



IUCN
WORLD PARKS
CONGRESS
SYDNEY 2014

*Parks, people, planet:
inspiring solutions*

The NamibRand Nature Reserve, a model for privately protected areas

**Nils Odendaal: NamibRand Nature Reserve,
nils@namibrand.org**

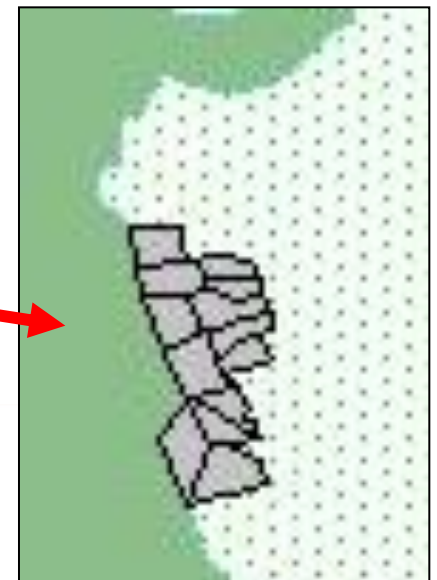
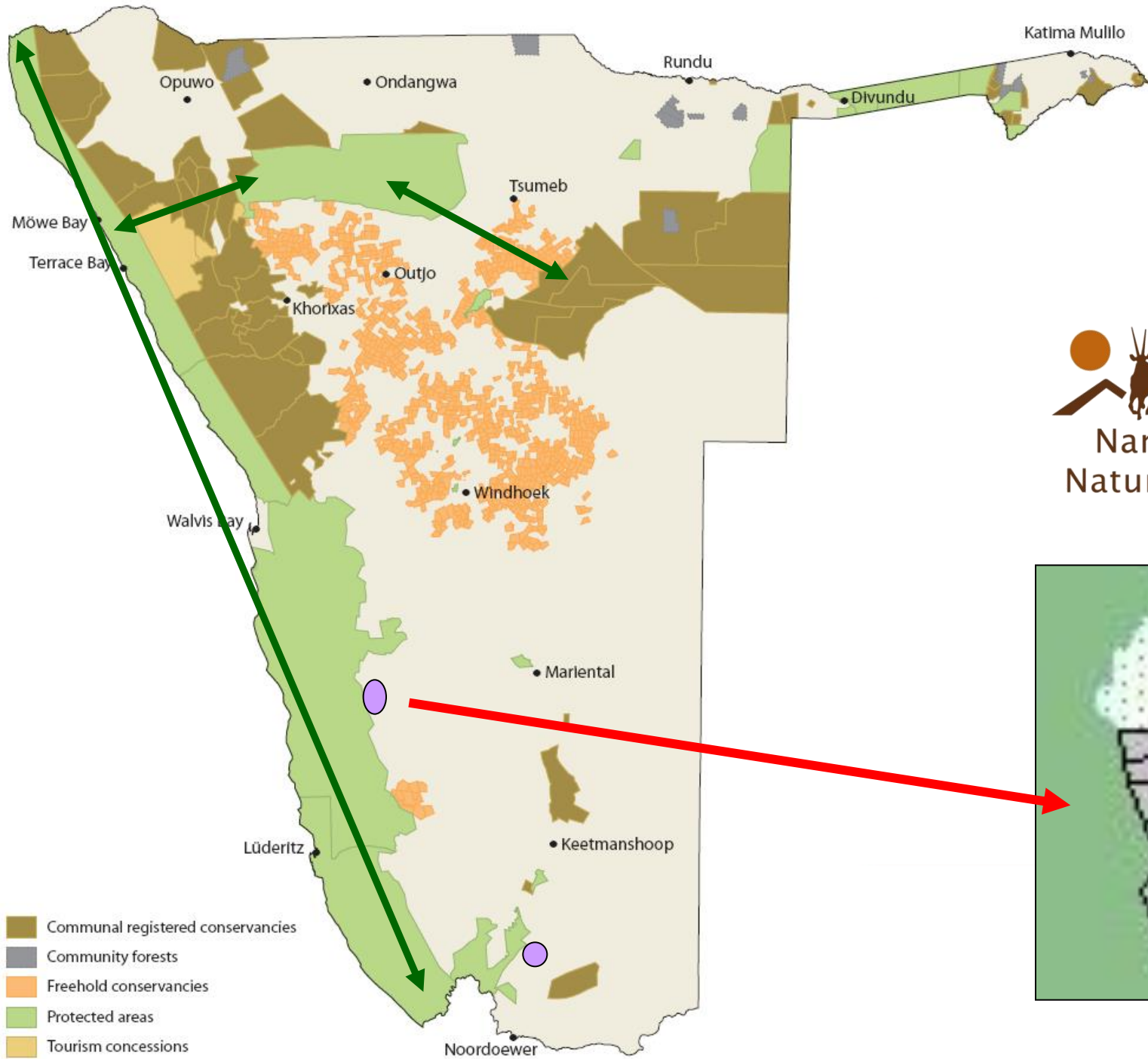


