



2024 Annual Report



**Namibia Nature
Foundation**

Namibia Nature Foundation 2024 Report

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Acronyms

ABRIVA	African Botanical Resource Innovation and Value Addition
ACADIR	Associação de Conservação do Ambiente e Desenvolvimento Integrado Rural
AHTEG	Ad Hoc Technical Group on Indicators
ATF	Albatross Task Force
BRTT	Blue Rhino Task Team
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CCFN	Community Conservation Fund of Namibia
CMC	Conservancy Management Committee
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CoLAB	Conservation Leveraging Agribusiness in the Zambezi Region
COP	Conference of the Parties
COSDEC	Community Skills Development Centre
DoF	Directorate of Forestry
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EHRA	Elephant Human Relations Aid
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENP	Etosha National Park
ESS	Environmental Social Safeguarding
EU	European Union
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GGF	Go Green Fund
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
IED	Innovation Energie Développement
INL	United States Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KAZA TFCA	Kavango-Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation Area
KfW	German Development Bank
KHSA	Knowledge Hub for Southern Africa
KMGBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MAWLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
MEFT	Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Tourism

MFMR	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MW	Mega Watt
NACSO	Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations
NaDEET	Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust
NAMCOB	Namibian Foundation for the Conservation of Seabirds
NamPol	Namibian Police Force
NamPower	Namibia Power Corporation
NamRA	Namibia Revenue Agency
NBRI	National Botanical Research Institute
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NIMPA	Namibian Islands Marine Protected Area
NMN	National Museum of Namibia
NNF	Namibia Nature Foundation
NOA	Namibian Organic Association
NP	National Park
NUST	Namibian University of Science and Technology
OKACOM	Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission
REDAA	Reversing Environmental Degradation in Africa and Asia
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SADC	Southern African Development Council
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SMART	Spatial Monitoring & Reporting Tool
SODI	Solidarity Service International
SRT	Save the Rhino Trust
TFCA	Trans-frontier Conservation Area
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAM	University of Namibia
US/USA	United States of America
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
YPA	Young Professional Accountants
ZSFR	Zambezi State Forest Reserve

1 Foreword

As we present the Namibia Nature Foundation's (NNF) Annual Report for 2024, **we reflect on a year of significant achievements and milestones** that have reinforced our commitment to conservation and sustainable development. This year has been a testament to the dedication of our team, partners, and stakeholders, whose collaborative efforts have facilitated delivery, assisted in our organisational growth and propelled us toward our strategic goals.

Through our eight programmatic core areas, NNF has continued to make a lasting impact on Namibia's environmental landscape. From strengthening community-based organisations and combatting wildlife crime to advancing sustainable agriculture and forestry, and securing freshwater and marine ecosystems, our work remains deeply embedded in supporting people and nature. Our engagement at local, regional, and global levels has allowed us to drive positive change while ensuring that conservation efforts remain inclusive and responsive to community needs, national commitments and global aspirations.

The year 2024 marked a critical point in our organisational development. With the support of Blue Action and Maliasili, we have worked towards enhancing our financial management system, communication strategies, business development, and monitoring and evaluation systems. The adoption of the SAGE Intacct Financial Management Software is optimising our financial operations, while a newly developed risk register has strengthened our risk management framework. Additionally, the integration of Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) into our way of working and our projects ensures that our initiatives are both responsible and impactful.

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the **establishment of the Applied Scientific Research Unit**. This initiative will strengthen our ability to generate scientific evidence that informs conservation action, policy development, and sustainable resource management. By fostering partnerships with universities and research institutions, the Unit will drive relevant research that directly supports Namibia's environmental and developmental priorities.

Another key milestone was the launch of the Strategic Plan 2024-2029, which provides a clear roadmap for NNF's future direction. This strategic vision prioritises sustainability, innovation, and collaborative action, ensuring that our organisation remains adaptive and resilient in an evolving conservation landscape. The launch event brought

together key stakeholders, reinforcing our commitment to a united and integrated approach to conservation and sustainable development.

We are nothing without our people and our investment in leadership development saw great strides, with 23 middle and senior management staff participating in the Go4Gold Leadership Programme, equipping them with skills to drive our mission forward. The establishment of a robust Performance, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning system has further enabled us to track progress and enhance accountability.

Looking ahead, we recognise that we are evolving into a radically changing conservation and development landscape, yet we are well poised to respond to the challenges ahead whilst staying focused on our mission. As we continue implementing our Strategic Plan 2024-2029, we remain committed to further strengthening our internal systems, expanding our conservation reach, and ultimately supporting local actions that make a difference. With unwavering support from our partners, funders, and staff, we are confident that NNF will continue to play a crucial role in safeguarding Namibia's natural heritage for future generations.

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to NNF's success this year. Your commitment and collaboration make our collective vision possible. Together, we look forward to another year of impactful conservation and sustainable development.



Manfred Böttger
Chairperson, Board of Directors

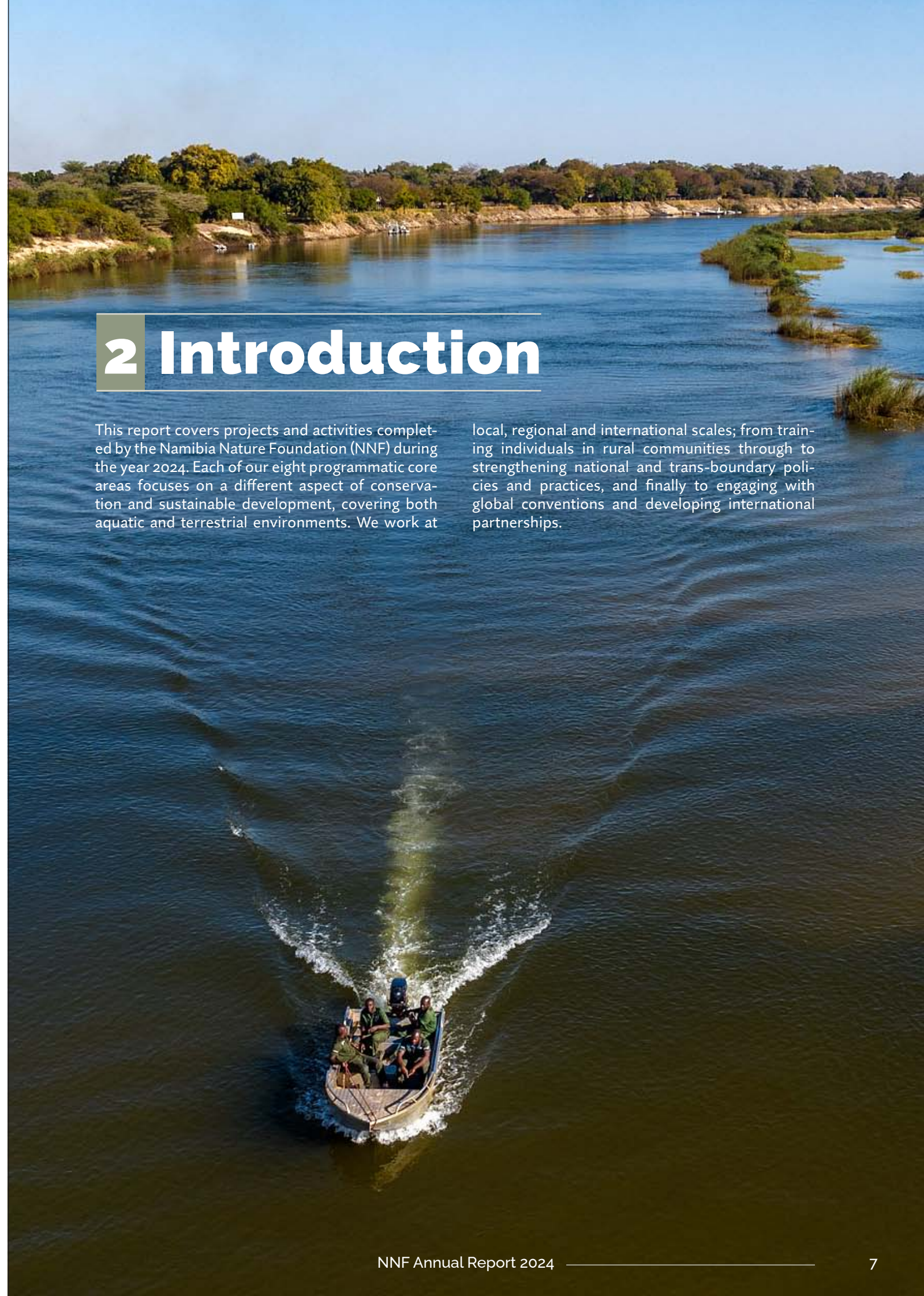


Angus Middleton
Executive Director

2 Introduction

This report covers projects and activities completed by the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) during the year 2024. Each of our eight programmatic core areas focuses on a different aspect of conservation and sustainable development, covering both aquatic and terrestrial environments. We work at

local, regional and international scales; from training individuals in rural communities through to strengthening national and trans-boundary policies and practices, and finally to engaging with global conventions and developing international partnerships.



3 Highlights of 2024

Strengthening community-based organisations

- Assessed capacity needs of 22 community-based organisations (CBOs) in 5 regions.
- Trained 25 individuals from 6 regions on business development and marketing during the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Business Marathon.
- Supported 10 nature-based businesses with start-up capital and mentorship in communal conservancies from 6 regions.
- Assisted 5 conservancies to develop Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Plans, Benefit Distribution Plans, and a governance policy.
- Conducted 5 capacity building workshops for regional CBO associations.
- Supported the implementation of the Young Professional Accountant programme in 4 regions.

Combatting wildlife crime

- Supported the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) in anti-poaching operations, including dehorning 543 rhino.
- Wildlife crime partners increased the number of suspects arrested while planning or attempting to poach through collaborative operations led by NNF partners.
- MEFT's K9 unit was present at 3 of the country's most high-profile arrests between 2023/2024 leading to confiscations valued in the thousands of dollars.
- Facilitated the development of a Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) data model for the K9 units.
- Inauguration of the new Magistrates Court for Environmental Crimes in Otjiwarongo.

Sustainable forestry

- 19 farmers trained in beekeeping and supported to sell their honey in the Mudumu Complex.
- 65 participants from 21 community forests and the Directorate of Forestry trained in fire management, received a fire training guide in 3 languages.
- Expanded operations to south-eastern Namibia – trained 9 NBRI staff to identify succulent plants, produced a dataset of 3,618 plant records representing 865 plant families, collected 119 specimens during the first field trip.
- In the Nkulivere landscape, 254 farmers trained in harvesting and selling Devil's Claw, 1 thatch grass storage facility, and 1 community garden established.
- In Zambezi State Forest Reserve (ZSFR), placed 7 Zonation information boards; 80 kilometres of cutlines cleared by 20 community forest members.
- 2 Community Forest inventories completed covering 40,000 hectares.
- Facilitated development of a new cosmetic ingredient from *Terminalia sericea*.

Sustainable agriculture

- Trained over 800 farmers in conservation agriculture, organic agriculture, and agroecology, covering at least three topics or practices; 122 lead farmers and multipliers active; over 500 farmers being mentored and practising these farming techniques.
- Developed 78 knowledge products on organic agriculture and agroecology.
- Trained 480 people in nutrition and food security; set up 2 school gardens and nurseries in Kavango East and West; established 240 backyard gardens.
- In Bwabwata National Park, 12 farmers established poultry farms, including construction of chicken coops and training on poultry production; 3 boreholes upgraded.
- Established 3 cluster gardens empowering 6-12 farmers each – electrified fencing installed to prevent elephant damage, solar powered pumps used for irrigation.
- Created a chilli value chain and built a structure for informal fresh produce sales.
- Established 4 committees for livestock and rangeland management, held 8 workshops.

Freshwater and inland fisheries

- The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) launched the Standard Operating Procedures and the Tackle Box for Community Fisheries produced with the NNF team.
- *The River People* documentary featured at 2 public screenings of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration events and was translated into 2 local languages.
- Convened the Fisheries Indaba attended by over 90 participants from Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, allowing information exchange among fishing communities, researchers and government officials.
- Provided capacity building for partners from Angola, Zambia and Botswana; presented the Transboundary Fisheries Framework 2023 at a meeting for the Southern African Development Council (SADC) Trans-frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs).
- Fisheries management discussed in 6 community-led transboundary fora in the Zambezi and Kavango Regions.
- Supported 16 fisheries reserves with equipment, material, and operational support to improve sustainability; built offices for 2 reserves, camping facilities for Fish Guards in 2 other reserves.
- Submitted 2 new fisheries reserves for gazetting.

