



Chief Executive Officer's Report to 5th AGM

3rd December 2021

Background

In this fifth year of existence of the Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE) we are getting used to the unusual. Apart from a few constraints (for example, a planned national research meeting with NUST, UNAM and MEFT), it was largely business as normal. With our small team of one full-time Office Manager (Henriette Kröhne-Frey), and two part-time professional staff (Chris Brown – CEO and Dr Beat Weber – Socio-economic Development & Livelihoods), good progress was made in a number of areas. This year I want to focus on some cumulative key indicators and new areas we worked on.

We continue to focus on support to our members and strategic intervention areas for the broad environment where these are not already being addressed. We do no field implementation and if we ever stray onto any of our members' territories, we want you to let us know immediately. We never want to duplicate effort.

Governance

The ultimate authority of the NCE resides in the Council – the members. Outside of Council meetings such as the AGM, an Executive Committee (ExCo) is responsible for providing strategic guidance and oversight to the NCE. The ExCo consisted of the following eight members:

Charles Loots (Chairperson), Otjikoto Trust
Hilma Angula, NACSO
John Pallett, NEWS
Malan Lindeque, private Conservation Scientist
Morgan Hauptfleisch, NUST
Stephan Bezuidenhout, ECC
Chris Brown, SST

Three ExCo members come to the end of their tenure at the end of this meeting and can retire or make themselves available for re-election: Charles, John and Stephan.

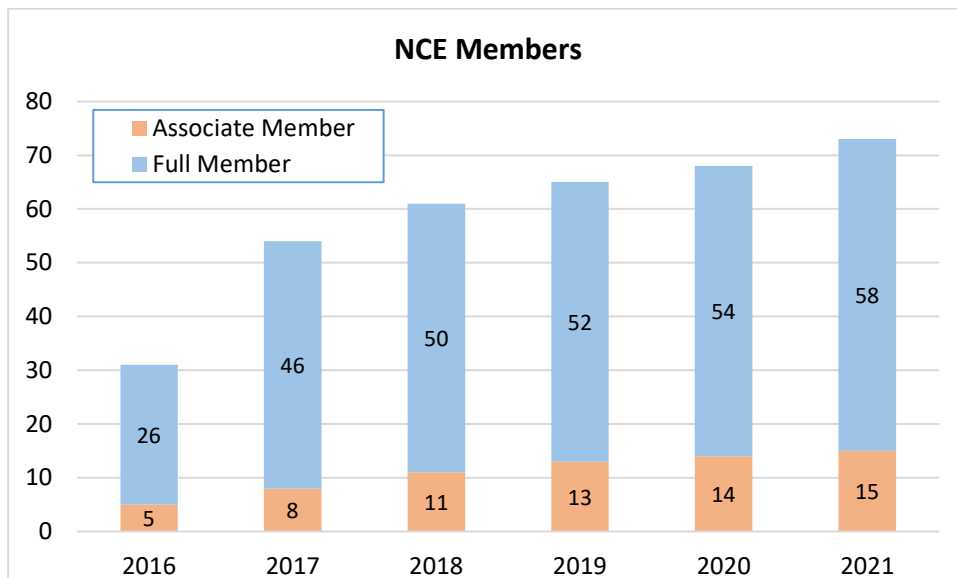
Since the 4th AGM, ExCo has met three times, some members joining via Zoom. ExCo members were kept up to date with developments and activities via e-mail, and there was regular communication (usually at least twice monthly) with the Chairperson.

Strategic Programme Areas

The NCE implements its mandate and objectives by a programme of work that focuses on eight strategic programme areas, as follows:

1. Membership Support

- Membership currently stands at 73 (67 at the last AGM), comprising 58 Full Members and 15 Associate Members.



- A similar booking scheme to the Westair aircraft has been set up for three Toyota Hilux 4x4 double cab bakkies donated by B2Gold Namibia. These vehicles are available for the use of NCE members on short to medium term loan. The NCE covers all registration, insurance and maintenance costs. NCE members pay for fuel. The booking system is set up on the NCE website, similar to the aircraft booking system.

2. National Facilitation

- Working Groups: Collaboration between MEFT and NGOs was severely impacted many years ago when a centralist minister withdrew MEFT from a number of joint forums such as NACSO and LCMAN. Planning and implementing work together is critical to optimise efficiency and impact – this legacy of reduced impact lives on. To overcome this constraint, we are setting up a number of Working Groups, with MEFT as chair, and supported by NGOs. To date we have established:
 - The Pangolin Working Group (see website: <https://n-c-e.org/namibian-pangolin-working-group>)
 - Lead Poisoning in Wildlife Working Group
 - And we are looking at evolving LCMAN into the national Carnivore Working Group.



