goal, we created the following objectives:

[Objective #1: Understand the perspectives of stakeholders involved in and affected by mobile camping, and their views on the current state of mobile camping in the tourism industry.](#)

Understanding the current state of mobile camping and its prevalence was important to comprehend the scope of the issue and identify what may need to be addressed through the creating regulations and control mechanisms for mobile camping. We interviewed stakeholders including representatives from 7 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), 8 operators, and 13 conservancies to gain insight into current trends in the tourism industry, the prevalence of mobile camping, and

the opinions and concerns of stakeholders about mobile camping. Additionally, we performed extensive research on existing regulations as well as past and current efforts that have been or are being made to address the issues of mobile camping.

[Objective #2: Encourage stakeholders' involvement, including conservancy members and tour operators, in the development of recommendations for managing mobile camping.](#)

Through our interviews with conservancies, NGOs, and operators, we were able to learn about their opinions, needs, and concerns so their voice could be integrated into our recommendations. In interviews with industry NGOs and operators, we aimed to understand: 1) operators' thoughts on mobile camp use, 2) what aspects of mobile camping should be regulated, and 3) what challenges may arise when regulating mobile camping. In interviews with conservancy leaders, we wanted to understand: 1) their opinions and needs relating to mobile camping, 2) their concerns pertaining to mobile camping, 3) how conservancy members feel about mobile campers, and 4) how mobile camping could contribute to their community's development.

[Objective #3: Develop recommendations for regulating mobile camping by incorporating the stakeholders' input.](#)

In the development of our recommendations, it was important to incorporate the input of stakeholders regarding monitoring techniques and control mechanisms that are beneficial for tourists, communities, NGOs and operators. It was also important for the NTB that we account for the opinions and concerns of stakeholders in the formulation of recommendations to ensure the major concerns of mobile camping are addressed, and to allow for an easier transition into monitoring and eventually regulating mobile camping in the future.

## **Findings and Recommendations**

**Stakeholders agree that mobile camping should be regulated due to environmental, safety, and social concerns. However, they are wary that overregulation could eliminate mobile camping from the tourism market.**

To mitigate these concerns we recommend a combination of education and regulations. We recommend educating tourists about environmental responsibility, potential safety threats, and cultural etiquette. This will inform them on best practices for mobile camping and how their actions effect the environment and people around them. We have found that information like this is available through various NGOs, but the distribution is still very limited. We also recommend that such resources regarding responsible tourism should be expanded upon to be specific to mobile

camping. Additionally, the accessibility of this information should be increased; we recommend that the information is made available online and paper copies are distributed from central locations including the NTB office, conservancy offices, immigration sites, and car rental offices.

**While most stakeholders are in favor of a system to monitor and control mobile camping, efforts to monitor mobile camping face significant legal and logistical obstacles.**

The nature of this type of accommodation makes it challenging to monitor. Past efforts to develop similar systems have attested to this difficulty. Main difficulties revolved around lack of authority of regulators and lack of manpower. Since the NTB is the regulating body of tourism, we recommend that the NTB utilizes its authority and resources to act as a central regulatory body for the mobile camping sector of tourism. The NTB usually regulates accommodations by prescribing minimum standards for amenities and services; they then inspect each establishment every six months. Because of the temporary nature of mobile camping, we recommend that regulations developed by the NTB do not prescribe a minimum standard for amenities and facilities.

**Due to the lack of manpower and resources, the NTB alone currently cannot effectively monitor and regulate mobile camping.**

The NTB, though they are the regulatory body for tourism in all of Namibia, only has eight tourism inspectors. We recognize that this will not be adequate to properly monitor mobile camping. Fortunately, 12 out of 13 conservancy leaders' said that their conservancy could assist the NTB in monitoring and regulating mobile camping; therefore, we recommend that NTB act as a facilitator to empower rural communities to aid in the monitoring of mobile camping rather than individually performing this task.

**Conservancies want legislation to be implemented to enable them to control the use of mobile camping on conservancy land and believe that mobile campers on conservancy land should contribute to the conservancy.**

All of the conservancies we visited wanted to have the authority to control people camping outside of designated campsites on their land. They expressed that they currently could not control mobile campers because they did not have the legal authority to do so, because conservancy land is communal land; we recommend that conservancies be given legal authority to approach tourists camping on conservancy land. Because conservancy members use financial resources to conserve the wildlife and environment, all 13 conservancies further emphasized the need to receive financial benefits from mobile camping on conservancy land. We recommend that the NTB implement a paid permit system for mobile camping to benefit conservancies.

**Some conservancies do not understand tourism industry practices or how to manage or operate a tourism enterprise.**

While all 13 conservancies expressed their desire to expand their tourism enterprises, more than half of those we interviewed stated that their members were not well educated with regard to tourism. We recommend that NTB provide awareness and training programs to the communities on current regulations and industry practices so the community can effectively implement new regulations in the future.

## Conclusion

We recommend that the NTB work as a facilitator and regulator to implement regulations and awareness programs to ensure the environmental sustainability and social responsibility of mobile camping. To assist the NTB in regulating this sector of tourism, and to increase the potential for rural community development, we recommend that conservancy officials, including game guards, be empowered to control mobile camping through regulation and education.

Moving forward in the regulatory process, the NTB should continue to involve the conservancies, NGOs, and operators; communication between the NTB and these stakeholders is vital, and stakeholders should have the ability to review and provide feedback regarding initial drafts of legislation before it is put into effect. While regulations are under development, we recommend that the NTB begin the process of managing mobile camping by further developing educational programs for conservancy members and tourists.



## Authorship

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# Glossary

## Definitions

### Accommodation Establishment

*A place where travels can sleep and find other services*

### Campsite

*A designated camping area for erection of tents, awnings or other temporary structures by guests for dwelling or sleeping purposes; and meets the minimum requirements set out in Namibia Tourism Standards Annex 4*

### Community

*A group of people living in the same locality and may share the same interests. They often have a common cultural and historical heritage*

### Conservancy

*A legally registered area with clearly defined borders and a constituted management body run by the community for the development of residents and the sustainable use of wildlife and tourism*

### Flora and Fauna

*Terms given to describe the collective whole of plant and animal life respectively of a specific geographical area*

### Joint Venture

*A project or a business agreement in which parties agree to develop, for a finite time, certain business without actual partnership; each of the participants is responsible for profits, losses and costs associated with it*

### Mobile Camping

*Camping temporarily in an area that is not designated as a campsite*

### Operator

*In relation to a regulated business, means the person –*

- a) who for the time being receives, or is entitled to receive, the proceeds of the profits arising from the regulated business; or*
- b) by whom or on whose behalf the regulated business is conducted or is to be conducted, whatever the nature or extent of that person's interest in the business may be*

### Permit

*A form that is signed by a certain authoritative figure giving permission for an activity*

### Stakeholder

*A person, group or organization that has interest or concern in an organization. In this case it refers to operators, government bodies, the communities and non-governmental organizations*

### Tented Camp

*A place that provides accommodation in permanent tents or other structures with walls of canvas or wood, reeds, grass or other natural material and meets the minimum requirements as set out in Namibia Tourism Standards Annex 11*

### Traditional Authority

*The group or persons who police the conservancy area, and are in charge of the safety of the communities*

### Trophy Hunting Operator

*Persons conducting business by providing services and facilities to tourists for hunting game for trophy purposes*

## Abbreviations

CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CBTE	Community Based Tourism Enterprise
ETEA	Emerging Tourism Enterprises Association
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HAN	Hospitality Association Namibia
IRDNC	Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MCA	Millennium Challenge Account
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
NACOBTA	Namibia Community Based Tourist Assistance Trust
NACSO	Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organizations
NAPHA	Namibia Professional Hunting Association
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NTB	Namibia Tourism Board
PDI	Previously Disadvantaged Individuals
PH	Professional Hunter
TA	Traditional Authority
TASA	Tour and Safari Association
TOSCO	Tourism Support Conservation
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

## Clicks

The following symbols found in the report are called ‘clicks’, and are used in many Namibian languages: // # ! ≠ /

## 1.0 Introduction

Tourism currently constitutes over 15% of Namibia's GDP and is growing at a rate of over twice the worldwide average (Travel and Tourism Economic Impact: Namibia, 2013). Such a rapid growth in the industry means it is increasingly necessary to monitor the diverse set of tourism operations available. Tourists are attracted to Namibia primarily due to its diverse wildlife and landscapes; Namibia is also rich in vibrant cultures and full of diverse traditions and unique languages. These aspects all contribute to Namibia's draw as a tourist destination (Kisting, 2010). In Namibia, regulations are a means of ensuring sustainable tourism: a way in which the economic benefits of tourism can be achieved while mitigating negative environmental impacts (Asheeke, 2007). The vast landscape and diverse wildlife of Namibia provides the capacity for growth of tourism; however, it is crucial to find balance between the growth of tourism and regulations to ensure its sustainability for future generations to enjoy.

Efforts towards sustainable tourism increased immensely following Namibia's independence in 1990. These efforts toward conservation began in an attempt to reverse the decline in wildlife populations, resulting from years of uncontrolled poaching. In 1994, a movement began to create community based natural resource management programs, CBNRMs, by designating community managed plots of land across Namibia as conservancies. Conservancies operate with the specific purpose to help conserve Namibia's natural resources and wildlife, and since their inception, Namibia has experienced unparalleled growth in wildlife populations as a result of conservation.

The success of conservation efforts has contributed to an increase in tourism throughout the country, including increased tourism on conservancy land. Such an increase has allowed for communities to develop as a direct result of their conservation efforts. Specifically, conservancies have the opportunity to build and designate accommodation establishments at which tourists can stay, including lodges, campsites, caravan parks, and permanent tented camps.

The Namibia Tourism Board (NTB) currently regulates many accommodation establishments. The NTB was created in 2001 to serve as a means to merge Namibia's private and public sectors in implementing the nation's tourism policy. Various regulations currently exist for accommodation establishments and provide standards of operation by which operators must abide (*Government Gazette of the Republic of Namibia*, 2004). These regulations address a variety of areas including transportation, food, safety, and facility specifications. Regulation of these establishments also ensures that operators take proper measures to mitigate negative environmental impacts of



tourism (NTB, 2006). However, other means of travel and accommodation exist that do not fit within any of the established sectors and therefore lack individualized regulations.

Mobile camping refers to camping in an area that is not already designated as a campsite. This practice allows for an exclusive experience, separate from other tourists, while also offering a more rustic camping experience that may be desirable to some travellers. Although there is a considerable market for mobile camping, it is not currently regulated or controlled. The operators and tourists utilizing these accommodations are not effectively managed, and this may result in various social, logistical, and environmental concerns for operators, communities, and tourists (Smit, 2010).

Unregulated and unmonitored tourism operations not only decrease the opportunity for community development, but can also exacerbate environmental degradation and wildlife depletion, threatening the progress conservancies have made in resource conservation. (Ashley, 2000; Spencely et al., 2002). Therefore, unregulated tourism activities pose a threat to the objectives and conservation efforts of conservancies (Ashley, 2000; Spencely et al., 2002).

Due to the absence of monitoring and control mechanisms for mobile camping, communities, operators, and NGOs have concerns regarding how mobile camps impact both the tourism industry and the country as a whole. In this project, we researched stakeholders' opinions and concerns about mobile camps to create recommendations for the Namibia Tourism Board to help ensure that mobile camps are environmentally sustainable and provide an opportunity for growth of rural communities through their involvement in tourism activities.

To understand the challenges and issues associated with mobile camps, we met with various stakeholders including operators, tourists, governmental representatives, and conservancy leaders and members to understand their thoughts and perspectives. We researched current regulations and enforcement mechanisms within the tourism industry by talking to employees of the NTB and also analyzing various documents provided by them. We researched and interviewed a variety of operators to understand their current means of operation and their perspectives and concerns regarding mobile camping. To understand all perspectives of this issue, we traveled to various conservancies across the country and spoke with conservancy leaders and members to understand their viewpoints and concerns regarding mobile camping; we sought to understand how mobile camping affects their conservancy and the communities settled within the area. We developed a greater understanding of the issues associated with mobile camping, and received stakeholder input regarding the need for regulations or other control mechanisms for mobile camping, and what role

the NTB's should play. Based on stakeholders' input, we were able to provide the NTB with recommendations for regulating or controlling mobile camping.

## 2.0 Background

In 1990, after years of fighting for freedom from South Africa's rule, Namibia emerged as an independent country. In the years leading up to Namibia's independence, the people of Namibia suffered severe oppression, and wildlife populations underwent marked depletion as a result of illegal poaching and unmonitored hunting. Since then, Namibians have gone to extensive lengths to revitalize their diverse cultures and environment (OWNO, 2014).

In order to protect Namibia's wildlife and natural landscapes, Namibia incorporated an environmental protection program into its constitution and became the first country in Africa to do so (World Wildlife, 2013). Currently, over 50% of Namibia's land is involved in some degree of environmental protection. In 1994, extensive efforts were made to increase environmental conservation with the start of communal conservancies throughout Namibia. *Communal Conservancies* are areas of community-managed land dedicated to the conservation of natural resources including wildlife and environment. Seventy-seven conservancies have been created throughout Namibia to protect the country's wildlife and unique flora (NACSO, 2012). The conservancy distribution map can be found in Appendix A.

Conservation efforts relating to Namibia's "spectacular desert scenery, wildlife, unique flora, vast wilderness areas and traditional cultures" (Zeppel, 2006, p. 182), provide the country an opportunity to develop a prosperous tourism industry. While Namibia's tourism sector emerged long before the country's independence in 1990, it has developed significantly since then. Following independence, the Namibian government worked to improve and expand the tourism sector; in 1992, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) was created in to assist in these efforts. As a result, Namibia has achieved one of the most highly rated tourism industries in the world (Kisting, 2010).

### 2.1 Tourism

Foreign tourists traveling to Namibia come from a variety of countries including Angola, South Africa, and Germany, which constitute the top contributing countries for incoming tourists (*Report on the Namibia Tourism Exit Survey 2012-2013*, 2013). Tourists are often drawn to Namibia due to its expansive and varied wildlife, and landscapes. Further, there are at least 11 distinct ethnic groups in Namibia including the Owambo, Kavango, and San people as well as many others (Rothmann, 2007). These people each have their own distinct dress, language, and traditions. Figure

1 illustrates the percentage of tourists who came to Namibia to experience wildlife, scenery and culture.

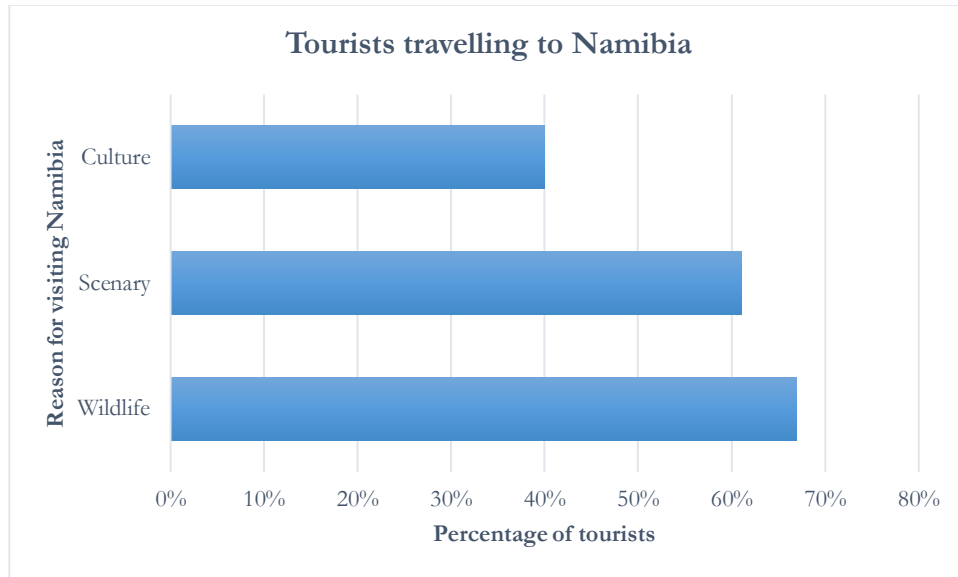


Figure 1: Reasons for travelling to Namibia (Report on the Namibia Tourism Exit Survey 2012-2013, 2013).

These features of Namibia evidently stimulate the country's tourism industry, and therefore, they must be conserved to ensure the continued influx of tourists.

To ensure the sustainability of Namibia's tourism industry, the Namibia Tourism Board (NTB) was created in 2001 as a subsidiary governing body under the MET. The MET focuses on promoting environmental sustainability and ensuring biological diversity for years to come ("MET Namibia - About the MET," 2014). The MET delegates tourism related responsibilities to the NTB, who then works to regulate tourism in Namibia and promote Namibia as a tourist destination. The NTB oversees all activity within the tourism industry, and provides certification for tour operators as well as regulations to promote the financial and environmental sustainability of tourism; Appendix B further outlines information pertaining to and the responsibilities of the NTB.

## 2.2 Impacts of Tourism in Namibia

Tourism both positively and negatively impacts the people and environment of Namibia. For the purpose of our project, we were interested in the developmental and environmental impacts that occur as a result of tourism in Namibia.

### 2.2.1 Developmental Impacts of Tourism

Tourism in Namibia provides an opportunity for incredible development. The Travel and Tourism Economic Impact report for Namibia recorded that travel and tourism accounts for over

15 percent of Namibia's total gross domestic product (GDP) and supports over 19.9 percent of Namibia's total employment. In 2013, tourism provided over 97,000 employment positions. The national contribution of travel and tourism to Namibia is projected to grow extensively over the next 10 years. With this growth in the industry, tourism is now Namibia's third highest foreign currency earner (Ndlovu, Nyakunu, & Heath, 2011). By increasing tourism, there is the potential to increase national GDP and employment rates across the country, which could promote national development.

As a result of the development of the tourism industry, Namibia has experienced an increase in employment opportunities, and the MET suggests that increasing tourism could stimulate the circulation of money on both the national and local levels (MET, 2005a). In other words, through the development of the tourism industry, the potential for increased rural and overall national development is provided.

In addition to national development, since 1994, there have been extensive efforts to increase community-based involvement in tourism to specifically promote the development of rural communities. Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) programs work to promote the idea that local management of natural resources can enhance the efficiency and sustainability of rural development through a means of incentivized conservation (NACSO, 2011). Self-defined communities choosing to work together to protect the wildlife and their natural habitats through CBNRM programs are referred to as conservancies (NTB, 2009). Once registered as a conservancy, the communities involved can experience profound development because registration provides them with both consumptive and non-consumptive rights over the land. Consumptive rights provide communities the opportunity to hunt additional game, improving food availability; non-consumptive rights over the land creates opportunities for communities to establish their own community based tourism enterprise (CBTE). CBTEs allow communities to become involved in joint venture tourism projects, providing potential for economic growth. For example, if a tour operator constructs a lodge on a conservancy's land, employment opportunities become available, providing jobs for previously unemployed conservancy members. Promoting and increasing tourism through the use of conservancies and CBNRMs can therefore aid the infiltration of money and economic benefits derived from tourism into the development of these rural communities. This is depicted in Figure 2 (NACSO, 2011).

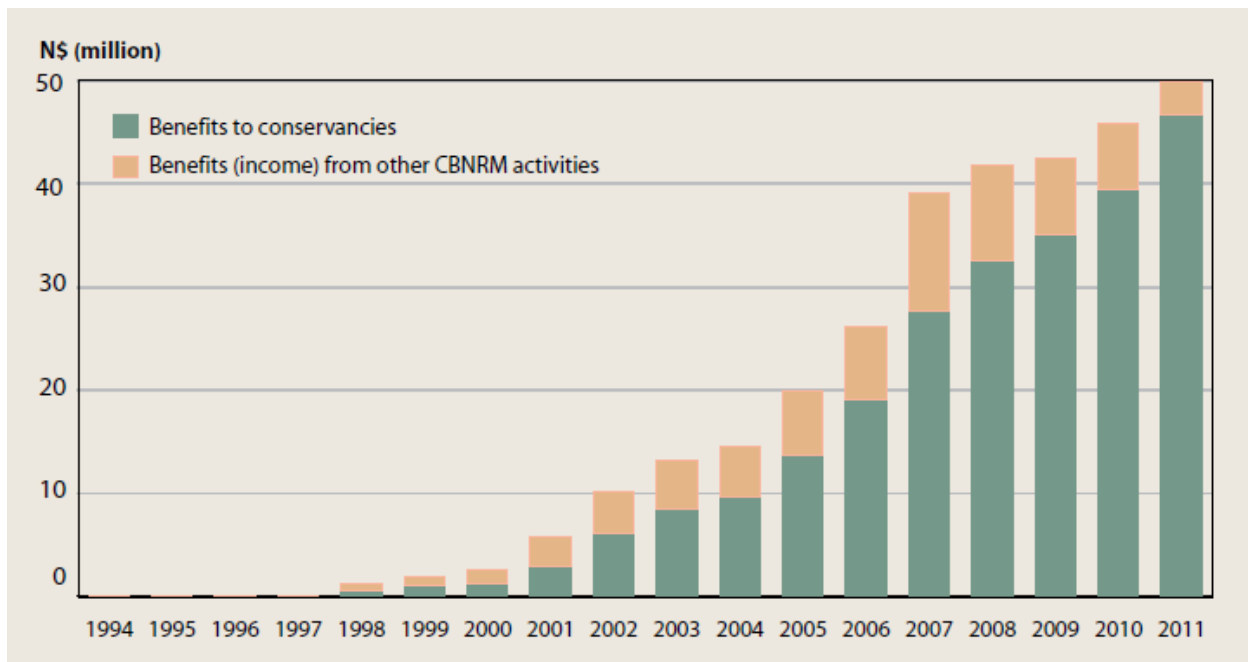


Figure 2: Increasing financial benefits from CBNRM activities from 0 in 1994 to about N\$ 50 million in 2011 (NACSO, 2011)

Once a community gains revenue through a conservancy program, it is the community’s decision how that money is spent. For example, the generated income can be used to fund classrooms and teachers, thus improving education in rural communities, or, it could be used to establish health clinics to improve the wellbeing of conservancy members (NACSO, 2012).

While conservation efforts provide rural communities with many financial and developmental benefits, unequal distribution of economic benefits throughout the community often times leads to further community inequality. Many times, the money earned is not distributed to all members of the community, and it is simply retained by more powerful conservancy members and leaders. The conservancy members therefore may not feel included in the benefits of the conservancy, leading to a decreased participation in group decision-making. Without collective community involvement, economic development can be suppressed at the community level (Silva & Mosimane, 2013).

Additionally, the wide range of features present in each conservancy region means that some conservancies will gain greater revenue than others, with some barely earning enough to cover their operating costs. If this happens, members of the community may lose interest in running the conservancy, ceasing the potential for rural economic development. Because of this, the NTB

identifies that it is necessary to develop methods to “maximize the economic opportunities of low earning conservancies by rebuilding wildlife populations, establishing new tourism products and markets and by exploring other innovative forms of income generation” (NACSO, 2009, p. 17). Ensuring that all forms of tourism are regulated within a conservancy will therefore allow for greater community development.

### 2.2.2 Environment Impacts of Tourism

Increasing tourism in Namibia has promoted an increase in conservation efforts, which, in addition to increasing economic and community development, has positively impacted the Namibian ecology. In addition to promoting rural development, CBNRM programs allow for communities to become involved in environmental conservation efforts by encouraging the sustainable use of wildlife and ecosystem. This means that they aim to reap the maximum benefits from the country’s flora and fauna through tourism while mitigating negative environmental impacts (Ashley, 2000).

Tourism opportunities often increase because of environmental conservation efforts and CBNRMs, which incentivize communities to form conservancies. Environmental conservation, the primary goal of conservancies, can aid in increasing the biodiversity seen throughout Namibia by stimulating the conservation of the natural habitats of wildlife. Increased biodiversity in turn, helps to promote tourism throughout the country because greater opportunities exist to experience diverse wildlife. Conservationists have shown that tourism helps to promote wildlife and environmental sustainability efforts because the financial benefits reaped from tourism further incentivize citizens to preserve their surroundings; tourism provides a source of sustainable development in communities, meaning that individuals are encouraged to preserve their environment in order to preserve their source of income (NACSO, 2011). Since the start of community based conservation programs in 1994, conservancies have increased in numbers from just four in 1998 to 77 in 2012 (NACSO, 2012). This inevitably means that there has been a significant increase in both the number of people involved in conservancies and land area managed by community conservation efforts. Increasing wildlife populations correlate directly with the increasing numbers of operating conservancies as shown in Figure 3 (NACSO, 2012).