Marine and coastal conservation

- Supported MFMR to update and validate the NIMPA operations management plan and regulations.
- Helped to establish the Namibian Foundation for the Conservation of Seabirds (NAMCOB); they rehabilitated and released 14 African penguins and provided input into the National Plan of Action for Seabirds.
- Provided support to the national Blue Economy Policy and central Marine Spatial Planning process.
- Trained over 100 fishing industry personnel on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, including installing bird-scaring lines to reduce fisheries bycatch of Albatrosses and other seabirds.
- Increased awareness among coastal schools and Namibian public by: developing an Ocean Literacy Toolkit; supporting the publication of the Namibian Rays and Sharks identification guide; training 10 youth to paint murals in Lüderitz showcasing marine diversity; and participating in World Oceans Day.
- Assisted the establishment of the Lüderitz Small-Scale Fishers Association; trained 10 marine-specialised tour Guides in partnership with Benguela Community Skills Development Centre (COSDEC).
- Conducted a scoping mission of the Walvis Ridge as a potential high seas MPA.

Technical services and policy

- Submitted application for accreditation to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), currently under Stage I review.
- Held preparatory meetings and workshops with partners for the Otjikoto Biomass Power Station project.
- For the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): represented Namibia to develop indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF); attended the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP).
- Attended the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP29.
- Presented at a side event on the Intergovernmental Panel for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and attended the IPBES Conference held in Windhoek.
- Participated in the World Oceans Conference in Athens and global Marine Conservation meeting in Cape Town.

Applied scientific research

- Appointed the Director of Research, who was awarded the Benjamin Raymond Oppenheimer Fellowship in People and Wildlife.
- Appointed 2 student interns (one PhD and one Master's level), co-supervising another PhD student.
- Published 4 scientific articles.
- Engaged stakeholders through 6 workshops and conferences, including a presentation at the Oppenheimer Research and Conservation Conference in Johannesburg.
- Established partnerships with 3 international universities.



4 About the Namibia Nature Foundation

The Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) is a leading Namibian conservation and sustainable development organisation. Since 1987 our organisation has contributed to sustainable development, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, and the wise and ethical use of natural resources for the benefit of current and future Namibian generations. While grounded in Namibia, our work frequently involves neighbouring countries and includes engaging in global conventions.

Our Focus

Environment and development issues are not neatly compartmentalised. Our goal at the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) is to see the integration of different sectors across Namibia's environmental landscape.

NNF is organised into eight programmatic areas of work. People lie at the heart of our work, as we strengthen community-based organisations to combat wildlife crime and engage in sustainable agriculture, forestry and fishing (both freshwater and marine) practices. Our newly established Applied Scientific Research programme ensures a scientific basis to our programmes and publishes our work for wider use in the conservation sector. Our Technical Services and Policy programme leverages our knowledge and expertise to implement projects commissioned by third parties and provide policy input at national and international levels.

With 70 staff members, a head office in Windhoek, and seven field offices we are well positioned to implement programmes across the country.

NNF collaborates with a wide variety of partners, from local communities to global conventions, from traditional knowledge holders to scientific research institutions, and from private sector through to civil society and government. While

we implement many of our own projects, we also channel conservation finance to partners that focus on specific issues or species.

OUR VISION: an equitable, well-informed society living in harmony with the natural richness of our environment.

OUR MISSION: to promote sustainable development, the conservation of biological diversity and natural ecosystems, and the wise and ethical use of natural resources for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future.

VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Trust: The NNF is a reliable partner guided by strong values and ethics. We promote openness, communication, transparency and accountability to build long-lasting relationships with our partners as we work towards our common goal.

Community: As a people-focused organisation, we want to make a difference in peoples' lives and promote care and respect. We honour the voices of the people we serve.

Learning: At the NNF we constantly learn from each other, through our work and from our partners, to adapt to changing circumstances, build our technical competencies and ensure local knowledge is considered at a regional, national and international level.

Initiative: The NNF wants to be driven, engaging and responsive. With our diverse, knowledgeable and passionate team, we aim to contribute to the empowerment of people and strive to be innovative and responsive to existing and arising needs in a flexible way.



4.1 Board of Directors



Manfred Böttger
Chairperson



Len Le Roux
Vice Chair Person



Arne Stier
Treasurer



Raulin Gomachas
Board Member



Kenneth /Uiseb
Board Member



Michael Hill
Board Member



Pauline Lindeque
Board Member



Angus Middleton
Executive Director



Frances Chase
Director of Programmes

Frances has over 10 years of senior management experience and several years of project management experience. With a background in botany, she has a broad knowledge of plant ecology and conservation and is extending her knowledge into forestry related issues. She has a particular interest in forest management and developing value chains for non-timber forest products with Namibian communities. She holds an MSc in Plant Diversity from Reading University and a degree in Environmental Science and Geography with honours in Physical Geography from Rhodes University. Frances is passionate about the environment, especially plants, and always enjoys being in the field.



Prof. Morgan Hauptfleisch
Director of Research

Morgan is a wildlife and environmental scientist with 12 years in conservation and environmental practice, followed by 13 years in academia as a lecturer and researcher. He has a Bachelors Honours in Ecology, a Masters in Plant Ecology and Wildlife Management, and a PhD in Environmental Management. His blend of practical experience and academic science helps drive applied scientific research in support of decision-making regarding conservation and wildlife management. He has published over 50 scientific journal articles and book chapters in fields relating to environmental conservation. He has a passion for Namibian biodiversity conservation, and for mentoring young aspirant scientists.

4.2 Senior Management Team



Angus Middleton
Executive Director

Angus has over 20 years of senior management and organisational leadership experience in Africa and Europe. He brings a relevant mix of knowledge and technical experience in environmental economics, ecological resource management, agricultural management, and biodiversity policies. He provides overall leadership for the NNF and also works directly on a number of projects, particularly in the field of environmental economics. He holds an MSc in Environmental Policy from Imperial College London and a BSc in Ecological Resource Management from Newcastle University. He has a great passion for the outdoors, a particular interest in raptors, and a love of freshwater angling.



Liesbeth van Brink
Head of Business Development

Liesbeth recently joined the NNF team. She holds an MSc in Natural Resources Management from the University of Wageningen with a strong communication and educational angle. She has mainly worked in the international development sector, among others in Botswana as District Officer Development and in Ghana as Rural Development Planner, both for the Dutch Development Cooperation. Later, she joined the Belgium Vredeseilanden as Country Representative in Vietnam. In the Netherlands, she held positions as Head of Programmes and Business Developer for ActionAid and Wetlands International, respectively. Her work at NNF includes Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning.



Edla Kaveru
Director of Operations

Edla has spent more than two decades working in conservation and sustainable development. She is responsible for providing leadership for the NNF's financial and operational functions. She holds an MBA and a Bachelor of Commerce degree and has completed various management development programmes. She has 25 years of experience in financial management and corporate operations, of which more than 15 years have been in a leadership role. She has a passion for the development sector in Namibia in general and a special interest in the improvement of livelihoods of rural Namibians through women empowerment.



4.3 NNF Staff Members

NNF's strength lies in the diverse expertise and commitment of our team. From financial and operational specialists to project managers and researchers, each member plays a role in advancing conservation and sustainable development in Namibia. Each pro-

gramme is staffed by professionals who bring specialised skills and knowledge to their respective fields, supported by cross-cutting team members and administrative staff that ensure efficient and responsible project management across the organisation.

PROJECT STAFF: Positions like Programme Manager, Programme Officer, Project Coordinator, Research Officer etc. fall under this category. Project staff members are specialists in one or more of NNF's programmatic areas.



Ailla-Tessa Iiyambula
Assistant Project Coordinator | CBO Strengthening



Alice Limani Poniso
Assist Project Coordinator | Sustainable Forestry



Allen Jiji
Senior Regional Project Coordinator | Freshwater & Inland Fisheries



Bertholdt Malyata
Regional Coordinator | Sustainable Agriculture



Britta Hackenberg
Senior Technical Advisor | Freshwater & Inland Fisheries



Carolin Mutorwa
Senior Technical Advisor | Marine & Coastal Conservation



Clemens Naomab
Senior Regional Project Coordinator | Combatting Wildlife Crime



Davies Mwezi
Field Instructor | Sustainable Agriculture



Emily Mbeha
Field Instructor | Sustainable Agriculture



Gideon Haingura
Research Assistant | Applied Research



Ingrid Hakalume
Sustainable Biomass Project Coordinator | Technical Services



Johannes Katjana
Project Trainee | Sustainable Agriculture



John Hazam
Senior Technical Advisor | CBO Strengthening



Kaino Shilume
Forestry Field Coordinator | Sustainable Forestry



Mabuta Simataa
Project Trainee | Freshwater & Inland Fisheries



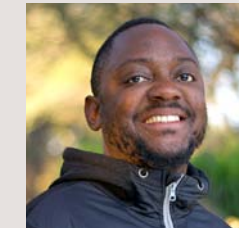
Mareike Voigts
Senior Technical Advisor | Sustainable Agriculture



Markfaren Mushabati
Assistant Regional Project Coordinator | Freshwater & Inland Fisheries



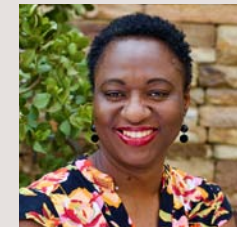
Martha Iyambo
Project Trainee | Marine & Coastal Conservation



Mukoya Nyangana
Project Trainee | Sustainable Forestry



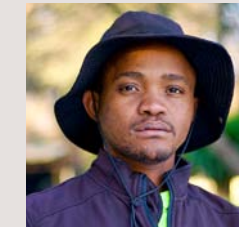
Nabot Mbeeli
Senior Coordinator | CBO Strengthening



Natende Paulo
Senior Accountant | Marine & Coastal Conservation



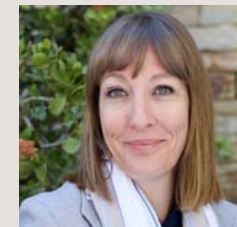
Peter Erb
Technical Advisor | Combatting Wildlife Crime



Phillip Geuse
SDC Assistant Project Coordinator | Sustainable Agriculture



Priskilla Nghaangulwa
Albatross Task Force Instructor | Marine & Coastal Conservation



Rachel Futter
Senior Project Coordinator | Combatting Wildlife Crime



Rakel Johannes
Project Trainee | Sustainable Agriculture



Robert Mukuya
Field Instructor | Sustainable Agriculture



Salom Johannes
Admin & Procurement Officer | Marine & Coastal Conservation



Samantha Matjila
Senior Coordinator | Marine & Coastal Conservation



Sarlotte Kalenga
Monitoring & Evaluation Officer | Sustainable Agriculture



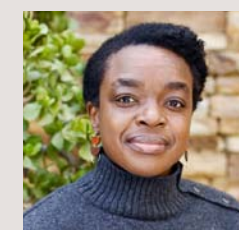
Sharon Kahunda
Marine Coordinator | Marine & Coastal Conservation



Silvanus Nuuyuni
Project Trainee | Freshwater & Inland Fisheries



Soini Shatilue
Assistant Project Coordinator | CBO Strengthening



Tega Shivute
Senior Technical Advisor | Technical Services



Thomas Neema
Senior Regional Project Coordinator | Freshwater & Inland Fisheries



Titus Shaanika
Albatross Task Force project coordinator | Marine & Coastal Conservation



Vasco Samwaka
Field Coordinator |
Sustainable Agriculture



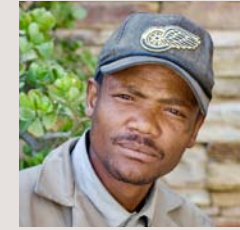
Veikko Hainana
Livelihood Support
Officer | Marine &
Coastal Conservation



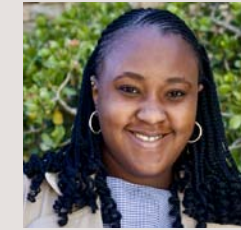
Vera Corry
Project Support Officer |
Sustainable Agriculture



Werner Mbango
Project Coordinator |
Sustainable Forestry



Melvin Gariseb
Gardener |
Administration



Rejoice Handura
Receptionist |
Administration

CROSS-CUTTING STAFF: Staff that span multiple departments or areas of responsibility, requiring collaboration and coordination across different teams to ensure effective implementation and impact.



