



Pro-Poor Investment in Biodiversity Conservation

- Some Issues
- Two Successful WWF Cases
- Some Opportunities Ahead

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With substantial inputs from Namibia's LIFE program team and
from South Africa MONDI's Wetlands program team

June 2007



Biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation : a lot of wishful thinking

Many conservation's pro poor claims are either (a) not substantiated by on-the-ground facts; or (b) of marginal relevance in terms of poverty alleviation impact and replicability

(see the debate on parks and people)

Many pro poor development policies are presented as pro-environment, yet (a) their actual impact may go in any direction and (b) their positive impact on the environment in general and on biodiversity in particular would, at best, be minimal.

(see MDG 7 targets 10 and 11)



What is the problem?

On the biodiversity side

- The traditional model of biodiversity conservation --- protected areas -- is intensive in natural resource but not in labor, hence it has little to offer in terms of new jobs and income opportunities.

On the social development side

- Making people better off changes the type of their impact on biodiversity but not necessarily reduces it (e.g. from resources extraction to habitat encroachment)



Some possible ways out

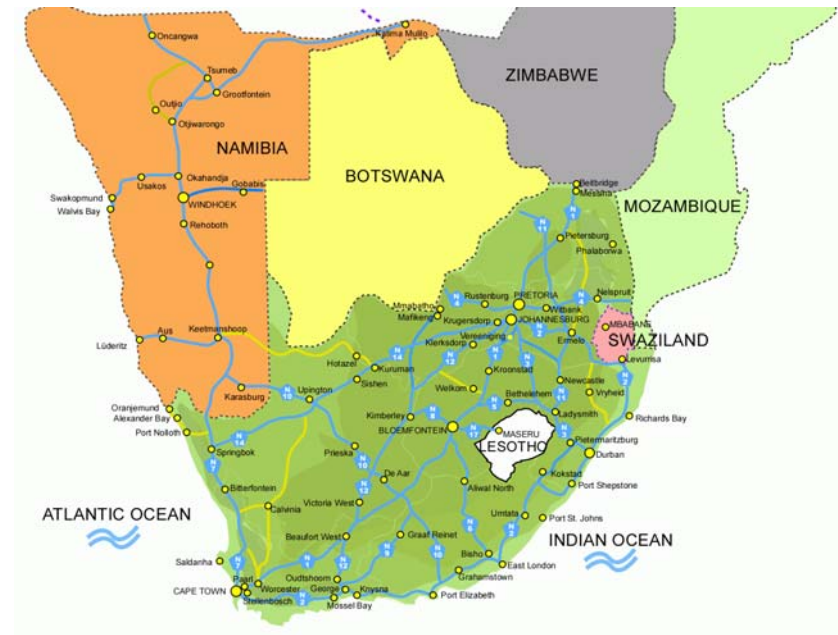
1. In some cases making traditional conservation approaches pro-poor can work: e.g. Namibia's Communal Conservancies
2. In some cases making traditional poverty alleviation programs pro- biodiversity can work: e.g. South Africa's Working for Wetlands program
3. Still, we need new labor-intensive biodiversity conservation models, particularly to mainstream biodiversity into production landscapes, where most of the rural poor live. Green markets and PES may be the answer (or part of it): e.g. WWF work on certification and PES



- Size: 832,680 Km²
- Pop: 2 M
- Pop. Density: 2 per Km²
- Environment: arid and semi arid, forests <10%, agricultural areas <50%. Outstanding biodiversity and mega fauna
- Per capita GNI \$ 2,370 (Atlas) \$ 6,960 (PPP)
- Unemployment: broad 33% narrow 20%
- Population below \$1 a day: 35%

(2005 figures)

Namibia





Namibia's Communal Conservancies program

- **Partners:** Ministry of Environment and Tourism / NACSO/ USAID / GEF / WWF/IRDNC and many more
- **What is it?:** Giving rights over wildlife to rural communities
- **Began:** First conservancy established in 1998
- **External investment:** app. 100 M US\$ through 2005
- **As of end of 2006:**
 - 50 registered conservancies
 - 11.8 Million h. (14% of the country's territory)
 - 230 thousand members (11% of the country's population)

