



WWF NAMIBIA STRATEGIC PLAN

CONSERVATION STRATEGY 2022 - 2026



CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	4
2.	SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS	6
»	COUNTRY CHARACTERISTICS	6
»	NAMIBIA CONSERVATION HISTORY AND STATUS	8
»	THE CONSERVATION FUTURE IN NAMIBIA	11
»	UNDERSTANDING FUTURE SCENARIOS & BUILDING RESILIENCE	15
3.	WWF NETWORK STRATEGIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK AND UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	16
»	WWF GLOBAL CONSERVATION MISSION AND TARGETS	17
»	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	19
4.	WWF NAMIBIA STRATEGIC CONSERVATION RESULTS FRAMEWORK	20
»	THEMATIC AREAS	21
»	VISION	22
»	PROGRAMMATIC GOAL	25
»	THEORY OF CHANGE AND KEY CONSERVATION OUTCOMES	26
	Outcome 1: Responsible stewardship of wildlife and wild places for livelihoods, governance, and conservation	28
	Outcome 2: Unlock the full socio-economic value of natural resources	34
	Outcome 3: Increasing resilience to shocks and systemic change	38
	Outcome 4: Support landscape-level conservation	42
	Outcome 5: Protect, conserve, and rehabilitate Namibia’s key biodiversity assets	46
	Outcome 6: Build the enabling environment for conservation	52
5.	HOW WE WORK	58
»	OPERATIONAL APPROACHES	58
»	INVESTING IN OUR TEAM	60
»	TARGET GROUPS & STAKEHOLDERS	61
»	COOPERATION WITH WWF PARTNER NOS AND DONOR AGENCIES	63
»	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS FRAMEWORK (ESSF) & RISK MANAGEMENT	64
»	MONITORING & EVALUATION	65

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the WWF Namibia Conservation Strategy for 2022-2026.¹ It is the result of an extensive consultative process with WWF Namibian team members as well as partners both within and external to Namibia² and is based on a review of the delivery on the previous Strategic Plan.

Our new strategy will continue to consolidate the gains made in the past (including the successful conservancy, wildlife crime and KAZA programmes) but at the same time it will expand our gaze outwards to include new emerging opportunities, threats to conservation and sustainable development in Namibia and the broader region. The strategy incorporates and responds to priorities identified by our conservation partners in Namibia, and especially those of the partner NGOs self-organised under the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO) and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) through their strategic plans and personal inputs.

The new strategy has six key thematic focus areas; 1) Responsible stewardship of wildlife and wild places, 2) Unlocking socio-economic value of natural resources, 3) Increasing resilience to shocks and systemic changes, 4) Supporting landscape-level conservation (including but not exclusive to KAZA), 5) Protecting, conserving, and rehabilitating Namibia's key biodiversity assets and 6) Building the enabling environment for conservation. In addition, this Strategy also outlines the anticipated contribution of WWF Namibia to the three WWF global targets and its Communities of Practices. This Strategy is a living document that is subject to adaptation and change as conservation opportunities and threats arise.

This Conservation Strategy provides details on the vision, goal, outcomes, operational approaches to its implementation. It is a part of the overall strategic plan³ of WWF Namibia which also includes an Organizational Development Plan, a Business Plan, a dedicated Communications Strategy, and an Operational Plan. While the conservation vision is important to WWF Namibia, it is the operational approach that sets out the “how to deliver” on it. A strengthened partnership approach to WWF's work delivery in Namibia and Southern Africa is thus at the heart of the Strategic Plan 2022-26. A Community Conservation Hub, placing local communities at the heart of our daily operations and creating a joint co-working space for like-minded CSOs and NGOs is one of our top priorities in the coming years. We believe that bringing all conservation partners together including government and private sector, is central to conservation and sustainable development action in Namibia and beyond.



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS



COUNTRY CHARACTERISTICS

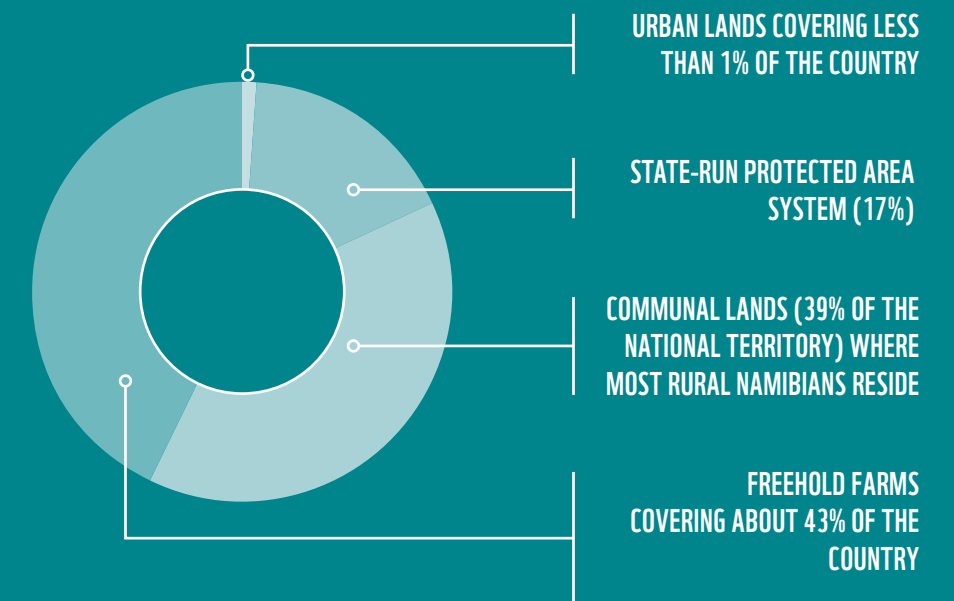
Namibia is one of Africa’s newest countries politically, having attained its independence in 1990. It is located along the southwest coast of Africa, bordered by Angola to the north, Botswana to the east, and South Africa to the south.

At 824,292 km², it is the 15th largest country in Africa. Namibia is categorized as being arid to semi-arid, with less than 1% of the country qualifying as arable land. Its population of about 2.5 million (2020) people makes it the second least densely populated country in the world after Mongolia. Namibia’s stable government and its excellent infrastructure, combined with its wealth of valuable natural resources, provide excellent long-term development opportunities. Namibia is categorized as a “Middle Income Country”, with a Gross Domestic Product per Capita⁴ of US\$4,975 in 2019. However, extreme economic and social disparities prevail (Namibia has an estimated Gini-coefficient⁵ of 59.1, which makes it the 2nd most inequitable economy⁶ in the world) meaning that despite the economic advances 10% of the people make 50% of the overall national income, and a relatively large portion of the population lives in poverty (approx. 18 %).

The national economy is heavily dependent on the utilization and/or extraction of its rich natural resource base. Mining is the largest contributor to the GDP, while the tourism sector and ocean fisheries are the second and third largest contributors to the GDP, respectively, with COVID-19 placing some constraints on the former. Agriculture contributes less to GDP but plays a major role in rural livelihoods despite the unsuitability of many of the current crop and livestock production practices being applied on Namibia’s fragile, arid lands.

Hunter gathering was the predominant land use for hundreds of thousand years followed by nomadic pastoralism based on surface water. With the occupation by colonial powers commercial livestock production became a dominant land use in the central and southern parts of the county over the past hundred years. This led to a proliferation of karkul sheep in the southern extents of the county and the beef industry in the higher rainfall central parts of Namibia. With the commercial collapse in the karkul industry, the southern and arid western parts of the country gradually converted to a mixture of sheep, cattle, wildlife hunting and tourism, the latter being based on the scenic landscapes of the Namib desert. Since independence in 1990, Namibia has continued to heavily promote the beef industry, but it has also focused on the development of a wildlife economy. In particular, the new government expanded access to the wildlife economy into the communal lands of the country where residents had previously been excluded from this sector because of colonial and later apartheid policies that did not allow black Namibians to benefit from wildlife on their remaining ancestral lands. Wildlife is by far the most sustainable land use in the arid and highly variable climate that prevails in the country and today, the wildlife economy contributes 65 Mio US\$ per annum to the national economy (2019), while domestic livestock has progressively and significant dropped over the past decades (beef currently stands at 370 Mio US\$).

LAND IS ADMINISTERED THROUGH FOUR TENURE SYSTEMS:



As with income, land distribution, following a century of colonization and subsequently apartheid, remains inequitable and the Government of the Republic of Namibian (GRN) faces serious challenges with the redistribution of land. Because access to ancestral lands is a highly emotive post-independence issue, it requires urgent attention. At the same time the Government seeks to protect the economic system in the Country which is heavily based on land ownership and the rule of law. Achieving this in a socially acceptable manner that does not undermine the national fabric of Namibian society will remain a dominant political issue in the next decades. In addition, land redistribution has the potential for environmental impacts, both negative as well as positive, which need to be addressed or capitalized upon during this process.

The Government of Namibia is well established and provides significant social services. However, the annual public administration costs have progressively increased over time and at this stage appear to no longer sustainable into the future. Civil society, though initially strengthened after Independence in 1990, has over the past 15 years regressed, with many NGOs struggling to maintain their operational effectiveness.

This is largely due to Namibia’s elevated status as a “Middle Income Country” (since 2008), which has resulted in a significant reduction of donor funding to NGOs. The private sector is well established, and Namibia ranks amongst the top 10 investment destinations in Africa.

The labour force is marked by a majority of mostly unskilled workers and a small, yet well-educated middle class. The unemployment rate is more than 20% and the situation is likely to worsen as more than 38% of the population is under 14 years of age. The social and economic impacts of HIV and AIDS continue to be felt and Namibia ranks fifth highest in terms of its HIV burden⁷. An ongoing economic recession, years of continuing and extremely severe drought and the current COVID pandemic have severely impacted the country over the past five years to the extent that going forward Namibia may lose its middle-income status. This together with the shortage of skills, legacy of poor education, gender inequity and extreme shortage of investment capital means that national development in Namibia will face very significant challenges in the coming five years.

NAMIBIA CONSERVATION HISTORY AND STATUS

Namibia was the first African country to incorporate protection of the environment into its constitution. The GRN reinforced this environmental commitment by giving citizens (rural communities and private landowners) meaningful and recognized rights to manage and benefit from their natural resources and the creation of a world-class park system.

Following independence, one of the new government's first concrete policy reforms involved wildlife, when in 1996, legislation was passed that enabled black Namibian communities to form communal conservancies. The passage of this legislation formalized Namibia's Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)⁸ Programme, which was premised upon similar, successful legislation that had previously granted conditional rights over wildlife to private Namibian landholders in the late 1960s. The first four communal conservancies were registered in 1998, and with increasing benefits flowing to these early pioneers, additional communities clamoured to enter the conservancy movement. By the end of 2020, there were 86 registered conservancies (Figure 1), one conservancy-like conservation association⁹ in Bwabwata National Park, with several more conservancies in the pipeline. The registered conservancies and community forests cover 180,083 km² (20.2% of Namibia and just under 60% of communal land). An estimated 227,802 citizens are encompassed by communal conservancies, meaning one in five rural Namibians lives within a conservancy¹⁰. Communal conservancies and community forests add 21,8% to Namibia's land under conservation status, adding to the 17% of national parks.

In addition to the empowerment of communities, key to the success of the conservancy movement has been the generation of community returns and benefits derived from wildlife. Income grew dramatically from less than US\$150,000 in 1998 to US\$11.12 million in 2019,

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREAS OF NAMIBIA

 COMMUNITY FOREST	 STATE PROTECTED AREA	 FOREST RESERVE
 TOURISM CONCESSION	 COMMUNAL CONSERVANCY	 FREEHOLD CONSERVANCY

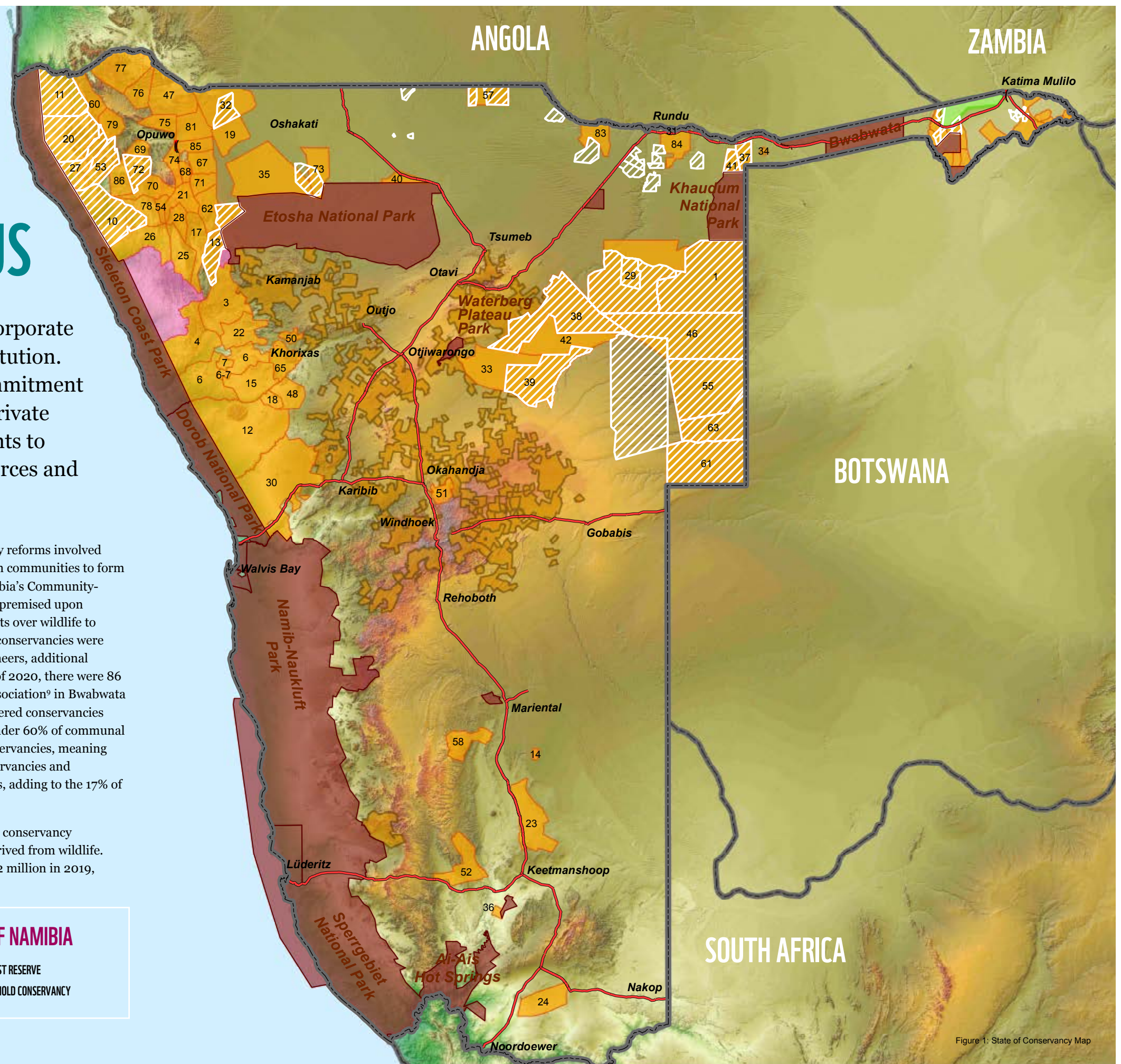


Figure 1: State of Conservancy Map

with such benefits including cash to conservancies, employment and income to members, and in-kind benefits¹¹. Over the years, Namibia's cumulative conservancy benefits since 1998 have amounted to approximately US\$700,000,000. To date no clear data are available to gauge the most recent impacts of the long prevailing drought, a suppressed economy and COVID-19.

Most of these benefits have been produced from a combination of sustainable wildlife harvesting and photographic tourism, with additional benefits being derived from the natural plant sector and a mix of small enterprises. The Namibian CBNRM Programme has attracted significant external capital investment into rural areas for tourism lodge development, game reintroductions and hunting camps. Additional benefits that cannot be readily quantified, but are of equal importance, include: the empowerment and pride of local communities, skill development of local people; enhanced rural governance through democratically-elected community-based organizations; strengthened voices and opportunities for women in decision-making; and diversification of rural livelihoods, which bolsters community resilience and adaptive capacity to episodic shocks (e.g. droughts, pandemics) and systemic change (e.g. climate change, population growth, etc).

The success of the community wildlife programme prompted the GRN to expand conservation stewardship to community forests and community freshwater fisheries with support from WWF. These processes are well underway with 26 registered community forests and about a dozen community fish sanctuaries in operation – many of which overlap or fall within the boundaries of communal conservancies. Some of them are transboundary in nature, e.g., located on the Okavango, Kwando, Zambezi, and Chobe rivers.

In contrast to these long-term positive trends, and as noted above, in recent years Namibia has experienced several very serious negative 'events' including HIV/AIDS, economic recession, global poaching pressures, severe droughts as part of natural variability, but also due to climatic changes affecting the region, and most recently the COVID pandemic. Each of these on its own has had a serious impact but because they have occurred back-to-back and/or together, they have created a perfect storm in recent years and have set back some of the successes noted above. At this point, we do not yet understand the full impact of the COVID pandemic, the retraction of tourism and conservation hunting and the general difficult economic situation, but there are indications that despite these setbacks, and whilst a

number of the short-term trends might have become reversed, we have not seen systemic collapse. This is indicative of the resilience of the gains that have been made over the past two decades. The next five years will nevertheless need us to focus on recovery and rebuilding and most importantly, learning from the past five years in terms of further strengthening the adaptive capacity and resilience of our country's conservation systems.

While much of the work of WWF Namibia has focused on supporting a wildlife economy to help unlock effective conservation in Namibia and throughout KAZA, CBNRM approaches have also been expanded by other entities in the country to drylands rangeland management, conservation agriculture, water management, climate change adaption, and forest resource management. For example, under the National Programme to Combat Desertification, the National Biodiversity Programme and the National Climate Change Action Programme managed under the MEFT, national NGOs and government have collaborated for over 30 years in piloting and implementing Natural Resource Management (NRM) interventions such as adaptive livestock management, conservation agriculture, and forest management.

