Ecological Management and Monitoring Systems in Namibia

A Namibian partnership between The Namibian Ministry of Environment and the community.

Fidi Alpers

MET Article 95

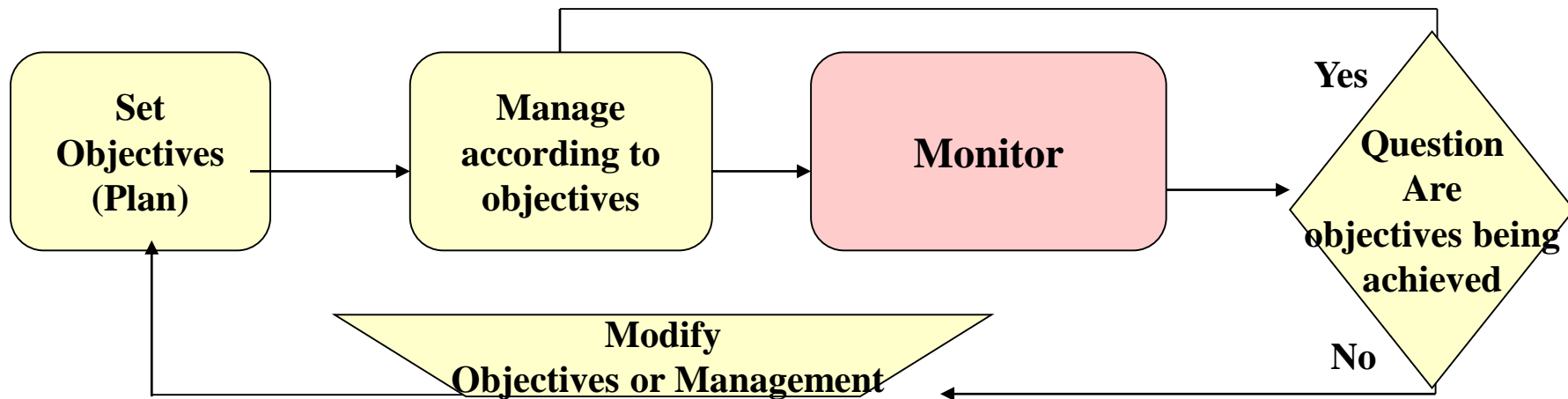➢ **The Ministry notes that Article 95 (1) commit the Government to** **sustainable utilisation**

of Namibia's natural resources for the **benefit** **of all Namibians, and that tourism is one of**

the key forms of sustainable utilisation.

➢ **The Ministry notes that the principle of** **increased involvement** **of local individuals and**

communities in sustainable **utilisation** **of natural resources is enshrined and supported in**

existing Ministry policies.

CBNRM Forestry Policy

1. Forestry policy embraces the principle of **involvement** of local people in sustainable

2. **utilisation** of resources, and aims to "support and encourage

3. participation of **rural communities** in all forestry **conservation** activities.".

With Benefits Comes Responsibility

Communities use Adaptive Management by monitoring THEIR NR themselves

Set Objectives (Plan) → Manage according to objectives → Monitor → Question Are objectives being achieved

Yes

No

Modify Objectives or Management

No Monitoring = No Management = No Benefits!

= No TRUST

Previous Monitoring and management = NO TRUST

How?

- **Scientist designs forms**
- **Game guards fill them in**
- **Scientist collect and analyse data**