Disney Andreas
Communications
Officer |
Communications



Eddy Shiimi
ESS Trainee |
Environmental and
Social Safeguards (ESS)



Faith Lubinda
Compliance Intern



Gabrielle Thomas
Economist/ ODI Fellow



Priscilla Mundilo
ESS Specialist |
Environmental and
Social Safeguards (ESS)



Sunnypo Imalwa
Assistant Communications
Officer | Communications



Ulrica Abrahams
Contracts and
Compliance Manager |
Administration

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Staff overseeing the administration such as a Manager, Admin Assistant, Supervisor and other support staff.



**Evangeline "Tina"
Siririka**
Cleaner | Administration



Iyaloo Hailombe
Admin & Procurement
Assistant | Administration

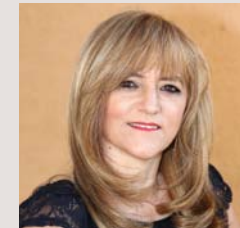


Jafet Barney Tjiramba
Driver |
Administration

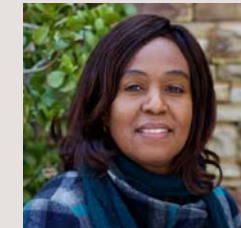


Jessica Nowotes
Office and Human
Resource Manager |
Administration

FINANCE STAFF: Staff that is involved in maintaining accounts for the organisation



Bia Kotze
Bookkeeper | Finance



Christa Katjiruru
Finance Manager |
Finance



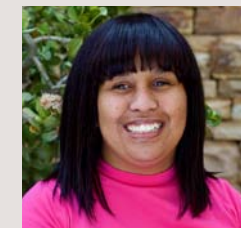
Frans Elias
Project Accountant |
Finance



Friedrich Kamonde
Project Accountant |
Finance



Jasmine Kapuuu
Project Accountant |
Finance



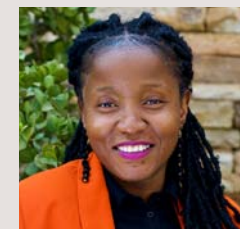
Jolene Both
Project Accountant |
Finance



Maggy Imbili
Project Accountant |
Finance



Petrina Aitembu
Senior Project
Accountant | Finance



Shirley Zamuee
Project Accountant |
Finance



Vistorina Kamati
Trainee Accountant |
Finance



Yvonne Ntema
Senior Accountant |
Finance

“ Each programme is staffed by professionals who bring specialised skills and knowledge to their respective fields. ”

5 NNF's Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The NNF contributes to achieving 10 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Nationally, our work supports Namibia's Fifth National Development Plan and the Haram-

bee Prosperity Plan II. Our approach to conservation is thus in line with global aspirations of a world living in harmony with nature and Namibia's Vision 2030.



1 NO POVERTY

Diversifying livelihoods and supporting sustainable rural economies are a key part of our projects involving community-based organisations and their members involved in the wildlife economy, forestry, agriculture, and fisheries (marine and freshwater) sectors.



2 ZERO HUNGER

Our agriculture and freshwater fisheries projects improve the nutritional status of rural households.



5 GENDER EQUALITY

We train women farmers and plant harvesters to improve their yields and assist them to access markets for their products, while bringing women in to all of our training relating to community conservation and fisheries.



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

We are investigating bush biomass as a potential source of energy for Namibia, including assisting NamPower to obtain a grant to build Namibia's first ever Biomass Power Station

“Our approach to conservation is thus in line with global aspirations of a world living in harmony with nature and Namibia's Vision 2030.”



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Five projects on the Green Urbanism theme are being funded by the NNF-hosted Go Green Fund.



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

We promote agricultural, forestry and fishing techniques that minimise ecological impacts (including bycatch in the marine sector).



13 CLIMATE ACTION

Our technical services include several projects that aim to help Namibia adapt to the impacts of climate change at government and civil society levels.



14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Our projects in the freshwater and marine environments promote sustainable fishing practices and the establishment of freshwater fisheries reserves and marine protected areas.



15 LIFE ON LAND

Our support for community-based organisations and combatting wildlife crime protect key animal species, while our sustainable forestry projects reduce deforestation.



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

All of our projects involve partners within Namibia, including government and civil society, and beyond our borders.

6 Programmatic Core Areas

Each of our core programmatic areas addresses environmental challenges that impact people at the local level and ultimately scale to become the global crises we are experiencing today. The work we do is grounded at the local level where we trial new ideas and learn from the people who work the land, harvest nature's bounty from the forest and ocean, and manage biodiversity. But it does not stay at this level. We continuously look for ideas that can be scaled up to the landscape level, often crossing Namibia's borders. At the global scale, we engage with

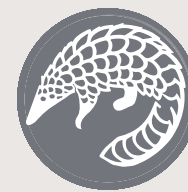
international conservation conventions and other fora where we introduce African ideas into multilateral negotiations and knowledge exchanges.

The NNF programmatic areas overlap extensively, since humans interact with nature as an integrated whole. Consequently, while each programme team has a core focus and set of expertise, they come together under the NNF banner to find ways to integrate our approach to conservation and sustainable development.



COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANISATION STRENGTHENING

Supporting community-based organisations that manage wildlife, forest and fish resources through improving governance of community structures and providing technical expertise in southern Kunene, Erongo, Omaheke, Kavango East, Kavango West and Zambezi.



COMBATTING WILDLIFE CRIME

Supporting the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and their partners in the Blue Rhino Task Team to combat the full range of wildlife crime. This includes channelling and managing funds for anti-poaching activities, customs strengthening and targeted awareness among communities that live alongside rhinos.



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Working with the Directorate of Forestry in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and community forests to support the sustainable management of Namibia's botanical and forest resources. We also work with private sector partners to support the biomass industry and its sustainability.



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Supporting small-scale farmers to improve the resilience of their farming systems and promote appropriate value chains by advancing agro-ecological and organic farming practices in Namibia that improve food security and livelihoods while maintaining and improving soil fertility and crop production.



FRESHWATER & INLAND FISHERIES

Working with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and local fishing communities to support the recovery of freshwater fish stocks and improve the state of riverine ecosystems by strengthening community rights and capacity to manage their own fish resources.



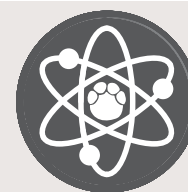
MARINE & COASTAL CONSERVATION

Working with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and the marine sector to improve management of marine and coastal ecosystems and extend Namibia's international reputation as a conservation leader into the marine environment, while increasing societal engagement with the ocean.



TECHNICAL SERVICES & POLICY

Working with the Directorate of Forestry in the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism and community forests to support the sustainable management of Namibia's botanical and forest resources. We also work with private sector partners to support the biomass industry and its sustainability.



APPLIED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Working with research institutions nationally and internationally to set a research agenda that responds to conservation challenges encountered on the ground; co-supervising Namibian students to publish and present their work in reputable scientific journals and at conferences.

6.1 Strengthening Community-Based Organisations

Community-based organisations (CBOs) are the fulcrum of Namibia's renowned Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Programme. Conservancies manage wildlife and their habitats, while community forests manage forest products and woodland ecosystems. Tourism and hunting are key sources of income for the former, while timber, non-timber forest products and indigenous natural products sustain the latter. These institutions enhance local sustainable development and improve livelihoods by channelling their own income, facilitating external projects, or both. NNF provides long-term support for 20 CBOs in five landscapes to strengthen governance, build management capacity and ensure compliance with government regulations. Strong CBOs lead to flourishing communities that conserve and benefit from their natural resources.

Each of the CBOs we work with has unique capacity needs and requirements. To understand these needs, the NNF team conducted capacity assessments for three conservancies and community forests in the Omaheke Region, 12 conservancies in Kunene South and Erongo and seven conservancies and community forests in the Kavango East and West regions. This work was implemented under the **Leading the Change project**, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency through WWF-Namibia.

In 2024, Muduva Nyangana and George Mukoya conservancies in Kavango East started the process of co-developing their Human-Wildlife Conflict Management Action Plans. During various NNF-facilitated workshops, these neighbouring conservancies aligned their plans with each other, strengthening local and landscape-level natural resources management. Conservancies in the Omaheke landscape received game guard training and

support to develop their Benefit Distribution Plans and prepare their 2022/2023 Annual Financial Reports, which are critical to maintain accountability and transparency between Conservancy Management Committees (CMC) and their respective communities. These activities were carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism (MEFT).

Financial management remains a perennial challenge for many CBOs. In response, MEFT and its partners launched the Young Professional Accountants (YPA) programme with support from the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN). As an implementing partner, the NNF ensures that the YPAs assigned to Erongo, Kunene South and Kavango conservancies are supported to execute their duties of providing monthly financial verification and training for bookkeepers, CMC members, and office administrators. The financial monitoring system facilitates early detection of



CBNRMathon Business Pitch – Maria April, Blauwes Women Group !Khob !Naub Conservancy.



CBNRMathon Beneficiary products – Kalahari Melon Oil – Ekuta Melon Project.



CBNRMathon Beneficiaries Craft Products – Elim project.

financial management issues, enabling timely and corrective actions. The YPA programme capacitates conservancy financial managers to implement financial management systems, thus ensuring long-term sustainability.

Conservancies in the Otjozondjupa landscape host a population of African wild dogs, a species listed as Critically Endangered in Namibia. Wild dogs can cause high levels of livestock losses, especially in the absence of sufficient wild prey. There is little or no tourism in these areas, limiting potential economic benefits from their presence. The Wildlife Credits initiative supported by CCFN, MEFT and WWF-Namibia is designed for situations like this, whereby communities are rewarded based on verifiable results that a species or habitat is being conserved while promoting human-wildlife co-existence. The NNF team, together with the above-mentioned partners, are developing a wildlife credits product around African wild dog conservation in this landscape.

A highlight in 2024 was the **CBNRM Business Marathon in partnership with MEFT and Impact Tank Namibia**, funded by the GIZ Climate Change and Inclusive Use of Natural Resources project. This initiative invited CBOs and individuals living within CBO areas to propose innovative business ideas related to indigenous natural products, climate resilience, conservation agriculture, agroforestry, renewable energy, and value-added forest products. Twenty-five participants from six regions (Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Zambezi, Hardap, and Karas), representing seven CBOs, engaged in an intensive three-day venture-building training focused on business ideation, planning, risk assessment, budgeting, marketing, and branding.

Ten business proposals were selected for an accelerator programme, covering business formalisation, mentorship, and access to start-up capital



Omuramba Ua Mbinda Conservancy Financial Reporting – Pre-AGM Support.

of N\$40,000-50,000. This project revealed the need for more investment in business capacity building, infrastructure, and market linkages through partnerships with the private sector to ensure that these local businesses remain viable in the long term.

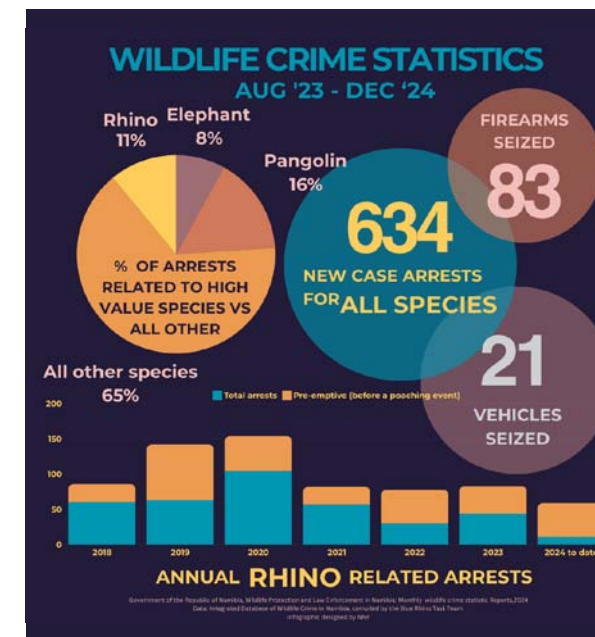
Recognising the growing need for community participation in environmental governance, NNF secured funding from the European Union (EU) in late 2024 to implement a project aimed at enhancing the capacity of CBOs in the Kunene, Erongo, and Kavango regions to actively engage in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes. This intervention ensures that local voices influence decision-making, promote accountability, and advocate for sustainable development.

