

Namibian Chamber of Environment

TRIENNIAL REPORT



2017/2019



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

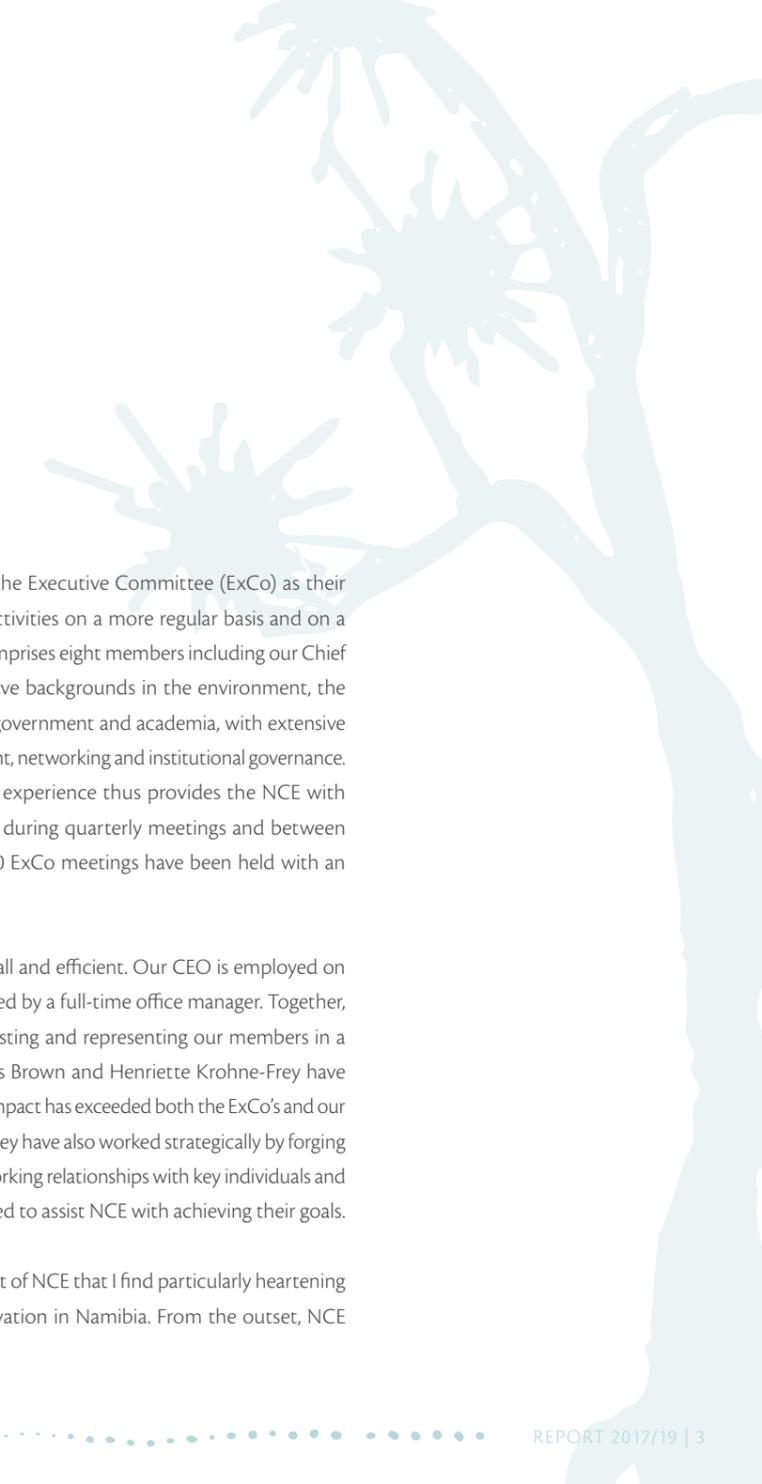
It has been my privilege to be chairman of the Executive Committee of the Namibian Chamber of Environment over the past three years. The initial goals and objectives of the NCE were lofty and far-sighted, and I am pleased to report that our committee and small contingent of staff have taken on this task with undaunted enthusiasm. As our membership expanded to the current 65 organisations and individuals, the responsibility to address their needs and represent their interests has grown dramatically. I would like to highlight some of the governance aspects of NCE to demonstrate how we have approached this task over the last few years.

Our full members comprise the Council, which holds the ultimate decision-making power and provides the mandate for all our work. The first AGM, held in April 2017, included mini-workshops for members to address two critical questions: 1) What would they like NCE to do to support them? and 2) How would they like NCE to represent them in promoting sound environmental management in Namibia? The answers to these questions formed the basis for NCE's mandate, and our progress in addressing these was evaluated during the 2018 AGM. Notwithstanding the diversity of NCE's membership, their common goals for conservation ensured a focused mandate and efficient system of governance.

The Council of members elects the Executive Committee (ExCo) as their representatives to guide NCE's activities on a more regular basis and on a finer scale. The ExCo currently comprises eight members including our Chief Executive Officer (CEO). They have backgrounds in the environment, the private and community sectors, government and academia, with extensive experience in research, management, networking and institutional governance. Their combined knowledge and experience thus provides the NCE with strategic direction and guidance during quarterly meetings and between meetings as required. Thus far, 10 ExCo meetings have been held with an attendance rate of over 80%.

The NCE office team remains small and efficient. Our CEO is employed on a part-time basis and is ably assisted by a full-time office manager. Together, they drive NCE's activities by assisting and representing our members in a myriad of different ways. Dr Chris Brown and Henriette Krohne-Frey have operated so efficiently that NCE's impact has exceeded both the ExCo's and our members' loftiest expectations. They have also worked strategically by forging partnerships and strengthening working relationships with key individuals and organisations that are ideally placed to assist NCE with achieving their goals.

I would like to highlight one aspect of NCE that I find particularly heartening as I look to the future of conservation in Namibia. From the outset, NCE



was a partnership between the business sector – and initially specifically the mining sector - and the environmental sector, which makes it unique. Africa’s developmental challenges are matched only by its environmental challenges, and I firmly believe that we can only address these challenges by bringing industry and conservation closer together.

We are very grateful for the support that the NCE has received from a number of prominent companies in Namibia, including B2Gold Namibia, Total, FNB/RMB and Barloworld. As leading companies, there is a clear recognition that Corporate Social Investment (CSI) responsibilities to sustainable social development and the environment require the same level of attention and accountability as their mainstream business. However, most companies are not equipped to fully understand the social development and environment sectors and their needs, and to engage with them to ensure that their financial support achieves the most effective outcomes.