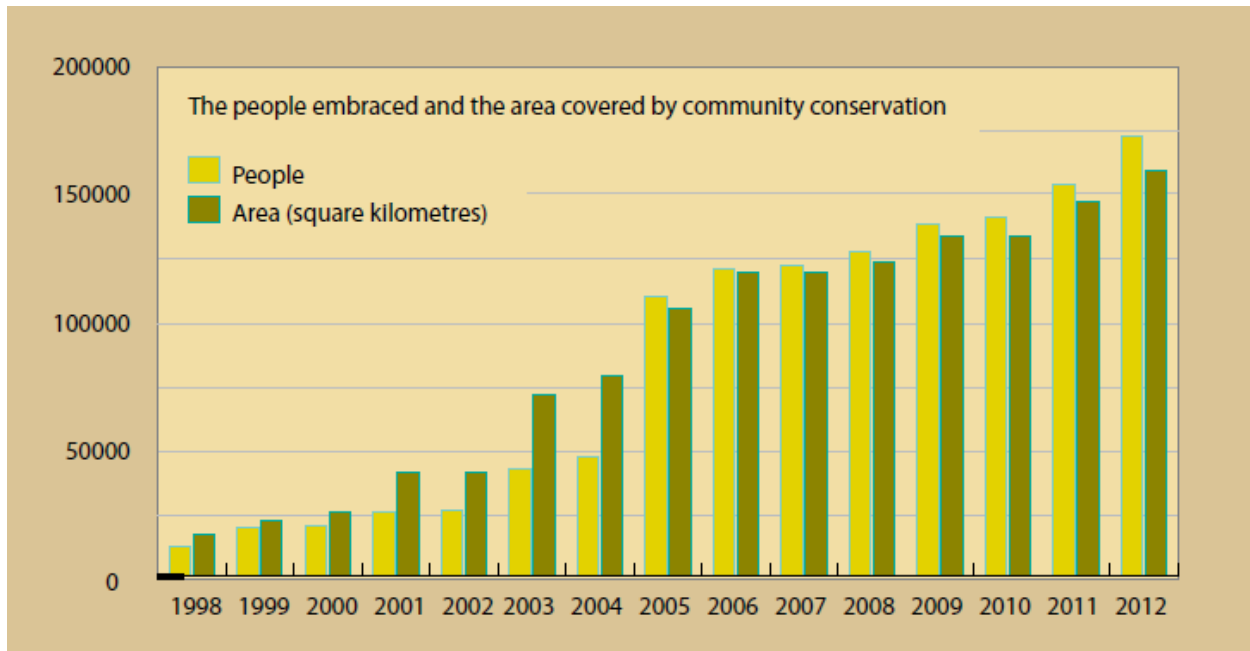


Figure 3: Increase in land area and population involved in community conservation from 1998 to 2012 (NACSO, 2012)

In the late 70s and early 80s, a high rate of poaching of black rhinos and elephants existed. However, since then, the numbers of these species have more than doubled mainly as a result of conservation efforts. Additionally, it is indicated that springbok, gemsbok and mountain zebra populations have increased more than ten-fold between 1982 and 2000. The North-West Game Count has found similar results regarding species population trends (NACSO, 2011). Table 1 shows this trend of the increasing wildlife populations.



<b>Species</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Buffalo</b>	3262	5941	9633
<b>Hippopotamus</b>	1387	1269	1291
<b>Impala</b>	742	1361	1457
<b>Elephant</b>	860	3062	3450
<b>Kudu</b>	98	234	171
<b>Lechwe</b>	738	767	777
<b>Reedbuck</b>	76	162	105
<b>Sitatunga</b>	2	7	19
<b>Waterbuck</b>	60	30	130
<b>Wildebeest</b>	6	35	64
<b>Zebra</b>	1084	1653	1689
<b>Lion</b>	4	10	24
<b>Wattled Crane</b>	8	24	41

Table 1: Trends in Caprivi wetland wildlife populations in 2004, 2007 and 2009 (NACSO, 2011)

Despite the positive trends observed with increasing tourism efforts, unmanaged and uncontrolled tourism leads to a variety of negative environmental impacts. Growth within the tourism industry may disrupt the delicate balance of Namibia's ecosystem. Currently, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has identified 18 threatened species, and dozens of other endemic species in Namibia (IUCN, 2013). A growth in tourism can lead to an increase in pollution, brought on by an increase in tourists who may lack environmental consideration or a proper means of waste disposal. This could lead to contaminant runoff, which is caused by improper waste disposal and sanitation efforts. Runoff is eventually deposited directly into lakes and rivers, contaminating water sources and increasing pollution. This can have detrimental effects on the nation's wildlife and may further threaten the availability of water, which, in turn, can adversely affect not only the wildlife but also the people of Namibia (Spencely et al., 2002; Newsome et al., 2005). Contaminated water sources can increase risk of health hazards including cholera, typhoid and other waterborne illnesses present themselves (Spencely et al., 2002). Additionally, wildlife may become habituated to feeding on tourists' trash which could have a profound effect on wildlife health, including physical illness, and psychological stress. Wildlife habituation can also cause

behavioral changes, which may occur as a result of increased human contact resulting from increased tourism (Spencely et al., 2002).

## 2.3 Impact Management in Namibia

In order to mitigate the impacts outlined in section 2.2, the Namibian government has worked to implement a variety of control mechanisms and management techniques. While some regulatory processes have shown promising results, there is a clear need for greater regulatory measures.

### 2.3.1 Conservancies

Following independence, the Namibian government identified the distinct need to protect and revitalize the natural beauty and wildlife of Namibia. As the tourism industry continued to grow, it became increasingly necessary to expand conservation efforts across Namibia to ensure the sustainability of the tourism industry. To help implement these efforts, in 1994, the movement to create communal conservancies to protect the natural resources of Namibia began. To monitor the wildlife and other natural resources, conservancies employ game guards who conduct daily patrols and report any unusual or illegal activities taking place on the conservancy's land. Game guards play a vital role in the conservation efforts of the conservancy by ensuring that wildlife populations are maintained and other natural resources are used in a sustainable manner.

### 2.3.2 Governmental Involvement

Various governmental agencies within Namibia have created policies and regulatory processes to help mitigate the negative impacts associated with tourism. To protect the environment, conservation laws, including hunting quotas and land-use laws, are in place by governmental agencies to prevent the degradation of wildlife and their habitats. To further assist in these efforts, all national park regions have adopted a variety of individualized regulations that cater to the specific environmental region (MET, 2013). Conservation laws in Namibia have proven to be successful, as is evident with the increase in wildlife prevalence (Fogel, 2013). Before Namibia's independence, there were few conservation laws in place that would prevent damage to the environment; also, local communities did not see the economic opportunities in conservation and therefore were not involved in preserving the natural resources. Many examples can be found from the country's history that suggest the negative effects Namibia faced as a result of minimal conservation laws. Specifically, an increase in wildlife poaching and significant species depletion were observed during the 1960s (Fogel, 2013). After the independence of Namibia, certain

conservation laws were put in place by the government that implemented a monetary fine on individuals who did not observe them.

In addition to conservation laws, the NTB was established to in part to “promote the development of environmentally sustainable tourism by actively supporting the long-term conservation, maintenance and development of the natural resource base of Namibia” (NTB, 2014). To more effectively track and monitor organizations, all tourism activities must be registered with the NTB; once they have been registered, it is more manageable to track and monitor organizations. To register with the NTB, organizations undergo an application process during which they are evaluated based on compliance with given requirements. For example, if a lodge is applying for registration an environmental impact assessment must be submitted to ensure it does not impart extensive environmental impacts. The NTB further mandates regulations for operators and maintains a similar set of standards (NTB Tourism Standards Part III, Page 23). Registered operators that are found incompliant with regulations can be fined or have their permit revoked (NTB Act No. 21, 2000). Organizations found to be operating without registration could be faced with a fine since unregistered organizations cannot be monitored. The NTB also provides regulations that mandate minimum standards for all tourism activities. The gazette contains distinct regulations for different accommodation establishments and these regulations play an important role in how the NTB develops standards for accommodations while also working to gain revenue and sustain the environment.

While there are many accommodation establishments already under regulation, those associated with campsites, permanent tented camps, and camping and caravan parks are most relevant to discuss when considering mobile camps. An accommodation establishment can be classified as a campsite if a specific camping area is designated for the erection of tents or other non-permanent structures and if wash and toilet facilities are provided to guests (NTB, 2004). A permanent tented camp differs in that it is an establishment that provides accommodation in permanent structures, including permanent tents and structures with canvas, wood or other natural materials. A permanent tented camp must also provide a dining room and restaurant for guests. Camping and caravan parks are establishments that have areas of land with pitches for parking caravans and, or areas of land for tents to be erected (NTB, 2004). Camping and caravan parks are ideal for self-drive operations.

In contrast to the accommodation establishments outlined above, a mobile campsite refers to a location, not already designated as a campsite. This location is a place chosen by a tour operator

or tourist where they can set up a portable camp and provide all necessary equipment for camping. The NTB currently has various accommodation establishments listed and regulated, but none specifically addressing mobile camping.

## 2.4 Mobile Camping

The NTB asked our group to research how mobile camps could be regulated in Namibia. We looked into how mobile camping is regulated internationally to understand how mobile camps could be controlled in Namibia.

### 2.4.1 Mobile Camping in Namibia

As previously mentioned, mobile camping, refers to camping outside of a designated campsite. Mobile camping provides a more natural, unhindered experience of Namibia's wildlife and environment because it allows tourists to see the country's most remote locations. However, currently, the Namibia Tourism Board does not regulate mobile camping; lack of regulatory procedures could lead to decreased potential for revenue collection by communities and a greater possibility for environmental degradation because tourists do not have set rules to follow (Smit, 2010). Figure 4 shows a mobile camp set up at Mashi Conservancy.



Figure 4: Mobile Camping at Mashi Conservancy

#### 2.4.2 Mobile Camping Internationally

Looking into the control mechanisms and regulatory processes present within international tourism sectors can provide valuable insight into the ways in which the concerns associated with mobile camping in Namibia can be addressed. By examining the regulations of mobile camping in other countries, we can learn about best practices that could be applied to Namibia.

Namibia shares its northeast border with the Republic of Botswana; the scope of tourism in Botswana is similar to Namibia. Much of the flora and fauna of Botswana is comparable to that seen in Namibia and therefore offers many of the same tourism opportunities. Unlike Namibia, Botswana advertises mobile camping as an independent sector of their tourism industry. However, currently regulations of this sector are still in the process of being developed and approved by Botswana's government. Despite this, operators must still obtain a license to run a mobile tour or safari to prove training program completion and licensure as a professional guide. This ensures these operators are well equipped and educated to oversee the proper running of a mobile camping experience (*Tourism Enterprise Application Form*).

The Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) has additionally implemented a set of standards for accommodations that aim to promote environmental conservation and sustainability ("Implementation of Sustainable Management Policies," 2014). For example, the BTO implements standards for employee training including environmental awareness for staff about the dangers of wildlife, first aid, and training in water and energy use awareness. The standards also outline information regarding the geological and environmental setting, ecological and social threats, and concerns surrounding the environment. Guidelines are further in place to mitigate impact on wildlife; for example there is no feeding of fauna. Specifications on toilets and waste removal are also provided as best practices against pollution. Additionally, group size is specified to provide guidelines to help best protect the environment. All of the standards outlined are managed by a variety of methods including training plans, field evaluations, documentary evidence, and environmental management plans.

Botswana has also produced a grading process by which accommodation establishments can be characterized ("Grading Process," 2014). This allows for organizations to meet different standards regarding services and facilities provided, while allowing for a quantifiable differentiation between operations. The areas considered when grading include exterior surroundings, public service areas, bedrooms, bathrooms, dining and restaurant services and facilities. Re-evaluation of

the grade assessment occurs every other year to ensure operator accountability. It is expected that Botswana will grade mobile camps on criteria similar to those outlined here.

There are a variety of different organizations and systems throughout the world that either allow for mobile camping or provide a mobile camping experience. In Botswana, Letaka Safaris boasts about their highly experienced guides who have all undergone training with the Okavango Guide School to provide a premiere experience ("Northern Highlights," 2014). They explicitly provide documentation for how tourists must behave and rules they must abide by while on the trip. This trip includes tented accommodations including beds and linens, private bathrooms, professional guides, and safari chefs. Although regulations are still in the process of being approved for mobile camps in Botswana, the licensure and grading schemes in place help to provide a quality tourist experience.

Further, there are organizations in the United States, including Western Spirit, which provide examples for operators successfully providing mobile camps. Western Spirit is an organization that travels throughout America's western coast, providing guided cycling tours that utilize mobile camps for rest. The organization is committed to providing experienced tour operators, while also working to protect the mountain and desert regions ("About Our Trips : Western Spirit," 2014). They operate under permits given by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service in a multitude of national park regions. For safety and environmental protection, they only travel on designated routes. Furthermore, they prioritize environmental protection, conservation and sustainability. During the trip, tourists are provided with drinks and meals in addition to a completely stocked support vehicle. Camping gear can be rented at a flat rate per person; however, tourists also have the option of bringing their own equipment. Western Spirit also provides a shuttle service to the start and from the end point of the ride. Additionally, the trip includes all entry fees and permits to national parks and public lands into the cost of the tour. These standards of operation may be useful to consider when looking towards recommendations for mobile camps in Namibia.

Additionally, the United States has a highly established system for what Americans refer to as 'backcountry camping.' This type of camping is specifically regulated within America's national parks. In order for a tourist to camp outside of designated areas within the national parks, the tourist must first pay for and receive a permit prior to their stay in the park. These permits often charge a small fee, which then gets put back into the national park system to maintain the natural beauty of these areas. Tourists applying for the permit will also receive a list of rules and guidelines they must

follow while camping within the park. These guidelines are specific to each park and provide rules regarding the distance one must camp away from a water source and trash removal and sanitation policies, to name a few. The methods used for backcountry camping within the United States may be important to consider when researching mobile camps in Namibia (NPS, 2014).

Drawing off of the successes of other country's regulatory processes will aid in the drafting of our own general recommendations, and regulation recommendations for mobile camps in Namibia.

## 2.5 Summary

As the tourism industry continues to grow, the importance of controlling and regulating all sectors of tourism becomes increasingly important to ensure its sustainability. To benefit the tourists, operators, communities, the environment, and the Namibia Tourism Board, it is essential that regulations and control mechanisms be implemented for mobile camping to help establish them as a sustainable sector of tourism. To create a sustainable sector of the tourism industry, we aim to create recommendations for how to control and monitor mobile camps to promote community development and environmental sustainability. From research, we gathered information regarding how the Namibian tourism industry operates and gained an understanding regarding the framework of tourism regulations. Due to the need for control mechanisms for mobile camps, the Namibia Tourism Board asked our group to assist in creating recommendations for monitoring and controlling mobile camps. We worked with the NTB to develop new regulations and control mechanisms to best utilize Namibia's appeal as a tourist destination, and to include and benefit Namibia's communities, businesses, and environment. In our next chapter, we outline the methods we used to develop these recommendations.

### 3.0 Methodology

The goal of the project is to develop recommendations for regulating mobile camps for the Namibia Tourism Board that increases the involvement of rural communities and mitigates stakeholders' concerns.

To accomplish the goal of this project, we devised the following objectives:

1. Understand the perspectives of stakeholders involved in and affected by mobile camping and their views on the current state of mobile camping in the tourism industry.
2. Encourage stakeholders' involvement, including conservancy members and tour operators, in the development of recommendations for managing mobile camps.
3. Develop recommendations for regulating mobile camps by incorporating the stakeholders' input.

In this chapter we discuss the various methods we used to complete these objectives.

**Objective #1: Understand the perspectives of stakeholders involved in and affected by mobile camping and their views on the current state of mobile camping in the tourism industry.**

Understanding the current role mobile camping plays in the tourism industry and stakeholders' opinions and concerns regarding mobile camping was crucial in comprehending the scope of our project. We interviewed the stakeholders: NGOs, operators, conservancy leaders, and conservancy members. We researched current trends of the tourism industry, the prevalence of mobile camping, and learned about the opinions and concerns of various stakeholders.

#### Non-governmental Organizations

Non-governmental Organizations operating within the tourism industry represent the interests and opinions of their members. To gain insight into the current practices and issues associated with mobile camping in Namibia, we interviewed representatives from the following seven different organizations:

- Tour and Safari Association (TASA)
- Namibia Professional Hunters Association (NAPHA)
- Hospitality Association of Namibia (HAN)
- Emerging Tourism Enterprise Association (ETEA)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- Namibia Association of CBNRM Support Organization (NACSO)
- Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC)

In each interview, we asked questions pertaining to the environmental, financial, and social implications associated with mobile camping, and if there are any related concerns or issues. While



we hoped to gain a general overview of the current state of mobile camping in Namibia by interviewing these NGOs, each organization was chosen based on their distinct and varied area of expertise. Appendix C and D includes information about the organizations we interviewed and the questions addressed in our interviews, respectively.

We interviewed Leana Marais from Tour and Safari Association and Meke Imbili from Emerging Tourism Enterprise Association. From these interviews, we aimed to understand if operators already utilize mobile camps, and if so, how these trips are planned and executed. Next, we interviewed with Gitta Paetzold, the CEO of Hospitality Association Namibia, to discuss the NTB regulated accommodation establishments and to learn if accommodation owners are interested in offering mobile camping trips. We interviewed Deitlinde Mueller, the CEO of Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA), and asked about the current practices of trophy hunters, since some utilize mobile camps, and NAPHA's experiences with joint-venture operation agreements and interacting with communities. We also interviewed Richard Diggle and Chris Toules from World Wildlife Fund to learn about the environmental and social implications of mobile camps. We interviewed with Maxi Louis of NACSO and Rueben Martati of IRDNC to understand the objectives of and challenges faced by conservancies, and to learn about previous attempts to develop mobile camping as a sector of tourism.

### Operators

Based on the input provided by the NGOs listed above and the NTB, we constructed a list of tourism operators who could help us understand: 1) the current experiences, 2) general practices regarding mobile camps, 3) how this sector is developing, and 4) what aspects of mobile camping are crucial to regulate. Through both phone and email correspondence, we were able to interview eight operators all of whom brought different and unique opinions and concerns to our research.

We interviewed I Dream Africa, Conservancy Safaris, Camelthorn Safaris, Be Local Tourism and Journeys Namibia because we were told that they all provided mobile camping experiences to their clients. In these interviews, we wanted to understand: 1) how they currently operate, 2) what types of amenities they provide, and 3) what are the ways in which they manage the environmental, safety, and social concerns of mobile camping. We also asked questions to understand their thoughts about the implementation of mobile camping regulations and what aspects should be regulated. A list of questions addressed to these operators can be found in Appendix E.

### Conservancy leaders and members

To further understand the current role of mobile camping in the tourism industry and to better understand the prevalence of mobile camping on conservancy land, we interviewed conservancy leaders and members throughout Namibia. Through phone correspondence, we set up meetings with seven conservancies in the northwest and six in the northeast. Specifically, we were conducted community meetings with Ehi-Rovipuka, #Khoadi //Hôas, Torra, Otjimboyo, #Gaingu, Doro Inawas, and Tsiseb Conservancy in the northwest, and Mashi, Salambala, George Mukoya, Kwandu, Sikunga, and Shimungwa Conservancy in the northeast. Figure 5 depicts one of the community meetings we held.



Figure 5: George Mukoya Conservancy discussion group

It was important to visit conservancies in different areas of Namibia due to the varied cultures, landscapes, and perspectives found across the country. Additionally, it was essential to visit a variety of conservancies because some conservancies experience more tourism activity than others, and it was important to understand prevalence of mobile camping throughout Namibia. The specific conservancies we visited in each region of Namibia are outlined in the figures below.

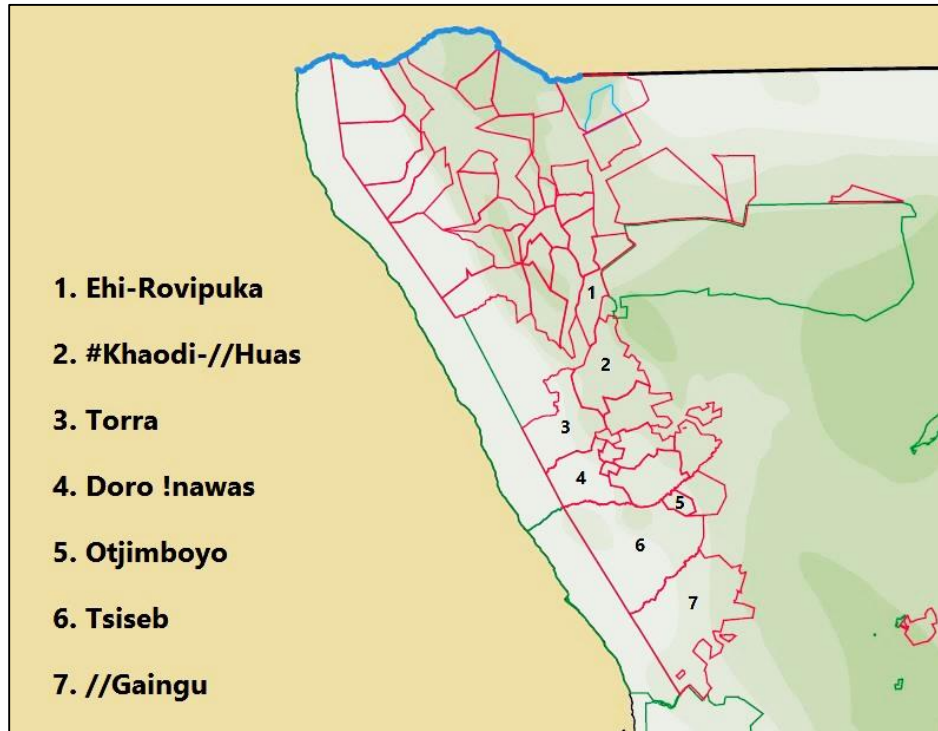


Figure 6: Conservancies visited in the Northwest

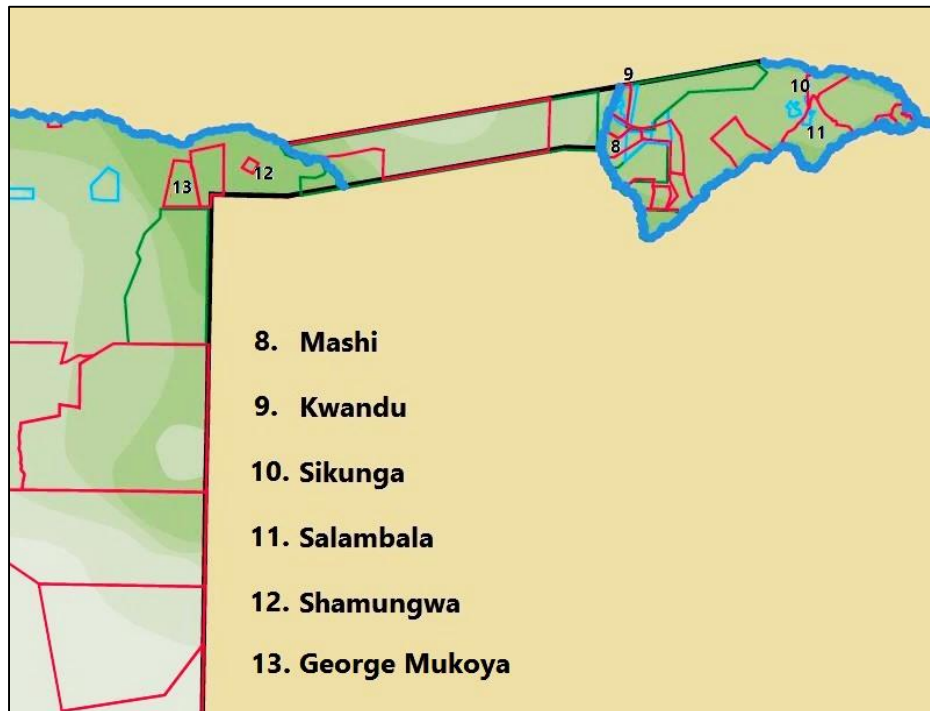


Figure 7: Conservancies visited the Northeast

We asked about their past experiences with mobile campers, and the issues and problems mobile camping may have caused; we wanted to understand whether the occurrence of mobile camping changes if the conservancy has other accommodation establishments, such as lodges or

campsites. Furthermore, we aimed to learn how conservancies' opinions and thoughts regarding mobile campers varied based on location and differing levels of other tourism activities. Appendix F lists the specific questions asked in the discussion groups.

### Document Research

We researched extensively to understand the tourism industry, mobile camping sector, and conservancy procedures currently occurring in Namibia. We reviewed many relevant documents at the NTB office, including the Namibia Tourism Standards booklets and documentation about current regulations for different types of accommodations. Additionally, we reviewed literature from various NGOs and private researchers about rural development and the CBNRM program. We reviewed several scholarly reports about the social implications of rural development, including a report by Ed Humphrey who proposed a voluntary permit system to manage mobile camping. We reviewed informational material, such as brochures and posters, to understand previous efforts made to manage mobile camping, as well as background information of relevant social and economic factors.