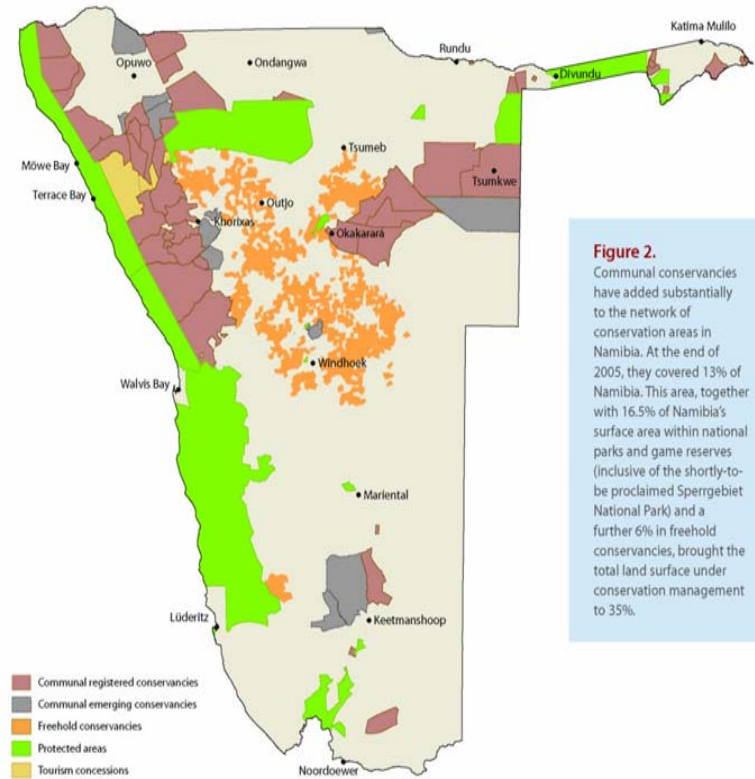


Figure 2.

Communal conservancies have added substantially to the network of conservation areas in Namibia. At the end of 2005, they covered 13% of Namibia. This area, together with 16.5% of Namibia's surface area within national parks and game reserves (inclusive of the shortly-to-be proclaimed Sperrgebiet National Park) and a further 6% in freehold conservancies, brought the total land surface under conservation management to 35%.



Namibia Conservancies' benefits

- **Biodiversity:** substantial increases in wildlife population documented
- **Poverty reduction:** active focus and positive impact documented
- **Sustainability:** In 2005 1/3 of the conservancies covered all their costs
- **Jobs created :** 794 full time; 5,100 part time (in 2006)
- **Income:** 4 M. dollars of revenues to conservancies and 13.3 M. dollars of revenue to all NR enterprises (in 2006)
- **Other benefits:** safety nets; diversification of land use; diversification of sources of livelihood; capacity building and training for SNRM and tourism; empowerment; strengthening of local institutions;



Conservancies' income, 1994 - 2005

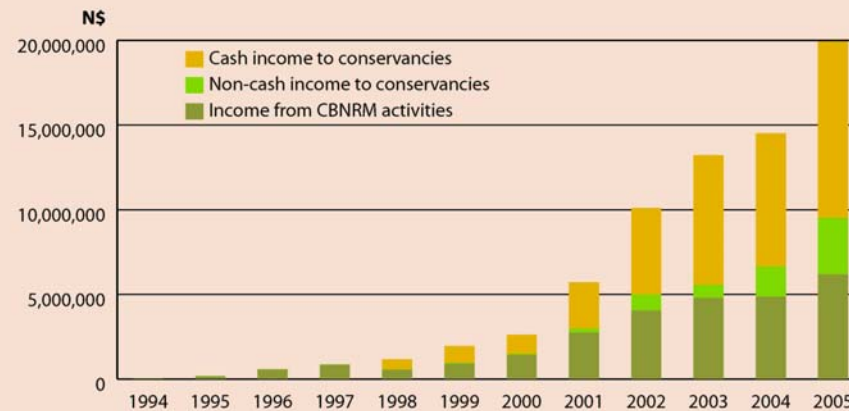


Figure 15. Incomes from CBNRM have risen from nothing in 1994 to almost N\$20 million in 2005. The graph divides income into three categories: cash payments to conservancies, non-cash or in-kind incomes to conservancies, and incomes to CBNRM activities outside conservancies. Information prior to 1998 did not allow for income to be divided into these three categories. The actual values are shown in Namibian \$ in the table below, and cover incomes to both registered and non-registered conservancies.

Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Cash income to conservancies					\$592,467	\$980,724	\$1,138,258	\$2,741,124	\$5,110,734	\$7,692,037	\$7,887,450	\$10,436,142
Non-cash income to conservancies					\$0	\$32,000	\$35,000	\$222,150	\$938,486	\$734,348	\$1,748,480	\$3,310,422
Income to CBNRM activities	\$0	\$160,000	\$568,850	\$860,110	\$559,309	\$921,687	\$1,441,802	\$2,743,461	\$4,054,132	\$4,804,870	\$4,881,537	\$6,197,204
Total	\$0	\$160,000	\$568,850	\$860,110	\$1,151,776	\$1,934,411	\$2,615,060	\$5,706,735	\$10,103,352	\$13,231,255	\$14,517,467	\$19,943,767

Table 5. The total value of income each year to conservancies and other CBNRM activities unrelated to conservancies.



Sources of conservancies' income in 2005

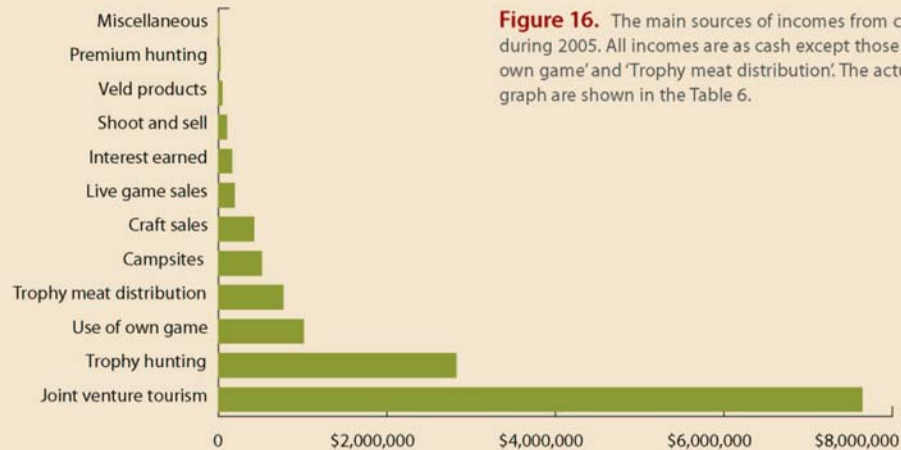


Figure 16. The main sources of incomes from conservancies during 2005. All incomes are as cash except those listed as 'Use of own game' and 'Trophy meat distribution'. The actual values in the graph are shown in the Table 6.

Source of income	Value in N\$	Percentage of all income
Miscellaneous	14,791	0.1%
Premium hunting	25,150	0.2%
Veld products	48,400	0.4%
Shoot and sell	102,668	0.7%
Interest earned	161,807	1.2%
Live game sales	195,600	1.4%
Craft sales	423,223	3.1%
Campsite fees	518,355	3.8%
Trophy meat distribution	774,567	5.6%
Use of own game	1,012,864	7.4%
Trophy hunting	2,825,196	20.6%
Joint venture tourism	7,643,943	55.6%
Total	13,746,564	100%

Table 6. The value of income from different sources in 2005, and the percentages that each source contributed to all income.



Conservancies' main expenditures in 2005

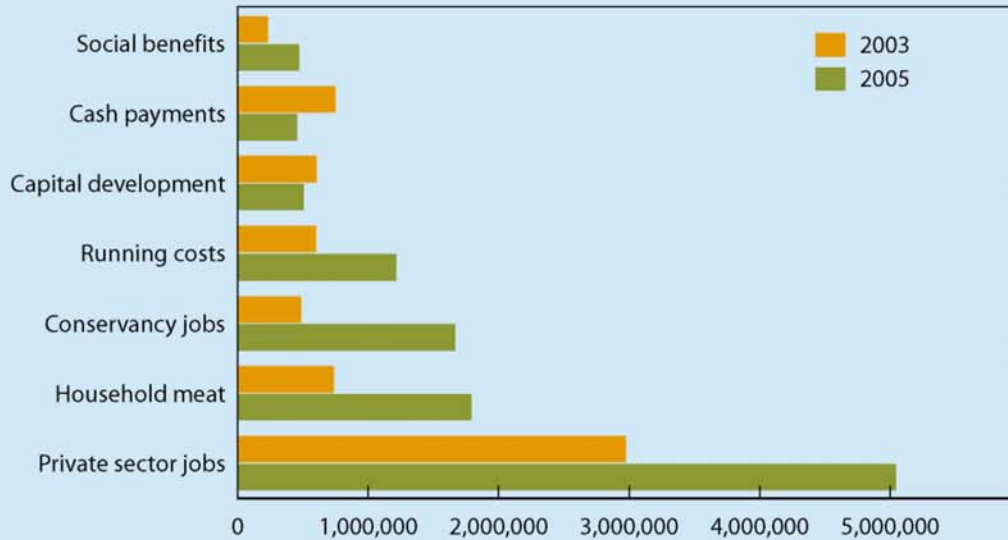


Figure 20. Spending by conservancies has almost doubled since 2003, rising from a total of N\$6,352,886 to N\$11,111,809 in 2005.