NAMIBIA HAS ALSO REGISTERED SEVERAL OTHER CONSERVATION SUCCESSSES, INCLUDING:

1. National parks well managed by Government and regularly rank high in terms of applying the globally accepted GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT ¹²) in most parks.
2. Wildlife on private lands recovered remarkably over the past 50 years, with more than 75% of Namibia's wildlife being found on private lands.
3. Similarly, wildlife in communal conservancies and neighbouring protected areas have stabilized or increased.
4. Several historical wildlife migration routes have been re-established.
5. Subsistence poaching in communal areas has significantly declined.
6. Syndicate-driven poaching (rhino, elephant, pangolin, etc) has been brought under control.
7. Many species that had become locally extinct have been reintroduced into habitats within their historical range.
8. Vast tracts of the country are being converted back into wildlife habitat. On the back of this success a rapidly expanding tourism industry has developed which is becoming ever more significant in terms of contribution to the national economy. Such conservation (and socio-economic) outcomes are remarkable in a developing country with high poverty levels and significant human population growth.

THE CONSERVATION FUTURE IN NAMIBIA

It is fortunate that wildlife as an integrated land-use is recognized by the GRN as contributing to national development goals. Namibia's CBNRM Programme is specifically mentioned by national policy documents such as National Development Plan 5 (NDP5; up to 2022), National Poverty Alleviation Strategy, National Rural Development Strategy, and Vision 2030. Notably, CBNRM and especially wildlife conservation makes direct contributions to all four NDP5 goals:



Namibia's conservancies, freehold wildlife properties and an internationally recognised network of national parks serve as the lynchpin of Namibia's tourism sector; whilst at the same time freehold farmers and conservancies are also using integrated wildlife/livestock farming systems to optimize economic returns and food security. In addition, wildlife as an integrated land-use is seen as a climate change mitigation strategy, due to its ability to diversify livelihoods from sole reliance on agriculture and/or livestock production in the face of an anticipated more arid climate.

While Namibia is home to mostly healthy game populations of species native to the local habitats, it is notable that Namibia holds the largest population of the critically endangered South-Western Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis bicornis*) Species protection remains a top conservation priority in Namibia. The protection and population growth of Black Rhino in protected areas, conservancies and freehold custodian farms must remain a priority. A focus on currently under-protected species such as wild dogs, hyenas, pangolin, and vultures is also needed.

Despite the positive conservation advances in Namibia over the past three decades, wildlife and NRM and the existing conservation programme in Namibia still face multiple shortcomings and growing and partially changing threats, including:

- Changing western sensitivities (largely fuelled by ill-informed populist understanding and sentiments amplified by social media) have resulted in anti-hunting campaigns and imposition of embargoes and sanctions on trophy hunting. Such actions pose a severe threat to the decades’ long successful strategy of incentivizing stakeholders in Namibia to consider wildlife as a valuable form of land-use on communal and freehold farmlands. Hunting bans remain an existential threat to conservancies, freehold wildlife farms and private nature reserve lands in Namibia as well as other CBNRM and wildlife-based stewardship programmes across southern Africa.
- The expansion of the conservancy movement and application of a CBNRM approach outside conservation areas has resulted in growing demand for annual support, training and technical assistance services - essentially a conservancy extension service. However, conservancy support agencies (both NGOs and government) do not have the resources and staff to respond to this growing need, and the situation has been further exacerbated by fewer funding options due to Namibia’s middle-income status. There is an urgent need to address the widening chasm between programmatic support needs and declining support capacity.
- Human population growth and settlement continue to put pressure on the country’s natural resources. Livestock farming, agriculture and settlement often clashes with wildlife and conservation agendas. Overgrazing, livestock encroachment into protected areas set aside exclusively for wildlife, over-abstraction of water (from ground water and rare rivers), unsustainable agricultural production including slash-and burn, illegal timber harvesting, bush encroachment and rangeland degradation, unsustainable fishing, unchecked human population concentrations and settlements, loss of wildlife corridors, undirected urban sprawl and at times damaging development projects all have profound negative impacts on existing conservation programmes. These bedevil planning and implementation of conservation programmes and extreme innovation, creativity and often compromise are required to find win-win solutions.
- Multi-dimensional poverty is still rife in Namibia and social investments into basic services such as effective health and education are often inadequate, including in the areas where community conservancies have been established.

Consequently, the local capacities to meaningfully engage in the operational and business sectors that necessitate a thriving wildlife economy remain sub-optimally developed.

- With the increasing value and money that has been unlocked from the wildlife economy and which is now circulating at local levels, there have been increasing instances of mismanagement and theft of conservancy revenue. This raises questions about the governance and long-term viability of some of Namibia’s conservancies. Strengthening conservancy governance is a continued priority and to do this, urgent, sufficient, and sustained funding is required for local partners to provide the consistent and independent support necessary to strengthen governance and to head-off threats to the conservancy programme.
- COVID has revealed the vulnerability of the wildlife economy due to its high dependence on international tourism. Although WWF Namibia has played a key role in coordinating emergency COVID-relief fundraising from partners during 2020 and 2021 for conservancies and tourism operators, going forward the wildlife economy should not be too heavily dependent on international visitors. Therefore, in addition to supporting a recovery process for tourism, it is also necessary to find and unlock other values in Namibia and the region.
- Formerly well-funded, government-run protected areas now have ever decreasing budgets and have become severely under-resourced; a trend significantly worsened by the economic crisis surrounding the COVID pandemic. Further aggravating the situation is the fact that the costs of conservation continue to rise, now estimated at US\$1000-2000 per km2. While the world looks to countries in Africa such as in Namibia to effectively conserve the largest remaining primary conservation areas and species in the world, in-country financial resources for effective conservation at site are shockingly low.
- The regional escalation in illegal killing of protected species and associated wildlife crime since 2010 has diverted huge amounts of resources and attention away from other important biodiversity and ecosystem priorities which are less newsworthy, but unaddressed, could undermine and erode the long-term viability of wildlife populations and/or ecosystems.

MINING

Mining is the top contributor to Namibia’s GDP, with Namibia being the world’s fourth leading producer of uranium. Namibia also has other valuable minerals (copper, gold, iron, etc.), precious/semi-precious stones (diamonds, tourmalines, etc.) and rare earth minerals and is actively searching for oil and gas. As the search for these minerals intensifies, so too does the potential impacts of prospecting/mining operations into biodiversity sensitive areas. WWF will continue its work with stakeholders in the mining and environmental sectors to strengthen governance, to ensure that appropriate environmental assessments are undertaken, and mitigation measures adhered to. Where appropriate WWF will also seek to facilitate environmental offsets from mining operations as well as lobby to ensure that the revenues from such mining ventures are not squandered over the short term.

FOOD PRODUCTION

Subsistence agriculture is practiced across much of northern Namibia, using slash-and-burn to convert woodlands to new fields. This approach contributes to deforestation, loss of wildlife habitat, disruption of wildlife corridors, increased human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and contributes to atmospheric carbon levels, WWF will scale up conservation agriculture / agri-ecological practices within conservancies as a means of mitigating these issues, while concomitantly enhancing community resilience to climate change, and improving nutrition at the household level. WWF will continue to support sustainable game harvesting as an environmentally friendly form of protein production in preference to livestock farming. Where livestock farming does take place WWF will support predator-friendly meat production marketing initiatives as well as Commodity-Based Beef Trade ¹³, the latter as a means of managing foot-and-mouth disease and reducing the requirement of veterinary cordon fences that have caused significant environmental damage within Namibia and in particular KAZA.

Inland fisheries are a critical food sector in areas where perennial river systems exist, such as along the Kunene, Okavango, Kwando and Zambezi rivers. Fish reserves are being set up and sustainable fisheries management promoted. Involvement in the marine fisheries sector may also be scoped. Overall, and in the light of the COVID pandemic, the GRN is reviving its drive to become food self-sufficient. WWF Namibia sees its role to contribute by including sustainable wildlife use and sustainable NRM into this agenda.

GRAZING AND RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Namibia’s rangelands evolved under the impacts of fire and a mix of indigenous grazing and browsing wildlife species. Humans have fundamentally changed this situation through:

- (i) The replacement of natural browsers and grazers with domestic livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys).
- (ii) Increased stocking rates by the provision of permanent water and reduced predation.
- (iii) Fundamentally changed fire regimes.

These changes have led to wholesale rangeland degradation across the country, which is manifested in a variety of ways, the most common being increases in woody plants (so called “bush encroachment”), soil erosion and reduced water infiltration into the water table. Bush encroachment results in much lower carrying capacity of grazing animals regardless of whether these are domestic livestock or wildlife.

WWF will highlight the plight of these important rangeland habitats and assist conservancies and farmers to manage these habitats in a manner that:

- (i) Rehabilitates grasslands and open savannas,
- (ii) Enhances the carrying capacity of rangelands including for wildlife,
- (iii) Reduces soil loss and increases water retention; and
- (iv) Improves the productivity of these ecosystems for the benefit of Namibian society.

CARBON AND ENERGY

The wildlife economy in Namibia and KAZA relies heavily on foreign tourism which in turn is dependent on long-haul flights. The carbon footprint of air transport has attracted negative attention and flight-shaming campaigns have the potential to curtail the tourism economy with negative downstream impacts on conservation outcomes in Namibia. It is thus important for WWF Namibia to find mechanisms to proactively offset the carbon footprint of tourism. Due to its arid climate, Namibia has limited potential for carbon capture in natural ecosystems (although this should not be ignored) but it is a country with abundant sunshine. Solar energy generation needs to be prioritized to the extent that the tourism industry off-sets its carbon footprint and contributes to renewable energy supply to rural communities. Additionally local/ regional tourism with its lower carbon footprints should be further developed. Another consideration for WWF is Namibia’s quest for investing into oil & gas development for export, as well as looking into other greener and economically viable energy sources (i.e., hydrocarbon, solar) as a new economic sector is of interest to WWF’s portfolio. With the extensive experience in the WWF network, support to identifying relevant energy alternatives and opportunities will be pursued. Within the KAZA context, interests to develop hydro-energy in southern Angola will have a profound impact on conservation in Namibia and Botswana in particular, potentially damaging the larger Okavango ecosystem irreversibly. This will require WWF to propose smart solutions for the region’s sustainable energy development agenda.

WATER USE

Fresh water is one of Namibia’s most constraining and precious natural resources. Many places in Namibia, including settlements, towns, farms, and business enterprises rely solely on ground-water supplies (some of these being fossil waters). Namibia’s cities also rely on groundwater supplies that sometimes augment constructed dams capturing season water from sporadic rainfall run-off. This means that Namibian society, including many of those tourism enterprises that are critical to the wildlife economy, are using water that is not from natural and/or sustainable sources and it is thus critically important that water-use be as efficient as possible. This does not mean recycling water for single re-use, but perpetually recycling water whilst at the same time reducing the net amount of water used. WWF Namibia will prioritise water-use saving initiatives beginning with tourism establishments that contribute to the wildlife economy, but also leveraging experience from water-saving initiatives that have been developed by WWF-South Africa. In addition to working with local conservancies and partners on water management, WWF Namibia will scope its strategic engagement on a more systemic level on climate change and fresh water in support of Namibian needs. Bringing network and other expertise to support local institutions will be a useful initial contribution.

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL POVERTY

A recent poverty assessment undertaken in Namibia indicates that many communities are trapped in multi-dimensional poverty. Income levels, while important, are just one aspect of poverty, which also includes continued lack of access to effective health services as well as quality education, including in areas where communal conservancies are situated. A perpetuating long-term poverty trap including malnutrition, leads to sub-optimal academic performance and together with poor schooling – keeps young people from entering the economy and contributing to society in productive ways. WWF Namibia is therefore advocating to invest into a holistic manner to community development, seeking collaborations with development partners beyond the traditional CBNRM NGO community to help curb multi-dimensional poverty. This will be principally achieved by facilitating multi-stakeholder and multi-sector collaboration and service coordination and inspiring relevant pilot initiatives e.g., in the field of integrated environmental education and awareness raising.

CLIMATE CHANGE & EPISODIC SHOCKS:

UNDERSTANDING FUTURE SCENARIOS & BUILDING RESILIENCE

In the face of global climate change, Namibia is anticipated to become more arid, as current rainfall isohyets are projected to move approximately 100 kms eastwards by the year 2050.

Increased aridity will further reduce Namibia’s agricultural productivity and place additional strains on the environment from unsustainable farming practices and on the people dependent upon the environment for their livelihoods. Increased aridity and more pronounced flooding could negatively affect northeast Namibia’s riverine systems, threatening the floodplain ecosystems upon which many species of wetland antelope and birds are entirely dependent. Concomitantly, the range of Namibia’s arid land wildlife species will expand but be subject to a potential increased frequency of episodic events (droughts and floods). In the past WWF Namibia has focused its efforts on assisting conservancies to adapt to climate change in Namibia by diversifying community livelihoods through wildlife production, tourism, and the creation of large numbers of new jobs along tourism value chains. The premise being that such interventions decrease the current heavy dependence upon rainfall-driven subsistence livestock and crop production and thus improve community resilience to anticipated drier climatic conditions and more frequent episodic events in coming years. The impacts of COVID and the devastating (if short-term) impacts to the tourism industry have laid bare the problem of focusing on only one driver such as climate change. Clearly it is necessary to build resilience

and adaptive capacity to all potential drivers regardless of whether these manifest as slow systemic change (e.g., climate change, human population pressure, creeping poverty levels, etc.) or as sudden episodic shocks (e.g., pandemics, market collapses, social instability, floods, droughts, etc). WWF Namibia will actively explore mechanisms to build more resilient Namibian ecosystems and society, including through engagement with the WWF Network and other expertise in this regard.

There is a need to proactively address the above threats and concerns, while at the same time capitalizing upon the momentum and successes of conservation in Namibia. The next five years will be critical to this process, with WWF continuing to play an influential role in stopping poaching, incentivizing land stewards to adopt wildlife as a land use, elevating Namibia’s National CBNRM Programme to a higher level of performance, adopting a more holistic and integrated approach to building resilience and adaptive capacity to counter conservation threats and assisting its partner organisations to strengthen to secure economies of scale and ensure programmatic sustainability.

WWF NETWORK STRATEGIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK AND UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Namibia as a country as well as WWF Namibia are part of a global community. As such what we achieve in Namibia has the potential to contribute to the greater global good. The WWF Global Goal planning framework and the United Nations' SDG's provide useful reference points for aligning towards the most pressing global challenges and at the same time maximizing returns on WWF Namibia's strategic investments.

WWF GLOBAL CONSERVATION MISSION AND TARGETS

WWF Namibia will of necessity pioneer its own way forward in terms of addressing the conservation needs and priorities of Namibia and KAZA but is nevertheless guided by the network on which thematic areas to focus on, and where to tap into WWF internal expertise. Thus, WWF Namibia will ensure that it remains locally relevant whilst still contributing to the global mission and targets of the WWF network and to the global conservation agenda and priorities.

WWF GLOBAL MISSION:

**TO STOP THE DEGRADATION OF THE PLANET'S
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND TO BUILD A FUTURE
IN WHICH PEOPLE LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE**

