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Community-based natural resource management in Namibia: Growing economies & growing communities

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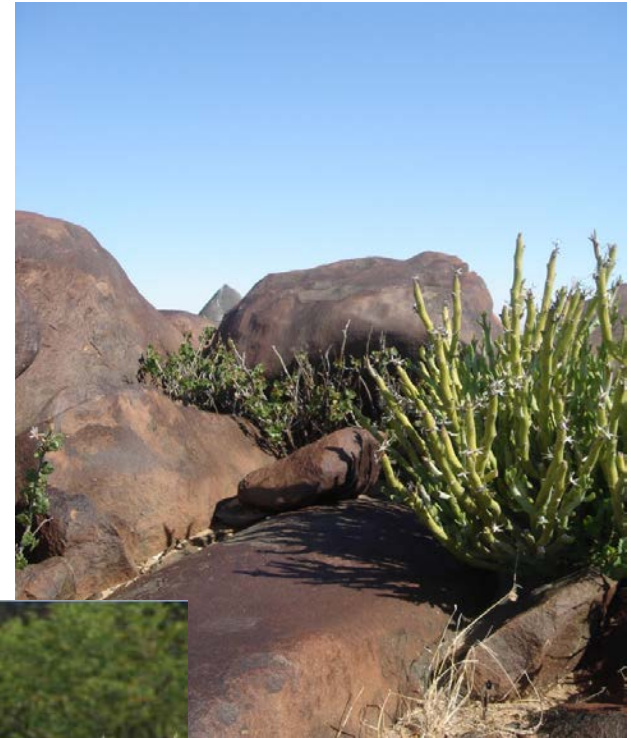
**Property Rights and Resource Governance
Issues and Best Practices**