NAMIBIAN PANGOLIN WORKING GROUP

[About NPWG](#) [Members](#) [Activities](#) [News, Articles & Interviews](#) [Resources](#) [How can you help?](#) [Contact](#)

The Namibian Pangolin Working Group (NPWG) was established in April 2020 as a collaborative effort between the Namibian government and non-governmental partners in response to the increasing threats faced by pangolins (*Temminck's ground pangolin* *Smutsia temminckii*) in Namibia.

The current priorities of the NPWG are to:

- Develop and implement a concise **National Conservation Management Plan** for pangolin;
- Prepare and implement **guidelines and protocols** for the handling of confiscated pangolins by first responders, getting them quickly into rehabilitation and veterinary care, and the procedures for selecting good release sites;
- **Guide priority research** to better understand key areas specifically related to pangolin conservation, diet, status and release;
- **Raise awareness and help educate target groups** about pangolins, particularly their ecological role and importance to ecosystem functioning;
- Promote **international collaboration and information sharing**

The NPWG is supported financially through the Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE). Because all of NCE's administrative costs are fully covered by our sponsors in the Namibian corporate sector, 100% of all donations received via Give Today will go directly to the NPWG for pangolin conservation.

The NCE further administers a cash reward scheme for any information leading to the arrest of pangolin traffickers or seizure of pangolin parts. This reward scheme has led to more than 100 arrests, the confiscation of more than 50 live pangolins that were rehabilitated and released, and information on the criminal networks involved in illegal pangolin trade.



Donate now to combat the illegal pangolin trade, rehabilitate and release pangolins confiscated from the trade, and contribute to effective pangolin research and conservation actions.

GIVE TODAY



- NCE continues to deal with problematic developments, including ReconAfrica and the Russian Atomic Agency uranium exploration in the Kalahari.

3. Advocacy

- NCE continues work on the sardine (pilchard) moratorium. A study by Dr Rob Crawford was commissioned on the status of sardines and seabirds in Namibia from 1950s to present. This scientific assessment provided the basis for a popular articles published as a blog on the Conservation Namibia website was commissioned <https://conservationnamibia.com/blog/b2021-sardine-fishing.php>. These documents

were shared with the Minister, Executive Director and senior staff of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

- Presentations were made to Parliament on Forestry and Climate Change, and we produced series of four articles on Climate Change up-to and during the Glasgow COP in November. These articles are on the Conservation Namibia website.




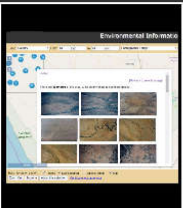





4. Environmental Policy Research

- Urban environment work as a joint initiative between Development Workshop Namibia (DWN) and NCE is progressing well and expanding into some interesting new areas:
 - FNB – give largely unsecured loans of up to N\$50,000 for house building to people who have paid off the land within one year.
 - The architectural drawings for the design of a starter house that costs no more than N\$50,000 are available people who purchase under the affordable urban land for housing scheme.
 - DW Namibia is exploring options to expand into Zambia and Zimbabwe which experience many of the same urban development constraints as Namibia.

5. Environmental Information

- During the course of 2021, the Environmental Information Service (EIS) added a number of new components to the system under the eLibrary section:
 - Wildlife crime
 - EIAs
 - Wildlife surveys. I would like to commend MEFT for putting all their aerial survey data (other than rhino) into the public domain. Many others have followed suite with over 600 surveys across the country now available for public review (see details below). The wildlife surveys can be filtered by species / groups, year, areas and author.