BIOPAMA



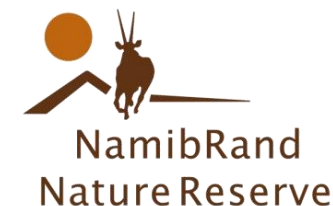
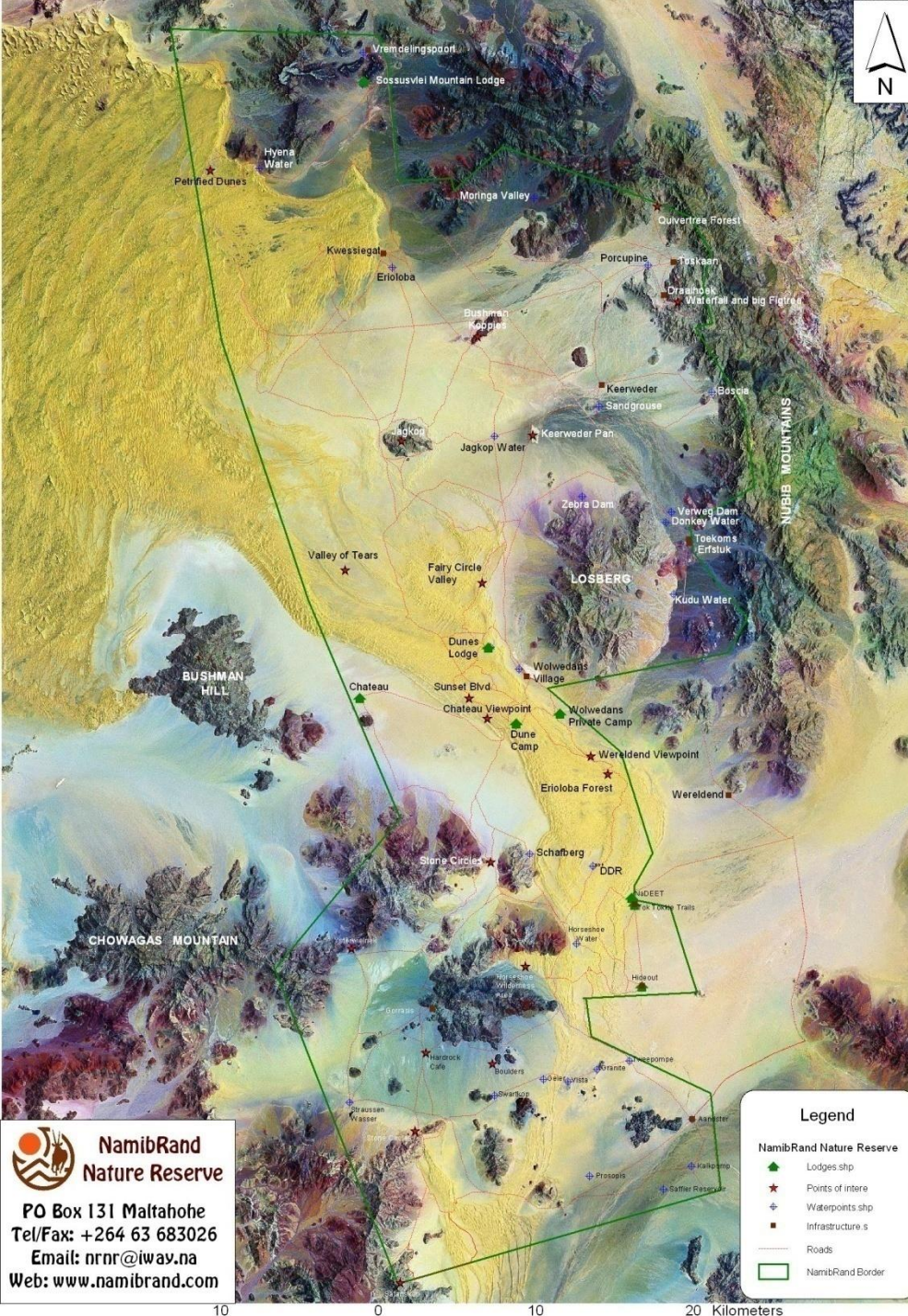