Moreover, there is often a limited understanding of how these could optimally dovetail with, and support, national development objectives. This is where the NCE provides guidance. The NCE can ensure that the CSI funds of companies are invested in environmental, social and livelihoods programmes that: 1) address both national and local priorities, 2) leave a lasting legacy, 3) are well managed with transparent accountability, 4) are cost-effective, 5) create synergies with other work in these sectors, 6) foster collaboration with government, NGOs and private sector, and 7) meet international audit requirements.

Agenda 2030, set forth by the United Nations, presents sustainable development as a mechanism for addressing key socio-economic problems while simultaneously conserving the natural resources upon which we all depend. Not by coincidence, Namibia’s Vision 2030 sets out very similar ambitions and goals. The NCE has a key role to play in assisting the government of Namibia to achieve its sustainable development goals, as it is ideally placed to strengthen the environmental sector’s relationships with other sectors – including mining and other business. As I look forward to the coming years with NCE, I see exciting opportunities to expand our positive influence across multiple sectors to make long-term sustainable development a reality.



SIGNATURE
CHARLES LOOTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
NAMIBIAN CHAMBER OF ENVIRONMENT

NAMIBIAN CHAMBER OF ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Full members: 52

Associate members: 13



AGM



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Charles Loots (Chairman); Chris Brown (CEO); John Pallett;
Steve Galloway; Maxi Louis; Malan Lindeque; Morgan Hauptfleisch; Stephan Bezuidenhout



EXCO MEETINGS



OFFICE STAFF

Chris Brown (CEO); Beat Weber (Director, socio-economic/livelihoods); Henriette Krohne-Frey (Office manager)



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE) has made great strides towards achieving its aspirational and operational objectives since establishment in July 2016. We focused on eight strategic programme areas aimed at supporting our members, thereby strengthening the environmental sector in Namibia as a whole. These activities were implemented on behalf of our members, who comprise over 90% of the non-governmental organisations working on environmental matters. This annual report provides a detailed account of these activities, but here I would like to provide a brief overview of our progress.

One of the key mandates NCE received from our members was to provide appropriate support for their conservation endeavours. The support we have provided thus far comes in many forms – practical, conceptual, and informative. The practical support includes the provision of office and boardroom space, an airplane, and assistance with research applications. Conceptually, we have provided communications platforms for members involved in research and conservation by organising three national symposia and one international conference. Our informative support includes expanding the Environmental Information Service online database and establishing the peer-reviewed, open-access Namibian Journal of the Environment.

Our mandate to strengthen the environment sector goes beyond internal support for our current members. With a view to the future, we provide key services for young Namibians who want to become involved in this sector. Our Bursaries and Internship programme has proven especially popular and competitive, as we selected 35 students and 13 interns during 2018-2019 out of a pool of 153 candidates. These young Namibians represent the future of our sector, and we are especially pleased to be a part of their professional development.

Beyond strengthening the sector itself, NCE is mandated to represent it to other sectors and stakeholders in Namibia. This includes engaging pro-actively with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and other Ministries that affect the environment. Our engagement with MET included submitting comments on legislation, working on a strategy to manage solid waste, and working with them on a number of collaborative projects. We served on three advisory bodies to the Minister and Ministry, namely, the Sustainable Development Advisory Board (established under the Environmental Management Act of 2007), the Nature Conservation Advisory Board (established under the Nature Conservation Ordinance 4 of 1975) and the Solid Waste Advisory Panel. We have also engaged with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (over-harvesting marine resources), the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and

Forestry (over-harvesting hardwoods), and the Ministry of Mines and Energy (mining best practices). In all of these engagements, we have sought to work constructively and strategically with the government while still maintaining a clear pro-environment and sustainability stance on these issues.

Our advocacy function has extended to the general public – both national and international – through our website, social media platforms, and a conservation magazine. Our website and social media engagement included hot topics in conservation ranging from over-harvesting hardwoods in the Kavango and Zambezi, defending sustainable use as a valid aspect of wildlife conservation, and clarifying NCE's stance on the issue regarding spotted hyaenas and feral horses in the Namib-Naukluft National Park. The magazine, published in partnership with Venture Media, showcases work done by NCE and our members through 17 informative and beautifully illustrated articles. NCE Members and communal conservancies received free hardcopies, while the remaining copies were sold at selected outlets nationwide. An online version will be launched in 2020 to reach a broader international audience.

Finally, our grant making and fund raising efforts have had substantial conservation returns during the last two years. Our project budget has increased from N\$ 2.7 million in 2016/17 to N\$ 4.0 million in 2017/18 to N\$ 5.2 million in 2018/19. One of the most effective projects we have funded was to provide cash rewards for information leading to the arrest of poachers, particularly of pangolins. From 2017 to the start of 2019, the reward scheme bore the following fruits: 75 criminal cases opened, 139 arrests, and the rescue and rehabilitation of 45 live pangolins. We have financially supported a new organisation, Development Workshop, to address the critical needs for land in Namibia's urban environment. Our grants have supported over 20

projects, and the grant review process has sought to create a synergy with other grant-making institutions in Namibia. It is also pertinent to note that the NCE's catalytic funding to projects and programmes have attracted more than N\$5 million in match funding from bilateral and multi-lateral partners.