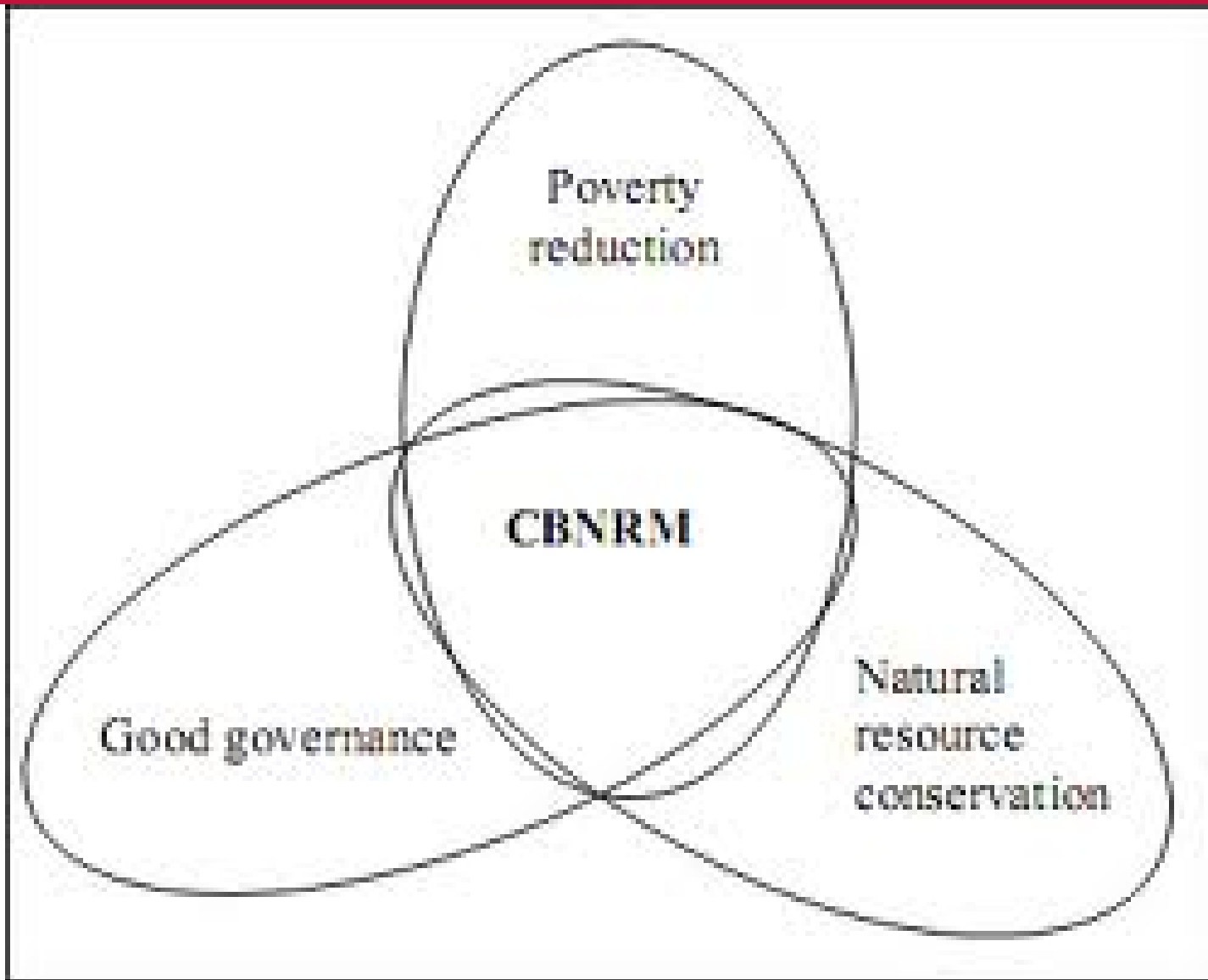
October 2011

Namibia



Sand dunes in Swakopmund, Namibia
Photograph by Gary Horrocks





Property rights to resources

- Before, wildlife was government-owned, essentially open-access resource
- Devolving takes a government “stick” and gives it to locals
- Thickens bundle held by locals
- Thicker bundles shifts incentives to conserve
- Encourages entrepreneurship

Goals for CBNRM in Namibia:

1. Conserve natural resources/wildlife
2. Promote economic development
3. Build local governance institutions
4. Empower via ownership & knowledge



Background to CBNRM in Namibia

- White farmers gains rights to manage wildlife in 1970s
- Community game guards in 1980s
- Support from traditional authorities
- Legal environment changes through legislative amendment in 1996
- Rights to manage & benefit from wildlife devolved to local communities
- Generally strong institutional environment

Institutional changes

- Shift away from poaching in 1980s
 - NGO provides incentives to shift
 - Traditional authorities support change
- Independence in 1990
- Strong Ministerial support
- Legislative amendment of 1975 Nature Conservation Ordinance enacted in 1996

Drivers of institutional change

- Internal support within Ministry of Environment & Tourism
- Local support from communities, esp. traditional leaders
- External support from local NGOs – NWT & IRDNC
- External support/funding from WWF/USAID's LIFE project, EU & UNDP

Nature Conservation Amendment Act of 1996

- Specifies conditions for conservancy formation and creates new rights
 - Defined border; defined membership; management committee; constitution; provisions for equitable distribution of benefits
 - Own-use rights, capture & sell, cull, manage, trophy hunting and non-consumptive use rights (tourism)

Management committees:

Local definition/local control

- Create & maintain membership lists
- Draft constitution
- Create game management plans
- Create dispute resolution strategies/mechanisms
- Hold annual meetings
- = local democracy/micro-level rule of law?

Women make up 37% of conservancy committees (up from 30% in 2003)