Environmental Information Service **Namibia**

					
<p>eLibrary A free, online information resource for Namibia</p>	<p>Atlasing in Namibia Citizen science projects recording biodiversity and cultural heritage</p>	<p>Namibian Journal of Environment A peer-reviewed, free, open access scientific journal</p>	<p>Photo library A public-participation citizen science photo repository</p>	<p>Birds & Powerlines tool A tool to assess which sensitive bird species occur in any area</p>	<p>Bird Information System A collation of data collected on birds in Namibia</p>
<p>EIS Namibia is supported and funded by Namibian Chamber of Environment.</p> 		<p>EIS Namibia is sponsored and powered by Paratus Africa.</p> 		<p>EIS Namibia is developed and maintained by JARO Consultancy.</p> 	

QUICK LINKS

-  **Wildlife Crime articles** 1,382
-  **Wildlife Survey reports** →
-  **EIAs for public comment** 1,557
-  **Partner websites**
-  **I want to report...** ↓

FILTER BY SPECIES

- SHOW ALL (605)
- BIRDS (69)
- CARNIVORE (60)
- ELEPHANTS (187)
- MAMMALS - LAND (272)
- MAMMALS - MARINE (7)
- OTHER (4)
- REPTILES (6)

FILTER BY YEAR

- SHOW ALL (371)
- 2021 (14)
- 2020 (21)
- 2019 (24)
- 2018 (19)

FILTER BY AREA

- SHOW ALL (395)
- COASTAL & MARINE (13)
- COMMUNAL LAND (INCLUDING CONSERVANCIES) (133)
- FREEHOLD LAND (COMMERCIAL FARMS) (1)
- MIXED/OTHER (13)
- NATIONAL (28)
- NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES (121)
- PRIVATE PARKS AND RESERVES (35)
- WETLANDS (51)

FILTER BY AUTHOR

- SHOW ALL (473)
- AMUTENYA KL (1)
- ANDREAS A (2)
- ASCHENBORN O (2)
- ASCHENBORN OH-K (1)

Report suspicious activity - protect rhinos



Help protect rhinos. Report any suspicious activity that threatens the safety of our natural heritage.

Send an SMS to **55555**, toll-free.

 [Help protect rhinos - poster](#)

