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ENFORCING WILDLIFE LAW AND PREVENTING WILDLIFE CRIME IN NAMIBIA



***Department of Environmental Affairs, MET
MET/GIZ Biodiversity Management and
Climate Change Project***

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Namibia: A success story in wildlife conservation

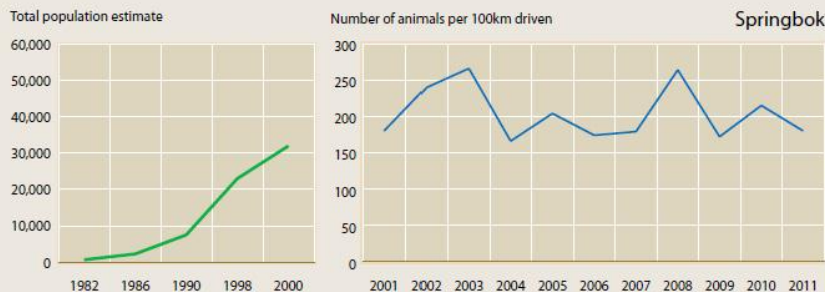
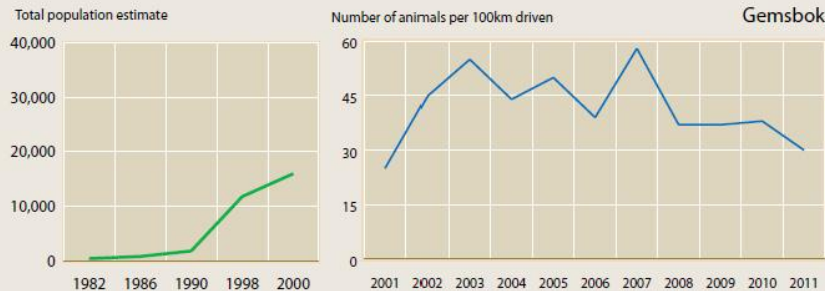
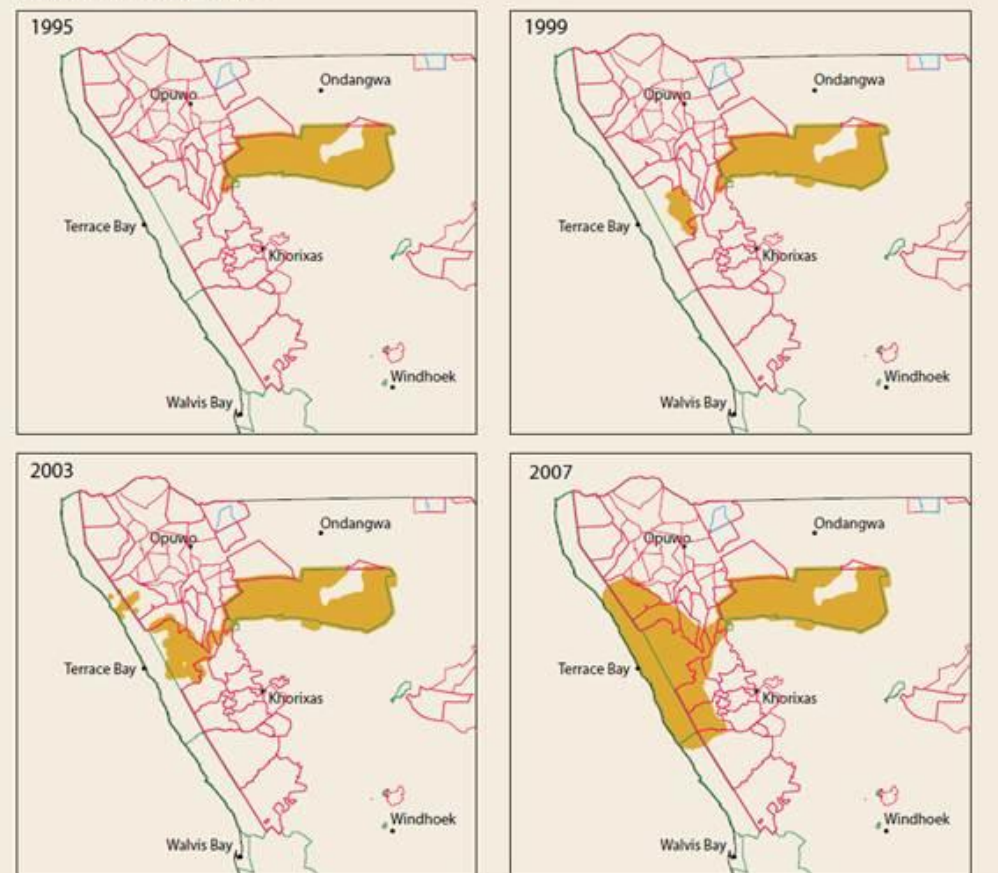


Figure 23. The range expansion of lion populations in the north-west of Namibia between 1995 and 2007^{iv}.





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But need to act now on the poaching problem

Recent escalation of elephant poaching has been a concern

From almost zero to over 120 since 2012

Recent cases of rhino poaching shows the spread westwards

From almost zero to over 10 since 2012 and rising

Poaching may have severe economic implications

Value of tusks over 130,000 US\$ and horns over 50,000 US\$ but more important impacts on:

- **Tourism and trophy hunting**
- **Conservation of the species**
- **Management of Protected Areas, conservancies and game farms**
- **Food security due to loss of benefits**
- **Security of the country**

Needs to be rapidly brought under control!



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Support to Wildlife Law Enforcement

Relationship was established for this measure with the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) , a NGO, with long-standing experience in human rights advocacy, especially with conservancies

Together with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism LAC with NACSO organised a Workshop on enforcing the relevant wildlife protection laws and combating and preventing wildlife crime in Namibia to:

- determine the current status of the problem and recent trends
- assess the investigation and prosecution mechanisms
- build a strategy to effectively address the problems in enforcing wildlife protection laws and preventing or dealing with crime
- improve collaboration among all stakeholders
- build a national, regional and international capacity to deal with such crime, and
- make recommendations as to the required law reform.

Issues discussed at the Multi-Stakeholder Workshop

- Criminal investigation
- Prosecution
- Law reform
- Collaboration among different institutions
- Financing
- Structure of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism
- Strategy
- Capacity building

Possible Ways Forward (1)

- Strengthen MET initiatives regarding
 - ✓ establish and operationalize a National Wildlife Protection and Security Committee to discuss strategic activities, operations and actions addressing wildlife enforcement and compliance to be supported by Task Forces on Wildlife Protection and Security at regional level
- Ad hoc committee “Wildlife Crime Action Team” to deal with:
 - ✓ Legislative reform in the area of penalties, declaration of wildlife crime “hotspots” to receive special attention
 - ✓ International law reform to establish treaties on collaboration and extradition



Possible Ways Forward (2)

- ✓ Investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime through specialized investigators and prosecutors, specialist wildlife crime court, and witness protection programme
- ✓ Community policing through appointing nature conservators at conservancy level
- ✓ Investigation of wildlife crime by improving communication and logistics
- ✓ Applying the Prevention of Organized Crime Act in case of criminal syndicates



Thank you very much