### Objective #2: Encourage involvement of stakeholders, including conservancy members and tour operators, in the development of recommendations for managing mobile camping.

It is important to involve stakeholders, including operators and conservancy members, in the development of future regulations and control mechanisms for mobile camping because they play a major role in the success of the tourism industry. It is crucial to integrate the opinions and concerns of all of these stakeholders in the management of mobile camping in order to promote sustainable and mutually beneficial growth within the tourism industry.

We determined specific topics that our recommendations and control mechanisms should address by understanding the concerns and perspectives of stakeholders we received through Objective 1. We also sought to identify what key issues operators and communities would want to see addressed in the future, and how regulations or other control mechanisms could be made relevant and useful to them.

We asked operators if they thought mobile camping should be regulated, and if so, what aspects were vital to be monitored. If the operator thought that unregulated mobile camping posed issues, we questioned what methods they believed would be useful in monitoring mobile camping and if they would be willing to abide by such control mechanisms. We also asked if they would be willing to pay a fee if it meant that there would be greater monitoring of mobile camping.

We asked conservancy members questions relating to the role they could play in monitoring mobile camping. We asked if they have tried in the past to monitor mobile camping on their land, and if they felt any resistance to approaching mobile campers. We asked what degree of ownership they feel over conservancy land, and the level of control conservancy leaders would like to be given regarding mobile camping. Additionally, we questioned how the conservancy members would like to benefit from mobile camping if it were to become a regulated sector. Lastly, we wanted to understand if conservancy members would be accepting and willing to help implement control mechanisms for mobile camping if regulations were created. A full list of our interview questions for conservancy leaders can be found in Appendix F.

### Objective #3: Develop recommendations for the monitoring of mobile camps by incorporating stakeholders' input

Using the information gathered and input received from Objectives 1 and 2, we aimed to outline recommendations to monitor mobile camping. It was important for the NTB that we account for the opinions and concerns of stakeholders in the formulation of recommendations to allow for an easier transition into monitoring and eventually regulating mobile camps in the future. The NTB understands that stakeholders should have a say in how mobile camps are regulated; the head of NTB Industry Services, Bornventure Mbidzo, explained how the NTB, as a government body, is in place to serve the people. He believes that the NTB cannot best serve the people if they do not first listen to their concerns, ideas, and opinions. Listening to stakeholders' concerns can help ensure that the NTB can begin to monitor and eventually regulate mobile camps with minimum resistance.

In our interviews with stakeholders, we asked about if they knew of any past efforts to monitor or regulate mobile camps or methods that have been applied to help mitigate the negative impacts of mobile camps. We asked questions to understand in what ways these past efforts have been successful and in what ways they have been ineffective. In addition to past efforts, also discussed in Objective 2, we asked them how they would like to see the mobile camps sector being monitored or controlled in the future. We asked them how they thought these methods would help and how it could be implemented. In addition to understanding their opinion, we used information from NGOs, including NASCO, as a foundation for the ideas we formulated following our interviews with operators and conservancies to understand the possible difficulties associated with different strategies for monitoring and regulating mobile camping.

## Obstacles

Though we talked to 13 conservancies and 15 operators and NGOs, the period of time we were in Namibia limited the number of stakeholders we could meet and interview. Unfortunately, while we had initially planned to travel to the northwest, northeast, and south of Namibia, we were unable to travel to the conservancies in the South due to these time restrictions. We determined that it was more important to the research of this project that we focused on the coastline, due to its environmental fragility, as well as the Zambezi region, which, from our research, we found has trophy hunters utilizing mobile camps. We prioritized the North Western and North Eastern regions because of the high level of conservancies in those areas. We were unable to meet with the six Southern conservancies because time constraints and other logistical issues prevented it.

Time permitting, we would have also liked to have spoken with a greater number of operators. However, we had difficulty scheduling interviews with operators because of their tours or hunts. We understand that speaking with more stakeholders would have increased the depth of our research but believe that the ones we had the opportunity to meet with begin to provide a picture of the needs and wishes each type of stakeholder bear.

We additionally encountered difficulties when contacting and communicating with conservancy members prior to our arrival at the conservancy. This difficulty presented itself because many times the office phone number or the mobile number for the conservancy was unreachable. Additionally, many times it was not possible to send information to the conservancies prior to our arrival because most of them did not have an email address or a fax number. There were also language barriers with the conservancy members, especially with the conservancies in the northwest due to their dependence on traditional languages like Oshiwambo or Damara. When we arrived at the conservancies, it was often difficult to find the conservancy office due to the lack of directional signs and paved roads. The conservancy offices are not located at an entry point of the conservancy and take some navigating to find.

## Summary

From the information acquired from our research, interviews, focus groups and surveys, we synthesized a list of recommended regulations for mobile camps to present to the NTB in chapter 4: Findings and Recommendations. These regulations were formulated from the best practices observed for mobile camps and address how a tourism operation might become registered to provide mobile camps in Namibia; specific rules regarding accommodations and safety, and methods to better educate tourists on their role in environmental degradation and preservation.

## 4.0 Findings and Recommendations

We identified the concerns and opinions of various stakeholders, including operators, non-governmental organizations and conservancies, regarding mobile camping. Each stakeholder that we spoke with expressed legitimate concerns relating to the issues and problems associated with mobile camping. Stakeholders expressed that some of these concerns can be addressed by the implementation of new regulations, while some concerns cannot be effectively addressed in this manner. For example, conservancies have been dedicating themselves to the conservation of Namibia's environment and wildlife for years, however, mobile campers can unintentionally undermine these conservation efforts when they disturb the wildlife or leave behind trash. In addition to concerns associated with conservation and environmental sustainability, the stakeholders also brought up a variety of safety and social issues associated with mobile camping

Through talking with different stakeholders, we began to understand the complexity of the issues and challenges that regulating mobile camping presents. While the Namibia Tourism Board (NTB) had initially asked us to formulate a draft of regulation recommendations, we have discovered through our research that the process of regulating mobile camping will be more involved than simply enacting legislation.

In this chapter, we discuss stakeholder concerns and methods by which they can be addressed. Additionally, we explain our findings from the interviews and interactions with stakeholders and outline our recommendations to the NTB on how best to monitor mobile camping now and how it can be regulated in the future.

### [Finding #1: Stakeholders agree that mobile camping should be regulated due to their concerns with environmental, safety, and social issues.](#)

We conducted interviews with 13 different conservancies and 15 different operators, and NGOs. Many of these stakeholders had specific concerns regarding mobile camping including its environmental sustainability, the safety of the campers and animals, and the lack of social awareness of tourists. Below, we discuss these issues in detail.

#### [Environmental Issues](#)

Representatives from 12 of the 13 conservancies we visited were concerned that mobile camps negatively impact the environment. Because conservancy members dedicate time, effort, and resources to conservation, the environmentally degrading behaviors they witness from mobile campers can be particularly disconcerting. Wildlife disruption, littering, leaving behind fire ash,

creating new tire tracks, and increased potential for bush fires were their main concerns. Figure 8 shows an example of littering on conservancy land.



Figure 8: Littering on conservancy land

The response rate for each of these concerns is outlined in the graph below.

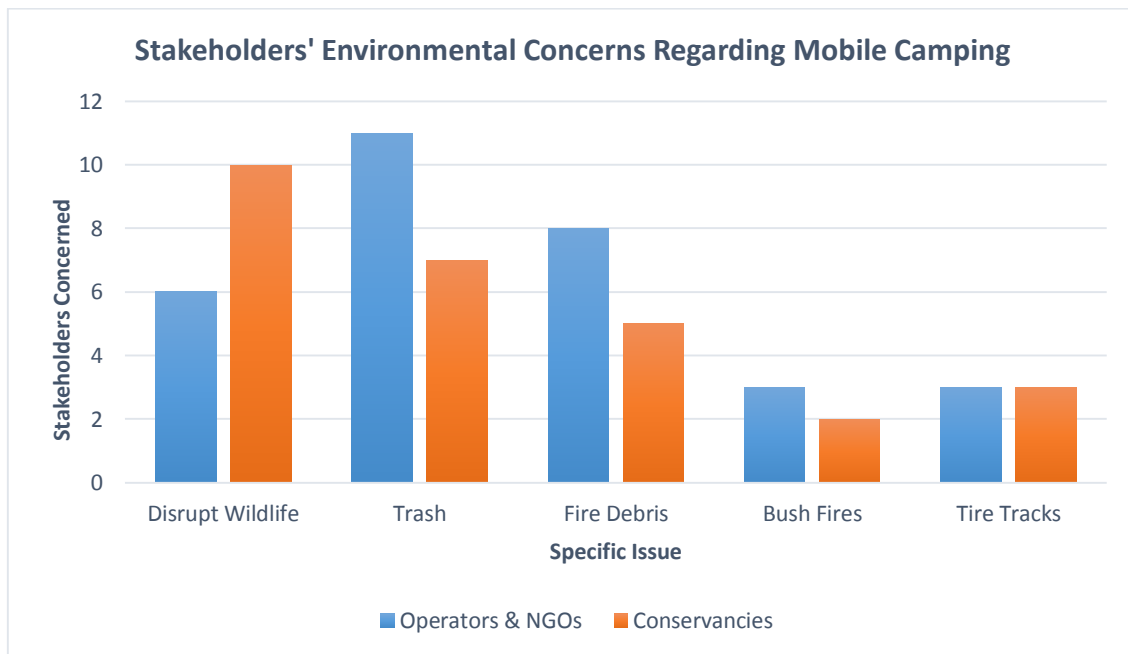


Figure 9: Conservancy, Operator, and NGO Environmental Concerns Regarding Mobile Camping

Ten of the 13 conservancy leaders and six operators and NGOs identified wildlife disruption as a major issue associated with mobile camping. Tourists’ disruption of wildlife becomes



problematic when it contributes to *wildlife habituation*, which is when wildlife becomes accustomed to human interaction. Wildlife habituation is concerning because it can lead to troublesome behavioral changes. Specifically, Ehi-Rovipuka, Otjimboyo, George Mukoya and Tsiseb conservancies mentioned how elephants can become more aggressive over time when they are exposed to humans. Dietlinde Meuller of Namibia Professional Hunting Association and Dr. Margaret Jacobsohn of Conservancy Safaris supported these claims, saying that at places such as the Hoanib River elephants have become habituated to human contact, which has made them more aggressive and has contributed to human wildlife conflicts. They explained that if an elephant becomes aggressive, it could attack humans. Otjimboyo and Tsiseb both identified instances in the past two years in which a townspeople has been killed in an elephant attack, which they have related back to elephant habituation. Such events lead to the animal being labeled as a problem animal, which means that such an animal would be killed, which contradicts the conservation efforts. Two operators further highlighted that habituation could negatively impact breeding patterns.

The accumulation of trash and fire ash left behind by campers, and the creation of new, off-road tire tracks all contribute to environmental degradation. Though impacts are often primarily aesthetic, they can also cause significant harm to the ecosystem. For example, Doro Inawas mentioned that the creation of new tire tracks can harm the animals that live or lay eggs beneath the ground. Furthermore, representatives from Otjimboyo said that when tourists leave their trash in the bushes; cattle may then eat the trash and become ill or die as a result. This is a significant issue in areas where agriculture and livestock are the largest source of income.

Operators and NGOs highlighted that foreign tour operators and frequent travelers to Namibia often present the greatest concern regarding negative environmental impacts. Eroid Podewiltz from the NTB outlined that foreign travelers and tour operators often times come into Namibia without a sense of responsibility or ownership; specifically he mentioned that South Africans often come in without care for how their actions could be impacting the environment, saying “once (the South Africans) leave, it’s not their problem” (Podewiltz, 2014). Representatives from the NTB, NAPHA, Hospitality Association of Namibia, Journeys Namibia, Be Local Tourism, World Wildlife Fund and Camelthorn Safaris also highlighted issues with foreign operators and tourists, when compared to native Namibians. Foreign tourists and operators have been found engaging in all of the environmentally detrimental behaviors listed above.

Specifically, Gitta Paetzold, the CEO of HAN, and Frans du Raan from Journeys Namibia both mentioned that the large bus convoys run by foreign operators tend to go off existing tracks

and roads. Based on interviews, we also learned that some convoys simply bury their trash in the ground where they stay. This practice can have detrimental impacts on the health of wildlife as outlined by Dietlinde Mueller, who mentioned that she has witnessed wildlife eating buried trash. Furthermore, Peter van der Merwe, an operator who has worked with Be Local Tourism, mentioned that he has witnessed foreign tourists, specifically mobile campers, trying to tear down trees with their cars; these behaviors clearly contribute to environmental degradation.

Twelve of 14 NGOs and operators we spoke with also expressed concerns about mass tourism with regards to mobile camping. They were generally concerned about the environmental impacts of mass tourism in addition to the general logistics surrounding large group sizes. Journeys Namibia and Conservancy Safaris emphasized that while there are some areas within Namibia that may be able to sustain large tour groups, other areas cannot, and over 60% of stakeholders are concerned with the fragility of the environment and sustaining it for the future. As group size increases so does the potential to negatively impact the environment, and it becomes increasingly necessary to ensure measures are taken to mitigate negative impacts.

All 15 operators and NGOs that we interviewed raised a variety of concerns regarding how mobile camping can threaten or impact the environment. Their input reflects many of the same concerns expressed by conservancies, and are visually represented above in Figure 9.

### [Safety Issues](#)

Apart from wildlife habituation and aggression, stakeholders addressed a variety of concerns for human safety that makes regulating mobile camps particularly important. All 13 of the conservancy leaders with whom we spoke identified a variety of safety concerns relating to mobile camping including the dangers presented to wildlife by humans and concerns for camper safety in such remote locations. All of these conservancy leaders identified that wildlife poses danger for mobile campers. They mentioned that there are many dangerous animals on their land including cheetahs, leopards, lions, hyenas, hippopotamuses, elephants, and crocodiles that present threats to tourist safety.

In addition to the concerns expressed by conservancy members, tour operators have said that many times tourists are unaware of wildlife behavior and patterns. For example, Dietlinde Mueller mentioned that elephants many times follow the same track or path; if a tourist or operator is unaware of these behaviors, they may put up a tent in the elephant path, and risk getting trampled as a result. If tourists or operators are unaware of the specific animal behaviors of the place they are located, they may face dangerous wildlife encounters. Beyond concerns for these human-wildlife

conflicts, inexperienced tourists run the risk of placing themselves in danger of the natural environment. For example Frans du Raan of Journeys Namibia highlighted that tourists or inexperienced operators may not be able to tell a dry riverbed from other desert land and intentionally camp in a dry riverbed. If a rainstorm occurs then a flash flood may result and those staying within a dry riverbed will be at risk for personal injury or loss of property.

Doro Inawas, Tsiseb, and Torra further identified concerns relating to the remoteness provided by a mobile camping experience. They mentioned that if someone were to get hurt, or if they were to run out of provisions or water while staying in remote mobile camps, no one would know where they were or how to assist them; this could put the tourists' life in danger. Conservancy leaders were concerned about this because they feared the potential public backlash that a tourist's death could cause and because they feel a sense of responsibility to protect people who are camping on their land.

All of the operators and NGOs, highlighted other safety concerns, many of which stem from the remoteness of mobile camps. They were concerned about the availability of food and water, access to medical treatment, communication, and vehicle capability for off-road travel. When in the most remote parts of the country, Roy van der Merwe, an experienced avid adventurer who has worked as a tour guide, and Peter van der Merwe were wary that some operators and tourists may be unaware of the equipment necessary to survive in Namibia's wild bush, and they expressed their concerns for human safety. Additionally, Gitta Paetzold and Dietlinde Mueller expressed similar opinions, mentioning that if someone were to get severely dehydrated, or were otherwise ill or injured, their remoteness in the bush may prevent them from being able to reach adequate medical treatment. Furthermore, if in danger, access to communication is often difficult. Even experienced backpackers and campers that we met with, such as Jason Winikoff and Roy Van der Merwe, spoke of their own difficulties with dangerous wildlife encounters that required medical attention, and their need for adequate communication in such a scenario.

### [Social Issues](#)

When tourists and operators visit or stay on conservancy land, any of the negative effects of mobile camping are directly seen and felt by the conservancy members. The conservancy takes on the responsibility of protecting wildlife and promoting environmental conservation. However, without regulation, tourists or operators who camp on conservancy land can do so without paying a fee or providing any benefits to the communities within the conservancy. The tourists traveling within conservancies enjoy viewing the wildlife; however, communities themselves must live with

the daily threats posed by wildlife. The operators we spoke with were worried that tourists and other operators may be unaware of the efforts made by conservancy members. Social issues arise when conservancy members feel that their efforts are unappreciated and not respected by tourists and operators. These issues may negatively influence community member's opinions of tourists and tourism, which could in turn impact their willingness to cooperate with tourists and the tourism industry. If this were to happen, the economic development of these rural communities could be suppressed.

**We recommend that tourists be made aware of best practices, addressing the environmental, safety, and social issues regarding mobile camping.** It is necessary that the awareness of tourists utilizing mobile camps be increased for their own safety and to minimize the negative impacts they may impart on the environment.

The creation and distribution of education materials, including brochures and pamphlets, to tourists is one way in which they can be informed about the issues and risks related to mobile camping. We recommend that there should be further development of previous efforts made by various NGOs, including NASCO and TOSCO, to create and distribute educational material to promote responsible tourism. NASCO and TOSCO's primary goal is to support community-based conservation while allowing for tourism industry growth. The distribution of the educational materials these organizations provide could be used to promote community development and ensure environmental sustainability. TOSCO's current pamphlets outline rules and best practices for self-drivers to conserve sensitive areas while respecting the local communities living there. A full version of the TOSCO informational pamphlet is provided in Appendix H. Current resources from NASCO outline an overview of conservancies including their history, an explanation of conservancy benefit distribution and conservancy GPS coordinates and contact information; unfortunately, NASCO has not created a conservancy profile for all conservancies. An example of a conservancy profile is provided in Appendix I.

We recommend that the information provided by each of these informational brochures be compiled into a single pamphlet, specific to each conservancy. This brochure may also include information regarding conservancy-zoning maps to inform tourists of places that may be safer or otherwise more appropriate to stay. Some of the information we recommend to be included in a conservancy brochure is outlined below:

- Conservancy history
- Zoning maps

- Existing wildlife problems and environmental concerns
- Cultural sensitivity and how to communicate with the community
- How to be safe and prepared when mobile camping
- Established facilities within the conservancy

An example of a brochure for the Torra Conservancy can be seen in Appendix I.

Additionally, while NACSO and TOSCO have collected relevant and useful information for responsible tourism and mobile camping, they may not have the resources to distribute this information to all mobile campers. We recommend that the NTB assist in the further development and distribution of this information. Further, to aid in information distribution, we recommend that the NTB posts conservancy-specific information on their website. The NTB or an alternative organization could further assist in the printing and distribution of printed resources, including brochures, pamphlets, and posters, to various central locations. We recommend that these organizations place the resources at relevant tourism operator offices, immigration points, the NTB office, the Ministry of Environment Tourism (MET) office, and conservancy offices, and other tourist information centers. While we initially considered placing collection boxes and informational stations at main entry points to conservancies, stakeholders identified past issues regarding infrastructure damage. Conservancies that have already tried setting up such infrastructure were unsuccessful in these efforts due to wildlife and vandals damaging signboards or collection boxes. Additionally, the large land mass many conservancies operate on and their remoteness pose a challenge to information distribution to tourists; therefore, we do not think that establishing new infrastructure for information distribution is a feasible or worthwhile effort.

To receive information relevant to their conservancy, many conservancy members expressed that they would like tourists to come directly to the conservancy office before embarking on a mobile camping trip. However, sometimes, the conservancy office is difficult to access due to its remote location. Therefore, **we recommend that an online database be created for each conservancy to increase the accessibility of information for tourists that is pertinent to that conservancy.** This would expand upon the ideas of the conservancy profiles already created by NACSO; however, NASCO has only created 18 conservancy profiles, so we recommend that the NTB, NASCO, or other organizations create and expand upon conservancy profiles for every conservancy. An example of our recommended brochure is found in Appendix I. We recommend that the database include information similar to what is provided at the conservancy office and in brochures. Additionally, the webpage should include office contact information and exact GPS

coordinates of the conservancy's office to allow tourists to get further information once reaching the conservancy.

**Finding #2: Though in favor of regulation, stakeholders are wary that overregulation could exterminate mobile camping from the tourism market.**

While the environmental, safety, and social issues require addressing, many of those we interviewed were wary that overregulation would hurt the mobile camping market. Specifically, based on how the NTB currently regulates accommodations, stakeholders were concerned that regulations dictating what equipment travelers must bring and what amenities operators must provide could be a part of future legislation. They felt that this method of regulation would overregulate the sector. If the market is overregulated, many were afraid that it would take away the feeling of freedom unique to Namibia. Overbearing regulations may also stifle operators catering to a variety of tourists' demands. While it was highlighted that stakeholders are wary of tourists and operators being unaware of what equipment and provisions are necessary for mobile camping, the prospect of set regulations mandating certain standards and equipment met much resistance.

Roy van der Merwe stressed that overregulation may be an issue if minimum standards for mobile camping were created. NTB's regulations in many other sectors of tourism specify a minimum standard for amenities. For this sector, comparable regulations would regulate what the operator would have to provide, such as the type or size of tent, and type of toilet facilities provided. Standards like these could close off the market to operators providing a more minimalist experience for those who want it. Additionally, compliance would be nearly impossible to actually monitor and police. Because mobile camps are seldom in place for more than five days and are often located in remote areas, it would be unfeasible for the limited number of NTB inspectors to actually locate and travel to these sites.

In addition to possibly regulating minimalist mobile camping out of the tourism market, operators feared that overregulation could take part of the experience away from mobile camping. Roy van der Merwe, Peter van der Merwe, Dr. Margaret Jacobsohn, Fritz Schenk of Camelthorn Safaris, and Chris Toules agreed that overregulation would detract from the experience of mobile camping. They were specifically wary that it could take away the freedom to go anywhere that mobile camping provides. Roy and Peter van der Merwe argued that if overregulated, the freedom of travelers to adventure into the depths of Namibia's wilderness could be taken away. Roy van der Merwe further elaborated that Namibia has many unexplored areas that are beautiful and rich with

wildlife. He said that it would be unfortunate if this wild beauty, which Namibia is known for, were taken away from travelers because of overregulation.

Currently, both tourists in search of luxury and tourists who want a minimalist experience utilize mobile camps. Four stakeholders we interviewed said that they have used minimalist mobile camping. Roy van der Merwe explained an example of this. He conducts mobile camping trips with only the “bare essentials;” for example, instead of bringing a tent, he only packs a foam roll and sleeping bag. In contrast, other operators offer luxury mobile camping trips. I Dream Africa specializes in this type of trip, they generally employ camp hands to set up furnished tented camps complete with beds, dressers, and tables in each tent, as well as portable toilet facilities. Many operators, including Journeys Namibia and Be Local Tourism, also offer this type of luxury mobile camping trip. Other operators, such as Camelthorn Safaris, provide both luxury and minimalist mobile camping experiences.

Though it was never specifically mentioned, we believe that setting minimum standards for mobile camping could provide tourists with a false sense of security; tourists may believe that if they are following the dictated standards that they will not be subject to the dangers associated with mobile camping.

**We recommend that the regulations the NTB develops should not prescribe a minimum standard for amenities and facilities provided to tourists.** Due to the broad range of mobile camping experiences available, and difficulty involved with inspecting mobile camping operations, the NTB should not implement regulations that mandate minimum facilities and amenities. Though other sectors of accommodations are effectively managed by the prescription of minimum standards, such standards for mobile camping would not adequately encompass the range of options available, may impact the profitability of this sector, and would not be reasonably enforceable.

We understand that there are significant safety concerns iterated by all stakeholders interviewed. Additionally we understand that as tourism continues to grow throughout Namibia that it is important to ensure Namibia maintains a reputation as a safe destination and the death or injury of a mobile camping tourist could damage that reputation. However, we believe if a tourist were to be properly educated about the risks involved and recommended safety necessities for mobile camping, as stated in in our first recommendation, they would be able to take the initiatives to keep themselves safe. We believe that educating tourists would allow tourists to make informed decisions based on their level of experience camping in the wild. We do not recommend that specific

standards be established regarding safety measures. These concerns should be addressed instead through education mechanisms and by encouraging participants to educate themselves on the skills and precautions required for certain regions and activities, as is good practice for all adventure tourism activities.