Source: IRDNC Asst. Director John Kasaona

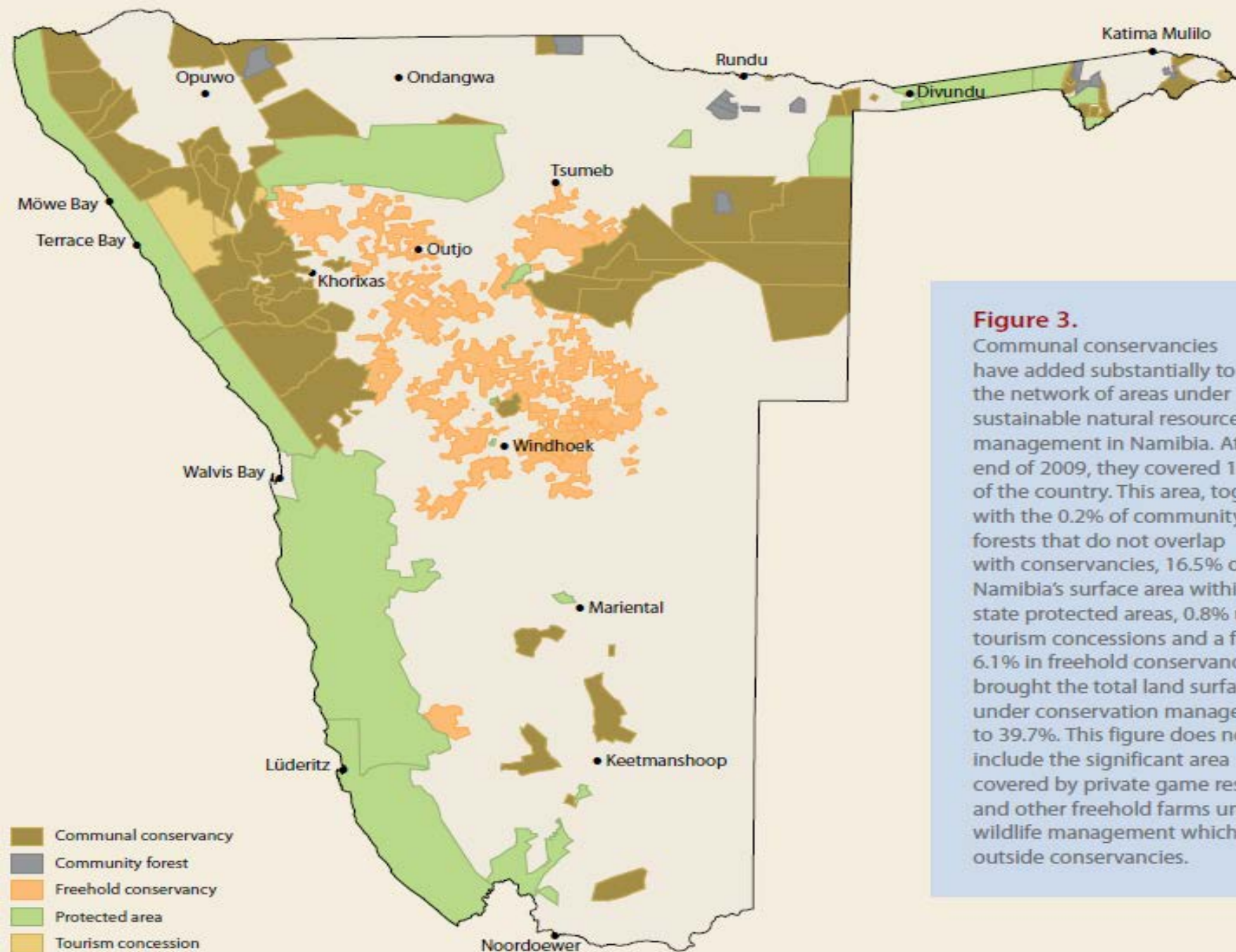
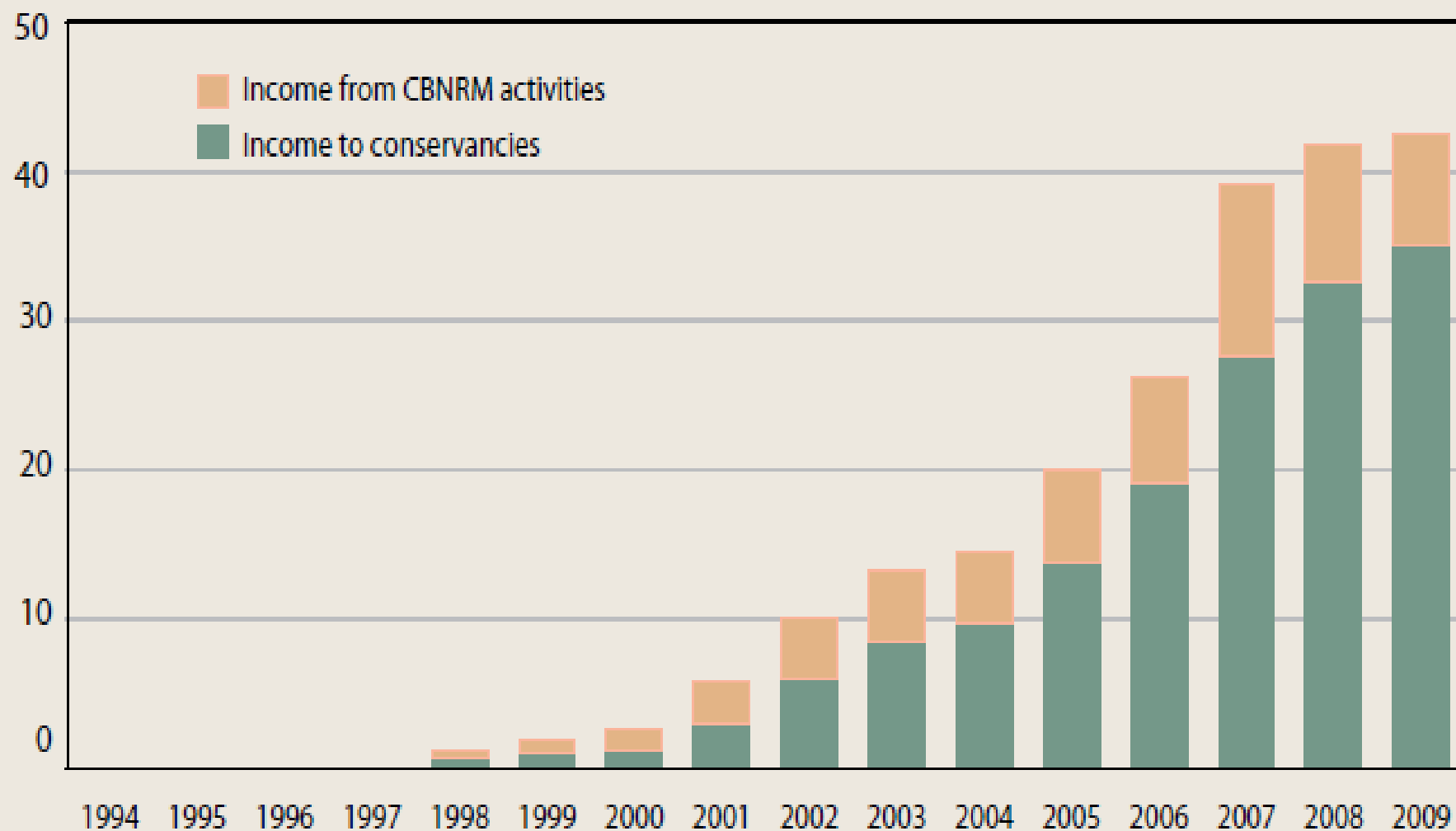