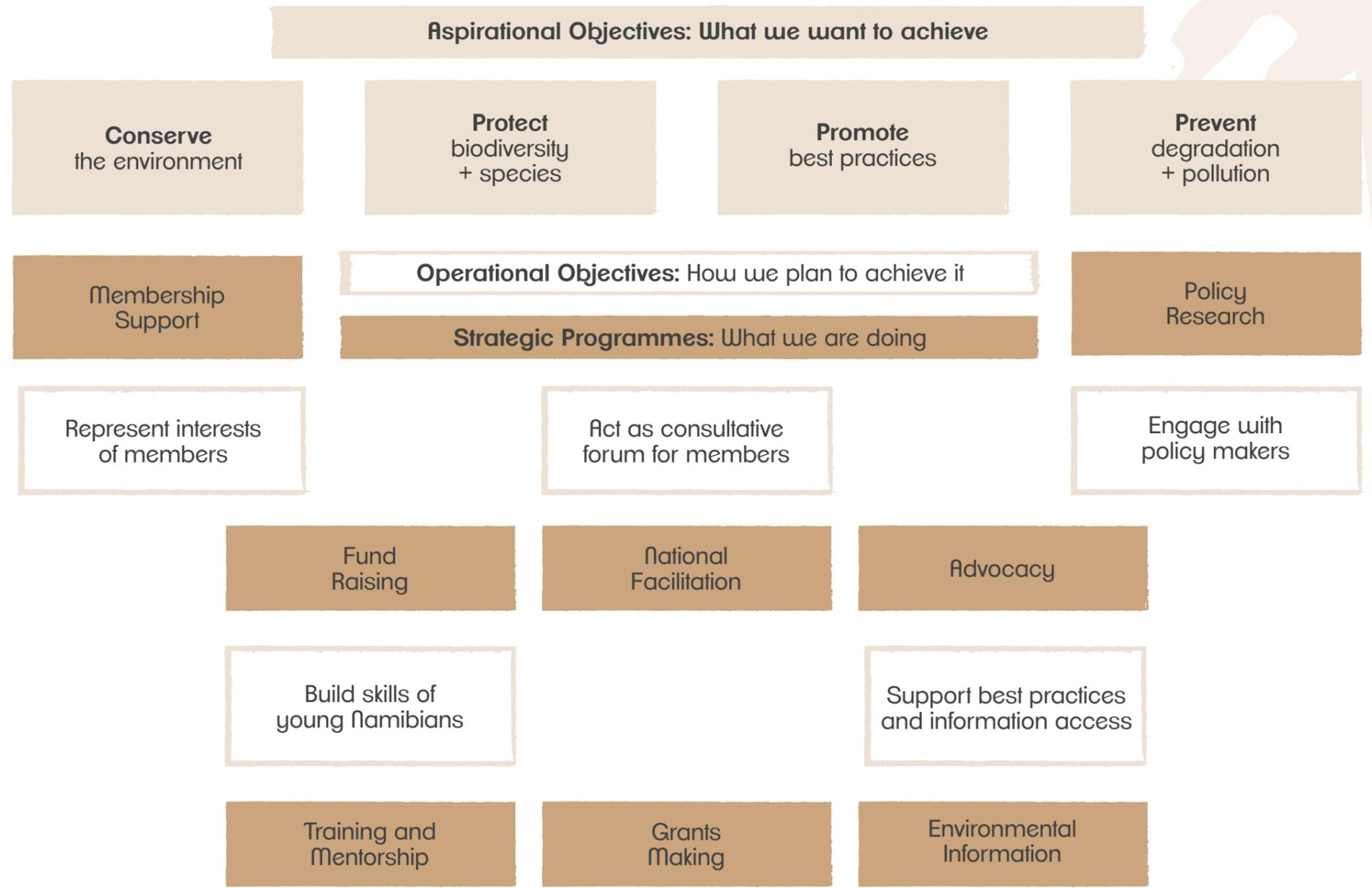
This is just a taste of our achievements in the relatively short time NCE has been in existence. I hope you will enjoy reading more about our progress in this annual report. NCE is a small, efficient organisation making a big positive impact on environmental issues in Namibia. We are essentially a Secretariat for Namibia's environmental NGOs. Our impact derives from our members and our collective whole – by working together and speaking with one strong, carefully considered and responsible voice we can continue to grow our positive impact and be a force for good in the environmental and sustainable development sectors in Namibia.

We look forward to continuing our work in future as we support our members, engage constructively with government and other stakeholders, and provide catalytic funding for wildlife conservation, the environment and sustainable development in Namibia.



SIGNATURE

DR. CHRIS BROWN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
NAMIBIAN CHAMBER OF ENVIRONMENT



MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

OUR EIGHT PROGRAMME AREAS AND ACTIVITIES

(Detailed information on all programme areas can be found on our website www.n-c-e.org)

The aspirational and operational objectives of the Namibian Chamber of Environment are implemented through eight strategic programme areas. Here we share our activities and achievements in each of these areas.

This programme area addresses our direct, practical support to the NCE members. Organisations and individuals working in the environmental sector of Namibia can apply for NCE membership for free. Fifty-two Namibian NGOs are now registered as full members, while 13 non-Namibian NGOs or Namibian individuals working in the environment sector are associate members. All members are provided the same level of support from the NCE, but only full members have voting rights.

Members who work in other parts of the country, or do not have their own meeting facilities, may need office facilities. The NCE provides these facilities, which include a boardroom for meetings, Internet access and office space. Small organisations and independent researchers have especially benefitted from this service.

Fixed-wing aircraft are used for a number of different purposes in conservation, yet few organisations can afford to maintain their own or rent aircraft from commercial companies. The NCE therefore entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Westair for the use of a Cessna 182 by members. Members can book the aircraft for specific times and are required only to pay for fuel and landing costs. The aircraft has been used for anti-poaching

surveillance in Etosha and the Kunene Region, transporting an injured cheetah, wildlife surveys of wetlands in the Kavango and Zambezi Regions, and the annual dry-season crane census.

The research permit application system was recently centralised under the auspices of the National Commission on Research Science and Technology (NCRST). Registering with NCRST proved a challenge for many of our members who are involved in environmental research. The NCE has made this process easier for members by registering with the NCRST on behalf of all members. The NCE members may now apply for their individual research permits under this registration, thus simplifying the process. The NCE also helps members to submit and follow up on their permit applications.

As part of this programme area, we distribute notices for Environmental Impact Assessments advertised in national newspapers to all relevant members and non-members. The total mailing list includes 123 individuals, organisations and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. This allows our members and other relevant organisations to respond to projects that may have environmental impacts. They may then register as interested and affected parties for such development projects in their geographic and thematic areas of interest.

The NCE also shares environmental information via email to all members, on our website (www.n-c-e.org) and Facebook page.



CONRAD BRAIN PILOT FOR NCE'S CESSNA 182

Conrad Brain is a pilot for Wilderness Safaris who donates his off-time and extensive conservation expertise to pilot the Cessna 182 from Westair for NCE's members. His piloting projects with the NCE aircraft have included two censuses of wildlife in the wetlands of the Kavango East and Zambezi Regions, surveillance and monitoring of black rhinos in the Kunene Region, anti-poaching assistance in Etosha and the Kunene, habitat assessment for carnivore research, and emergency veterinary treatment for a cheetah in

the Hoanib River. He offered these insights to his experiences with this NCE project: "It was an extremely generous and selfless gesture from Westair, Welwitschia and NCE, but much more than that, the opportunities to make use of this 'gift' seemed as vast as the Namibian horizon and as timely as our recent rains. Details were provided by NCE on procedures to follow in order to access the use of the V5-IIM aircraft. Like the directors of this far-sighted organisation, they are direct, hassle free and precise."