NamibRand Nature Reserve



Overview

- NamibRand is one of the largest private nature reserves in Southern Africa – 202,200 ha (499,647 ac, 780 sq mi)
- Section 21 not-for-profit company
- Made up of 16 former livestock farms
- Dream to extend desert frontiers by integrating livestock farms into a wildlife sanctuary
- Shares 100 km (62 mi) border with the Namib-Naukluft Park
- All facets of the Namib Desert are represented on the Reserve



The Reserve & Landowners



- There are 7 different landowners, both individuals and companies
- Voluntary association not for gain – landowners have set aside their land for conservation
- Landowners retain their title deed, but give up individual management
- Landowners do not benefit financially from membership in the Reserve
- Some landowners benefit through the rental of their properties or through interest in tourism enterprises



Ecology

- Four distinct habitats are found on the Reserve. These are:
 - dunes and sandy plains,
 - inselbergs and mountains,
 - gravel plains, and
 - sand and gravel plains interface
- Each habitat has its own dominant vegetation and associated fauna



Species

- The predominant large mammals are oryx and springbok
- Other large mammals include: kudu, Hartman's and Burchell's zebra, giraffe, klipspringer, steenbok, red hartebeest and baboon
- Predators include: leopard, cheetah, spotted and brown hyena, black-backed jackal, aardwolf, bat-eared fox, Cape fox, African wildcat, caracal and genet
- Over 165 bird species have been identified
- Re-introduced species:
 - Giraffe
 - Cheetah
 - Leopard
- Work is still in progress on the inventory of rodents, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and plants