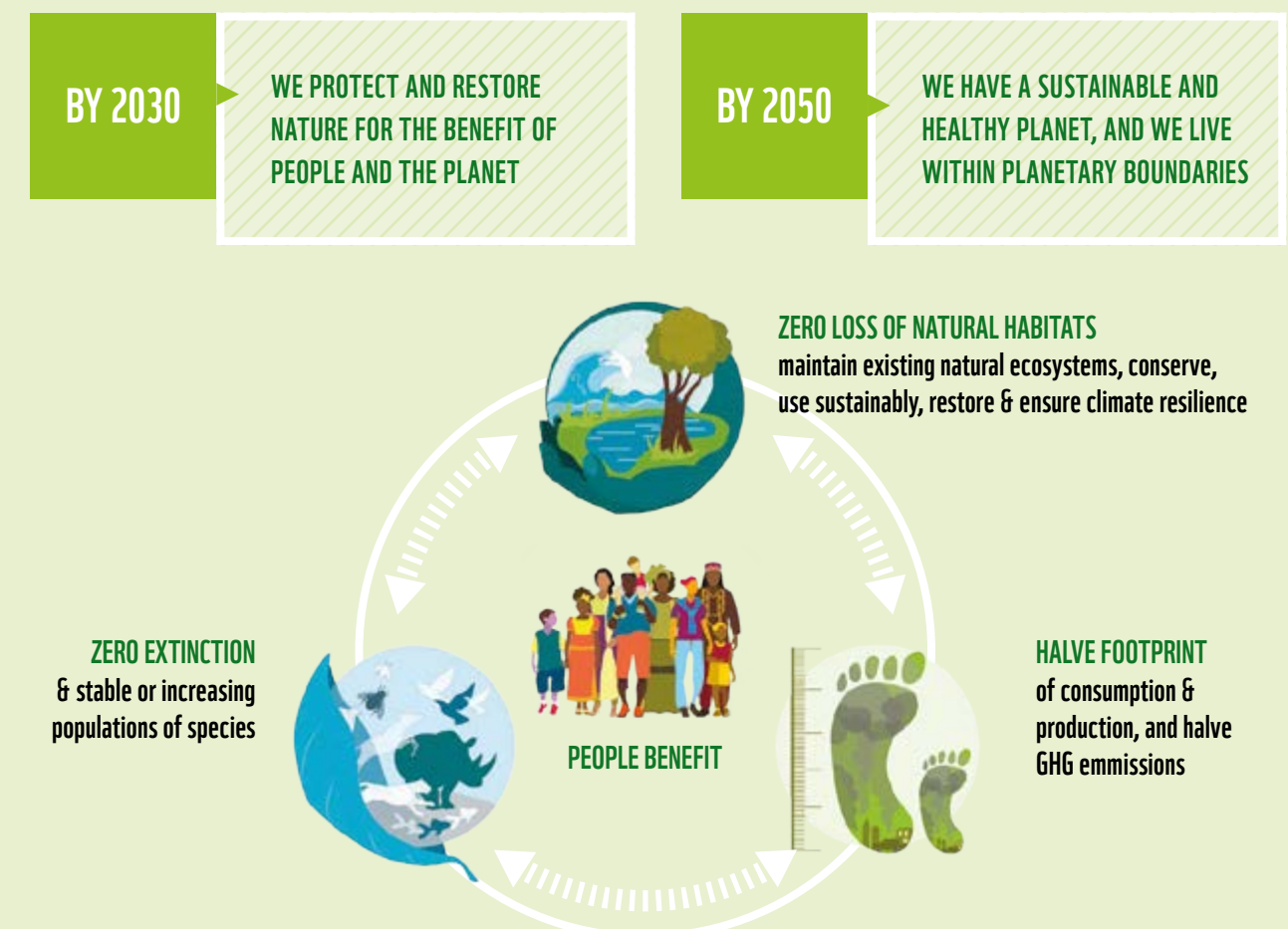
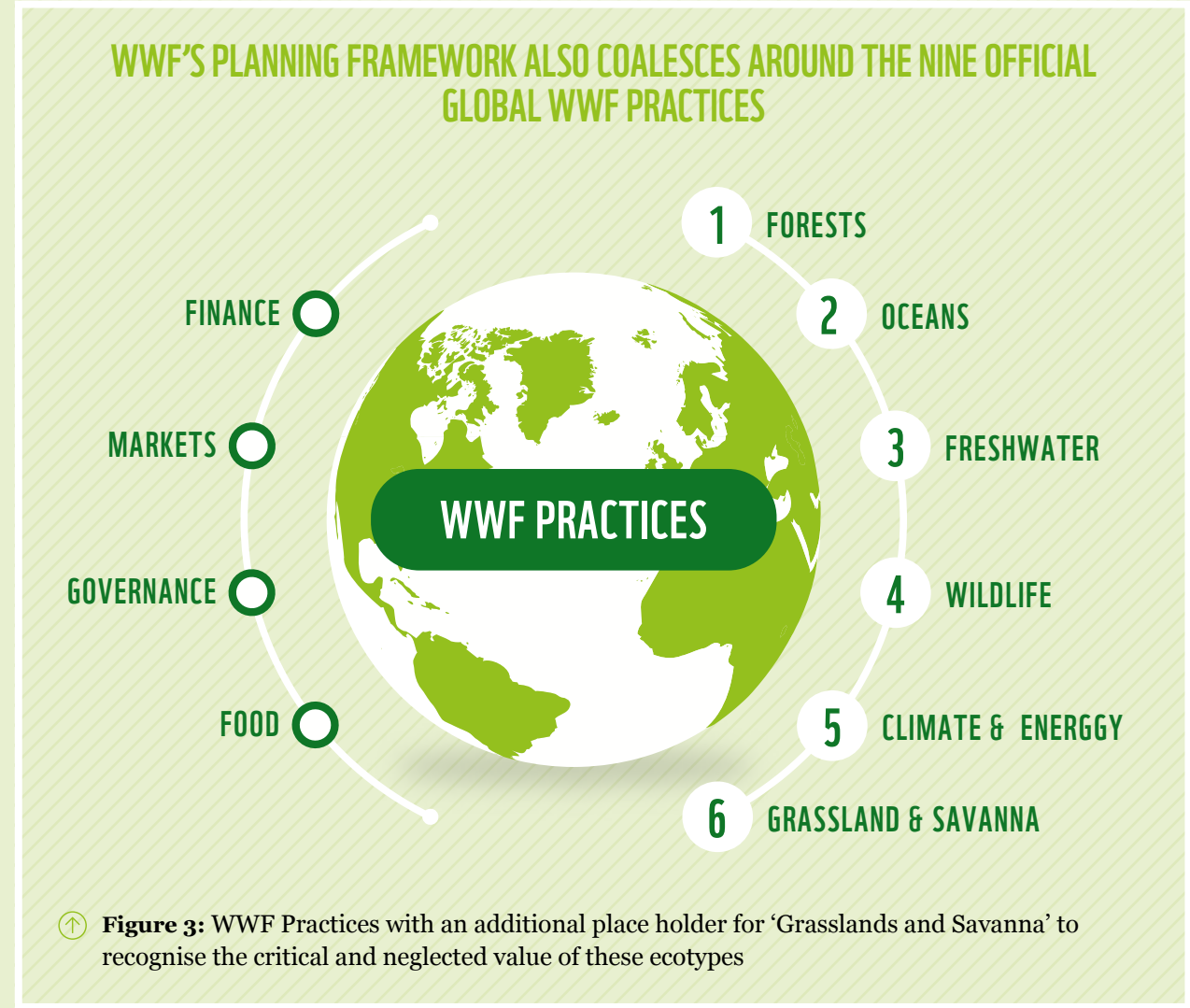


Figure 2: WWF Global targets



The WWF Practices that are addressed by WWF Namibia's current work are Wildlife, Governance, Food, Forests, Freshwater and Climate/Energy. At the same time, WWF Namibia along with several other offices in the network, recognises an additional critical ecotype/habitat class that has not been highlighted by WWF Global, and which is of equal importance to those other ecotypes/habitats such as freshwater, forests and oceans. Grasslands and savannas are where humans evolved, and into which we spread globally. They cover significant parts of the globe from the arctic through to the tropics. They have been and continue to be heavily impacted by people through settlement, development, agriculture and livestock production and their ecology and means of utilization and conservation requires

unique skills and insights. These systems are important in terms of soil conservation, water catchment, human food production and provide critical habitat for most of the world's remaining large iconic mammal species - many of which are endangered or in serious decline. They align with the areas that are the focus of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the dry and sub-humid lands Programme of Work of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). WWF Namibia will work towards supporting grasslands and savannas and will lobby for a community of practice within the WWF global network for these ecotypes with the background that vast areas of Namibia, southern and east Africa are covered by such habitat types.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

WWF Namibia is also aware of and aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, with programmatic outcomes making significant contributions to at least six of the world's recognized 17 SDGs, including:

- ✓ **Goal 1:** End Poverty in All Forms Everywhere
- ✓ **Goal 5:** Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls
- ✓ **Goal 8:** Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All
- ✓ **Goal 10:** Reduce Inequity Within and Among Countries
- ✓ **Goal 15:** Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification, and Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity Loss
- ✓ **Goal 16:** Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at All Levels

Other goals will be straddled through the development of additional work areas and areas of influence in the coming programmatic implementation period.



Figure 4: Overview of all 17 SDG's

WWF NAMIBIA STRATEGIC CONSERVATION RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Our 2022-2026 Conservation Strategy builds upon the achievements of the previous Five-Year Conservation Strategy (2017-2021), as well as incorporating relevant recommendations from a series of external evaluations and extensive stakeholder consultation. The new strategy will be expanded to include additional programmatic components to provide a more balanced portfolio.



WWF NAMIBIA:

THEMATIC AREAS

The 2022-26 thematic areas include

- 1) Promoting responsible stewardship of wildlife and wild places (for livelihoods, governance, and conservation)
- 2) Unlocking the full socio-economic value of natural resources
- 3) Increasing resilience to shocks and systemic changes
- 4) Supporting landscape-level conservation (including but not exclusive to KAZA)
- 5) Protecting, conserving, and rehabilitating Namibia's key biodiversity assets
- 6) Building an enabling environment for conservation

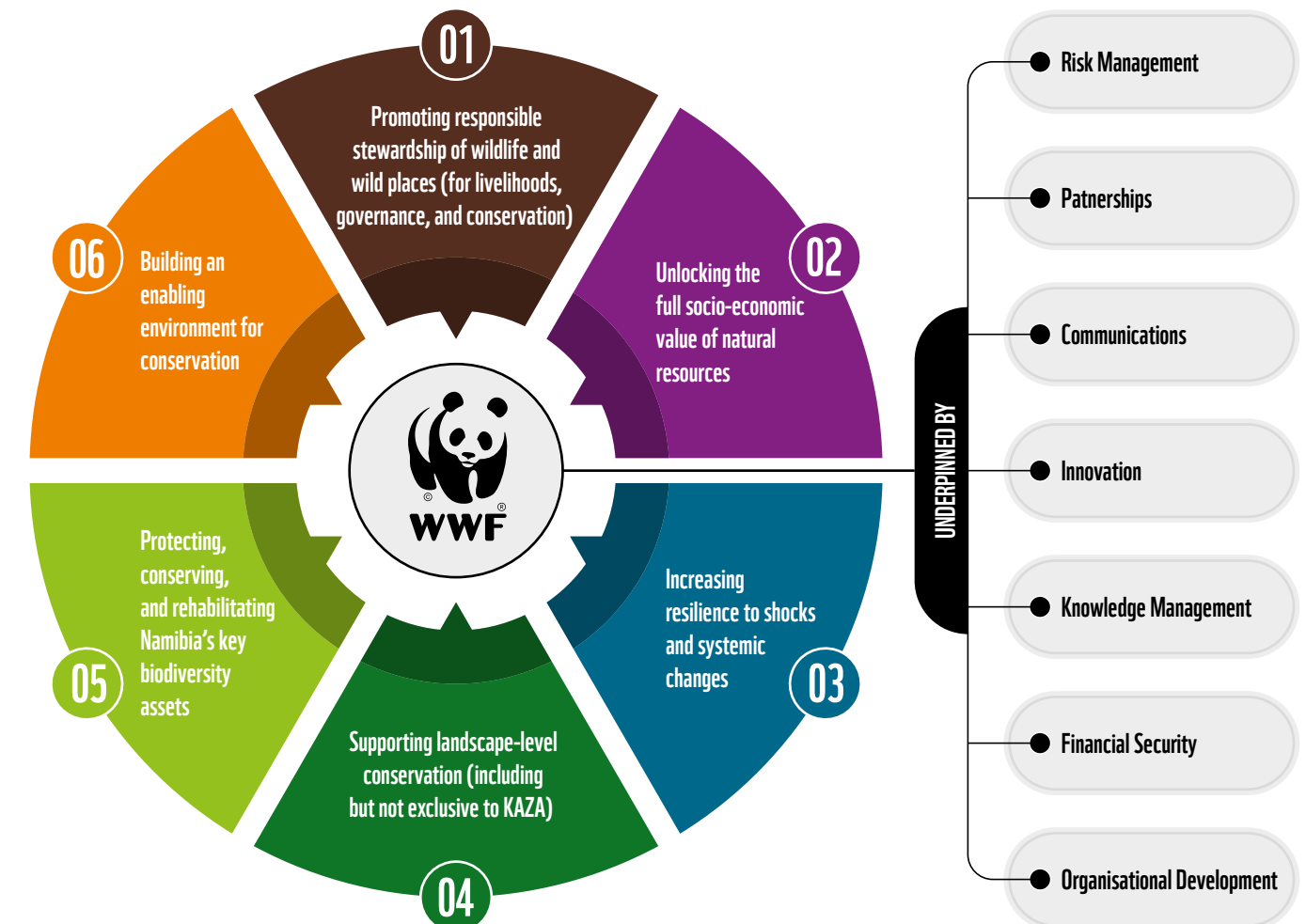


Figure 5: WWF Namibia Strategic Plan Thematic areas

The vision, goal, outcomes, and activities embraced by this five-year conservation strategy will build on the extensive foundation from the past 30 years as well as assist WWF Namibia to take advantage of new opportunities. These include countering increasingly urgent threats, transition of key technical support activities to Namibian partner organizations, securing sustainable support systems for CBNRM for communal conservancies, and making significant contributions to the WWF Network Conservation Goals, Outcomes, and Practices, globally.



WWF NAMIBIA:

VISION

During the next five years, WWF Namibia aims to bring community conservation to the next level as well as to expand our efforts beyond communal areas to include freehold farms and, national parks. We want to continue and amplify our work to ensure that both wildlife and wild places become ‘engines of sustainable economic development’ in Namibia, neighbouring countries and beyond:

AFRICA’S WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES ARE VALUED, CONSERVED, REHABILITATED, AND DRIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EMPOWER LOCAL COMMUNITIES, REDUCE INEQUITIES AND INCREASE RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SYSTEMIC SHOCKS IN NAMIBIA AND BEYOND.

SHORT VISION: AFRICA’S WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES ARE VALUED AND CONSERVED IN NAMIBIA AND BEYOND.



WWF NAMIBIA:

PROGRAMMATIC GOAL

THE WWF NAMIBIA PROGRAMMATIC GOAL TOWARDS ATTAINMENT OF ITS LONGER-TERM

BY 2026, THE GREEN ECONOMY IN NAMIBIA¹⁴ AND KAZA IS GENERATING SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC RETURNS BY SECURING HEALTHY WILDLIFE POPULATIONS AND WILD PLACES.

OUR PURPOSE FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

TO ASSIST NAMIBIA, KAZA AND AFRICA TO UNLOCK THE VALUE OF AFRICA'S WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES FOR THE BENEFIT OF LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES.

PROGRAMMATIC GOAL	BASELINE	TARGETS
	IN 2020	BY 2026
BY 2026, THE GREEN ECONOMY IN NAMIBIA AND KAZA IS GENERATING SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC RETURNS AT SCALE BY SECURING WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES	The annual economic contribution by Conservancies was approximately N\$ 933 million	The annual economic contribution of Conservancies has recovered to CY19 level of N\$ 933 million (US\$ 65 million)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">42% of Namibia under some form of conservation management (comprised of: communal conservancies: 20.2%; parks: 16.8%; freehold conservancies: 2.1%; tourism concessions: 0.8%; community forests not overlapping with communal conservancies: 1.7%);72% of KAZA under some form of conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">42% or more of Namibia is under some form of conservation management.72% or more KAZA is under some form of conservation management.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In Namibia 11 elephant and 24 black rhino as poached	<ul style="list-style-type: none">At least a 0% increase of commercial poaching of elephants and rhinos in Namibia and KAZA.

WWF NAMIBIA:

THEORY OF CHANGE AND KEY CONSERVATION OUTCOMES

VISION (LONG)

AFRICA'S WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES ARE VALUED, CONSERVED, REHABILITATED, AND DRIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EMPOWER LOCAL COMMUNITIES, REDUCE INEQUITIES AND INCREASE RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SYSTEMIC SHOCKS IN NAMIBIA AND BEYOND.

VISION (SHORT)

AFRICA'S WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES ARE VALUED AND CONSERVED IN NAMIBIA AND BEYOND.

GOAL

BY 2026, THE GREEN ECONOMY IN NAMIBIA AND KAZA IS GENERATING SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC RETURNS BY SECURING HEALTHY WILDLIFE POPULATIONS AND WILD PLACES.

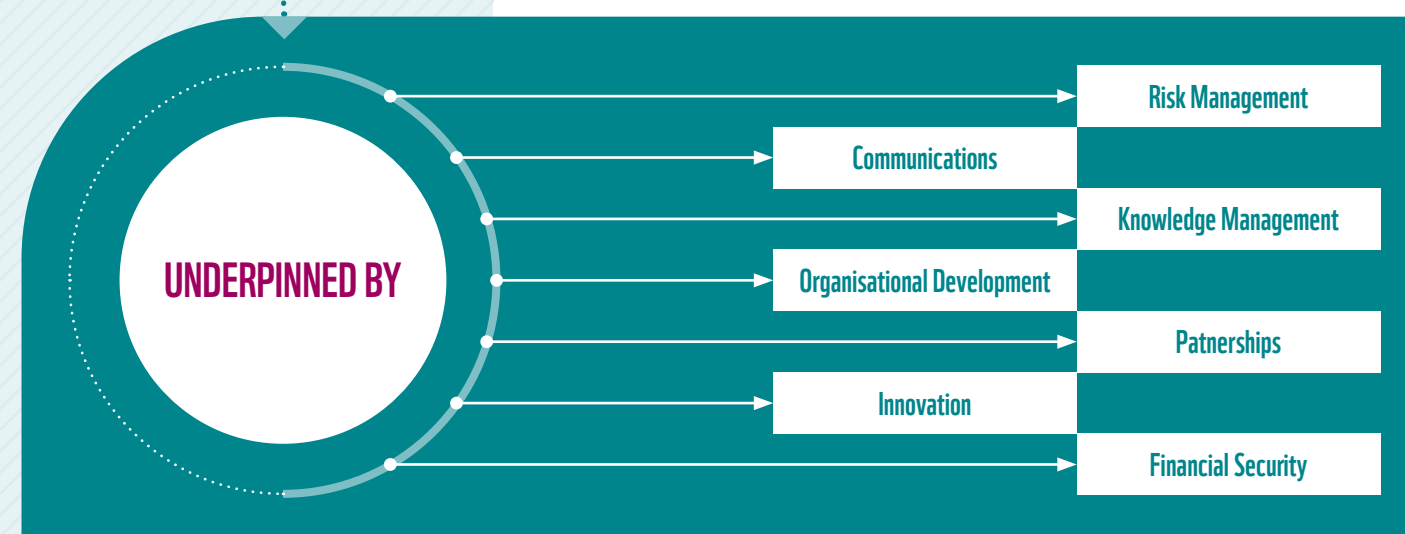
PURPOSE

TO ASSIST NAMIBIA, KAZA AND AFRICA TO UNLOCK THE VALUE OF AFRICA'S WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES FOR THE BENEFIT OF LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES.

Reaching the vision and programmatic goal above, will be achieved through attainment of six conservation outcomes that will be underpinned by several operational outcomes (Figure 6).