NATIONAL FACILITATION

Strengthening the environmental sector in Namibia is one of the key reasons the NCE was established. This requires closer collaboration, better communication and coordination among our members. We facilitated this by organising symposia, conferences, and workshops on topics relevant to our members' work, and by coordinating review processes on national policies and legislation relating to the environment.

Since its establishment, the NCE has facilitated the following conferences and meetings:

- November 2016: Symposium on "Animals movements and satellite tracking" held at the Otjikoto Environmental Education Centre, attended by 36 researchers using satellite-tracking technology.
- June 2017: Workshop to "Develop an Environmental Action Plan for the 2017-2019 Chamber of Mines of Namibia Strategic Plan" held at the Otjikoto Environmental Education Centre, attended by 16 environmental practitioners working for mining companies in Namibia.
- November 2017: Symposium on "Red Data Status of Carnivores in Namibia" held at the Otjikoto Environmental Education Centre, attended by 18 members of the Large Carnivore Management Association of Namibia.
- 2018: Three stakeholder information meetings to discuss the Waterberg Partnership Park held at the Otjikoto

Environmental Education Centre, attended by farmers and landowners from the Waterberg area.

- February 2019: Meeting for "Community-Based Natural Resource Management Thought Leaders" held at the Otjikoto Environmental Education Centre, attended by 20 professionals working in community conservation in southern Africa and other regions.

Several of the above conferences and meetings have resulted in tangible outputs that have either been produced or are still being developed. Our workshop for the mining sector has resulted in a Best Practice Environmental Guide that was published in late 2019. Similarly, the workshop for carnivore researchers initiated a process for assessing the conservation status of carnivores in Namibia to produce a Red Data book that is scheduled for 2020. The envisioned Waterberg Partnership Park is progressing steadily with the development of a strategic Master Plan for the area in September 2018 and a Green Economy coordinator has been appointed. Finally, the community conservation professionals who convened in Namibia have set up a regional communications and support network, with the NCE as the interim secretariat.

The NCE alerts members to issues of national and international importance and coordinates a response to these by developing comprehensive statements using the members' feedback. At the national level, the government

circulated two major pieces of legislation for public comment: the Protected Areas and Wildlife Management Bill, and a revision of the Environmental Management Act and Regulations. The NCE circulated the Bill and the Act to members and consolidated their comments into a single document for each piece of legislation for submission to government, thereby strengthening our combined input. The NCE gave substantial input into the National Development Plan 5 of the Namibian government, particularly on the Blue Economy. Internationally, the Sustainable Development Goals from Agenda 2030 (set by the United Nations) are designed to focus efforts to tackle both socio-economic and environmental issues. The NCE reviewed these Goals and circulated those that are applicable to Namibia to our members for their information.

In response to the alarming increase in pangolin poaching in Namibia and elsewhere, the NCE worked with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and other partners to facilitate a national reward scheme for information relating to pangolin trafficking. Cards and posters were developed and distributed to create awareness about this scheme, whereby people who provide information leading to the arrest of poachers and traffickers are granted cash rewards. From late 2017 to end June 2019, this scheme has led to 113 criminal cases being opened, 207 arrests, and the rescue and rehabilitation of 69 live pangolins.

PANGOLIN REWARD SCHEME (UP TO END JUNE 2019)



N\$148,500
GRANTED BY NCE



64
PANGOLINS RESCUED
AND REHABILITATED



207
ARRESTS MADE



113 CRIMINAL
CASES OPENED



PANGOLIN REWARD SCHEME

Pangolins are the most trafficked animal in the world, and this illegal international trade started affecting Namibia in early 2017 as cases of pangolin trafficking increased to unprecedented levels. To counter this new threat, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism joined the NCE and other partners to set up a reward scheme to incentivise Namibians to report pangolin trafficking.

Cash rewards are offered for information leading to the arrest of poachers, and the reward amount is increased if the informant is willing to testify in court. This system has been highly effective: criminals have been brought to trial and live pangolins have been rehabilitated and released back into the wild where they belong.

ADVOCACY

The NCE engages with government on policy and legislative issues, development priorities and budget allocations as well as issues of mutual importance to the NCE members and government. Our preferred method of advocacy is to work quietly and constructively with relevant government ministries and other stakeholders. Nonetheless, we reach out to the general public to create awareness about critical environmental issues in Namibia when this course of action is appropriate. Since establishment we have developed a comprehensive website and cultivated a following on Facebook (over 5,000 likes to date), in addition to granting interviews to media outlets on topical subjects.

The NCE represents the NGO environmental sector by serving on three advisory bodies – the Sustainable Development Advisory Council established under the Environmental Management Act; the Solid Waste Advisory Panel; the Nature Conservation Board established under Nature Conservation Ordinance 4 of 1975.

The NCE is dedicated to reducing plastic pollution in Namibia. In 2016-2017, we worked with a group of well-known Namibians to raise the profile of this problem. These included Honourable Sophia Swartz, the chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee on the management of natural resources and Miss Earth Namibia – Elize Shakalela. Tremendous progress has been made in this area, as the MET has prepared as solid waste management and action

plan that was approved by Cabinet, established the Solid Waste Advisory Panel and drafted legislation that is now at an advanced stage of preparation to limit and ultimately ban single-use plastics in Namibia.

In the past few years, we have contributed to and promoted a number of different public campaigns to reduce plastic waste, clean up Namibia's public spaces and create awareness. In April 2017, we promoted the Plastic Free Campaign for Earth Day – focusing on single-use plastic such as bags and bottles. In May 2018, we supported the President's call for all Namibians to participate in a Nation-wide Clean Up Campaign by sponsoring eight local authorities with N\$ 5,000 each, and N\$ 10,000 for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's clean up fund under the Office of the Prime Minister. Additionally, the NCE undertook its own clean up effort on 25 May 2018 at the Goreangab Dam, Windhoek, together with 40 children from Hope Village in Katutura. In June 2018, we contributed to an initiative to bring an inspirational speaker to Namibia to talk about a Zero Waste lifestyle. One response to this initiative was the opening of Namibia's first Zero Waste grocery shop in Klein Windhoek.