**Finding #3: Efforts to monitor mobile camping face significant legal and logistical obstacles including lack of manpower and resources; the NTB alone currently cannot effectively monitor and regulate mobile camping.**

While most stakeholders are in favor of a system to monitor and control mobile camping, significant obstacles become apparent when trying to develop a mechanism to accomplish this. The nature of this type of accommodation makes it challenging to monitor. Past efforts to develop similar systems have attested to this difficulty.

Previously, there were efforts to research and implement systems to monitor and control mobile camping. Our interview with Richard Diggle at WWF, informed us of a report by Ed Humphrey that proposed a pilot project to promote community development through the implementation of *traversing rights* in community based tourism. Traversing rights are the right to travel through and set up temporary camps in a given area; his report proposed a permitting system that would grant these rights to tourists and operators. Under this system, a central organization would be able to sell permits to independent tourists and operators. With the purchase of a permit, tourists and operators would be provided information relevant to their travel, such as safety information, where to camp, mobile camping guidelines, as well as contact information for various conservancy offices. This permit would also include a window or door sticker for vehicles for identification purposes. However, this system was never implemented, in part due to the difficulties that would be associated with creating and operating a central managing organization and fairly distributing the proceeds from these permits to conservancies. This system would also have been dependent on the cooperation of tour operators since the tourists would rely on the information provided by the operators, as well as the existence of a central facilitation or a management body. These difficulties prohibited this system from materializing.

Other efforts have been made by various non-profit organizations and NGOs, such as TOSCO and NACSO to promote education and awareness in the mobile camping market. As described earlier, while the information created by these organizations on responsible tourism is informative and useful, they lack the resources to effectively distribute this information. It took our group over 12 weeks dedicated to researching this topic before we found this information; this



demonstrates the lack of accessibility to this information, and that the current efforts made to distribute brochures have had limited success.

By examining the prior experiences of organizations and through speaking with various stakeholders, we were able to identify some major challenges that any mobile camping monitoring system may face.

A variety of legal obstacles have stalled prior efforts to monitor this type of tourism. Maxi Louis specifically spoke about the legal complexities associated with land management in conservancies. Because conservancy land is owned by the national government, any land use agreement that is implemented must be passed through the Namibian Ministry of Lands and Resettlement (MLR). This means that any time a new tourism enterprise is started in a conservancy, they must apply for and receive a leasehold from the Ministry before they can establish their business; in other words, a tourism enterprise or accommodation cannot be established before a leasehold is obtained. This applies to both outside operators and conservancy members. Additionally, all tourism developments must be registered by the NTB and overseen by the MET. This creates difficulty when implementing new legislation since the communication between the various government bodies is not always ideal, and the goals shared by the MET and the MLR may not be the same. Due to this complexity, prior efforts to manage mobile camping, as spearheaded by NACSO and other NGOs, have been faced with significant challenges when attempting to coordinate with multiple governmental bodies.

Further, we identified many challenges when discussing possible control methods. Nine of the 13 conservancies we visited had at least four designated entry points to the conservancy, and also had many other entry points on smaller, two track paths and off-road access points. Doro Inawas specifically mentioned that though they would like to be able to station guards at each of their five entry points, the costs associated with staffing these entry points make this unfeasible. Additionally, Maxi Louis mentioned that in the past, informative signboards have been placed near conservancy entrances and subsequently damaged by wildlife and vandals. While all conservancies simply wanted to be able to provide tourists with information about their conservancy and best practices safe travel, the methods by which this would happen is unclear.

Conservancy leaders also referred to their office as a central source for information, and mentioned that tourists could be directed to the office upon entering the conservancy. However, this would also prove challenging; based on our own experience traveling throughout conservancies,

their offices are often difficult to find and not well marked or advertised. We have also found that offices are many times locked and unstaffed during normal business hours.

Further challenges present themselves when considering how to effectively monitor tourist activity within the vast expanse of land of conservancies. In order to effectively manage mobile camping, 12 of the conservancy leaders we interviewed expressed that it would be important to be able to monitor tourist activity. To effectively monitor activity, the NTB inspectors would have to travel to the conservancies frequently to monitor the remote, off-road areas where people might be camping. Directly monitoring mobile camps, while ideal, is unfeasible for the NTB; the vastness and remote nature of Namibia's conservancy lands poses a significant challenge for the NTB. It is unfeasible for the nine NTB tourism inspectors to monitor mobile camping in addition to monitoring all of the regulated tourism enterprises within Namibia. Chris Toules from WWF specifically questioned the logistics as to how the NTB would enforce these regulations. To him, with the limited number of NTB tourism inspectors, the regulation of mobile camping by the NTB seemed unfeasible. Conservancy Safaris and NACSO expressed similar logistical concerns. Chris Toules mentioned that it may be more feasible for the MET to regulate mobile camping because the MET already has officials and wardens who monitor Namibia's wilderness, daily, and these officials are more numerous than the NTB's inspectors.

**We recommend that the NTB should utilize its authority and resources to act as a central regulatory body for the mobile camping sector of tourism.** Prior efforts to control mobile camping have met significant challenges, namely, due to lack of resources and authority to effectively distribute this information and to implement new programs. Given the NTB's ability to develop and implement new regulations, and its ability to distribute information throughout the tourism industry, we recommend that the NTB act as a central regulatory body for this sector of tourism. Specifically, the NTB should do this by developing and implementing legislation that will allow mobile camping to develop in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.

As stated previously, we do not think that this legislation should mandate certain minimum standards for mobile camps because this could lead to overregulation. Instead of mandating such minimum standards, we recommend that regulations be implemented based on a variety of different concepts. Below, we list a few of our recommended regulations; a complete list of recommendations is provided in Appendix G.

- The conservancy must be consulted before any mobile camping trip is planned on that conservancy's land

- Camping in conservancies shall be allowed only within tourism and settlement zones
- No camping in riverbeds
- Take all trash and belongings with you when you leave

While the NTB should create regulations for mobile camping, **we recommend that the NTB should act as a facilitator rather than the standalone body trying to implement the regulatory system.** As previously suggested, the NTB cannot effectively monitor and regulate mobile camps alone due to the vastness of the country in addition to NTB's limited staff. To help the NTB effectively monitor and regulate mobile camps, we recommend that they empower conservancies to aid the NTB's efforts in regulating mobile camps. Twelve of the 13 conservancies that we met with currently employ game guards to patrol the conservancy land; from our interviews, we came to understand that conservancy game guards are the ones who have found mobile campers in the past. The NTB should enable game guards to enforce mobile camping regulations through legislation; this would empower the conservancies while making the regulations logistically enforceable. Additionally, all conservancies that employed game guards indicated that they would be willing to assist in the implementation of new regulations regarding mobile camping.

While the conservancies could help the NTB in implementing regulations for mobile camps, we came to understand that conservancy members are many times uninformed about tourism regulations. We recommend that once regulations have been established, the NTB should travel to different conservancies to teach conservancy members about these regulations, informing them what the regulations are, how they affect the conservancy, and their role as conservancy members in enforcing them. To do this, the NTB can utilize regional workshops to instruct leaders from multiple conservancies on the new regulations. We found that conservancy leaders would be able to distribute such information to their conservancy members once regulations are explained to the leaders. In this system, communication would be key. Conservancy leaders and game guards could inform the NTB about the frequency and occurrence of mobile campers, as well as any issues that mobile campers might be causing. This information about the frequency of mobile campers is important for the NTB to determine which conservancies require more resources such as brochures and permits and ensure that the campers are safe. This means that conservancy guards must monitor the locations being used through patrols and have a mechanism to report information back to the NTB on a regular, possibly monthly, basis.

#### Finding #4: Conservancies want legislation to be implemented to enable them to control the use of mobile camps on conservancy land.

Although the NTB does not have the resources to effectively regulate mobile camping, other entities, such as conservancy leaders and game guards, could assist in this regard, as outlined above. However, conservancies currently have no legal ability to regulate mobile camping on their own. While conservancy members have the ability to confront tourists camping outside of designated areas within conservancies, currently they lack any legal authority over them.

One of the primary goals of the conservancies is to manage the wildlife and protect the environment within their conservancy. Conservancies are communal land; the government owns the land, not the conservancy members. Conservancy leaders from 11 of the 13 conservancies we visited stated that they feel uncomfortable approaching tourists camping outside of designated sites, partly due to their lack of legal authority. Through talking with Torra and ≠Khoadi //Hôas Conservancy leaders, we learned that it is simply not in their nature to disturb a tourist unless they are doing something illegal; since there are no regulations for mobile camping, and the conservancies do not have legal right over the movement of people on the land, conservancy members are generally unwilling to approach these people. Although Roman, the chairperson of the Torra Conservancy, said that he approached a group of mobile camping tourists once to ask for some form of a payment, and the tourist paid him directly. However, he also expressed that other people from the conservancy would not be willing to approach a tourist in this manner.

Though there are not regulations preventing conservancy members from approaching mobile campers they are often afraid or too timid to do so. Of the 13 conservancies we spoke to, 10 stated that it goes against their nature, and 11 of 13 conservancies understood that there is no law to support them. Since mobile camping is unregulated, and tourists are legally allowed to camp anywhere in the conservancy, the conservancies cannot enforce designated safe camping zones or collect revenue from these tourists. If there were legislation that provided conservancy members the right to control tourist activity on their land, they would be able to better control tourism operations while also being able to charge fees or otherwise benefit financially. Additionally, tourist safety and wildlife habituation, as mentioned in Finding 1, is a major concern for the conservancy members. Conservancy members believe that legislation giving them more control of the land would allow them to approach tourists to provide safety information and enable them to ask for financial compensation from tourists. Before regulations are implemented, we recommend that conservancy

members be informed that they should approach the mobile campers and provide them information pertaining to the conservancy and the dangers to be aware of when mobile camping.

Once legislation is implemented, **we recommend that conservancies be given the legal power to approach tourists camping on conservancy land to enforce regulations.** We understand that currently, game guards do not have legal authority to penalize directly, and can only inform other policing agencies of illegal behaviors. While we understand that this would be a long process, we recommend that game guards and conservancy leaders be given the rights to enforce regulations. Regarding mobile camps specifically, if a game guard were to encounter someone illegally mobile camping once regulations were implemented, currently, the game guard would have to report the issue to another enforcing body; by the time these officials would be able to reach the conservancy, the tourist using the mobile camp could have already left the area. It is important that game guards or other conservancy authorities be provided rights to not only report, but also to enforce regulations regarding mobile camping to address this issue.

#### [Finding #5: Stakeholders believe that mobile campers on conservancy land should contribute to the conservancy.](#)

Though some operators ensure that conservancies receive benefits from tourism activities, such as money from their mobile camps, there are many others who do not provide any means of compensation. By conducting interviews with 15 different operators and NGOs and having discussion groups with leaders and members from 13 conservancies, we found that stakeholders were in favor of promoting community development through tourism operations and mobile camping in some way. The responses from conservancies, and tourism operators and NGOs are outlined below.

#### [Conservancy Authorities](#)

In our meetings with conservancy leaders, we found that currently, 12 of the 13 conservancies benefit in some way from tourism operations including: direct income from concession areas and established accommodations; direct employment of conservancy members; and indirect income from the selling of crafts and firewood. From the conservancies we visited, 11 currently have or are developing some type of accommodation establishment such as a campsite, hunting camp, rest camp, or a lodge, which operates on the conservancy's land. These types of formalized operations have enabled the community to develop economically through direct income. Some accommodation establishments have also provided employment to the conservancy's members. However, there is currently no formal way in which conservancies and their members can

benefit from mobile camping. Nine out of the 13 conservancies we spoke with had experience with tourists camping in undesignated campsites, but only in some cases they received any payments from the mobile campers. For example, in Ehi-rovipuka, Wilderness Safaris paid N\$50,000 for each tour group they brought to camp by the Huanib riverbed. However, there is no official method for operators or tourists to pay conservancies for using mobile camps on conservancy land and there are many people who utilize mobile camps without paying conservancies.

The opinions of conservancy leaders varied drastically on how the community should benefit from tourism operations such as mobile camping. Though conservancy leaders felt as though they would like to benefit from these tourist operations in some way, the method by which they would receive these benefits was unclear, and ranged from financial payment to donations to marketing opportunities.

Specifically, conservancy members from Tsiseb, Torra, Doro Inawas, and ≠Khoadi //Hôas felt as though these tourists were, in effect, stealing from the community, while members of Ehi-rovipuka, Otjimboyo, //Gaingu, and Shamungwa conservancies were more open about their land-use and felt as though their land should be open for people to enjoy. Overall, 10 of the 13 conservancies visited distinctly wished for financial compensation from mobile campers. For example, in the Torra conservancy, Roman, the conservancy manager, said that tourists should pay or give back to conservancy members for the use of conservancy land, because conservancy members utilize funding and resources to ensure conservation of the area. However, in Ehi-Rovipuka, Assa, the conservancy manager, felt that visitors are free to use their land. Assa mentioned that the primary benefit the community currently receives from these visitors is an opportunity to market their conservancy. He believes that mobile accommodation users will increase the awareness of the beauty of the landscape and environment of their conservancy, while also promoting literacy on tourism for the conservancy members. Assa's hope was that this would increase future potential for regulated tourism. Due to the current state of Shamungwa conservancy, one member, Diphen, expressed that any form of compensation would be beneficial.

#### [Tourism Operators and Non-Government Organizations](#)

Operators and NGOs including Dr. Jacobsohn, Chris Toules, and Fritz Schenk expressed that not only should the community benefit from mobile camping, but they believe communities deserve to benefit from these endeavors. They expressed that communities must pay operating costs to run a successful conservancy, and they put forth finances to promote wildlife and environmental conservation. Dr. Jacobsohn and Fritz Schenk shared the wish for the community to benefit from

mobile camping. Despite agreement that communities deserve to benefit, stakeholders had a variety of ideas regarding how the community could best develop from mobile camping.

Overall, 14 of the operators and NGOs told us about the importance of community involvement in tourism operations. In our interview at the WWF, Chris Toules, spoke of the importance of allowing the community to develop, and hence believes that communities should benefit from visitors coming to their conservancy. He mentioned that stakeholders are discussing working to make conservancy lands as satellites to national parks. In doing so, visitors and tourists would have to pay visitation fees, as is already required within national parks. This would allow the communities to prosper from all forms of tourist visitation, including mobile camps; however, these ideas are only just being formulated and discussed, and no formal action has yet materialized.

Operators and NGOs mentioned the possibility of implementing fees that would be charged directly to operators and tourists; collected money would be given back to the conservancy as a direct financial benefit. In our interview at the Tour and Safari Association, Leana Marais proposed the idea of a ‘conservancy levy,’ which would be a levy charged to operators travelling to community land that would be given back to the community directly. However, she did not specify a mechanism by which to collect this levy. At Conservancy Safaris, Dr. Jacobsohn discussed the idea of a permit fee that would be given back to conservancies; she stressed the importance of this fee actually making it back to conservancies. Roy van der Merwe told us a small conservancy use fee would be entirely reasonable if it was collected and distributed in an appropriate manner. In our interview at WWF, we discussed the feasibility of a direct land-use fee, paid directly from operators or tourists to conservancy leaders. All of these responses conveyed the fact that collecting money to use the land would be appropriate as long as the money was used appropriately, and not kept within the national government.

Taking these findings into consideration, **we recommend that the NTB implements a paid permit system for mobile camps to benefit conservancies.** Based on our finding that mobile campers should contribute to the conservancies in which they are staying we recommend that a monetary fee be created to benefit and compensate the conservancies. We recommend that the monetary fee be paid at the conservancy office in exchange for a permit to set up a mobile camp. If tourists are travelling to more than one conservancy or if the conservancy office is otherwise unreachable, permits should be made available at various central locations. These central locations could possibly be the NTB office, relevant operator offices, or immigration points. It is crucial that

fees collected through a central source be distributed regularly, possibly annually, back to conservancies.

Further, we recommend that the exact monetary fee vary based on a variety of factors including the planned duration of the trip, the origin point or nationality of the tourists, and the planned group size; this is because trip lengths and group size effect the magnitude of environmental impact. Additionally, we suggest different rates for Namibians as to not detract locals from enjoying their country's natural beauty. We understand that a mandatory permit system will require supporting legislation, and will take time to be implemented, but if implemented, this will provide a mechanism by which mobile camping can be monitored and controlled, while additionally generating benefits for the conservancies as well as the NTB. Appendix J outlines general information that will be provided to someone signing a permit.

We understand that legislation will take many years to write and implement. **We therefore recommend that the NTB selects and collaborates with one conservancy to put in place our recommendations.** This conservancy would be chosen on a voluntary basis based on their current income generated from tourism and the presence of game guards in their conservancy. They would be chosen on this criterion because their income from tourism is indicative of the success and organization of the conservancy, and we would only want to implement a pilot program in a highly organized and functional conservancy. To launch this pilot program, the NTB would first help conservancy members understand their rights and responsibilities under current regulations to help monitor mobile camping. The NTB would then discuss the scope and intent of our proposed regulations and what additional responsibilities it would provide them. Finally, the NTB would explain the goals of the program. We believe that if the NTB were to tell game guards of their responsibilities in monitoring mobile camping, they would feel more inclined to approach mobile campers if the game guards encountered them in the field. Additionally, the NTB would provide the conservancy with brochures, outlining information similar to the one we created in Appendix I, to distribute to tourists at the conservancy office. Additionally, the NTB would distribute the brochure, outlining conservancy information and a list of rules to follow when mobile camping, to key locations such as the NTB office, border points, car hire offices, and other operator offices.

When mobile camping on this conservancy, the tourists would receive a permit; while this permit would not legally mandate that tourists follow specific rules or pay compensation, it would encourage tourists to comply with certain practices. The permit would provide a description of the goals of the pilot program, and a set of guidelines to follow when mobile camping. Furthermore,



game guards in this conservancy would be directed to approach tourists they find mobile camping and inform the tourists of the pilot program they are trying to implement. While the game guard could not legally tell the mobile camper to move, leave, or pay a fee, the game guard could tell the tourist of the pilot program and inform them of the dangers associated with mobile camping. He would also be able to mention that the conservancy would like to receive some form of compensation from mobile campers. If this pilot program for monitoring mobile camping was successful, and the community began seeing benefits in terms of direct income, the pilot program could then be expanded to other conservancies within Namibia. We believe that from proving the viability of this monitoring system, stakeholders would have less resistance to regulations pertaining to this.

**Finding #6: It is difficult for conservancy members to understand the concept of tourism and why the tourism enterprises are constructed on the conservancy land.**

Various operators and conservancies have expressed concerns about the lack of training and awareness available to conservancy members. After speaking with 15 operators and NGOs, and 13 conservancies, it is clear that conservancies and conservancy members are not always fully aware and informed about the tourism industry and industry practices, including how to interact with tourists, how to sell goods to tourists, or current tourism regulations. Through various interviews we learned that conservancy members might not understand why the tourists are camping in the wild or why they are taking pictures, and conservancy members feel uncomfortable approaching them. Kwandu and Mashi further expressed that while it is important for the tourists to know appropriate behavior when visiting rural communities, it is also important to provide information to the communities so that they can understand the perspectives and desires of tourists.

It is essential for the conservancy members to learn about how to interact with the tourists and the importance of tourism to the development of their conservancy. Some conservancy members still find it difficult to comprehend how tourism is beneficial, which decreases their involvement in conservancy efforts; it is important that awareness programs are implemented to ensure the maximum profits from tourism are reaped to help benefit the conservancy members. Doro Inawas mentioned the possibility of launching an awareness campaign, to teach the conservancy members about why tourism is beneficial for the community and what they need to do to ensure tourism is sustained.

Further, not all conservancies are familiar with the current regulations and legal processes surrounding the tourism industry. Mike, the chairperson from Doro Inawas, explained that the

conservancy leaders need help understanding current regulations and how they apply to the conservancies; the conservancy wanted to learn about the tourism industry and the regulations associated with it, but still needed to be taught directly. Additionally, Tsiseb conservancy leaders referred to mobile camping as illegal camping because they were unaware of the current state of tourism regulations. Other conservancies, including Otjimboyo, Ehi-rovipuka, Torra, George Mukoya, and Shamungwa explained that conservancy members often do not understand the principal of tourism or how it affects them. To incorporate conservancy members into the implementation of new regulations, it is crucial that they are educated about the tourism industry and the regulations controlling it.

**We recommend that the NTB provides information and training to the communities on current and future regulations so the community can play a role in effectively implementing them.** To help the conservancies before regulations are put in place and to build a better relationship between the NTB and conservancies, the NTB should provide education and awareness programs for conservancies about current tourism regulations. Additionally, the NTB should provide education for the conservancies regarding what their rights are in relation to tourism and mobile camps, specifically.

From our interviews, we found that conservancy members are often apprehensive to begin new tourism endeavors until they understand how tourism can benefit them. Conservancy members therefore need to understand how their communities will benefit from assisting in regulating mobile camps so that they can effectively help in the regulatory process. The conservancy members need to understand the connection between enforcing regulations and receiving income from mobile camps so these regulations are effective when implemented.

In order to effectively enforce mobile camping regulations in the future, conservancy members must understand the concept of tourism in Namibia. This can be achieved by informing them about different tourism practices and the importance of tourism for the country. Also, conservancy members should be informed on how tourism affects them, and how they can help promote tourism and provide an enjoyable tourist experience.

## 5.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, we recommend that the Namibia Tourism Board (NTB) implements regulations and awareness programs to ensure mobile camping is environmental sustainable and socially responsible. The NTB can serve both as a facilitator and regulator; however, the regulatory process that we recommend to manage mobile camping is much different than the regulations the NTB currently implements to monitor other types of accommodations.

We found that there are many challenges associated with the monitoring of mobile camping due to the remote and highly variable locations where mobile camping takes place. It is unrealistic for the NTB to monitor mobile campers directly. We recommend that conservancy officials, including game guards, be empowered to control mobile camping through regulation and education. We found that conservancy leaders and members are willing and able to assist in this regard. Game guards already perform daily patrols and monitor activities on conservancy land; so, if during these patrols game guards find mobile campers, they can report this information back to the conservancy office to aid in monitoring mobile camping. This will allow for greater regulation and control of this sector of tourism without sending NTB inspectors to or stationing them in remote parts of the country.

Monitoring mobile camping presents other logistical challenges relating to the distribution and accessibility to information. We recommend conservancy offices be used in conjunction with the NTB office and website to distribute information to tourists regarding their responsibilities as mobile campers. These central locations can also be used to collect a fee from mobile campers. Conservancy leaders and game guards will be able to provide information to tourists about the safe places to camp and the dangers associated with mobile camping, specific to their conservancy.

Furthermore, many of the social issues presented by mobile campers can be addressed by incorporating conservancy members in monitoring. If conservancies were able to collect fees from mobile campers, as a permitting system would allow, conservancy members would gain direct financial benefits from mobile campers. This would also support the employment of conservancy members as game guards and guides. Additionally, allowing the conservancy control over where mobile campers can go could prevent socially irresponsible campers from disturbing local villages.

Moving forward in the regulatory process, the NTB should continue to involve the conservancies, NGOs, and operators; communication between the NTB and these stakeholders is

vital, and stakeholders should have the ability to review and provide feedback regarding initial drafts of legislation before it is put into effect.

While regulations are in development, we recommend that the NTB develop educational programs for conservancy members and tourists. Educating tourists and conservancy members about responsible mobile camping can mitigate some of the concerns that stakeholders have. Tourists would be educated on best practices for mobile camping and be provided with relevant information about conservancies they may visit, including contact information for conservancy authorities. Conservancy members should be educated on how to interact with tourists, particularly mobile campers, conservancy's rights based on current legislation, and how to inform tourists of mobile camping guidelines. Additionally, we suggest that the NTB starts a pilot program before regulations are implemented to test the viability of our recommended monitoring system of mobile camping.

As the tourism industry in Namibia continues to grow, it is important that the mobile camping sector develops in a way that is environmentally sustainable and contributes to the development of rural communities. If regulated appropriately, mobile camping can provide a way for communities with no other tourism ventures to begin to realize the developmental benefits they can gain from tourism.

