



Namibia

Namibia Highlights Conservation Success Stories as Living Planet Report Launches

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Namibia is showing that conservation success is possible. While biodiversity loss continues to challenge ecosystems around the world, communities, conservancies, private custodians, government institutions and conservation partners across Namibia are helping wildlife recover through collaboration, stewardship and connected landscapes.

This message comes as the Living Planet Report 2026, WWF's flagship assessment of the state of global biodiversity, which will be launched globally on 08 October 2026. The report paints a stark picture of the pressures facing nature worldwide. According to the Living Planet Index, monitored populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians declined by an average of 73% between 1970 and 2022. The report also notes that species are disappearing at rates 100 times or more above the pre-human background rate, highlighting the urgent need for action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

Yet the report also delivers an important message of hope: conservation works. Approximately half of the wildlife populations tracked by the Living Planet Index are stable or increasing, demonstrating that where sustained action is taken, species and ecosystems can recover. The report highlights examples ranging from tiger recovery in Asia and the rebuilding of bluefin tuna populations to stable or growing southern African elephant populations in landscapes where local communities play a significant role in conservation.

A central theme of this year's report is collective hope: the idea that meaningful conservation outcomes are achieved when communities, institutions and partners work together towards a shared goal. Namibia's contribution to the global report includes southern African elephants within the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA), where community-led conservation and landscape connectivity have helped support stable or growing elephant populations across one of the world's largest transboundary conservation landscapes. Closer to home, Namibia continues to demonstrate the value of collaboration in conservation. One of the strongest examples

can be seen in black rhino conservation. Namibia recorded 43 rhinos poached in 2025, down from 91 in 2024, representing a decline of more than 50% and the country's lowest rhino poaching level in over a decade. Early figures from 2026 suggest that this positive trend may be continuing. These gains reflect the combined efforts of communities, conservancies, private custodians, anti-poaching teams, government institutions and conservation partners working toward a shared goal.

To illustrate how conservation challenges are being addressed on the ground, WWF Namibia is highlighting three stories that showcase different aspects of the country's conservation journey:

- **Keeping the Wild Connected** explores the role of wildlife corridors, conservancies, transboundary conservation at scale in KAZA and community stewardship in maintaining connected landscapes.
- **Living With Wild Dogs** highlights coexistence, prey restoration and community-led efforts to secure a future for one of Africa's most endangered carnivores.
- **A Future for Black Rhino** showcases how collective action is helping reduce poaching and strengthen protection for one of Namibia's most iconic species.

These stories demonstrate a common theme: conservation outcomes improve when communities are empowered, receive tangible benefits, landscapes remain connected and partnerships endure.

"Hope is action. The conservation successes we are seeing across Namibia are the result of people choosing every day to protect wildlife and the landscapes on which we all depend. The Living Planet Report highlights the scale of the challenge, but it also shows that positive change is possible when people work together towards a shared vision. Namibia's conservation journey is living proof of that," says Dr Juliane Zeidler, WWF Namibia Country Director.

As the world reflects on the findings of the Living Planet Report 2026, Namibia's experience shows that biodiversity loss is not inevitable. When communities benefit, landscapes remain connected and partnerships endure, recovery is possible. At a time when the world is searching for conservation solutions, this is a lesson worth sharing.

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