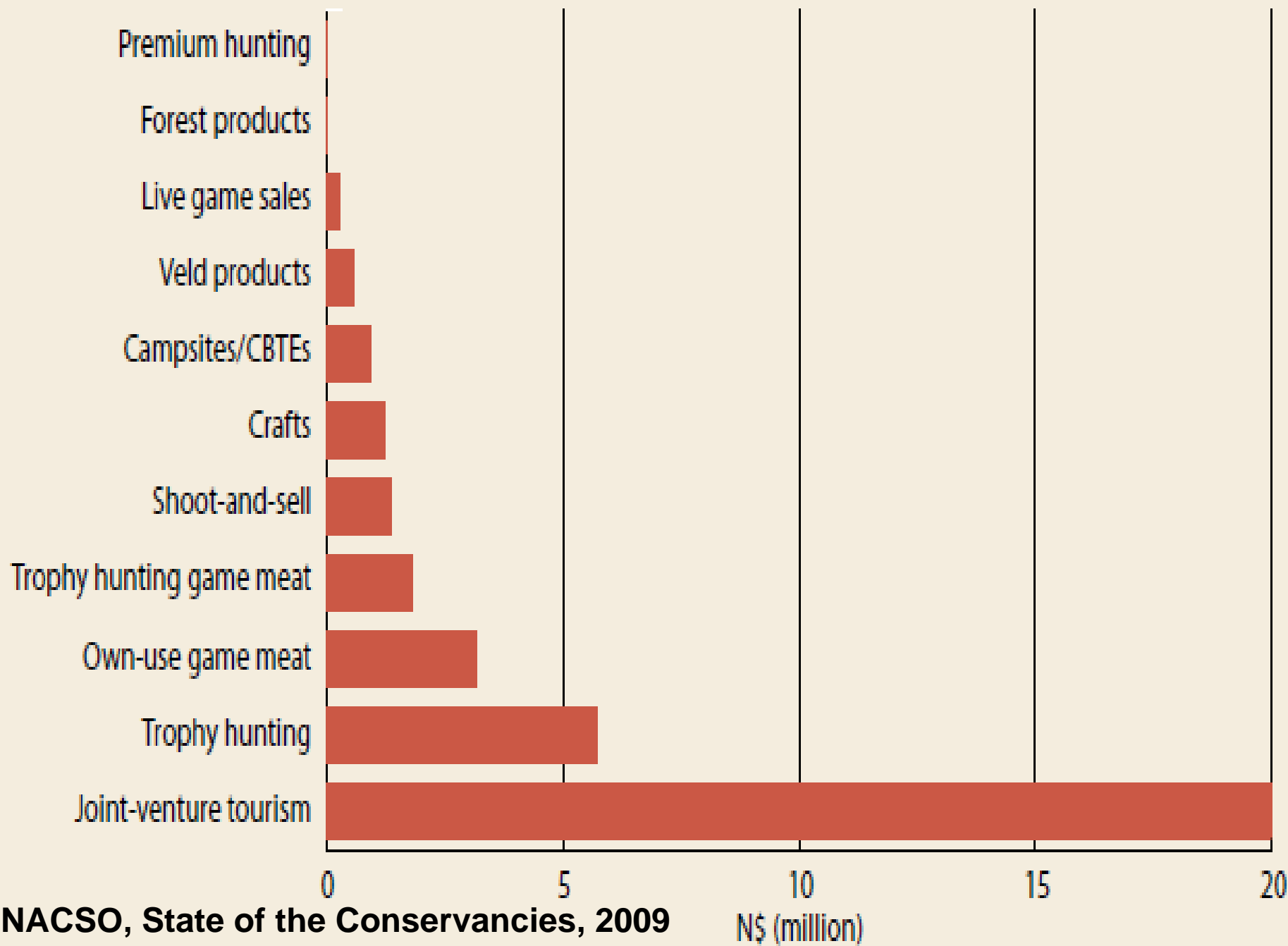
Figure 3.