Aims of the Reserve

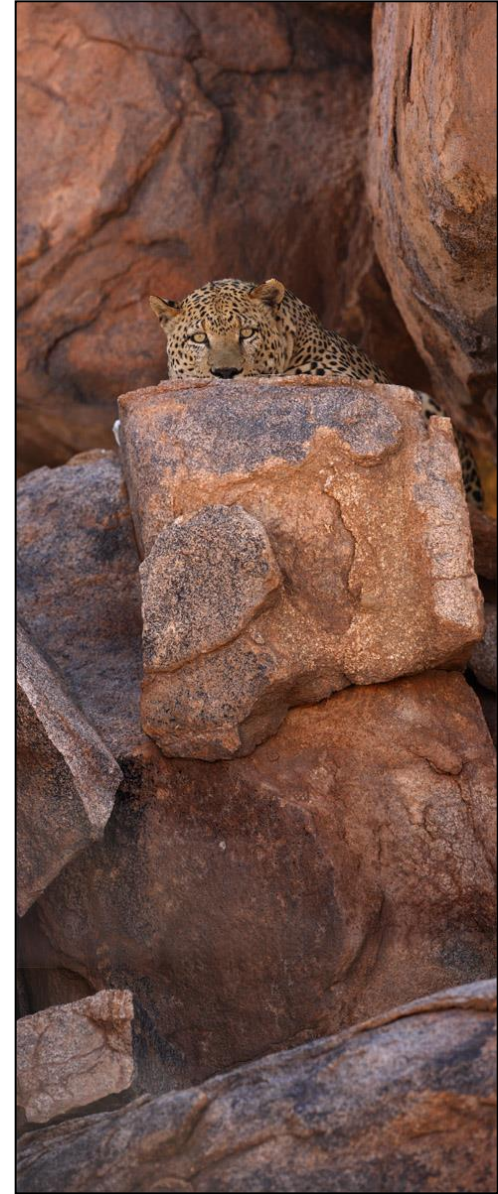


- **Conservation**
 - For the benefit of present and future generations
 - To protect the sensitive and fragile environment and its rich biodiversity
- **Create a nature reserve**
 - Healthy and well functioning ecosystem
 - Sanctuary for flora and fauna
 - Facilitate seasonal migratory routes in partnership with neighbours (National Parks, etc.)
- **Promote sustainable utilization**
 - Ecologically sustainable and high-quality tourism products
- **Achieve a commercially viable operation**
 - Ensure continuance and financial independence

Resource Management

Managed holistically by appointed conservation staff in accordance with:

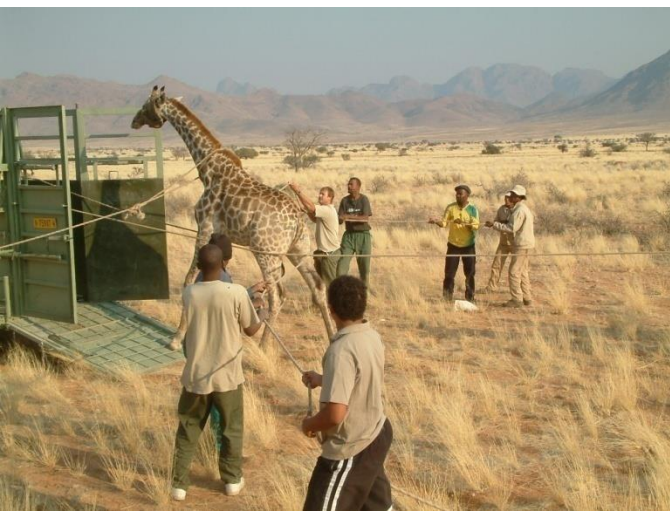
- “Vade Mecum”
- Environmental Management Plan
- Tourism and Economic Development Plan
- Zonation Plan
- EIA checklist



Resource Management



- Minimal interference policy with constant monitoring
- Monitoring system includes population census methods, such as annual game count.
- Maintenance and improvement of infrastructure, focusing on water provision
- Member and contributor to Southern African Avi-Faunal Atlas project and Large Carnivore Atlas of Namibia
- Outreach efforts focus on predator-livestock management on neighbouring commercial farms