Conservancies' overall costs and benefits, 1990 - 2005

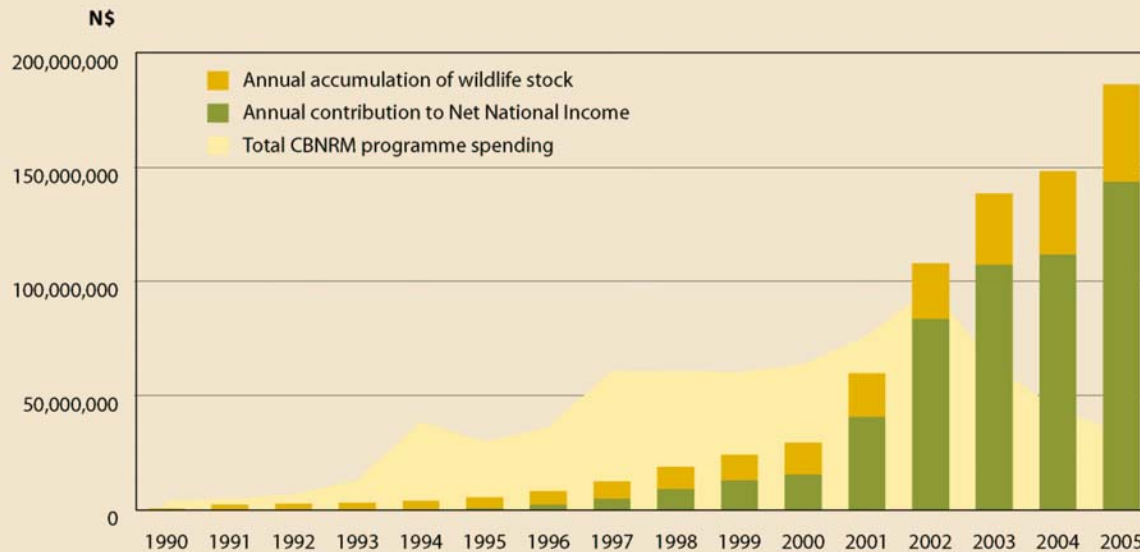


Figure 21. Estimates of economic benefits resulting from the CBNRM programme between 1990 and 2005, shown by the columns of annual values of net national income (NNI) and increasing wildlife stocks in north-west Namibia. The shaded area is the value of investment or development spending each year on CBNRM. All values were adjusted for inflation and changing foreign exchange rates to be equivalent to the value of Namibian dollars (N\$) in 2005.



The limits of the model, in the program team own words

‘So far the program has been successful at generating incomes at the community level but has been less successful at providing income for a large number of households. This situation can improve particularly in those conservancies with abundant wildlife resources and significant tourism attractions, However, conservancies with high human population, low wildlife numbers and few tourism attractions will never be able to generate significant incomes for households. These conservancies can however deliver other important benefits for their members”



Namibia conservancies lessons

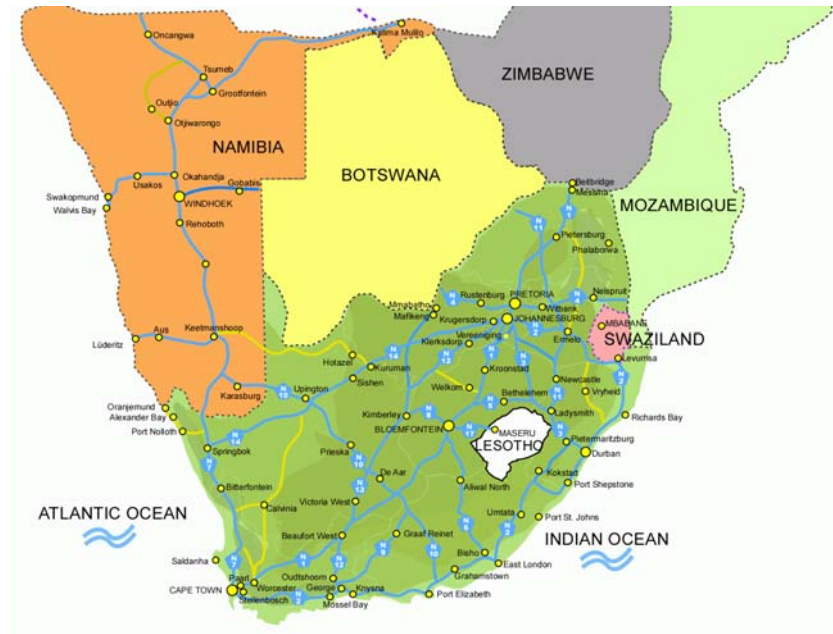
- A great success. Important contribution to biodiversity conservation and in a more modest scale, to poverty alleviation
- Fully integrated into the country's development and poverty alleviation strategies (national target for 2030: 65 conservancies and 100 M dollars of employment and tourism incomes)
- A lot of NR and a low population is critical for the model success.
- Good governance, skilful program design, and significant capacity building challenges.