Report suspicious activity - protect pangolins



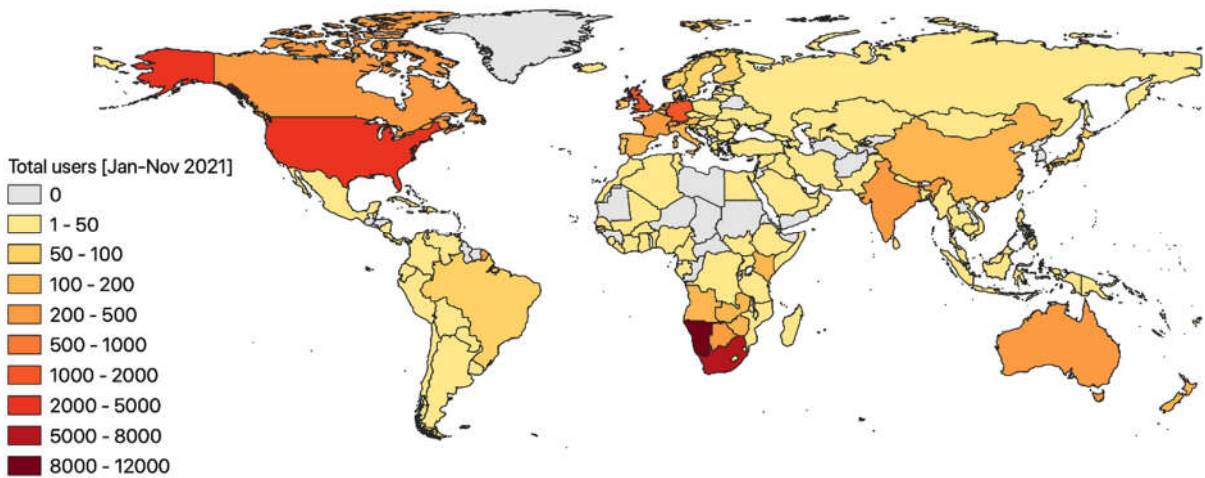
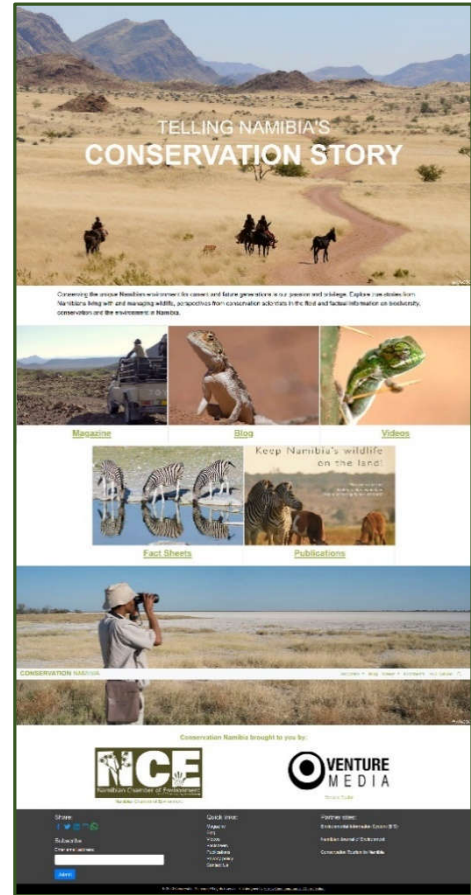
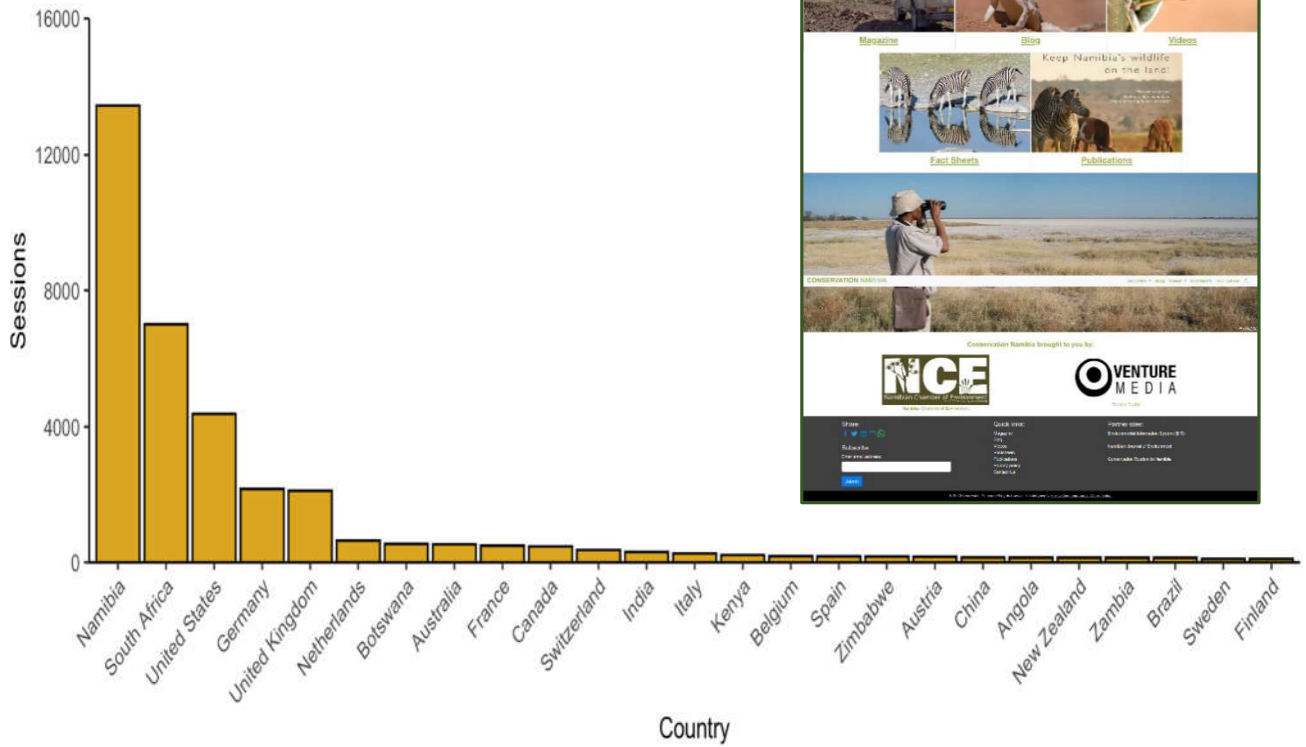
Report any suspicious activity related to the killing or capture of pangolins or the trade in pangolin parts.

Send an SMS to **55555**, toll-free.