Through the Strengthening CBOs Programme, the NNF reaffirms its commitment to empowering communities and placing CBOs at the forefront of conservation. By fostering meaningful partnerships and supporting community-driven initiatives, we aim to ensure that local voices are not only heard but also play a pivotal role in shaping the future of conservation and sustainable development in Namibia.



“Our work to strengthen community conservation and improve food security goes hand-in-hand with combatting wildlife crime.”

6.2 Combatting Wildlife Crime



Namibia hosts the largest population of black rhinos in the world and the second-largest population of white rhinos. It further hosts over 25,000 savannah elephants, a healthy population of Temminck's ground pangolin and an estimated 1,415 endemic and near-endemic plant species. Many of these plant species are succulents that are in demand among plant collectors, while some indigenous trees are valued for timber. These high-value species are under increasing pressure, as poaching and illegal harvesting is driven by global criminal syndicates. Namibia's response relies on a network of dedicated teams working in government, civil society and community organisations. NNF plays a key role in maintaining coordination among these actors and channelling critical funding to areas where it will make the most impact in combatting wildlife crime.

After the initial spike in rhino poaching in 2015, Namibia managed to keep losses below the annual rhino population growth rate through a concerted, collaborative effort led by MEFT. In 2024, poaching rates remained similar to 2023, while the number of pre-emptive arrests (people caught while planning or attempting to poach) increased – a key indicator of success, but also of poaching pressure.

To sustain these results, Namibian partnerships against wildlife crime must continue to be strengthened. Field rangers, intelligence officers, police officers, border officials, lawyers, and judges all play key roles in the overall effort. The ultimate goal is as multi-faceted as the task at hand: to cut off opportunities for poachers to commit the crime in the first place, arrest perpetrators when poaching or trafficking occurs, and conduct thorough investigations that lead to robust, swift and consistent sentences.

NNF views poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the broader Namibian context, where rural livelihoods are increasingly threatened by climate change. Our work to strengthen community conservation and improve food security goes hand-in-hand with combatting wildlife crime.

In 2024, NNF secured a grant from the United States Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and another grant from the Rapid RESCUE Fund (European Union) in partnership with Re:wild, an international NGO. These funds supported our partners in MEFT, the Blue Rhino Task Team (BRTT), Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA), Rooikat Trust and Save the Rhino Trust (SRT). The combatting wildlife crime team secured a new grant from the Rhino Recovery Fund

that will support intelligence efforts in Namibia's communal areas in the coming years.

The highlights of Namibia's efforts to combat wildlife crime in 2024 include: the establishment of a dedicated Environmental Crime Court, dehorning 543 rhino, many successful arrests assisted by the elite K9 unit, and using the latest technology for efficient anti-poaching operations.

The new Magistrates Court for Environmental Crimes in Otjiwarongo was inaugurated by Her Excellency Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of Namibia (Vice President at the time). This court is only the second of its kind in Africa. Established with support from the office of the Judiciary, INL and the Wildcat Foundation – facilitated by Rooikat Trust – this court will greatly increase the number of environmental crimes cases that are heard each year, and will be presided by judges who are well aware of the severity and nature of these crimes.

The dehorning operation in Etosha National Park (ENP) revealed higher levels of poaching than initially recorded, as the dehorning teams detected more carcasses than regular patrol teams. MEFT responded to this information by increasing security, identifying poaching hotspots, and developing a Technology and Conservation Strategy for ENP. The overall goal of dehorning is to reduce the incentives for poaching, which combines with other strategies that increase the risks of arrest and subsequent heavy sentences.

The K9 unit was present at three of the country's most high-profile arrests in 2023/24, leading to confiscations valued in the thousands. Their specialised



MEFT Dehorning, 2024

training has made them the country's leading rapid response unit, able to assist multiple law enforcement agencies, from customs to the Intelligence and Investigations Unit and the Namibian Police Force (NAMPOL). The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) has been successfully rolled out to MEFT and SRT ranger teams across the country. This year, NNF facilitated the development of a K9-specific version of SMART and provided training for the K9 units to use it, in partnership with North Carolina Zoo and Working Dogs for Conservation. Namibia's highlights of 2024 are a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the long-term expert partners supported by NNF and other organisations.

The use of SMART and the EarthRanger online system is rapidly becoming a global gold standard for anti-poaching operations and wildlife monitoring. In Namibia, these technologies have improved partner monitoring and management capabilities, streamlined operations, and boosted operational efficiency. The NNF team attended the EarthRanger Conference in Cape Town and the SMART Global user conference in Windhoek to keep abreast of the latest developments in these technologies and share knowledge and best practices with global experts. The team also contributed to the Second National Stakeholder Forum on Wildlife Protection and Wildlife Crime in Windhoek, along with partners in MEFT and the BRTT.

A visit from the INL Africa Projects Coordinator, Ms Samantha Novick, provided the opportunity to showcase project progress, spotlight new challenges, and ensure that funding effectively meets our partners' needs. The delegation joining this site visit included WWF (another INL grantee), the MEFT (Directorate of Forestry and Directorate of Wildlife and National Parks), NamRA border officials, the US Embassy, BRTT, and Rooikat Trust. They surveyed activities supported under the INL projects and met the partners on the ground.



Pangolins are the world's most trafficked animals.

The group visited Etosha National park to witness the anti-poaching efforts carried out by the Wildlife Protection Service, the newly gazetted Zambezi State Forest where illegal timber harvesting takes place, and the Wanela border post where NamRA officials are tasked with preventing the illegal trade of timber through Namibia. **During the visit, the group met researchers at the Pangolin Conservation and Research Foundation to learn more about the rehabilitation and monitoring of rescued Pangolin.** Pangolins continue to be the world's most trafficked animal (live and dead whole specimens and scales), and the Temminck's ground pangolin in Namibia is also under pressure. The trade in rare succulent plants and reptiles – trafficked as whole live specimens for collectors and as exotic pets, respectively – are emerging wildlife crimes in Namibia.

Many of Namibia's protected and endemic species are found in remote areas characterised by rugged terrain, making anti-poaching and monitoring efforts a challenging and expensive task. These challenges underline the need to expand the geographical scope and number of species covered by our partnerships against wildlife crime. While sustaining and further improving our successful partnerships against rhino poaching, NNF will continue looking for new partners to protect more threatened species in different parts of the country.

6.3 Sustainable Forestry

Namibia's few forest and woodland ecosystems are under severe pressure from illegal logging, land clearing for small-scale agriculture, unsustainable harvesting practices and frequent, uncontrolled fires. Addressing these problems requires adding value to forests and woodlands beyond timber, along with improving forest management on state and communal lands. To do this, NNF assists communities to capture value from new and existing markets for sustainably harvested forest products. The team works closely with the Directorate of Forestry in MEFT and community forests in the region to prevent illegal activities and improve management. This year, the team expanded their scope to include under-studied parts of south-eastern Namibia that host many endemic plants, some of which are potentially threatened by the illegal succulent trade.

The recently gazetted Zambezi State Forest Reserve (ZSFR) is a key stronghold for woodland and forest species that are under pressure, especially hardwoods that are in demand for their timber. Surrounding community forests could support the ZSFR by creating a buffer zone and aligning their management practices. The NNF team works with the Directorate of Forestry (DoF) and community forests to increase their capacity for managing their respective areas, with funding from the COMON Foundation and the Dream Fund managed by WWF.

To fully establish the ZSFR on the ground, it is necessary to clearly demarcate its unfenced boundaries. The NNF team has produced information signs and concrete demarcation blocks for this purpose. The first information signs were placed at the four neighbouring community forest offices and the DoF offices to inform the public of the zonation boundaries and associated rules and regulations. However, illegal activities observed during joint patrols with DoF, NamPol, and the Namibian Defence Force highlights the urgent need to place the remaining information boards and draft an implementation plan of how the reserve will be managed in order to start enforcing reserve regulations to prevent further degradation.

With funding and technical assistance from the United States Forestry Service (USFS), 65 DoF officials and community forest members from 21 community

forests in the Kavango and Zambezi regions received training on fire management along with 90 sets of fire-resistant clothing, 50 fire beaters, and 12 first-aid kits. This practical training ended with attendees working on a controlled burn alongside the trainers. **A fire training guide was produced in three languages and distributed to attendees.** In further fire control efforts, 20 community forest members were employed to clear 80 kilometres of cutlines within and around the ZSFR to help control future wildfires.

Kwandu and Lubuta community forests completed their forest inventories (covering 40,000 ha), which is an important step towards updating their



Practical training on controlled burning in Kavango region. Basic Fire Training Manual in three languages were provided to attendees.

management plan and setting new sustainable use quotas for their tree species. In addition, the team collaborated with DoF to provide training on how to conduct inventories, identify plants, and manage forest resources for community forests throughout north-eastern Namibia.

Honey and Devil's Claw are key non-timber forest products with existing markets. NNF provided bee-keeping training and protective gear for 19 farmers in Mudumu North with support from USFS. A honey processing hub is being established at the DoF offices in Kongola with funding from Conservation Leveraging Agribusiness in the Zambezi Region (CoLAB) and Dream Fund, which will link these farmers to markets in the Zambezi Region. Meanwhile, 254 people (75% of which are women) were trained to harvest Devil's Claw sustainably. The NNF facilitated a buying event for harvesters in the Nkulivere Landscape that generated N\$ 395,000.

NNF's work in Nkulivere is supported through the Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to Eradicate Poverty (NILALEG) project managed by the United Nations Development Programme. **Besides Devil's Claw sales, the project helped to establish a community garden and thatch grass storage facility in Gava village.** Additionally, NNF is holding extensive community awareness and stakeholder consultations in this landscape to generate support for establishing a Regional Forest Reserve.

The leaves of the indigenous Muhonono tree (*Terminalia sericea* or Silver Cluster-leaf) could provide a potential income stream for communities. A private manufacturer of botanical extracts in the UK who recently completed clinical trials for a cosmetic ingredient in the leaves sent to them by the NNF team has yielded positive results. The team will now focus on developing marketing materials, readying the product for certification, establishing a

supply chain with a Namibian private sector partner, training harvesters and in-country partners, and drafting equitable agreements between purchasers and community forests. This work is supported through the African Botanical Resource Innovation and Value Addition (ABRIVA) project funded by GIZ, in partnership with BioInnovation Africa.

This year, the Sustainable Forestry programme expanded geographically to include a remote and under-studied part of south-eastern Namibia, with funding from the JRS (Jacob Richard Schramm) Biodiversity Foundation. **This area falls within the Gariiep Centre of Endemism, home to the world's largest diversity of succulent plants, yet it falls largely outside protected areas in Namibia.** It borders two major biomes with summer and winter rainfall (Nama Karoo and Succulent Karoo) and encompasses four major geological formations. It is likely that many of the plant, arthropod and smaller vertebrate species found here are endemic to Namibia. In partnership with the National Botanical Research Institute of Namibia (NBRI) and National Museum of Namibia (NMN), NNF aims to quantify the endemism and biodiversity potential of south-eastern Namibia to inform conservation action.

The initial baseline data report consolidated 3,618 plant records from 865 families from the study area, which was supplemented by 119 plant collections obtained during the first field trip to the area despite the dry conditions. Prior to the trip, nine NBRI staff were trained to identify succulent plants that they were likely to encounter.

In the landscapes where we work, the NNF Sustainable Forestry team aims to balance local livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. While plants and their associated products may be economically valuable in themselves, the team never loses sight of the overall value of intact ecosystems that provide numerous irreplaceable ecosystem services.



One of the harvesters, Patrick Pumulo drying Muhonono leaves.

6.4 Sustainable Agriculture

Rural people in north-eastern Namibia live in one of Africa's most important conservation landscapes, yet suffer high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. Unreliable rainfall and infertile soils lead to low yields from traditional maize monocultures. This drives field expansion and increases the likelihood of human-wildlife conflict and poaching, as desperate farmers seek to support their families in the face of a changing climate. Sustainable agriculture takes a more resilient path, whereby farmers learn ways to produce more food from less land in harmony with nature. Growing more diverse, drought-resistant crops provides opportunities to diversify diets and sell to external markets. The NNF team empowers farmers to improve their own agricultural practices and mentor others, while connecting them to markets for their produce.



One of the NNF-trained farmers standing proudly in her maize field.



Livestock are an important component of the agricultural landscape in north-eastern Namibia.