The conservation of Namibian fisheries was flagged as a key area for the NCE to speak on behalf of the environmental sector. In particular, the state of the sardine/pilchard population necessitates a moratorium on fishing these species until such time as they recover. The NCE made two public statements in

this regard, wherein we condemned previous decisions by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) that allowed over-fishing for the last few years and decades. We later welcomed the Ministry's 3-year moratorium on fishing this species. The NCE also opposed an application to capture rare and endangered marine animals (including dolphins and whales) for use in the aquarium trade. On a positive note, we congratulated the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources on strides made towards conserving Namibia's inland fisheries by banning monofilament nets, introducing a closed season on the Chobe and Zambezi Rivers, and proclaiming a second community fish reserve.

The commercial harvesting of slow-growing hardwood trees in north-eastern Namibia is cause for alarm, as these woodlands provide vital ecosystem services for local people and wildlife. The NCE tried to engage with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Forestry (MAWF) on this issue via letters addressed to the Permanent Secretary and Minister, as well as the Director of Forestry in 2017, 2018 and 2019. The NCE clarified therein that these logging activities were unsustainable and damaging to the environment, and offered our assistance to the Directorate of Forestry to prevent further deforestation. These letters were disregarded, however, and the NCE was left with little choice but to publicly condemn the continued logging operations. Furthermore, the NCE applauded the Minister of Environment and Tourism for stepping in to halt the logging, as the logging companies were operating without Environmental Clearance Certificates and were therefore illegal. The NCE attended a parliamentary hearing on the timber situation in July 2019 and gave a presentation of the environmental implications of unsustainable timber harvesting.

Wildlife crime remains a key area of concern for Namibia. Members of the Chinese community are frequently found to play a critical role in incentivising wildlife crime. We believe that collaborating with the Chinese embassy in Namibia can form a key part of the overall anti-poaching strategy. Consequently, our CEO met with the Chinese ambassador, Qiu Xuejun, to discuss this matter in detail. The result of these deliberations is a 7-point plan of action for China and Namibia to jointly implement. The NCE is also part of a broader collaborative effort consisting of governmental and non-governmental organisations that work together to address wildlife crime and trafficking.

FERAL HORSES AND HYAENAS IN THE NAMIB DESERT

Our CEO has taken several opportunities to publicly address the issue of feral horses living in the Namib-Naukluft National Park that are being preyed on by spotted hyaenas. As part of the NCE press release on this subject, Dr Brown notes: "Over the past 18 months 14 endangered spotted hyaena were deliberately killed in and adjacent to the southern Namib National Parks near Aus in an effort to stop them killing a population of alien feral horses. An attempt was made to feed the hyaenas (diversionary feeding – done against professional conservation advice), to prevent them killing feral horses.

Both the feeding and killing of indigenous, endangered species in a national park goes against every conservation principle." He called on the MET to prevent all further killing of hyaenas and suggested alternative solutions to protect the horses and create a mechanism for local communities to benefit from any tourism associated with them.



ILLEGAL TIMBER HARVESTING IN THE NORTH-EAST

The NCE has been deeply concerned about the commercial logging of slow-growing hardwood trees in the Kavango and Zambezi Regions. In 2017, our office requested meetings with the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Forestry (MAWF) to address these unsustainable practices. Despite multiple follow-up letters and calls, MAWF failed to respond and thus rejected our offers of assistance. The timber harvesting continued until the Minister of Environment and Tourism stepped in to halt these illegal activities in late 2018 and early 2019.

The NCE publicly supported MET's action and questioned MAWF's inaction. Our CEO was quoted in The Namibian newspaper: "Despite claims by minister Alpheus !Naruseb of Agriculture, Water and Forestry that his ministry has been working quietly to address the problem, we see no evidence of this. Indeed, the opposite seems to apply – he and his ministry do not appear to have the will, commitment, ideas or capacity to close these loopholes and enforce relevant legislation to protect woodlands and hardwood trees in Namibia".



 **> 5,000**
FOLLOWERS ON
FACEBOOK

 **> 13,000**
VISITORS TO WEBSITE BETWEEN
JAN-2017 AND END JUNE-2019

 **12** STATEMENTS AND
OPINION PIECES PUBLISHED

 **4** NAMIBIAN MINISTRIES
AND **1** EMBASSY (CHINA)
ENGAGED ON RELEVANT
ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS

 **7** RADIO INTERVIEWS
GIVEN BY CEO

 **40** SCHOOL CHILDREN
INVOLVED IN MAY 2018
CLEAN UP DAY WITH NCE

 **₦\$50,000**
FOR CLEAN - UP CAMPAIGNS
IN **8** MUNICIPALITIES AND MET

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY RESEARCH

Scientific research, focused specifically on policy-relevant questions, has been somewhat lacking in Namibia. The NCE therefore established an Environmental Policy Research Forum with Peter Tarr of the Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA) as chair; other members of the Forum included NCE members, government and business representatives. This Forum highlighted two areas of policy research as priorities – the urban environment and development, and the impacts of businesses and the corporate world on the environment in Namibia.

The rapidly growing urban areas and associated development challenges in Namibia is a clear and urgent priority. The NCE therefore granted seed funding and hired four interns to help establish Development Workshop Namibia (DW-N) – the first NGO to focus specifically on the broader urban environment. This effort attracted further support from a German development agency (GIZ), the Finnish Embassy, the UNDP small grants programme, Namibia's Chamber of Mines, B2Gold and Rand Merchant Bank/First National Bank.

These funds, amounting to over N\$ 3 million, were used to develop appropriate solutions to accommodate Namibia's burgeoning urban populations. Providing affordable urban land is now recognised as the quickest and most sustainable way to accommodate rural migrants into Namibian towns. The NCE and DW-N therefore established and

administers land delivery funds to assist local municipal authorities to provide minimally serviced plots at affordable rates to the urban poor. This initiative will allow immigrants from rural areas to build houses at their own pace, in the knowledge that the land they are building on belongs to them and they will have increasing access to municipal services.

A companion initiative to the urban land delivery programme is that of improving sanitation in the urban informal settlements. The NCE provided seed funding for research on types of toilets built at low cost in Namibia and internationally. This research culminated in a short-list of toilet designs that can be used by the urban poor. In each of the target urban land delivery sites, our team has built examples of each design and included the costs of construction and maintenance for each one to inform recipients of the comparative costs to assist their selection.

The NCE/DW-N has also provided seed funding for small brick-making businesses to supply bricks at a lower cost than bricks sourced elsewhere. UNICEF has since pledged further funding to support this project. The twin projects of land provision and sanitation are designed to help Namibia's urban poor improve their living standards over time.