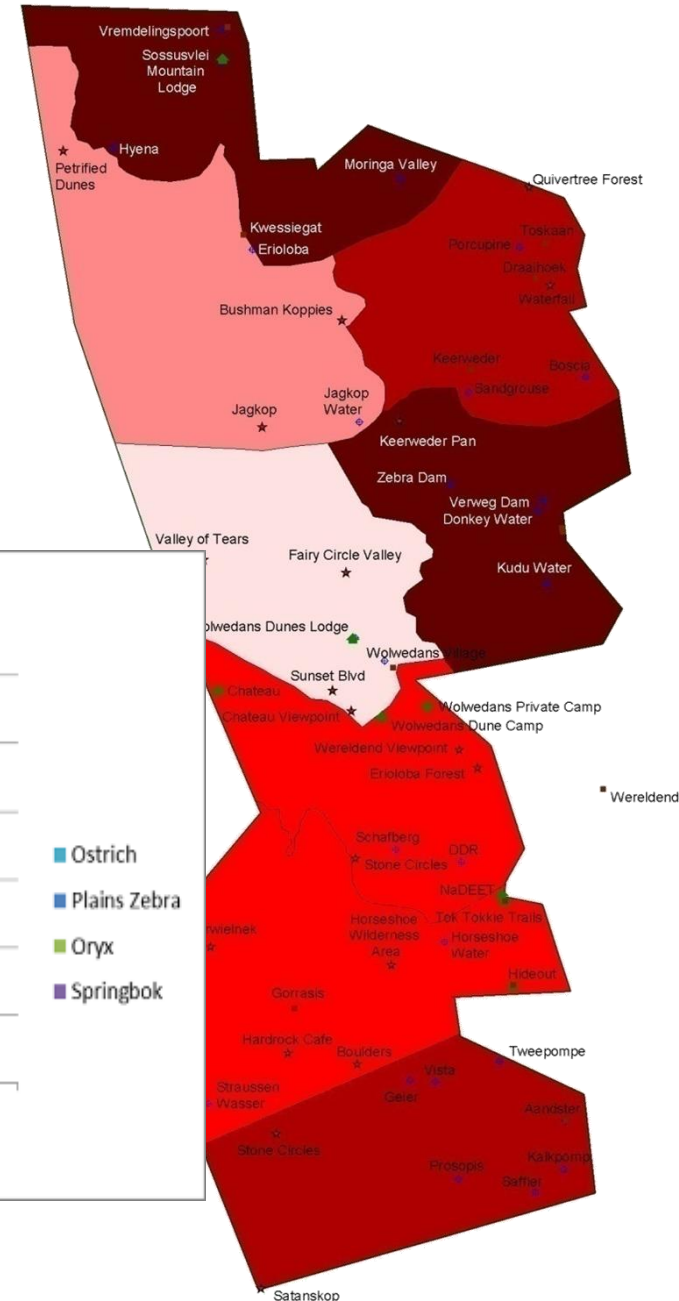
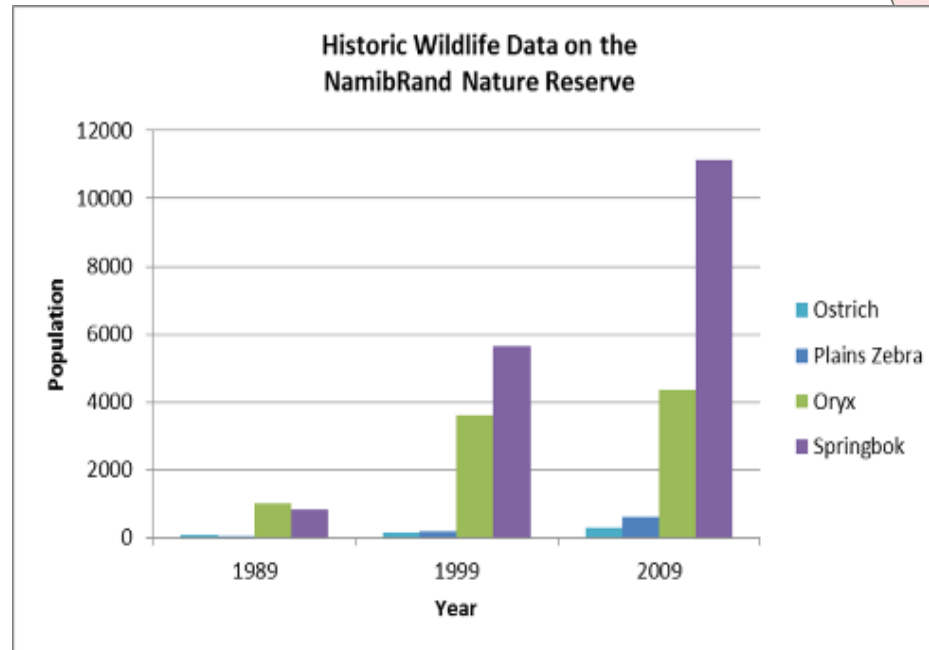
Resource Management