The NNF team trained 800 farmers in conservation agriculture, organic farming and agroecology – practices that work with nature, rather than against it, to produce diverse crops. **Training in nutrition and food security – provided to 480 people – solidifies the link between planting the right crops and human health.** These training courses are followed up with long-term mentorship for over 500 farmers from NNF-trained lead farmers, which is crucial to help farmers to implement what they learn.

The NNF Sustainable Agriculture work is supported by the Swiss Development Corporation, the Knowledge Hub of Southern Africa (KHSa) funded by GIZ and managed through the Sustainability Institute in South Africa, and the KAZA ARISE project. KAZA ARISE falls under the Bengo Engagement Global programme funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development; the project is implemented by WWF Germany.

Booklets, pamphlets, posters and other publications were produced and distributed as part of the KHSa project. While this project came to an end this year, the 78 knowledge products on organic agriculture and agroecology will continue to inform and equip local farmers. The 122 lead farmers trained by the NNF team will further ensure that this knowledge is retained and practised on the ground for years to come.

Indigenous San people living in Bwabwata National Park (NP) face severe food insecurity, as they do not have the water or financial resources needed to establish large crop fields. Backyard gardens

that require minimal land and water are therefore ideal for these households. The NNF team assisted households in Bwabwata NP to establish backyard gardens by providing seed and expertise. **Each garden includes fruit trees and vegetables planted in 'food circles' – an agroecological concept that improves water use efficiency.** During this year, 240 backyard gardens were established across north-eastern Namibia, including in Bwabwata NP.

To further enhance food security, 12 households in Bwabwata NP received chicken coops and training on poultry production. The lack of water for drinking and irrigation was alleviated by upgrading three boreholes, with a further eight earmarked for upgrade in 2025. Cluster gardens will be established at these sites to improve food security and livelihoods. Looking ahead, the Climate Adaptation and Protected Areas (CAPA) initiative through WWF KAZA will support agriculture, bee, and nursery initiatives in this landscape.

Three cluster gardens were established during this reporting period – two in Kabulabula Conservancy in the Chobe Landscape and the other in Sobbe Conservancy in the Mudumu Landscape. Each garden is tended by 6 to 12 farmers. These gardens are ringed by electrified fences to prevent elephant access and are irrigated using solar powered pumps. The Sobbe garden, funded by the Dream Fund through WWF KAZA, helps to protect the Sobbe wildlife corridor by promoting farming activities outside the corridor and away from elephant pathways. The Kabulabula garden falls under



Crop diversification enhances productivity and resilience and improves livelihoods.

the CoLAB, supported by the COMON Foundation through WWF-Namibia, and in partnership with MEFT using funding from KfW.

The CoLAB project further assists farmers to find markets for cash crops, including chillis. Chillis are well suited to this landscape, as elephants do not consume them and chilli products (e.g., oil and 'bombs' made with elephant dung) are used to deter elephants from other crops. While using B-grade chilli locally, farmers can sell A-grade chilli to companies that produce hot sauces for the international and national market. This year, the NNF assisted farmers to produce enough chilli to attract an international buyer. After the growing season of 2023/24, however, the farmers and NNF agreed that the price offered by this buyer was too low to sustain long-term production. During the second half of 2024, the team connected farmers with a local company that offers better prices. Additionally, the NNF built an informal market structure in Mudumo South to facilitate fresh produce sales to local consumers.

Two more gardens were established at schools in the Kavango West (Mbandu Murangi Primary School) and Kavango East (Faustinus Haididira Combined School) through a project funded by Solidarity Service International (SODI). The teachers and learners were involved in developing the layouts of their gardens and will be responsible for maintaining them in future. The food produced from these gardens will supplement the schools' feeding programmes. **The SODI project promotes planting moringa trees in the gardens in an agro-forestry system, as moringa leaves can be eaten as a highly nutritious supplement and used as**

medicine. Moringa seeds and flowers can also be added to school meals to improve nutrition.

Livestock are another important component of the agricultural landscape in north-eastern Namibia. They not only provide milk and meat, but can also be used to fertilise crop fields using mobile kraals that keep cattle in one place overnight. This practice is supported in the Zambezi Region and has enabled farmers to increase their crop yields significantly. **The provided mobile kraals are shared by a group of farmers to allow more community members to benefit.** The InfoRange project – funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research and managed by the German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture – aims to improve local access to data and information on how to improve rangeland and livestock management. Four local committees were established to work with researchers from various universities in order to identify locally applicable ways to use this information.

Organic agriculture received a welcome boost at the national level this year, as the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) approved the establishment of an Organic Agriculture and Agroecology Technical Working Group. This decision followed a 2-day conference on these topics hosted by NNF and the Namibian Organic Association (NOA), attracting 58 attendees from MAWLR, three farmers' unions, the Namibian Rural Women's Assembly (NRWA) and AgriBank, among others. NNF also joined NOA to host a Training of Trainers workshop on organic livestock production at Krumhuk farm near Windhoek. Ultimately, these efforts will foster a stronger policy environment and awareness about organic agriculture and agroecology at local and national levels.

While farmers in the north-east faced yet another year of severe drought, the need for more resilient agricultural practices became painfully clear. People can no longer survive from monoculture croplands that fail too easily and contribute to long-term soil degradation. **Adapting to new ways of farming is not easy, but it is necessary.** The NNF Sustainable Agriculture team will continue advocating for change and empowering farmers to make the switch to increase their food security, open new business opportunities, and conserve their environment.

“ **The NNF team trained 800 farmers in conservation agriculture, organic farming and agroecology – practices that work with nature, rather than against it, to produce diverse crops.** ”



6.5 Freshwater and Inland Fisheries

The rivers flowing through north-eastern Namibia are vital sources of food and livelihoods for thousands of people, but they cannot sustain commercial levels of fishing to supply distant cities and countries. By implementing locally adapted fishing rules and patrolling their rivers to prevent illegal fishing, Namibian fisheries reserves are turning the tide on overfishing. Since the rivers flow across international borders, Namibia cannot conserve these freshwater ecosystems alone. The fisheries reserve model needs to be adapted and implemented across neighbouring countries. NNF's landscape approach facilitates knowledge sharing among scientists, civil society, traditional knowledge holders, community-based organisations, and governments. Using experience gained in Namibia, the team is building capacity among support agencies in neighbouring countries alongside government implementation of transboundary fisheries management plans.

The highly successful EU-funded E€OFISH project drew to a close in the second half of 2024, after laying a firm foundation for fisheries reserves in Namibia that can be replicated in neighbouring countries. In November 2023, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) launched the **Standard Operating Procedures for fisheries reserves along with the Tackle Box of guidelines for practitioners and communities** wanting to establish more reserves. These key guiding documents have since been used to establish new fisheries reserves, six of which are pending gazettement by MFMR.

The established fisheries reserves have received the equipment and infrastructure they need to maintain their operations without continuous external support. Towards the end of the E€OFISH project, NNF built new offices for the Maurus Nekaro, Kapinga Kamwalye and Nsundwa communities, and two campsites for fish guards in Mayuni and Sikunga Conservancies.

While established fisheries reserves become more independent and self-sustaining, NNF is helping to create a more tightly knit network of reserves in Namibia and beyond – with support from GIZ through the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM). **The current approach**

of working with conservancies will be expanded to include community forests, demonstrating how fisheries reserves can be integrated with community-based management of other natural resources.

NNF hosted Namibia's first-ever Fisheries Indaba to bring together government officials from countries that are part of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA; Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), fisheries scientists, and Namibian fishing communities to share their knowledge and discuss challenges associated with over-fishing. Prior to the Indaba, the NNF team held a series of workshops with fishing communities to collate their traditional knowledge relating to fish biology, fishing practices, and ways of living alongside rivers and riverine wildlife (e.g., crocodiles and hippos). The NNF team assisted with the creation of posters based on this knowledge that could be shared at the Indaba.

Representatives of these communities presented their posters and accompanying stories to government officials and scientists attending the Fisheries Indaba. **This process fostered pride in traditional knowledge and increased the communities' sense of ownership over and responsibility for their rivers.** Scientists at the Indaba were provided



Participants at Namibia's first-ever Fisheries Indaba.



Britta Hackenberg handing over the SOP guidelines to MFMR Executive Director, Annely Haifeni.

an opportunity to present their work to the government and community representatives through presentations and summarised posters, ensuring a two-way flow of knowledge.

The Indaba resulted in over 90 attendees learning from each other and discussing how they can work more closely to combat illegal fishing and sustain freshwater ecosystems. As patron of the Indaba, the Executive Director of the KAZA Secretariat committed to raising the profile of fisheries within the KAZA TFCA, which until now has focused mainly on terrestrial animals and ecosystems. Going beyond KAZA, the NNF team presented the Transboundary Fisheries Framework 2023 at a Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) TFCA meeting to recommend our approach to other countries in the region.

The award-winning film *The River People* beautifully depicts the challenges posed by overfishing and the way that Namibian fishing communities are rising to meet them. This film was screened twice during events marking the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and once at the IUCN Africa Conservation Forum in Nairobi. The film has been translated into Rukwangali, Silozi (spoken in north-eastern Namibia), Portuguese, Ngenguela (spoken in Angola), and Setswana (spoken in Botswana) to reach fishing communities in different countries.

In line with NNF's landscape approach, the fisheries team has forged new partnerships with organisations in Angola, Zambia and Botswana that work with fishing communities in those countries. A new partnership with The Nature Conservancy focuses on supporting Angolan communities through the local community support organisation

ACADIR (Associação de Conservação do Ambiente e Desenvolvimento Integrado Rural). Partnerships with WWF Zambia and the Okavango Wilderness Project (working in Botswana and Angola) allow NNF to maintain active relationships with three KAZA countries.

The NNF's main role in these partnerships is to build the capacity of government and civil society (and, in turn, communities) to manage local fisheries and consequently contribute to transboundary fisheries management. Capacity building workshops take place online and in-person, including practical fieldwork sessions on how to assess the socio-economic and ecological situation of local fisheries. **Namibia's evidence-based approach to fisheries will thus be replicated in neighbouring countries.**

Despite the role that fisheries play in food security and livelihoods, fisheries management has remained under political and conservation radars for too long. Local fishing communities understand the importance of fish to their daily lives; it is fitting that they take the lead in conserving and managing their resources while other stakeholders play a supporting role. This support includes promoting a two-way flow of scientific and traditional knowledge, legislation that empowers communities to create fisheries reserves, and equipment, infrastructure and training to implement their management plans.

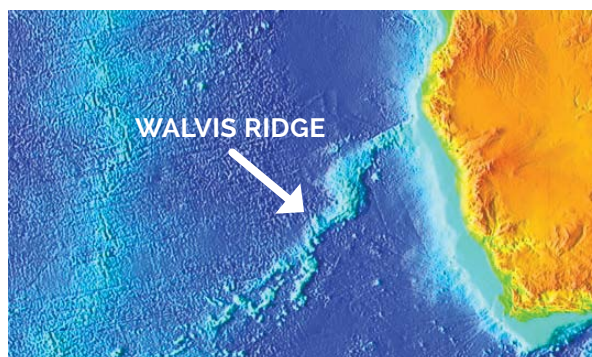
The NNF team is building on foundations that have been laid in Namibia to put national and regional fisheries management firmly on the political and conservation science agenda. This will provide the multi-level support that fishing communities need to manage their fish stocks, improve food security and sustain their livelihoods.

6.6 Marine and Coastal Conservation

The cold Benguela Current flowing along Namibia's coastline hosts a rich diversity of marine life, including fisheries that support the livelihoods of many coastal residents. This Blue Economy is vulnerable to over-fishing, pollution, and other coastal developments. Sustainable marine development therefore requires a combination of well-regulated fishing and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to safeguard sensitive parts of the ecosystem. The plight of seabirds calls for special attention to reverse recent declines and prevent extinction. None of these conservation initiatives would be possible without the cooperation of the Namibian Government and fishing industry, alongside broad support from an educated public. NNF works alongside the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR), fishers and other stakeholders to protect our part of the Atlantic Ocean.



NIMPA+ project launch



A 2023 study of African penguins revealed all-time low reproduction rates on islands in Namibian waters.

The 9,500 km² Namibian Islands Marine Protected Area (NIMPA) is the first of its kind in Namibia and the second largest in Africa and represents 1.68% of Namibia's marine Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The NIMPA+ and Oceans 5 projects focus on strengthening the management of NIMPA and improving the livelihoods of associated coastal communities, while looking to expand Namibia's MPA network. In 2024, NNF supported MFMR to update and validate the operational management plan for NIMPA to ensure that the goals of this MPA are achieved.