 [Protect pangolins - poster](#)

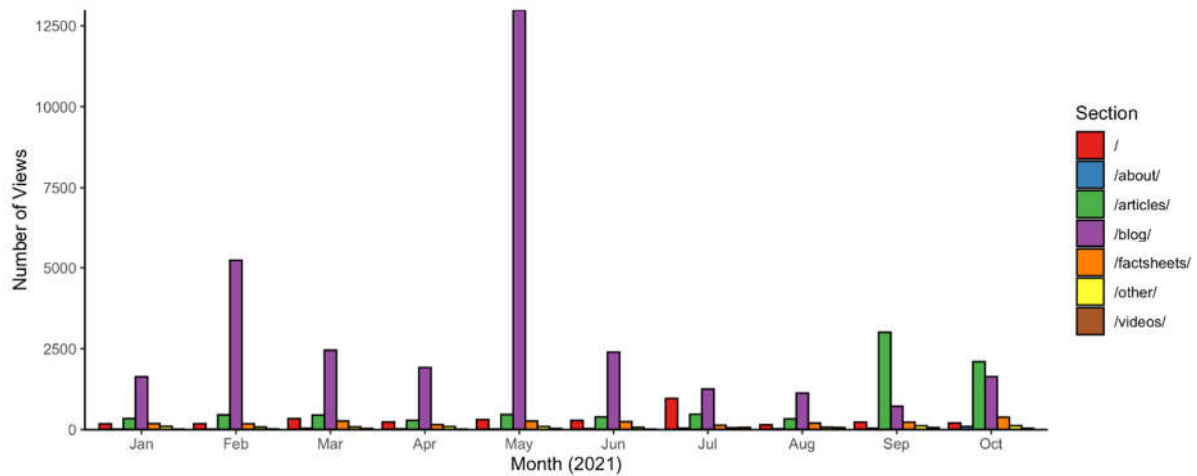
- Last year I reported on the performance of the Namibian Journal of Environment. This year I will focus on the performance of the Conservation Namibia website. A report was circulated to all members a few days ago – herewith a summary:

Unique page views for the Conservation Namibia website from different countries Jan-Oct 2021.



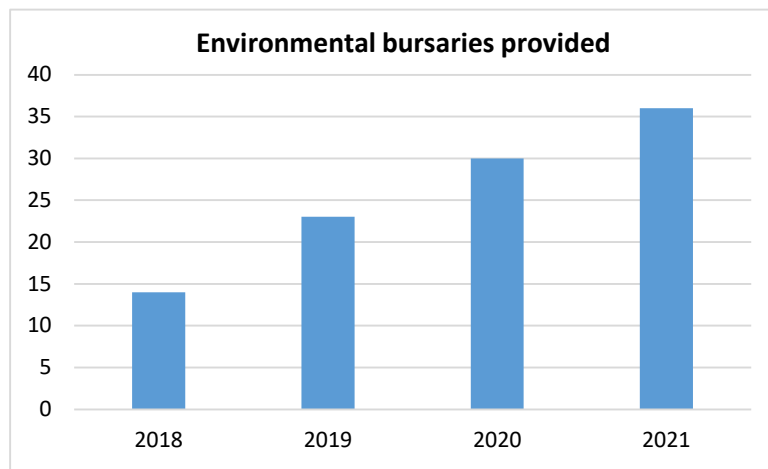
Site visitors came from 171 countries. Darker and redder colours represent more visitors per country.

The figure below shows the sections of the Conservation Namibia website that attracted most visits per month during 2021. The Blog section was most popular, except immediately after the release of the *Conservation and Environment in Namibia* magazine, when the articles from the magazine were most visited in September and October.



6. Young Namibian Training and Mentorship

- Over the past four years we have provided 99 environmental bursaries to academically gifted students in need, mostly at the MSc level.