Communal conservancies have added substantially to the network of areas under sustainable natural resource management in Namibia. At the end of 2009, they covered 16.1% of the country. This area, together with the 0.2% of community forests that do not overlap with conservancies, 16.5% of Namibia's surface area within state protected areas, 0.8% under tourism concessions and a further 6.1% in freehold conservancies, brought the total land surface under conservation management to 39.7%. This figure does not include the significant area covered by private game reserves and other freehold farms under wildlife management which fall outside conservancies.

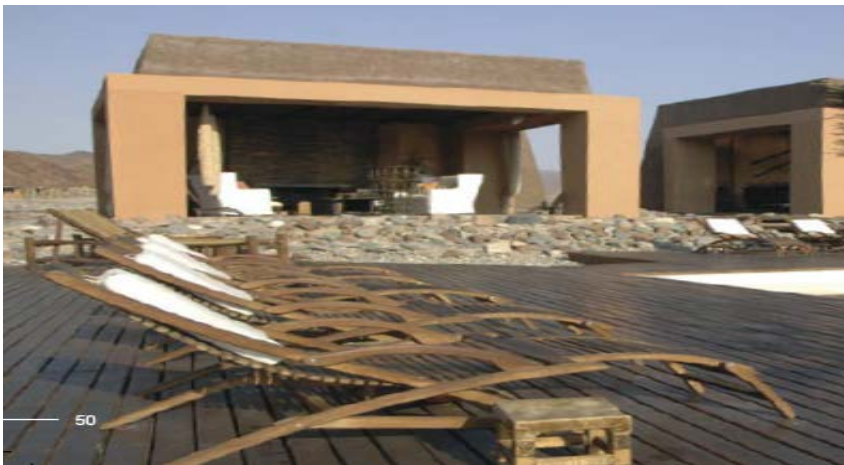
Figure 1. Incomes from the overall CBNRM programme grew from nothing in 1994 to about N\$ 42.48 million in 2009. The incomes are shown in two categories: incomes to conservancies and incomes from CBNRM activities outside conservancies.

N\$ (million)





Lodges create local partnerships



Jobs created through CBNRM activities



In 2006 :