Hence long term support from donors essential.. and still pretty much needed!



- Size: 1,221,000 Km²
 - Pop: 47 M
 - Pop. Density: 39 per Km²
 - Environment: semi arid, forests <10% agricultural areas >80% Outstanding biodiversity and mega fauna
 - Per capita GNI \$ 4,770 (Atlas) \$ 11,000 (PPP)
 - Unemployment: broad 40%, narrow 27%
 - Population below \$1 a day: 11%
- (2005 figures)

South Africa





South Africa Working for Wetlands program

- **Partners:** S.A. Departments of Water; Environment; and Agriculture, and Mondi Wetlands Project (WESA, MAZDA, MONDI, WWF)
- **What is it?:** Labor intensive wetlands restoration
- **Began:** 2000
- **Investment:** app \$60 M. dollars from 200 through 2007 from the S.A. Poverty alleviation Fund (MONDI budget not included)
- **As of early 2007:**
 - 10,000 h. and 53 wetland restored





Working for Wetlands social benefits

- 2,000 full time jobs
- 30 - 40% of the annual budget spent on laborers' wages
- Focus on the poorest of the poor. Recruits jobless people (salaries purposefully set below the legal minimum)
- Strong investment on training for the job market (minimum 10% of the work time devoted to training)
- Other benefits: Self esteem/confidence boosted; reduced vulnerability through increased food security
- Innovative management approaches to ensure that people deliver (brigades) and do not overstay (time limits)



A TRANSFERABLE MODEL

The model has successfully been used in South Africa for programs on:

- Eradication of invasive alien plants
- Community based natural resource management
- Combating desertification
- Tourism infrastructure development
- Sustainable use of natural resources





South Africa Working for Wetlands lessons

- Important contribution to poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation
- Fully integrated into the country's development and poverty alleviation strategies (PRSP)
- Ecosystem restoration is a clear example of labor intensive pro-poor investment that can deliver biodiversity conservation.
- Still, some one needs to pay for it. It is a short term job, lasting until the restoration is completed or the funds are exhausted.
- Good governance, long term commitment, and skilful project design to ensure that people deliver (brigades) and do not overstay (time limits) are all needed.
- **Great work... the participant NGOs still need donors help!**



Opportunities ahead: demand for sustainable products and ecosystem services

The challenge

- We need models that offer both biodiversity conservation and jobs and income opportunities
- We need a sustained demand (or willingness to pay) for the products and services that such models can deliver.

Two promising answers

- The growing market for sustainable agriculture products: green, organic, fair and certified food and fibers
- The growing demand for ecosystem services.



The growing market for sustainable agriculture products

- In 2005 sales of organic food were \$30 billion and certified forests reached 100 million hectares. With organic and certified markets growing at 10 percent a year; sustainably agriculture markets could be the largest way to mainstream biodiversity conservation in production landscapes.
- So far, not all certified products carry a price premium and when they do only a small fraction of it goes to back to the farmers to pay for their conservation efforts.
- WWF (and many others) are fostering certification and good practice schemes with the goal of making sustainable food and fiber markets pay for better rural conservation and rural livelihoods.



Can we make the demand for ES Pro-Poor?

OPPORTUNITIES

- The world needs a new urban-rural compact
- The map of rural poverty overlaps with the map of rural biodiversity
- In many cases the poor are actually the de facto stewards of the environment
- In many cases nature is the poor's main asset
- Lots of job on ES restoration

OBSTACLES

- Fears that the poor will lose more as buyers than they may gain as sellers
- The poor may lack the property rights, know-how and capital to become successful ES providers
- High transaction costs
- Non-supportive regulations



The End Thanks

For more information on:

- ❖ **Namibia LIFE program:** www.panda.org
- ❖ **South Africa Working for Wetlands program:** www.wetlands.org.za
- ❖ **WWF work on ES and PES:** www.panda.org/mpo