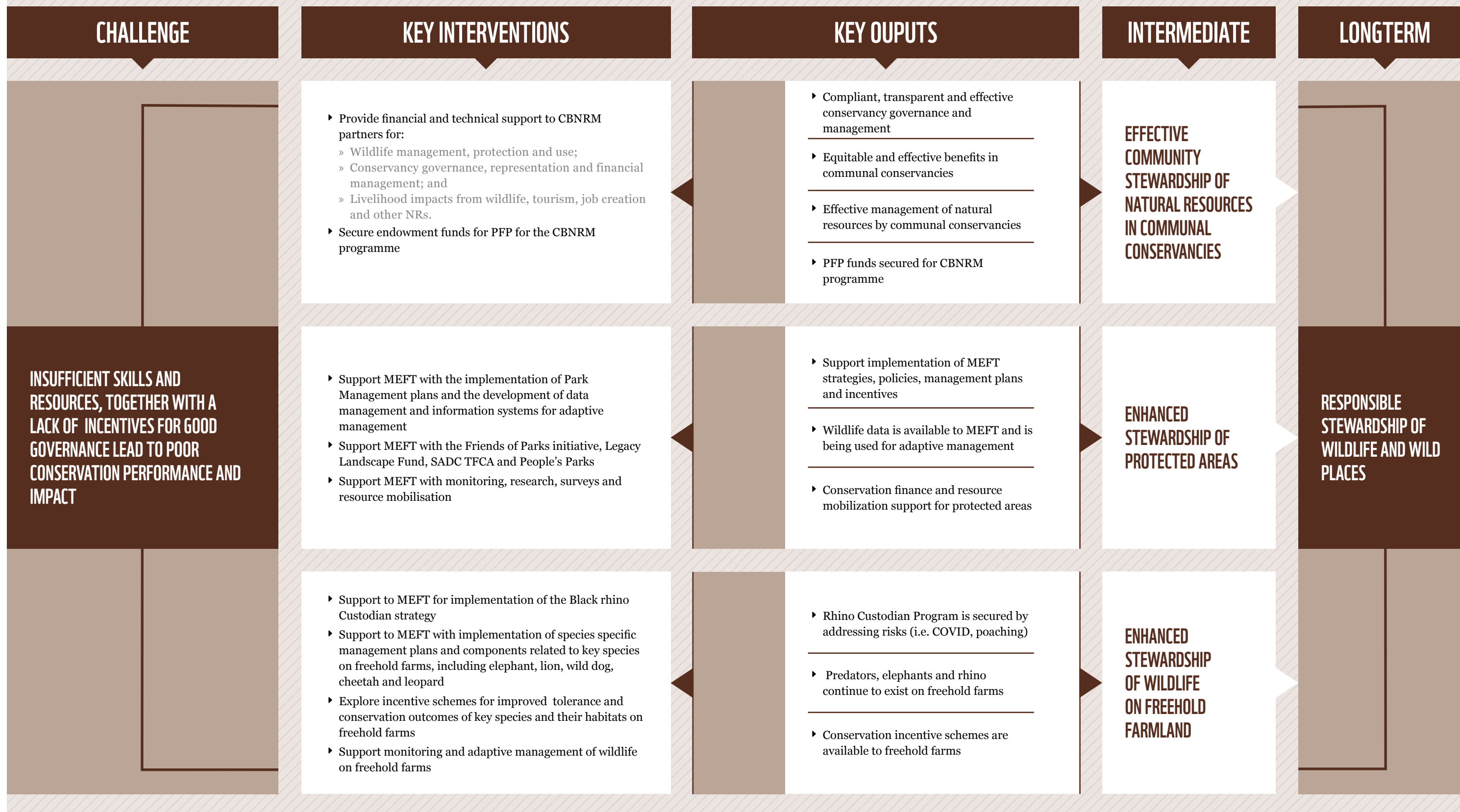
The six conservation outcomes will be achieved through a diverse set of intermediate outcomes, outputs, and activities. At this strategic level it is not possible (or necessarily wise) to exhaustively list all these interventions as the intent is to follow a nimble and adaptive process that capitalizes on opportunities and immediately addresses weakness or threats. However, there are existing initiatives which are ongoing and will continue - and are described below. There are also new initiatives that will be embarked upon, and the intervention details will still need to emerge.

➔ **Figure 6:** WWF Namibia's Theory of Change for 2022-2026 illustrating the six conservation outcomes and the seven operational outcomes that will underpin this work.



OUTCOME 1: RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES FOR LIVELIHOODS, GOVERNANCE, AND CONSERVATION

Figure 7: Theory of Change for Outcome 1: Promote responsible stewardship of wildlife and wild places for livelihoods, governance, and conservation



Responsible stewardship of wildlife and wild places for livelihoods, governance, and conservation

THE CHALLENGE:

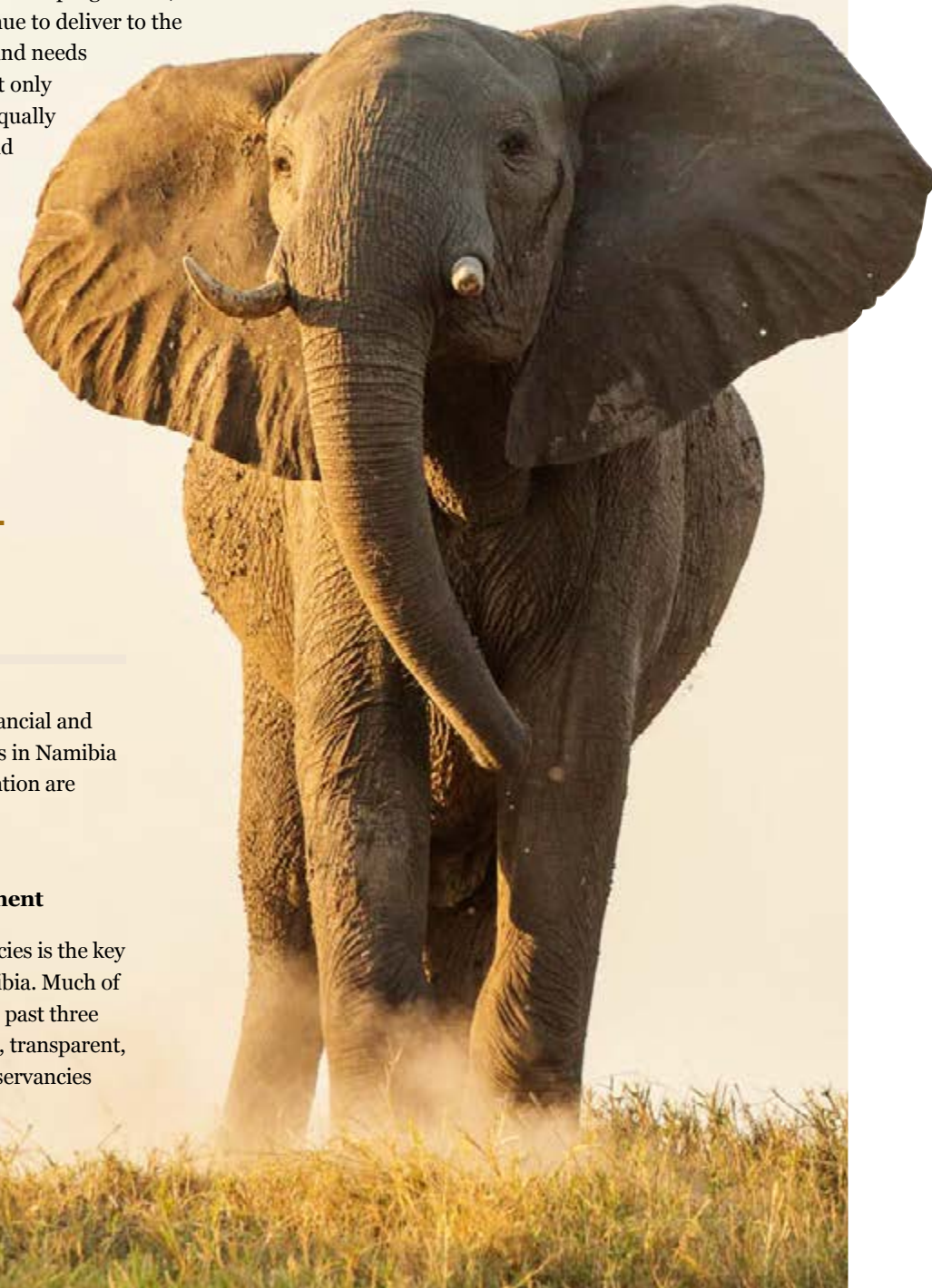
Local stewardship of wildlife and natural resources is at the center of WWF's conservation philosophy. Three decades of work in Namibia have shown that when local people receive benefits from local natural resources and more importantly have ownership and pride, conservation outcomes are inevitable. However, this is not without its challenges and requires continued and long-term engagement and support. Increasing conservation and development needs are exacerbated by insufficient skills, and resources to effectively address the often ongoing or new conservation challenges and sometimes disincentives for good governance and good management lead to suboptimal conservation performance and impact. While Namibia is exemplary in implementing a quite successful and locally owned conservation programme, more needs to be done to uphold the achievements and continue to deliver to the conservation and development aspirations and needs of the country. The stewardship model is not only appropriate within communal lands but is equally relevant to protected areas as well as freehold farmlands. All three land-use tenures are critical for conservation in Namibia as they are interlinked in terms of the country's wildlife economy. Thus, WWF will work to achieve enhanced stewardship in: (i) communal conservancies, (ii) protected areas and (iii) freehold farms.

1.1. EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN COMMUNAL CONSERVANCIES

WWF will continue to secure and provide financial and technical support to communal conservancies in Namibia and their partners. Four key areas of intervention are identified:

Compliant, transparent, and effective conservancy governance and management

Sound governance in Community Conservancies is the key to long-term successful conservation in Namibia. Much of WWF's and its partners investments over the past three decades have focused on supporting effective, transparent, and compliant governance of communal conservancies



– and a lot has been achieved. However, it is recognised that such investments need to be continuous and long-term, like in any governance set up, but resource and funding support is very limited. Continued effort is needed to renew, update and strengthening CBO governance and compliance systems, continuously check in on democratic set ups and work delivery, as well as assisting communities to use the conservancy to defend community interests and represent the community to external entities (e.g., government, private sector, etc). We support facilitating conservancies to work seamlessly with neighbouring CBOs, parks, and freehold lands and to help make their voices heard nationally and internationally in conservation fora. Established systems such as the traffic light (green, amber, and red) governance review facilitated by the MEFT will be further supported, and the work of the NACSO Institutional and Governance Working Group is tightly linked to WWF's investments in this area.

Equitable and effective livelihood impacts within communal conservancies

Unlocking economic value of wildlife for local communities (see also Outcome 2, below) has been a key investment of WWF Namibia over the past decades. Such investments will be continued and further inspired. To achieve effective and equitable livelihood impacts WWF Namibia will continue to facilitate beneficial Joint Venture operations, support local entrepreneurship, and assist conservancies to maximise livelihood benefits, promote local job creation and skills development, attract investments, and promote delivery on social services projects at conservancy level. It is recognised that multi-dimensional poverty is still prevailing throughout Namibia and in areas in which core Community Conservancies are situated. Strategic investments into creating co-benefits from social services such as effective health and quality education services will be pursued and linked to conservation more explicitly.

Effective management of natural resources by communal conservancies

Management of natural resources needs to be executed at the community level. Already established systems such as the ongoing regular conservancy monitoring systems and associated information systems will continue to be supported. A change in focus will be to ensure that the information will be more effectively utilised in local adaptive management decision making by conservancies. Work will also continue to include helping conservancies to minimize wildlife crime as the first line of defence. A newer focus will be on further developing incentive and support schemes that reward stewardship of key species in conservancies (e.g., Wildlife Credits). Managing Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) and building acceptable coexistence with wildlife remains a critical priority, requiring constant input and new thinking. The right to apply well-managed trophy hunting and sustainable use as a wildlife management tool and incentive for conservation will be supported through strengthening evidence based and

informed off-take quotas and long-term monitoring of wildlife populations. In this regard, WWF will prioritize support to the NACSO Natural Resource Working Group and MEFT to deliver on these services to conservancies.

Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) funds secured for Namibia's CBNRM programme

The Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative is a signature investment facilitated through WWF US. It is an innovative conservation finance approach that aims to set up a long-term sustainable financing mechanism for conservation, usually the national parks systems in a country. In Namibia, the first PFP in Africa, will focus on setting up a sustainable financing mechanism for communal conservancies and community forests, which add 180,083 km² to the formally protected areas in Namibia. Through the PFP, WWF Namibia aims to secure endowment funds of at least US\$50 million for local communal conservancies to access effective CBNRM extension services, thereby securing long-term sustainable financing, independent of ongoing donor funding. The investments will be pursued in synergy with other conservation finance approaches supporting a strong landscape approach to conservation in Namibia.

1.2. ENHANCED STEWARDSHIP OF PROTECTED AREAS

While WWF Namibia in the past has focused much of its work on the communal conservancies, it is recognised that for a functional landscape approach the core protected areas of Namibia need to be adequately supported. WWF Namibia and its national and international partners will proactively engage with MEFT and relevant stakeholders to identify key technical support needs and help leverage relevant expertise, as well as aim to mobilize resources to help secure the stewardship of Namibia's protected areas. This is pursued with specific focus and the value add of facilitating coordination and collaboration between stakeholders and promoting landscape approaches between parks and neighbours.

Support the implementation of MEFT strategies, policies, management plans and initiatives

This will be achieved principally by supporting MEFT in the implementation of its strategies, policies, management plans and initiatives, including but not restricted to park and species management plans. WWF sees value in supporting the development and maintenance of appropriate data management and information systems to support adaptive management and would aim to bring the work of the NRWG closer to MEFT. Where appropriate, we will support skills and capacity building, including through potential on-the-job placements and specialist trainings.



Wildlife data is available to MEFT and being used for adaptive management

We will invest into efforts for fund mobilization for periodic wildlife population surveys and biodiversity assessments, supporting ongoing systematic conservation planning and management.

Conservation finance and resource mobilization support for protected areas

It is noted that especially the economic downturn due to COVID, globally and nationally, severely impacts on the Namibian government’s ability to maintain their national budget support to protected areas. Consequently, WWF Namibia will continue to strategize a national conservation finance support approach and will help look for innovative financing options that will strengthen the landscape approach to conservation. WWF Namibia will leverage the PFP community conservancy financing mechanism for additional sustainable financing for protected areas initiatives. Further, we will scope the potential for the operationalisation of the Friends of Parks initiative; as well as support MEFT in proposal development including potentially for the Legacy Landscape Fund and the SADC TFCA facility. The establishment of “People Parks” will be evaluated to potentially enhance and lift conservation value in certain Community Conservancy areas that bear special conservation value.

1.3. ENHANCED STEWARDSHIP OF WILDLIFE ON FREEHOLD FARMLAND

Freehold farms comprise a significant surface area of Namibia and provide important habitat for wildlife. If properly incentivized and supported, freehold farmers (part of the “private sector”) can and do make a significant contribution to conservation in Namibia, as well as the broader wildlife economy of the country. In this strategic plan period, WWF Namibia will make concerted efforts to support the national rhino conservation effort through the rhino custodian programme. Further, we will focus on supporting work that incentivises freehold farmers for predators and elephants to continue to occur on their land, contributing to national species protection plans e.g., for elephant, cheetah, vulture and wild dog. This will include exploring conservation incentive schemes for target species including on freehold land. Additionally, we will seek partnerships to enable that wildlife monitoring data is available for freehold farms and applied to adaptive management. We will support MEFT in removing perverse incentives that undermine meaningful species and habitat conservation on freehold farms and help channel relevant expertise to inform relevant policy reviews and decision-making.

Rhino custodian program is secured by addressing risks

All black rhinos in Namibia are the property of the state. In 1993 government introduced the rhino custodianship scheme, which involves placing black rhinos onto eligible privately owned farms and communal land, under a contract with the MEFT. The scheme aims to expand the range for black rhino to historical rhino habitats outside of protected areas for increased population growth, and for spreading the responsibility of protecting black rhino from the potential risks of disease, natural disasters, or illegal killing. The custodianship rhinos are managed as a meta-population by the MEFT. The scheme has been extremely successful, with the custodianship population now representing over 25% of the national population of black rhino and reproducing at the fastest rate. The MEFT is developing a Black rhino custodian programme strategy, and WWF Namibia will support the Ministry with implementing this strategy.

Predators, elephants, and rhino continue to exist on freehold farms

The Namibian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism is systematically revising its various species-specific conservation and management plans. WWF Namibia will strategically support the MEFT to implement these plans, including components related to the occurrence of these species on freehold land. Focus will be given to

elephant, lion, wild dog, cheetah, and leopard, specifically supporting efforts to reduce conflict and promote continued access to range.

Conservation incentive schemes are available to freehold farms

Freehold farms provide key range for several large carnivores and elephant, yet in many cases they cause significant losses to land holders. WWF Namibia will explore possible Wildlife Credits products that could act as an incentive to freehold farms to tolerate large carnivores and elephants on their land.