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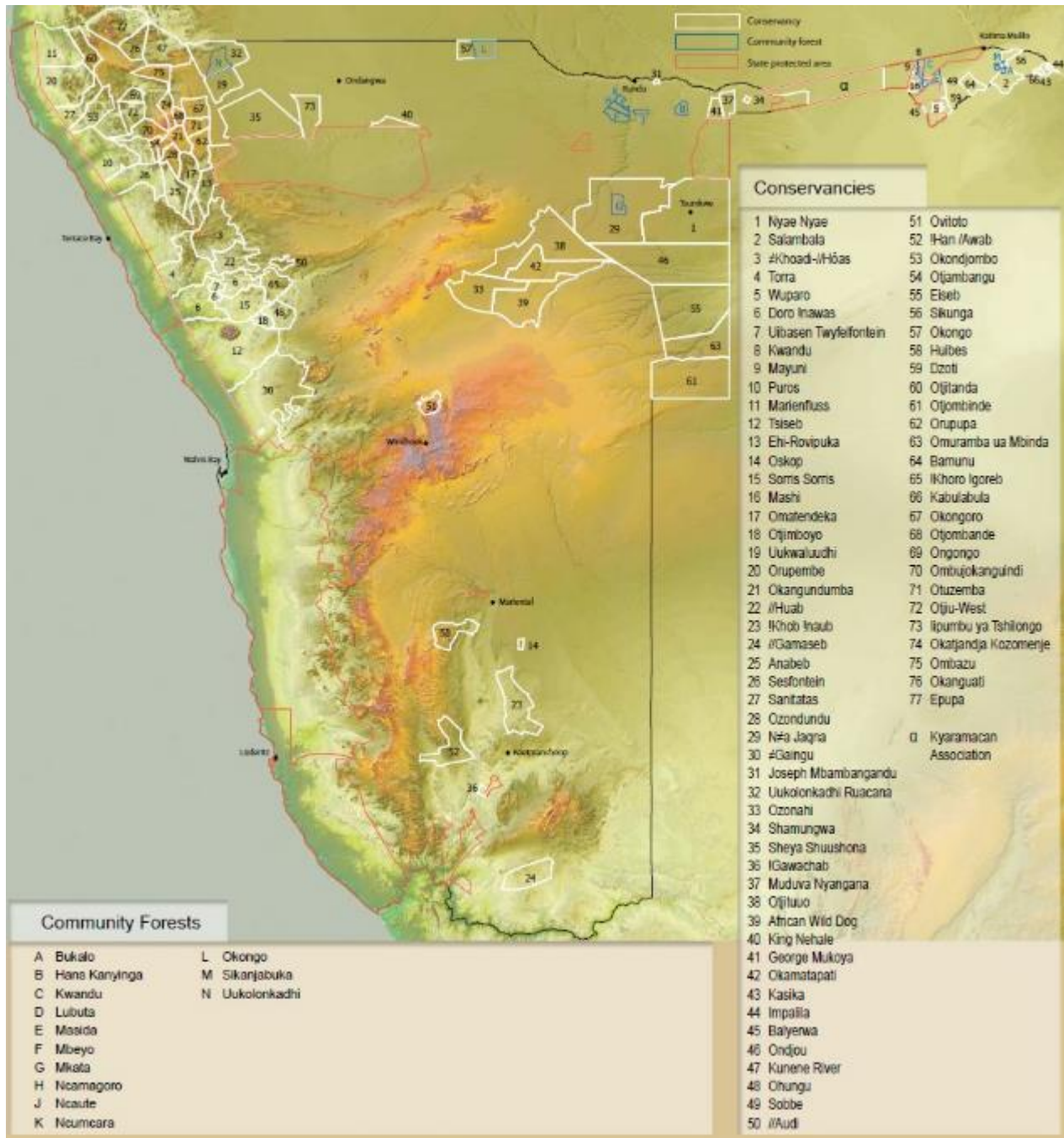
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## Appendix A: The distribution of conservancies and community forests across Namibia

At the end of 2012, there were 77 registered communal conservancies, one community conservation association in a national park (structured much like a conservancy) and 13 registered community forests in Namibia, conserving at least 159,755 km<sup>2</sup> square kilometers [The lists below follow the chronological sequence of registration] (NACSO, 2012)



## Appendix B: Sponsor information, Namibia Tourism Board

The Namibia Tourism Board was formed on April 2, 2001, by an act of parliament, to serve as the national regulatory body for the tourism industry. Its goal is to encourage cooperation between the public and private sectors in the application of the national policy on tourism. To reach this goal, the NTB focuses on developing tourism enterprises and marketing Namibia internationally and domestically as a tourist destination (NTB, 2014).

The NTB is a government body working under the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in Namibia, and was established by the Namibia Tourism Board Act (Act 21 of 2000). The Board itself is made up of five members, including three members from various government ministries and two members from the private sector. There is one member from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, one member from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and one member from the Ministry of Finance. The Minister of Environment and Tourism selects two members based on nominations from the private sector. Out of the five, the Minister of Environment and Tourism appoints one member of the board as chairperson and one other member as the vice chairperson (*Namibia Tourism Board Act*, 2000).

To promote Namibia as a tourist destination internationally, the NTB has established offices in cities throughout the world, including locations in South Africa, Germany, London, Paris, Rome, Beijing, and Shanghai. Additionally, they have a website that offers information on tourism establishments throughout the country, as well as general travel information for prospective visitors (NTB, 2014).

One of the primary functions of the NTB is to promote the development of the tourism industry. To this end, they promote training programs and offer guidance for individuals engaged in the tourism industry, promote environmental sustainability in the tourism industry, promote conservation efforts within Namibia, and register and grade tourism establishments. The industry services department, directed by Bornventure “Bonnie” Mbidzo, is designed to help them accomplish these goals.

The industry services department employs eight tourism inspectors, including our primary contacts at the NTB, Eroid Podewiltz and Celeste Kock. The tourism inspectors are the NTB’s primary representatives in the field, and are responsible for enforcing the standards established by the NTB through regulations. These regulations ensure that facilities and services offered are up to prescribed standards, and apply to all currently established sectors of tourism, ranging from hotels and campsites to tour and safari operators. Additionally, each tourism enterprise started in Namibia has to be approved by the NTB before they can open for business. The regulations established are all legally enforceable, and enterprises not in compliance with them can be fined or their registration can be revoked (*Namibia Tourism Board Act*, 2000).

## Appendix C: Details of Non-governmental Organizations and Operators Interviewed

### Non-governmental Organizations: Tour and Safari Association (TASA)

*TASA is an organization representing the interests of established tourism operators. They aim to ensure the establishment and enforcement of standards, to promote environmental sustainability amongst members, to market its member's services domestically and internationally, and to represent the views of its members to relevant authorities. Their overall objective is to promote and develop the tourism industry in Namibia.*



### Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA)

*NAPHA is an association of professional hunters whose aim is to promote ethical conduct of hunters, the sustainable use of natural resources, and to secure the industry for future generations. They work under the idea that trophy hunting should provide a memorable experience for the tourist instead of simply hunting to kill high numbers of game. Through this, NAPHA helps to ensure that wildlife populations can be maintained while maintaining the profitability of the industry. Trophy-hunting operators provide what they refer to as bush camping experiences, especially when the operator is involved in purist hunting. Purist hunting is a means by which hunters may track an animal for days, carefully following the animal as it travels, and setting up camps along the path it takes them.*



### Emerging Tourism Enterprise Association (ETEA)

*We met with Ms. Hilma Meke Imbili who is a member of ETEA. ETEA is a non-governmental organization that assists entrepreneurs who are trying to start a tourism enterprise. For members, ETEA has training opportunities such as financial and marketing training. The purpose of ETEA is to help smaller enterprises have a stake in the tourism industry; ETEA's members can raise needs to the government as a group as well as approach financial institutions as a group to get better interests rates. Currently, ETEA has no full time administration, which has greatly affected how well the organization runs.*



### Hospitality Association of Namibia (HAN)

*HAN is an association that offers voluntary membership to the members of the hospitality industry. These members include hotels, guesthouses, guest farms, lodges, rest camps, restaurants and tented accommodations. HAN finances itself through this membership, and helps to promote and protect the interests of its members, and create partnerships within the association.*



### [World Wildlife Fund \(WWF\)](#)

*WWF provides technical and financial support to field partners including those involved in conservancy programs. WWF also aims to promote wildlife as a resource by which, communities can gain income and development opportunities. There are three sides to their work including institutional, business, and natural resources. It also works to develop joint ventures, or partnerships, primarily with lodges within conservancy areas.*



### [Namibian Association of Community Based Natural Resource Management \(CBNRM\) Support Organizations \(NACSO\)](#)

*NACSO is an association comprising 14 Non-Government Organizations and the University of Namibia. The purpose of NACSO is to provide quality services to rural communities seeking to manage and utilize their natural resources in a sustainable manner.*



### [Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation \(IRDNC\)](#)

*IRDNC Trust strives to improve the lives of rural people by diversifying the social-economy in Namibia's communal areas to include wildlife and other valuable natural resources. The Trust further aims to build up the capacity of rural Namibians, and to assist them to develop a civil society whose members can sustainably manage and benefit from their local natural resources.*



### [Operators](#)

#### [I Dream Africa](#)

*I Dream Africa provides a variety of activities and lavish tours in Namibia. I Dream Africa received a permit from the NTB for a mobile camping experience for 2000 people in the sand dunes along the coastline in the past. This operator was one of the main reasons that the NTB wished to create regulations for mobile camps.*

#### [Journeys Namibia](#)

*Journeys Namibia is a reputable management company that takes the strain off lodge owners by taking care of the day to day running of lodges. They have many years of experience in the tourism industry and share an intimate passion for Namibia's unique landscape and its people.*

#### [Conservancy Safaris](#)

*Conservancy Safaris consists of two companies, namely Kuene Conservancy Safaris and Caprivi Conservancy Safaris. It meets a clear need for a new approach to tourism in Namibia – a safari company run on business principles but ventures into the realm of a community-based safari enterprise.*

#### [Camelthorn Safaris](#)

*Camelthorn Safaris is a company that runs various businesses within Namibia and South Africa. They currently operate lodges and safaris, and they also offer luxury to minimalist camping and tours.*

### Abenteuer Safaris

*Abenteuer Safaris run incentive travels, conferences, specialized group tours, event management, private luxury travels, cruise ship shore excursions, fly-in safaris, and luxury tented camps. Their goal is to deliver professional, unique and unforgettable travel experiences.*

### Be Local Tourism

*Be Local Tourism currently operates mobile camping trips involving semi-permanent tented camps. They mostly use the same site near Windhoek City Limits. They set up camps for large incentive groups from 50 to up to 500 people. Their staff provides information to the tourists using their accommodations about being eco-conscious.*

## Appendix D: Non-governmental Organization Interview

We are a group of students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the United States of America. We are working with the Namibia Tourism Board to develop recommendations for regulating for the mobile camping sector of the tourism industry. Currently, we are interviewing tourism operators to better understand their perspective, needs, and opinions of current and potential future regulations in this industry. We will be using this information for educational purposes only, and we are not here to enforce regulations or report non-compliance.

Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and you may withdraw at any time. Please remember your answers will remain anonymous, names or identifying information will not appear on the questionnaires or in any of the project reports or publications.

### Tour and Safari Association, Emerging Tourism Enterprise Association (ETEA), and Hospitality Association of Namibia (HAN)

1. From our understanding, your organization works a lot with tour operators, activity operators, and tour facilitators and work to promote development, marketing and networking opportunities for members. Can you give us any further insight into what services and benefits members gain through membership with ETEA?
2. What challenges can you foresee with implementing mobile camping as a regulated sector of the tourism industry?
3. What challenges are faced when implementing a new enterprise?
4. What type of market do you think mobile camping would attract?
  - a. Mass vs. boutique tourism?
  - b. Budget vs. luxury?
5. Do you think your organization could benefit from mobile camping?
6. Are there other people or organizations that you think would be helpful for us to contact for further information?
7. What types of operators do you think would be interested in this type of accommodation?
8. What programs do you use to educate new operators? What topics do you educate them in?
9. What type of education would you think is necessary for tour operators who would offer mobile camping?
10. Based on the current trends in the tourism industry, do you think that mobile camping would be something that tour operators/tourists would be interested in participating in?

### Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA)

1. Can you explain the mission of your organization and give us some details about your membership?
2. What led to the formation of your association?
3. What services do you provide your membership?
4. What changes have you seen in Namibian tourism over the past five years in relation to trophy hunting?
5. What changes do you see in trophy hunting in the next five years?
6. What are the main concerns for your membership when it comes to comply with all the permits, licenses, rules that regulate your industry?
7. What does your membership see as reasonable regulations for tour operators and what regulations do they see as more of a burden?

8. How often do trophy-hunting operators use mobile camping?
9. How do operators access conservancies?
10. How do they accommodate tourists?
11. Have you had any difficulties obtaining permits?
  - a. How long does it take to obtain to permits for trips with conservancies or other privately operated land? (i.e., farms)
  - b. Do you have any suggestions that would help create an easier permitting process?
12. What support would you like from the NTB to help your membership?
13. How do the trophy hunting operators decide where to camp with their clients when they put together an itinerary?
14. To what extent do tour operators set up camp in undesignated sites to help clients get a real “bush” experience?
15. Do know any operators that do something similar to mobile camping? Or any operators that might in interested?

### Namibia Association of Community Based Natural Resource Management Support Organization (NACSO)

1. How many of the conservancies that you support have tourism enterprises on their land? (i.e. accommodations, trophy hunting)
2. How do the conservancies/communities benefit from tourism?
3. Have any conservancies come to you regarding people or operators camping on their land?
4. Has any conservancies had requests from operators or others to set up a mobile accommodation on their land?
  - a. Which ones?
5. What are the impacts of mobile camping on the conservancies?
  - a. How do these impact environmental conservation efforts?
6. How willing are the communities to let people come to their land?

### World Wildlife Foundation (WWF)

We understand that WWF itself plays a large role in environmental and wildlife conservation and that you specifically work within communities researching their conservation efforts in relation to trophy hunting. Can you explain a little bit more about what you personally do?

1. We have read that with trophy hunting, a community may begin receiving an income in as little as four months following registration and that this response can provide communities incentives to continue wildlife conservation. We understand that it is important for communities to see the benefits of involving themselves in tourism endeavors; what methods do you think have been most successful to incentivize community participation?
2. Does everyone within the community see the benefits of becoming involved in tourism enterprises?
  - a. How can you ensure this?
3. Are communities reliable? Have you found that communities generally abide by or follow through with contracts with operators?
4. How can you keep communities to their word?
5. Do you have any suggestions to consider when working with communities? What is the best way to effectively communicate with them?
6. What difficulties do operators have with communities?



7. What incentives operators to work with communities?
8. Do you find that tourists are aware of their impacts on the environment?
9. What waste disposal methods do tourists and operators use?
10. Regarding mobile camping, what topics do you think are most important to address when considering environmental conservation?
  - a. Sanitation?
  - b. Waste disposal?
  - c. Water usage?
11. From your experience, do you think that self-drive is a viable option for mobile camping?
  - d. Do you think that tourists are knowledgeable enough about wildlife behaviors to be safe without an operator?
  - e. Do you think that tourists are knowledgeable enough about the environment to not negatively impact not leave an unnecessarily large footprint?
12. How large of groups do you think would be feasible for mobile camping?
  - f. Could the environment handle this number of people?
13. Do you think there is a market for mobile camping in Namibia's tourism industry?
14. Have you seen any changes in the tourism industry in the past five years?

## Appendix E: Operator Interview

We are a group of students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the United States of America. We are working with the Namibia Tourism Board to develop recommendations for regulating for the mobile camping sector of the tourism industry. Currently, we are interviewing tourism operators to better understand their perspective, needs, and opinions of current and potential future regulations in this industry. We will be using this information for educational purposes only, and we are not here to enforce regulations or report non-compliance.

Your participation is completely voluntary and you may withdraw at any time. Please remember your answers will remain anonymous, names or identifying information will not appear on the questionnaires or in any of the project reports or publications.

1. What are the tourists' demands from the operators?
2. Do you think mobile camping are something that you would be interested in?
3. Have you received any requests to provide this type of accommodation?
4. Do you know of any other operators who would be interested?
5. Do know any operators that do something similar to mobile camping?
6. Do you think the tourists you work with would be interested in mobile camping? Please explain why or why not.
7. What type of market do you think this type of accommodation would have?
8. Which existing regulations have presented the greatest challenge for you?
9. What incentivizes you, as an operator, to follow current regulations?
10. What can your business gain from the creation of a new sector of tourism (mobile camping)?
11. If this were a regulated sector of tourism, what do you think would be important considerations for regulations?

## Appendix F: Conservancy Member Discussion Group

We are a group of students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the United States of America and will be working with the Namibia Tourism Board. We are conducting a focus group with communities to learn about their opinions of what the most important areas are that need to be addressed regarding mobile camping. Our goal is to develop recommendations for regulating the mobile camping sector of the tourism industry, and your insights will be extremely useful.

Your participation in this interview is completely voluntary and you may withdraw at any time. If you would like, we would be happy to include your comments as anonymous. No names or identifying information will appear on the questionnaires or in any of the project reports or publications. We will be using this information for educational purposes only; we are not enforcing regulations or reporting non-compliance.

1. When did you start?
2. What does your conservancy focus on?
3. Can you tell us about the structure of your government?
  - a. How many people in your conservancy are involved in making choices?
  - b. What role do they play in the conservancy?
    - i. Specific tourism endeavors?
    - ii. Outside of tourism?
4. What can you tell us about tourism on your conservancy?
5. Do you think you benefit from being involved in the tourism industry?
6. Do you have tourists come into your community?
7. Do you have places where tourists can stay?
8. Do you have a lodge/campsite/rest camp on your conservancy?
9. What is your and the community's relationship like with these people?
10. Do they pay money to the community for staying here?
11. Does the community benefit in any other way from the visitors?
12. Do the people who travel here cause you any problems?
13. Do you have people camp on your land outside of designated campsites?
14. What do you call camping outside of designated campsites?
  - a. Bush camping?
  - b. Wild camping?
  - c. Mobile camping?
15. Do people get permission to camp on your land?
  - a. If yes, how do you get permission to camp on your land?
16. Do people camp on your land without permission?
17. Do you ask people to leave if they are camping without permission?
18. What do you do to people who camp on your land without permission?
19. Do you think you should get money or other incentives from people camping on or visiting your land?
20. What might you want to get from people visiting or camping on your land?
21. Are there places on your land that you are dangerous for people to camp?
22. Are there any problem animals in any area of your conservancy?
23. Do you have any way of telling people who visit your land about these dangers?
24. How many entrances points are there to the conservancy?

25. Do people ever go off the roads and enter the conservancy from other locations?
  - a. What are your concerns regarding that?
26. How do you feel about people camping outside the designated areas?
27. How many game guards do you have?
  - a. What are the responsibilities of the game guards?
28. We are trying to make a permitting system and your input regarding things that need to be changed and your concerns could help us to make recommendations

## Appendix G: List of recommended regulations for the Namibia Tourism Board

<b>Recommended Regulations for Mobile Camping in Namibia</b>	
1	Obtain an NTB approved permit before going mobile camping
2	Consult conservancy office when entering a conservancy
3	Only camp in zones identified by conservancies as tourism or settlement zones.
4	Use a recommended local guide or sign a liability waiver at the conservancy office and travel at your own risk
5	Do not sleep in river beds
6	Take all rubbish with you
7	Leave your camp cleaner than you found it
8	Do not cut down or place marks on trees or other plants
9	Always cover your ashes from your fire with a shovel
10	Only use well-marked tracks and never create a new one
11	Do not make the wildlife run [or otherwise disturb]



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SELF DRIVERS TRAVELING IN REMOTE WILDERNESS AREAS OF NAMIBIA

***If you are planning on traveling in the remote wilderness areas of Namibia (Damaraland, Kaokoveld, Caprivi...), please be aware that it is a privilege to still be able to travel in such unspoilt areas, and with that privilege comes great responsibility. There are essential rules to follow which will help conserve these sensitive areas for years to come and which will at the same time respect the local communities living in them.***

- **Do not sleep in river beds** - this may disturb the wildlife as well be hazardous for your own safety (dangerous animals and flash floods).
- **Only camp in designated areas/campsites and use the community campsites wherever possible** - the local people have accepted that they live in close proximity to potentially dangerous animals. Help support these communities benefit from tourism by paying the requested campsite fees, so that the impact of conflicts with wildlife can be minimized - it is a win-win situation. By using the designated campsites you also minimize pollution and additional ecological damages.
- **Do not camp within 2km of any spring/waterhole** - this may prevent wildlife travelling vast distances from drinking at these sources, or alternatively it could put you in an unnecessary dangerous situation if the wildlife gets too close.
- **Get to your campsite before dark and do not walk about at night** – this is for your own safety.
- **Always cover the ashes from your fire with a shovel** - this will reduce the chances of a bush-fire.
- **Only use well-marked tracks and NEVER create a new one** – this prevents visual pollution and ecological damages, as the area does not receive enough rain for tracks to get recovered.
- **Do not take a road if you do not know where it leads** - even if you have a GPS along, make sure you find out before traveling how long it usually takes to drive a stretch of road in your planned route. In this wild terrain, a distance of a mere 30-40km can take 7-8 hours!
- **Do not make the wildlife run** – apart from making them thirsty (and a lack of water is a problem!), it also increases the chances in the long run that they will become aggressive towards you or future selfdrivers and even the local community.



TOSCO Trust – Reg. No. TM/12

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Email: [info@tosco.org](mailto:info@tosco.org) - Website: [tosco.org](http://tosco.org) - PO Box 35025, Pioneers Park, Windhoek, Namibia

- **Take all rubbish with you** - there are no rubbish treatment facilities in the north.
- **Take along your own firewood** – you are not permitted to chop down any trees for firewood.
- **Leave your camp cleaner than you found it.**
- **Ask permission before photographing the locals.** Gifts such as sugar, maize meal, and tobacco are commonly accepted as payment. However, it is better to visit the demonstration village in Puros or Opuwo, as these are real Himbas showing their culture with limited negative influence from tourism. This is simply a matter of respect for their privacy.
- **A 4x4 vehicle is necessary** – again, this is for your own safety and it minimizes erosion. Also know your vehicle's fuel range as fueling options in these areas are very limited. A vehicle outfitted with a watertank is also a big bonus as you will need to bring your own water along.
- **Always use a recommended local guide to discover an area** - never underestimate local knowledge & support the ones who welcome you into their area.
- **DO NOT ENTER restricted conservation areas like the Skeleton Coast Park** – entry into these areas is illegal and it causes damage to sensitive conservation areas.

*PLEASE REMEMBER: If you bring it in, take it out! Take only photographs and leave only footprints!*

**If you are lucky enough to see Elephants:**

- **Stay in your vehicle at all times and be quiet.**
- **Stay downwind and at least 100m away** to leave both yourself and the elephants ample space to prevent confrontation.
- **If they start to turn or move away, do not follow or chase them.**
- **It is dangerous to drive or walk around,** especially at night and in dense vegetation.
- **Elephants may charge if agitated.** Often they warn you by shaking their head at you. Breeding bulls in "musth" are especially unpredictable and aggressive.
- **Activated car alarms and horns** have been known to aggravate elephant's attitude.

**Be safe, not sorry!**



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# Appendix I: Conservancy Brochure example

## Visit Us

Come visit the office to gain information or to request a guide. Below is a map of the conservancy. It shows the major and minor roads as well as the location of the conservancy office and the campsite. We recommend that a 4x4 vehicle be used to get to the office, as there are no paved roads leading to our office.

GPS location of the office is:  
...

Please call the office at +264 (0)67 697063 if you need further direction.

## Milestones and Successes

1995 Damaraland Camp was opened as a joint venture with Wilderness Safaris

2001 Torra Conservancy becomes financially independent and is able to cover own operating costs

2005 Damaraland Camp receives 'Tourism for Tomorrow' Award

## Quick Facts

Land: 3,493 sq. kilometers

Population: ~1,200 people

Languages: Khoekhoegowab, Otjiherero, and Afrikaans

## Fun Facts

Torra is named after the red 'torra' rocks predominant in the area

Much of the Torra environment is covered in remnants from a huge volcanic eruption that predates the breakup of the supercontinent.

Torra is home to four of the Big Five- elephant, black rhino, lion, and leopard.

## Torra Conservancy

P.O. Box 462  
Khorixas, Namibia  
+264 (0)67 697063

## Mobile Camping at Torra Conservancy



## Mobile Camping at Torra Conservancy

### How do I get permission to camp at Torra?

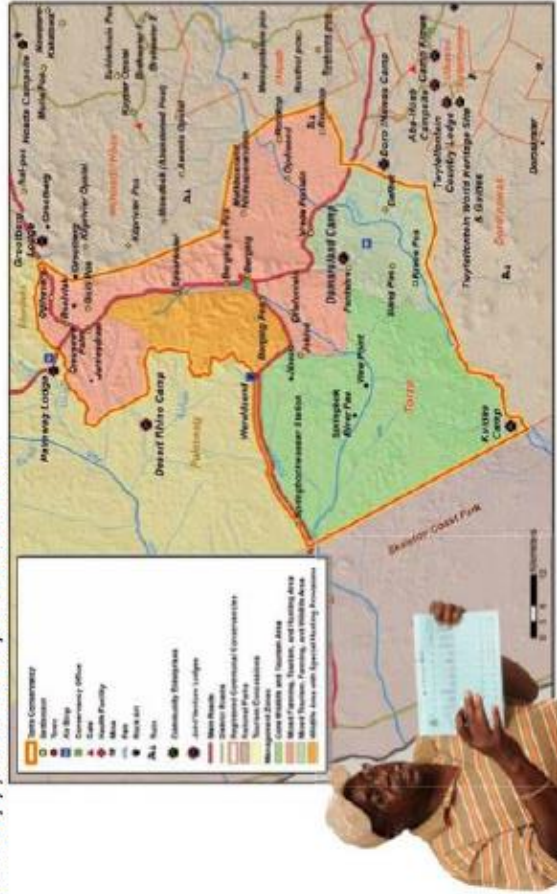
Go to the conservancy office or call the Torra conservancy phone number. There is a mobile camping permit that can be obtained at the Namibia Tourism Board office in Windhoek or at the Torra Conservancy office.