Scientist

Conferences & Publications

Game Guards
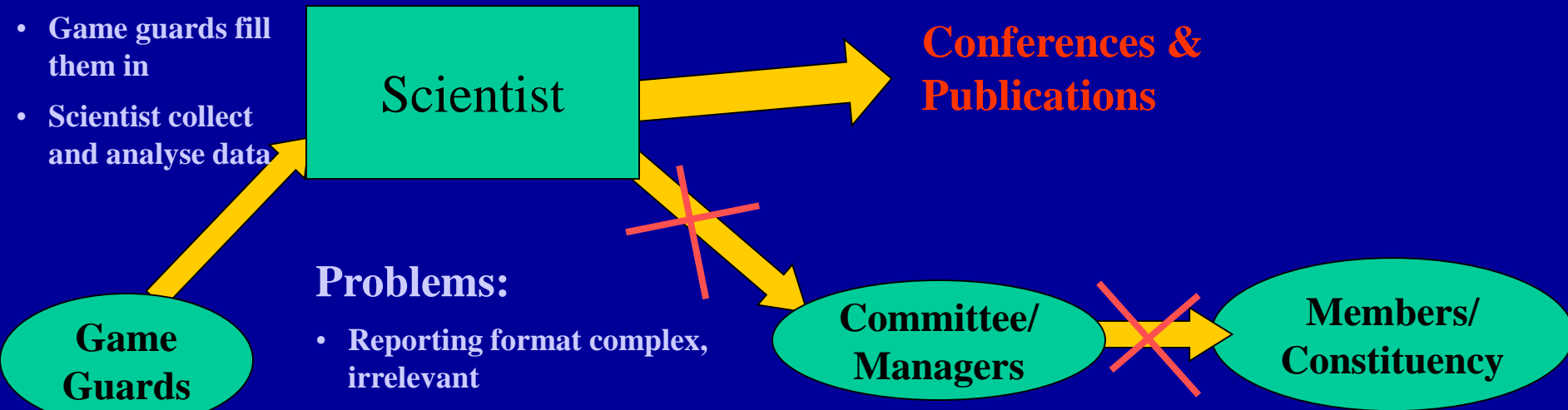
Problems:

- **Reporting format complex, irrelevant**
- **Computer problems**
- **He is a bottleneck**
- **She gets sidetracked**
- **All the knowledge & power**
- **They leave ....**

Committee/ Managers

Members/ Constituency

Consequences

- **Lose interest**
- **Stop collecting**

Consequences:

- **Don't know what is going on**
- **Make bad decisions**
- **Stop managing**
- **System collapses**

"Management is useless"

"Scientists are useless"
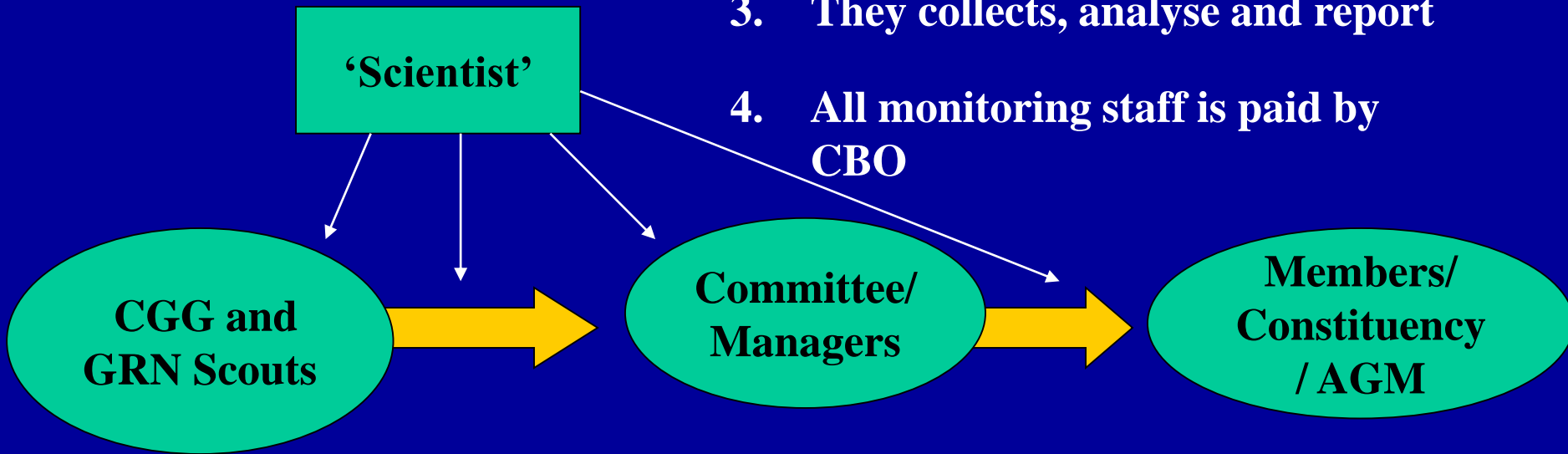
" Game Guards are useless"