The NIMPA+ project addresses pressing societal needs within the community of Lüderitz, which is the only town adjacent to NIMPA. Through this project, NNF supported the operationalisation of the Benguela Infinite Fisheries and Harvesting Association, a small-scale fishers association, who held their first AGM in mid-2024. In partnership with the Lüderitz Town Council, the team supported the first Business Marathon and Accelerator Programme aimed at uplifting small businesses associated with the Blue Economy. Additionally, The Benguela Community Skills Development Centre (COSDEC) provided training for ten local tour guides on marine and coastal systems who will join the Accelerator programme to expose them to tourism-related business opportunities. A financial literacy workshop delivered by the Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST) further assisted local businesspeople to improve their business practices.

At the national level, NNF provides input and technical support for MFMR to implement the national Blue Economy Policy. With an eye to expanding MPA coverage to reach the national target (10% of the EEZ), the team conducted an initial scoping mission of the Walvis Ridge as a potential high seas MPA, supported by the Blue Marine Foundation. Depending on the outcomes of extensive consultations with key stakeholders, this could become the world's second high seas MPA.

The Albatross Task Force (ATF), supported by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), continues to reduce the impact of commercial fisheries on Albatrosses and other seabirds that get entangled and killed by fishing gear. **The highly**



The NNF's Waves of Change initiative transformed public spaces in Lüderitz with vibrant educational murals promoting marine conservation.

successful bird-scaring lines are known to reduce seabird bycatch by over 98%. The ATF team trained 100 fishing industry personnel on how to attach these lines to their fishing gear during the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries workshops.

Besides Albatrosses, several seabird species occurring on Namibia's coastline are under threat. A 2023 study of African penguins revealed all-time low reproduction rates on islands in Namibian waters. Similar declines were found in South Africa – the only other country that hosts this species – resulting in the species being up-listed to Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. The Cape Gannet has the same status, while the Bank and Cape Cormorants are classified as Endangered. In response to these threats, NNF supported the establishment of the Namibian Foundation for the Conservation of Seabirds (NAMCOB) in 2023.

NAMCOB initiated hands-on conservation work in Lüderitz in 2024 with support from the NNF NIMPA+ project, the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB), Debmarine Namdeb Foundation, Namibian Chamber of Environment, African Penguin Conservation Project, and Maryland Zoo (USA). **They trained Seabird Rangers to rehabilitate injured seabirds – rehabilitating and releasing 14 African penguins this year.** These rangers will also assist with long-term monitoring and research of seabird colonies on the islands to identify and combat the drivers of their population declines. NAMCOB plans to improve Namibia's preparedness for oil spills in advance of commercial off-shore oil drilling and increased shipping vessel traffic, and has trained First Responders to treat oiled and injured birds.

During a multi-stakeholder workshop hosted by NNF, the ATF and NAMCOB teams provided input into the National Plan of Action for Seabirds. They also attended a workshop with MEFT, MFMR, and other marine stakeholders to develop a SMART module to improve data collection on marine conservation. These joint workshops aim to make

Namibian seabird and marine conservation a collaborative, efficient effort that ultimately halts and reverses the decline in these species.

To generate broader awareness of marine biodiversity and support for its conservation, NNF has taken a multi-pronged approach. **The Namibian Rays and Sharks project developed a full colour identification guide to the sharks, skates, rays, and chimaeras of Namibia,** which is available for free online, while a print version was delivered to key marine partners. Two educational posters produced by the project featuring some of the information in the guide were distributed to schools in Namibia. An Ocean Literacy Toolkit covering many marine species and topics is being finalised and will be rolled out in the national education curriculum in 2025.

The NNF's Waves of Change initiative transformed public spaces in Lüderitz with vibrant educational murals promoting marine conservation. Visual arts experts guided 10 local youths and members of the small-scale fishers' community to paint these murals, fostering local pride in their marine biodiversity. **The murals were completed in time for the 17th Lüderitz Crayfish Festival, celebrating Lüderitz's maritime heritage.** President-elect Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah visited NNF's exhibition booth during the event. Visitors and residents of the town can now explore these stunning murals with the aid of a detailed map. A second phase of this project is planned for 2025, which will involve local schools creating similar murals and artworks. NNF also participated in the World Oceans Day festivities in Walvis Bay hosted by the MFMR and attended by President His Excellency Nangolo Mbumba.

Since marine biodiversity has received less attention than terrestrial biodiversity in Namibia, much more remains to be done to create a groundswell of public support for and understanding of marine conservation. Ensuring that NIMPA is well-managed and has positive outcomes for people living in Lüderitz will pave the way for establishing other MPAs in future.

6.7 Technical Services and Policy

The NNF's wide range of expertise positions us to provide technical services for projects in several different sectors. Further, lessons learned from ground level implementation are used to provide input on national and international environmental policies. This year, the team focused on preparations for two large projects that will significantly expand NNF's area of work: the National Adaptation Plan and the NamPower Otjikoto Biomass Power Station. In the international policy arena, NNF contributed to the Convention on Biological Diversity's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

After almost a year's administrative delay, the work on the Green Climate Fund (GCF)-funded project entitled "Strengthening Adaptation Planning and Coordination in Namibia" began in December 2024. **NNF serves as delivery partner for MEFT, and will be working closely with national stakeholders to strengthen multi-sector climate adaptation policy, planning, budgeting, and coordination.** The three-year project will also broaden the evidence base for developing adaptation solutions, and will develop incentives for the private sector to engage in climate change adaptation efforts.

Under another GCF-funded project entitled, "Support for Accreditation of Direct Access Entities in Namibia", four Namibian institutions, including NNF, received support from the Environmental Investment Fund to become direct access entities to the GCF. Once accredited, these organisations can increase the amount of climate finance deployed at the national level to respond to climate risks and impacts. NNF's application for accreditation is currently under Stage I review. The submission requires applicants to demonstrate their track re-

cord in implementing projects that speak to GCF results areas. These are: 1) health, food and water security; 2) livelihoods of people and communities; 3) ecosystems and ecosystem services; and 4) forests and land use. NNF also had to demonstrate its capacities in financial management, procurement, environmental and social safeguarding, project management, ethics and codes of conduct, grievance redress mechanisms, and gender. This is the first step of an iterative process with the GCF to access climate finance and drive climate action in Namibia.

The Otjikoto Biomass Power Station is another large project that requires extensive preparatory work. This power station will provide 40MW of energy to the national power grid from thorn bush that is harvested from Namibia's bush-encroached farmlands. NNF's role in the project is to coordinate environmental monitoring and ensure that benefits accrue to communities on resettled and communal land in the area, especially by empowering women. This five-year €7 million programme comprises two interlinked projects funded by the



A Project Consortium Agreement was signed this year between NNF, Namibia Biomass Group, IED (Innovation Energie Développement) and Nitidae (a French organisation with remote sensing expertise). Pictured here from left to right: Camille Raverdy-Preisler (IED), Anjali Shanker (IED), Progress Kashandula (N-BiG), Ulrica Abrahams (NNF)

Mitigation Action Facility and the French Facility for Global Environment.

The scale of the project will require NNF to expand its capacity and collaborate with other partners. To this end, a Project Consortium Agreement was signed this year between NNF, Namibia Biomass Group (N-BiG), IED (Innovation Energie Développement) and Nitidae (a French organisation with remote sensing expertise). A joint workshop among these partners produced a workplan for input by the NamPower Executive Committee. **Another workshop was held with bush harvesters that will supply the power station to promote alignment on environmental requirements for harvesting.** These activities pave the way for a formal Inception Workshop planned for early 2025.

Regarding global policies, NNF continued to represent Namibia on the Ad Hoc Technical Group on Indicators (AHTEG I and II) for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and as Namibia's gender focal point for the CBD. Within the AHTEG group, the NNF representative was elected as a co-chairperson for biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and therefore attended a workshop on traditional knowledge indicators in the UK in March 2024.

Two NNF representatives attended the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) for CBD, held in Cali, Columbia this year, as observers and members of the Namibian delegation. The decisions taken during COP16 aim to improve revenue sharing from the use of biodiversity, its genetic resources, and traditional knowledge associated with it. Another highlight included the establishment of a new subsidiary body for issues related to Indigenous People and Local Communities, formally recognising their importance in the conservation of biodiversity. NNF was invited to contribute to panel discussions and side events on topics relating to our work, and took

the opportunity to meet with key partners and donors on the sidelines of COP16.

NNF attended the Regional Biodiversity Strategy meeting for Southern Africa, discussing biodiversity-related focal areas for the region and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs). During the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) meeting in Nairobi in May 2024, NNF played a leading role in negotiations on the monitoring framework, global ecosystem typology and land tenure. At the national level, NNF attended a workshop in Okahandja alongside other Namibian stakeholders to brainstorm targets for the third NBSAP, in alignment with the KMGBF.

One NNF representative attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) which took place in Baku, Azerbaijan in November 2024 as a member of the Namibian delegation. The New Collective Quantified Goal was adopted and set at US \$300 billion annually, alongside the agreement for all parties to work together to scale up finance to developing countries to US \$1.3 trillion per year by 2035.

In December 2024, NNF staff attended the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) conference, held in Windhoek. As an IPBES Observer entity, NNF followed the discussions on the refinement and approval of two major documents: the "Summary for Policymakers of the Thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food, and health" and the "Summary for Policymakers of the Thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity". Prior to the IPBES conference, NNF participated in a panel discussion held at the Franco Namibian Cultural Centre to consider Namibia's role in global biodiversity conservation.

“ The Otjikoto Biomass Power Station is another large project that requires extensive preparatory work. This power station will provide 40MW of energy to the national power grid from thorn bush that is harvested from Namibia's bush-encroached farmlands. ”

6.8 Applied Scientific Research

Scientific research and conservation action are often undertaken in isolation from each other. This may lead to conservation decisions not based on scientific evidence and the science being irrelevant to conservation. Combining research and conservation action strengthens both, as actions in the field become more scientifically rigorous, while research becomes more applicable to real world situations. As NNF embarks on its research journey, it will open more avenues for collaboration with research and academic institutions while supporting and extending our current conservation actions.



Mr. Nicky Oppenheimer (third from left) with beneficiaries and partners of the Fellowship in People and Wildlife.

With the appointment of a Director of Research in June 2024, NNF established an Applied Scientific Research Unit in line with the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan. The new department's goal is to conduct and stimulate scientifically rigorous applied research to support Namibia's conservation and sustainable livelihood goals, while developing young science professionals.

As a new player in the research field, NNF has prioritised developing collaborative partnerships with universities and research institutions in Namibia, while expanding its existing conservation partnerships to include research. Students engaged in post-graduate research at the Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the University of Namibia (UNAM) are provided co-supervision by the NNF Director of Research and affiliated institutions. The strength of the Unit is its international partnerships with universities such as North-West University in South Africa, University of St. Andrews in Scotland, and Potsdam University in Germany, among others.

The Director of Research, Prof. Morgan Hauptfleisch, received the Benjamin Raymond Oppenheimer Fellowship in People and Wildlife award, which kick-started the NNF research programme. The six-year fellowship aims to identify ecological connectivity between parks and neighbours, associated opportunities, and unintended consequences such as human-wildlife conflict.

The first of six PhD-level students, **Gideon Haingura, was appointed in July 2024 to conduct his research on elephant movements** between Etosha National Park, private farms, and communal conservancies in the Kunene Region. Through our partnership with MEFT, 24 elephant herds are being tracked using satellite collars to understand how they navigate the diverse landscape, use corridors, and what ecological and human drivers affect their movements. Besides improving our understanding of this ecosystem and seasonal movements of elephants, the study will assist efforts to reduce human-elephant conflict in

the target area in partnership with implementing partners such as Elephant Human Relations Aid (EHRA) and MEFT.