Vehicle-based wildlife survey (2004)

- Provide population estimates
- Establish wildlife distribution patterns
- Monitor population change

2013 survey:

- 10,000 Oryx
- 6,000 Springbok



Rehabilitation



16 over-utilised commercial farms have been rehabilitated into one contiguous conservation area. This was achieved by:

- Removal of ~1,500 km (940 mi) of internal and border farm fences
- Track rehabilitation by closing and allowing tracks to grow over
- Removal of unused structures – old buildings, water reservoirs, water pipeline, windmills and many livestock enclosures
- Removal of refuse such as scrap metal, roof sheeting, wire, household litter and motor vehicle wrecks
- Removal of invasive alien vegetation

Research



- Provide support and guidance for local and international researchers
- Establishment of research centre at Toekoms
- Prioritisation of support for research focussing on management issues
- Partnerships with research institutions such as Gobabeb Training and Research Centre (Desert Research Foundation of Namibia and MET)
- In-service research and management training for the Polytechnic of Namibia
- Planned development of interpretative centre

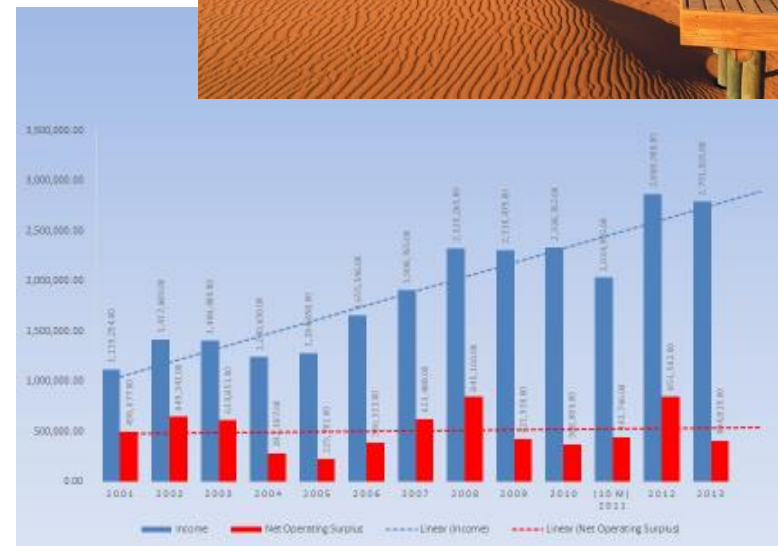
Sustainable Utilisation

- High quality, low impact tourism including accommodation, photographic safaris, walking trails and hot air ballooning
- Environmental education and sustainable living centre (NaDEET)
- Capture and sale of live game, as part of management requirements
- Minimal hunting for own use



Long-term Sustainability

- Funds are raised from **low-impact, high quality tourism**.
- Five tourism concessions have been awarded to independent safari operators on the Reserve
- Park entrance fees are collected from visitors and all conservation and resource management activities are funded from these **park fees**
- Finances are audited by independent auditors on an annual basis
- The Reserve has been **financially self-sustainable** for 12 years.



Long-term Sustainability



- Joint / Cooperative management for larger conservation landscape
- Pro-Namib Conservancy
- Namibia Protected Landscape Conservation Areas Initiative (NAM-PLACE)
- Benefits include larger landscape for wildlife migration and population expansion

- The NamibRand Nature Reserve is Africa's first International Dark Sky Reserve





NamibRand Nature Reserve

PO Box 40707 Windhoek, Namibia

36 Bismarck Street Windhoek, Namibia

Tel: +264 61 224882 Fax: +264 61 225811

Email: nils@namibrand.org Website: www.namibrand.org

