

PRESS RELEASE

## **Namibian Conservation Organisations Support Botswana's Democratic Processes Regarding Elephant Management**

A Sub Committee appointed by President Masisi of Botswana recently made its recommendations in a White Paper regarding the hunting ban and human-elephant conflict.

We, as Namibian Conservationists, including environmental NGOs, researchers, community representatives and conservancies, hereby join a group of international conservationists in voicing our support for Botswana's consultative process to address the challenges associated with managing its large elephant population. We applaud President Masisi and Botswana's parliament for establishing the consultative process that looks to balance wildlife conservation with the needs and aspirations of the citizens of Botswana.

Namibia has felt the burden of international pressure against our policies that encourage the devolution of rights over, and sustainable use of, natural resources. We therefore take this opportunity to stand in solidarity with Botswana. We would like to draw your attention to this article [[see link below](#)] that sets forth the following important issues that have not been highlighted in other media reports covering this story.

- 1) President Masisi's establishment of the subcommittee to conduct a thorough Social Dialogue is a welcome move towards a more democratic style of governance.
- 2) Masisi's administration once more opened the research permit application system, which signals his understanding of the role of objective conservation research in finding new solutions to human-elephant conflict.
- 3) The process embarked upon by Masisi's administration is a welcome return to Botswana's historic emphasis on consultation with people at the grassroots level. This also presents an opportunity to strengthen Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) in the country.

As Namibian organisations with extensive experience with the CBNRM programme in our country, we are especially interested in extending our support regarding point 3 above. This new dawn for Botswana will present many challenges and opportunities as the government once more involves local communities in wildlife management and conservation. We are therefore ready and willing to assist the government of Botswana in these important endeavours by drawing on the lessons we have learned in Namibia.

Yours in Conservation,  
Namibian Chamber of Environment, and 42 member and partner organisations

### **List of supporting organisations**

Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE)  
African Conservation Services cc

African Foundation  
Ashby Associates cc  
A Speiser Environmental Consultants cc  
Brown Hyena Research Project Trust  
Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)  
Desert Lion Conservation Trust  
Development Workshop Namibia  
Eco Awards Namibia  
EduVentures  
Environmental Compliance Consulting  
EnviroScience  
Giraffe Conservation Foundation  
Gobabeb Research and Training Centre  
Greenspace  
Integrates Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC)  
JARO Consultancy  
Kwando Carnivore Programme  
N/a'an ku sê Foundation  
Namibian Associations of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO)  
Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust  
Namibia Biomass Industry Group (Incorporated Association not for gain)  
Namibia Bird Club  
Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF)  
Namibia Professional Hunting Association (NAPHA)  
Namibian Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS)  
Namibian Hydrogeological Association  
NamibRand Nature Reserve  
Otjikoto Trust  
Research and Information Services of Namibia (RAISON)  
Rare & Endangered Species Trust (REST)  
Rooikat Trust  
Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA)  
Save The Rhino Trust (SRT)  
Scientific Society Swakopmund  
Seabirds and Marine Ecosystems Programme  
Seeis Conservancy  
Sustainable Solutions Trust (SST)  
Tourism Supporting Conservation (Tosco) Trust  
Venture Media  
Zambia Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Forum  
Zambia National Community Resource Boards (CRBs) Association

**Link to article in Africa Geographic:**

<https://africageographic.com/blog/opinion-human-wildlife-conflict-specialist-botswana-found-voice-will-listen/?fbclid=IwAR2W7VJWswABEYof3Ll9pHun7qqJZtUKyLFrmBYqky2me15zJhx792OTj7o>