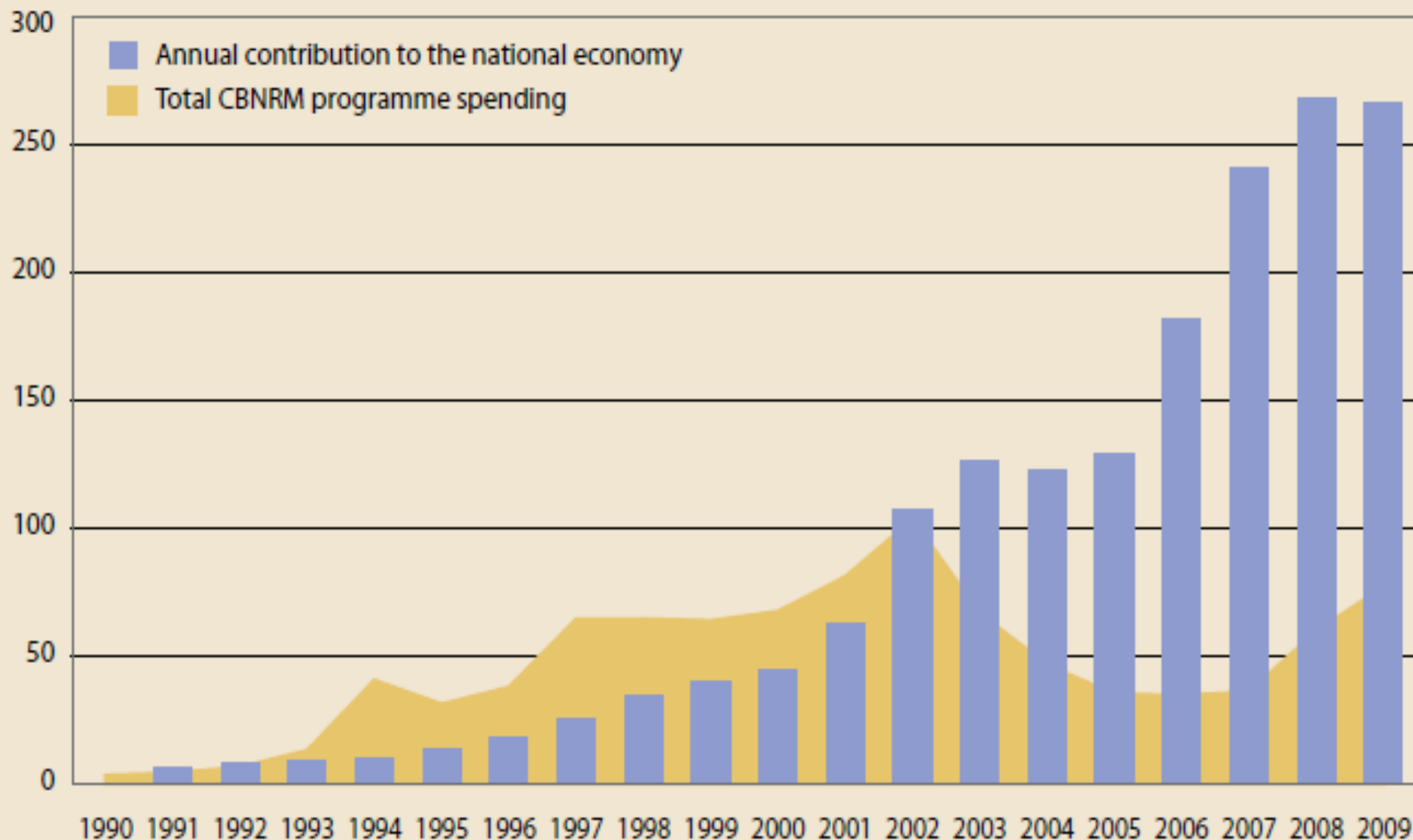
**742 full-time jobs
5153 part-time jobs**

Source: IRDNC Asst. Director John Kasaona

Figure 11.

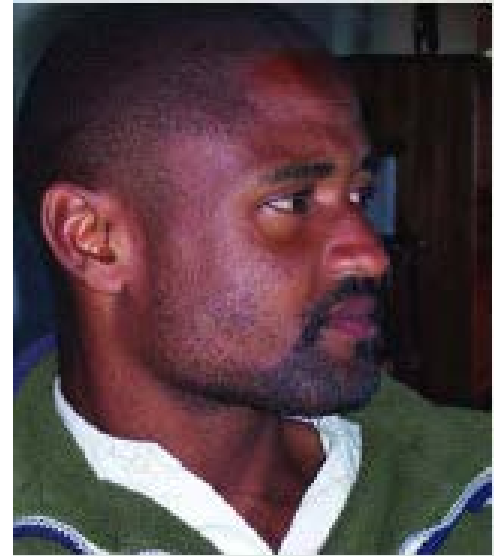
Estimates of economic investment costs and economic benefits in term of national income over 19 years of CBNRM programme implementation.

N\$ (millions)



Human/social capital improving

- Learning/skills
 - Job training (service)
 - Training in wildlife mgmt (event books)
 - Business management
 - Leadership skills
- Local governance
- Households stay together
- Communities seem stronger



Crosley started as a waiter, became a guide and is training to be a manager at Grootberg Lodge

Table 8. Data on selected species from the wetlands and floodplains aerial censuses conducted in Caprivi in 2004, 2007 and 2009.^{iv}

Species	2004	2007	2009
Buffalo	3,262	5,951	9,633
Elephant	860	3,062	3,450
Hippopotamus	1,387	1,269	1,291
Impala	742	1,361	1,457
Kudu	98	234	171
Lechwe	738	767	777
Reedbuck	76	162	105
Sitatunga	2	7	19
Waterbuck	60	30	130
Wildebeest	6	35	64
Zebra	1,084	1,653	1,689
Lion	4	10	24
Wattled Crane	8	24	41