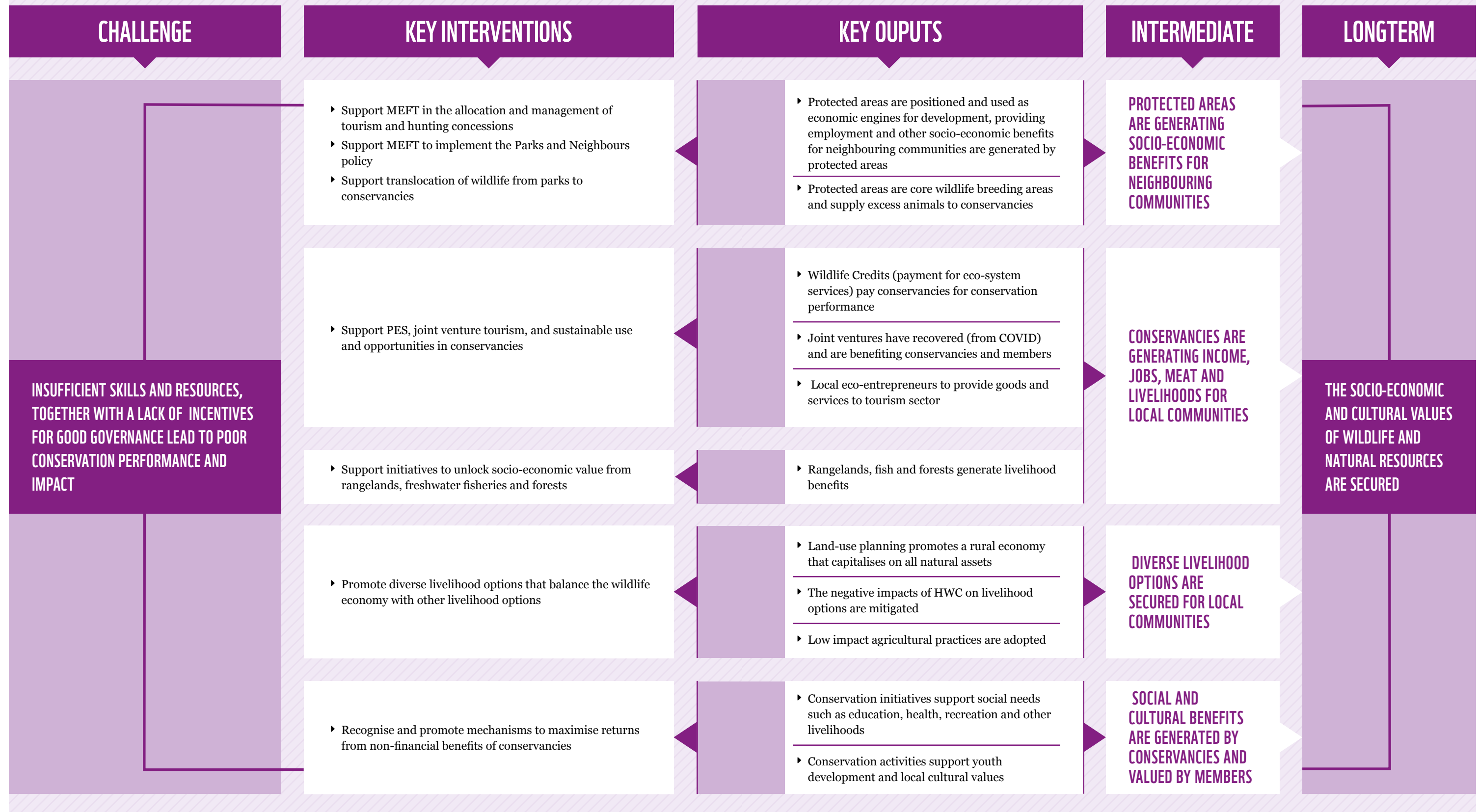
Wildlife data is available for freehold farms and applied for adaptive management

Although the utilization of wildlife on freehold land is managed and controlled through a permit system, information on wildlife on this land, and its utilisation is not readily accessible as the permit system is still paper based. WWF Namibia will support efforts by MEFT to transition to a digital permitting and data management system, to enhance access to data for improved long-term management.



OUTCOME 2: UNLOCK THE FULL SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALUE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Figure 8: Theory of Change for Outcome 2: Unlock the socio-economic value of natural resources



The socio-economic and cultural values of wildlife and natural resources are secured

THE CHALLENGE

The full potential socio-economic value and competitive advantage of natural resources and in particular wildlife and wild places are not yet fully realized. Considering that wildlife in dry-subhumid environments is the most viable resource, causing least environmental damage, it is of immense value. Meat and wildlife-based products for local use and markets can be significant; the value of trophy hunting is realised by local communities and the national government. Aside this, wildlife and nature tourism and associated industries have proven to unlock economic value, and the Namibian CBNRM programme is benefitting specifically from economic benefits that accrue. However, there are more values that healthy nature, wild animal populations and habits provide, including a range of ecosystem services, provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting¹⁵, which are critical to healthy lives and human well-being. Many of these are not yet fully realised in Namibia's conservation framework. Without this recognition by local communities as well as the full spectrum of Namibian society, the conservation of natural resources will never be adequately addressed.

With the impacts of COVID on tourism and the global economy, we are facing a downturn of economic benefits within the Community Conservancies. This has a massive impact on local livelihoods as well as motivation to uphold conservation action. The recent prolonged drought, accepted as a natural characteristic of dry sub-humid environments, but potentially exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, had a devastating impact on the wildlife economy and will take years to recover.

We are at a crossroads that will determine where conservation in Namibia will go and need to ensure that we invest our creativity to unlocking the full spectrum of values that nature provides. Only by continuously striving for new and more effective conservation solutions including unlocking values for local people we will be able to position conservation as a viable development opportunity against other often-conflicting economic developments such as mining, large scale agriculture and infrastructure projects.

2.1. PROTECTED AREAS ARE GENERATING SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES

WWF will support MEFT and partners to position and use protected areas as economic engines for development. This will include supporting MEFT in the allocation and management of tourism and hunting concessions by Conservancies as well as supporting the MEFT to implement the Parks and Neighbours policy to generate employment and other socio-economic benefits for neighbouring communities. Additionally, support to the translocation of wildlife from park to conservancies to enhance the economic potential in these areas will be pursued.

2.2. CONSERVANCIES ARE GENERATING INCOME, JOBS, FOOD, AND LIVELIHOODS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The already ongoing investments into unlocking benefits to local communities for their conservation work is central to WWF's work and will be continued and furthered. We will work with partners to assist conservancies to generate income, jobs, meat, and other livelihoods for local community members. Due to the aggravating COVID impact on the tourism sector, in this strategy period focus will be on tourism relief, recovery and resilience building. This work will include a focus that joint ventures will survive and partnership conditions will remain favourable for communal conservancies. New tourism joint ventures will be brokered and local eco-entrepreneurs providing goods and services to tourism enterprises fostered, including through a conceptual linkage to the PFP. Sustainable game meat production and use in support of food security and livelihoods will be piloted. Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) options will be further explored and hopefully brought to scale, including using Wildlife Credit schemes, already under implementation. On a pilot basis we hope to invest into linking the carbon market to the wildlife credits scheme, to generate financial instruments that work to scale in a dry and sub-humid environment with limited forestry resources.

2.3. DIVERSE LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS ARE SECURED FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

It is realised that resilience building through diversified livelihood options is critical not only for individual households and communities, but also for sustained conservation success. To ensure long-term conservation commitment, it is critical to support local communities to draw on other natural resource assets and unlock socio-economic value from rangelands, freshwater fisheries, and forests. WWF will pursue a strategy of securing diverse livelihood options for local communities. This will involve new support initiatives and will promote a mixed approach that balances the wildlife economy with other existing livelihood options. During the past years WWF and its partners have pursued pilots on sustainable fisheries, conservation agriculture as well as on rangeland management, and lessons from these interventions will be applied. Collaborations with new partners and expertise is critical to making these approaches a success. There are significant cross-linkages to outcome 3 on resilience building.

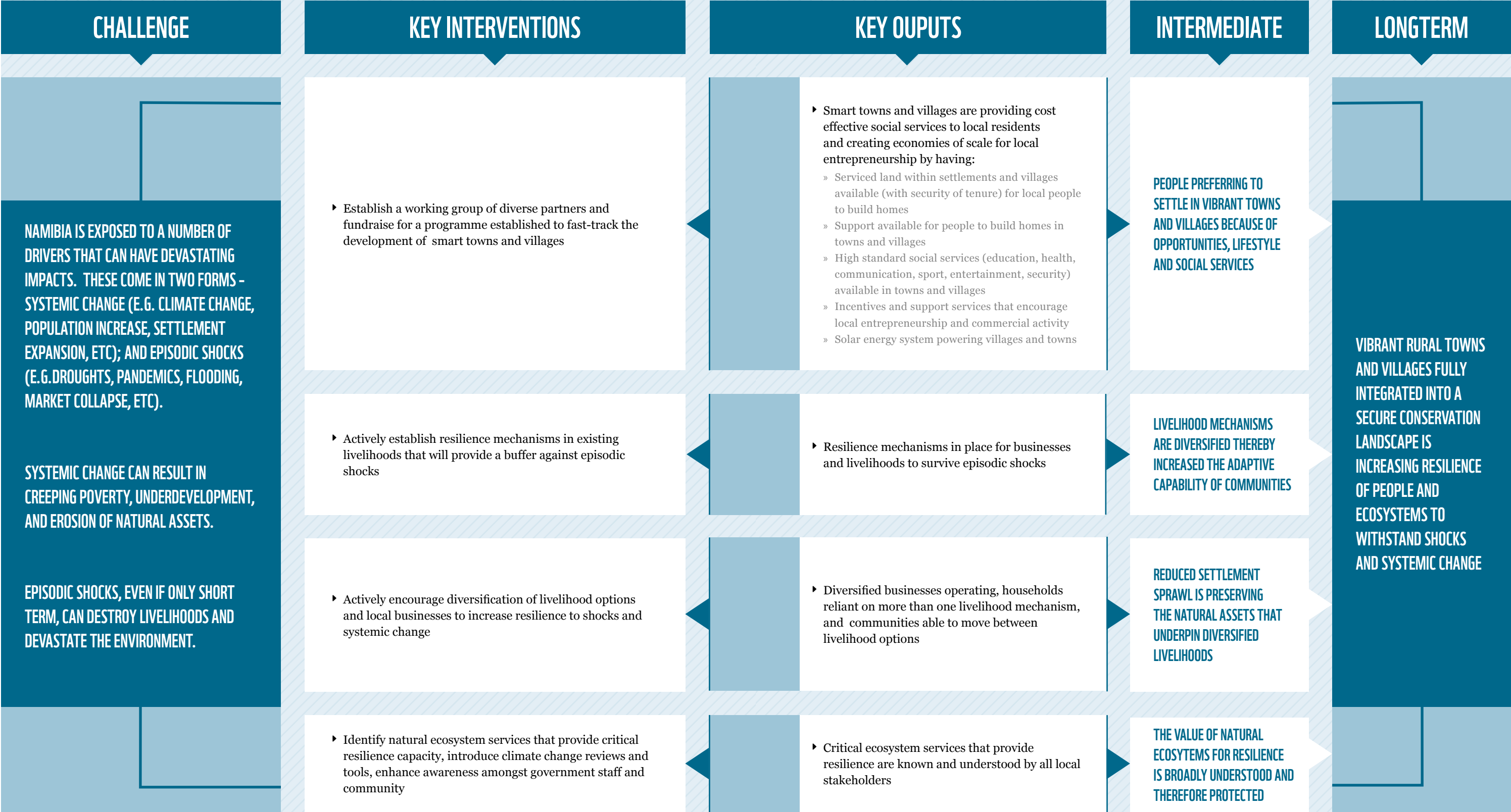
2.4. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BENEFITS ARE GENERATED BY CONSERVANCIES AND VALUED BY MEMBERS

WWF will enhance the social and cultural benefits of conservancies by recognising and promoting mechanisms that maximise returns from non-financial benefits of conservancies. These benefits serve as powerful incentives for conservation and whilst having been recognized in the past, these have not been highlighted, prioritized, and used to the full extent that they could. In this respect, WWF Namibia will focus on conservation initiatives that support social needs such as education, health, recreation and other livelihoods and activities that recognize and enhance local cultural values such as pride, cultural knowledge and practices and protection of ancestral lands. Youth development activities and environmental education efforts will be linked to create enthusiasm and positivity for a conservation vision.



OUTCOME 3: INCREASING RESILIENCE TO SHOCKS AND SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Figure 9: Theory of Change for Outcome 3: Increasing resilience to shocks and systemic change



Building resilience and adaptive capacity through vibrant settlements, diversified livelihoods and conservation landscapes that can withstand shocks and systemic change.

THE CHALLENGE

Namibia is exposed to several drivers that can have devastating impacts. These come in two sometimes inter-related forms – systemic change (e.g., climate change, population increase, settlement expansion, etc); and episodic shocks (e.g., droughts, pandemics, flooding, market collapse, etc). Systemic change can result in creeping poverty, under-development, and erosion of natural assets. Episodic shocks, even if only short term, can destroy the economy, livelihoods and devastate the environment. WWF Namibia needs to factor in these drivers and help the country build resilient systems and adaptive capacity. On the ecological side resilience is enhanced if there is greater connectivity. Improving ecosystem connectivity is a major focus of the Landscapes and Protecting Biodiversity thematic areas. But at the same time, it is necessary to build resilient rural communities so that they will be better able to withstand shocks and systemic changes. This will require that the economies of rural communities be diversified so that they are not all reliant on the same livelihood activity only. It will require better understanding of the ecosystem services that are relevant in the local area so that these can be protected. Further the current development trajectory is one of unplanned settlements mostly along rivers and roads leading to long linear towns and villages. These break ecological connectivity thus undermining the resilience of the natural resource base. They also undermine the visual integrity of the landscape which is necessary to capitalize on the tourism sector. Most importantly, this is creating a highly skewed distributed society that is exceedingly costly to service with basic infrastructure and social services. Currently under-served, these linear settlements have a high environmental footprint and are not conducive to local entrepreneurship as the economies of scale for business development is lacking. Essentially the current trajectory of unplanned and sprawling settlements in rural areas is creating a poverty trap for local people and will forever require costly government support. To build resilience WWF will work to achieve the following outcomes:



3.1. PEOPLE PREFERRING TO SETTLE IN VIBRANT TOWNS AND VILLAGES BECAUSE OF OPPORTUNITIES, LIFESTYLE, AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Planned urban and peri-urban development is essential to provide decent livelihoods for most people; to reduce the pressure on natural resources (soil nutrients, vegetation, surface water and wildlife); and to concentrate pollution and impacts into areas where these can be managed. Furthermore, smart towns and villages will provide cost effective social services to residents, will be attractive places to live and will create economies of scale for local entrepreneurship. To achieve this WWF will establish a working group of diverse partners and fundraise for the establishment of a programme to fast-track the development of smart towns and villages. A pilot in Zambezi Region will be implemented as part of the Integrated Conservation Support initiative coordinated by WWF and will include convening a multitude of sectoral partners.

3.2. LIVELIHOOD MECHANISMS ARE DIVERSIFIED THEREBY INCREASING THE ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

Currently most rural people rely on subsistence livestock and crop farming. Added to this may be freshwater fishing where these resources are available. Relying solely on these livelihood activities is highly risky as they are extremely prone to both systemic change as well as shocks. Diversifying livelihoods beyond just the traditional is an important means of building resilience within the community. The wildlife economy presents as a powerful new way of building adaptive capacity through generating employment, income, entrepreneurship, skills development as well as protein. To achieve this WWF will actively establish resilience mechanisms for existing livelihoods that will provide a buffer against episodic shocks. This intermediate outcome is strongly interlinked with outcome 2, above.

3.3. REDUCED SETTLEMENT SPRAWL IS PRESERVING THE NATURAL ASSETS THAT UNDERPIN DIVERSIFIED LIVELIHOODS

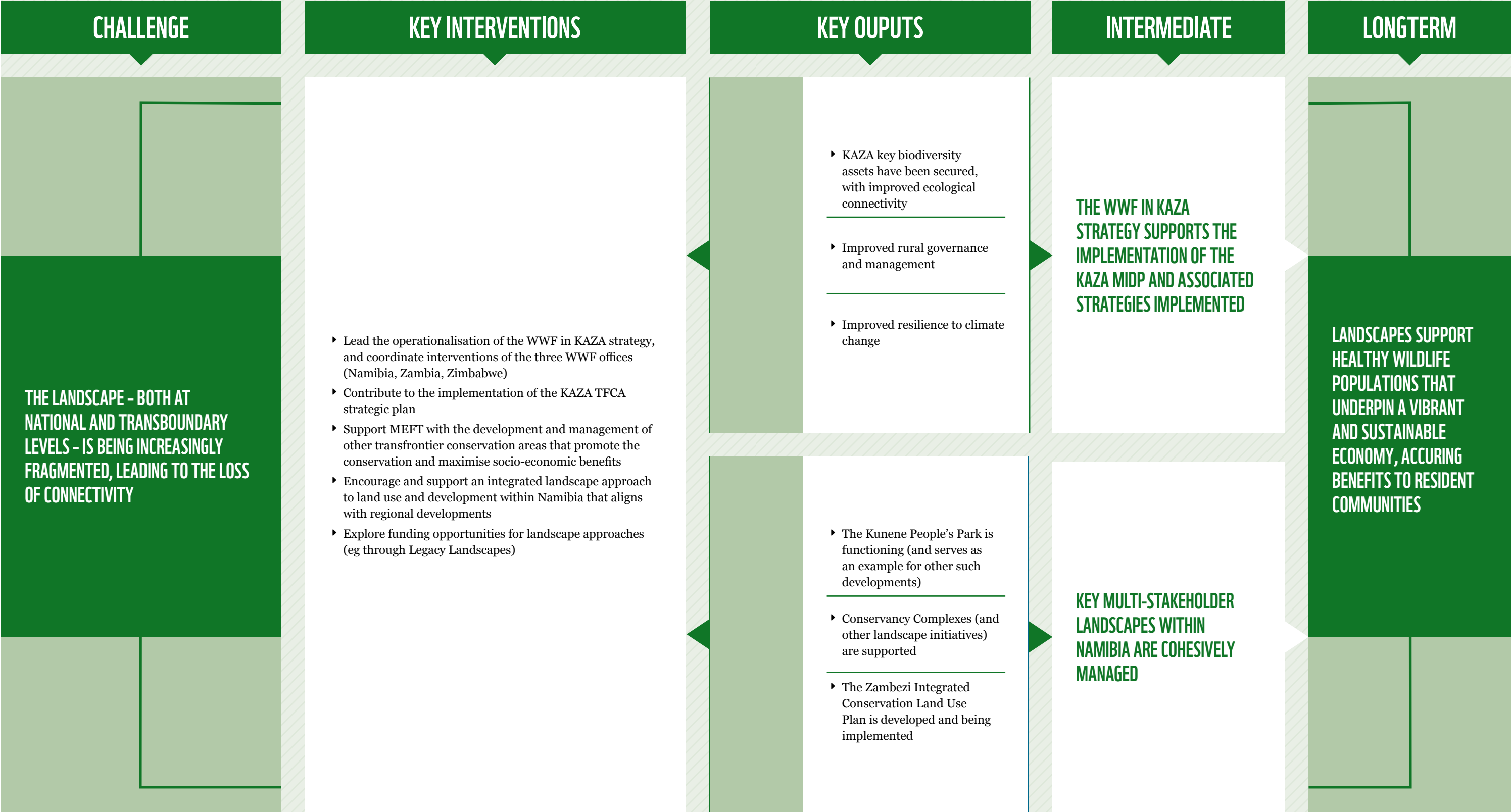
The goal is that settlement sprawl and associated infrastructure is not eliminating wildlife connectivity nor degrading the visual integrity of Namibia's iconic landscapes. Protecting these assets is important as these underpin the wildlife economy which is a major mechanism of diversifying livelihoods away from sole reliance on subsistence livestock and crop farming. WWF will specifically work with town and regional planners, local government, and communities to highlight the negative trajectory of settlement sprawl and develop creative solutions to counter this trend so that it no longer undermines the potential for developing diversified livelihoods. Some initial investments in this regard have started in the Zambezi Region.

