

# »» Project Information

Implemented by:



## National Parks – Namibia

Protection and sustainable use of National Parks

The protection of ecosystems is of great importance to Namibia, especially as it is one of the richest countries in Africa when it comes to wildlife counts and biodiversity. Currently there are 20 National Parks as well as communal conservancies, community forests, private reserves, freehold conservancies and tourism concessions, covering over 40% of Namibia's total land surface. On behalf of the German Federal Government, KfW supports the partner country in ensuring the fair access and the sustainable management of these nature conservation areas.

### Context

Namibia is a very diverse country, known for its breathtaking landscapes and its exceptionally rich flora and fauna. In order to preserve this rich biodiversity and to create benefits from the use of the natural resources, the Namibian government has put environmental protection and sustainable economic development high on its national agenda. However, lack of efficient park administration as well as nonexistent or inadequate park infrastructure and equipment constitute major obstacles to fully utilise and unfold the environmental and tourism potential in Namibia. Due to high poverty numbers among the population and the lack of substantial development alternatives in the rural areas, the development of the tourism sector represents an important economic resource for the Namibian government.

### Project approach

With the support of the KfW Development Bank, which is funding the project with an amount of EUR 35 million

on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism implements an integrated park management concept in north-east Namibia. The goal of the Namibia National Parks Programme (known in short as "Namparks" Programme), is to efficiently protect the National Parks against use pressure, to preserve them as corridors for migrating wildlife as well as to keep them competitive as a tourist destination and thus also benefiting the local population economically. The Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism has developed through its integrated park management an innovative approach, which involves the close collaboration of park staff with conservancies and neighbouring residents in the

<b>Project Title</b>	Namibia National Parks Programme
<b>Commissioned by</b>	The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Country / Region</b>	Namibia North-east and west region
<b>Lead Executing Agency</b>	Recipient: National Planning Commission Project executing agency: Ministry of Environment and Tourism





**National Park in the north-east of Namibia**  
Source: KfW Office Windhoek

planning, development and management of the parks and protected areas. This cooperation is particularly important in Namibia, because of the relatively small unfenced parks and the widespread presence of wildlife, including elephant, buffalo, hippo and lion, which regularly roam inside the park boundaries as well as outside in the conservancies causing harm to neighbours and their livelihoods.

Through the NamParks Programme, KfW has financially supported the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in its efforts to develop comprehensive management and tourism development plans, as well as systems and tools for staff to implement them. Furthermore, KfW has financed the construction of three park management stations in the north-eastern parks. These stations serve as a model for environmentally-sensitive design and for cost-effective construction. The development of the National Parks in the north-east has been implemented within the context of the regional trans-boundary conservation programme, called the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Area (KAZA), which is also supported via German financial cooperation.

The next phase of the Namibian National Park Programme involves the development of the parks along the Namibian coast: the Tsau-Khaeb / Sperrgebiet National Park, Namib-Naukluft, Dorob- and Skeleton Coast National Park. The activities include again the support to integrated park management, the development of park management infrastructure, the procurement of modern park equipment and the introduction of tourism development plans.

## Impact

The programme helps to conserve a large portion of the nation's rich biodiversity and to develop and maintain animal migration corridors, especially in the north-east. It further provides a platform for sustainable economic use of the parks and the surrounding areas.

Well-managed protected areas attract visitors and lead to increased tourism. Tourism and hunting concessions generate good income for conservancies and create substantial amounts of jobs for community members. This in return provides incentives for communities to protect wildlife and natural resources within their living space. To date more than 30,000 people have benefited from tourism revenues through parks and conservancies that have received financial support through KfW.

In conclusion, the programme has a direct and positive impact on poverty reduction and job creation as well as biodiversity conservation and habitat protection in Namibia.



**Elephants in Bwabwata National Park in Namibia**  
Source: KfW Office Windhoek



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