Devolved Monitoring = TRUST

The Community (or Park Management):

1. Decides "what/why/who/when"

2. They **own** the data & results

3. They collects, analyse and report

4. All monitoring staff is paid by CBO

'Scientist'

CGG and GRN Scouts

Committee/ Managers

Members/ Constituency / AGM

Scientist are the service providers - suggest 'How'

TEKOA – Training Centre
Teach Each-other Knowledge Of All -
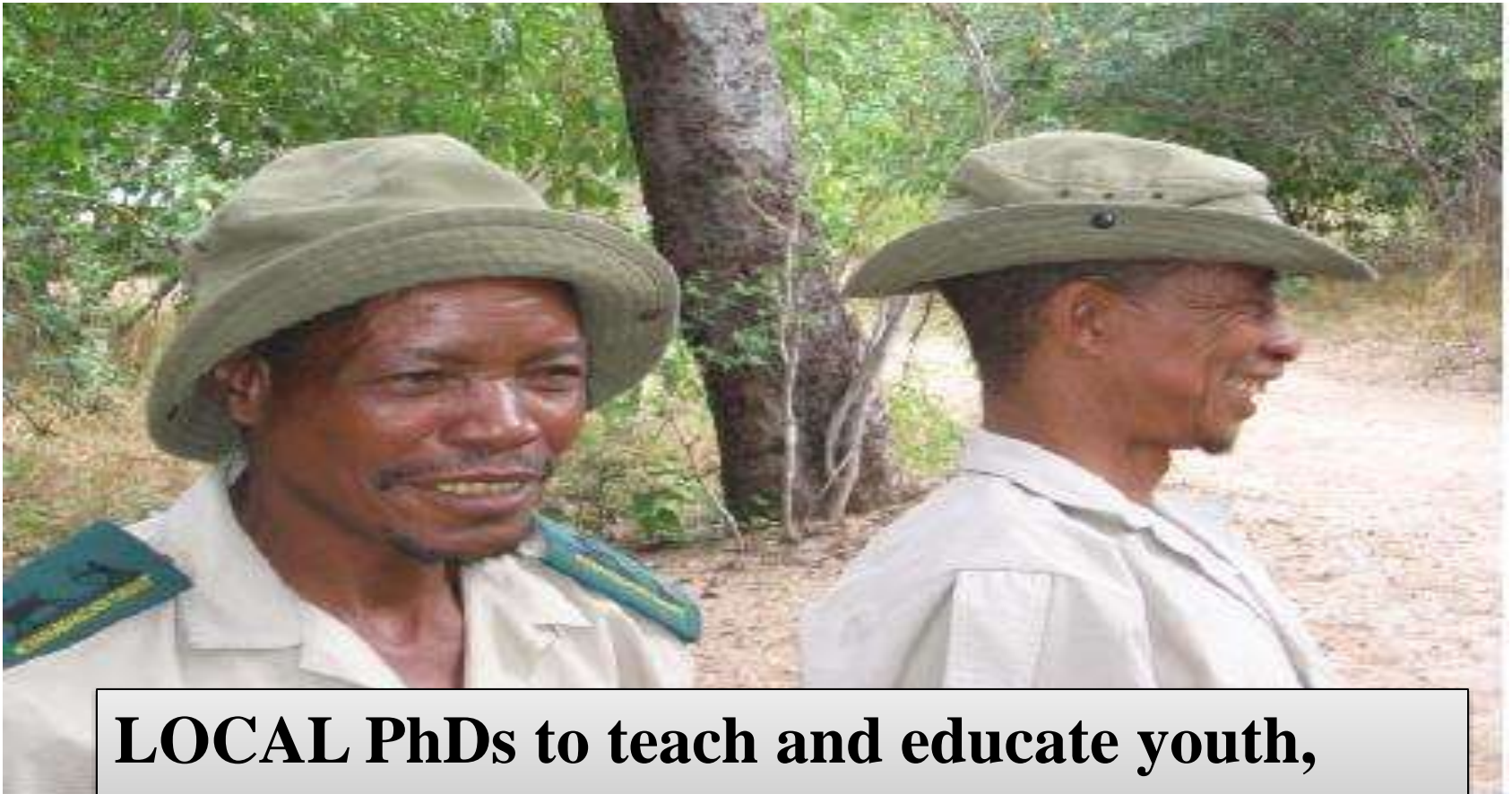
LOCAL PhDs to teach and educate youth, Gov staff and the international community