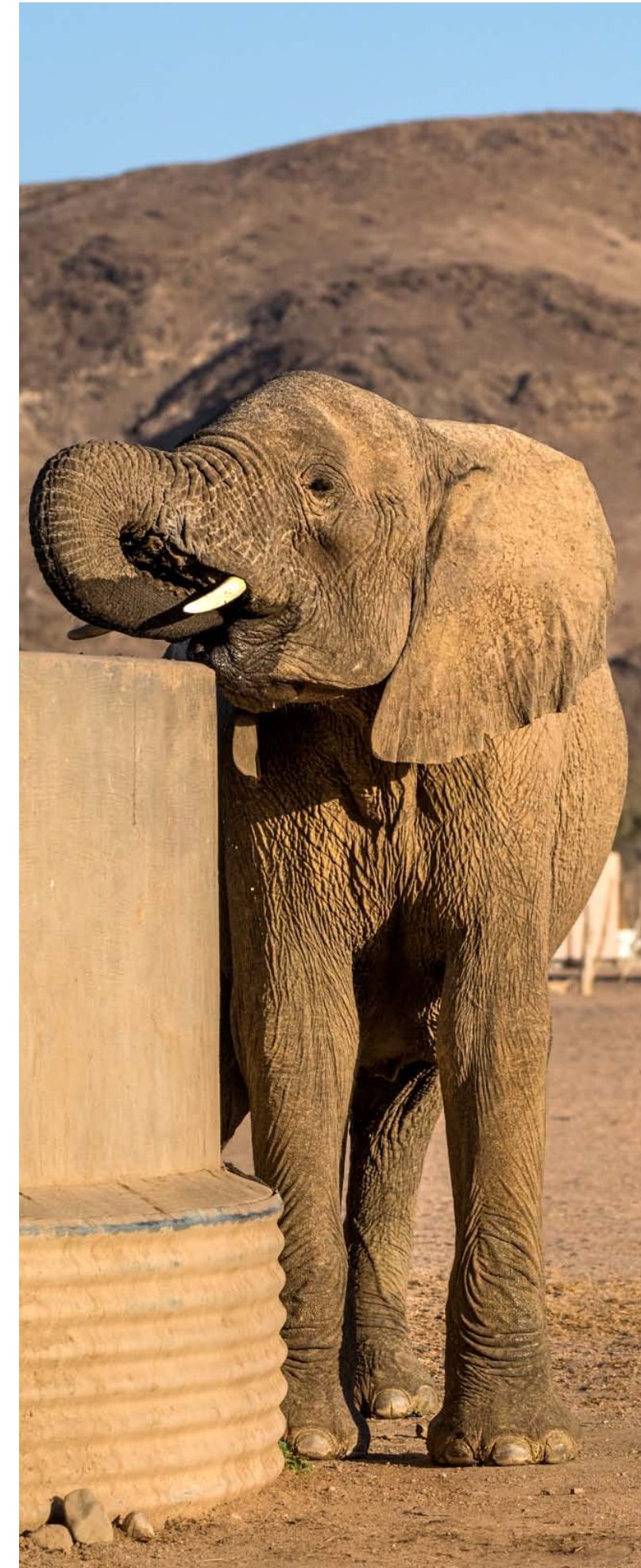
Olivia Haikali is working on her Masters' degree in Data Science. Her research is examining the quality and availability of wildlife population data in communal conservancies, through a partnership with WWF-Namibia, the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO), and St. Andrews University, with funding from the UK's Reversing Environmental Degradation in Africa and Asia (REDAA) programme.

Monika Shikongo is pursuing a PhD at NUST, investigating incentives and disincentives of land-owners in participating in Namibia's Black Rhino Custodianship Programme, looking at its 30-year history and future direction.

Publishing research results is critical for sharing the lessons learned with other scientists and conservation organisations around the world, while establishing NNF's reputation as a science-based organisation. **Four scientific articles were published this year with at least one author affiliated to NNF.** Presenting at research conferences is another way we share results with a wider audience and create new opportunities for collaboration with other researchers. This year, the Director of Research attended the Oppenheimer Research and Conservation Conference in Johannesburg to present a paper on human-elephant conflict research.

Scientific publications with NNF-affiliated authors

- Hauptfleisch, M., Tembo, D., Alberts, R., Cilliers, D., Uiseb, K., Cloete, C., Retief, F., Roos, C., Winter, C., Harris, R., 2024. Exploring implications of elephant movements between land use types in an arid savannah landscape. *Pachyderm* 65, 119–131.
- Berry, P., Dammhahn, M., Hauptfleisch, M., Hering, R., Jansen, J., Kraus, A., Blaum, N., 2024. African dryland antelope trade-off behaviours in response to heat extremes. *Ecology and Evolution* 14, e11455. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.11455>
- Walters, M.H., Hauptfleisch, M.L., Peters, R.F., 2024. Determining the Effectiveness and Usefulness of Three Community-Led Carnivore Survey Types to Wildlife Management in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy, Namibia. *African Journal of Wildlife Research* 54.
- Stiegler, J., Gallagher, C., Hering, R., Mueller, T., Tucker, M., Apollonio, M., Arnold, J., Barker, N., Barthel, L., Bassano, B., 2024. Sensitivities of mammals to capture and tagging: faster recovery in human-disturbed landscapes.



7 Grants management

The Nedbank Go Green Fund (GGF) provides small grants for organisations and individuals to implement projects that improve livelihoods and support sustainable development in Namibia. NNF administers the GGF and provides a link between the grantees and the donor, ensuring that financial reporting and project outcomes are met. Each year the call for grant applications is issued on a particular theme. The review panel seeks high quality projects that cover as many parts of Namibia as possible.

Ten GGF-funded projects are currently underway, five of which cover the urban environment following the call for proposals on the *Green Urbanism* theme. The other five projects were granted under the *Discover* theme, focusing on scientific expeditions to understudied parts of the country or to collect data on relatively unknown groups of species.

As an outcome of a *Discover* GGF project completed in 2023, the Gobabeb Research Centre published a paper entitled “A preliminary botanical assessment of an isolated inselberg archipelago in the Namib Sand Sea, Namibia”. Other botanical projects that continued during 2024 were: 1) the NUST Kaoko-flora project in north-western Namibia, and 2) the NBRI project on Important Plant Areas in the south-eastern part of the country.

The National Museum of Namibia (NMN) used GGF funds to collect DNA samples of animals that are difficult to study by other means. The NMN team conducted several field trips to collect specimens of the new barking gecko endemic to the area, along with various endemic insect species. Publications on the samples collected will be released soon. Meanwhile, Stellenbosch University continues to lead a project on termites and their symbiotic fungi. The on-going and completed projects under the *Discover* theme successfully expanded our knowledge of Namibia’s lesser-known fauna and flora.

Switching to *Green Urbanism*, the Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust (NaDEET) engaged with tertiary level students to develop their capacity to improve waste management and get involved in campus greening initiatives. As part of this project, NaDEET hosted the UNAM Ogongo Environmental Awareness Day in October 2024. During the event, students gave a demonstration on tree planting and planted 20 trees at the Ogongo Police Station together with Ogongo NamPol staff members. The group then conducted a clean-up campaign in the area around Ogongo. In another activity under this project, 25 students and two supervisors and drivers from NUST attended a week-long programme at NaDEET Centre in the NamibRand Nature Reserve to learn about sustainability practices.



National Museum of Namibia field trip to collect endemic species.

The COSDEC (Community Skills Development Centre) Urban Agriculture Training Programme showed Rundu residents how to establish backyard vegetable gardens and produce compost to improve soil health. They reached 60 trainees aged 17-50, of which 40 received two books each covering the relevant topics.

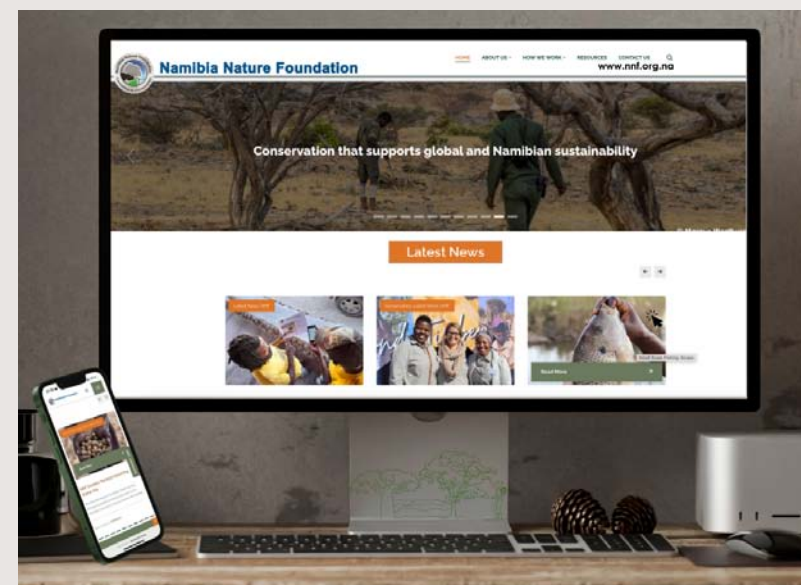
The Opuwo Town Green Spaces project, implemented by the Opuwo Town Council, aims to transform their town’s landscape and promote environmental sustainability. The team has begun planting a variety of indigenous and ornamental tree species in several locations in the town, including the Opuwo Fire Station and along the main road.

Two community gardens are being set up by the Lüderitz Shack Dwellers Federation and Keetmanshoop Secondary School in their respective towns. When completed, the gardens will increase food security and access to fresh produce for community members and vulnerable individuals, especially learners.

Towards the end of 2024, the GGF call for proposals was released under the theme *Children in Conservation*. The NNF team will continue to assist new grantees to meet the reporting requirements of their grants and share these success stories with others. Each year, the number of grantees increases and the network expands, ultimately reaching more people, plants and animals across Namibia.

8 Communications and outreach

NNF continued to strengthen its communications efforts during 2024, further solidifying its reputation as a leading voice in conservation and sustainable development. Through strategic initiatives, innovative branding, and enhanced media engagement, we have expanded our reach, increased public awareness, and fostered stronger connections with our partners and the Namibian public.



a unified messaging approach both online and offline.

The NNF website (www.nnf.org.na) was completely revamped in 2024. It features improved navigation, updated content, and a more dynamic interface when compared with the old site. This central hub hosts information about projects and NNF’s publications, making our work more accessible to the public and other stakeholders. Additionally, the website’s improved structure allows for better integration of multimedia content, including videos and interactive elements, further enriching the user experience.

The launch event for the NNF Strategic Plan 2024-2029 brought together key stakeholders from government, civil society, and the private sector, showcasing NNF’s commitment to an integrated and collaborative approach to conservation. The launch served as a platform to articulate our vision, mission and strategic goals, while also emphasising the importance of partnerships in addressing biodiversity conservation and climate change challenges. **Through a comprehensive media campaign, the Strategic Plan received widespread coverage**, further positioning NNF as a thought leader in Namibia’s environmental sector.

Understanding the power of a strong and cohesive brand, **NNF introduced a new Branding Kit in 2024**, designed to enhance our visual identity and ensure consistency across all communication materials. This updated kit includes new logo guidelines, an expanded colour palette, and revised typography, all of which align with NNF’s values and reflect our programmatic areas of work. By standardising visual representation, NNF strengthened brand recognition and improved the professionalism of our public-facing materials. The NNF communications team also developed templates for reports, social media, and presentations, ensuring

During 2024, the NNF communications team continued to build relationships with local and national media, ensuring that environmental issues remain at the forefront of public discourse. Through proactive engagement with journalists and media houses, coverage on key conservation topics has increased, including biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture.

One of the standout media engagement events of the year was the Organic Food Jam, led by our Sustainable Agriculture programme. This interactive event provided a platform for discussions on agroecological farming practices, organic meat production, and the role of media in influencing agricultural policies. The event received extensive coverage in print, radio, and digital media, sparking broader conversations about the importance of sustainable food systems in Namibia.

Effective storytelling and strategic media engagement are critical to advancing NNF’s mission. Moving forward, we will continue to harness digital innovations, strengthen media partnerships, and refine our messaging to further amplify our impact. NNF remains committed to driving awareness, fostering collaboration, and inspiring action for a more sustainable future.

9 Environmental and Social Safeguards

Environmental social safeguarding (ESS) ensures that development projects do not harm the environment or communities, while promoting sustainable, equitable growth. Safeguards prevent or minimise negative impacts on ecosystems and human well-being by integrating these considerations into project planning and implementation. ESS ensures NNF's compliance with relevant standards and regulations and encourages transparent stakeholder engagement, with an emphasis on protecting vulnerable groups. The roll out of our Environmental and Social Policy this year ensures that all of our programmes maintain high standards of accountability towards beneficiaries, partners and the environment.

A transparent, anonymous grievance mechanism is an essential ESS tool, as it allows project beneficiaries, stakeholders or partners to report suspected wrongdoing or express complaints relating to the breach of NNF policies, operations, and environmental and social principles. To facilitate the receipt of grievances, NNF created an online form on the new website and installed suggestion boxes at all NNF duty stations.