3.4. THE VALUE OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS IS BROADLY UNDERSTOOD AND THEREFORE PROTECTED

Many of the natural systems are taken for granted or not fully appreciated. Some of these, for example periodic flooding and wildlife, can even be seen negatively in the short-term because they impact people. However, these assets, events and processes are extremely important in maintaining the capacity of the ecosystem to deliver services in the long-term, e.g., natural vegetation serving as flood water protection, floodplains driving fish production, world's largest elephant population underpinning a tourism industry, and so on. A broad understanding of the value and potential of these natural ecosystems is necessary amongst the entire range of stakeholders as this will better ensure that these are valued and protected. The specific role of healthy ecosystems for climate change protection and mitigation are critical. WWF will assist to identify those ecosystem services in each area that provide critical resilience capacity and enhance awareness of these amongst government staff and the local communities. Existing climate change reviews will be complemented by additional community assessments and tools be introduced that help local communities to increase their adaptive capacities. Ecosystem-based adaptation will be specifically featured. Overall, WWF Namibia will invest in broadening its own capacity in terms of climate change adaptation, resilience building and mitigation and scope the establishment of a dedicated Climate Change portfolio (see Outcome 5, below).

OUTCOME 4: SUPPORT LANDSCAPE-LEVEL CONSERVATION

Figure 10: Theory of Change for Outcome 4: Support landscape-level conservation



Landscapes support healthy wildlife populations that underpin a vibrant and sustainable economy, accruing benefits to resident communities

THE CHALLENGE:

Many of the landscapes both within and adjacent to Namibia have been fragmented, and this trend is increasing, leading to ongoing loss of connectivity. Connectivity is particularly important in arid environments that are subjected to great variation in rainfall and flooding events as well as climate change. Ecological resilience is enhanced if there is greater connectivity, consequently improving ecosystem connectivity is a major focus of the Landscapes Conservation thematic area. Conservation efforts need to be pursued across all categories of land use, including national parks, forestry reserves, communal conservancies, as well as freehold farms to optimally link habitats and allow for free movement of wildlife. Disruptive larger scale developments such as roads and railway lines need to be planned in a manner that their impacts are minimized and connectivity through e.g., corridors can be maintained. While the landscape approach can be pursued on different scales, within country or across borders, the dedicated support work of WWF to the KAZA TFCA over the past years is a great pilot for establishing meaningful transboundary landscape conservation. Amongst the key challenges in such a large conservation landscape is to negotiate ongoing development aspirations with conservation needs in the most productive manner. It needs to be realized that human development aspirations will always be growing, while conservation needs must be agreed to and consistently catered for. The investments needed for meaningful landscape conservation are significant. While a focus is on bringing new stakeholders together and coordinating sectorial interests, dedicated collaborative and practical interventions are needed that make conservation impacts visible. Across transnational boundaries such collaborations can be complex, demonstrated for example by the persistence of border fences hampering the free movement of elephants from Botswana via Namibia into Angola and Zambia. There are many such examples that illustrate the complexity of landscape level conservation work.

In the next 5 years, WWF Namibia will in particular:

- Lead the operationalisation of the WWF in KAZA strategy, continue to coordinate interventions of the three WWF offices (Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe) and pave the way for an equitable joint delivery mechanism on KAZA;
- Contribute to the implementation of the KAZA TFCA conservation strategic plan;
- Support MEFT in delivering on Namibia’s KAZA commitment, as well as assist with the development and management of other transfrontier conservation areas;
- Encourage and support an integrated landscape approach to land use and development within Namibia that aligns with regional developments;
- Explore funding opportunities for landscape approaches (e.g., through the Legacy Landscapes Fund).



Through these broad interventions WWF aims to achieve the following intermediate outcomes:

4.1. THE KAZA TFCA IS PROGRESSING POSITIVELY WITH THE WWF IN KAZA STRATEGY IN SUPPORT OF THE KAZA MIDP AND ASSOCIATED STRATEGIES

KAZA’s key biodiversity assets have been secured, with ecological connectivity

The WWF in KAZA Strategy lays out the detailed strategy for achieving connectivity. WWF Namibia is committed to raise funding for the implementation of the strategy and provide administrative and financial support services to the WWF “KAZA Management team”, which currently revolves around two positions. Together with WWF Zambia and Zimbabwe we will seek practical and nimble ways of collaborating and designing a joint delivery mechanism that is unique and visionary. We strive towards supporting a management team that works as a conduit for cutting edge conservation leadership, supports the KAZA Secretariat and brokers collaboration. We specifically will continue to support the WWF in KAZA office in Livingstone and its project focused sub in Katima Mulilo. In terms of conservation priorities we will leverage support to achieve conservation impacts such as (i) Threatened wildlife species are stable or increasing, (ii) Improved local and transboundary ecological connectivity, (iii) Secure free-flowing rivers & wetland habitats and (iv) Reduced land & habitat degradation, through active collaboration with the KAZA Secretariat and the five partner states (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe), government players, NGOs, local communities and other interested partners. We are committed to engage our WWF network partners worldwide to support KAZA in this unique conservation landscape effort.

Improved rural governance & management

Empowered rural communities are the key to successful landscape conservation. While some of the KAZA countries already have well established community conservation structures and programmes in place, others lag behind. In the Strategy 2021-26 period WWF Namibia is particularly dedicated to supporting community conservation and CBNRM, learning from the three decades of similar investments in Namibia, in addition to lesson learnt elsewhere in the region. A specific transboundary SADC TFCA proposal is being pursued to assess the status and support community conservation with a strong rural governance and management component. In the Zambezi Region in Namibia an integrated Conservation Support programme is being developed that would provide an inter-sectorial and collaborative effort to delivering on the WWF in KAZA Strategy. It is recognised that the Zambezi region is particularly critical to KAZA, as most mega-herbivore movement routes between Botswana and Zambia/Angola depend on existing corridors in Zambezi and Eastern Kavango. Several Strategic Environmental Assessments

(SEAs) and systematic conservation planning exercises are being pursued under the KAZA Strategy to generate a sound foundation for rural planning and ultimately governance and management.

Improved resilience to climate change

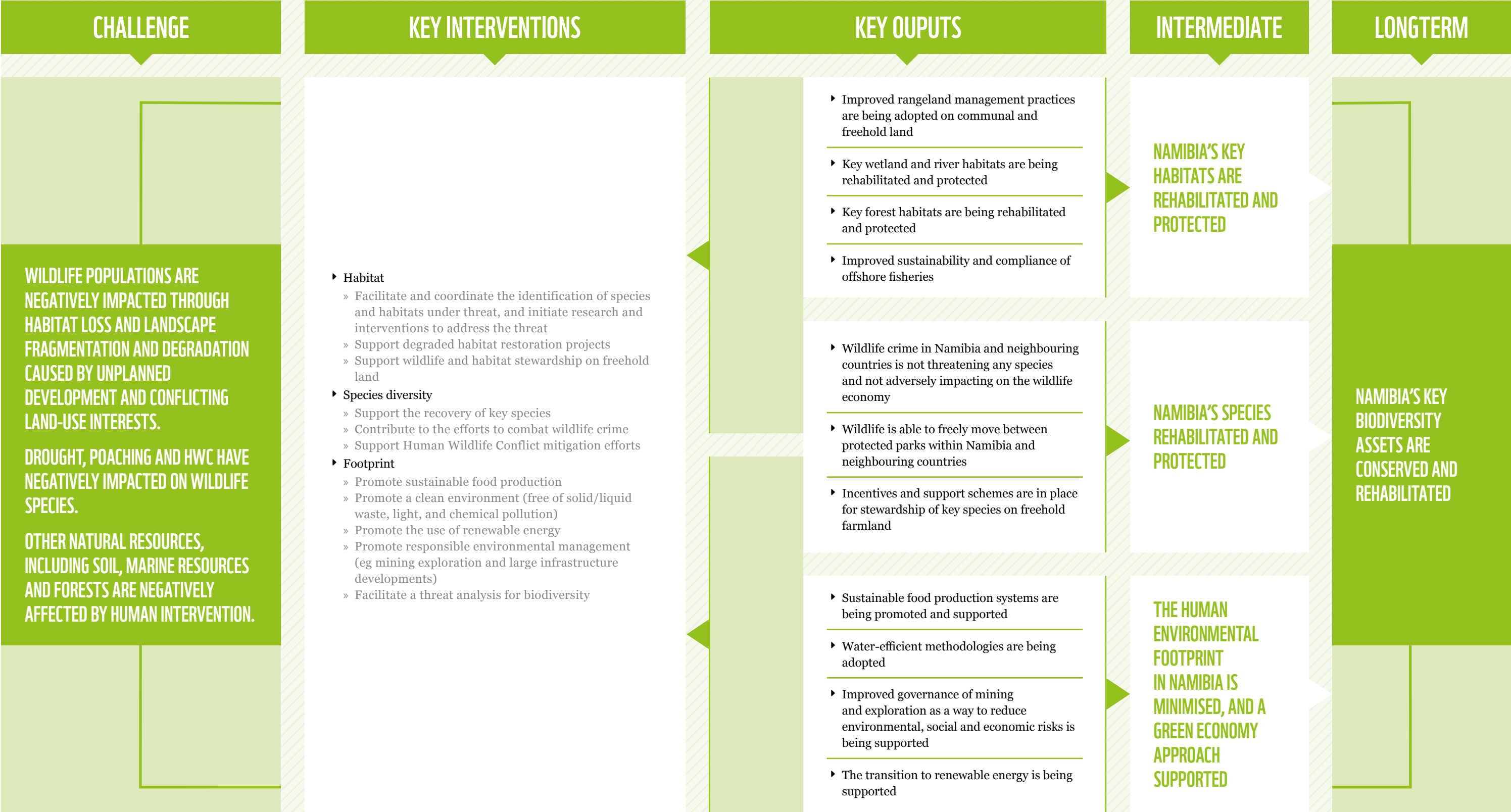
In line with the rationale set out under Intermediate Outcomes 3 on Increasing resilience to shocks and systemic change, WWF Namibia will support KAZA on related issues. Supporting climate resilient communities is a special priority and mainstreaming a Wildlife economy will be one pillar of a diversified economy. Promoting and guiding “Sustainable Urbanization within Intact Landscapes” is hugely important in a rapidly evolving and developing area such as KAZA. Massive developmental visions circulate amongst the five countries and many extractive and potentially destructive development projects are being considered. For example, damming or redirecting the Kwando River for hydro-energy would completely change the currently almost pristine river course and floodplains, potentially with devastating downstream impacts. WWF Namibia is dedicated to open-mindedly reviewing all development options, adding value to wildlife and nature-based propositions and ensure that KAZA partner states engage on the most beneficial development trajectories, including a visionary conservation agenda.

4.2. KEY MULTI-STAKEHOLDER LANDSCAPES WITHIN NAMIBIA ARE COHESIVELY MANAGED

In Namibia, like elsewhere, in most cases political or park boundaries have not been determined based on ecosystems, but rather socio-political or other considerations. There is increasing awareness of the importance of landscape connectivity for maximised conservation and economic benefit. Whereas it is not likely or practical to change park (or political) boundaries, this can be effectively achieved by promoting collaborations and synergies among land holders of contiguous pieces of land. Such efforts can reduce the impacts of ‘edge effects’ of managing parks (or other areas) in isolation, ensuring that large mobile species can access resources on a temporal basis, and helping to mitigate the effects of longer-term climate change. Through the National Policy on Protected Areas’ Neighbours and Resident Communities of 2013 and the Policy on tourism and wildlife concessions on State land of 2007, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism has recognised that a landscape approach is an important tool for the integration of protected areas into a larger landscape to meet economic, social, and developmental needs of adjacent areas¹⁶. WWF Namibia will thus support efforts towards multi-stakeholder landscapes within Namibia that promote the conservation of wildlife and wild places and maximise socio-economic benefits. Priority areas are the north-east, north-west, and central-north areas, and especially the Skeleton Coast/Iona (Namibia/Angola) and the /Ais-/Ais/Richtersveld (Namibia/ South Africa) Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs).

OUTCOME 5: PROTECT, CONSERVE, AND REHABILITATE NAMIBIA’S KEY BIODIVERSITY ASSETS

Figure 11: Theory of Change for Outcome 5: Protect, conserve and rehabilitate Namibia's key biodiversity assets



Namibia's key biodiversity assets are conserved and rehabilitated

THE CHALLENGE:

Wildlife populations are negatively impacted through habitat loss and landscape fragmentation and degradation caused by unplanned development and conflicting land-use interests. In recent years the situation has worsened because of extended and severe drought, a poaching onslaught and increased human wildlife conflict. Other natural resources, including soil, marine and freshwater resources and forests are also being negatively affected by human intervention and ever-growing human development demands. WWF Namibia recognises that development is inevitable, however WWF advocates for green economy pathways to sustainable development. In such a way, WWF aims to address development aspirations through a positive approach, while tackling conservation conflicts through interventions that focus on three strategic areas, namely Habitat, Species and Footprint. By undertaking these interventions WWF hopes, along with partners, to achieve the following intermediate outcomes:

5.1. NAMIBIA'S KEY HABITATS REHABILITATED AND PROTECTED

While most of the previous sections already have expanded on habitat protection, this specific outcome will be supported by a new programme that focuses on habitats that WWF Namibia aims to initiate. The first step in this regard is to facilitate and coordinate the identification of habitats that are under threat, and then initiate research and interventions to address the threats. The second phase will be to support degraded habitat restoration projects. Without pre-empting too much, areas which have been tentatively identified of high importance include rangelands on communal and freehold land, key river and wetland habitats, key forest habitats, and offshore fisheries.

5.2. NAMIBIA'S SPECIES REHABILITATED AND PROTECTED

WWF will continue with its highly successful species protection and support programme, addressing the major challenges of wildlife crime, recovery of key species, landscape connectivity, and incentivising the stewardship of key and problem causing species.

The Wildlife Crime Programme has been a major component of Namibia's conservation programme over the past five years. Successes have been achieved in that poaching levels have decreased whilst surveillance, arrests and prosecutions have increased. However, there is no place for complacency as the poaching threat remains extremely high, wildlife criminals adapt to increased efforts and sophistication of law enforcement and donor attention is starting to wane. We predict that poaching will resurge as soon as pressure is removed and so this programme will need to continue for the next five years. Fortunately, WWF has developed a strong portfolio of projects and strong partnerships within the country. Many of these partners are efficient and effective. Some remain weak and require additional support. WWF's role going forward will be to ensure that the partnership is sustained, and gaps are filled as these arise.

WWF Namibia will continue to focus on supporting sustained growth rates of the black rhino population; supporting the reintroduction of locally extinct species and supporting wildlife populations that are at extremely low levels (such as the wetland antelope in Zambezi Region); and new efforts for recovering and securing the populations of other key species such as the African Wild dog and Cape Vultures.

Creative land-use arrangements will be supported between protected areas, conservancies, neighbouring communities to ensure that areas are linked together to allow for wildlife movements across landscapes, and to maintain elephant movement corridors within KAZA, as laid out under thematic outcome 4. The use of incentive and support schemes to improve stewardship of key and problem causing species such as rhinos, predators and elephants on freehold farm will be explored and introduced (see thematic outcome 1).

5.3. THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT IN NAMIBIA IS MINIMISED, AND A GREEN ECONOMY APPROACH SUPPORTED

WWF Namibia has addressed certain work streams that fall under the Footprint and Green Economy scope previously, but this has not been a major focus. We recognize that major environmental gains or losses will revolve around transitional development issues, such as clean energy, industrialization, water provisioning, food production, waste management, to name a few. WWF Namibia is planning to the use 2022-26 Strategy period to scope its engagement in these areas more proactively. Realising that the WWF Network can provide a great deal of currently untapped expertise, we intend to develop partnerships that support Namibia onto a green development pathway. This process will incorporate a systematic threat analysis for biodiversity in the country and will initially focus on achieving the following intermediate outcomes.

Sustainable food productions systems promoted

While WWF Namibia is focusing its work on wildlife, the idea of sustainable venison is embraced as an eco-friendly means of protein production in preference to feedlot and domestic livestock production. At the same time, creative co-management systems that combine livestock and wildlife, as well as more sustainable livestock, land and grazing management practices will be advocated for. Sustainable natural freshwater fisheries are embraced as an eco-friendly form of protein production in preference to high environmental impact fish-farming schemes, and natural fish habitat and fish populations will be managed through stock assessment, conservation activities, and setting temporal and geographical harvesting restrictions. Conservation agriculture/ agri-ecological approaches are embraced as an eco-friendly form of crop production in preference to slash & burn and conventional crop production systems. Food diversification, and education about nutritional values, the importance of small-scale home gardens as source of high-quality food source, and small stock and poultry husbandry



that are productively managed will be supported through state-of-the-art knowledge. The benefits of locally sources food stuff will be an additional topical focus.

Understanding water scarcity, managing water, and adapting water-efficient methodologies

Namibia is one of the most water restricted and scarce countries in the world. While there are some top water experts in Namibia, public knowledge of water related issues is low and policy uptake limited. The impacts of climate change on water availability are projected to be significant. Over the past three decades some important transboundary water and basin management programmes have been implemented and multi-state river management commission such the Okavango River Commission (OKACOM), Zambezi River Commission (ZAMCOM) and the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) have been established. Currently the cross-border management of the Cuvélai ephemeral river system is being pursued and water management and abstraction along the westward flowing ephemeral rivers of Namibia are a key concern to environmental sustainability. All these issues revolving around water will continue have significant impacts for the future development path of Namibia. Therefore, WWF Namibia will scope potential future work in the water sector in support of local partners in this field and leveraging WWF’s network capacity in this field of work.