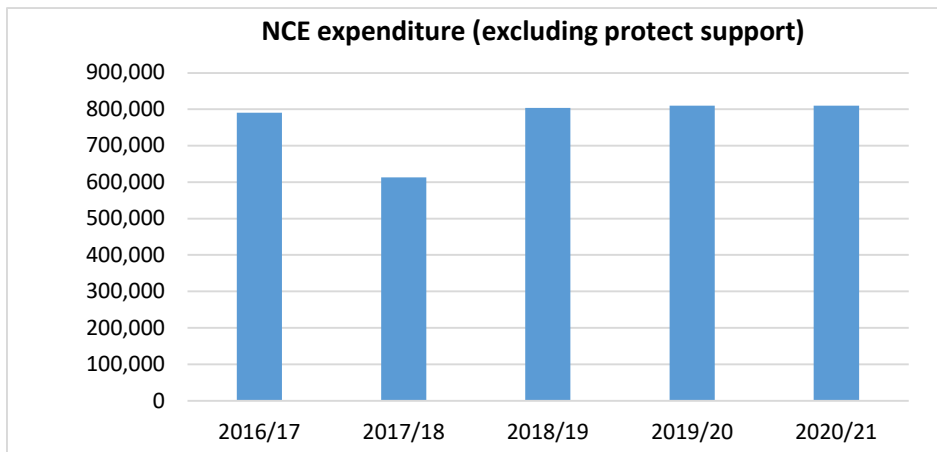


- For 2022 we have completed our advertising, screening, shortlisting and interviews and are about to prepare contracts – probably for at least 35 students.
- Together with MEFT, NUST and UNAM, we have initiated a process of identifying priority research needs and directing successful bursary students to these priority research projects, supported by their academic supervisors. This means that 3-5 projects each year will be based on MEFT and NCE priorities. NCE Members are welcome to help identify priority research needs. The first set of priorities are:
 - Status of otters (African Clawless and Spotted-necked) in Namibia’s northern rivers.
 - Impact of game fencing, particularly electric fencing, on wildlife with emphasis on vulnerable and endangered species such as pangolins.

- Potential of indigenous succulents as plant biomass for fodder and energy production.
- The ecology of the migrant plains zebra that move between Botswana Nxai Pans and the eastern Zambezi floodplains.

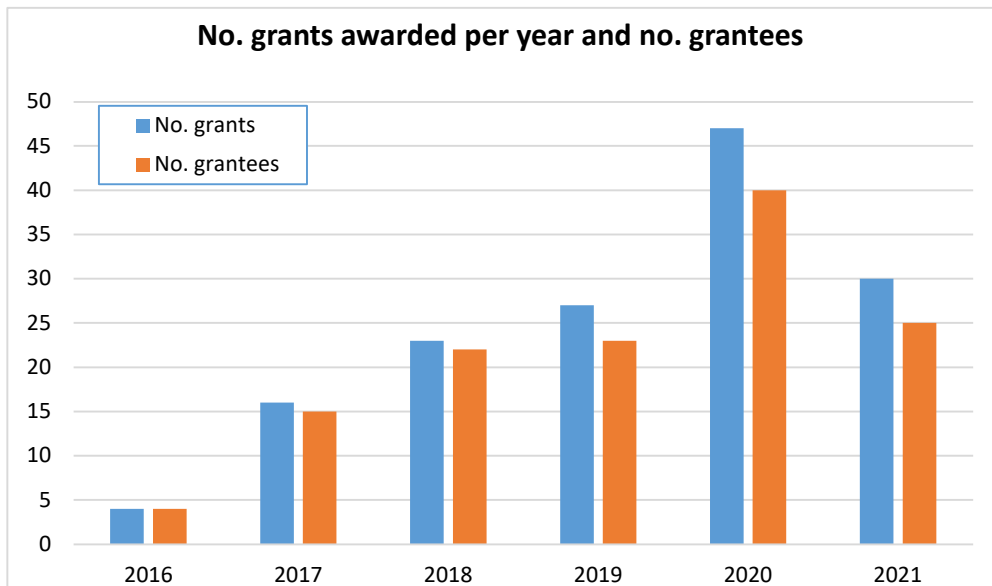
7. Fund raising

- The core running costs of the NCE are covered by B2Gold Namibia to the amount of N\$1 million per year. The annual office expenditure of the NCE is kept to a minimum (see graph below), with no change over the past three years. In real terms because of inflation, this reflects a decline in expenditure.