In 2019, the NCE initiated a drought relief project at the request of the private sector in response to the government's recent call for financial assistance. This project channeled funds, at minimal overhead costs, to

NCE member Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) that works in the Kunene Region, one of the most severely drought-affected areas. They used these funds to initiate a cash-for-work project to provide an alternative source of income for vulnerable people in the region. In addition to these efforts, the NCE funded research into drought relief efforts both in Namibia and elsewhere to highlight best practices and lessons learned. The NCE promoted communication and synergy among different drought relief efforts in Namibia by publishing the *Drought Relief Bulletin* during the worst part of the recent drought.

Part of the NCE's strategy to improve environmental practices in Namibia is to develop Best Practice Guides with industries that have an impact on the environment. The first of these Guides is for environmental management in the mining sector, and covers 1) exploration and feasibility; 2) development and construction; 3) mining and processing; and 4) rehabilitation and closure. A second Best Practice Guide is being developed for the trophy hunting sector in collaboration with the Namibian Professional Hunting Association and MET. The NCE has further plans to develop similar guides with other sectors in Namibia. These collaborative efforts will help guide these sectors to reduce their environmental impact and contribute positively to sustainable development in Namibia.

LAND DELIVERY FUND FOR NAMIBIA'S URBAN POOR

The unplanned expansion of informal settlements has become a major challenge for town councils throughout Namibia. Recognising a need for research and action to address this situation, the NCE helped establish Development Workshop Namibia (DW-N) as a non-profit organisation focused on the urban environment.

The director of DW-N, Dr Beat Weber, recognised that: "The quickest way to accommodate people migrating into urban areas is to provide land, rather than housing. If we can plan and survey new settlements before people arrive, then people can start building their new homes on formally marked plots immediately, whilst municipalities work on providing services over time".

DW-N is now in the first phase of implementing this plan in partnership with six Namibian municipalities that will benefit from over 3000 planned and surveyed plots, which will be sold at cost price to poor households. Each town will have a revolving land fund initiated by donor funding, but sustained by plot sales. This system will allow more plots to be planned and surveyed over time without continual donor input.



URBAN ENVIRONMENT PROJECT



N\$80,000

SEED FUNDING GRANTED AND 4 STUDENT INTERNS HIRED TO INITIATE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP NAMIBIA



N\$3 MILLION
PAID INTO THE LAND DELIVERY FUND FOR 6 TOWNS



> 800
PLOTS PEGGED OUT IN KARIBIB, OSHAKATI AND OKAHAO



> 800
BENEFICIARIES OF FUND REGISTERED THUS FAR



N\$10-17,000
THE PRICE OF PLOTS BOUGHT UNDER THIS SYSTEM, WHICH CAN BE PAID OFF BY BENEFICIARIES OVER 8-12 MONTHS

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

The Environmental Information Service (EIS) is an extensive online library for publicly available documents and datasets related to the environment in Namibia. Established in 2008, this e-library has grown and expanded over time, but required financial support to expand further and maintain this valuable resource. The NCE became involved with the EIS in August 2016 by providing it with sufficient funding and an institutional home. Besides maintaining and growing the extensive EIS database of scientific publications, reports, datasets, maps, legislation, theses and presentations, the NCE has supported two major new developments: the biodiversity Atlasing Application and the Namibian Journal of Environment.

The new Atlasing App allows 'citizen scientists' to record sightings of mammals, invasive alien plants, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies and bird breeding information using their smartphones. Compatible with both iOS and Android devices, this App is easy to download and use, and allows people to upload photographs of their sightings if they are unsure of the identity. The system thus facilitates expert verification of sightings and is especially valuable for determining where species occur in Namibia.

The App is linked to a webpage on the EIS site where users can view or edit their records and see records entered by others (except security-sensitive species like rhinos and pangolins); researchers can request the records and range maps for species they study. Besides data from citizen scientists, the EIS contains museum

specimen data, information from previous atlases in Namibia, and game count data on reserves and conservancies. Additionally, researchers are encouraged to contribute their datasets from camera trap photos, sightings and animal tracking data. Some EIS data were recently used for the Red Data book for carnivores in Namibia (facilitated by NCE, Large Carnivore Management Association of Namibia and MET) to update our knowledge of carnivore ranges in Namibia, especially those species that are under-studied. Similar uses for this valuable information are envisaged for the future.

Another new development on the EIS included a photo library for landscapes, whereby citizen scientists can take photographs of specific locations at different times. This produces a series of images that show how landscapes change over time due to habitat degradation/restoration, different land uses, climate change, human settlements, and other factors.

As part of the NCE's mandate to improve access to and distribution of environmental information, we have launched a peer-reviewed scientific journal in partnership with the MET and the Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST). The Namibian Journal of Environment (NJE) is open-access and accepts scientific articles covering a broad range of topics, including: ecology, agriculture, social sciences, economics, policy and law, water and energy, climate change, planning, land use, pollution, strategic and environmental assessment and related fields. Scientists may submit their original research for peer-review in Section A of the journal,

FROM THE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT MAGAZINE LIVING WITH ELEPHANTS

Human-wildlife conflict beyond Namibia's protected areas is a hot topic that concerns a wide array of stakeholders, including farmers, government ministries, tourism operators, hunters, and conservation organisations. One of the reasons why this topic is highly contentious is that these stakeholders do not all experience wildlife like elephants and lions in the same way. While tourists view and enjoy these animals from a safe distance, livestock and crop farmers see a very different, sometimes dangerous, side to these animals. In an article entitled: *What Do You Do When the Elephants Arrive? Keep Calm and Work Together!* Gail Potgieter tries to convey the farmers' side of human-elephant conflict in the areas around Omatjete and Kamanjab. This is combined with an interview with Kenneth /Uiseb, a Deputy Director at MET, who explained some of the work MET and their partners have done to address the conflict. By presenting human-elephant conflict from the perspective of a farmer before revealing the collaborative project to address it, this article will hopefully provide a more detailed and nuanced view of this contentious topic to the concerned public.



or their opinions, book reviews, and field notes for editorial review in Section B. This platform allows Namibian environmental information to be published and widely accessed, thus facilitating evidence-based decision making.

The NCE's efforts to improve access to environmental information extend beyond the academic audiences likely to read NJE. In 2019, we partnered with Venture Media to produce the *Conservation and Environment in Namibia* magazine, which aims to share scientific research and conservation projects with the general public. The first edition of the magazine contains 17 articles that include hot topics such as wildlife crime and human-wildlife conflict, updates from NCE members on their work, and reviews of the latest scientific findings of interest to the general public. The NCE and Venture Media plan to publish this magazine on an annual basis and distribute hardcopies among NCE members, government departments, and tourism facilities, while making all of the articles available online for free.