On the community conservancy level, WWF Namibia will scope the possible application of water-wise systems developed by WWF-SA adapted and in use by Namibian cities and town, as well as WWF Namibia will pursue water-recycling and minimum-use systems in all of Namibia’s eco-tourism developments, amongst other. Environmental awareness work and possible youth engagement campaigns may revolve around issues such as water management and pollution, in the future. Small scale solar water systems may be utilised and promoted as part of sustainable water use amongst field partners and the Community Conservation Hub (CC Hub) co-working space in Windhoek will house sustainable practices demonstrations.

The transition to renewable and alternative energies is being supported

Namibia is currently prospecting for oil & gas exploration in the Kavango West Region, and within the boundaries of the KAZA TCFA. While WWF Namibia understands the urgent need to move away from a carbon-based economy to reduce the ramifications of increasing global climate change, we do take cognisance of the economic realities that the developing world and Namibia is facing. Namibia has severe economic constraints and pressing social issues that it needs to address and has ambitions to expand its economic output and job creation through increased industrialisation. Namibia sees oil and gas as an ideal opportunity to meet these development

needs. WWF Namibia is committed to support the Namibian government to pursue responsible environmental management (see below), but at the same time also believes that Namibia should pursue other attractive energy alternatives such as solar energy and hydrogen fuels. WWF Namibia will support Namibia to identify alternative and environmentally more sustainable energy sources, which can become major economic income streams for the government.

On the local level, WWF Namibia is looking into unlocking alternative energy options for rural development and service provision in communal conservancies and associated joint ventures. The PFP is including a social-enterprise funding stream that could potentially foster local entrepreneurs and technician specialising in home solar technologies, for example.

Improved governance of mining exploration and large infrastructure developments to reduce environmental, social and economic risks

In Namibia as throughout KAZA industrial development is on the rise. Namibia looks to economic development opportunities to meet the countries’ development needs. Although Namibia is rated as a middle-income country it currently faces huge economic and social challenges. The devastating drought of the past years together with the crippling COVID-19 pandemic has hit the national economy very hard and the country is aggressively pursuing mining

(including oil and gas) as an economic lifeline. WWF Namibia believes that Namibia has the right to develop and thus we aim to support the government to apply best practices, including evidence-based decision making, stakeholder engagement and transparency. In this spirit WWF Namibia offers support services including from within the WWF Network and from international centres of expertise to reduce environmental, social, and economic risks. We advocate for strong foundational EIAs, SEAs and economic cost-benefit assessments to be undertaken, and multi-stakeholder consultation processes to be implemented. Special focus is on enabling local communities to engage meaning fully in such platforms and their voices to be heard and their rights to be expected. WWF Namibia has a stringent ESSF framework (see below), which guides any such work with local partners.

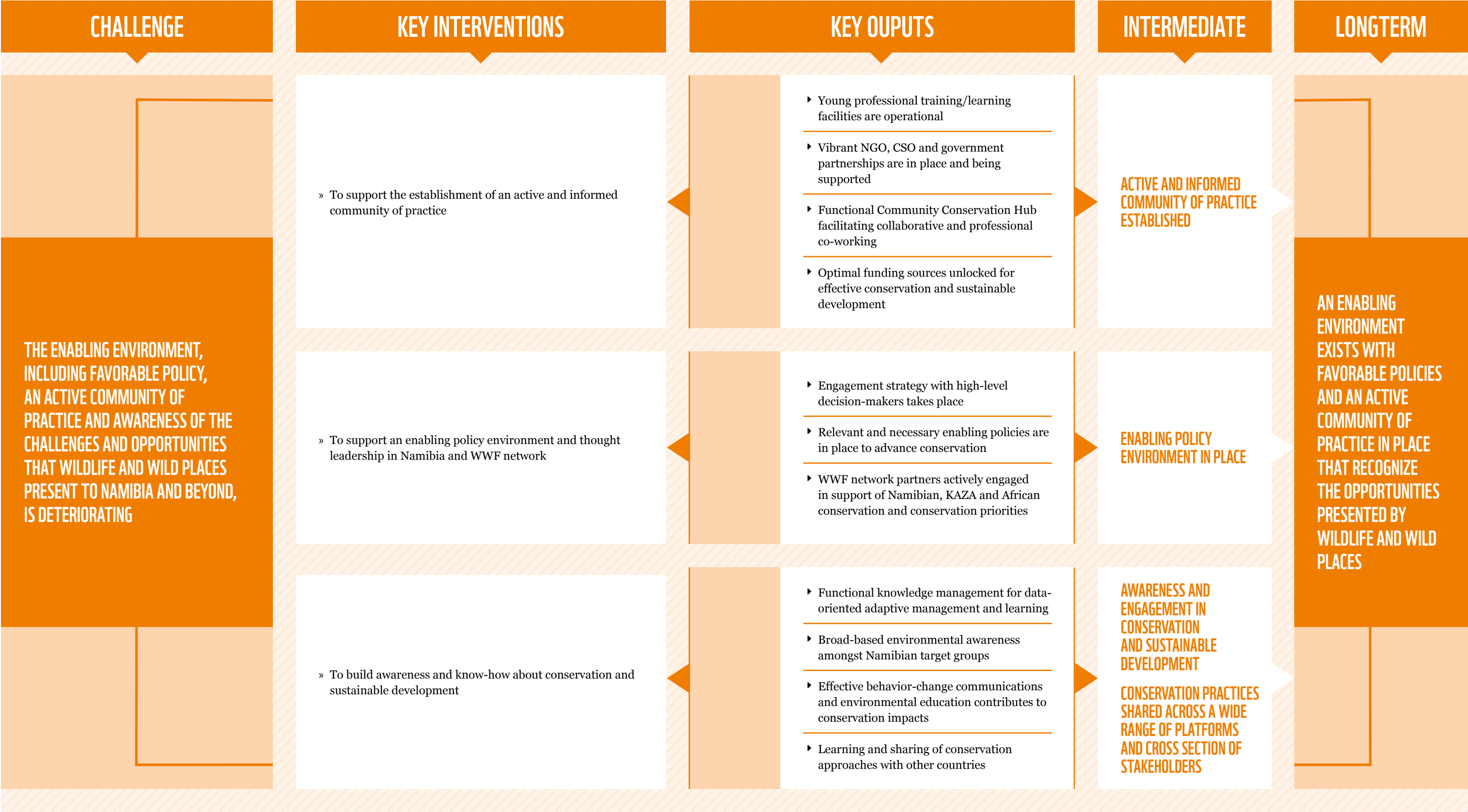
Responsible environmental management

While WWF Namibia does not have a specific Environmental Management programme, we realise that we can leverage the Network expertise in this regard. Entry point is the Kavango Oil & Gas exploration, but likely future needs will arise within Namibia and KAZA surrounding other developments. While we are not an advocacy organisation per se, we do think we have a role to play in ensuring standards are met, local communities are empowered to engage, alternative solutions fully explored and responsible Government entities act appropriately.



OUTCOME 6: BUILD THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CONSERVATION

Figure 12: Theory of Change for Outcome 6: Build the enabling environment for conservation



A strong enabling environment in place for achieving conservation and sustainable development at scale in Namibia and KAZA

THE CHALLENGE:

Conservation requires an enabling environment which includes favourable policy, an active capable and vibrant community of practice and full awareness by Namibian society to be able to act conservation-wise. Additionally national and international stakeholders and partners need to be informed of the challenges and opportunities that wildlife and wild places present to the country and KAZA as an optimum land-use for socio-economic development and about other pressing environmental issues concerning Namibia. Currently, these elements are not fully in place, and some appear to be deteriorating. Working relationships may need to be renewed and a new impetus for a positive joint conservation movement are needed. Overall, there are some difficult frame conditions, including reduced funding for civil society and NGOs due to Namibia's middle-income country status, and challenges brought about by severe and ongoing droughts, COVID, human wildlife conflict, governance failures, unrealistic expectations, and inadequate cooperation, amongst others. In the next five years, WWF Namibia will deliberately focus on improving the enabling environment for successful conservation and sustainable human development through the following intermediate outcomes and outputs.



6.1. ACTIVE, ENTHUSIASTIC, AND INFORMED COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Community and young professional training/ learning facilities are operational

A central element of the CBNRM programme is the operationalisation of the Community Conservation Learning Academy, which is being brought forward under NACSO and especially the Institutional and Governance Working Group under leadership of Namibia Development Trust (NDT). WWF is fully committed to support this activity, as well as the establishment of regional centres under the leadership of Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC). Through identifying funding support as well as technical engagement, WWF Namibia can play a support role that will link with the investments for sustainable financing for CBNRM in Namibia under the PFP (Thematic Outcome 1). Strengthening and formalising local level training in communal conservancies is a critical ingredient to supporting a critical mass of well-educated individuals who can access the job market and local economy effectively.

Furthermore, for the past several years, WWF has been implementing the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP), internships, and a research associate programme. This dedicated investment in quality mentoring and capacity building of young professionals has paid off and CLPs are placed within all NACSO entities. We realise that capacity building of young professional Namibians is a key contribution to the conservation and environment sector and are looking into ways to amplify and expand our efforts. WWF technical staff are providing guest lectures, post-graduate supervision and curriculum development support at local learning institutions and universities and such engagements are much valued and will be further pursued. Various internal mentoring and learning opportunities are being considered and overall, a culture of learning and sharing will be the focus of our efforts. While preparing a dedicated communication plan, we have also initiated a Schools & Youth programme promoting conservation and environment in schools and in communal conservancies.

Vibrant NGO, CSO and government partnerships in place and supported

Partnerships are central to WWF Namibia's philosophy and way of work in Namibia. For years WWF Namibia has supported local NGOs and experts, leveraged significant amounts of conservation funding into Namibia and identified its role as a supporting partner to government. This thinking continues and after a review of the partnership relationships and expectations, a renewed plan for engagement is being developed. First and foremost, the established working relationship amongst the NACSO, NGOs and KAZA partners will be furthered through more collaborative work efforts, including the formulation of this Strategic Plan with review inputs from partners. Joint opportunities for peer learning and exchanges are being created through "brownbag lunch" events and seminars, and new ad hoc joint working

groups are being convened on emerging work issues. WWF Namibia's emerging Organisation Development (OD) plan contains a dedicated chapter on partnerships, outlining support interventions formulated in response to review comments that were provided during the review of the past Strategy ahead of the new Strategy formulation. We are committed to invest into a thriving conservation community in Namibia, working with old hands and exploring new was of collaboration and partnerships.

Functional Community Conservation Hub facilitating collaborative and professional co-working

One central investment in the Strategy period 2022-26 is the creation of a Community Conservation Hub – a joint and collaborative co-working space for conservation partners. It is the vision to create a new and inspiring office location and space that puts community conservation at the heart of the daily operations of collaborating NGO partners. An investment of US\$ 2 Mio is being sought to secure properties that will be owned by a partnership of local NGOs and to build a modern and sustainability focused working space. Community members and NGOs visiting from rural areas can make use of the co-working facilities, hot desk and catch up with what is going on elsewhere in the conservation community.

Thematic cross institutional forums established

WWF Namibia understands its role as a convener. As such we are supporting the various NACSO Working Groups, as well as multi-stakeholder working groups i.e., on anti-wildlife crime work coordination. Recently, we have brought together multiple stakeholders around joint conservation planning and prioritisation in the Zambezi Region, and we hope to set out multi-stakeholder engagement platforms as part of various SEAs and economic cost-benefit analysis and studies revolving around KAZA as well as the Kavango Oil & Gas issues (see Thematic Outcome 5, above). We feel that we have a specific role to play as a convener and plan to further this in the future.

Optimal funding sources unlocked for effective conservation and sustainable development

Thinking about conservation financing is a central part of WWF Namibia's work – and we will continue to deliver on that front. While we seek direct funding through WWF network partners and donors for conservation actions in Namibia and KAZA and have established a functional finance and administrative section to facilitate sub-grantees arrangements, we are also serving as a think tank for innovative new approaches to accruing conservation benefits on the implementation level. These include leveraging the PFP as a sustainable CBNRM financing mechanism in the future, piloting Wildlife Credits, exploring species and nature bonds, and working towards debt swaps for larger scale conservation and climate change PES mechanisms (as/if appropriate for Namibia). We understand that overcoming funding bottlenecks are critical to successful conservation in Namibia and KAZA and make it our mission to leverage and effectively manage the resources needed.

6.2. ENABLING POLICY ENVIRONMENT AND POLICY/THOUGHT LEADERSHIP IN NAMIBIA AND WWF NETWORK-WIDE

Engagement strategy with high-level decision makers

As already articulated above and under Thematic Outcome 5, WWF Namibia sees its added value in a convener role. Facilitating high-level dialogues of Namibian and KAZA partners and stakeholders from government, NGOs, communities, and private sector is in the ambit of the organisation, especially due to the international standing of WWF and its technical expertise. WWF Namibia is well positioned to engage in such a role.

Relevant and necessary enabling policies are in place to advance conservation

WWF sees a role in supporting the formulation of evidence-based and technically informed policies and implementation instruments and is dedicated to supporting such policy leadership within the Namibian government and beyond. Based on the innovative work of WWF Namibia and network partners in neighbouring countries, WWF Namibia is also well established to inspire new policies, which are responsive to emerging conservation priorities and needs. A recent example is the collaborative role WWF Namibia has played in supporting the establishment and operationalisation of the Covid Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF) under the leadership of the MEFT with strong support from the Community Conservancy Fund Namibia (CCFN).

WWF network partners actively engaged in support of Namibian, KAZA and African conservation and development priorities

The WWF Network with its diversity of country offices, a global infrastructure for setting standards and agendas for conservation and an intricate system of mobilizing awareness and support for nature and environment is arguably one of the biggest assets that WWF Namibia can leverage in support of Namibian conservation. As such, WWF Namibia will facilitate access to the network for its staff, partners and associates and the Namibian public per se, in support of an active and informed conservation movement. Active engagement will particularly be pursued with (i) WWF Africa, (ii) WWF National Offices, (iii) Wildlife, Governance and Freshwater Practice, (iv) the Global Conservation Directors forum, and (v) the global A-team for Innovation, but will not be restricted to these.

6.3. AWARENESS AND KNOW-HOW ABOUT CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

This intermediate outcome embraces a wide range of outputs and activities that fall within the ambit of our new Organisational Development (OD) and Communication Plans. Both are stand-alone documents and complement the Conservation Strategy presented here as part of the overall Strategic Plan. For the purposes of the Conservation Strategy, the following intermediate outcomes are being highlighted.

Functional knowledge management for data orientated adaptive management and learning

WWF is a knowledge and evidence-based organisation, grounding its work in sound research, analysis, and application in adaptive management. In Namibia, over the past three decades WWF has invested in the establishment of monitoring and data systems that inform decision making at the level of the MEFT, within the partner organisations as well as within the local communities, serving as stewards for our wildlife and wild places. WWF Namibia will continue to invest in Namibia's standard-setting conservation agenda, consistent long-term monitoring, data storage, analysis, and interpretation systems, continuing through CONINFO & GIS and the NACSO NRWG. Systematic and regular programmatic M&E systems are continuing, including publications such as: Annual individualized conservancy reports, Annual State of Community Conservation Report, National Wildlife Crime Report, as laid out in more detail in the Communication Plan. New technology and tools are introduced where applicable to streamline data collection and knowledge management. WWF Namibia is supporting applied research with resulting peer reviewed publications and will seek collaborations with young researchers from the National Academic Institutions to undertake research relevant to the work portfolio of WWF Namibia, as laid out in this Strategy. A catalogue of research priority will be developed for this purpose. We aim to raise funding for such a research support programme that will enrich not only the conservation practice but enable meaningful research training for young Namibians as well.

Broad-based environmental awareness amongst Namibian target groups

Environmental awareness is key to generating buy-in for conservation, wildlife, wild places, and a green economy. Only what people know and love can be protected and managed in creative ways to foster development and safeguard our environment. WWF Namibia has developed a detailed Communication Strategy as part of the strategic planning process. Communication has been rated to be relatively poorly addressed in the past by WWF Namibia, given the global expertise in this regard within the network.

We are committed to invest more pointedly into awareness raising and will collaborate with our national partners in such efforts. Key target groups will include, but not be restricted to the Community Conservancies, Community Forests and Community Fish Reserves and potentially the Conservancies on Freehold Land, young people in schools and higher learning institutions as well as decision-makers at all levels, and our network offices around the world.

Effective behaviour-change communication and Environmental Education (EE) contributing to conservation impacts

Also engrained in the Communication Strategy is the recognition that intentional behaviour change communication can be a powerful conservation tool. Starting early, preferably at formal school level, environmental education has demonstrated to bear specifically positive impacts in the long-term, and Namibia has pioneered some excellent Environmental Education (EE) best practice. As WWF Namibia we are eager to invest more into these areas of work and will support our partners in their efforts. With the Community Conservation Academy and regional community centres in north-western and north-eastern Namibia evolving, some excellent foundations are being laid for such outreach work.

Learning and sharing of conservation approaches with other countries

Conservation work in Namibia has achieved impressive

conservation impacts. WWF Namibia, as one of the partners of the GRN, along with a dedicated set of local institutions and individuals has developed a progressive rights-based community-based conservation programme that sees benefits flow from wildlife to local communities. This has led to vast tracks of communal lands being set aside for wildlife conservation – a true conservation success. In other fields, such as parks, wildlife, and species management, as well as the management of wildlife crime, Namibia has set similar high standards in the conservation world. WWF Namibia has been a key partner supporting these efforts financially and technically, effectively leveraging support from the global WWF network. We are committed to continue this work and furthermore will actively participate in learning and sharing efforts in Namibia, KAZA and beyond. During this strategic plan period 2022-26 we will specifically invest into the following outputs: (i) Information on Namibia's Community Stewardship models has been exchanged with partners in Africa and beyond, (ii) the Namibian Wildlife Crime approach has been shared with Africa and beyond, (iii) Namibia has hosted and participated in learning and sharing exchange events with different countries. WWF Namibia and partners will establish the Community Conservation Hub, as co-working space that will, at its heart, host national and international conservationists for live and online learning and sharing session and events in the spirit of supporting a positive, inspired, and active conservation community of practice.