From another region

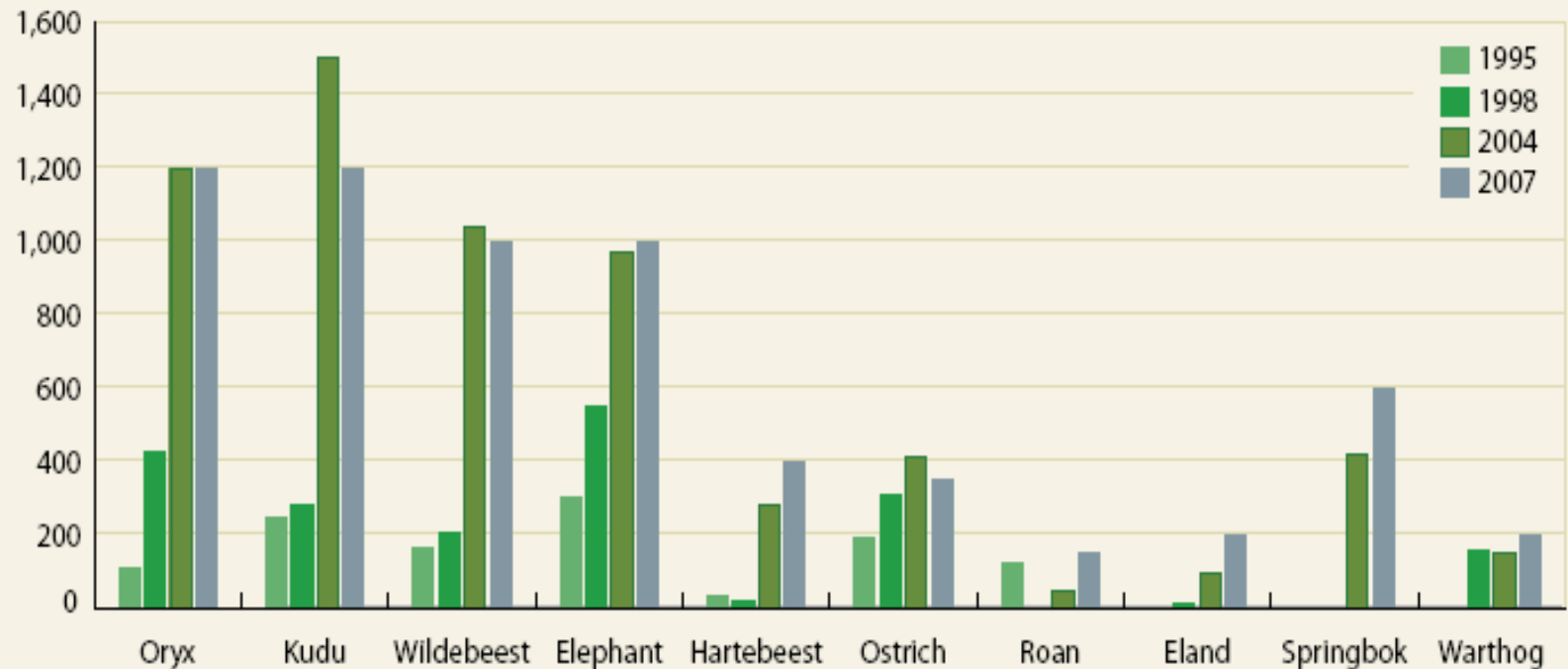
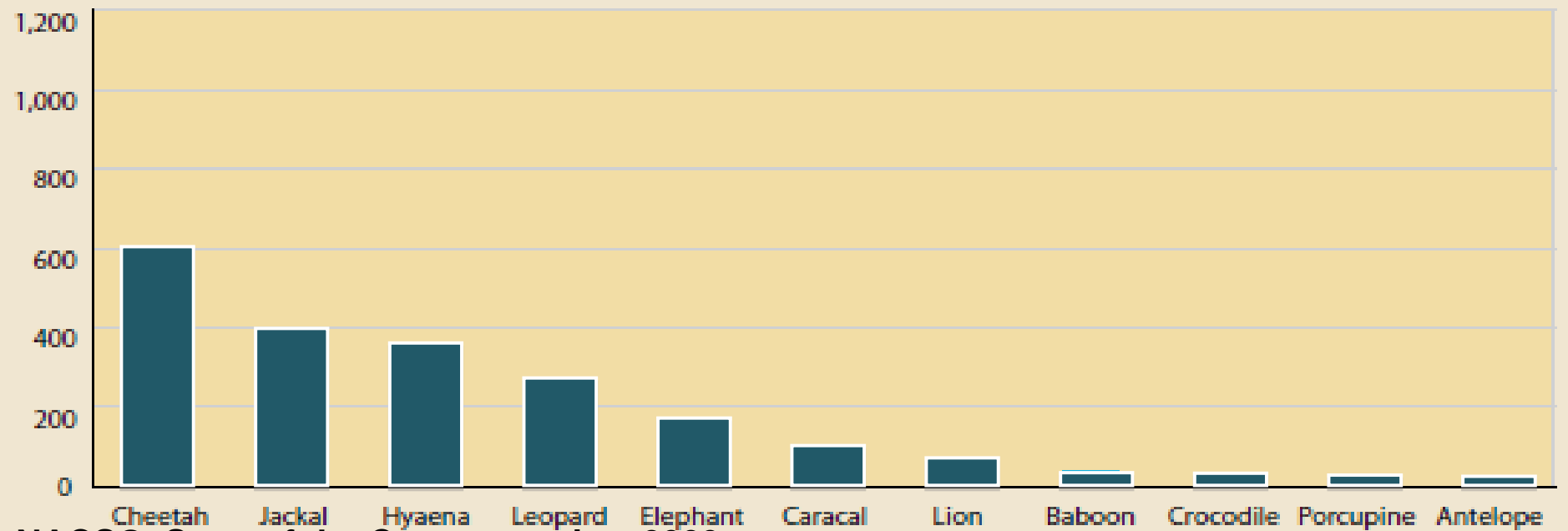
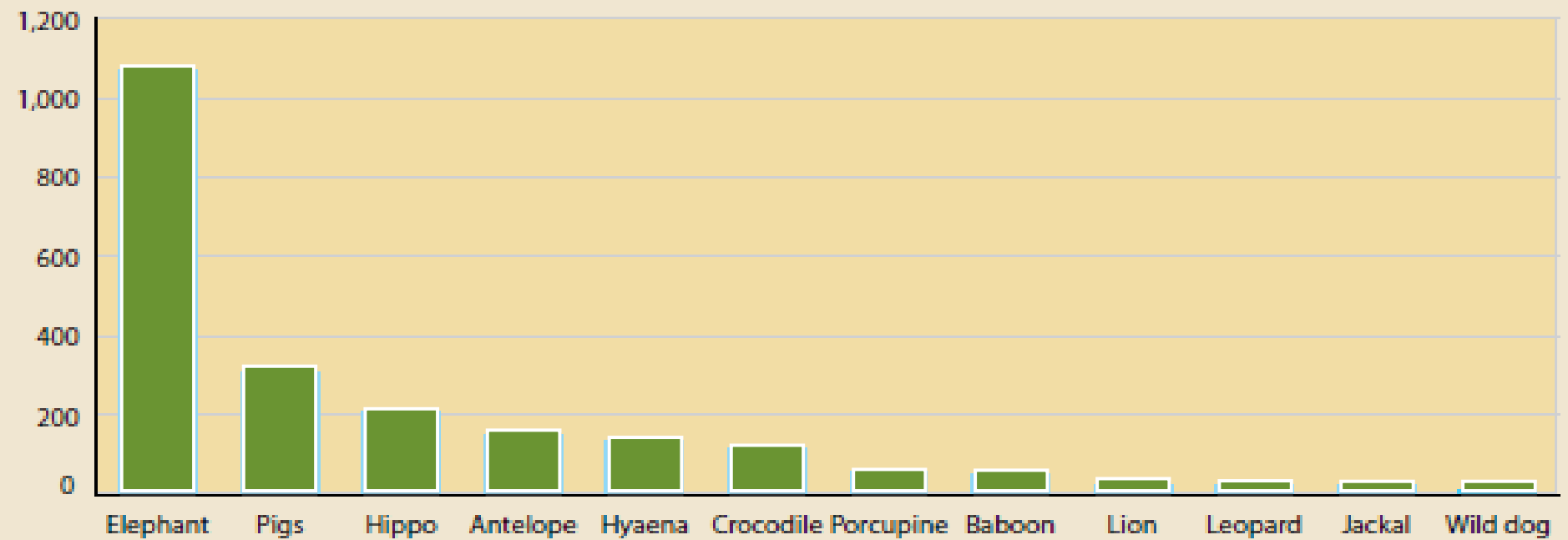


Figure 10. The trend in game population estimates in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy derived from aerial censuses, water point counts and local knowledge.

Source: NACSO, State of the Conservancies, 2007
http://www.nacso.org.na/SOC_2007/index.php



NACSO State of the Conservancies 2009

Is this model replicable?

- Paradigm is strong
- Devolution to communities a key part of the success
- Highlights need for coalition building
- External (NGO/donor) support essential in this case for capacity building
- Long-term commitment issue

Conclusion

- Long-term (20+ year) view essential
- Good results may depend upon broader institutional environment
- Consider devolution to lowest level
- Control over resources should be as complete as possible

Thank you!