### Do you have guides?

Yes, we do have conservancy members who are registered as guides who can be employed through the conservancy office.

### Where can I camp?

Torra Conservancy is zoned for different activities as shown in the map below. Tourists can camp in any area except for the Wildlife Area or Special Hunting Provisions. It is important to discuss with the conservancy office where to camp because the conservancy office knows where the professional hunter will be hunting and where the wildlife is. Without this knowledge, you are at a higher risk of conflicts.



### Do's

- Talk to Torra Conservancy Office before setting up a mobile camp
- Watch out for trails to make sure no wildlife might put your safety at risk
- Clean up after yourself
- Bring your own firewood or buy from conservancy members
- Take only photographs, leave only footprints
- Ask for a guide if you feel unsure
- Talk to communities

### Don'ts

- Leave anything behind
- Cut down trees or damage the environment in any other way
- Take pictures without asking
- Camp in areas designated for wildlife only
- Camp in hunting zones during hunting season
- Be loud
- Drive off designated tracks
- Camp in riverbeds
- Interrupt wildlife
- Disturb the locals

## Appendix J: Information provided when signing the permit for mobile camping

Recommendations for information provided to the tourist when signing the permit for mobile camping:

1. List of regulations for mobile camping
2. Wildlife present in the area of travel and dangers presented
3. Environmental considerations
4. Cultural awareness and ways to approach the locals
5. Information about the conservancies the tourist is travelling to
6. If travelling with an operator:
  - a. Operator information
  - b. Liability form (tourist assumes all risks)
  - c. Travel itinerary
7. Safety concerns and precautions
8. Emergency contact information
9. No camping zones; for example in National Parks and Wildlife Corridors

## Appendix K: Conservancy Interview Write-ups

### Northwest Conservancy Interview Write-ups

#### Ehi-Rovipuka Conservancy

We met with Assa, the chairman for the conservancy, Bruno, who was in charge of public relations, three game guards who were conservancy members employed by the South African hunting concession, and one other female community member at the conservancy office for the Ehi-Rovipuka conservancy. After brief introductions, Assa began to tell us about the history of the conservancy and how it began.

Ehi-Rovipuka began as an idea back in 1996. 30 villages in the region were involved in coming together to form Ehi-Rovipuka's collective community. At this point, there were many disagreements between communities and the traditional authorities concerning border agreements and power. Despite this, on June 21, 2000, Ehi-Rovipuka applied to become a conservancy, and were granted approval on March 21, 2001. The conservancy borders closely with Etosha National Park, and this indicates that the conservancy exists in an area rich in wildlife. The extensive wildlife in this conservancy made the land ideal for a trophy hunting industry to be established. A Namibian owned hunting operation first signed a hunting concession with Ehi-Rovipuka in 2006 but never managed to pay the entirety of the N\$500,000 that the concession contract had mandated. Because he was unable to uphold his end of the contract, this contract was terminated in 2007. In 2009, a South African operator signed a contract with the conservancy to begin a hunting concession. They were given a 3 year contract; in this time, the professional hunter (PH) has consistently paid the concession contract and in 2012, he was granted a 10 year contract renewal.

Ehi-Rovipuka has seen a lot of growth and development within the years that this South African operator has been working with them; he has worked to set up a site with permanent tented camps, far out in the bush, for hunters to stay. The site is, in part, community run and managed with 15 conservancy members employed by the camp. Conservancy members are employed as trackers and skinners, meaning that they both help to track the animals during a hunt and skin and clean the animal after it has been killed. Additionally, the South African operator has helped to train conservancy members to work as guides for tourists and hunters. This information helps us to gain a better understanding for different ways in which conservancy members can be involved in tourism endeavors.

We began asking questions about if they are trying to expand their involvement with tourism. Assa began talking about how they tried to set up a lodge by the Huanib River, and they signed a contract with a new, black empowerment company to accomplish this. However, after much time and effort was put into planning the lodging, they realized that there was no money left to build the lodge.

Currently, Ehi-Rovipuka is working to establish both a lodge and a campsite within the conservancy. The MCA has provided N\$4.6 million to build the lodge. Unfortunately, this establishment is causing disputes within the community; the Damara and Herero people within the conservancy are quarrelling over which will have ownership over the lodge and who will be in charge of the campsite.

The community is also progressing in their tourism endeavors through receiving traversing rights within Etosha. These traversing rights provide the conservancy with rights to land within the park to exclusively bring their tourists. While these rights within Etosha will provide them with opportunities to further promote tourism, their proximity to Etosha is also the cause of many problems. Often times, predators from Etosha will break out and wander into the conservancy land. Assa mentioned that because of this, they have an increased amount of problem animals which are concerning. While most of the human-wildlife conflicts are of predators killing livestock, and have not necessarily posed a threat to humans, Assa mentioned that elephants can become quite aggressive. He says male elephants have killed humans, and otherwise, when they get angry, they may chase and cause harm to people.

We began asking questions about mobile camping specifically, and Assa said that they experience a lot of tourists coming in and staying overnight on their land. He mentioned that they find that a lot of these people will sleep on the top of a specific mountain on their land which offers a nice view, while they also know of people who come and set up camps by the Huanib riverbed. When questioned as to whether or not the community received any benefits from these people sleeping here, Assa said that they had received monetary benefits from certain organizations in the past for camping in these undesignated sites. He said that Wilderness Safaris would bring tours in sometimes, and they would want to sleep near the Huanib River. Instead of just setting up a camp within the conservancy land though, they would consult with the conservancy before providing a tour, and would pay N\$50,000 per use of the riverbed.

He mentioned that sometimes people come in to do research for their university, and these people will often camp close to the community and utilize their toilets and hot water. For this type of accommodation, the individuals would pay N\$50 per day. However, there are even more tourists who simply just camp on the conservancy land, and because they do not use any of the facilities within the community, they do not pay anything. Because there currently are no control mechanisms or legislation in place to manage unregulated camping, Assa said that they, as conservancy members, do not feel comfortable confronting anyone who they might find camping on their land. However, he expressed that he would like to benefit from this type of camping if legislation were in place that would allow him to approach the tourists partaking in this.

Assa offered an interesting perspective, however, when he was expressing how he felt about unregulated camping. As mentioned earlier, Ehi-Rovipuka is not currently too involved with tourism endeavors, though they are in the process of further establishing their industries through the creation of a campsite and a lodge. Assa did not seem overly concerned with people camping on the conservancy land because, in his mind, anyone coming through to the conservancy was positive; having people see the variety and beauty of the conservancy would help further their marketing endeavors. By this, he meant that if a tourist comes into Ehi-Rovipuka, they could then spread their experience to others about their time in the conservancy. This marketing would hopefully draw people to come visit the conservancy later, once they have established their campsite and lodge. The hope would be that visitors would then stay in these established accommodations, which would further aid in the communities development. From Assa's point of view, tourists involving themselves in mobile camping on the conservancy land were not necessarily an issue.

Despite this viewpoint, Assa was concerned about the safety of the visitors who are using mobile camps. He had earlier spoken about the problem animals in the area, and now, he further mentioned that many other animals could pose threats to a tourist's safety. He mentioned that a lot

of animals move to the riverbed to experience a cooler area, and he was concerned that a lot of tourists do not know about the risks involved with camping outside of a designated area. He spoke strongly of a need for education of tourists; he suggested that at the entry point to the conservancy, they should provide an informational sheet for dangers to be aware of and to help inform visitors of areas that may pose threats to their wellbeing. He wants people to be educated on the wildlife and wildlife behavior, while also being able to tell people the better places to travel within the conservancy that he considered being “nice places.”

He further said that although the mobile camping tourists are beneficial to their marketing schemes right now, that he would like to see there be the ability for more control and management of the tourists traveling to the conservancy, and more specifically, the river. He mentioned that he would like to be able to fine people for camping in the riverbed, but currently, he cannot do anything to address this because the legislation does not yet exist.

Overall, we were able to gain a lot of insight into the basics of how a conservancy functions and how the community can be involved in tourism. Because much of tourism on their land is currently in the process of being established, we were able to get an interesting perspective on how mobile campers can be beneficial to the marketing endeavors of the community. It will be interesting to see how this perspective might be different within conservancies with a greater deal of tourism establishments on their land.



Figure 10: Group picture taken at Ehi-Rovipuka Conservancy

### [#Khoadi //Hôas Conservancy](#)

We spoke with Mrs. Hilga, the director and chairperson of #Khoadi //Hôas, and Albert, who is one of the hunting guides for the conservancy. #Khoadi //Hôas was one of the first conservancies registered, and gained registration back in 1998. Their governmental system has a board of 16 conservancy members who manage the community. While the conservancy has over

2000 members, the community itself has over 3000 occupants. This disparity comes because in order to be a member of the conservancy, an individual must go through an application process. Those who are members are able to gain the benefits that the conservancy gains through their tourism endeavors. Some of these benefits that the conservancy gains are a direct result of the lodge and campsite they have located on their land. The Grootberg Lodge was the first lodge in Namibia to be entirely community owned and run; conservancy members get first propriety when it comes to employment at the lodge and camp. Through the help of an outside management company, conservancy members can be educated in tourism practices so they can best run the establishments themselves.

Beyond the direct employment and income gained from the lodge and campsite located within #Khoadi //Hôas, Mrs. Hilga also mentioned that the community gains many other benefits from being involved in a conservancy. She mentioned that there are several scholarships in place that help to send students graduating from grade 12 to fund their university education. The money gained through their tourism endeavors also helps to provide funding for schools and kindergartens. Additionally, they have also put together a fund that helps to reimburse those who are affected by human-wildlife conflicts.

The #Khoadi //Hôas conservancy draws in tourists from countries all over the world, and when visiting, the tourists can find a variety of activities to partake in including elephant and rhino tracking, Himba village tours, game drives, and involving school children to come and sing for tourists.

When asked about how the conservancy members felt about being involved in tourism, Mrs. Hilga emphasized that while some occupants did not like the idea of tourism, especially when they first began the conservancy, the community now generally feels positively about it because of all of the benefits they receive. She further mentioned that even if someone is not a member of the conservancy, perhaps because they disagree with being involved in tourism, they still receive benefits such as meat from own-use hunting. When questioned about why people may not want to be involved in the conservancy, she spoke about problems with human-wildlife conflicts; some people do not want to be living amongst growing populations of animals who might kill their livestock, damage their gardens and crops, and damage water infrastructure. Currently, there is no compensation given for infrastructure damage. Game guards often help to fix these problems, but the continued destruction of personal belongings gives some people ill feelings towards incorporating tourism into their means of income.

We asked about whether or not they ever find tourists camping on their land, outside of their designated campsites, to which Mrs. Hilga replied that uncontrolled camping was the conservancy's "biggest challenge." She mentioned that people who engage in these behaviors sometimes engage in environmentally degrading behaviors such as deforestation and making new car tracks outside of those already worn into the ground. She mentioned that sometimes they also disturb the animals that can be specifically a problem with elephants that can become aggressive with continued human habituation.

At first Mrs. Hilga seemed opposed to having people camp outside of designated campsites to any extent. She made it clear that she wanted to know exactly where people were staying, and she wanted people to come into the conservancy office so they could be directed to their established campsites. She was concerned that people camping in undesignated areas may simply be unaware

that their campsites exist; she also talked about expanding the campsite so more guests could stay there. She seemed adamant about gaining revenue so that the community could be provided more benefits of tourism, and since currently, no money can be gained from those who camp without permission, she did not see how that could be beneficial. However, once she understood that the community may be able to benefit from mobile camping, she seemed open to the possibility of accepting the concept. She explained that she would be content if people would simply offer something small in return for the use of their land. For example, she thought that these tourists could pay a small camping fee, or they could even donate blankets or dolls to the school kids. She became open to the idea of mobile camping as long as the tourists coming through offer some form of payment and are educated in the #Khoadi //Hôas conservancy.

Regarding education, Mrs. Hilga thought it would be helpful for tourists to come into the office so they could be informed about the #Khoadi //Hôas conservancy. For example, #Khoadi //Hôas is sectioned off into zones specific for wildlife only, tourism only, farmland only, hunting concession, and multiple use zones. She thinks it is important for all tourists to know how this functions so they do not interfere or go places where they are not meant to be. She also advocated that tourists come to the office so they can be told of the best, safest places for them to camp. She also wanted to be able to inform them of the safety concerns associated with camping outside of a designated area, specifically regarding wildlife encounters. She still thought it was important to know where people would be staying so they could be distinctly told what to look out for when there, and also so the community could have closer monitoring over the activities happening there. She mentioned that the conservancy has 6 entrance points, so while it is unreasonable to man every gate to direct tourists to the office, she thought that perhaps putting a sign and a map at the entrance points which would direct them to the office would be helpful.

Beyond the direct line of questioning, it was interesting to learn how uncomfortable Mrs. Hilga and Albert felt about approaching tourists and asking them about what they are doing there (when camping in an undesignated region), or even approaching someone over not throwing out their trash. It seems like there is an overall approach to being as non-confrontational as possible, and that any potential for conflict between the tourists and the conservancy members is avoided. It was interesting to see this attitude play out with them because to us, it seems like the tourists are acting as clients to the communities, and therefore, it seems natural that the conservancy members would have some authority over the tourist's activities. While it is understandable that they do not want to start conflict with the tourists, it is interesting that they just put up with sometimes simply ignorant behavior.

Overall, the perspective gained from this interview was interesting as compared to the last one. While those at Ehi-Rovipuka did not seem overly concerned with people camping on their land in an unregulated way, those here at #Khoadi //Hôas seemed much more concerned with the money or other benefits that they felt they were missing out on as a result of these mobile campers. Perhaps this is a result of the greater development that #Khoadi //Hôas has with their tourism industry and joint venture operations, and the success that they have seen translate into community benefits.



Figure 11: Group picture taken at #Khoadi //Hôas Conservancy

### Torra Conservancy

We spoke with Roman, the chairperson and manager for the Torra conservancy. He began by giving a brief background on the conservancy as a whole and its history. Before its registration as a conservancy, the land was mostly communal area without much commercial farming; much of the farming that was performed on the land was for own-use purposes. He mentioned how even prior to becoming a conservancy, tourists would venture into the land and talk of how beautiful their environment and landscapes were, and how they thought the communities could gain income off of tourism to their area. They began a trust called Waat 11, in which they began their first conservation efforts to promote tourism within that sanction of land. He mentioned that in 1994 they began their first joint venture with Damaraland Camp while also becoming involved in some trophy hunting enterprises. They were able to establish these ventures with the help of funding by a several NGOs; specifically NACSO. By 1998, they received registration from the MET, and they were approved and gazetted as the Torra conservancy. At this time, only game guards were employed to manage the conservancy and worked for food as compensation. By 2000, they were able to become entirely financially independent from their initial NGO funding.

Currently, the conservancy has over 1,200 inhabitants, over 500 of which are members of the conservancy. In order to become a member of the conservancy, an individual must be over 18 and go through an application process, hence why there are fewer conservancy members than inhabitants. Further, there are seven members who make up the conservancy committee who meet to discuss community concerns and management topics. The conservancy also has three lion rangers and two rhino rangers who have been appointed to deal with the human-wildlife conflicts associated with lions and rhinos, in addition to assisting with the tracking and monitoring of these animals. Specifically, Dr. Philip Stander is in charge of collaring and tracking some of the lions within the region.



Additionally, there are five game guards, each representing and working within one of the five blocks, or states, that make up the conservancy. These game guards maintain a wide variety of responsibilities. Roman mentioned that the game guards are responsible for reporting animal losses, road and foot patrolling of animals to gauge population sizes, and they are also in charge of performing house visits to learn about the dangers and concerns throughout the community. These dangers can be related to wildlife, and human-wildlife conflicts, but the game rangers are also concerned with learning about the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the communities. It was striking to us that the game guards are responsible to such a wide variety of topics; while many of their responsibilities lie within the realm of wildlife protection and conflict management, their role in healthcare throughout the community seems completely out of place.

While there is a lot of wildlife in the community, we were informed that tourists also come to the conservancy to experience the diverse landscape, and to a lesser extent, the culture. Unfortunately, Roman said that Torra conservancy currently does not have a cultural village to help promote their culture, so culture is not yet being marketed too much within the conservancy.

He began speaking more directly to the tourism that currently exists within the conservancy. He mentioned that they have a lodge in which the conservancy collects a share of 40% from the joint venture. Further, Torra also has two campsites: Kuidas Camp and Damaraland Camp. Kuidas Camp offers fly-in safaris and game drives and employs four or five conservancy members to help run its operations. Damaraland Camp, on the other hand, employs over 40 conservancy members to sustain its operation. Roman also mentioned that besides these accommodation establishments, Torra is involved in a concession with three conservancies: Anabeb, Sesfontein, and themselves. He mentioned that this agreement for the concession took a long time to put together, as there were many conflicts that arose when trying to get all three conservancies to agree; however, Eroid mentioned that bringing together the three conservancies for this concession was mutually beneficial because there is greater potential for bettered wildlife conservation if neighboring conservancies are working together in their conservation efforts. Now, the concession has two investors involved, and Torra receives 25% of the income generated from this venture. From that, the community also gains at least 10% in benefits.

When asked if people ever camp outside of these designated campsites that he had mentioned, he responded that such unregulated tourism is a problem in Torra conservancy. He spoke of how the conservancy is zoned into different areas including hunting areas, tourism only areas, exclusive wildlife areas, and multi-use areas. Regarding mobile camping, Roman mentioned that he has experienced individuals camping in both the hunting areas and within exclusive wildlife regions; this was concerning to him because he felt as if these areas are not safe or fit for tourists to travel or camp on their own. He mentioned how sometimes if he finds people staying or camping in these areas, or other areas outside of designated campsites, he has approached these people and asked them about their purpose for being there. He said that he will try to inform them of the dangers of the area, including the dangers of the wildlife and hunters, and he tries to inform them of the campsites that they offer on the conservancy. If the tourist wants to stay, he might ask them to pay a fee for staying on the land; however, because there is no legislation making mobile camping illegal, the tourist is not mandated to pay any sort of compensation or move away from where they are situated.

This lack of legislation seemed concerning to Roman because he mentioned that he would like to be able to benefit from tourists travelling within Torra. He went as far as to say that even if a

tourist driving through Torra were to see a rhino and take a picture, he would want that tourist to pay for that sighting; as a conservancy, they go through many operating costs to conserve the environment and to build wildlife populations, and it came across that he felt entitled to receive benefits from something as small as an animal sighting.

While direct employment and financial benefits are major incentives for a community to be involved in tourism, Roman also spoke further about the benefits the community receives. The list of benefits he named was extensive, including conservancy members being provided with food, elders provided with pensions, the promotion of an HIV/AIDS program, establishment of sports within the community, donations to schools and the ministry, own-use hunting and meat distribution, they provide every family with a death an Oryx as condolence, help with transportation, and also help for conservancy members looking to get a job or a driver's license. He also mentioned that at one point they tried to distribute several goats to each household, but that method did not work well.

Additionally, Roman mentioned that the benefits they have received from their tourism enterprises have also helped to fund a compensation scheme for human-wildlife conflicts. They currently have a system in place, which involves a review panel and an application or complaint form, which conservancy members can fill out to receive compensation for killed livestock or other infrastructure damages. They provide financial compensation for killed livestock or other animals: N\$1500 for a cow, N\$200 for a sheep, and N\$500 for a horse. Typically the review panel will look into ways in which the infrastructure damage can be fixed; however, Roman mentioned that this damage is not as common anymore since Torra has been able to establish many water points throughout the conservancy as a result of MCA funding.

The community has benefitted greatly from regulated tourism, which is indicative of why Roman felt so strongly that mobile accommodation should in some way be able to be better managed. He feels as if the community should be compensated for land use, but he mentioned that he really cannot do anything at this point to control it because there is no legality preventing it from happening. He would like to be able to approach people and tell them not to camp in certain areas and wishes they would stay at the campsites they already have. Roman mentioned that he has had experience where he has found people camping in close proximity to Damaraland camp with all of their gear, and when approached, they did offer to pay for staying in the region. This is indicative that mobile campers may be willing to pay a fee to the conservancy.

Further, he was concerned looking ahead to this coming holiday weekend though. He said that he had already seen about seven buses full of South African tourists, and he knew they would be staying in the riverbed. He was concerned that these people would leave behind their bottles and fire pits. This seemed upsetting to him considering the extensive efforts Torra goes through to ensure they are conserving the environment and wildlife. While he would prefer everyone to simply stay at their campsites, he seemed more concerned about being able to inform them of the dangers they faced and the safety concerns of mobile camping there rather than receiving financial benefits from them. He thought that perhaps the conservancy needs a cheaper form of accommodation; even if that accommodation only charged N\$10 per night, he said "at least it would be something."

Perhaps his greatest wish was that people would just come to the conservancy office upon their arrival into the conservancy. This way, tourists could gain all of the necessary information

regarding the accommodations Torra offers, places that might be too dangerous to camp, best environmental practices, and the zoning of the conservancy.

Overall, it seemed as if Roman had a hard time looking into the future, trying to conceptualize the potential benefits that could arise if legislation were in place to somehow regulate mobile camping. Because it is currently not illegal for tourists or other individuals to camp wherever they please and not pay a fee, Roman seemed to have a difficult time seeing what the future would look like if he were to gain the power to actually ask for a payment or other compensation for land use. He seemed adamant about wanting to be able to approach people camping outside of designated areas and telling them either not to camp there or to provide compensation, which is indicative that he would like to see some regulatory process or legislation to be implemented. He also indicated that tourists needed to be educated on where to stay and not to stay, and best environmental practices.



Figure 12: Picture of Torra Conservancy sign at Conservancy Office

### [Doro Inawas Conservancy](#)

We met with Carl, the acting research manager, Juliet, the conservancy bookkeeper, Emmanuel, a driver, Mike, the conservancy manager, and a man from the MET who had been spending time helping out in the conservancy. The conversation began with trepidation and hesitation among all the individuals with whom we were speaking, which was perhaps in part due to the fact that the MET official was present. This perhaps imposed fear among the other conservancy members. At first, no one responded to the questions we asked, but slowly we were able to begin having a conversation.

We again began with asking about the history of the conservancy. Mike told us that Doro Inawas was established in 1999 through the help of funding from the Nature Conservation Act. The conservancy has about 450 members; like other conservancies we have spoken with, conservancy members must go through an application process to become a conservancy member, and must be over 18 years old. Here, you could also become a member if you have been a resident of the community for over five years, or you could also marry into membership. Members currently benefit from the distribution of meat, condolences at funerals, and the creation of the human-wildlife

compensation fund. The conservancy has not yet adopted other benefits because Doro Inawas currently does not take in much income yet since their tourism enterprises are not yet well established.

Currently, Doro Inawas is involved in a trophy hunting operation, a small community camping site that is not yet well established, and a joint venture program with Doros Camp. About 40 conservancy members are employed by Doros Camp, which accounts for nearly 60% of their employed staff.

When asked if they had seen any mobile campers, Mike did not seem to understand the question, and the man from the MET was the one who ended up responding. He said that one of the biggest problems is uncontrolled tourism; however, nothing can be done about it at this point because there currently does not exist legislation prohibiting people from partaking in these operations. He mentioned that there are specific areas, notably within the desert region, where the environment is sensitive, and people need to be careful with how they act in these areas. Mike spoke up, saying that many times campfires are left behind, which he seemed to feel badly about considering the effort that gets put into maintaining the environment. He said that he specifically does not like the off-roaders because he is concerned that they are damaging the ecosystems. He wants to further be able to tell them about being careful of the dangers that lions and elephants pose. He seemed almost personally offended that people would camp outside of the campsites they provide, questioning, "Why don't they use our campsites? Then we can't get income."

Mike was notably concerned with the community not being able to gain income from those engaging in unregulated camping. He thought there must be a fee or penalty in place that they, as a community must be able to impose upon tourists. He felt as if the community must be able to feel like they have the power to report visitors who are camping on their land. To address this, Mike thought that there needed to be an awareness campaign put into place so that conservancy members could be made aware of rules, regulation and legislation, as it relates to tourism. The man from the MET emphasized that the NTB does not educate conservancies about regulations; so therefore, the conservancy members do not know how to go about enforcing them.