The Community Decide!
-what, why and when to record- NTFPs

For each type of 'Event' - there is a 'Module' (data capture and reporting tools) e.g. <u>poaching</u>

Data Capture Cards
Stored in the EVENT BOOK – each event type has its own card

The 'Event Book' the tool used by Community Resource Monitors to collect data

Community Natural Resource Monitoring Event-book

YEARS

MONTHS

Modules

1. the users (community) decide what needs to be monitored; and
2. then 'load' different (modules) into the operating framework.

The Framework

Long-term trend analysis and reporting

Monthly analysis and reporting

Data Collection

Community driven monitoring

Poaching

Prob Animal

Predators

Rainfall

Habitat

Poaching & Stock Theft
To control a threat to wildlife & livestock farming
&
gauge general community support for the efforts of the Conservancy

Poaching   *Stock-Theft*

Community Meetings
To provide information to Conservancy Committees
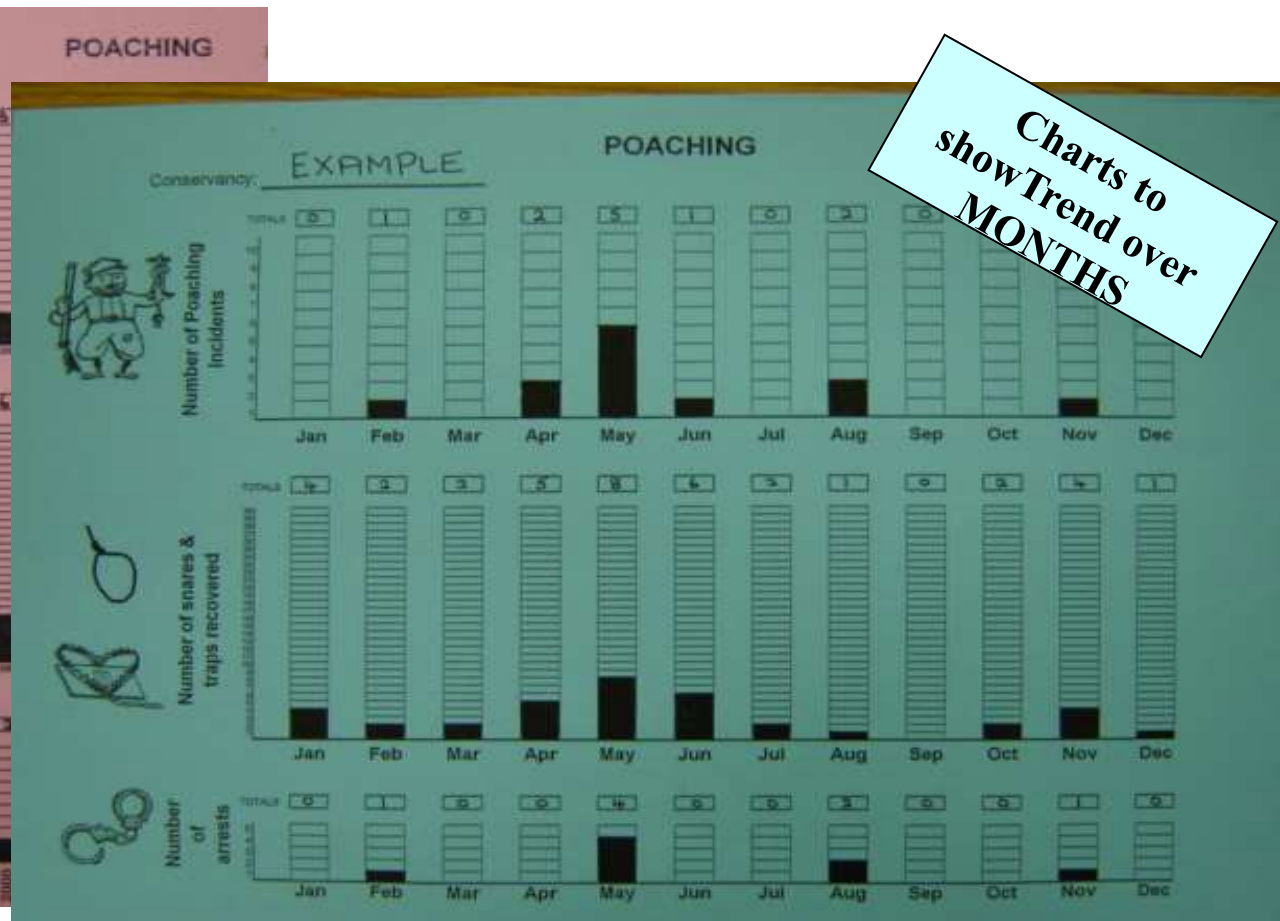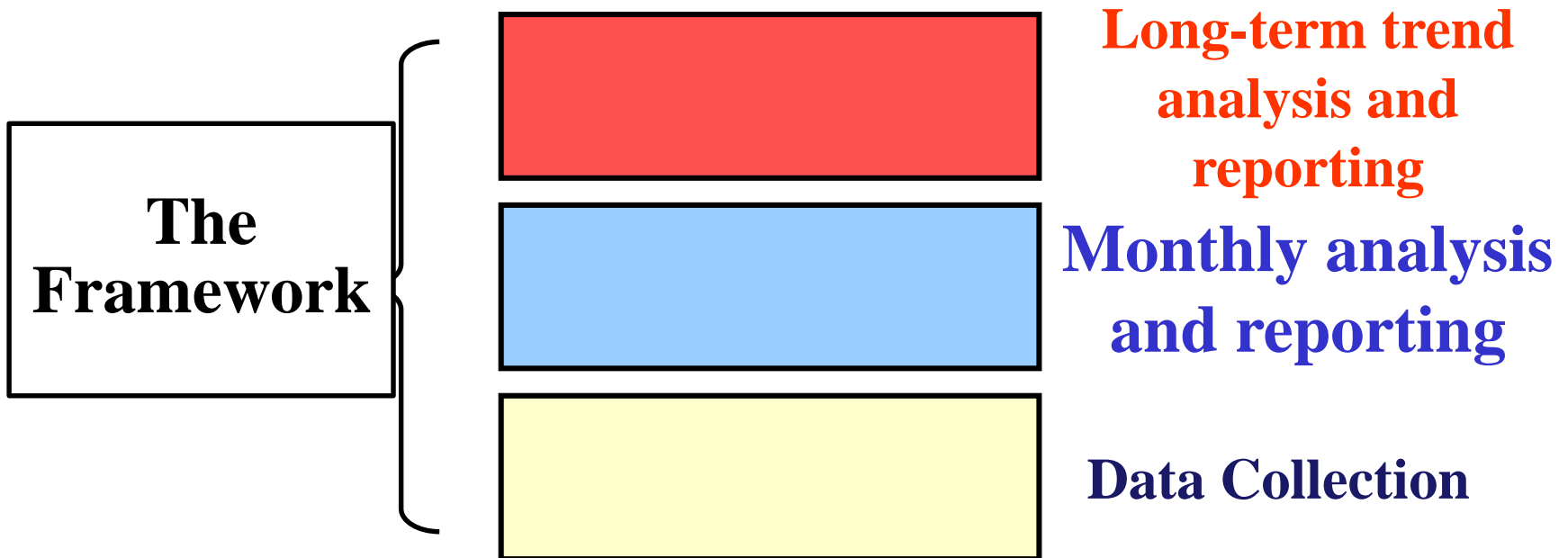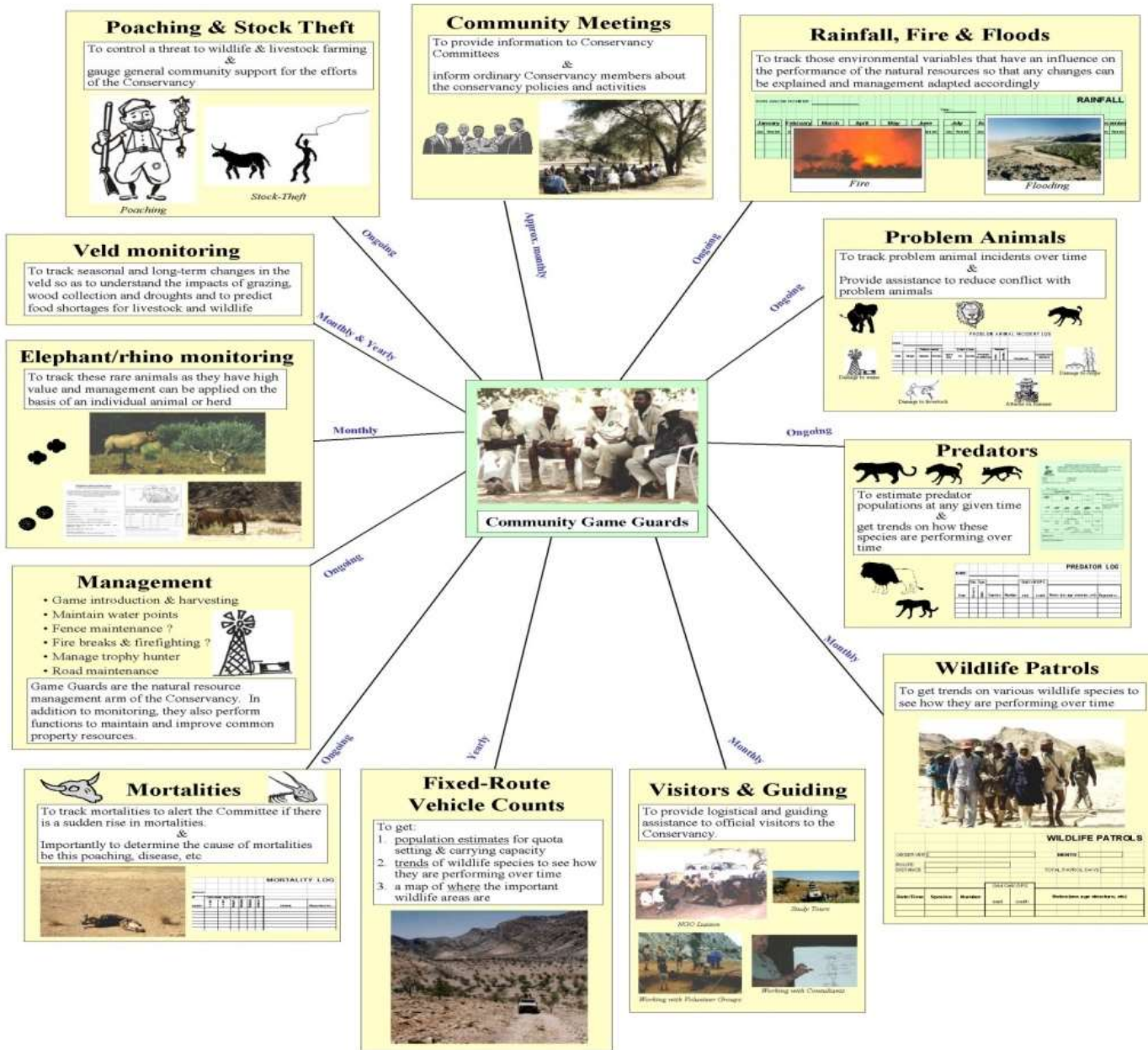&
inform ordinary Conservancy members about the conservancy policies and activities