While all NNF programme teams started implementing ESS this year, particular tools and training were provided for the NIMPA+ (Marine and Coastal) and KAZA ARISE (Sustainable Agriculture) projects supported by Blue Action Fund and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ/BENGO), respectively. Communities engaged in these projects elected ombudspersons who were trained and equipped to register and manage complaints.

Safeguards are only effective when all stakeholders know about them and understand how the system works. To this end, the NIMPA+ team maintained an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan Register to track community engagements

related to ESS, while the KAZA ARISE team used community meetings to sensitise farmers on the new system. Two grievances were received during this year, one of which was successfully resolved through mutual agreement.

This year, the ESS Specialist took on the role of leading the CBO Strengthening programme, resulting in greater integration of ESS into this programme through extra training for staff involved in community conservation. Embedding ESS deepened community and stakeholder engagement, fostered inclusivity, and ensured that activities addressed local needs.

Adaptive management practices were strengthened through real-time feedback mechanisms created by the ESS Specialist. NNF also amplified community voices by establishing representative structures for broader participation. Collaboration and building partnerships with non-government organisations, governments, and private sector partners supported the sustainability of our ESS approach. These efforts ultimately create impactful, community-centred, and adaptive outcomes across all areas of our work.

10 Organisational development

The NNF has undertaken significant organisational strengthening efforts, supported by the Blue Action Fund and Maliasili, to enhance operational areas including financial management, communication, business development, monitoring and evaluation, risk management, and social safeguards implementation.

Leadership Development and Training

In alignment with our goal to foster lifelong learning among NNF staff, 23 middle and senior management-level employees participated in the Go4Gold Leadership Programme, which continues into 2025. Additionally, a weeklong workshop was conducted to build capacity on various topics, including social skills. This initiative is part of NNF's broader effort to cultivate a culture of learning and adaptive management.

Strategic Planning and Evaluation

To monitor progress on the Strategic Plan 2024-2029, NNF developed indicators and targets with comprehensive staff involvement. Programmatic teams reported on these indicators for the first time at the end of 2024 and set targets for 2025. This data-driven approach aims to enhance organizational performance and accountability.

Business Development

With the appointment of a Head of Business Development, responsibilities previously managed by the director were devolved, resulting in improved tracking, quality control, and capacity building among programmatic staff. This transition has sparked increased interest from foundations, contributing to organisational growth.

Financial Management

The adoption of SAGE Intacct has optimized financial operations by implementing key accounting modules, improving data security, and strengthening reporting capabilities. Despite challenges such as manual data entry and resistance to change, ongoing training and phased integration of additional modules are addressing these issues. Funding received for operational strengthening covered the significant implementation costs for this switch, highlighting the need for further investment to achieve full adoption.

Risk Management

NNF engaged Ernst & Young Namibia for a comprehensive risk assessment, deepening staff under-

standing of risk mitigation through workshops. Initially, the risk matrix was too broad, prompting NNF to develop a tailored risk register. Environmental and Social Safeguards were integrated into risk management strategies, enhancing overall resilience.

Communication and Rebranding

Guided by Maliasili, NNF finalised our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan, including a rebranding initiative and communication strategy. The new website developed during this period will boost visibility and stakeholder engagement. Improvements in communication strategies and strategic outreach have further strengthened the NNF's media presence and impact.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)

Prior to receiving operational funding, NNF lacked a formal M&E system. With external expert input, a robust Performance, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning system was established, aligning indicators and targets with the strategic plan. The first reporting cycle on these indicators was successfully completed, enabling data-driven decision-making.

Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

ESS, introduced with support from the Blue Action Fund, is now integral to the NNF's operations. Training facilitated by Maliasili during the annual programmes' meeting covered stakeholder engagement, networking, and addressing inappropriate behavior. Staff feedback will inform future improvements to the Environmental and Social Management Plan, with additional training planned for 2025.

The operational strengthening initiative has bolstered risk assessment, M&E systems, and strategic planning, promoting sustainable internal management. While financial systems have advanced, further investment is necessary to overcome technical challenges and ensure comprehensive implementation. NNF is committed to optimising processes and leveraging new systems to enhance its environmental and social impact. The continued support from the Blue Action Fund and Maliasili has been instrumental in addressing institutional bottlenecks and fostering long-term resilience.

11 Financial Report

In the following pages, you will find a detailed account of NNF work throughout 2024, a year marked by significant progress towards our mission. Beyond the stories of impact, we recognize the importance of robust financial management. To this end, our financial statements have been meticulously prepared and audited in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). This

adherence to ISA standards reinforces our dedication to responsible financial stewardship, allowing us to maximize the effectiveness of our programs and ensure the sustainability of our efforts. We are confident that this report provides a clear and accurate reflection of our commitment to both our mission and our financial obligations.

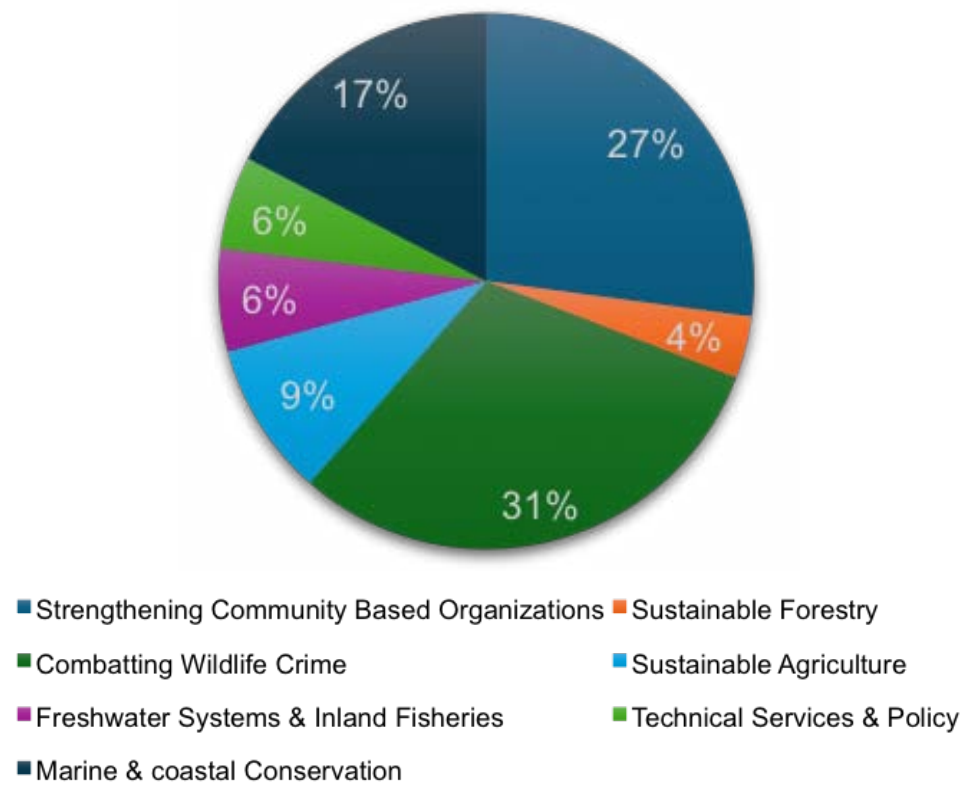
Statement of Financial Position (at 29 February 2024)		
	2024	2023
	N\$	N\$
ASSETS		
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant & Equipment	22 399 153	22 861 152
Investments	750 000	0
	N\$ 23 149 153	N\$ 22 861 152
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	3 744 543	3 577 010
Cash & Cash Equivalents	6 192 488	6 415 838
	N\$ 9 937 031	N\$ 9 992 848
Total Assets	N\$ 33 086 184	N\$ 32 854 000
FUNDS & LIABILITIES		
Funds		
Accumulated Funds	12 362 454	11 937 421
Revaluation Reserves	19 157 129	19 282 689
	N\$ 31 500 823	N\$ 31 220 110
Current Liabilities		
Account Payable	1 566 601	1 633 890
	N\$ 1 566 601	N\$ 1 633 890
Total Funds & Liabilities	N\$ 33 086 184	N\$ 32 854 000

Summarised Statement of Comprehensive Income for the period ending February 2024		
	2024	2023
	N\$	N\$
Operating Income	33 290 250	29 066 140
Operating Expenses	(32 957 713)	(28 642 716)
Operating Surplus before Contribution to Projects	N\$ 332 537	N\$ 423 424
Contribution to Projects	(169 712)	(371 473)
Operating Surplus before Interest	N\$ 162 825	N\$ 51 951
Interest Received	136 648	27
Total Comprehensive Surplus for the Year	N\$ 299 473	N\$ 51 978

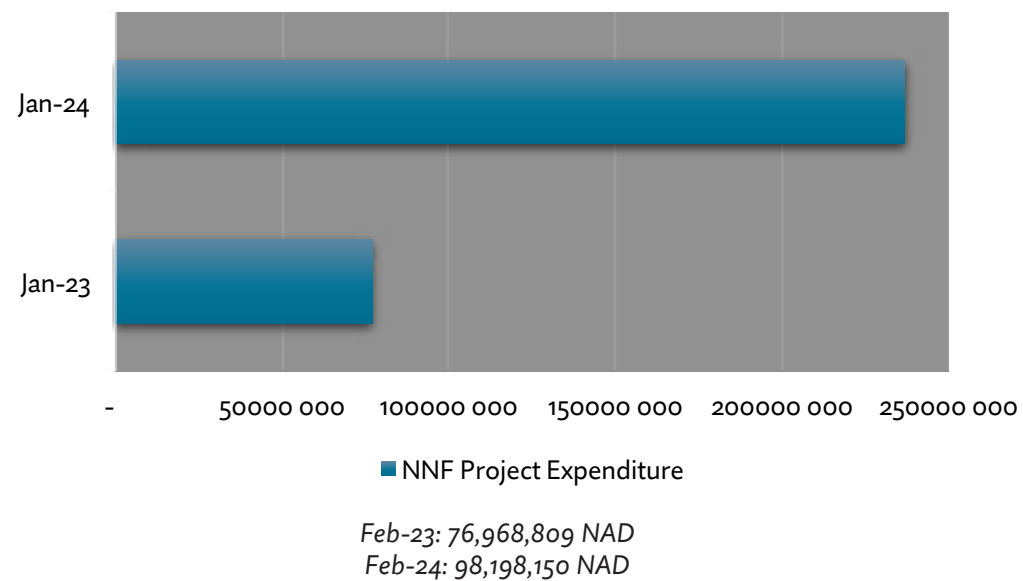
NNF Project Expenditure	NAD	USD	Euro
Strengthening Community Based Organisations	26,632,186.00	1,413,192.93	1,298,434.30
Sustainable Forestry	3,685,859.00	195,584.02	179,701.57
Combating Wildlife Crime	30,010,216.00	1,592,442.51	1,463,127.88
Sustainable Agriculture	9,153,475.00	485,714.02	446,271.51
Freshwater Systems & Inland Fisheries	6,087,683.00	323,032.84	296,800.89
Technical Services & Policy	5,503,534.00	292,035.93	268,321.10
Marine & Coastal Conservation	17,125,197.00	908,720.27	834,927.45

Period	Project/Grant Turnover			Operating Income			No. of Staff
	NAD	USD	Euro	NAD	USD	Euro	
2020	34,465,738	1,928,128	1,872,344	16,920,542	946,592	919,205	36
2021	44,973,339	3,034,501	2,521,012	21,663,654	1,461,719	1,214,371	38
2022	56,393,118	3,663,661	3,415,570	25,540,896	1,659,301	1,546,939	66
2023	76,968,809	4,327,535	3,934,468	29,066,140	1,634,230	1,485,794	73
2024	99,733,053	5,607,444	5,098,126	33,290,250	1,766,492	1,623,044	82

NNF Project Expenditure Feb 2024



NNF Project Expenditure



12 NNF offices and contact details

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Khorixas Office

C39 Main road, Ministry of Environment, Forestry
and Tourism Building

Nkurenkuru Office

Erf 547 Extension 2, Nkurenkuru

Rundu Office

Erf 1329, Industrial area, Rundu

Kongola Office

Shop no. 3, Zambezi Trans-Caprivi highway

Katima Mulilo Office

Ministry of Fisheries building, Katima Mulilo





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