Mike also thought that in addition to conservancy members, tourists also needed to be educated on the conservancy. He proposed that tourists should be able to get information in some tangible form, such as a pamphlet from various distribution points throughout Namibia. He did not think that distribution points within the conservancy would be sufficient because many times, people just come through and do not stop. Further, it did not make sense to man every entrance point within the conservancy to hand out these informational guides because there are at least 5 designated entry points, and many other illegal entry points where off roaders may drive through. Because they are already concerned with income generation, the costs associated with manning these entrance points may also be too high to be feasible.

The man from the MET further expressed concern regarding the remoteness of the environment and how that posed danger for tourists. He was concerned that if someone's vehicle were to break down in the desert, there is the possibility that no one else would pass them or notice them for days. He said people could easily run out of water, which could also endanger their lives. While he feels income generation for the community is necessary, he thinks that statistical numbers of tourist flow through the conservancy is also of importance. He thinks it is important to be able to track how many cars enter and exit the conservancy for not only tourist traffic information but also

to be able to track if someone goes missing. Besides income, he is also distinctly concerned for human life.

Overall, Mike seemed adamant that he felt as if they, as conservancy members should be able to have some say over the control of their land. Currently, communities have no control or power to mandate visitors to leave or to pay any fee for staying on their land outside of designated areas. While they are concerned about protecting the environment, the safety of the tourist is also of great concern. Further, from our perspective, it seems as if the NTB has not done much to support this community in their development, and it seems as if there are ill feelings towards them as an organization.



Figure 13: Group picture taken at Doro Inawas

### [Otjimboyo Conservancy](#)

We met with Iyambo the chairperson, and Rosa from the Otjimboyo conservancy. The Otjimboyo conservancy is different from the other conservancies that we have visited up to this point in that currently, they do not have any established lodges or campsites, though they do have one joint venture with a trophy-hunting operator. This joint venture helps to bring in much of the direct income that the community receives. Besides this, being an established conservancy has also allowed them rights to the wildlife, and they currently are also involved in some amount of “shoot and sell,” which means that based on the quota they are given by the MET, the community is able to kill animals and sell their meat and other products for income.

Since their establishment as a conservancy, they have been concerned with people camping on their land and were hoping to address these concerns with the establishment of a designated campsite. They had gone as far as to choose places along the Ugab River which they saw as suitable for a campsite; these places were chosen because of the view they offered of Brandberg Mountain,

White Lady, and desert elephants. Also, these areas were also situated in regions near where they have already found people camping in, in the past. While they had established plans to set up a campsite in these areas, and had sought help for funding from the MET, they were not granted sufficient funding and prohibited the plans from being implemented. Beyond this logistical barrier, he also emphasized that people in the area are not educated in how to run a tourism operation and stressed the need for education and funding.

They have found that people do not mobile camp too frequently; however, mobile accommodation users increase dramatically around the time of both South African and Namibian school holidays, and they would prefer to camp for free rather than pay for a lodge or campsite.

Iyambo feels that this unregulated camping is bad, and he is frustrated because there are no laws that are implemented to allow them to ask these people to move. He is concerned with these tourists because many times they will come and make fires, leaving behind ash, and making new tracks in the ground with their cars. One of the game guards present also mentioned that people often times leave behind garbage in the bushes; this is concerning because they have found that the cattle will then go and eat the garbage which can be harmful to their health. He also mentioned that they will also make a good deal of noise, which has the potential to frustrate the wildlife and elephants, specifically. Iyambo mentioned that if the noise of people and their vehicles frustrates elephants, the elephants can become dangerous towards the people living in the area. Specifically, he provided an example from back in 2007 when a desert elephant that had become frustrated killed a man from the community. The man's brother was actually a game guard who was present during this interview. A final concern that was mentioned was the fact that sometimes these mobile campers will start bushfires. Since agriculture is the community's main source of income, Iyambo questioned: "how will we survive if all of our farmland is burned?"

Iyambo emphasized that he would like to be able to benefit from people staying on their land especially because he wants to be able to branch out Otjimboyo's income source from distinctly agriculture, to include tourism. While they have a joint venture with a trophy hunting operator, the operator does not have accommodations on the conservancy land meaning the conservancy has little to do with the tourism operations. Iyambo mentioned that he would like to provide employment opportunities to conservancy members through accommodation establishments, but again emphasized the need for funding to accomplish this.

Two more conservancy committee members entered the conversation at this point. We gave them an overview of what we were doing and what we had been speaking about, and we were provided further information regarding their experiences with mobile camping. One of the committee members mentioned that it is not only tourists who come and set up mobile camps on their land, but there are also film groups who come in to film scenes for movies. At this point, no one from the community has ever approached any mobile campers, and therefore, they have not been able to receive benefits of any sort, including financial compensation, for land use.

Iyambo expressed that people entering into the conservancy should approach the traditional authorities (TAs) of the communities. This would allow the TA to be able to communicate with tourists not to travel to certain locations within the conservancy based on the dangers they present or their environmental sensitivity. However, tourists need to be able to know how to get into contact with or find the TAs or conservancy office. Even when we came driving into the conservancy, there was no sign indicating where the office was located; we had to ask several people

along our drive to be directed to the right location. It is evident that in order to make it feasible for tourists to receive information from the conservancy office, that better signage or other indications need to be made.

Iyambo said that he would be incredibly willing to help the NTB in implementing a regulatory process for this if legislation were drafted. He mentioned that if laws were in place, then he would feel comfortable approaching tourists mobile camping and asking them to pay a fee, and if they refused to pay a fee. He would like to be able to tell them to leave the land if they do not pay this fee. Iyambo felt strongly that there needs to be some sort of financial benefit that the community should gain from this legislation. He mentioned that with the increase in income, he would hope to spread that money to the kindergartens and children of the community, in addition to potentially increasing the potential for direct or indirect employment of the conservancy members.

As we were wrapping up our discussion, Iyambo thanked us for our discussion, as it had been eye-opening to him and the other committee members who were present to ways in which they can better control unregulated camping. He went on to ask us if we had any ideas for ways in which they could start up a campsite within the community. We informed him that while that business was not our area of expertise, which based on past interviewing, we felt that they might be able to take advantage of the mobile accommodation users for the time being as a marketing strategy for their community. We also mentioned that if legislation were to be passed that would require mobile accommodation users to pay a fee, then that money could then be used to fund the development of a designated campsite. Erol further provided him with names of NGOs who have provided funding for conservancies in the past.

Overall, we were able to gain a different perspective speaking with Otjimboyo than we have been offered from other conservancies. Their lack of established accommodations means that they perhaps have the most to gain from regulating mobile camping. While the community would still need help to educate their members on how to run a tourism enterprise, they were willing and anxious to get started to further their ties with the tourism industry to promote income generation within the community.



Figure 14: Group picture taken at Otjimboyo Conservancy

## Tsiseb Conservancy

We initially met with Elsie Dausas, who is the chairperson for the Tsiseb conservancy. She mentioned that Tsiseb was established in as a community based organization in 1996 and became officially registered as a conservancy in 2000. Overall, there are 2000 residents within Tsiseb, but only 500 have registered as conservancy members. Unfortunately, a lot of documentation from the past has been misplaced, so they are currently in the process of reregistering interested conservancy members. Including the traditional authority, the conservancy committee has 17 members representing the community, 1 driver, 1 cleaner, and 5 game guards who monitor the wildlife, game, and natural resources. Currently, the Tsiseb conservancy is involved in shoot and sell operations, trophy hunting, and a joint venture with private operators who manage a lodge and a campsite. These tourism operations help to fund and pay water and electric bills, pay staff salaries, and help with building and car maintenance. They also have a scholarship program for the students of the conservancy to help send them to university. Further, they help with providing fencing of elephant dams to prevent elephants from imposing infrastructure damage. The joint-venture lodge and campsite is a part of a concession area, which provides direct employment for 36 conservancy members and provides an income of N\$200,000, as a fixed yearly payment, to the conservancy. Trophy hunters additionally utilize a hunting camp, which pays a further concession fee to Tsiseb.

She mentioned that people generally like the tourists being there because of the benefits that are being provided to the community; however, the conservation efforts they have engaged in to help promote tourism have led to an increase in human wildlife conflicts encountered. The animals identified as problem animals include hyenas, cheetahs, lions and elephants, and she reported that there have been incidents of these animals killing livestock and she even noted an incident where a community member was killed by an elephant.

While conservancy members generally like the presence of the tourists, she was concerned with tourists who come and mobile camp. These people do not check in at a central office or checkpoint, so no one knows when tourists come in and out of the conservancy, which is of distinct concern for their heritage council. There are 4 designated entrances to the conservancy, but many other small roads, so tracking the flow of tourists is difficult. Game guards are the people who most often notice the unregulated campers during their rounds in the field. She was concerned with these behaviors because if someone were to be injured, then no one would know until a game guard found them, which would potentially be many days after the fact. These people pose a problem because sometimes they are found staying in sensitive areas. A sensitive area refers to areas within the conservancy that have been identified as breeding areas for wildlife, and tourists are not allowed to stay within these regions. She mentioned that they are currently working with the MET and NASCO to create an informational packet so that people traveling with Tsiseb can be informed about both the potential dangers, and the zoned areas, including the sensitive areas and hunting areas. She thinks that tourists need to be further educated in order to conserve their environment and for their own safety and wellbeing.

Elsie wants all tourists to come to the conservancy office so that they can be told where to go and where not to go within the conservancy. Specifically, she really just wanted to be able to inform tourists of the lodge and campsite options that they have on their land already. She mentioned that they had created plans to create a new campsite to provide tourists with more options for accommodations, but they lacked funding necessary for wildlife and impact assessments needed to implement such.



She thinks that visitors utilizing mobile camping should be mandated to pay a fee so that the conservancy can benefit from their presence. She further mentioned that local people report to them that there are people who are camping, outside of designated areas, but they can do nothing about the people staying there.

The vice chairperson, Zachariah Seibeb, entered at this point in the conversation and was able to provide further input into the concerns of the Tsiseb conservancy members. He agreed that lack of funding has given them challenges in furthering their tourism endeavors. Additionally, he mentioned that they were all just initiated as committee members back in 2012, so they are still struggling to interpret all of the regulations put forth. This lack of understanding was evident in the way that they referred to mobile camping as “illegal camping.” Currently, there are no regulations in place prohibiting mobile camping, but due to their struggle to interpret regulations, it seems that they think that this practice is illegal. It was interesting because he said that there are rules that they are given by the heritage council and rules from the MET by which they must follow, but he never mentioned the NTB as a primary regulatory body. He was confused about which rules were applicable at which times, and it became clear that there is a lot of education that needs to be had by the current leaders of the conservancy.

When questioned if he thought there was a need for education, he agreed that conservancy leaders, members, and tourists alike need to be further educated on various topics. He mentioned that he would like to put up signboards to inform people where to camp and not to camp within the conservancy. He wants to be able to charge people who then do not abide by the rules on these signboards. It seemed as if he thought that making those rules were under the powers allocated to the conservancy. It is clear that he at least wishes that the conservancies had the ability to implement their own rules.

He mentioned again, that with these rules he would want to be able to receive income for the community. Currently, the main source of income for the Tsiseb is through tourism at the lodge and campsite. From here, he insinuated that he does not think that people should be able to use mobile camps at all. He thinks that there has been an increase in the number of mobile campers in the recent years, and is concerned with the environmental impacts of such operations. He stated that people often stay in their riverbeds and gorges and destroy the environment. He was livid that people would come in and leave behind the ash from their fires, leave behind trash, and potentially disturb the wildlife by venturing into the sensitive areas within Tsiseb. Further, he mentioned that if people come in and bother the wildlife, the wildlife would be drawn away from the conservancy, which could negatively impact their tourism efforts due to decreasing local wildlife populations. While he does not know exactly what should be done to address these issues, he agrees that something needs to be done to ensure the protection of their environment and to help their community benefit from mobile campers.

Overall, this was a difficult interview. Many times, when speaking with Elsie, there was a lot of information that was lost in translation, and she tended to speak in sweeping generalities. When speaking with Zachariah, he was ready to talk about all of his concerns, but ended up speaking about every concern he has, not specific to mobile camping. It was difficult to truly gauge what is actually happening regarding mobile camping in their area, as a result of this committee being so new to the tourism industry. Again, it is clear that not only do tourists need to be educated about how they impact the environment and their safety, but the conservancy members and conservancy leaders

must also be made aware of the laws and legislation in place, what their powers are, and their role in implementing such.



Figure 15: Group picture taken at Tsiseb Conservancy

### //Gaingu Conservancy

The //Gaingu conservancy was registered in 1995 and currently has over 1000 inhabitants with about 780 being conservancy members. There is a conservancy committee of 12 members who are reelected every three years. Unlike many of the other conservancies we have visited, //Gaingu does not currently have a lodge or other accommodation establishment. They do have a rest camp that is operating on conservancy land, but the community receives no direct income from this enterprise. //Gaingu is in the process of starting a joint-venture lodge with a private operator, but this establishment is not yet operational.

The conservancy mainly gains income through trophy hunting, where they work with a professional hunter, shoot and sell operations, own use, and live capture. Live capture is a new method they have been using to generate income where they will capture an animal such as a springbok, and sell the live animal to foreign operators. These operations help in a variety of ways to benefit the community. Shoot and sell operations allow for meat distribution throughout the community; for example, if 100 springboks are killed, 50 are distributed among conservancy members, and 50 are sold to the professional hunter. The operating rest camp, while direct income is not provided, several conservancy members are employed at the rest camp, and those operating the accommodation will sometimes pay school fees for community children. It was also mentioned that sometimes they help to buy groceries for the elderly of the community. The money they generate from these endeavors further helps to provide coffins for funerals within the community. Like many of the other conservancies, they have also set up a human-wildlife compensation fund. The community additionally benefits from the selling of crafts and stones, and putting on cultural performances for tourists coming through.

The joint-venture lodge they are working to create will further benefit the community; the community is planning on having their youth be employed at the lodge, while the joint-venture agreement also states that the conservancy will receive 50% of the income generated.

When asked if people ever camp outside of the rest camp area, or otherwise utilize mobile camps, she replied that they do not have a problem with mobile camping. Currently, if a tourist comes through, they will stop by the office to ask how and where to pay to stay at the rest camp. She mentioned that the four game guards they employ have only reported catching poachers when they are out in the field. However, she then further mentioned that the conservancy has vast land, much of which is uninhabited. It seems that mobile camping could be being utilized on the conservancy, but due to the vast expanse of land, they just do not know of this happening. The game guards focus their efforts around the area of the rest camp, so it seems that people could easily be camping in the other riverbeds or other areas in the conservancy, but no one is finding them because the game guards do not operate around there.

She mentioned however, that if people were to be using mobile camps on their land that it would be a problem for them. She said that if people were taking part in unregulated camping that they would not be giving money back to the conservancy. Apart from this concern, she thought that safety was important to consider. She said that they have had problems with tourists staying at the rest camp who are not educated in various ways; tourists often times are unaware that they should not climb Spitskoppe Mountain when it has been raining or otherwise wet. In the past couple of years, two tourists died as a result of climbing in wet conditions. If people are staying outside of the rest camp and are uneducated in how the weather conditions can affect climbing, she was concerned that they may engage in dangerous behaviors which may threaten their lives. She mentioned that while there is no concerning wildlife in the mountain area that poses a threat to tourists, leopards, and cheetahs are found in the //Gaingu region which could pose threats to mobile campers.

While she does not believe mobile camping to currently be a problem within their conservancy, she thinks that conservancy members would be willing to have them partake in such activities as long as they were able to benefit from their presence. If she were to find this happening, she would want the individual to first check in at the conservancy office or lodge, once it is completed, so they could make a payment for staying on their land. She would then want to be able to ask these tourists for a receipt of payment if they were found camping in the bush, and if they could not produce such a receipt, she would want to be able to bring them back to the reception area and ask them to pay. She emphasized that she would want legislation in place that would allow her to call the NTB to be able to report people not abiding by this legislation.

Overall, we found it interesting to speak with someone who does not find mobile camping to be a problem. While she knows of many other people in surrounding areas who have mentioned such unregulated camping to be a problem, she herself has not experienced it. This provides us with an interesting perspective because it offers insight into the fact that some people are not affected by this, and therefore, not all people see regulating this sector as of vital importance.



Figure 16: Group picture taken at //Gaingu Conservancy

## Northeast Conservancy Interview Write-ups

### Mashi Conservancy

The Mashi Conservancy was gazetted in 2003, and its land currently inhabits around 3900 individuals; however, only around 2000 of these conservancy members are registered conservancy members. Mashi has a total land area of 297 square kilometers and is separated into four separate areas: Ngonga, Lizauli, Sachona, and Lubuta. These areas are strictly regional and are not indicative of what activities can be done on the land in that area; Mashi additionally has a variety of different zones, which indicate what activities can take place on different parts of the conservancy. These zones include cropping, tourism, and grazing, wildlife, multipurpose, and sediment zones. While hunting zones do not exist specifically, legislation is in place prohibiting hunting from taking place within a 1.5 kilometer radius from a lodge or other establishment. A 12-person management committee manages Mashi Conservancy, while they also have 21 staff members working to upkeep the conservancy operations.

Mashi Conservancy is currently involved in a variety of different tourism endeavors and has a variety of different accommodation establishments; they have Namushasha River Lodge, Camp Kwando, Mawunge community campsite, and Namushasha center. They also have a separate hunting camp for trophy hunting operations. Both Namushasha River Lodge and Camp Kwando are joint venture operations from which the conservancy gains a monthly payment based on a set agreement. The agreement dictates that a minimum monthly fee be paid even in the event of low occupancy; in the event of high occupancy, Mashi receives a higher monthly payment based on the percent occupancy. This type of agreement seems to work in the greatest interest of the conservancy since they are not responsible for the management costs and the liabilities associated with running a lodge, but they still reap all of the benefits. In addition to the direct income generated by the lodge

and campsite, conservancy members are also employed at these facilities. The hunting camp further employs camp hands from the conservancy.

In addition to the direct income and employment opportunities that present themselves, like other conservancies with whom we've spoken, Mashi also offers its members a variety of other benefits and compensation schemes. The direct income generated from tourism is collected and distributed among conservancy members as direct cash benefits. Further, with the help of the professional hunter who operates on their land, Mashi Conservancy can also offer its members meat distribution schemes. They have also set up a human wildlife conflict compensation plan.

Twelve game guards are employed to manage the wildlife and natural resources. They work to monitor wildlife tracking, maize records and crop data, while they also work to report poaching. When questioned if the game guards have ever reported people using mobile camps, or if they themselves have ever witnessed individuals camping outside of their designated enterprises, they responded that people utilizing mobile camps have never been found or presented a problem in their conservancy. In fact, the only activities remotely related to mobile camping that he could report related to people who came by for work for three or four days and approached the specific communities, asking if it were okay to camp there for that period of time. He indicated that any time longer than three or four days that they would have directed the individual to one of their established camps or locations.

He felt that it was important that tourists always stay at a designated site for a variety of reasons. Specifically, he mentioned that camping outside of a campsite is dangerous due to the wildlife present in the area and the potential to be robbed. He also felt strongly that tourists should always stay somewhere where they would be giving back to the community. He mentioned that he would feel comfortable approaching a tourist using mobile camps to both ask why they were staying there and to inform them of the dangers in doing so.

When questioned about what types of dangers exist, he mentioned that they experience a variety of problem animals and human-wildlife conflicts. For example, just recently, two elephants had to be removed because one had killed a member, and the other had left several conservancy members injured. They also just recently had to shoot a hippo because it had recently attacked and critically injured a man in the conservancy. Additionally, it was mentioned that many times elephants will come into people's crop fields to eat, damage their crops, and damage other infrastructure in the area. A major concern regarding mobile camping was that any infrastructure placed in an elephant corridor risks being destroyed or trampled; though it was not specifically stated, it could be inferred that if a tourist were to be unaware of traditional elephant corridors, they might pitch a camp within the elephant's path, and risk serious injury as a result. He mentioned that human-wildlife conflicts have been increasing since their inception as a conservancy, and he likened this to an increase in the number of animals in the area.

The recovering populations of wildlife are promising and indicate good practices in conservation. Before conservancies, people would just kill animals that caused problems for human life or to crops. Because of conservation efforts, wildlife is no longer simply killed. Because of these increasing conflicts, some conservancy members do not like the idea of conservancies because it seems to only cause them further problems at times. Additionally, many people do not believe that the compensation for human-wildlife conflicts is substantial. Despite these concerns however, it was mentioned that people generally like tourists because they usually end up giving back to the

community in some way by either staying at an accommodation site, or visiting the traditional villages or the heritage center within the conservancy.

Overall, he was not overly concerned with mobile camping because they have not had experience with such activities taking place on their land. He mentioned that he would like regulations to be in place for mobile camps though because he would want every tourist to pay, and it is hard to control tourists who would simply camp anywhere. He indicated the need for legislation to prevent such activities from happening. It is interesting speaking with conservancy members in a conservancy that has such a highly developed tourism sector; they have seen the direct benefits of tourism and seem set in specifically having people stay at designated areas. He was open to the idea of having tourists make individual negotiations with village people, but he was otherwise not keen on the idea of mobile camping at all.

It was interesting speaking with Mashi as the first conservancy we visited in the northeast region of Namibia because it seemed so starkly different from those, which we visited in the northwest of the country. In the northwest, there was vast, open land; the conservancy landmass was immense, and there were few inhabitants and game guards. At least in this conservancy, the land mass is small, there are many more inhabitants, and there are significantly more game guards. Perhaps the reason that mobile camping does not happen so much in this conservancy is because there simply are not many places that offer the same exclusive, bush experience that could be experienced out in the northwest. The communities and villages are numerous and relatively close together, in contrast with the northwest where villages were sparse and not well populated. This difference could greatly impact the prevalence of mobile camping and mobile camping potential for this area.



Figure 17: Group picture taken at Mashi Conservancy

## Kwandu Conservancy

We met with Benety, the chairperson, and Peter, the vice chairperson, along with the treasurer and secretary of Kwandu Conservancy. Kwandu was first gazetted in 1998 in an effort to manage the natural resources of the land. They employed 14 game guards to help in these efforts and they worked to patrol the area, control poaching, raise community awareness, and aid farmers in education and control of human-wildlife conflicts. The conservancy is about 190 square hectares and comprises both the communal conservancy and a community forest, and encompasses over 4600 conservancy members. A committee of 12 members manages both of these areas.

Regarding their involvement in the tourism industry, they at one point had an operating community campsite, which although it did not bring in much of an income, it did allow for community employment. Unfortunately, the reception area of this establishment experienced a fire, and due to lack of recent funds, they have not managed to make it operational since. They had also put forth plans to begin a lodge, and had an investor come in to begin the establishment; however, again due to lack of funding, the plans for this fell through. Unfortunately, with their campsite having burned down, they do not have many opportunities for tourists to stay within their conservancy. The investor who had begun working on the lodge that failed still has a leasehold from the Ministry of Lands, and this investor still brings people in to stay on that land; the conservancy does not receive any benefits from this operation because they were never able to establish an agreement.

Currently, the only ties to tourism that Kwandu have include a concession area within the neighboring national park, where they receive some profit from 2 lodges and a campsite within the park, and a professional hunter who also works to employ conservancy members to his enterprise. Aside from the employment of conservancy members, conservancy members receive a variety of other direct and indirect benefits including meat distribution from the professional hunter, the sale of timber, and a human-wildlife compensation scheme. Something that was also highlighted, different from any conservancy we have visited thus far, was that conservancy members gain capacity; although this is not a tangible benefit, and it cannot be quantified, conservancy members gain a sense of pride and ability as a result of being a part of the conservancy efforts.

When questioned about their feelings towards mobile camping they responded saying that they do not like mobile campers; they feel that tourists should consult with the conservancy before camping on the land so that the community can receive money to both benefit their members and to better manage their resources. They have had issues in the past with tourists leaving behind garbage, and they are concerned by the prospect of fires. Agriculture is their main source of income, and if bush fires destroy their crops, then they will have no source of income. They are also concerned with the fact that they do not know how many people are staying in or camping in a given area, and they do not know if those people are safe from wildlife or other threats.

We have found in other conservancies that people generally do not feel comfortable approaching mobile campers, and were surprised when Benety initially mentioned that they have approached them in the past and asked them to leave. However, he also mentioned that they do not like approaching these tourists because they do not want to embarrass them. This notion of not wanting to embarrass or interfere with tourists is a common theme we have seen when speaking with conservancies. Generally, it seems Namibians are genuinely just very kind people who would rather simply tolerate an inconvenience of a tourist rather than addressing their concerns with the

tourist themselves. Many times, conservancy members feel they have a standard to uphold, and if they are at any time direct with a tourist, it may mean lost business in the future.