FROM THE NAMIBIAN JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENT LIONS WITH A MARINE DIET

The open-access Namibian Journal of Environment published an article in the 2019 edition that generated international attention. Dr Philip Stander's article was entitled *Lions (Panthera leo) specialising on a marine diet in the Skeleton Coast National Park, Namibia*. He recounts that Namibia's desert-adapted lions were recorded killing seals along the Skeleton Coast in 1985, but the population was all but eradicated towards the end of that decade. Namibia's pro-conservation policies, which include communal conservancies, have allowed these lions to re-colonise the Skeleton Coast. According to Dr Stander, however, it has taken them 15 years to rediscover seals and other marine species as a food source. He recorded three young lionesses killing 2 flamingos, 60 cormorants and 18 seals during an 18-month period starting in 2017. This study underlines the unique nature of Namibia's free-ranging lion population, and the NCE was delighted to see this message was delivered to a wide audience through our *Namibian Journal of Environment*.

TRAINING AND MENTORSHIP

The NCE partnered with the Woodtiger Fund (USA) to grant 35 bursaries to postgraduate students to further their studies in environment related fields during the 2018 and 2019 academic years. These Namibian students are pursuing honours or masters-level degrees at Namibian and international universities. Funds are used to cover academic tuition, accommodation, and transport, according to their individual needs.

The number of applications (45 in 2018 and 108 in 2019) we received since opening the fund gives clear evidence of the need for this support in Namibia. Due to the competition for bursaries, we followed a selection procedure whereby each candidate was assessed using the following criteria: Namibian citizen, appropriate field of study, academic achievements to date, evidence of commitment and passion for the sector, financial need, leadership potential, and longer-term goals and plans. Candidates whose written applications excell beyond others are then short-listed for interviews with a selection committee. Successful applicants commit to providing NCE with feedback on their academic progress during their study year.

Young Namibians require more than just postgraduate degrees to further their careers in the environment. With current rates of unemployment, new graduates may not be employed in the sector as companies look for work experience and evidence of soft skills obtained only through practice. Consequently, the NCE bursary fund includes support for interns in the environmental sector. In 2018-2019, we sponsored 16 interns to work with organisations and individuals who provide them with further training and mentorship. The NCE furthermore encourages our members to prioritise training and mentoring young Namibians through our grants making programme criteria.



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POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS GRANTED BURSARIES

- 28 MASTER'S LEVEL
- 9 HONOUR'S LEVEL



₦549,220
DISBURSED FOR BURSARIES AND INTERNSHIPS IN 2018



16
STUDENT INTERNS HIRED



₦1,002,781
DISBURSED FOR BURSARIES AND INTERNSHIPS IN 2019



BURSARY HOLDERS 2019

FUNDRAISING

The NCE is committed to supporting our members, rather than competing with them – this is particularly important with regards to fundraising. We therefore seek to access funds that are not generally available to our members, and use the funding we receive to support our members’ conservation projects rather than implementing any projects of our own.

B2Gold covers NCE’s core running costs, which enables us to channel all other funding (including public support) directly into our grants budget line and member projects. The public can support the NCE through the website using the secure GiveToday system.

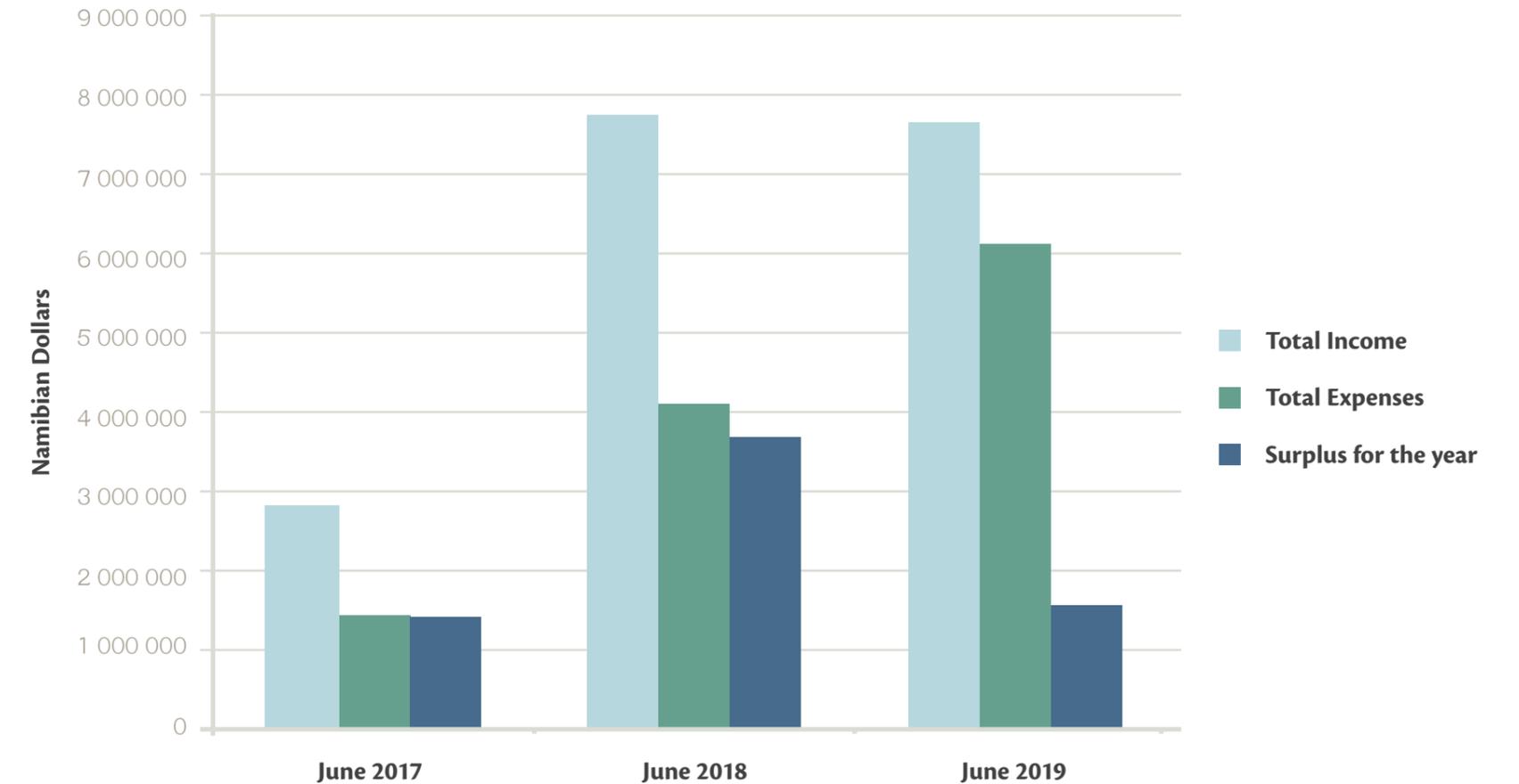
We further support B2Gold’s efforts to increase Namibia’s corporate sector contributions to conservation. Corporate sponsors can either support NCE directly, thus increasing the capacity of our grants making fund, or work with NCE to identify suitable conservation projects to support directly as part of their corporate social responsibility.