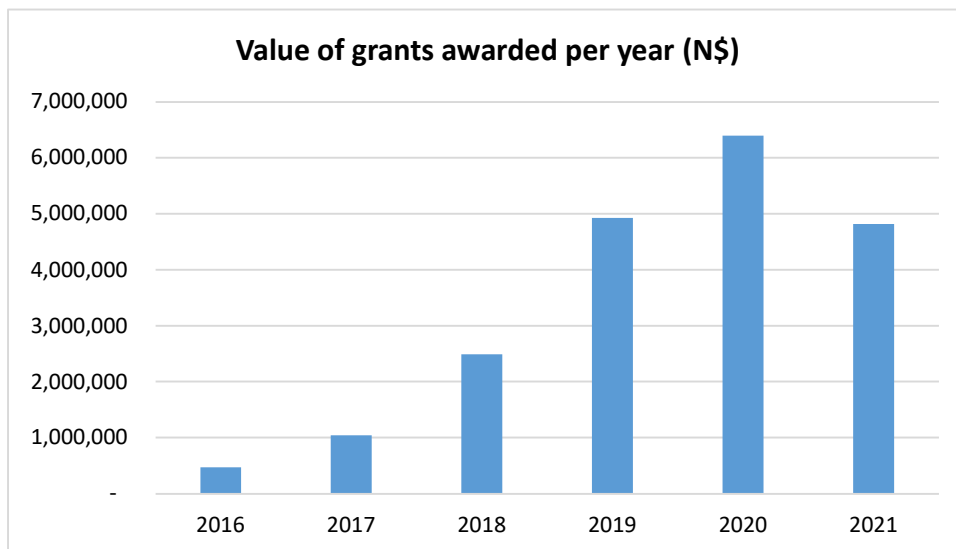


8. Grants Making

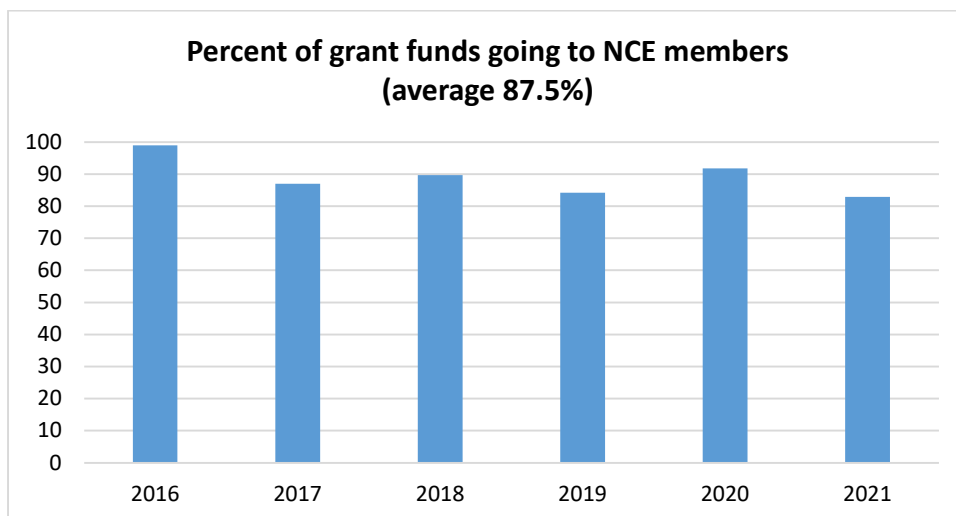
Most projects do not run within the NCE financial year. They range from one-off donations to projects that run over two or three years. For larger projects, these are supported in phases, with funds released in tranches against progress reports, outputs and outcomes. From July 2016 to June 2021, some 147 grants have been provided (many still ongoing) to a total value of N\$20,138,349 (see graphs below).



The number of grants and grant value for 2021 are lower than in the previous year because data is included up to the end of the NCE’s financial year of 30 June. While most grants are awarded early in the calendar year, a few grants are awarded in the second half of the year.



Most grant funds go to NCE members (average 87.5% over 5 years).



Conclusion

I thank all our very supportive ExCo members for the time they invest in ensuring that our governance meets the highest standards, in providing guidance and ideas, and creating contacts and linking us to their networks. Charles Loots is with us every few weeks, sometimes more, to bounce ideas and discuss strategies. Beat leads a hugely dynamic socio-economic and livelihoods component in a partnership between NCE and Development Workshop Namibia. What has been achieved by him and his team is nothing short of spectacular. Henriette is at the heart of the NCE and involved with all components. Without her we would not be able to achieve a fraction of what

we do. I would also like to thank all the organisations and people with whom we share offices – it's a very relaxed and constructive arrangement.

To all our sponsors – particularly our anchor sponsor, B2Gold Namibia, and Mark Dawe and Charles Loots, for their enthusiasm, vision and no-strings-attached commitment to the NCE; and to all our other sponsors – we really appreciate and value your support.

And to all our Members – this has been another difficult year to meet up and work together, but hopefully things will start to improve soon. Thank you for your support. We are making progress and addressing some of the key challenges of the day with some success. It is a team effort. And we are pleased to do our bit as the NCE Secretariat to support you and the sector. We are always open for feedback and ideas.

Have a relaxing and safe holiday season and all best wishes for 2022.

Thank you.

Dr Chris Brown & Henriette Kröhne-Frey

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