Because of the benefits that tourism has provided Kwandu, they are adamant about increasing their tourism establishments. Because of their efforts as a conservancy, there have been an incredible increase in the number of human-wildlife conflicts, and it is difficult sometimes for people to remain positive about conserving the land. Some of the conflicts that were highlighted include lions and hyenas killing livestock, hippos and crocodiles posing threats to human wellbeing and life, and elephants traversing into conservancy land from the neighboring national park and damaging their crops. While these are threats that the conservancy deals with daily, they were concerned about the threat to human life, specifically mobile campers, posed by the elephants and lions.

Regarding mobile camping, they would like the opportunity to advise campers of “good sites” in which they could stay. Currently, any information they have on their conservancy is available at Mashi Crafts, a local craft market, and in the surrounding national parks in the form of brochures; however, some information is only available at the conservancy office. The conservancy is zoned into cropping, settlement, wildlife, grazing, hunting and tourism zones, and this information is available in the conservancy office. Their hope would be to inform tourists of these zones, and to be able to direct them to appropriate camping areas based on the prescribed zones. He mentioned that the community generally really likes tourists because when they see a tourist, they know that they will be benefitting from their presence; however, they emphasize that they still need to increase the awareness of conservancy members on how tourists are benefitting them, because once they see the purpose of tourists, they like them more, while they also need to be informed on how to act around tourists to best market themselves.

Benety likes the idea of legislation being implemented regarding mobile camping because he would want to gain a profit from such activities. They are extremely interested on expanding their ties with tourism because he mentioned that they cannot simply rely on their profit from trophy hunting forever. He mentioned how other countries such as Botswana have begun restricting hunting of certain animals such as elephants, and he is wary of this becoming a trend in other countries too. Unfortunately, he says that the conservancy is uneducated on how to best go about establishing tourism enterprises, and that they need information or training sessions on how to become successfully involved in such. He says that they would only need to educate the leaders of the conservancy; that way, the leaders could then hold community meetings to involve other conservancy members in carrying out their objectives. Again, this concept of needing community education is playing out as a theme among conservancies and should somehow be addressed.





Figure 18: Group picture taken at Kwandu Conservancy

### Salambala Conservancy

We spoke with Botta, the Salambala chairperson, Boniface, the conservancy manager, Raymond, the enterprise manager, and 4 other committee members. Salambala Conservancy has somewhere around 10,000 conservancy members and operates on over 93,000 square hectares of land, 14,000 of which are reserved as wildlife exclusive areas. They currently operate, or are in the process of producing a number of different tourism enterprises. Salambala Campsite, though initially community managed, is not in the process of being made into a joint venture, and its name will be changed to Salambala Wilderness Safaris. Choga Campsite is also a joint venture operation, managed by Open Sky Safari. Unfortunately, both of these campsites are in a state of disrepair at the moment as a result of recent flooding that has occurred in the area; only a few of the designated sites are operational. They also operate a hunting safari camp, which is used by 1 professional hunter; hunters who use this site will hunt during the day, and return and stay at this camp at night. A guesthouse is under construction in Salambala, and it is just about finished for use. Choga River Lodge is also under construction, and while the building contract has been signed, negotiations are still underway to determine fund and profit allocation. Lastly, a community lodge is also under construction, though negotiations are also still underway.

While there are many accommodation projects underway, Salambala still lacks significant tourism enterprises. As a result of this, they do sometimes encounter mobile campers. Specifically, they have encountered mobile campers on the western border of the conservancy, where Salambala meets with the national park, and within the areas where the lodge development is currently underway. The area in which the lodge is said to be erected was chosen due to its location; however, until the lodge is established, tourists are also camping there as a result of its nice environment.

Botta mentioned that tourists using these mobile camps pose a problem and are concerning, again iterating that conservancy members get no money from mobile campers. Also, he felt that tourist safety was of great concern, stating that there are snakes and lions in the area and that people might be camping where there is no nearby hospital if something were to happen. He also mentioned his concern for the fact that tourists may lack communication options if they are camping out in the wilderness; if a problem were to arise, they would not be able to contact anyone

for help. Additionally, he said that these tourists could be endangering themselves because hunters and illegal poachers might pass through the area in which they are staying, which could also pose a threat to the tourist's wellbeing.

Aside from safety issues, of additional concern was their impact on the environment. He mentioned that tourists often times leave plastic bags and toilet paper behind. He specifically said that while not always, sometimes these campers come in and "they camp, they go," meaning that they leave without regard for what they are leaving behind. What was interesting was that he mentioned that it is usually the natives that do this; often times it is the black Namibians who do not clean up after they camp and said that this is not often a problem with whites. This was interesting considering many of the other people we have talked to mentioned that it is the South Africans who are the largest contributors to the problems associated with mobile camping, including littering.

Overall, he wants tourists to come to the office so that they know where people are going, the number of people coming in, and also so they can receive payment for their visit. He mentioned that the office is always manned, so there would always be someone there to receive a tourist passing through. Further, he said that they need to make brochures and posters, which can be provided at the boarder of Botswana and Namibia and is located only a few hundred meters from the conservancy office, to provide tourists with information necessary and pertinent to the conservancy. In these brochures they would like to provide information about where their campsites and lodges are located within the conservancy, clinic locations, internet cafes, and zoning information so that tourists who mobile camp can be aware of places that are restricted to camping or may otherwise be wildlife exclusive zones. Tourist safety was potentially his greatest concern, saying, "Wherever they come, we should protect them."

He was insistent that they are okay with mobile campers as long as compensation is provided and they have the ability to provide information and education to the tourist. He emphasized that the community likes people, even mobile campers, saying "they'll come help push your car asking if you're stuck" even if that person is deliberately stopped, and has simply pitched a mobile camp. While the conservancy members are not feeling poorly towards mobile campers, Botta felt strongly that the community should still benefit from them. He thought it was important that any fee be brought to the conservancy office or some other central point because if it were brought here, the fees could then be collected and then redistributed among conservancy members; whereas if fees were collected by one individual, the money would stay with that one person and not benefit the greater community. Aside from monetary fees, he also feels that mobile campers can give back to the community in other ways; he mentioned that if the camper coming through is a doctor, then he could give back to the community by imparting knowledge to the conservancy members and that this knowledge could serve as a form of compensation.

While there is currently no legislation in place prohibiting mobile camping, in addition to their daily patrols and other duties, the 20 game guards in Salambala sometimes also work to report tourists using mobile camps to the conservancy office. They will report on places where they find tourists like to stay so that they can monitor those areas, and they also sometimes ask the mobile campers if they received permission to stay there; if they have not received permission, they will ask them to seek that permission from the nearby village or appropriate person. However, without legislation, the game guards have no backing to support their wish for these people to get permission.

Something important to note, based on our observations driving through the Kavango and Zambezi regions and from our conversations with conservancies now in the northeast is that it does not seem that there is as great of an opportunity for mobile camping to occur. Here in Salambala, there are about 6 conservancy entrances; while conservancy leaders in the northwest often times highlighted that there were many off-road entrances that self-drivers would utilize, conservancy leaders in Salambala and other northeastern conservancies we have spoken to thus far, have not had a problem with people entering via off-road paths. This could be due to the environment of these regions, which is many times extremely wet and marsh-like. This environment is not conducive to off-road driving into the bush lands of Namibia. Unlike in the northwest of the country, which had vast expanses of open, unpopulated dry land, the northeast is extremely wet and much more populated and seemingly developed than the northwest this finding potentially prohibits the feasibility of mobile camping within the region since the potential for off-roading is severely limited. Also, while the northwest was full of diverse landscapes, the northeast is better known for their wildlife and big game; because the landscape in the northeast is not as distinct and the wildlife lends itself to being potentially more dangerous, the prevalence of mobile camping could be severely decreased. However, it is also important to note that while mobile camping may not be as prevalent in this region, conservancies have generally been concerned with these activities nonetheless. Conservancy leaders continue to highlight the need for legislation to be implemented so that mobile camping can be controlled so they can profit as a community and further their conservation efforts.



Figure 19: Group picture taken at Salambala Conservancy

### [Sikunga Conservancy](#)

When we came to Sikunga conservancy, we were surprised with how many people were present for the meeting; over sixteen committee and conservancy members were present. Specifically, we spoke with Fabien, who was the chairperson, Christopher, the vice chairperson, and Stephen who was the manager of Sikunga. The conservancy was established in 2004, though it was not gazetted until 2009. Initially, they only employed four game guards and four fish guards through support from IRDNC. Currently, within the 310 square kilometers, there are over 7,000 conservancy

members, 1,770 of which are conservancy members. The conservancy is zoned into various regions including a hunting zone, grazing zone, tourism zone, and wildlife corridors; on addition to these zones, no hunting can take place within 1.5 kilometers of a lodge or other establishment.

Stephan highlighted that it was not easy to make the conservancy in its initial years of operation; members did not agree with the conservancy program because they continued to see human-wildlife conflicts growing as conservation efforts increased, though they did not see any benefits for years after their inauguration. The conservancy was able to sign a contract with a professional hunter, from which they were finally able to begin gaining cash benefits. The professional hunter was also able to provide meat for meat distribution among conservancy members. Conservancy members began to see the good in being a part of the conservancy through this contract; finally, in 2010, Sikunga conservancy members began receiving cash benefits and income as a result of their conservation efforts through trophy hunting. Recently, Sikunga was able to sign a new contract with a different professional hunter whereby they now receive even greater financial benefits. Stephan mentioned that the benefits to conservancy members continue to increase every year. Further, a grant from the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) allowed Sikunga to employ more fish guards to help conserve the fish in the Zambezi River. The conservancy is not able to hold a competition among the members, whereby the participants can gain fish as a source of food. Further, cultural groups in the community are also receiving benefits by putting on performances for tourists to come and watch.

Regarding tourism specifically, Stephen mentioned that they currently operate two lodges, one fishing camp, and one hunting-fishing camp. Unfortunately, the lodges that are located on their land do not contribute direct benefits to the conservancy, as they do not have a joint venture agreement. Sikunga conservancy is currently struggling to sign contracts with lodges, but they are hoping to further their efforts in this regard so that the community can begin to benefit from these tourism endeavors. At the moment, they are communicating with the Ministry of Lands and the MET so that they can start such joint ventures. Despite the fact that they receive no direct income benefits from the lodges, some conservancy members are employed at the lodge, which contributes indirect benefits and income.

When asked if they have any tourists who camp outside of their designated campsites or lodges, Stephan mentioned that they do not experience mobile campers on their conservancy. He mentioned that if people come into conservancy land, they must first consult with conservancy members regarding mobile camping. He mentioned that the wildlife in the area is dangerous; additionally, if tourists were to camp where hunting is taking place, the tourist could be putting himself in physical danger. They would rather advise people to stay in lodges or campsites, though they are still trying to find funding for their campsites. The campsites could help to improve the conservancy's overall business and income from tourism.

We wanted to gain a greater understanding into how the conservancy members felt about tourists and tourism, especially since they seemed keen on trying to expand their enterprises. Stephan specifically replied, "Tourism is my favorite." He mentioned that they cannot simply rely on hunting alone anymore. He is afraid that trophy hunting in Namibia will soon stop as it has in surrounding countries, including Botswana. To counter this, he felt it was important to continue to promote tourism and photograph safaris so they will still be able to receive and income from tourism, even if trophy hunting is eradicated in Namibia. Because he is so interested in expanding tourism throughout the conservancy, Stephan was entirely for promoting mobile camping on

Sikunga land, so long as the tourists who were using them were educated on the conservancy and the risks involved with mobile camping trips. In fact, he would like for any activity to take place within the conservancy, which could help to promote income production.

Other conservancy members brought up various concerns regarding mobile camping. Some were concerned with the colony of bee-eater birds that are located on and breed within the conservancy. Fortunately though, they are in the process of producing a signboard to label the bee-eater colony area as a protected region, informing people not to stay there. Members were further concerned with people camping along the riverbanks; crocodiles live within the river, and conservancy members were concerned with the risk for human life if people were to camp there.

They feel strongly that they need to produce signboards to give tourists guidance on where to go and where not to go. They currently have a brochure, available in the Katima Mulilo tourism office, the Ministry of Fisheries, the MET, and IRDNC, that provides pertinent information regarding best practices within the conservancy and their own prescribed rules and regulations; however, they do not feel as if this information would be sufficient for someone to go mobile camping. They felt that it was their responsibility to tell people where it was safe to go and camp. Since they have inhabited this area for many years, they feel that they know where dangers lie within the conservancy land. Further, while they would like to promote tourism, they are concerned that mobile camping is too risky sometimes; they are concerned regarding the reputation of the conservancy, and are fearful that if a tourist were to get hurt, that Sikunga Conservancy would receive bad publicity, which would in turn decrease the potential for tourism on their land in the future.

Overall, members of Sikunga like tourists. Stephan said that when they see tourists, they see money. Some conservancy members do not feel as welcoming towards tourists because as mentioned earlier, they currently do not receive any benefits from the lodges on the conservancy land. If tourists are staying at the lodge, the members sometimes get angry because they know that they will not see any of the benefits of that tourist directly.

If mobile camps were to become regulated, members would like to see a financial benefit from their presence. They would like to see this money come through the conservancy office so that the benefits could be evenly distributed at the end of the year. There is only one main road leading into Sikunga, and one smaller road, and they do not experience any off-road travelers. The conservancy office is located directly off of the main road, making it easily accessible to tourists traveling through the area.

It continued to be iterated repeatedly until the end of our discussion the need for tourist safety. They recommended that tourists do not go out into the bush on their own, and a game guard provided at the conservancy office should accompany them. Even at the end of our interview when we opened the discussion for the conservancy members to ask us questions, they continued to ask questions regarding liability, to which we responded that this activity would take place at the tourist's own risk, and that we would recommend that the tourist sign a liability waiver before embarking on such an activity. It was clear that their largest concern was for the tourist safety.



Figure 20: Group picture taken at Sikunga Conservancy

### George Mukoya Conservancy

After driving over 15 kilometers on a two-track dirt and sand path, we finally arrived at the village in which the conservancy office is located. Upon our arrival, about 25 committee and conservancy members greeted us with their traditional welcoming song. Even before the interview started, we got the impression that this community was excited by our presence in a way we had never before experienced.

The meeting was facilitated and translated by the conservancy's chief game guard, Kalinga, while the conservancy chairperson, Jacob, also played a leading role in the discussion. We realized that this meeting was far different from the others we had attended in that the leaders and conservancy members all worked together in an organized and formalized way; members always asked for permission before they spoke and speaking was always designated to one individual at a time. Also, while many of the conservancy members did not understand or speak English, the facilitators of the discussion had some of the best English comprehension and speaking skills we have encountered when meeting with conservancies.

Jacob began the discussion by giving a brief overview and history of George Mukoya Conservancy. The conservancy began in 2002 and was gazetted by 2005. It operates on land with an area of 486 square kilometers, and encompasses 10 villages. The conservancy has about 3000 residents, and 1600 are registered as conservancy members. Each village has one representative on the conservancy management committee to ensure each village is involved in their decision-making. Currently, George Mukoya has employed 14 staff members and 10 resource monitors, or game guards. These game guards are responsible for keeping watch over the wildlife, trees, insects and grass to ensure that no illegal activities, including poaching, are taking place on their land. They also employ one manager, one coordinator, and two office assistants. They have established a conservancy constitution and management plan, and have been working to zone the conservancy;

the land is currently sectioned into settlement and wildlife zones. In the settlement zone, human activities including tourism, housing, and cattle grazing are allowed. The wildlife zone prohibits human activities with the exception of trophy hunting.

Regarding tourism in George Mukoya, trophy hunting is the main source of tourist activity in the conservancy. George Mukoya is part of the Khaudum North Complex of conservancies, along with Muduva Nyangana conservancy. The Khaudum North Complex has a hunting camp, funded by the MCA (Millennium Challenge Account) called Kavango North Complex hunting camp. In 2007, they had their first hunter, and in 2011, they signed a new contract with Namibia Exclusive Safaris. The income from this camp is split between the two conservancies. George Mukoya is currently constructing a lodge and a campsite but they have not yet signed a contract with an investor. Aside from trophy hunting though, the conservancy does not receive much from tourism. Kilunga mentioned that they have activities such as craft making, wildlife and birdlife, and a vibrant culture that he wants to be able to share with tourists; however, as we experienced entering the conservancy, access is limited, making tourism efforts difficult. We asked further if they had ever experienced any mobile camping, to which the conservancy members replied they had not, though they said that they have had some tourists get lost going to the national park who accidentally wound up on the conservancy. These people were simply redirected because conservancy members told them they had no established tourism activities or accommodations to offer.

Conservancy members are benefitted through the MET approved hunting quota, which allows for meat distribution among the community; however, Kilunga says that this quota is not enough. The hunting camp currently brings in some cash benefits to the conservancy, and also employs 3 members. This money has also helped to pay for schools and children's school fees.

Kilunga highlighted that these benefits are not enough, and they wish they could provide more for their community. He stressed that they make beautiful crafts, but they have no buyers because of their location. He mentioned that they would like to make a cultural center or a craft market by the roadside, but they lack funding. He emphasized repeatedly that they have so much that they can offer, but lack of funds, and lack of training prohibits the development of their tourism. He mentioned that they want to train tour guides and to train conservancy members how to interact with tourists, but they do not know how to go about doing this.

In addition to not having enough funding for their visions for tourism, they also mentioned that there is a fire management plan in place because bush fires have been detrimental to their crops in the past; however, they cannot afford to pay fire management individuals, and 10 game guards are not enough to control the fire alone when the land mass of the conservancy is so large. Although it was not directly mentioned, based on past conversations with other conservancies, we would imagine that mobile camping could exacerbate this concern for bush fires. Though, since they do not encounter mobile camping at the moment, it may have been difficult for them to formulate or envision such a concern.

They were however, able to highlight a variety of other concerns relating to mobile camping. Jacob said that he would want to discourage mobile camping because of the dangerous wildlife in the area. He mentioned that if a tourist were to come through, he would want them to approach the conservancy members so they could inform the tourist of the dangers; conservancy members also mentioned that they would want the tourist to come and tell them what they were doing so they were not scared by the tourist's presence. They said that they would be afraid to approach a tourist

currently because they do not know what the tourist is doing or what they want. Kilunga also said that there were also concerns for tourists regarding littering, mentioning that he was afraid that people could abuse the environment which they have worked hard to conserve.

He mentioned that these conservation efforts have led to an increase in human-wildlife conflicts including predators killing livestock, and elephants destroying crops. Kilunga said, “People are crying for their crop field,” in reference to the wildlife conflicts they are encountering. The MCA is working with George Mukoya to educate farmers how to care for livestock by developing crawls for them and also teaching them how to plant chili farms to detract elephants from eating crops. Unfortunately, while MCA is providing education, the conservancy is still lacking funds to actually implement these plans. It was also mentioned that a buffalo killed a conservancy member recently; the family only received N\$5,000 for his life.

Despite these conflicts, the conservancy members like tourists and are willing to work hard to promote tourism in their conservancy. At this point however, they feel uncomfortable around tourists because they do not know what to say to tourists, and they do not know what to give them. We found it interesting that they felt obligated to give the tourists something, and that that was their concern versus how the tourist could contribute to them. They were simply concerned with not being able to provide the tourist with an experience up to the tourist’s perceived expectations, and while they continued to express concerns about how to approach tourists and make them feel welcome, we felt as a team, that this conservancy was the most welcoming and genuinely friendliest community we met.

To promote tourism, they liked the idea of mobile camping. However, they would consider looking to create a community campsite in the settlement area, near the conservancy office to provide the camper with a safer experience. They would want tour guides to take people around to villages to experience different cultures or out into the bush to experience the wildlife so that the tourists would be safer. However, they understood that mobile camping would happen at the risk of the tourist, and if they wanted to camp alone in the bush, they would not necessarily have a problem with that. Though it was not their first priority, they would want a fee to benefit the community so they could continue to protect the natural resources. With compensation from the tourist, they would be more than willing to help the NTB enforce regulations on mobile camping.

We opened the discussion to any of the conservancy member’s questions or concerns for us, and like other conservancy members we spoke with, they asked how they could become educated in tourism and how they could better market themselves. Perhaps the most thought provoking question was completely separate from the scope of our project; a conservancy member asked in his native language “Why do tourists only speak English and Afrikaans?” This question was interesting because clearly the remoteness of this village and conservancy has cut them off from the variety of languages and cultures that exist outside of their small village. If some of the members do not even know the answer to this question, there is clearly a lot of education that needs to happen regarding tourism so that this conservancy can expand their tourism market.





Figure 21: Group picture taken at George Mukoya Conservancy

### Shamungwa Conservancy

We had initially contacted the chairperson of Shamungwa Conservancy to meet with him on the day of our interview. Unfortunately, he was not in the area on the day of our travels, so we had to reschedule with another member of the conservancy. We initially met with a man named Timothy who used to be the secretary for the conservancy; however, now he is just a conservancy member. In order to get to Shamungwa, we had to travel an unmarked dirt path to reach the central village. Because there was no conservancy office, we met in a school classroom. While the interview initially began just interviewing Timothy and several other conservancy members, as the village people began seeing the meeting form and grow, these members continued to flow into the classroom to join in the interview; by the time we finished the interview, over 35 people were present in the classroom.

It became apparent within the first five minutes of discussion that Shamungwa conservancy is no longer operating as a functional conservancy. In 1998, the conservancy was approved to become a conservancy, and it was gazetted in 2006. Seven villages comprise the conservancy, in which there are about 1500 inhabitants and members. Unfortunately, thought the community wants tourism to gain financial benefits, there is nothing tourism related currently taking place within the conservancy.

The conservancy has faced incredible resistance from the traditional authority, or chief, of the land. When applying to become a conservancy, the MET had told them that their landmass of 100 square kilometers was too small. However, when conservancy members approached the chief to ask to expand the land of the conservancy, the chief did not grant their request, saying that the land was for the people and for grazing and cattle; he did not want the land to be designated or dedicated as a conservancy. Members has also at one point tried to establish some form of income from the

selling of crafts and firewood; however, the chief did not want the conservancy members engaging in these activities, so these endeavors were promptly ended.

When we asked if they had ever experienced tourists using mobile camps on their land, Timothy responded that there had been an instance in which a person came to camp in the past. The community told the tourist that they had nothing to offer tourism wise, but they allowed the tourist to stay in the village for the night; this tourist did not contribute or pay anything to the community. Another community member, Diphien, mentioned that mobile camping seemed like an excellent proposal because they need tourists to come into their conservancy to help promote their development.

Conservancy members expressed concern that elephants in the area could pose threats to the tourists, and they mentioned that two conservancy members have been killed in the past two years as a result of elephant encounters. Currently, there is no compensation scheme for such human-wildlife conflicts, despite receiving a grant for such in the past. Again, the chief put up resistance to this aid, and he denied the grant, therefore denying the potential for compensation of conservancy members.

The overriding theme that continued to present itself was that the chief seemed to be doing everything to prohibit the community's development. From what people were saying, it seems as if the chief is entirely against the objectives of the conservancy project. Even when we asked how the conservancy members would feel about tourists using mobile camps on their land, the members thought it was a good idea, but could not get past the fact that they knew that the chief would not approve of such activities.

Diphien, the only conservancy member, one of the few people engaging in conversation, mentioned that if the chief were to approve of mobile camping, he felt that the community should gain some sort of benefit from mobile campers. However, he did not think that tourists would have to pay a fee; he instead felt that at the current point, the community simply needed donations of any kind to help with initial development. He felt that the best way for this to operate in their community would be if a tourist would stay in the settlement area, and then be guided out into the bush in the day to avoid the dangers that the wild bush presents. However, he understood that mobile camping would be an "own risk" activity.

Overall, this interview was the most challenging we have encountered. It was difficult to gain information from this community because it seems that their conservancy has completely fallen apart. There are no tourism or trophy hunting enterprises, and the community seemed highly discouraged that they were so far behind all of the surrounding conservancies in terms of their development. However, they could do nothing to address this because their chief seems to have too much power. It was difficult to even initiate a conversation because of the language barrier that presented itself. Only a couple of people in the room understood English, and even Timothy, who understood English better than most and acted as the translator to the community, struggled to understand each statement or question we presented. The sheer number of people who were present and having side conversations made the communication even more difficult.



Figure 22: Group picture taken at Shamungwa Conservancy

## Appendix L: Timeline

Task	Weeks							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Finalize Interview Questions	X	X						
Schedule Interviews	X	X	X					
Conduct Operator, NGO, and Government Interviews		X	X	X				
Distribute Operator Questionnaires		X	X	X				
Schedule Community Meetings			X	X				
Travel to Community					X	X	X	
Analyze Results		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Develop Regulations					X	X	X	X
Finalize Recommendations						X	X	X