HOW WE WORK



OPERATIONAL APPROACHES

WWF Namibia's 2022-26 Strategic Plan balances continuity with an outlook to future broadening of WWF's fields of engagement. This needs to be matched with available funding and technical resources, including implementation partnerships.

The approach that will be adopted to deal with the increasing level of complexity will be to consider each of the envisaged initiatives in terms of the following four categories:

CORE INITIATIVE

WWF will prioritize the intervention in terms of conservation urgency taking a leading role to mobilize Namibian partners, pro-actively seek and secure funding and provide technical and project management support towards implementation, e.g., at this moment we see critical gaps for the Rhino Custodian Programme, as well as CBNRM Governance support.

PARTNER INITIATIVE

WWF recognises that existing Namibian partners are best placed to implement the initiative and will provide support to those entities in terms of fund raising and technical advisory expertise, e.g., law enforcement support to GRN, implementation of livelihood alternatives such as for fisheries, livestock management and conservation/agri-ecological approaches.

BRAND-SUPPORT INITIATIVE

WWF recognises the conservation and sustainable development value of the initiative and whilst not mobilizing financial or technical support for this, WWF will provide moral and brand support to the initiative, e.g., celebrating World Oceans Day, supporting NACSO members in some of their ongoing work.

OPPORTUNISTIC INITIATIVE

WWF will only move forward on the initiative if there is a low-cost funding opportunity and within a short space of time a partner can take over the intervention, e.g., Fisheries Observer Agency (FOA) Artificial intelligence (AI) surveillance system on Namibian hake fleet.

WWF Namibia has a strong finance and administration team and is well positioned for effective grant making to Namibian partners, KAZA partners and international collaborators. Furthermore, WWF has a senior team that can support partners in technical areas, M&E and reporting.

In some cases, WWF Namibia becomes an implementation partner such as is the case of providing the project

implementation unit of the Integrated Wildlife Protection Project (IWWP) in MEFT. WWF continues to support its partners on technical matters as requested and needed, and in some cases, WWF staff are being contracted as consultants to advise on certain technical areas, and such consultancies are channelled via WWF. In every project WWF aims to follow a collaborative and partnership approach, serving as an active member of the conservation community of practice in Namibia.



INVESTING IN OUR TEAM

WWF Namibia's team is at the forefront of conservation innovation, from early support for community-driven natural resource management to launching new ways of supporting conservation through payment for eco-system services.

Our team brings a high level of technical and scientific expertise to field projects and in support of empowering our partners to achieve locally driven conservation objectives.

A dedicated staff of financial managers, accountants, governance, and communications specialists work to support and enhance this work.

As the challenges to the natural world increase, we are constantly striving to understand the underlying dynamics and to react proactively for the benefit of nature and people.

To that end, a priority of our strategy has been to invest in the following organizational, business and communications development plans:

Business Plan examines funding that has been secured and that needs securing, plus key operational costs, core costs, and key performance indicators.

Communications Plan ensures that WWF Namibia effectively shares conservation information from our projects and stories from the field with our partners, the media, and donors. It promotes targeted communication that more strongly unlocks the powers of behaviour change communication and conservation psychology as part of our overall strategy.

Organizational Development Plan guides internal operations such as risk management, capacity building, and Human Resources development. It recognizes thought-leadership on emerging conservation and sustainable development issues, and the need for capacity building and Learning & Sharing Programmes to contribute to forming a new generation of conservation leaders.

TARGET GROUPS & STAKEHOLDERS

Historically, WWF Namibia has worked with many stakeholders through a range of partnerships and relationships. However, given the increased number of outcomes encompassed by this Strategy, the number and diversity of stakeholders engaged over the next five years will grow significantly. Following are brief descriptions of key stakeholders that we are likely to work with in delivering on the Strategy.

Communal area residents are primary beneficiaries of our new Conservation Strategy at both the Namibia and KAZA levels. In Namibia, community members are organized and assisted through conservancies - the legal entities that hold the rights to wildlife and tourism on communal lands. The successful operation of conservancies is premised upon the three pillars of CBNRM, which include improved natural resource management, increasing benefits and income from natural resources, and strengthened democratic governance. Conservancies, in-turn, are represented collectively by an emerging stakeholder group in the form of Conservancy Associations, which function at the regional level, bringing together conservancies under one body for network and unified advocacy. At the KAZA level, communities are organized through a range of mechanisms, including gazetted conservancies in Namibia, community trusts in Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) in Botswana, Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE), Districts in Zimbabwe Communal Lands, and Game Management Areas (GMA) in Zambia. At a transboundary level, community transboundary forums will be strategic partners, as such entities create coordination, communication, and management platforms between stakeholders in transboundary wildlife dispersal areas (WDA).

Freehold farmers in Namibia will be targeted in areas where Black Rhino populations have been established under the rhino custodian programme. Such custodians will be assisted to counter poaching threats and new and existing custodians incentivized to contribute habitat so maximized growth rates can be achieved with Namibia's population of Black Rhino. In addition, freehold farmers will also be engaged, supported, and incentivised to increase their tolerance towards elephants and large predators on their farmlands, whilst at the same time encouraged to practice improved rangeland management and rehabilitation.

CBNRM Civil Society Organizations will continue to be a critical target group for WWF assistance. Within Namibia, WWF is seeking to increase the capacity of Namibian NGOs¹⁷ to provide quality technical support to conservancies. Partner civil society organisations are

formally co-ordinated by the Namibia Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO), an umbrella organisation that develops strategic work plans for the National CBNRM Programme in Namibia. WWF Namibia provides technical support, training, and assistance to NACSO members and the MEFT through thematic working groups based upon the three pillars – natural resources management; business, enterprise, and livelihoods; and institutional development and governance - of the CBNRM Programme. The thematic Working Groups are collectives of professional colleagues from a range of NGOs and government departments, who collectively design, test, refine and implement support systems for conservancies, with WWF in Namibia providing both technical backup and financial support. With the broadening area of influence WWF is looking to engage with other NGOs and academic institutions as well.

At the KAZA level, in addition to Namibian civil society organizations found in the KAZA landscape, organizations in Angola, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe will be supported to bolster community conservation efforts, counter wildlife crime, and undertake applied research on wildlife movements.

The number of **government institutions** to be worked with in Namibia will continue to expand. For CBNRM, the MEFT is WWF's primary governmental partner, with MEFT legislation being the founding basis of conservancies. MEFT provides extensive natural resource management, law enforcement, and overall regulatory support to the conservancy programme, sustainable use of wildlife, and tourism. In addition to the MEFT, WWF has collaborative relationships with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR); the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR); the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPESW); and the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME). Continued engagement with these ministries is instrumental to the long-term integration of all renewable natural resources in conservancies. New additional partnerships are being developed as relevant to the thematic and programmatic work, including on the green economy e.g., exploring

alternative energy within the broader Kavango Oil & Gas economic analysis work and in relation to climate change.

For **Wildlife Crime** further strengthening of partnerships with different government entities will need to continue. Such government agencies are the Namibian Police, MEFT, the Prosecutor General’s Office, the Namibia Judiciary, the Ministry of Finance (MOF, Customs, and the Financial Intelligence Centre), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and TRAFFIC. In addition to the partnerships with the above government entities, WWF also needs to work closely with other civil society organisations who are involved in supporting anti-poaching and law enforcement work. These NGO partners are coalesced into a Wildlife Crime Working Group which has the collective objective of synergistically supporting government law enforcement agencies.

At the **transboundary KAZA level**, the KAZA Secretariat will continue to be supported to bolster their institutional capacity, strengthen their ability to monitor programmatic achievements/impacts, and coordinate multi-country initiatives. Similarly, emphasis will be placed upon assisting the five KAZA Partner States to implement the strategic planning framework for the conservation and management of elephants (and other species e.g. carnivores) in the KAZA, for which there are five objectives, 1. Develop an integrated land use planning process, 2. Maintain and manage KAZA’s elephants (and other species) as one contiguous population, 3. Promote and support co-existence of humans and elephants for ecological, social and economic benefits, 4. Reduce the illegal killing and trade in elephants and elephant products and other natural resources (e.g. timber) and 5. Establish a high-level decision-making process on which to build the planning framework for conserving KAZA’s elephants and wildlife.

Private sector is a critical role-player. Through investment in conservancy-based tourism enterprises, on-the-job training, management skills and marketing, and rhino custodianship, the private sector plays a leading role in unlocking the socio-economic value of natural resources and providing critical habitat for endangered species. Programmatic interventions with the private sector are aimed at creating an investor friendly environment, whilst at the same time, facilitating the emergence of win-win agreements between rural communities and private companies/individuals. Similarly, the private sector offers major opportunities to counter wildlife crime, as both lodge operators and professional hunting companies are active across Namibia’s communal conservancies. Partnerships with the private sector in support of the PFP and other conservation finance related initiatives could also be of importance.

The **Namibian public** (outside of communal areas) are another target group. Public stakeholders, through democratic processes, have significant impact on both the adoption and support of Namibian solutions to conservation problems. Public stakeholders can be divided into senior policy makers and the public at-large. It is imperative to illustrate the beneficial aspects of CBNRM as an appropriate development and land-use tool to senior policy makers, as there is a need to ensure communal and freehold stewards remain in the forefront of rural development and environmental considerations. The public at-large, ranging from community members to private landowners to citizens in urban centres have increasing roles to play in countering wildlife crime, understanding the importance of sustainable use of wildlife, supporting local stewardship of natural resources and environmental and conservation issues at large.

Other **CBNRM/Conservation/Rural development programmes** in Africa and globally recognize the value and potential applicability of Namibia’s CBNRM/ Stewardship experiences and systems, successful collaborative efforts to counter wildlife crime, as well as establishing a collaborative support mechanism to a large transboundary landscape such as KAZA. WWF Namibia will assist especially Namibian partners to share lessons learned with and benefit from countries immediately adjacent to Namibia (e.g., KAZA Partner States) and in Africa generally to improve transfrontier cooperation that will achieve conservation at scale, develop regional economies, and improve international relations in the region.

The final target group will be **WWF staff throughout the WWF global network and within the relevant practice groups** particularly with colleagues in Africa and with WWF offices around the world who have similar challenges and opportunities to learn and share experiences.

COOPERATION WITH WWF PARTNER NOS AND DONOR AGENCIES

WWF Namibia is supported by a range of WWF National Offices (NOs,) including WWF Norway, WWF Sweden, WWF Finland, WWF Netherlands, WWF Germany, WWF Switzerland, WWF International and WWF US¹⁸, while WWF Namibia also liaises with the WWF Regional Office of Africa as part of the WWF Africa Programme. WWF Namibia also coordinates closely with WWF Zambia and WWF Zimbabwe on planning and implementation of KAZA related activities. Increased coordination is anticipated with WWF South Africa on rhino poaching, marine fisheries, and water conservation.

WWF Namibia also coordinates and collaborates closely with several bi- and multilateral funding agencies, including: KfW on both in-country (i.e., community forests, land tenure, park management, wildlife crime, etc.) and regional (KAZA) activities; GIZ in relation to biodiversity, wildlife crime, and climate change. USAID and US Department of State’s International Bureau for

Law enforcement and Narcotics – INL) will continue into this new strategic plan and a new relationship has recently been consolidated with FAO. Further partnerships are being explored as part of the new Business Plan and fundraising strategy. WWF Namibia is receiving funding through other WWF NOs from a range of philanthropies.



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS FRAMEWORK (ESSF) & RISK MANAGEMENT

WWF globally requires country offices to apply the WWF Network Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESSF) Framework to their programmes.

WWF Namibia has been working towards developing a comprehensive ESSF across the Namibian landscape since 2019. The process has progressed well with near final drafts of the Landscape Safeguards Screening Document and Grievance Redress Mechanism developed and submitted to the WWF US Safeguards Reviewers. Review of the screening document resulted in Namibia being categorised as a medium risk landscape for environmental and social risks. The Risk Categorisation Memorandum specifically states that the substantive safeguard standards on Indigenous Peoples and Community Health, Safety and Security have been triggered. The office therefore needs to develop an Indigenous People's Plan Framework and a Community Health, Safety and Security Plan and we are currently looking into funding for this. A similar, parallel process has been

started for the KAZA landscape and the draft ESSF has been presented to the WWF US-based Safeguard Reviewers. Overall, WWF is working towards highest standards with regards to ESSF, establishing best practices that set a benchmark for conservation partners in Namibia, especially with regards of applying a human rights-based and community-based approach to conservation.

WWF Namibia also maintains a risk register which is regularly updated and reviewed during the monthly Senior Management Team meetings. Applying a traffic light (red, amber, green) approach to risk ratings, critical risks are managed on a need basis. The active risk management approach is considered to bring rigour to the organisation.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

WWF Namibia will continue to work with the National CBNRM Programme to monitor, document, and evaluate programmatic progress at several levels.

Cumulatively, this 'State of Community Conservation' monitoring system provides insight into programmatic performance and impact at the conservancy, regional, and national levels over more than a decade. At the KAZA level, WWF Namibia together with the KAZA Secretariat, WWF Germany and Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) will continue to assist the KAZA Secretariat in support of the KAZA Impact Monitoring System (KIMS), thus seeking standardization of data collected between the five involved countries in such a manner that the performance and impact of KAZA continues to be monitored. The wildlife crime programme in Namibia has reached a point where exceptionally good and credible M&E results are being produced and shared. This will be maintained and further refined as required.

Under a separate cover are brief descriptions of the monitoring and evaluation approach that WWF Namibia will use to document performance and impact against

this five-year Conservation Strategy. New M&E systems will need to be developed to cover the new aspects described in this strategy and relevant institutional investments are integral part of the OD plan. The above monitoring systems are co-owned with WWF's partners, including the government, and are embedded into the various national conservation programmes of the country. These indicators, baselines and targets have been selected by WWF Namibia to monitor performance and contribution to Global Conservation Goals and Targets. Within these higher-level indicators, there are a myriad of additional layers of monitoring that are project specific and will be the responsibility of WWF and its grantees. Because of this complexity, M&E is a costly and onerous responsibility and needs to be properly resourced.



LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGM	Annual General Meeting	MAWLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
CAMPFIRE	Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources	MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resources Management	MFMR	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
CBO	Community-Based Organization	MGEPEsw	Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare
CCFN	Community Conservation Fund of Namibia	MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
CLP	Conservation Leadership Programme	NACSO	Namibia Association of CBNRM Service Organisations
CONINFO	Conservation Information Knowledge Management System	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
EU	European Union	NRM	Natural Resource Management
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation	NRWG	Natural Resource Working Group
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	GRN	Government of the Republic of Namibia
GEF	Global Environmental Fund	PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
GIS	Geographic Information System	PPF	Peace Parks Foundation
GMA	Game Management Area	ROA	Regional Office of Africa
GRN	Government of the Republic of Namibia	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
HWC	Human Wildlife Conflict	SD4C	WWF Programme Social Development For Conservation
INL	International Bureau for Law Enforcement and Narcotics	SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
IDWG	Institutional Development and Governance Working Group	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
IRDNC	Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
JV	Joint Venture	WDA	Wildlife Dispersal Areas
KAZA	Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area	WMA	Wildlife Management Areas
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (German Development Bank)	WWF	World Wildlife Fund/World Wide Fund For Nature

FOOTNOTES

1

Organisational Development Plan, Business Plan and Communication Strategy for 2022-2026 will follow in separate documents.

2

As part of the preparation of the Strategic Plan the following key inputs were produced/consultations undertaken: (1) Review analysis SP 2017-2021, (2) Stakeholder reviews, (3) Staff review workshop and interviews, (4) Network interviews, (5) Horizon Scanning exercise.

3

The overall Strategy Plan of WWF Namibia will be presented in two parts, with the Conservation Strategy (Part 1) being at the heart of it. The Conservation Strategy will be also prepared as a Summary Document, which is easily sharable and accessible by partners, donors and interested individuals.

4

World Economic Outlook Database. 2019

5

Gini coefficient: Measure of the deviation of the distribution of income among individuals or households within a country from a perfectly equal distribution. A value of 0 represents absolute equality, a value of 100 absolute inequality.

6

World Bank. 2017.

7

UNAIDS. 2018

8

Community-based natural resources management is a “rights-based” approach to empowering rural communities with the knowledge, skills, and authority to sustainably manage commonly held natural resources (i.e., wildlife, rangelands, forests, fish, water, etc.).

9

Legislation does not allow formation of a communal conservancy in a national park. Thus, in the case of Bwabwata National Park, the resident community formed the Kyaramacan Association, which serves as a de facto conservancy in the park.

10

Namibia’s rural population for 2019 was 1,221,27. The overall population is set at 2,5 Mio (2020).

11

The State of Community Conservation in Namibia Annual Report for 2018/2019. NACSO. 2021.

12

Global Environment Facility (GEF) standard tracking tool implemented by MEFT.

13

<https://tfcaportal.org/kaza-workshop-commodity-based-trade-new-approaches-beef-production-are-wildlife-friendly>

14

A green economy is an economy that aims at reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities, and that aims for sustainable development without degrading the environment. It is closely related with ecological economics but has a more politically applied focus.

15

Ecosystem services are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning, regulating, and cultural services that directly affect people and supporting services needed to maintain the other services. See Ecosystems and Human Well-being: A Framework for Assessment (millenniumassessment.org)

16

MEFT (2020) Overarching landscape level vision, strategic objectives, and coherent management arrangements for the Coastal Parks

17

In Namibia, WWF works largely through partnerships with NACSO members, including Integrated Rural Development & Nature Conservation (IRDNC); Legal Assistance Centre (LAC); Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF); Namibia Development Trust (NDT); Nyae Nyae Development Foundation of Namibia (NNDFN); Save The Rhino Trust (SRT); the University of Namibia (UNAM); etc.

18

WWF Namibia is a Country Office associated with WWF-US on behalf of the WWF Network.



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