Rainfall, Fire & Floods
To track those environmental variables that have an influence on the performance of the natural resources so that any changes can be explained and management adapted accordingly

RAINFALL

Fire   *Flooding*

Veld monitoring
To track seasonal and long-term changes in the veld so as to understand the impacts of grazing, wood collection and droughts and to predict food shortages for livestock and wildlife

Elephant/rhino monitoring
To track these rare animals as they have high value and management can be applied on the basis of an individual animal or herd

Problem Animals
To track problem animal incidents over time
&
Provide assistance to reduce conflict with problem animals

Predators
To estimate predator populations at any given time
&
get trends on how these species are performing over time

PREDATOR LOG

Community Game Guards

Management
• Game introduction & harvesting
• Maintain water points
• Fence maintenance ?
• Fire breaks & firefighting ?
• Manage trophy hunter
• Road maintenance
Game Guards are the natural resource management arm of the Conservancy. In addition to monitoring, they also perform functions to maintain and improve common property resources.

Mortalities
To track mortalities to alert the Committee if there is a sudden rise in mortalities.
&
Importantly to determine the cause of mortalities be this poaching, disease, etc

MORTALITY LOG

Fixed-Route Vehicle Counts
To get:
1. population estimates for quota setting & carrying capacity
2. trends of wildlife species to see how they are performing over time
3. a map of where the important wildlife areas are

Visitors & Guiding
To provide logistical and guiding assistance to official visitors to the Conservancy.

NGO Liaison   *Study Tours*

Working with Volunteer Groups   *Working with Consultants*

Wildlife Patrols
To get trends on various wildlife species to see how they are performing over time

WILDLIFE PATROLS

Approx. monthly   *Ongoing*   *Ongoing*   *Ongoing*   *Monthly & Yearly*   *Monthly*   *Ongoing*   *Ongoing*   *Yearly*   *Monthly*   *Monthly*

Wildlife Census Methods

Method / Technology?

1. **Pen and paper**
2. **Feet**
3. **Vehicles/boats**

A Partnership between

– **Local communities**
– **Government**
– **NGOs**
– **Private Sector**

a method that <u>local people</u> can understand and undertake with minimum outside assistance

PROGRESSION

1. Traditional leaders support secured

2. Local and Self appointed community ECO Guards (CGGs and CRMs)

3. Wildlife populations recovered

4. Namibian Government recognised efforts and started to **TRUST** communities

5. Policy and legislation changes

6. Expanded new partnerships Gov and communities

7. Community Conservancies and forests established

8. Continued monitoring = increased wildlife

9. More benefits = more wildlife

10. Pride and recognition = Community driven

After many years of shared effort & cost:

1. Less and less monitoring effort
2. More and more data and information is available
3. True partnerships between
   - Managers & Scientists
   - Government, Communities & NGOs
4. Improved management systems in Conservancies
5. Community OWNERSHIP & PRIDE
6. Management decisions using information not guessing