The corporate sector has responded generously, and the NCE would like to thank our sponsors for their support.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the largest environmental fund in the world. In Namibia, only the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) is accredited, which limits access to these funds by Namibia’s NGOs. We therefore provided seed funding for the Namibia Nature Foundation to become accredited with the Green Climate Fund on behalf of all members. This application has been submitted and NNF is awaiting feedback.

SUMMARY OF 2017-2019 FINANCES

The graph below presents a summary of the Detailed Income Statements for NCE over the period 2017-2019. The full audited financial statements can be accessed here: <http://www.n-c-e.org/council/financial-statements>.



GRANTS

The Namibian Chamber of Environment Fund (NCEF) seeks to support systemic programmes that will potentially lead to broad-scale, long-term changes through catalytic seed or supplementary funding. The fund focuses on sustainable development that links the environment with socio-economic development.

The NCEF grants are usually limited to N\$ 250,000 per project per year, for a maximum of two years. These funds are meant to provide seed funding for obtaining support from other sources, or to supplement established projects that do not have sufficient funding. Projects are selected that support sound environmental stewardship, protection of landscapes, habitat and indigenous species through capacity building, empowerment, collaboration, planning, implementation, research, monitoring, information dissemination and reporting. In addition, we prioritise projects that aim to democratise environmental management and that strive to involve and build skills of young Namibians.

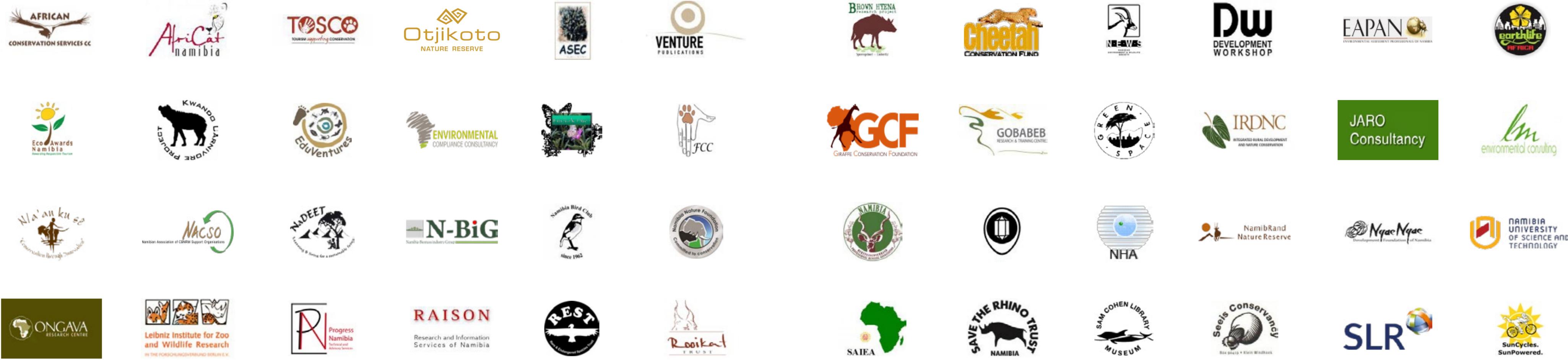
KUNENE LION SUPPORT PROGRAMME – GRANTEE REPORT BACK

Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) received a grant from the NCE for their Kunene Lion Support Programme. This project is part of a collaborative effort led by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and includes a number of other non-governmental partners that are part of the North West Lion Working Group. The Working Group has developed a multi-faceted strategy to address human-lion conflict in northwest Namibia, particularly within the communal conservancies. The IRDNC used funding from NCE and other sources to further train and expand their Rapid Response Unit for human-lion conflict incidents. This team comprises specially trained lion rangers from local communities who assist with incidents relating to human-lion conflict in the Kunene Region. They have responded successfully to a number of conflict incidents and have been involved in collaring lions to develop an Early Warning System in conflict hotspots.

NCE GRANTS AND PROJECTS

Recipient	Purpose of Grant
Omba Arts trust	Sustainability of using palm leaves for basket making
Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET)	Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation
Namibian Environment and Wildlife Society	Investigative Journalism
Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation	Human-lion conflict mitigation in the northwest
Namibian Professional Hunters Association	National Leopard Census
iCWild	Human-wildlife conflict analysis in conservancies
Namibia Nature Foundation	Baseline study of critically endangered cave-dwelling catfish
Students and Interns	Student Intern and Bursary Trust Fund
Large Carnivore Management Association of Namibia, MET	Carnivore Red Data Book
Chamber of Mines, Ministry of Mines and Energy MET	Best Practice Guide – Mining and Environment
NCE Members, Public	Conservation & Environment Magazine
Mashi Conservancy	Electrification of homesteads
Landowners and custodians, B2Gold mine closure	Greater Waterberg Partnership Park
MET, City of Windhoek, Botanical Society and partners	Bio-control for invasive alien cactus
NCE Members and partners	Conferences and symposia, anti-poaching support, poison training workshop
Wildlife Sector	Wildlife film
Namibia Nature Foundation	Accreditation - Green Climate Fund
Africat Foundation CCCP	Human-lion conflict mitigation
Environmental Information System	Bring EIS into NCE and upgrade
Development Workshop-Namibia	Urban environment, sanitation
Environmental Research Sector	Namibian Journal of Environment
Wildlife Crime Whistleblowers	Pangolin Reward Scheme
Public	Clean up campaign, Plastic by-laws, Zero Waste lifestyle, cactus clean up

MEMBERS



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ANCHOR SPONSOR



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